

City of Cockburn Public Open Space Strategy (Draft) 2026–2036

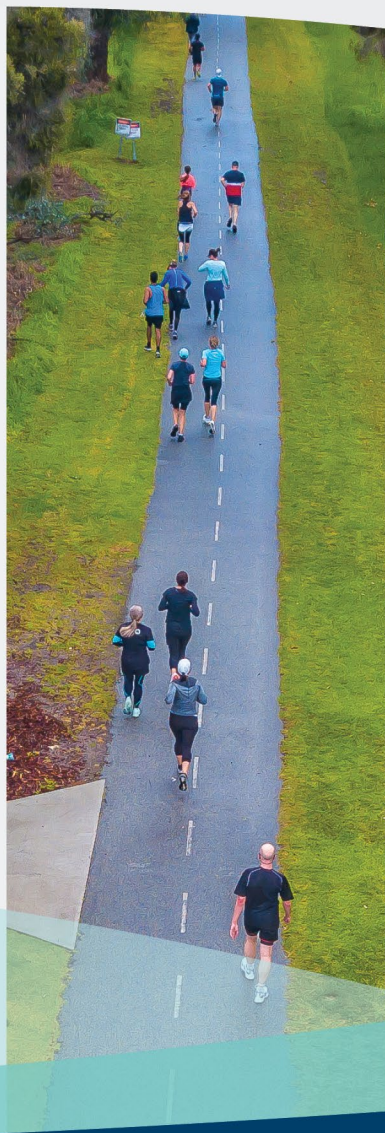


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Executive Summary

Public open spaces are essential community assets that enhance health, wellbeing, and quality of life while strengthening neighbourhood character and sense of place. They provide opportunities for recreation, relaxation, and social connection, and deliver significant environmental, social, cultural, and economic benefits. Ensuring equitable access to these spaces is fundamental to supporting healthy, active lifestyles for people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds.

The Public Open Space Strategy (POS Strategy) forms part of the City's Local Planning Strategy and responds to State planning directions, providing long-term guidance for growth and development.

The purpose of this Strategy is to provide a clear strategic framework for the equitable provision, accessibility, diversity, and quality of POS within the City of Cockburn, ensuring these spaces meet the evolving needs of the community into the future.

The POS Strategy will inform planning, priorities, and decision-making, including the following:

- Evaluation of existing POS network against the planning framework and current and projected community needs.
- Establishment of a clear POS hierarchy
- General guidance on the expected distribution of POS
- Defined and transparent requirements for developers and landowners
- Clarification of the role and purpose of POS
- Measures to achieve equitable and financially responsible POS

The Strategy is guided by the Public Open Space Strategy Guide for Local Governments and informed by a detailed audit of all the Reserves. It also considers key factors such as population growth, demographic trends and outcomes from the 1st phase of community engagement, which indicated strong satisfaction with the quantity and quality of POS and a preference for improving existing spaces rather than creating new reserves.

The Strategy establishes objectives under five key themes: diversity and choice, environmental sustainability, safety and inclusivity, accessibility and connectivity, and financial sustainability. Each theme is supported by guiding principles to inform POS network planning and POS design along with the Suburb-specific priorities and considerations, to respond to the outcomes of this Strategy.

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Acknowledgement of Country

The Mayor, Councillors and staff of the City of Cockburn acknowledge the Whadjuk Nyungar people of Beeliar boodja as the traditional custodians of this land. We pay our respect to the Elders, past and present.

How to use this Strategy

The POS Strategy is divided into parts, with the table below summarising each one and its main audience to help readers easily find relevant information.

	Information	Main audience
Part 1	General information regarding the importance and role of POS and purpose of this Strategy.	Community members, developers and external stakeholders interested in general information regarding the Strategy.
Part 2	POS framework setting out the key principles; quantity and classification of POS, including amenities and facilities for each type.	Community members interested in understanding how POS is classified and the types of amenities and facilities to expect. Developers looking to understand requirements for embellishments to POS being ceded through subdivision.
Part 3	Assessment of the City's existing POS, including amount, type and distribution for each suburb.	Community members and developers interested in seeing the type, amount and distribution of POS across the City and in their suburb.
Part 4	Developer requirements for the provision of POS and cash-in-lieu in greenfield and infill areas.	Developers (and landowners potentially interested in subdividing their land) seeking information regarding the requirements for the provision of POS and when cash-in-lieu payment may be required.
Part 5	Current and future community needs, key challenges, community input, key objectives and the guiding principles to address the outcomes of this Strategy.	Community members and developers interested in how POS will be planned and developed in the future, and the objectives and guiding principles for POS network planning and POS design.

Definitions

Accessible Playground - Playgrounds containing accessible and inclusive play equipment for children and families with disability or learning difficulties.

Cash-in-lieu - Under Section 153 of the *Planning and Development Act 2005*, payment can be made by a landowner to a local government in lieu of all or part of the POS contribution and is commonly referred to as cash-in-lieu.

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) – It is multidisciplinary approach to reducing crime and improving community safety by designing the built environment in ways that influence human behaviour.

Gross subdivisible area (GSA) - This is defined as per *Liveable Neighbourhoods* and is the total site area less deductions for non-residential land uses.

Local Conservation Reserve (LCR): Large areas of quality bushland actively managed by the City and called Actively Managed Conservation Reserves under the Natural Area Management Strategy.

Locality – Within the context of the POS Strategy and for the purposes of implementing ‘Position Statement: Public Open Space’, a locality refers to a suburb.

PAW – Public Access Way are created as part of the subdivision of freehold land, as a means of pedestrian access between public roads, and for providing a corridor for public utility services.

Public Open Space (in POS Audit) - For POS calculation purposes, only spaces classified as Public Open Space (‘Local Reserve – Parks and Recreation’) under the Local Planning Scheme (LPS) have been included.

Regional open space identified under the Metropolitan Region Scheme (MRS), along with Bush Forever sites, conservation category wetlands, natural water bodies and land zoned ‘Special Use’ (transmission line corridor) have been excluded.

To reflect their public accessibility, community value, health benefits, and environmental role, a 50% contribution has been applied to eligible natural areas and man-made water bodies. The same rate is applied to accessible land under transmission corridors. These encumbered land parcels serve a primary purpose other than public open space. While they may offer some opportunities for passive recreation, their use is often limited by restrictions on the types of activities permitted.

The POS calculation methodology considers the City’s unique planning history and the evolution of requirements over time, acknowledging disparities between older and newer suburbs as well as improvements made to existing reserves.

Due to the scale of the local government area and the large number of parks, a desktop-based approach was adopted using generic rules applicable to most reserves. This method is designed to be efficient and sufficiently accurate to provide a clear overview and support informed decision-making. However, it is not suitable or intended to be used for calculating new POS provision, which must comply with current requirements regarding inclusion, exclusion, and restricted POS.

Radius Catchment - A simple 400m or 800m straight-line distance drawn from the centre of a park, representing a theoretical 5- or 10-minute walk for most people. It does not consider the actual street network, pedestrian routes, or physical barriers, rather it provides a broad indication of the potential area from which residents may access public open space.

Regional Open Space - As identified in a region planning scheme or similar, and which is acquired by the state and zoned in region/local schemes as 'regional open space'.

Restricted Use POS - Areas that are not fully accessible or usable by the public for recreation due to certain limitations such as environmental constraints (e.g. steep slopes, wetlands, or conservation areas), infrastructure easements (e.g. drainage corridors, power lines) or limited recreational value (e.g. narrow strips of land or buffer zones). While these spaces may contribute to the overall green network and offer ecological or visual benefits, they do not count fully toward the required public open space provision and only 2% of restricted POS can be credited.

Upcoding - A zoning amendment that increases the allowed residential density on a parcel of land.

Walkable Catchment (also called ped-shed analysis) - the actual area reachable within a set walking time (e.g., five minutes) using the real street network. It accounts for paths, block layouts, barriers, and connectivity as opposed to the Radius Catchment.

Influencing Documents

Strategies and plans from industry, the State Government and the City of Cockburn have informed this document and are listed below:

State Government Planning Framework & Reference Guides

- Perth and Peel @3.5 million (and sub-regional framework)
- Directions 2031 and Beyond
- Classification Framework for Public Open Space (2012)
- Public Parklands Design and Planning Guide (2014)
- Sports Dimensions Guide for Playing Areas (2016)
- Liveable Neighbourhoods (2009)
- WAPC Position Statement – Public Open Space (2025)

City of Cockburn Planning Framework & Informing Documents

- Local Planning Strategy (2024)
- Town Planning Scheme No.3 & Draft Local Planning Scheme No.13
- Natural Area Management Strategy (2012-2022)
- Community Infrastructure Plan (2024-2041)
- District and Local Structure Plans
- Local Planning Policies
- Local Development Plans
- Subdivision Plans and Development Applications
- POS Landscape Plans
- Port Coogee Foreshore Masterplan

1. PURPOSE

1.1 Importance of Public Open Space

Public open spaces (POS) are vital community assets that support the wellbeing of all residents. They offer places for relaxation, recreation, physical activity, leisure, and social connection, while also delivering a broad range of environmental, social, cultural, and economic benefits.

Thriving neighbourhoods feature a well-planned network of accessible, walkable, and appealing public open spaces that reflect the needs of the community and enhance the local character and sense of place.

Open space should be viewed as a system – each reserve is a resource for the whole community, and each should be developed to complement others within its network.

 Environmental benefits ✓ Provides for habitat and biodiversity conservation, including ecological corridors. ✓ Contributes to tree canopy for shade and cooling. ✓ Trees and vegetation help filter pollutants and improve air quality. ✓ Encourages active transport to reduce carbon emissions.	 Social and cultural benefits ✓ Enhances local identity and sense of place. ✓ Fosters cultural connections and protection of cultural heritage values. ✓ Provides places for people to come together, socialise, and build a sense of community. ✓ Provides places for community festivals and events.
 Health and wellbeing benefits ✓ Encourages physical activity, contributing to better health. ✓ Provides for passive uses such as quiet reflection and relaxation to improve mental health. ✓ Opportunity to connect with nature, reducing stress and improving well-being. ✓ Supports children's physical, social and emotional development.	 Economic benefits ✓ Attracts tourists and visitors, supporting local businesses and creating economic opportunities. ✓ Provides for event hosting tourism opportunities. ✓ Enhances the desirability of an area as a place to live, work, play and invest.

1.2 Purpose of a Public Open Space Strategy

The POS Strategy sets the strategic direction for the equitable provision, access, type, and quality of public open space (POS) in the City of Cockburn to meet current and future community needs.

It supports sustainable open space planning and promotes a diverse, inclusive, well-connected network distributed equitably across the City. It also outlines the principles and direction for the future provision and development of POS.

The Strategy informs the City's POS planning, priorities, and decision-making, including:

- **Evaluation of existing POS network** against the planning framework and current and projected community needs to identify key gaps and provide strategic direction for future POS development and enhancements to existing spaces.
- **Establishment of a clear POS hierarchy**, defining the function, and standard and optional amenities associated with each classification of POS.
- **General guidance on the expected distribution of POS** to support equitable access and community needs.
- **Defined and transparent requirements for developers and landowners** regarding provision and development of POS, including guidelines for cash-in-lieu contributions, particularly in infill areas.
- **Clarification of the role and purpose of POS**, to improve community awareness and understanding of their value and function.
- **Principles to achieve equitable and financially responsible POS** to ensure efficient and effective use of resources for the current and future community.

1.3 The City's Vision

The POS Strategy supports the City's mission:

To make the City of Cockburn the best place to be

It aligns with the Strategic Community Plan 2025-2035 to

- *Plan for growth and sustainable development.*
- *Strengthen unique, liveable and adaptive places*
- *Foster connected, accessible communities and services.*
- *Protect and enhance our natural areas and streetscapes.*
- *Enhance climate resilience and champion Environmental initiatives to mitigate impacts*
- *Promote and support active, healthy lifestyles through recreation and wellness.*
- *Celebrate and recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and diverse cultures.*

The key vision of the POS Strategy is:

A sustainable, accessible and diverse network of quality public open spaces that support a healthy and connected community.

2. PUBLIC OPEN SPACE FRAMEWORK

This section outlines the planning principles, required provision, classification, distribution, and the key and optional facilities for each POS type.

This will be used to:

- Broadly assess the City's existing POS network in Part 3
- Plan for the provision and development of new POS
- Set clear expectations for developers and the community as to the types of facilities and amenities to be provided and planned for in different types of POS.

2.1 Amount of Public Open Space

In Western Australia the long-standing requirement across all residential areas is for POS to be set aside at a minimum of 10% of the gross subdivisible area.

This originates from the recommendations of the 1955 *Plan for the Metropolitan Region Perth and Fremantle* (the Stephenson-Hepburn Plan) and is formalised in Position Statement on Public Open Space released on 19 December 2025. This sets out the requirement for 10% of the gross subdivisible area of a conditional subdivision to be given up free of cost by the subdivider for public open space.

This figure was calculated based on typical residential densities at the time, where 10% POS equated to approximately 33.6m² per resident. This figure also considered the size of residential lots at the time, and the contribution of private open space, including front and backyards.

Despite changes in urban form and increasing densities, the 10% standard has been retained by the State Government for its simplicity, consistency, and ease of application in planning processes. The current State Planning Framework embeds the principle of 10% POS, and this continues to be the accepted approach and measure for provision of POS.

To complement this measure, it is valuable to also consider the population-based measure of 33.6m² of POS per person to evaluate equitable access to open space across different densities. Together, these approaches create a balanced framework for assessing POS provision.

2.1.1 Classification of Public Open Space

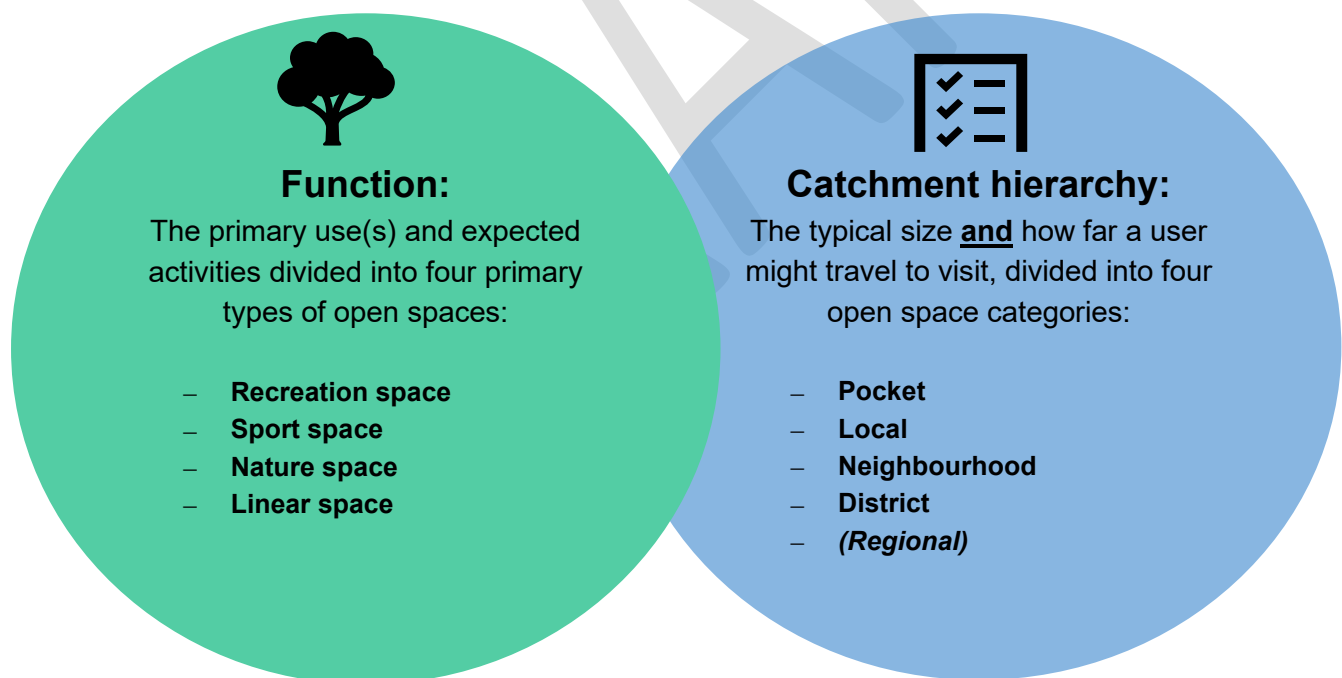
Classifying POS into broad categories is useful to ensure appropriate accessibility and to determine which facilities and amenities are appropriate to meet the needs of the community in the context of the broader POS network.

There are two central categories for POS – **function** and **catchment hierarchy**. POS is divided into four main functions and is then given a catchment hierarchy classification.

These classifications are based on the Department of Sport and Recreation's '*Classification Framework for Public Open Space*'. However, following an audit of the City's POS, a new functional category - Linear Space - has been introduced to better represent corridor-style open spaces that serve a different purpose than traditional 'Recreation', 'Nature', or 'Sporting' spaces.

For catchment hierarchy, 'Pocket' open space has been added for parks smaller than 1500m², reflecting their more incidental provision and the difference in their role and function compared to local open space.

Not all POS will easily fit within a single catchment hierarchy classification, and some may serve multiple functions. Consideration will be given to the specific characteristics, connectivity and context in determining the best fit as outlined below:



It's important to note that many of our parks were developed under different planning frameworks, reflecting the standards and expectations of their time. As a result, their characteristics may not align with what the City would currently accept under current requirements for new POS.

Table 1: Public Open Space Functions

Recreation Space	
Purpose:	Recreation spaces provide an environment for informal play, physical activity, relaxation and social interaction. Recreation spaces enhance physical and mental health through activity and are accessed by the community for play and socialising.
Description:	Recreation spaces generally comprise open parklands with areas of trees and/or landscaping, often with embellishments to enhance their use and recreational function dependent upon their hierarchy classification. Recreation Spaces may include natural areas (such as those within the City's Natural Area Management Strategy), but where they serve a recreational function and include assets such as playgrounds they have been included as Recreation Spaces. Depending on their size and catchment, Recreation Spaces are classified as either regional, district, neighbourhood, local or pocket POS.
Sporting Space	
Purpose:	Sporting spaces provide a setting for formal structured sporting activities such as team competitions, physical skill development, training and spectating; whilst also serving the local community for informal recreational activities.
Description:	Sporting spaces are designed to accommodate playing surfaces, and other infrastructure for sporting pursuits, and are identified in the Community Infrastructure Plan 2024-2041. Sporting spaces should typically be flexible in their design to accommodate a range of sports or sized competitions in line with the community needs, and in some cases are tailored for specific sporting activities. These spaces are easily accessed and used by the broader community for informal recreation. They are ideally coupled with nature and / or other recreational functions and well-connected to the surrounding area to create valued community assets which become a destination for a variety of people. All Sporting spaces are classified as District open space because of their function and large catchment, but they also serve the local community and complement other open space.

Nature Space

Purpose:	Nature spaces provide the opportunity for low key recreational activities including walking, picnicking, birdwatching, nature play (where appropriate) and exploration of the natural elements.
Description:	Nature Spaces include local bushland areas, coastal environments, wetlands and natural features in the landscape where people can enjoy and appreciate the natural environment. These spaces are managed to include recreational access, but conservation and biodiversity protection is prioritised when it comes to design, access and embellishment, responding to local ecological and biodiversity values. New Nature Space areas will only be accepted where agreed upon by the City. These areas must contain valuable natural elements that warrants protection. For land administration purposes Nature Space POS should be reserved for the purposes of 'recreation' just as any other local POS (as shown on plan of subdivision and local planning scheme maps) and not 'conservation' as they are not 'Bush Forever'. Nature sites should have minimal water demands and should not require ongoing irrigation post-establishment.

Linear Space

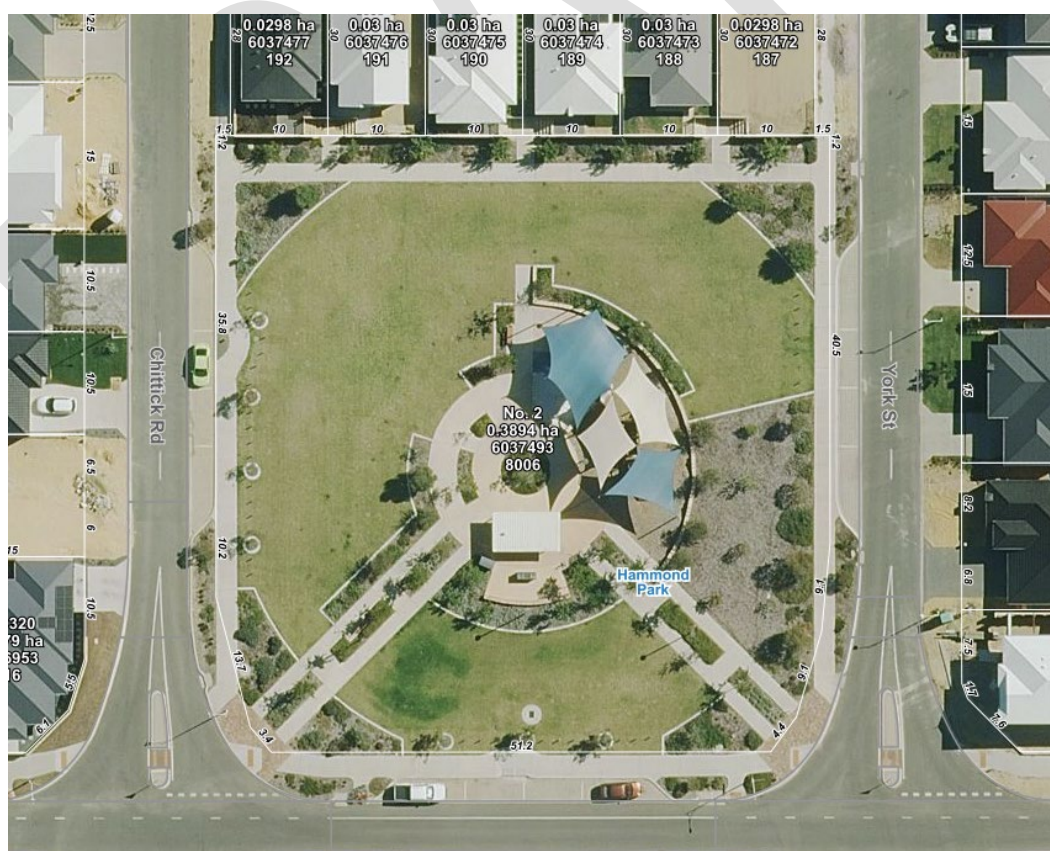
Purpose:	Linear Spaces are high amenity recreational corridors that connect to other POS, key destinations and/or the pedestrian/cycling network. Linear Spaces encourage walking, cycling and active transport; and contribute to green, leafy neighbourhood character and mitigation of the urban heat island effect.
Description:	Linear Space has only been included for the purposes of calculating and assessing POS where it functions as more than just a pedestrian accessway (PAW) or landscaped buffer to roads or between land uses. Linear Space is therefore generally a minimum width of 10m (given PAWs are typically required to be 8m wide in accordance with DC2.6 'Residential Road Planning') to facilitate an attractive and high amenity pedestrian/cycling environment, including appropriate trees and landscaping. Linear Space must be designed to incorporate CPTED principles, particularly good surveillance to ensure they are safe and encourage use by the broader community.

Table 2: Public Open Space Catchment Hierarchy

Pocket	
Purpose and function:	Pocket open space usually has an incidental recreational function. Its main role is to enhance the streetscape and support community amenity allowing mainly for passive recreation and contributing to urban greening and biodiversity. Pocket open space may: – Contribute to a diversity of open spaces – Contribute to a comfortable and attractive walking and cycling network. – Provide visual relief, contribute to green, leafy neighbourhood character and mitigation of the urban heat island effect. – Complement the open space network and help increase accessibility and usage of public space.
Access:	Indicatively 400m but dependent on surrounding network of open space.
Typical size:	<0.15ha
Location and design:	Pocket open space should: – Form part of an overall pedestrian and cycling network to connect key destinations where appropriate – Support good passive surveillance – Be responsive to natural site features – Contribute to urban tree canopy where appropriate
Activities:	Activities may include the following: – Informal children's play – Relaxation and rest spots where a need is identified – Use as a walking, running or cycling connection
 <i>Example of Pocket Park – Entrance Park in Coogee</i>	

Local

Purpose and function:	Local open space are small open space areas that contribute to serving the recreation needs of the immediate residential population. Local open space is primarily used for low key, informal recreation and may include small areas of nature space. Where vegetation is considered worthy of protection, Local open space may primarily consist of bushland. While recreational access is provided, the protection of biodiversity and conservation values is prioritised.
Access:	Within 400m or 5-minute walk of most dwellings.
Typical size:	0.15 ha – 1 ha
Location and design:	Local open space should: – Include accessible, safe pedestrian and cycling connections – Form part of an overall pedestrian and cycling network and connect key destinations – Support good passive surveillance – Be responsive to natural site features – Build on sense of place – Contribute to urban tree canopy
Activities:	Activities may include the following: – Informal children's play, dog walking, picnics, and small gatherings – Relaxation and rest spots – Casual team activities or sports – Walking, running or cycling.



Chittick Park in Hammond Park

Neighbourhood		
Purpose and function:	Neighbourhood open space serves as the recreational and social focus of a community. Residents are attracted by the variety of features and facilities and opportunities to socialise. Neighbourhood open space can assist to engender sense of place and protect specific conservation values through retention of natural areas. Neighbourhood open space may be used for organised sports training (typically only junior sport) if appropriate space is available. Where vegetation is considered worthy of protection, Neighbourhood open space may primarily consist of bushland. While recreational access is provided, the protection of biodiversity and conservation values is prioritised.	
Access:	Within 800m or 10-minute walk of most dwellings.	
Typical size:	1 - 5 ha	
Location and design:	Neighbourhood open space should: – Be central to surrounding neighbourhoods – Include accessible, safe pedestrian and cycling connections – Form part of an overall pedestrian and cycling network to connect key destinations – Support good passive surveillance – Be responsive to natural site features – Build on sense of place – Assist to preserve local biodiversity and natural area values. Neighbourhood open space may also: – Be co-located with schools to create a community hub – Be large enough to enable different uses to occur simultaneously – Contain a combination of open parkland and bushland with activity spaces for casual play – Include sport facilities and amenities, depending on the ability to accommodate desirable field dimensions, necessary supporting amenity and appropriate separation from residential development.	
Activities:	Activities may include the following: – Informal children's play, dog walking, picnics, and small gatherings – Relaxation and rest spots – Nature and birdwatching – Casual team activities or sports – Walking, running or cycling – Formal organised sport and training where appropriate	 <i>MacFaull Park in Spearwood</i>

District	
Purpose and function:	District open space is principally designed to provide for organised formal sport but will typically also accommodate some functions of smaller local and neighbourhood open space. District open space typically includes substantial recreation space and some nature space. District open space serves several neighbourhoods with players and visitors travelling from surrounding suburbs. Design and function should consider biodiversity principles and environmental management goals.
Access:	2km or 5 min drive
Typical size:	Greater than 5 ha (some of our reserves are smaller but expected to be upgraded to level of embellishment of district)
Location and design:	District open space should: – Be located central to the catchment to maximise accessibility – Accommodate the recommended dimensions and supporting amenity for formal sport and recreation – Be located on district distributor roads with good passive surveillance – Be serviced by public transport networks – Include accessible, safe pedestrian and cycling connections District open space may also: – Be collocated with a school or other community facilities to create a community hub – Provide a significant visual break in the urban environment, particularly along major thoroughfares – Assist to preserve local biodiversity and natural area values
Activities:	District open space may: – Consist of sufficient space to accommodate a variety of concurrent uses, – including organised sports, children's play, picnicking, exercising the dog, social gatherings and individual activities. – Include a combination of bushland, open parkland for casual play and space for organised sport. – Accommodate multiple user groups, clubs and associations. – Some larger active sporting reserves will offer more opportunities such as the ability to accommodate bigger clubs, multiple teams, and a wider range of activities, enabling higher participation and fostering more sustainable clubs. Refer to Appendix 4 for a list of these reserves.  Success Reserve  Frankland Park, Hammond Park

2.2 Park amenities and facilities

Different types of POS require specific facilities and amenities based on their function and catchment level. This approach promotes consistency, equity, and financial responsibility across the City.

Long-term financial sustainability is critical to maintaining the services, programs, and facilities provided by the City the community depends on. Decisions must be future-focused, considering evolving needs and the full lifecycle costs of assets, including maintenance and replacement.

While new assets involve upfront costs, their total lifecycle expense can be up to five times the initial investment. With rising costs and a growing population, a strategic and sustainable approach to POS development is essential. This includes clearly defining 'key amenities' and 'optional amenities' for each park type, as outlined below:

 Key amenities	These are typical inclusions for new POS, and an aspiration for existing parks, dependent on other parks in the area and identified community need. Developers shall provide all key amenities for new POS unless otherwise determined by the City. If an item is not listed, it is not generally provided.
 Optional amenities	These are potential additional items to be considered against identified criteria and community need to determine whether provision is appropriate, including the following: – Relevant policy requirements – Proximity of similar infrastructure on surrounding POS to minimise over-provision (catchment) – Specific use, anticipated user groups, peak usage period, anticipated length of stay and activity – Suitability of infrastructure for the POS site characteristics – Any operational, environmental and financial impacts – Demographic projections – Recommendations of this Strategy to meet community needs – Community consultation

There are circumstances where infrastructure has been provided historically outside of the key provision standards – such as a BBQ or drink fountain in a local park. To ensure a consistent and equitable approach, these elements will typically not be replaced.

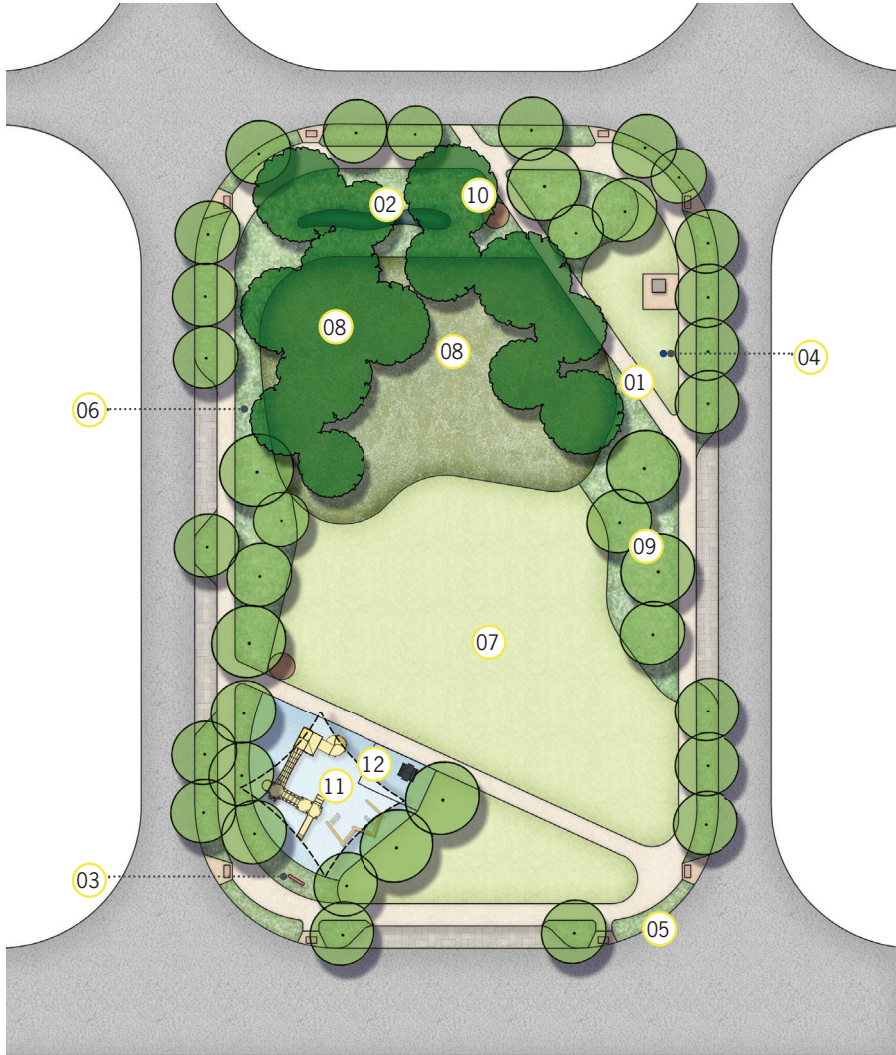
However, consideration will be given on a case-by-case basis to whether there is a specific reason they should be replaced – such as use of the park, other amenities and the lack of provision in nearby open spaces. Ultimately this is determined via the Parks and Environmental Asset Management Plan.

It should be noted irrigation cannot be provided for all POS due to the large number of sites, limited water availability, licence restrictions, and the City's commitment to water conservation.

The diagrams below demonstrate the key and optional amenities for the main types of POS available within the City.

'Neighbourhood Sport', 'District Recreation', and 'Pocket Parks' are not part of the set of diagrams as discussed below:

- Neighbourhood Sport reserves, which previously encompassed all single oval reserves, have been reclassified as 'District POS' to simplify categorisation and align with the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) guidelines.
- District Recreation and District Nature reserves are excluded from the Strategy, as the City currently has none. Furthermore, given current market conditions, it is unlikely land parcels over 5 hectares will be made available for recreational and/or conservation purposes.
- Pocket POS is not included due to their irregular shapes and limited infrastructure. Typically located on leftover residential land, they are not intended for long-term use or to accommodate intensive amenities such as BBQs or playgrounds. Adding such features in small spaces near homes can lead to inappropriate use, lack of surveillance, parking challenges, and increased operational and capital costs. In circumstances where small areas of POS are upgraded in response to an identified need they will be classified as Local POS, regardless of their size.



Local Recreation

Purpose: To provide nearby residents with accessible green space for outdoor play, informal sport, social connection, and relaxation.

Average Size: 0.15 hectares - 1.0 hectares

Catchment: 400m or 5mins walk

Key Amenities

- 01 Connected pathways
- 02 Drainage basin (if required)
- 03 Signage - Park name (installed by CoC)
- 04 Bore (if required)
- 05 Verge mulching
- 06 Irrigated planting (1)
- 07 Unrestricted irrigated turf (1)
- 08 Retained trees and vegetation
- 09 Shade trees
- 10 Seating
- 11 Playground equipment with shade sails (3)
- 12 Picnic setting (3)

Optional Amenities

- Bins (incl.dog bag dispenser)
- Drink fountain
- Shelter with lighting
- BBQ
- Path lighting
- Shade Sails
- Fitness Equipment

(1) where water source is available

(2) where water source is available and where no conflict with nature intent

(3) unless advised otherwise by the CoC

PUBLIC OPEN SPACE DIAGRAMS

PROVISION STANDARDS

SCALE: 1:800 @ A4





Local Nature

Purpose: To provide nearby residents with accessible green space that supports low-impact recreational activities while prioritising the protection and enhancement of local biodiversity.

Average Size: 0.15 hectares - 1.0 hectares

Catchment: 400m or 5mins walk

Key Amenities

- 01 Connected pathways
- 02 Drainage basin (if required)
- 03 Signage - Park name (installed by CoC)
- 04 Bore (if required)
- 05 Verge mulching
- 06 Unirrigated planting
- 07 Retained trees and vegetation
- 08 Access Control (fencing and/or gates)

Optional Amenities

- Seating
- Signage - Interpretive / Information
- Irrigated planting - to periphery (2)
- Irrigated turf - minor area to periphery (2)
- Formalised footpaths

(1) where water source is available

(2) where water source is available and where no conflict with nature intent

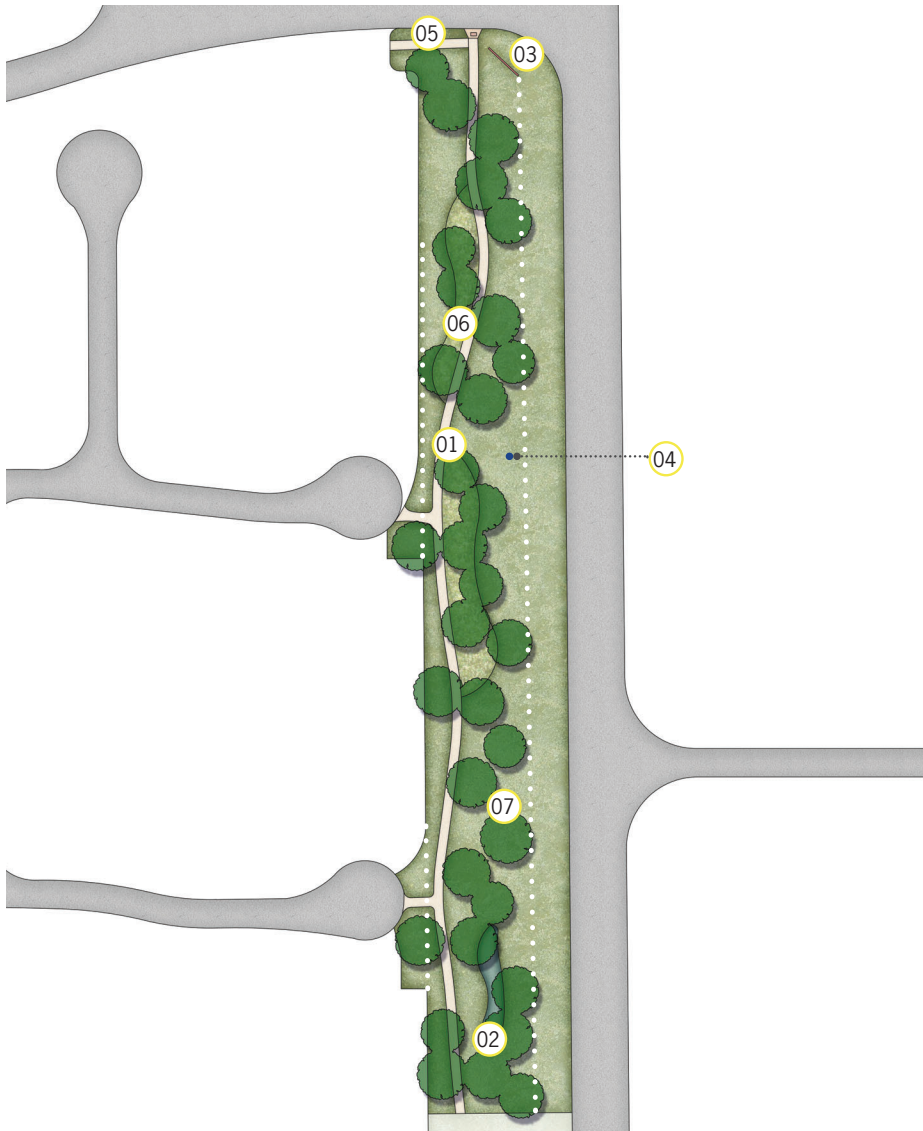
(3) unless advised otherwise by the CoC

PUBLIC OPEN SPACE DIAGRAMS

PROVISION STANDARDS

SCALE: 1:800 @ A4





Local Linear

Purpose: To provide nearby residents with recreational corridors that promote walkability and cycling in the neighbourhoods, while enhancing the streetscape.

Average Size: 0.15 hectares - 1.0 hectares

Catchment: 400m or 5mins walk

Key Amenities

- 01 Connected pathways
- 02 Drainage basin (if required)
- 03 Signage - Park name (installed by CoC)
- 04 Bore (if required)
- 05 Verge mulching
- 06 Unirrigated planting
- 07 Retained trees and vegetation

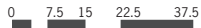
Optional Amenities

- Seating
- Irrigated turf
- Irrigated planting and trees
- Path lighting

PUBLIC OPEN SPACE DIAGRAMS

PROVISION STANDARDS

SCALE: 1:1500 @ A4





Neighbourhood Recreation

Purpose: To provide the neighbourhood with accessible green space for outdoor play, informal sport, social connection, and relaxation while encouraging longer stays through enhanced community oriented features.

Average Size: 1 hectares - 5 hectares

Catchment: 800m or 10mins walk

Key Amenities

- 01 Connected pathways (wheelchair accessible)
- 02 Drainage basin (if required)
- 03 Signage - Park name (installed by CoC)
- 04 Bins (incl.dog bag dispenser)
- 05 Park furniture - seating
- 06 Gated access control - to be wheelchair accessible (eg. bollards)
- 07 Bore (if required)
Iron Filter (if iron evident in water)
- 08 Irrigated turf (1)
- 09 Irrigated planting (1)
- 10 Accessible Playground with shade sails
- 11 Shelter / Arbor with picnic setting(s)
- 12 Lighting to shelter
- 13 Drink fountain
- 14 Street parking
- 15 Verge mulching

Optional Amenities

- BBQ
- Parking - on-site
- Sport infrastructure (goals, half court etc.)
- Fitness equipment
- Skate Park / pump track
- Designated off-leash dog park
- Path lighting
- Public Toilet
- Basketball half court

(1) where water source is available

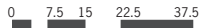
(2) where water source is available and where no conflict with nature intent

(3) unless advised otherwise by the CoC

PUBLIC OPEN SPACE DIAGRAMS

PROVISION STANDARDS

SCALE: 1:1500 @ A4





Neighbourhood Nature

Purpose: To provide the neighbourhood with green space that supports low-impact recreation and encourages longer stays through enhanced community-oriented features, while ultimately prioritising the protection and enhancement of local biodiversity.

Average Size: 1 hectares - 5 hectares

Catchment: 800m or 10mins walk

Key Amenities

- 01 Connected pathways (wheelchair accessible)
- 02 Drainage basin (if required)
- 03 Signage - Park name (in stalled by CoC)
- 04 Bins (incl.dog bag dispenser)
- 05 Park furniture - seating
- 06 Gated access control - to be wheelchair accessible
- 07 Bore (if required)
Iron Filter (if iron evident in water)
- 08 Retained vegetation
- 09 Revegetation to nature area
- 10 Street parking
- 11 Access Control (fencing and/or gates)

Optional Amenities

- BBQ
- Parking - on-site
- Signage - Interpretive / Information
- Playground with shade sails
- Shelter / Arbor
- Picnic setting
- Raised walkway or jetty
- Irrigated turf - minor area to periphery (2)
- Irrigated planting - minor area to periphery (2)

(1) where water source is available

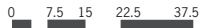
(2) where water source is available and where no conflict with nature intent

(3) unless advised otherwise by the CoC

PUBLIC OPEN SPACE DIAGRAMS

PROVISION STANDARDS

SCALE: 1:1500 @ A4





District Sport - Single Playfield

Purpose: To provide the wider community with larger green spaces for organised sport and informal recreation, offering enhanced community-oriented facilities and sufficient space to support multiple user groups, concurrent activities, and longer visits.

Average Size: 5 hectares+

Catchment: 2km or 5mins drive

Key Amenities

- | | |
|---|--|
| 01 Connected pathways (wheelchair accessible) | 16 Clubrooms including public toilet |
| 02 Drainage basin (if required) | 17 Irrigated planting |
| 03 Signage - Park name (installed by CoC) | 18 Accessible Playground with shade sails |
| 04 Bins (incl.dog bag dispenser) | 19 Mulching (verge) |
| 05 Street parking | 20 Oval / Rectangle sports fields with required run-off (Dimensions as agreed with the City) |
| 06 Bore (if required)
Iron Filter (if iron evident in water) | |
| 07 Irrigated turf - Sport field(s) | |
| 08 Irrigated turf - passive | |
| 09 Access control - bollards | |
| 10 Park furniture - seating | |
| 11 Shelter / Arbor | |
| 12 Drink fountain | |
| 13 Parking - onsite | |
| 14 Lighting - Sports / pathway /shelter | |
| 15 Sport infrastructure (goals, half court, cricket etc.) | |

Optional Amenities

- BBQ
- Changing Place
- Skate Park / Pump track
- Access Control (Fencing and/or gate)
- Signage - Information / Interpretative
- Universal Access Toilet

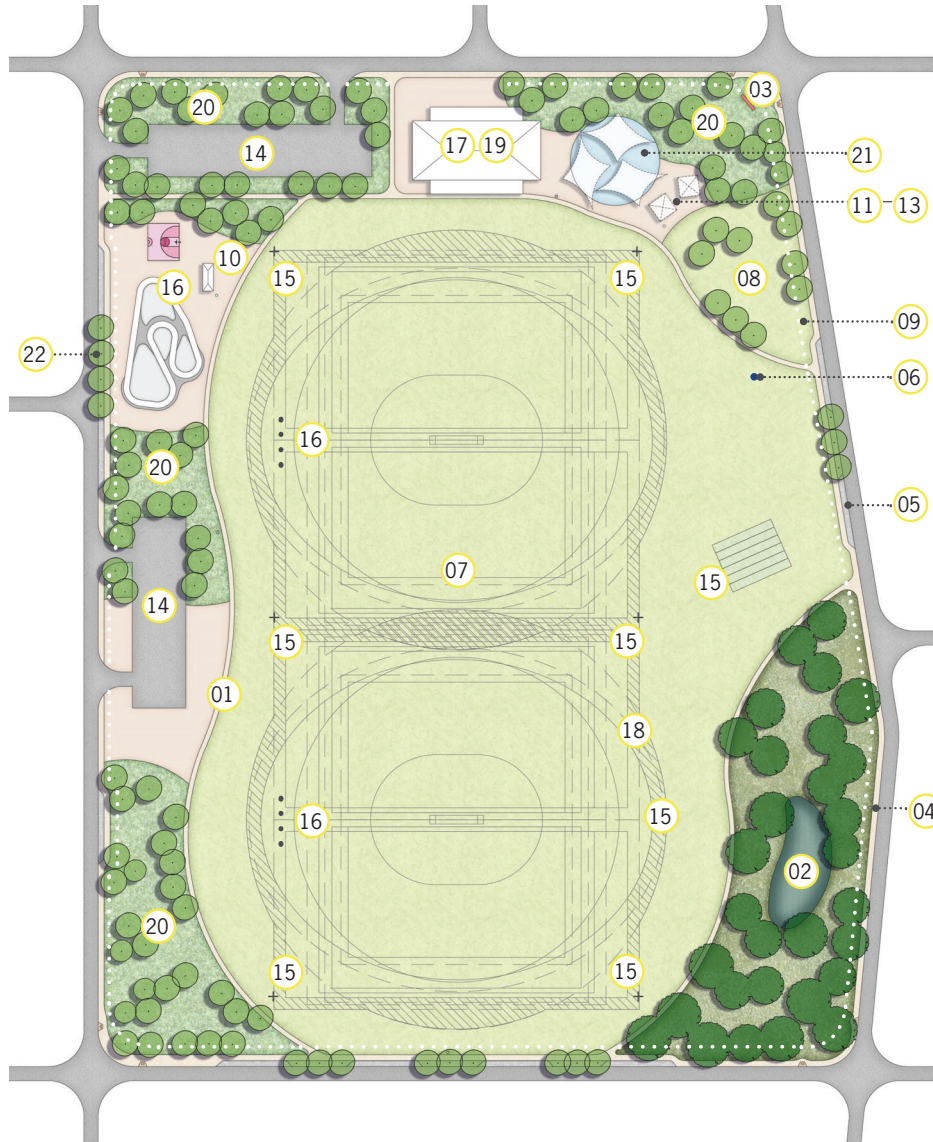
PUBLIC OPEN SPACE DIAGRAMS

PROVISION STANDARDS

SCALE: 1:3000 @ A4

0 15 30 45 75





District Sport - Dual Playfield

Purpose: To provide the wider community with larger green spaces for organised sport and informal recreation, offering enhanced community-oriented facilities and sufficient space to support multiple user groups, concurrent activities, and longer visits.

Average Size: 8 hectares - 10 hectares

Catchment: 2km or 5mins drive

Key Amenities

- | | |
|--|--|
| 01 Connected pathways (wheelchair accessible) | 17 Clubrooms including public toilet |
| 02 Drainage basin (if required) | 18 Oval / Rectangle sports fields with required run-off (Dimensions as agreed with the City) |
| 03 Signage - Park name (installed by CoC) | 19 Universal Access Toilet |
| 04 Bins (incl.dog bag dispenser) | 20 Irrigated planting |
| 05 Street parking | 21 Accessible Playground with shade sails |
| 06 Bore (if required)
Iron Filter (if iron evident in water) | 22 Mulching (verge) |
| 07 Irrigated turf - Sport field(s) | |
| 08 Irrigated turf - passive | |
| 09 Access control - bollards | |
| 10 Park furniture - seating | |
| 11 Shelter / Arbor | |
| 12 Drink fountain | |
| 13 BBQ | |
| 14 Parking - onsite | |
| 15 Lighting - Sports / pathway /shelter | |
| 16 Sport infrastructure (goals, half court, netball ring, cricket-incl 6 cricket pitches in the nets, skate park / pump track) | |

Optional Amenities

- Changing Place
- Access Control (Fencing and/or gate)
- Signage - Information / Interpretative

PUBLIC OPEN SPACE DIAGRAMS

PROVISION STANDARDS

SCALE: 1:3000 @ A4

0 15 30 45 75



2.3 Guidance for optional amenities

The City receives a high volume of community requests for additional features in POS which can enhance useability, comfort and enjoyment of these spaces.

In considering whether provision is appropriate, the City must ensure equitable provision of POS amenities across the City, balancing these expectations with available resources, long-term maintenance considerations, and strategic priorities.

It must also consider budget availability, which for existing reserves is determined via the City's Parks and Environmental Asset Management Plan.

Where funding is available, to support transparent and consistent decision-making, Table 3 below provides criteria for assessing the inclusion of each major optional amenity dependent on the function and hierarchy of POS. This approach ensures community needs are considered alongside equitable, practical and sustainable planning outcomes. In some categories of parks, these amenities will be considered standard inclusions, reflecting their role in meeting higher levels of community use and expectations.

TABLE 3: CRITERIA FOR OPTIONAL PUBLIC OPEN SPACE AMENITIES

Optional Amenities	Provision Criteria
BBQ in – <i>Local Recreation</i> – <i>Neighbourhood Recreation/Nature</i>	– POS frequently used for picnics, family gatherings, community events. – Existing picnic shelters or seating areas encouraging longer stays.
Bins in – <i>Local Recreation</i>	– POS frequently used for picnics, family gatherings, community events. – Associated with BBQs or other functions which may generate significant amount of waste.
Dog bags & bins in – <i>Local Recreation</i>	– Installed in dedicated dog exercise areas. – Complementary to existing bins in POS highly used for walking dogs.
Drink fountain in – <i>Local Recreation</i>	– POS frequently used for picnics, family gatherings, community events. – POS highly used for dog walking. – Parks highly used for personal training or sporting activities. – POS with larger playground encouraging families to stay longer.
Fitness equipment in – <i>Local Recreation</i> – <i>Neighbourhood Recreation</i>	– POS with lighting – Dedicated walking/cycling trails. – POS highly used for personal training or sporting activities.

Lighting - Shelter and Path in – <i>Local Recreation</i> – <i>Neighbourhood Recreation</i>	Where street lighting does not provide sufficient illumination to mitigate a perceived risk to safety and where there is no other similar function POS within 400m, <u>and</u> - <u>Shelter lighting</u> – POS used in early morning or evenings by community groups with a shelter in proximity to BBQ and picnic bench. <u>Path lighting</u> – POS used in early morning or evenings by community groups. – Green spaces linking important locations (e.g. from public transport to activity centre) to support walkability.
Picnic setting in – <i>Neighbourhood Nature</i> – <i>District Nature</i>	– POS with scenic views or natural features that encourage longer stays. – POS with existing BBQ facilities or shelters. – POS located near high density residential areas (limited private outdoor space).
Public toilets in – <i>Neighbourhood Recreation</i>	POS including <u>all</u> these elements where there is no other park including public toilet facilities and serving a similar function within 800m: – BBQ or picnic facilities encouraging longer visits, and – Multiple play areas or sporting facilities, and – Serve as event or gathering spaces.
Seating in – <i>Local Nature</i> – <i>Local Linear</i> – <i>District Nature</i>	– POS allowing for contemplation, viewing. – POS including formal or informal play equipment that requires supervision. – If no seating provided at all to allow for a minimum of one resting point. – POS with designated walking and/or cycling tracks to provide rest stops and scenic viewing points. – POS near a special needs or aged care facility.
Shelter in – <i>Neighbourhood Nature</i> – <i>District Nature</i>	Parks with limited canopy to provide natural shade, <u>and</u>: – Scenic views or natural/man-made features that encourage longer stays. – Used for educational purposes – High density residential surrounding that would benefit from community gathering facilities.
Information/Interpretative Signage in – <i>Local Nature</i> – <i>Neighbourhood Nature</i> – <i>District Sport</i>	– POS with multiple access points or complex layouts. – POS with designated zones (e.g., dog exercise area, BBQ zoned, playground). – POS with Aboriginal Cultural Heritage, historical, cultural or environmental features that have a community benefit and align with this Strategy. – POS requiring wayfinding or safety information (e.g., emergency contact, park rules).

2.4 Playgrounds

Playgrounds are identified as key amenities in local, neighbourhood and district parks with a 'recreation' function, and their inclusion in many regional parks further enhances overall accessibility for most residents. This is important due to their role in promoting children's physical health, well-being, and social development.

Playground access must be balanced against ensuring financially sustainable park infrastructure given their limited lifetime (typically around 15 years). For this reason, most pocket and linear parks will not have a playground.

Whilst identified as a key amenity in local (recreation) POS, there may be circumstances where existing playgrounds in local POS are underutilised due to poor accessibility or functionality. Such playgrounds may not be replaced where there is existing playground provision in nearby POS that can better meet the needs of the community into the future.

2.5 Special features

2.5.1 Shade provision

Shade is essential for creating safe, healthy communities, with most types reducing UV exposure (classified as a group 1 carcinogen¹) by up to 75%². Adequate shade extends the hours and seasons during which the community can comfortably enjoy parks, maximising health and wellbeing benefits.

Provision of shade should be incorporated early in POS design in response to its function and anticipated use to ensure optimal outcomes and long-term cost efficiency.

Vegetation is a key element in shade planning – it's effective, visually appealing, and sustainable. Beyond UV protection, it offers several benefits:

- Enhances the comfort and appeal of POS
- Provides habitat for wildlife and absorbs carbon dioxide
- Acts as a natural windbreak
- Can reduce summer air temperatures by up to 30%
- Contributes to urban tree canopy cover

For this reason, natural, sustainable shade is the priority for POS, in line with the City's commitment to protecting the environment and enhancing amenity.

¹ International Agency for Research on Cancer. 1997. Solar and ultraviolet radiation, in Monographs on the evaluation of carcinogenic risks to humans, IARC, Editor, International Agency for Research on Cancer: Lyon, France.

² Parsons, P., Neale, R., Wolski, P. & Green, A. 1998. The shady side of solar protection. Medical Journal of Australia, vol. 168, pp. 327-33

Wherever possible park infrastructure should be designed to take advantage of shared shade areas – both natural shade and shade structures.

Playground shade

Playground shade is a critical feature that enhances safety, comfort, and accessibility for children and caregivers by:

- Reducing exposure to harmful UV radiation, particularly important given high sun exposure in the first 10 years of life more than doubles the risk of developing melanoma skin cancer³
- Keeping equipment cool, reducing the risk of burns
- Encouraging longer play, making it more comfortable for children to stay active outdoors, even in warmer weather
- Attracting more families and encouraging longer visits, increasing the social value of the space⁴.

In most circumstances, effective natural shading of playgrounds is not possible because trees must be setback sufficiently to prevent root damage to infrastructure such as soft-fall and limestone edging. As a result, trees typically fail to provide effective shade during peak midday sun when it's most needed.

Given the length of time playgrounds are used, and the critical role of shade, shade sails will be installed over all playgrounds that are in full sun from 10am to 2pm.

The City prioritises the health, safety, and wellbeing of children, and is committed to upholding their right to safely access and enjoy public playgrounds. Accordingly, concerns about the visual impact of shade sails over playgrounds – including impact on views – will not be supported as grounds to oppose their installation.

The design of shade sails will be determined by the shape and size of the play equipment (and potential future alterations) and compliance with playground design standards. Consideration will be given to the following:

- Complementing the appearance of the play equipment and POS character
- Provision of shade for more than 90% of UVR in high activity areas between 10am-2pm
- Ease of maintenance and reduced potential for vandalism/antisocial behaviour
- “Quick release” mechanism to enable winter removal

Natural shade is also encouraged near playgrounds to enhance comfort and amenity; however, trees must be set back to allow for root growth without compromising surfaces or infrastructure. Only suitable species – free from berries or pods – should be selected to maintain safe, clean, and low-maintenance play environments.

³ Kricker A, Armstrong BK, Goumas C, Litchfield M, Begg CB, Hummer AJ, et al. Ambient UV, personal sun exposure and risk of multiple primary melanomas, *Cancer Causes Control* 2007 Apr;18(3):295–to304 Abstract available at <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/17206532/>

⁴ The Case for Shade: Keeping Playgrounds Safe, Cool, and Comfortable, Posted by May Recreation Content Team on July 22, 2025

In new POS, playgrounds should include shade sails and the planting of appropriately selected trees near the playground area.

Shade for other infrastructure

As shown in Appendix 1 'Public Open Space Provision Standards', neighbourhood and district open spaces should include a shelter or arbor with picnic settings to accommodate anticipated longer visits, provide for social gatherings, and support all-weather usage.

Shade must also be considered for other infrastructure within parks, considering anticipated length of use. Table 4 below sets out the key principles to be considered at the earliest design stage:

TABLE 4: SHADE PROVISION – PARK INFRASTRUCTURE

Seating:	– Placed near or beneath mature trees (where possible and considering the root protection zone), considering location and movement of shade, with new parks including the planting of appropriately selected trees for future shade for seating areas. – Shade should also be considered for informal areas used for seating, such as grassy areas and steps, particularly in spaces likely to be used by young people.
Fitness equipment:	– Shade sails or permanent shade structures not required given this equipment is generally used for short periods of time. – Placed near or beneath mature trees where possible, with fitness equipment in new parks to include planting of appropriately selected trees for future shade where possible.
Sport infrastructure (goals, half court etc):	– Sited and designed to include adequate nearby shaded areas, taking advantage of existing mature tree shade, and new planting of appropriately selected trees to establish future shade. – Co-located with other infrastructure (e.g. playgrounds) where possible to provide for shared shade whilst also encouraging social interaction and intergenerational recreation.
Sporting facilities and playing fields:	– Designed to include adequate nearby shaded areas, including natural shade and shade structures where appropriate, given anticipated length of stay, multipurpose function and spectator attendance.

2.5.2 Playground fencing

Playgrounds should promote physical activity, social interaction, creativity, problem-solving, and connection with nature. Fencing can limit these opportunities by restricting play flow and isolating playgrounds from nearby play areas and natural spaces.

Unfenced playgrounds allow play to extend beyond equipment – children can use adjacent grassy areas or trees for varied activities. This is especially important for smaller playgrounds, where fencing can isolate play zones. Fencing can also reduce accessibility for children and caregivers with disabilities and can lead to less attentive supervision.

To maximise play experiences and accessibility, the City will generally avoid fencing playgrounds in local and neighbourhood open spaces.

Where specific hazards are identified, the City may consider alternatives like partial fencing or separation barriers to restrict direct access, rather than fencing the entire playground. Natural barriers such as landscaping may also be used to define play areas without limiting access.

Notwithstanding the above, the City acknowledges that in select instances fenced playgrounds can meet specific community needs, including providing safe spaces for children with special needs and offering caregivers a secure environment where younger children can play freely.

To support this, a variety of fenced playgrounds of different sizes are strategically located across the City, ensuring residents have access to enclosed play areas (see Table 5). These range from small playgrounds like Wentworth Park, Success - with full visibility of children - to large facilities like Bibra Lake Regional Playground, a fully fenced, accessible playground designed for diverse users.

TABLE 5: CITY OF COCKBURN FENCED PLAYGROUNDS (2024)

Atwell:	- Tapper Reserve - Zodiac Park
Bibra Lake:	- Bibra Lake Regional Park
Coogee:	- Coogee Beach Reserve - Powell Reserve
Hammond Park:	- Botany Park
Hamilton Hill:	- Davilak Reserve - Dixon Reserve - Manning Park
North Coogee:	- Lucretia Park
Spearwood:	- MacFaul Park
Success:	- Wentworth Park
Yangebup:	- Nicholson Reserve

2.5.3 Dog Parks

Dog parks provide essential spaces for exercise and socialisation, supporting dogs' physical and mental health – especially as private garden space decreases. They also promote outdoor activity and community connection among residents.

Community consultation highlighted dog parks as a key issue. Whilst many people expressed the desire for more off-leash dog parks, many others expressed concerns regarding uncontrolled dogs.

The City aims to balance the diverse needs of dog owners and non-owners in POS planning. The City's Animal Management and Exercise Plan guides the development of accessible, well-equipped dog parks while minimising impacts on the community and environment.

To meet these different needs the City has a mix of well-distributed 'dogs prohibited' parks, reserves and beaches, 'dogs on leash' parks, reserves and beaches, and 'dogs off-leash' exercise areas, and fenced dog exercise parks.

There is growing popularity and community demand for enclosed dog exercise parks. However, these have a range of challenges, mainly the cost of maintenance, and a lack of supervision by owners.

Most households are within 3km of a fenced dog park which is considered to provide reasonable access for residents seeking a fenced dog exercise area. Across the City there are a variety of other off-leash dog exercise areas, and a high-quality pedestrian network to support and encourage dog walking.

Designation of dog exercise areas will be guided by the [City's Animal Management and Exercise Plan](#) in response to community need. The plan identifies assessment criteria for future dog exercise areas based on dog owner ratio, demographics, level of demand, and sets out location and cost considerations.

The planning and embellishment of POS should consider the Animal Management and Exercise Plan criteria to ensure the needs of dog and dog owners is met, whilst meeting the needs of the broader community, ensuring community safety and protecting the environment.

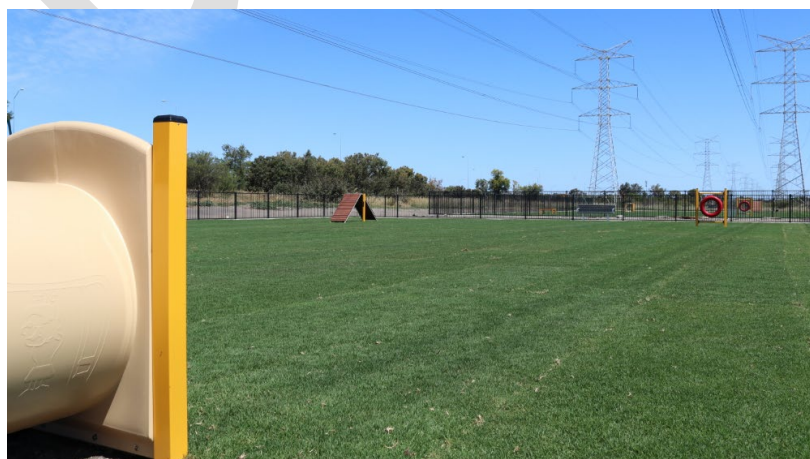


Figure 1: Baler Dog Park

2.6 Developer funded amenities

While Appendix 1 'Public Open Space Provision Standards' provides guidance for POS embellishments, there are existing reserves funded and delivered by developers that are significantly above that standard.

POS delivered by developers in modern, large residential estates are typically developed to a high standard, given parks play a significant marketing role in lots' sales by enhancing the appeal of the neighbourhood, particularly for families.

These embellishments may include substantial playgrounds, play spaces, park furniture, landscaping and sports infrastructure elements. These amenities help meet the needs of a new community, which often comprises households with young children, and recognises greenfield areas may be remote from other facilities. Over time the level of surrounding infrastructure will typically increase and improve, allowing a return to the typical level of provision.

Therefore, when those higher specification playgrounds and infrastructure items get to the end of their lifecycle, like-for-like replacement of all elements will not be financially feasible or equitable where the cost of those elements (and/or their maintenance) is significantly greater than that typically spent for that type of POS. As surrounding infrastructure and accessibility to other facilities improve, it should be expected that reserves may devolve to their long-term intended function and typical level/range of amenities.

To ensure an equitable and consistent standard of POS across the City, infrastructure will be replaced in accordance with the Parks and Environmental Asset Management Plan taking in consideration, where appropriate, the POS Provision Standard in Section 2.2 and Appendix 1.

When it's time for renewal of infrastructure it is likely community needs have evolved, and the City will engage with the local community to ensure POS function and amenities can continue to meet their needs, taking the following steps:

- Assess current use and satisfaction
- Identify community need
- Identify required improvements or upgrades
- Ensure replacement facilities meet the evolving needs of residents whilst being financial sustainable.

Where a community seek ongoing replacement of like-for-like infrastructure above the standard set in this Strategy (Appendix 1 'Public Open Space Provision Standards'), a Special Area Rate is an option that can be explored to maintain that standard without unreasonably impacting other ratepayers. However, these types of arrangements may not be appropriate as they can create inequitable outcomes where visitors from outside the catchment have equal access to the POS.

3. ASSESSMENT OF THE CITY'S PUBLIC OPEN SPACE

This section reviews the City's POS network, assessing the quantity, type, and distribution of POS across suburbs. It draws on both qualitative and quantitative data to provide a comprehensive understanding of the current POS situation.

This assessment is used to:

- Identify gaps in the provision of POS to ensure the needs of the community are met
- Assist with the planning and development of new POS
- Assist with identifying requirements for POS cash-in-lieu
- Inform plans for improvements to existing POS, cash-in-lieu expenditure plans etc.

3.1 Amount of Public Open Space

The quantity of POS as a percentage of the gross subdivisible area has been calculated for each residential suburb. This establishes whether each suburb achieves the expected 10% POS set by the State Planning Framework as an indication of whether there is sufficient POS.

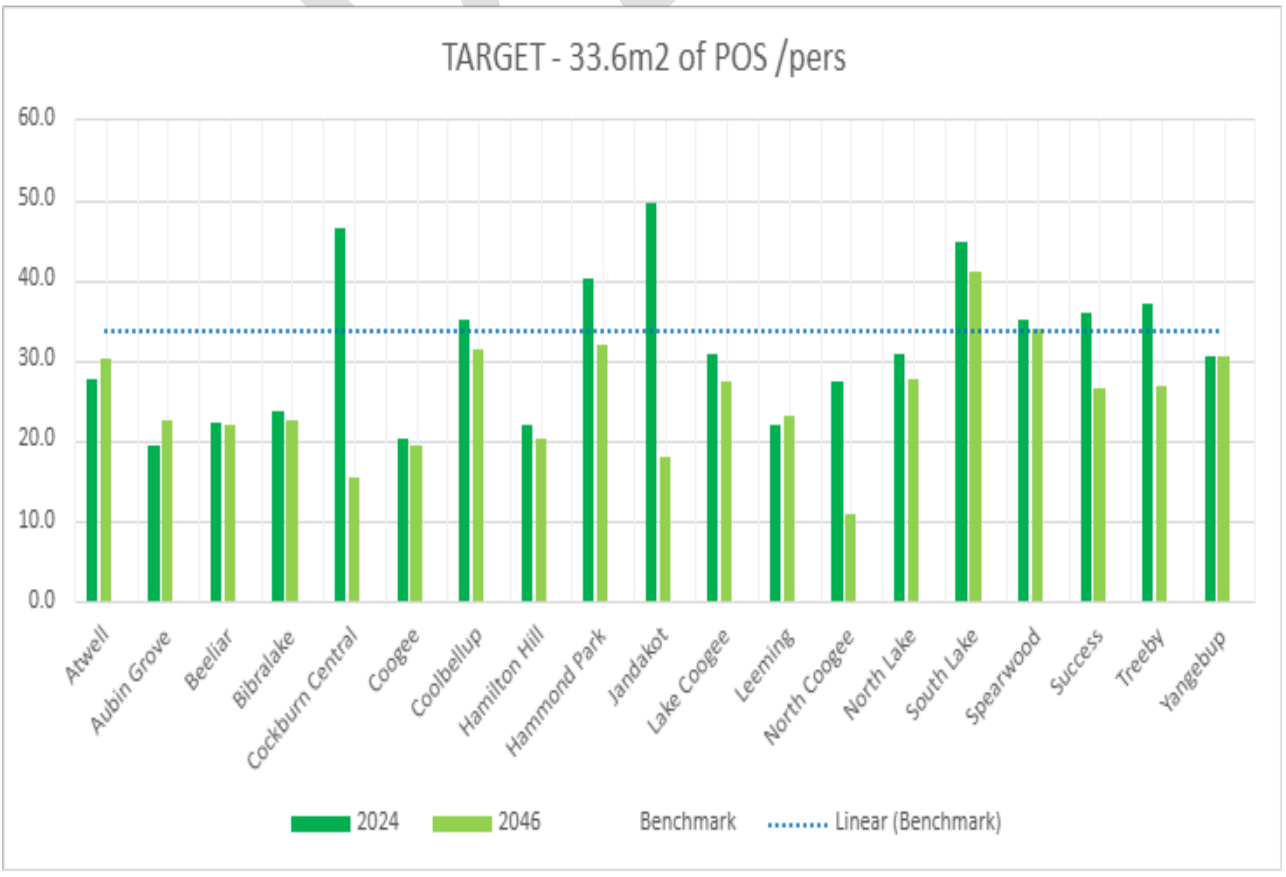
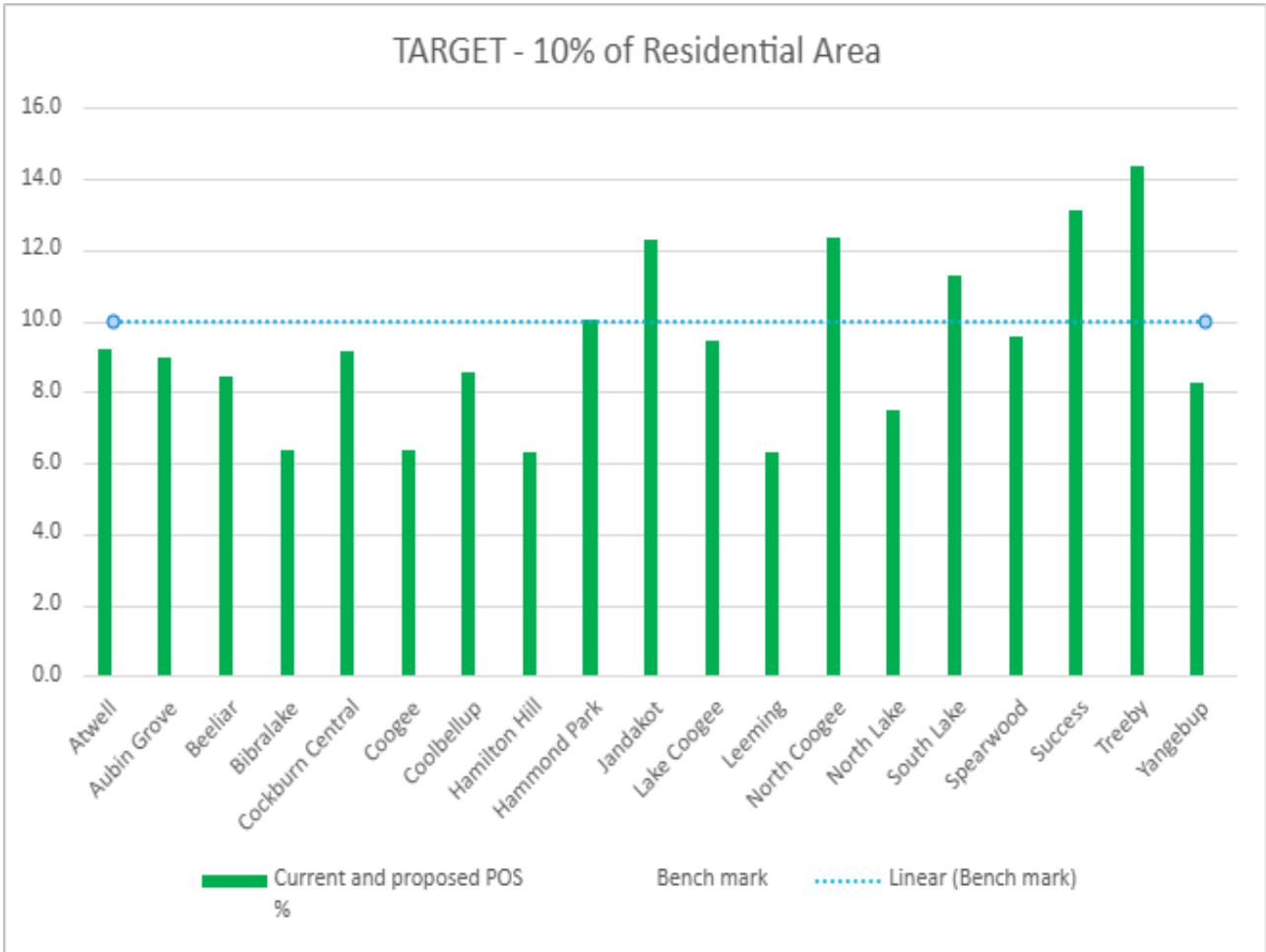
To complement the 10% standard and consider overall population intensification, the benchmark of 33.6m² per person, from which the 10% standard is originally derived, has also been calculated.

Suburb boundaries are used to assess POS provision and will also be used as the 'locality' when implementing 'Position Statement – Public Open Space' This simplifies access to population and household data for planning and aligns with a clear, meaningful geographic boundary familiar to the community.

The charts below summarise POS provision across each suburb. Suburbs that are entirely non-residential have been excluded from the analysis. In cases where suburbs have been divided into precincts, the assessment under the 10% benchmark has been applied only to the residential portion.

In considering these figures, it is important to recognise the City has been developed through different periods of POS calculation and crediting arrangements. In older suburbs drainage was typically separated meaning more usable space, whereas newer areas subject to Liveable Neighbourhoods include integrated drainage. Provision of POS in suburbs such as Atwell are reflective of a period when the State Planning Framework (Liveable Neighbourhoods) allowed 8% land provision with 2% value to develop the parks. This means the 10% POS target in older suburbs generally equates to 12% in newer suburbs.

In Hammond Park and North Coogee, Frankland Reserve and McTaggart Cove Oval respectively have been excluded from the 10% POS calculation. This is because they were identified in the Southern Suburbs District Structure Plan and Cockburn Coast District Structure Plan as being in addition to the 10% POS requirement, and the expectation is for these to continue to be an over-and-above provision.



Of the City's 19 residential suburbs, six have a minimum of 10% POS, and eight suburbs have approximately 8%. Five suburbs - Bibra Lake, Coogee, Hamilton Hill, Leeming and North Lake have less than 8% POS.

TABLE 6: PUBLIC OPEN SPACE QUANTITIES BY SUBURB

Suburbs with shortfall > 2%		Suburbs 2% shortfall or less		Suburbs with minimum 10%	
Bibra Lake	6.4	Atwell	9.2	Hammond Park	10.1
Coogee	6.3	Aubin Grove	8.9	Jandakot	12.3
Hamilton Hill	6.3	Beeliar	8.4	North Coogee	12.3
Leeming	6.3	Cockburn Central	9.1	South Lake	11.3
North Lake	7.5	Coolbellup	8.6	Success	13
		Lake Coogee	9.5	Treeby	14.4
		Spearwood	9.6		
		Yangebup	8.3		

Examining the benchmark of 33.6m² per person, Cockburn Central (including the Town Centre), Coolbellup, Hammond Park, Jandakot, South Lake, Spearwood, Success and Treeby currently meet this. However, by 2046 only South Lake and Spearwood are projected to still meet this benchmark.

It should be noted that in Jandakot and Treeby population projections include potential growth from the Jandakot-North Treeby District Structure Plan area but do not include future POS to be identified through future structure planning.

The quantities of POS, including the benchmark per person, need to be considered in the context of distribution, accessibility, function and quality, including proximity to Regional Reserves to determine whether the needs of the community will be met now and into the future.

This is further explored for each suburb in Appendix 2 'Suburb Profiles' and summarised in Section 3.3.

3.2 Catchment Analysis – Distribution and Connectivity

Defining walkable catchments for each POS type helps ensure communities have adequate access to a variety of parks with different sizes, functions, and service levels.

Walkable catchments for each type of POS are outlined in Table 7, based on the recommendations of the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, and as set out in Table 7 below:

TABLE 7: RECOMMENDED PUBLIC OPEN SPACE CATCHMENTS

Park Classification	Recommended Catchment Size (2012)
Pocket Parks and Local Open Space	Within 400m or a 5-minute walk
Neighbourhood Open Space	Within 800m or a 10-minute walk
District Open Space	Within 2km or a 5-minute drive

Living within walking distance of parks and green spaces is strongly linked to higher usage and better health outcomes⁵. The built environment significantly influences health, and relying only on treatment or individual choices is insufficient when daily environments limit healthy options.

With chronic diseases now the leading health burden, the City seeks to ensure POS supports the wellbeing of the whole community.

To support this approach, each suburb has been assessed using a 400-metre radius catchment to each park - an accepted planning standard corresponding to a theoretical 5-minute walk for most people. This distance encourages regular use and helps maximise community health benefits, especially for every day, informal recreation.

This radius-based approach is particularly valuable given the large number of parks across the City, as undertaking full pedshed analyses for every site would be excessively time-consuming and disproportionate to the strategic benefit gained.

The radius therefore establishes an initial baseline for identifying potential gaps in access. More detailed network-based analysis can then be incorporated within each suburb.

Although included on the maps, the 400m catchment is considered less relevant to the suburbs of Banjup, Munster, Wattleup and Henderson. The first three are characterised by low-density housing, where residents typically have large backyards and often rely on vehicles to access services and amenities, including POS. Henderson is primarily an industrial area with very few residents.

Of the City's other 19 suburbs, nine currently provide all residents with access to POS within 400m of their homes, meeting the recommended proximity standard. The remaining ten suburbs have identified minor gaps in POS access; however, half are offset by the presence of nearby Regional

⁵ Julianna Rozek, Dr Lucy Gunn, Anna Gannet, Dr Paula Hooper, Professor Billie Giles-Corti, 'Evidence supporting the health benefits of Public Open Space' - <https://www.healthyactivebydesign.com.au/design-features/public-open-spaces/evidence>

Reserves, which help to meet recreational needs at a broader scale. The other five suburbs still have access to a park within 800m. Although not included in the audit, Regional Reserves significantly enhance the overall POS provision and availability as shown in Appendix 3. Most of the City of Cockburn's Regional Reserves are part of the Beeliar Regional Park, which spans much of the City. It includes a central wetland chain (e.g. North, Bibra, Yangebup, and Thomsons Lakes) and a western chain (e.g. Manning Lake, Lake Coogee, and the Henderson foreshore).

Suburbs like North Lake, Bibra Lake, Yangebup, Success, Lake Coogee, and Coogee have excellent access to Beeliar Regional Park, which offers diverse natural features – wetlands, bushland, and coastal areas – supporting a range of passive and active recreation. While some areas have restricted access, various recreation nodes provide different settings, uses, and amenities.

The Suburb Profiles (Appendix 2) provides more detail regarding accessibility to POS for each suburb.

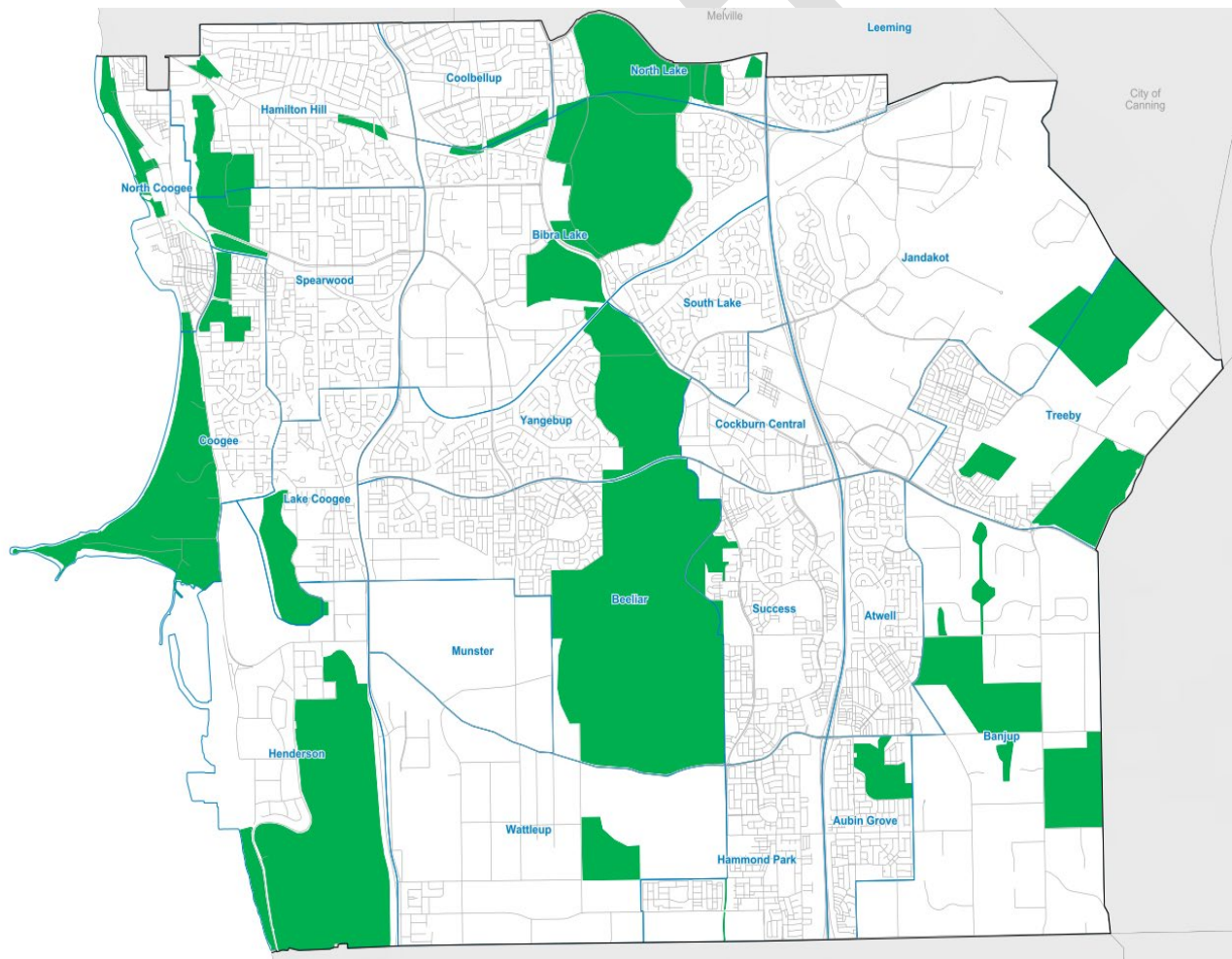


Figure 2: City of Cockburn Regional Reserves

3.2.1 Connectivity

While catchment hierarchy is an important factor in POS accessibility, it represents only one dimension. To encourage walking and cycling to these spaces, research indicates the surrounding street network must be well-connected, convenient, comfortable and safe⁶.

Achieving this level of connectivity also requires consideration of climate change impacts. Research from the [Australian Urban Design Research Centre](#) emphasise effective adaptation to rising temperatures relies on a continuous tree canopy across private lots, streets, and parks. Rather than viewing POS in isolation, this interconnected green network plays a vital role in creating cooler, more resilient urban environments.

Each suburb (Appendix 2) profile includes the proportion of road reserves shaded by vegetation. While these publicly available datasets—capturing only trees over 3 m in height—are accessible through the Urban Tree Canopy Dashboard, they provide only a partial picture. The Urban Forest Plan should build on this information by offering more detailed and practical guidance on how to create a climate-responsive, greener street environment that supports both connectivity and comfort for people walking and cycling.

3.3 Analysis

The Suburb Profiles at Appendix 2 provide a detailed assessment of each suburb and principles that will guide the City in planning for POS; and specific developer requirements. A summary is provided below, with a focus on residential areas:

Older residential suburbs – minor POS shortfalls

Most of the City's older established residential areas (1960s-80s) - including Coolbellup, Spearwood, Yangebup - have minor POS shortfalls. This is likely due to past POS calculations including fenced drainage basins or landscaped buffer strips, and the accumulation of small deficits through multiple subdivision stages.

Examining the benchmark of 33.6m² per person, only Spearwood will still meet this benchmark by 2046.

During consultation many residents expressed high satisfaction with the quantity and quality of POS in their area. However, infill development will drive population growth, particularly in suburbs that have been rezoned to a higher density, increasing pressure on POS. POS in these areas will need to respond to increased demand and changing community needs.

Where the shortfall is minor (approximately 2%) and the established suburb has good accessibility to POS it is not considered necessary to actively seek additional POS, as minor shortfalls are unlikely to hinder the ability of the POS network to meet community need. This approach also recognises opportunities for the City to acquire land of sufficient size, in appropriate locations for POS are generally limited in well-established suburbs; and the cost to purchase (typically at residential land value) and embellish new areas of POS would be significant.

⁶Julianna Rozek, Dr Lucy Gunn, Anna Gannet, Dr Paula Hooper, Professor Billie Giles-Corti, 'Evidence supporting the health benefits of Public Open Space' - <https://www.healthyactivebydesign.com.au/design-features/public-open-spaces/evidence>

However, larger infill development sites (6 lots or more) should contribute to POS either as a land contribution where appropriate, or through cash-in-lieu (noting Position Statement 'Public Open Space' includes a two-year deferral period until 18 December 2027 whereby POS contributions will not be required for any infill subdivisions or development).

Cash-in-lieu will be used to implement improvements to POS to enhance recreational and/or environmental values and meet the needs of the community, guided by this Strategy and a Cash-in-lieu Expenditure Plan.

Recent Residential Suburbs – Minor POS Shortfall

Suburbs developed primarily between the 1990s and early 2000s, such as Atwell (9.2%) and Aubin Grove (8.9%), have a minor shortfall of POS and fall below the benchmark of 33.6m² per person. This shortfall is unlikely to worsen due to modest projected population growth.

Proximity to Regional Reserves provides additional amenity, making the shortfall acceptable. The focus will be on ensuring existing POS continues to meet community needs into the future.

Cockburn Central

Cockburn Central has 9.1% POS; although proximity to well-developed parks with high-quality amenities and leisure facilities helps to meet the community's recreational needs. However, due to the area's rapid population growth and significant proportion of medium and high-density dwellings, this issue should be addressed through targeted planning, including potentially upgrading Local parks to neighbourhood level standard to meet the community needs to ensure the suburb remains attractive to support high-density residential living.

Beeliar

Beeliar has 8.4% POS, currently below the per capita benchmark (22m²), stabilising by 2046. Despite good accessibility and diversity of POS, there is an opportunity to purchase additional land using available cash-in-lieu funds. The City will investigate potential land acquisition opportunities for additional POS to meet future community needs.

Lake Coogee

Lake Coogee (9.5% POS) comprises older residential areas and new structure plan areas. The area benefits from proximity to regional assets such as Lake Coogee Regional Park, Boodjar Mooliny Reserve, and Bindjar Reserve, which enhance recreational opportunities. The focus will be on diversifying parks, improving accessibility, and addressing the needs of an ageing population.

Areas with Higher POS Shortfalls

Hamilton Hill

Hamilton Hill currently has a significant shortfall of POS at 6.3%, despite its proximity to Regional Reserves such as Manning Park and the Hamilton Hill Swamp Precinct (former Roe Highway Reserve), which partially offsets this deficiency.

Projected infill development will drive substantial population growth - 4,127 additional dwellings and 10,207 residents by 2046 - further reducing POS availability per capita.

The former Roe Highway corridor presents an opportunity to increase POS provision, and the City will explore options to secure additional POS, including land swaps for underutilised sites, and will investigate appropriate amenities to meet evolving community needs.

Bibra Lake, Leeming, and North Lake

Bibra Lake (6.4%), Leeming (6.3%), and North Lake (7.5%) have notable POS shortfalls. However, proximity to Bibra Lake Regional Park ensures high accessibility to diverse recreational amenities. Population growth in these areas is expected to remain minimal, so the per capita POS benchmark will remain stable.

Coogee

Coogee has 6.3% POS, but its location near the foreshore, Market Garden/Boodjar Mooliny corridor, and Rotary Park (Regional Reserves) mitigates this shortfall by providing varied recreational and environmental opportunities. With modest population growth projected, the focus will be on upgrading Local Parks to neighbourhood-level standards, improving accessibility, and addressing the needs of an ageing population.

Suburbs Meeting the 10% POS Minimum

Hammond Park, North Coogee, and Success

These suburbs currently meet the minimum 10% POS requirement; however, continued population growth will result in a decline in per capita provision. To maintain community access to open space, all future structure planning and subdivision must deliver at least 10% POS.

North Coogee is one of the few areas expected to experience residential growth beyond 2036. With its predominance of medium and high-density development and limited private open space, the priority will be ensuring POS is accessible, well-designed, and supports diverse recreational needs.

South Lake

POS in South Lake (11.3%) is projected to remain above the per capita benchmark (41.4m² by 2046) due to limited population growth. The focus will be on addressing gaps in provision based on demographic needs, particularly for youth and seniors.

Jandakot

Jandakot has 12.3% POS which includes proposed future areas within the Glen Iris Estate. While population growth will increase pressure on existing POS, additional provision is anticipated through local structure planning in the Jandakot-North Treeby District Structure Plan area. Given land fragmentation, the City will advocate for larger POS sites and active playing fields, as recommended in the Community Needs Analysis Report.

3.4 Diversity of Public Open Space

An effective open space network should offer a mix of recreational, natural, and sporting spaces across local, neighbourhood, and district levels to meet diverse community needs. While there's no universal standard, the City has assessed function and classification of its POS to understand the variety available and how well it serves the community. A summary of this analysis is provided in Figure 2 and 3, below.

While not always featured in the broader POS network or specifically considered for diversity, Linear and Pocket POS play a complementary role to larger recreational, natural, and sporting spaces by enhancing connectivity. Their inclusion is only supported where they improve access, meet community needs, and enhance neighbourhood liveability.

Some parks serve multiple functions and may fall under more than one classification. District-level POS may primarily support sporting activities but also include a playground that attracts local use. In this case, the POS would be classified as both District/Sport and Neighbourhood/Recreation, reflecting its multifunctional role.

A Health and Active Design study found residents near larger neighbourhood parks (within 1,600m) walk 150 minutes more per week for recreation than those near smaller parks. However, European research shows small green spaces also enhance mental health, life satisfaction, and social cohesion. These findings suggest that for community wellbeing, park quality is as important as size and proximity. Quality includes amenities, maintenance standards, and safety – key priorities identified in the initial community survey.

This Strategy provides high-level guidance for each suburb. Additionally, the Strategy will inform the Parks and Environmental Asset Management Plan.

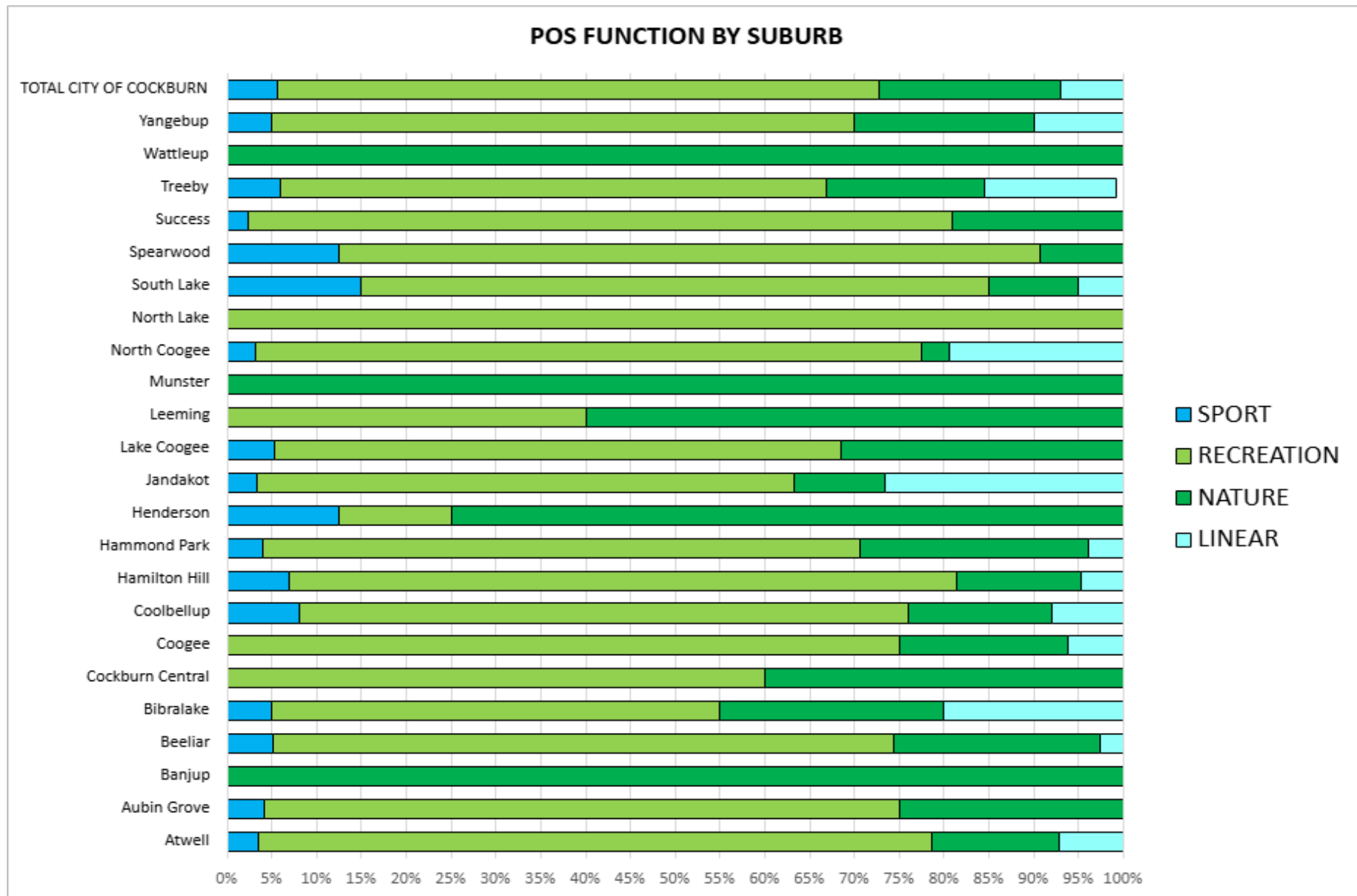


Figure 3: Suburb-Based POS Function Ratio Analysis



Figure 4: Suburb-Based POS Hierarchy Ratio Analysis

4. PLANNING FRAMEWORK AND DEVELOPER REQUIREMENTS

This section explains the planning framework (subdivision and development) requirements for provision of POS, including cash-in-lieu.

This will be used to:

- Provide guidance and clarity for developers/subdividers and the community as to the requirements for POS within the City.
- Inform the City's recommendations to the WAPC on subdivision applications regarding provision of POS and/or cash-in-lieu in greenfield and infill scenarios.

4.1 State Planning Framework requirements

The State Planning Framework identifies key requirements for provision of POS by developers, dependent upon the number of lots being created and existing provision of POS. An overview of these requirements is set out below:

Planning and Development Act 2005

- POS cash-in-lieu contribution cannot be required on subdivisions proposing less than three lots.
- WAPC may agree to cash-in-lieu of POS where the land area is such that a 10% contribution would be too small to be of practical use; and there is already adequate public parkland, considering the overall objective of parkland provision and distribution.
- Section 154 (2)(c) states expenditure of cash-in-lieu on embellishments requires the 'approval of the Minister for the improvement or development as parks'.

Position Statement on Public Open Space (19 Dec 2025)

- Policy measures for POS requirements (including non-residential areas).
- Expectations for Local Planning Strategies to identify POS needs to inform POS planning.
- Provides guidance for cash-in-lieu expenditure.
- Includes a two-year deferral period until 18 December 2027 whereby POS contributions will not be required for any infill subdivisions or development.
- From 19 December 2027 onwards POS contribution requirement for infill subdivisions of 6 lots or more can be reduced from 10%.
- In localities with less than 10% POS it can be reduced to 5%, and in localities with 10% POS or more it can be reduced to 2.5%.
- Greenfield subdivisions will continue to require a 10% POS contribution in accordance with Liveable Neighbourhoods.

Development Control Policy 1.3 'Strata Titles'

- Provides general requirements where land for public purposes such as POS can be ceded to the Crown free of cost due to the increased use of strata schemes resulting in land being divided in a manner similar to a conventional subdivision.
- States a contribution may be required from the WAPC towards the provision of public facilities such as POS for proposals involving more than a small number of lots.
- Maximum allowance of up to 50 per cent of the total 10 per cent may be permitted as communal open space if it provides a usable function for general recreation – remainder may be provided outside of the subdivision or by way of cash-in-lieu

Development Control Policy 4.1 'Industrial Subdivision'

- No general requirement for POS in industrial areas by the WAPC.
- Land may need to be provided free of cost for recreation in specific circumstances.
- Aims to ensure recreation facilities available for workers during leisure periods.
- Factors considered include:
 - Size of the workforce in the area.
 - Proximity to existing POS.
 - Scale of proposed new development.
 - POS may also be required for buffer strips.
 - Planted areas between industrial and adjacent non-industrial zones.
- Decisions are case-specific, based on circumstances of each application.

Liveable Neighbourhoods (2009)

- Minimum contribution of 10% of the gross subdivisible area must be given up free of cost by the subdivider for POS and may comprise a minimum of 8% active and passive recreational purposes where the remaining two per cent (of the overall minimum 10%, or one-fifth) comprises restricted use POS.
- Mandates water sensitive urban design, integrating drainage into POS to achieve better land use integration and urban design outcomes.
 - WAPC will generally require POS to be developed by a subdivider to a minimum standard that may include full earthworks, basic irrigation, grassing of key areas, pathways that form part of the overall pedestrian and/or cycle network, and maintenance for two years.

4.3 Greenfield areas

4.3.1 Requirements for POS provision

Liveable Neighbourhoods requires a minimum of 10% POS in greenfield areas, provided as land rather than cash-in-lieu. This ensures new residential areas secure sufficient POS to meet community need, aiming to deliver a minimum of 10%.

Implementation of Bush Forever, Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD), Liveable Neighbourhoods and increased bushland retention has led to a decrease in the amount of active open space being provided.

The 10% POS requirement is a minimum, and where POS is constrained and cannot meet the needs of the community a greater amount may be required – for example to appropriately balance vegetation retention and useable space for informal active recreation.

The expectation is for all greenfield structure plans/subdivisions to provide a minimum of 10% POS, based on the gross subdivisible area of the subject site itself.

Proximity to existing or proposed POS in the surrounding area, or the quantity/percentage of existing POS in the suburb or surrounding catchment will not be considered to justify reduced provision of POS. Such an approach is contrary to the intent of the State Planning Framework and can contribute to cumulative shortfalls of POS.

Critically, proximity and walkability to POS is only one consideration – POS also contributes to the creation of high amenity neighbourhoods, provides visual relief in urban environments, creates opportunities for urban cooling and can contribute to flora and fauna habitats.

Position Statement: 'Public Open Space' states that for all residential subdivisions (including green title, all types of strata subdivision and community title), a minimum standard of 10% of the gross subdivisible area is to be ceded free of cost for POS, or the equivalent cash in lieu. However, it provides circumstances in which this can be varied.

With greenfield areas projected to fall further below the benchmark of 33.6m² of POS per person - and smaller lot sizes limiting private open space – securing the minimum 10% POS on all subdivisions is essential for creating liveable, high-quality communities that meet long-term recreational needs. The City will therefore typically not support any reduction in POS for greenfield areas.

The appropriate quantity, siting and design of POS is holistically considered through the structure planning process in the context of the proposed subdivision and development. The expectation is for subsequent subdivisions to reflect the quantity and function shown in the Structure Plan as a minimum, including the amount and proportion of 'unrestricted' POS.

In planning for POS in greenfield areas the following principles require consideration:

- Achieving consolidated, functional POS in areas subject to smaller structure plan areas with different development timing – larger, more connected and useable areas of POS will be sought in new areas by ensuring new areas of POS can be consolidated with adjacent landholdings wherever possible.
- Careful consideration of drainage areas to ensure they do not compromise functionality of POS (any slope steeper than 16% will generally require underground drainage, unless a basin is required for improved WSUD and supported by the City), including the useability outside of those drainage areas.
- Consideration of Local Planning Policy 5.22 - Environmental Conservation.
- Ensuring adequate provision of active play areas in POS even in circumstances where bushland is being retained. Play areas are large enough and appropriately level to accommodate informal sports and play activities.
- Structure plans and subdivisions should respond to City of Cockburn Ecological Corridors (Local Planning Strategy) and any other more localised ecological linkages, and identify measures to protect and enhance these linkages, balanced against active recreational needs.
- POS to be designed and sited with consideration of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles including good level of surveillance.
- Where land is proposed to be zoned 'Mixed Use' or 'Local Centre consideration will be given to the requirement for a proportional contribution to POS based on the likely amount of residential development.
- POS contribution for mixed uses should be identified at the Structure Plan stage on a case-by-case basis, having regard to:
 - o the amount of mixed uses proposed and the potential number of residents
 - o the amount of public open space available in 300 m of the mixed-use area
 - o the proportion of the mixed-use area likely to be used for non-residential purposes

In the City of Cockburn, some greenfield areas include small lots – such as 'homestead lots' with existing dwellings – that may be structure planned or subdivided into five lots or fewer. These differ from infill lots, which were created through earlier subdivisions where POS was already provided, and therefore these areas will not be treated as 'infill' for the purposes of 'Position Statement – Public Open Space'.

4.3.2 Greenfield cash-in-lieu requirement

The provision of POS (or cash-in-lieu of POS) for residential areas is governed by the Position Statement 'Public Open Space' (19 dec 2025) and the *Planning and Development Act 2005*.

The City may accept cash-in-lieu of POS where the provision of 10% of the gross subdivisible area for POS will not result in spaces, which in the opinion of the City is of sufficient size or quality to be of benefit to the community, or where sufficient space already exists in surrounding areas.

This does not apply to the development contribution areas of Cockburn Central North (Muriel Court) and Cockburn Coast, which deal with the equitable sharing of POS costs and provisions through the Development Contribution Areas (DCAs). Where cash-in-lieu is considered acceptable, this shall occur in accordance with the *Planning and Development Act 2005*.

4.3.3 POS design and embellishment expectations

The State Planning Framework encourages the integration of different functions within POS. This includes urban water management drainage requirements, utility infrastructure (such as sewer pump stations, utility corridors), buffers to land use constraints and the retention of local environmental features such as vegetation and natural landform.

Competing functions must be designed to complement the intended recreation and environmental functions whilst achieving an appropriate interface with the adjacent area.

Where POS is identified in a structure plan or subdivision (whichever is first) it should include a POS concept plan(s) demonstrating:

- Landscaping (including vegetation and 'regulated trees' to be retained and/or removed)
- Embellishments
- Drainage and how it is integrated
- Useability outside drainage areas
- Earthworks and levels
- Irrigation availability and provision
- Water Sensitive Urban Design
- Further details regarding maintenance and replacement cost where required
- Location of utility services amount of required space to ensure safe access and operation.

Residential amenity is to be protected by ensuring the size and shape of POS and placement of equipment maintains sufficient distance from dwellings to minimise potential impacts like noise from recreational facilities. This is to ensure POS is safe, functional, accessible and sustainable, and to inform assessment of the structure plan, including interface with the proposed surrounding roads and lots.

The water source to irrigate POS must be secured early in the planning process and water efficiency measures incorporated into its design to ensure water resources are available to maintain the active spaces.

Details regarding levels (including cross sections through the POS) should demonstrate functionality, and the interface with surrounding land use. This should achieve surveillance of POS and incorporate other CPTED principles (such as clear delineation between the private and public realm), good access and connectivity to the surrounding pedestrian network and nearby destinations.

Appendix 1: 'Public Open Space Provision Standards' sets out the key amenities for POS to be delivered by developers, and these standards are illustrated in the POS diagram provided in Section 2.2.

Whilst it is recognised highly embellished parks are often key marketing tools for new residential estates, and have become the norm for these areas, inclusion of higher cost items will only be supported where a specific community need is identified and agreed upon by the City. This is with an understanding the infrastructure may not be replaced at the end of its life.

This approach is to ensure an equitable level of POS embellishment across the City and to ensure no unreasonable future cost burden for maintenance and renewal of POS for the future community.

4.4 Infill POS requirements

Infill areas are those previously zoned and subdivided for residential development under the 'Residential' zone that now have further subdivision/development potential at a higher density than when originally created.

Lots zoned 'Development'/'Urban Development' that were previously zoned 'Rural' or any other zone other than 'Residential' [regardless of their size or whether they contain existing dwelling(s)] are not classified as infill because they have not formed part of a previous subdivision that contributed to POS. Such lots are therefore considered greenfield development and will be required to contribute 10% POS.

Infill areas are unique because they typically have existing POS provided through the original residential subdivision. However, further subdivision increases population densities in a context of smaller lots and reduced private open space. This intensifies use of existing parks, playgrounds, and recreational spaces, often beyond their original design capacity, and puts pressure on them to meet the needs of the community.

As infill development increases density, access to quality POS becomes even more critical for mental health, recreation, and social cohesion.

Changes in dwelling types and lot sizes can also change the demographic profile, influencing community needs and resulting in POS being expected to serve a greater diversity of functions.

Key challenges in infill areas include:

- Limited opportunities to increase or change the size, configuration and location of POS
- Need for POS to adapt in response to smaller private gardens to meet the recreational needs of the community
- Responding to diverse community needs
- Ageing POS infrastructure
- Balancing tree retention and new planting in POS to contribute to urban tree canopy, shade and amenity whilst retrofitting POS
- Meeting modern expectations for POS design and function.

Position Statement 'Public Open Space' sets out infill POS contribution requirements. This includes a two-year deferral period until 18 December 2027 whereby POS contributions will not be required for any infill subdivisions or development.

From 19 December 2027 onwards it sets out the POS contribution requirement for infill subdivisions of 6 lots or more can be reduced from 10% given there is existing POS in established suburbs which justifies a reduced POS contribution. In localities with less than 10% POS it can be reduced to 5%, and in localities with 10% POS or more it can be reduced to 2.5%.

This Strategy demonstrates there is less than 10% POS in all suburbs where infill is anticipated, and all fall below the 33.6m² of POS per person, projected to worsen as population growth continues. This situation warrants POS contributions from infill development from 19 December 2027, however in recognition there is existing POS in established suburbs the potential reduction as set out in 'Position Statement' is considered appropriate for new infill subdivisions in the City of Cockburn, as set out in Table 8.

This approach recognises these suburbs have existing POS, whilst providing for larger scale developments (6+ lots/dwellings) to make a reasonable monetary contribution to the enhancement of existing POS in the suburb to meet the needs of the growing population.

The 'Position Statement' includes a potential reduction to a 2.5% contribution for strata subdivisions that include communal open space with POS function in excess of any Residential Design Code communal open space requirements. To ensure this area contributes meaningfully to the amenity of occupants over and above typical communal open space, the City expects criteria to be met for additional communal open space to qualify for a reduction to the POS cash-in-lieu contribution to 2.5% as set out in Table 8.

TABLE 8: INFILL POS REQUIREMENTS (AS PER POSITION STATEMENT)

Scenario	Infill POS cash-in-lieu requirement (6 lots or more, including built strata) (% gross subdivision area)
Suburb has <10% POS: Atwell Coogee Leeming Aubin Grove Coolbellup North Lake Bibra Lake Hamilton Hill Spearwood Beeliar Lake Coogee Yangebup Cockburn Central	5% (maximum \$4,000 per lot)
Suburb has 10% or more POS: Hammond Park North Coogee Success Jandakot South Lake	2% (maximum \$1,600 per lot)
Strata subdivision includes communal open space with POS function in excess of any Residential Design Code communal open space requirements For additional communal open space to qualify for a reduction to the POS cash-in-lieu contribution to 2.5% it must meet the following criteria: • Include a minimum of one additional deep soil area as set out in the Residential Design Codes for a medium or large tree to create a green space and contribute to urban tree canopy; and also meet the design requirements for communal open space as set out in the Residential Design Codes Volume 2 to ensure the area is well-designed, accessible and functional; AND • The area shall be accessible via a pedestrian path from all dwellings and embellished with informal seating or elements that encourage occupants to use the area; AND • The additional communal open space shall exclude driveway landscaping, setback landscaping areas, private courtyards and other R-Code required open space or landscaped areas; AND • Reductions to the required private open space will not be supported on the basis of the additional provision of communal open space to reduce the POS cash-in-lieu requirement.	2.5% (maximum \$2,000 per lot)

A POS Cash-in-lieu Expenditure Plan will identify how cash-in-lieu will be spent, consistent with Position Statement – Public Open Space and informed by this Strategy. The Position Statement requires monies to be spent within the locality/suburb for which it was collected or the adjacent suburb/locality, and the intention is for suburb boundaries to be used.

Expenditure of POS cash-in-lieu will respond to additional demands generated by infill in the following key categories:

1.	Recreational enhancements	– Investments in playgrounds, fitness equipment, sports infrastructure elements and youth amenities etc, informed by local needs and demographic analysis.
2.	Infrastructure to support increased use	– Provision of additional seating, bins, BBQ facilities, gazebos, shade, paths and other amenities to accommodate higher levels of patronage resulting from infill growth.
3.	Embellishments to enhance amenity and sense of place	– Interpretive signage, landscaping that improve the quality of POS and positively contribute to local character to the benefit of the community.
4.	Safety enhancements	– Measures that improve safety of POS, including lighting and CCTV.
6.	Environmental enhancements	– Measures that protect or enhance environmental values, including wetlands and ecological corridors.
7.	Embellishments to support cultural inclusion	– Provide for cultural activities in response to the needs of the community.

Key infill areas		
Hamilton Hill + 1337 dwellings by 2046* 6.3% POS (notable shortfall)	Coolbellup + 489 dwellings by 2046* 8.6% POS	Spearwood + 490 dwellings by 2046* 9.5% POS
Low-density infill areas		
Coogee + 159 dwellings by 2046* 6.3% POS	Yangebup + 205 dwellings by 2046* 8.3% POS	South Lake + 80 dwellings by 2046* 11.3% POS

*From 2026

4.5 Public Open Space requirements in non-residential areas

4.5.1 Industrial areas

The State Planning Framework (DCP 4.1 'Industrial Subdivisions') does not mandate POS in industrial subdivisions but allows for it where needed for recreation or buffer strips.

This is primarily relevant when new industrial areas are created and there is an opportunity to create new areas of POS. As the City's industrial zones are well-established and further subdivision is limited, opportunities to create new POS from ceded land or to collect cash-in-lieu are minimal.

However, DCP 4.1 does identify that land in an industrial subdivision may also be required to be given up as POS to provide for buffer strips and/or suitable planted areas between industrial uses and any adjacent non-industrial areas.

This is further reinforced in Local Planning Policy 3.8 'Industrial Subdivision and Development' which outlines where an industrial subdivision is adjacent to a residential zone, an adequate separation distance should be provided within the industrial land. Where it is critical this be protected as a permanent landscaped buffer strip, and/or where it is required for public usage the land should be ceded free of cost for POS.

Therefore, a POS requirement for industrial subdivisions will typically only be required where it is needed to provide a landscaped buffer to non-industrial areas, to achieve a landscaped streetscape character, or where required for a drainage or ecological function.

However, the benefits of POS in industrial areas are acknowledged and discussed further in Section 8 and the relevant Suburb Profiles (Appendix 2), including future investigation of opportunities to enhance POS or other reserves within or accessible from industrial areas.

4.5.2 Rural and Rural Living areas

The State Planning Framework does not require POS contributions for rural land. The City's rural zones are well-established, with no further subdivision permitted due to constraints such as the Kwinana Air Quality Buffer, and only limited potential in the MRS 'Rural Water Protection' zone where a 2-hectare average lot size is required.

As POS has not historically been provided in rural areas – and this remains an accepted characteristic – no contributions will be sought from rural subdividers except where agreement has been reached with the City or another agency to manage environmentally sensitive land. It is however acknowledged residents in these areas do use POS, particularly for active recreation, and this demand should be considered in planning for active playing fields.

While 'Rural Living' areas share some characteristics with residential zones, the City's designated rural living area in Beeliar has no further subdivision potential (constrained by the Kwinana Air Quality buffer), and existing POS in the surrounding area is considered sufficient to meet community need. This takes into consideration the larger private open space on those lots.

4.6 Public open space requirements summary for subdividers and developers

Area/Proposal	Public Open Space Requirements
STRUCTURE PLANS: ‘Development’ / ‘Urban Development’ zoned areas (greenfield areas) subject to a Structure Plan (except Muriel Court and Cockburn Coast)	– Structure plans to identify a minimum of 10% POS to be ceded free of cost at subdivision, responding to the site context, natural site features, ecological corridors and environmental values. – Conservation Category Wetlands (CCW) and associated 50m buffer ceded free of cost, with developer to prepare an implement a Wetland Management Plan and undertake two years minimum maintenance. – POS designed and sited to meet the needs of the community and embellished in accordance with this Strategy. – The minimum 10% POS provision is calculated based on the gross subdivisible area of the subject land, and proximity to existing or proposed POS in the surrounding area, or the quantity of existing POS in the suburb or catchment will not be considered to justify reduced provision of POS, to ensure the intent of this Strategy is met. – POS concept plan to be submitted with proposed structure plans/structure plan amendments in accordance with this Strategy.
SUBDIVISIONS (GREENFIELD): ‘Development’ / ‘Urban Development’ zoned areas (greenfield areas - except Muriel Court and Cockburn Coast)	– POS ceded free of cost at the first stage of subdivision as shown on the structure plan (or as specified within the structure plan report, whichever is greater) and embellished in accordance with the structure plan and this Strategy. – Generally, subdivision of land zoned ‘Development’/‘Urban Development’ should not occur until the adoption of a structure plan, however in the event subdivision is supported by the WAPC the City will recommend provision of POS in accordance with the requirements for structure plans above, including POS concept plan(s); and Conservation Category Wetlands (CCW) and associated 50m buffers ceded free of cost. – POS concept plan to be submitted with proposed subdivision application in accordance with this Strategy.
Cockburn Central North (Muriel Court) and Cockburn Coast Structure Plan areas	– POS shown on the structure plan to be ceded free of cost at the first stage of subdivision. – DCA 11 includes POS contributions, so no additional cash-in-lieu will ordinarily be required within DCA11 (which excludes the ‘Mixed Business’ area) if subdivision and development occur in accordance with the Structure Plan. – ‘Mixed Business’ zone has been excluded from POS calculations, therefore any residential development within the ‘Mixed Business – Restricted Use Office/Residential’ area shall be required to make a POS cash-in-lieu contribution for the residential portion, as per the Structure Plan.

SUBDIVISION / BUILT STRATA (INFILL) Infill areas (residential zoned land, or land zoned under local planning scheme that provides for residential development, excluding 'Development'/'Urban Development' zone).	– No POS requirements prior to 18 <u>December 2027</u>. – From <u>19 December 2027</u> the following cash-in-lieu requirements apply to all infill subdivisions and built strata of <u>6 lots or more</u>: ○ Where the suburb has <10% POS - 5% (maximum \$4,000 per lot) ○ Where the suburb has 10% or more POS - 2% (maximum \$1,600 per lot) – See Table 8 for further details of requirements. – Given the maximum per lot rate is likely to be lower than the percentage value, the City will accept this rate without the need for a valuation. – <i>NB. Position Statement: Public Open Space refers to 'locality' and for the purposes of this Strategy and implementation of the Position Statement 'locality' is defined as 'suburb'.</i>
SUBDIVISION Industrial zones	– POS requirement for industrial subdivisions typically only required where needed to provide a landscaped buffer to non-industrial areas and where critical this be protected as a permanent landscaped buffer strip, and/or where identified as an ecological corridor or required for public usage, ceded free of cost for POS.
SUBDIVISION Rural Water Protection (MRS)	– Generally, no POS requirement, except areas containing Conservation Category Wetlands (CCW) and associated 50m buffers, Declared Rare Flora, Threatened Ecological Communities, protected habitat for conservation of significant fauna, Ecological corridors identified in the Local Planning Strategy to be ceded free of cost.

5. PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

This section examines the current and future community and their POS needs. It outlines key challenges and opportunities in planning, developing, and maintaining POS to meet those needs and summarises community feedback. It also presents key objectives and guiding principles to deliver the outcomes of this Strategy.

5.1 Current and future community

As population density increases and average lot sizes decrease, private open space becomes more limited making high-quality POS increasingly essential. This shift is expected to drive greater demand and place additional pressure on high-use POS.

Overall, the population is ageing, and household types and sizes are changing - the City's open space network must respond to the evolving needs of the community, ensuring it is inclusive and responsive to people of all ages and abilities.

The snapshots below highlight key demographic trends shaping our suburbs and community that will inform POS planning.

36% Overall population Increase*	76% older adults' growth rate (55+) *	33% increase of young people (0-19yo) *
In 2046, the main type of household will be couple without dependents	52% overall increase in lone person household*	21% of people live with a disability
30% of people live with a long-term health condition	8% of people live with mental health condition	34% are born overseas

**Between 2024 and 2046 (ID Community)*

Top 3 growth areas by total population - Cockburn Central - Jandakot - North Coogee	Growth areas due to infill and high density - Hamilton Hill - Coolbellup - Cockburn Central - Success	Growth area due to new development - Treeby/Banjup North - Hammond Park - Coogee/North Coogee - Cockburn Central
Top 4 growth areas for families with children - Jandakot - North Coogee - Treeby - Success	Highest growth area for lone person households - Cockburn Central - North Coogee - Success - Hamilton Hill	Top growth areas for seniors - Cockburn Central - Banjup - Jandakot - North Coogee

The following sections discuss diverse community needs and how these can be met through POS planning.

5.1.1 Accessible and inclusive POS

The POS network should be built on the principles of Universal Design and enjoyable for everyone, regardless of age or ability. Accessible parks remove physical barriers through features like ramps, wide paths, accessible parking, and amenities suited for people using mobility aids, including caregivers with disabilities. Inclusive parks go further, creating welcoming environments that support full participation.

Across the City there are a range of open spaces with wheelchair/pram accessible trails including Lake Yangebup, Little Rush Lake, Manning Lake, and Lake Coogee, which allow people of all abilities to access and enjoy the natural environment.

Accessible and inclusive play spaces offer diverse play experiences, such as sensory play areas, adaptive equipment, quiet spaces, and parallel play features to encourage interaction between children with and without disabilities. Clear signage with visual and tactile cues also helps users navigate the space.

In Australia, it is estimated 15-20% of children are neurodivergent, and their experience and interactions differ depending on how they think, communicate, respond to sensory input, and engage socially. Accessible playgrounds should consider people who are neurodivergent, including quiet zones away from the stimulation of traditional play environments, and sensory play equipment.

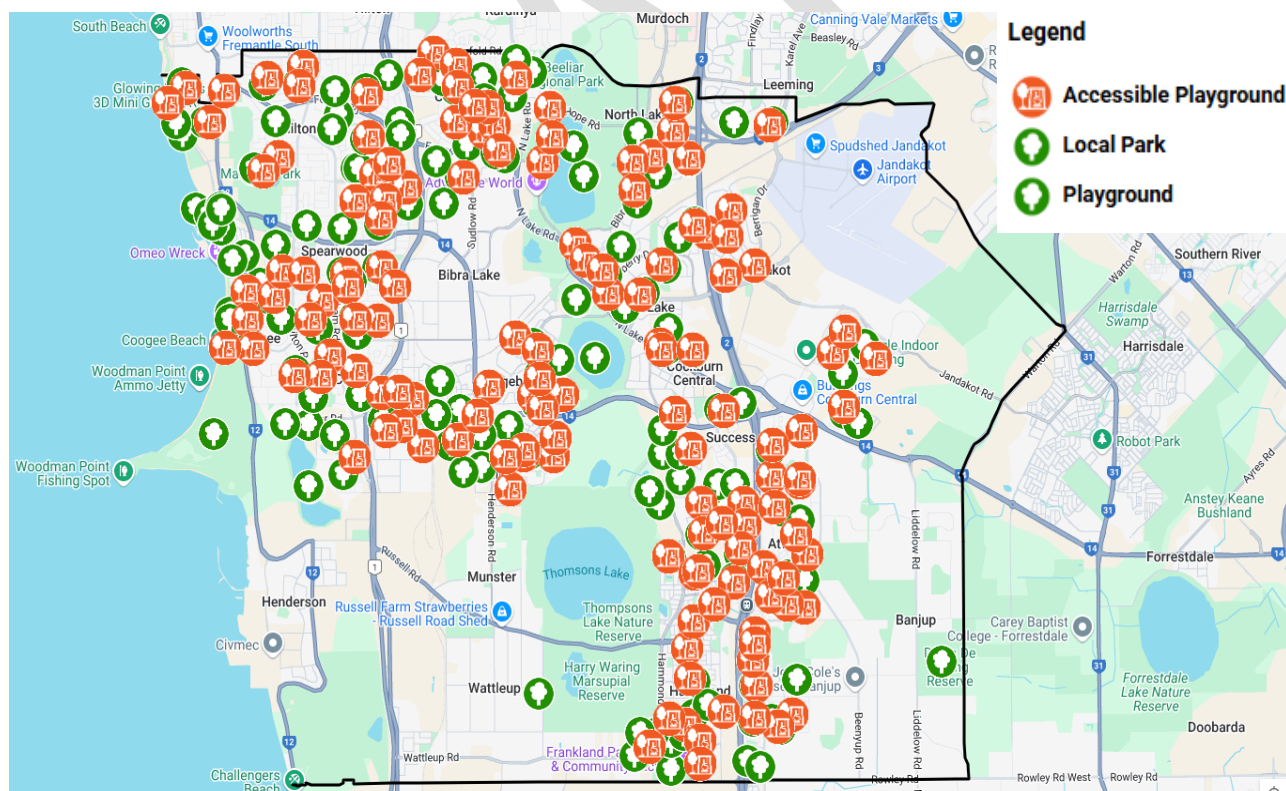


Figure 5: Location of accessible playgrounds

There are over 247 public playgrounds in the City of Cockburn, with 147 containing accessible and inclusive play equipment for children and families with disability or learning difficulties. Every suburb has a well-distributed number of accessible playgrounds as shown in Figure 5.

Bibra Lake Regional Playground is an inclusive destination playground that includes accessible and family restrooms to accommodate different needs. Bibra Lake Reserve itself is also accessible to all and provides the opportunity for the whole community to connect with nature and enjoy the environmental, and cultural heritage of the area.

Bibra Lake Regional Playground is also featured on the Cérge app, a digital accessibility platform designed to make venues more accessible and inclusive for everyone. Cérge offers a range of accessible tools - such as detailed access guides, virtual tours, visual stories, and sensory guides - so visitors can 'know before you go' and understand the playground's accessibility features. Cérge also enables people with disability, carers, and support workers to communicate their service preferences to participating venues before they arrive, reducing anxiety and ensuring a more welcoming, inclusive experience.

The City's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan sets out an objective to develop more accessible and inclusive playgrounds throughout Cockburn. This Strategy (Appendix 1 'Public Open Space Provision Standards') identifies all POS classified as Neighbourhood Recreation and District Sport to include an accessible playground.

The City's interactive map helps users find accessible and fenced playgrounds, with features like voice guidance and accessible colour options.

To ensure people with disability live more accessible and connected lives within their communities, accessibility must be an integral part of the design of POS and the broader public realm. The City will continue to ensure all POS designs and upgrades consider accessibility and inclusion to allow people of all abilities to interact and benefit from the POS network.

5.1.2 Young children

The percentage of children in the City of Cockburn aged 14 and under is projected to remain constant to 2046, around 18 per cent of the population. However, population increase and the trend towards smaller lot sizes and backyards mean open space will continue to become a critical play space for children.

Play experiences for children and young adults have notably changed because of an increasingly urbanised, organised and technology-based society, with much less outdoor play, play in nature and unsupervised free play. Children today spend more time indoors than previous generations, with digital devices now the most common form of play⁷.⁸

Outdoor time supports children's development, health, and vision, while nature connection boosts mental wellbeing by reducing stress. POS is critical to encourage play, activity, socialising, and nature engagement.

Playgrounds

Playgrounds can be valuable in children's skill development, increasing physical activity, and challenging children's balance, agility, and coordination, whilst encouraging social interaction. They have a key role in making up for experiences not otherwise available to children.

Playgrounds also have a vital role in attracting children and families to POS, offering an incentive to spend time in their local parks.

The importance of playground access must be balanced against ensuring financially sustainable park infrastructure. For this reason, most pocket and linear parks will not have a playground, however playgrounds are a 'main amenity' for all parks with a designated Recreation function at a local level and greater to meet the needs of the community and ensure high levels of accessibility.

Playgrounds have a limited lifetime (around 15 years depending on condition), and the City has a yearly playground equipment renewal schedule where end of life equipment is replaced. The selection and replacement of playgrounds will be determined by the Parks and Environment Asset Management Plan, informed by this Strategy.

The needs of the community discussed in the following sections will inform playground planning and the Parks and Environmental Asset Management Plan to ensure the diverse needs of the community are being met, with a strong emphasis on improving accessibility wherever possible.

⁷ Dealey, R. P., & Stone, M. H. (2017). Exploring out-of-school play and educational readiness. *Early Childhood Education Journal*, 46(2), 201–208. doi:10.1007/s10643-017-0849-7

⁸ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2022) Australia's Children - [Australia's Children](#)

Toddler and infant friendly play spaces

In the past, parks and playgrounds often lacked suitable play space and equipment for infants and toddlers. While the City has begun to address this gap by requesting all the designs for the Playground Renewal Program to provide for children 0- to 12-year-old, recent community feedback continues to emphasise the need for toddler-friendly playgrounds.

Inclusive and developmentally appropriate spaces for toddlers should prioritise safety and supervision and support early learning and growth, with features such as:

- Scaled-down equipment – low structures with small steps, gentle slopes, and short slides
- Secure/age-appropriate swings
- Features for sensory exploration
- Low climbing structures, wobble bridges, balance beams, tunnels and interactive panels to promote gross and fine motor skills
- Flexible open space to allow room for crawling and running without obstacles
- Safe spots for crawling, such as shaded grassed areas
- Places for eating or relaxing in the shade

Many of these features can also be suitable for infants (under the age of one), particularly elements for sensory exploration where they are low to the ground and sited a safe distance from other play.

While larger playgrounds, such as Bibra Lake Regional Playground will include toddler-friendly elements, it is recognised most parents/carers of toddlers will use local and neighbourhood parks. Therefore, ideally all play spaces will incorporate engaging elements that can safely be enjoyed by a wide range of age groups, including toddlers and infants.

The City will ensure adequate provision of toddler and infant friendly play spaces by:

- Ensuring wherever possible POS is designed to include elements that can be safely enjoyed by toddlers.
- Ensuring new POS design considers existing availability and accessibility to toddler-friendly play spaces to determine whether inclusion of specific equipment/elements is appropriate.
- Considering the needs of toddlers when designing place spaces.

5.1.3 Nature play

Research shows that nature play – where children engage with natural environments – offers significant benefits for wellbeing. Nature play fosters imagination, creativity, risk assessment, confidence, and independence through open-ended, unstructured play⁹.

The City has progressively provided a broader range of opportunities for exploration and play within POS, including a range of purpose-built 'nature playgrounds'. However specific infrastructure is not required, and the natural environment itself offers diverse opportunities for play^{10,11}.

Natural features (logs, rocks, water), sensory materials (dirt, sand), loose play items (stones, leaves, sticks), and living things (plants, insects) offer opportunities for nature play and unstructured, child-led activities.

Various conservation reserves, wetlands and areas of bushland provide informal nature play opportunities for children, many which include walking and cycle trails, BBQs, playgrounds and public amenities. While these areas offer valuable experiences, access to the natural environments within conservation reserves is restricted to protect sensitive ecosystems. For safety and environmental reasons, children should engage with nature in purposefully designed, child-friendly spaces that support safe and appropriate play.

In designing nature play spaces consideration should be given to accessibility and inclusivity - providing a range of accessible play experiences so everyone can enjoy engaging with nature.

To enhance opportunities for 'nature contact' the City will consider the following in POS design::

- Appropriate, safe and accessible integration of natural features into POS and play spaces to maximise opportunities for nature contact.
- Integrate and connect natural areas where appropriate with other recreational elements to maximise their usage and benefit to the community.
- Consider a range of nature play experiences to cater for the diverse community.



Figure 6: Dixon Park, Hamilton Hill – Example of purpose-built Nature playground

⁹ All, K. & Truong, M. Nature play and child wellbeing - Policy and practice paper | August 2024. Australian Institute of Family Studies

¹⁰ Bento, G., & Dias, G. (2017). The importance of outdoor play for young children's healthy development. Porto Biomedical Journal, 2(5), 157–160. doi:10.1016/j.pbj.2017.03.003

¹¹ Ernst, J., & Burcak, F. (2019). Young children's contributions to sustainability: The influence of nature play on curiosity, executive function skills, creative thinking, and resilience. Sustainability, 11(15), 1–22. mdpi-res.com/d_attachment/sustainability/sustainability-11-04212/article_deploy/sustainability-11-04212-v2.pdf?version=1565259382

5.1.4 Youth

Physical activity and social interaction are shown to support healthy development and improve cognitive functioning and self-esteem among adolescents¹². However, Australian research indicates children aged 10-14 are even less likely than those aged 5-9 to meet the physical activity guidelines (15% compared with 32%)¹³, highlighting the need to encourage physical activity for older children.

Community feedback highlighted the need for POS to offer more recreational activities and spaces for older children and young adults. Young people have expressed a desire for more spaces to connect, socialise, and meet others.

POS for youth should support physical activity, social interaction, and independence while ensuring safety through good surveillance. Older children use these areas differently, favouring informal seating, steps, and varied levels for games or socialising.

Research indicates the following characteristics encourage youth park visitation and physical activity – challenging, age-appropriate playgrounds; sports features (e.g. courts, fields); walking/cycling paths; supporting amenities (e.g. toilets, seating, drink fountains); natural features; good park maintenance and safety¹⁴. To meet the needs of youth these amenities work best when integrated in accessible locations.

Many of the City's reserves include fitness equipment, basketball rings and table tennis in a range of Neighbourhood and District POS. However, there is a disparity between provision of amenities for youth in developer funded and delivered open space in large new residential estates, and the City's older established residential areas.

This is notable in the suburbs of Treeby, Hammond Park, North Coogee and Cockburn Central where developer funded open space areas have delivered a wide range of modern, high-quality playgrounds and amenities, including well-integrated recreational opportunities for youth.

Examples include a junior pump track at Sapphire Reserve, Treeby; a Parkour Park in Hammond Park; and a range of half-court basketball areas, multi-use sports courts/areas, football goals, and climbing walls. These amenities help meet the needs of families in those areas and acknowledges that smaller private gardens increase reliance on POS.



Figure 8- Paddock Park, Cockburn Central



Figure 7: Parkour park - The Scramble, Hammond Park

¹² S.J. Biddle et al.(2011) Physical activity and mental health in children and adolescents: a review of reviews Br. J. Sports Med.

¹³ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2020) Australia's Children - [Australia's Children](#)

Whilst in older established residential areas there is a lower current and projected proportion of families with children, the City has progressively upgraded POS to modernise and improve recreational experiences for youth to meet their needs.

Of note, population growth generated by infill in Hamilton Hill, Coolbellup, and Spearwood highlights a need to improve informal POS amenities for youth, addressing a current gap in provision in those areas.

There are four major skateparks well-distributed across the City in Atwell, Bibra Lake, Coolbellup, and Spearwood. There are also 8 pump tracks (Aubin Grove, Banjup, Bibra Lake, Hamilton Hill, North Coogee, Spearwood, South Lake and Yangebup), with many located adjacent to streetball courts and playgrounds to provide for a range of age groups.

Feedback on some of the City's more recent youth facilities is that they are more suitable for younger children than youth. Future amenities for youth should be designed to ensure they include features that are challenging enough for all age groups. This includes skate parks, bike parks and the heights of parkour and fitness equipment.

The City facilitates well-attended supporting programs and events in open spaces, such as concerts and sports clinics/competitions to encourage young people to stay active and socially connected, and boost youth engagement and park use.

The City will continue to ensure youth amenities are well-distributed across the City; and that POS planning, design and amenities support the wellbeing, development, and engagement of youth.



Figure 9: Pump Track, Market Garden Park, Spearwood



Figure 10: Barrow Park Pump Track, North Coogee

5.1.5 Seniors (65 years +)

With seniors projected to make up nearly one-fifth of the population by 2046, open spaces must adapt to their diverse needs to support healthy ageing. Age-friendly spaces promote physical activity, social inclusion, and overall wellbeing. The needs of seniors vary widely - some live independently, others in care, and many are carers or grand carers.

Parks are important spaces to support positive ageing – offering seniors low-cost and accessible opportunities to stay active, connect with others, and enjoy nature.

Seniors benefit from parks in a variety of important ways – physically, mentally, socially, and emotionally, including the following:

- Supports independence, especially for those who may not drive or travel far.
- Encourages time outdoors which can improve mood and mental clarity.
- Nature contact reduces stress, anxiety, and symptoms of depression.
- Parks offer a space where seniors can be active without needing expensive facilities, encouraging physical activity to improve health, mobility and balance.
- Regular Park visits are linked to lower rates of cognitive decline.
- Provides opportunities for social interaction to reduce loneliness and isolation.

Exercising outdoors benefits mental and physical health for all ages; however, few older people exercise outdoors other than walking¹⁴. To encourage outdoor exercise, the City has developed a plan for the distribution of outdoor fitness equipment, with equipment installed across a wide range of POS areas.

Fitness equipment is identified as 'optional amenities' for neighbourhood and district POS where they can complement existing amenities. They should be accessible, visible, and convenient to encourage usage, ideally close to existing playgrounds, walking paths, or community gathering areas.

Standard outdoor fitness equipment may not meet the needs of all seniors, and purpose-built 'Seniors Exercise Parks' include accessible equipment that aim to safely improve balance, strength, and mobility, and can also offer a space for seniors to socialise (e.g. balance beams, stretching stations).

To maximise use such equipment should be located to complement high use POS, nearby aged care homes or aged care facilities, potentially facilitating group run classes.

There is a 'Seniors Exercise Park' at Gavelia Park, Treeby, and an opportunity exists to include others in the City's established suburbs where there is an ageing population.

Whilst locating and designing these spaces to encourage intergenerational interaction can be beneficial (discussed in the following section), there is also evidence that dedicated active spaces for seniors with age-suitable equipment increases usage and can foster a unique sense of

¹⁴ Levinger P, Sales M, Polman R, Haines T, Dow B, Biddle SJH, Duque G, Hill KD. Outdoor physical activity for older people-the senior exercise park: Current research, challenges and future directions. *Health Promot J Austr.* 2018 Dec;29(3):353-359. doi: 10.1002/hpja.60. Epub 2018 Apr 15. PMID: 29537618.

belonging¹⁵. Careful consideration is therefore required to identify how these can be designed and sited to best meet the needs of seniors.

POS design and upgrades will consider the following features to meet the needs of seniors, dependent on its role in the hierarchy and the needs of the community:

- Accessibility and mobility features, smooth, wide paths with minimal inclines, wayfinding signage.
- Shaded rest areas with benches at regular intervals and water fountain.
- Toilet availability, including parent room.
- Safety features, such as good lighting, clear signage, and non-slip surfaces.
- Opportunities for intergenerational activities allowing seniors to spend quality time with grandchildren or younger relatives.
- Balancing intergenerational spaces with designated spaces for seniors where they feel comfortable.
- Senior Sensory playground elements.
- Informative/Interpretive signage to be dementia friendly.
- Signage and training plans to support the safe use of age-friendly exercise equipment.



Figure 11: Seniors Exercise Park, Gavelia Park, Treeby



Figure 12: Senior Sensory play equipment

¹⁵ Gorgul, E., Luo, L., Wei, S., & Pei, C. D. (2017). Sense of place or sense of belonging? Developing guidelines for human-centered outdoor spaces in China that citizens can be proud of. *Procedia Engineering*, 198, 517–524.

5.1.6 Intergenerational spaces

Multi-generational parks support interaction and play across all age groups, from infants to seniors. They offer a wide range of benefits that go beyond recreation - they help build stronger, healthier, and more connected communities. Intergenerational activities encourage active ageing, improving children's perceptions of older people, reducing social isolation and enhancing physical function for older people¹⁶.

They work best in multi-purpose POS at the neighbourhood or district level, where diverse features can be integrated that are enjoyable and beneficial for all ages, promoting social interaction and inclusion.

POS design and upgrades should promote intergenerational use by including:

- High levels of accessibility for all ages and abilities, including those with mobility limitations.
- Diverse play areas that incorporate a range of play spaces, from traditional playgrounds, toddler-friendly elements, to fitness equipment and social areas.
- Comfortable, shaded seating and communal areas near play spaces to encourage cross-generational connection.
- Active living features like walking paths, sports courts, and equipment that supports movement for all ages.



Figure 13: Bindjar Reserve - Fitness Equipment

¹⁶ Gualano, M. R., Voglino, G., Bert, F., Thomas, R., Camussi, E., & Siliquini, R. (2018). The impact of intergenerational programs on children and older adults: A review. *International Psychogeriatrics*, 30(4), 451–468.

5.1.7 Cultural diversity and inclusion

The City of Cockburn is home to vibrant, diverse communities, with 34% of residents born overseas. As cultural diversity continues to grow, POS should be designed to reflect the community's values, histories, and cultural practices - creating spaces that foster inclusion, shared ownership, and cultural expression.

Culturally inclusive POS fosters a sense of belonging, making them ideal for families, cultural groups, and anyone seeking a space that celebrates diversity. Key elements include:

- Comfortable areas for social gatherings.
- BBQs, shelters, and seating arranged to support communal use and intergenerational interaction.
- Flexible spaces that can be adapted for diverse cultural events, performances, ceremonies, or gatherings.
- Safety and comfort - amenities that make all visitors feel secure and respected.
- Informal recreation opportunities, such as Bocce courts, to support casual and intergenerational use.
- Community engagement with diverse groups – involving communities in planning and design.
- Art installations or murals co-designed with local cultural groups to visually celebrate diversity.
- Events and programming to provide opportunities for community-led activities, inclusive outdoor learning and support the capacity of new and emerging community groups.
- Feedback from young people is that they would like to see an emphasis on celebrating cultural diversity with more regular and visible celebrations of culture to foster connection and inclusion.

The City of Cockburn is committed to embedding cultural inclusion in all stages of POS planning, design, and activation. This includes ongoing consultation with diverse communities, co-design opportunities, and regular evaluation to ensure spaces remain responsive and inclusive.



Figure 14: City of Vincent Multicultural Garden (adaptable for diverse performances, ceremonies or gatherings)

The land now known as the City of Cockburn holds deep cultural and spiritual significance for the Beeliar Nyungar people, the traditional custodians of the area. They called this land Beeliar Boodjar, and their connection spans tens of thousands of years.

The City recognises the importance of POS as Country. Nyungar in the area continue to enjoy much of their boodjar (Country), visiting areas around estuary waters and wetlands with their moort (family), wangkiny (talking) and maintaining Nyungar kata tjiny (knowledge and understanding).

The City is committed to protecting and fostering this ongoing connection and identifying ways to better support and reflect the needs of First Nations people and celebrate their culture in POS design and planning.

Through the Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) the City seeks to build a deep understanding of culture, history and protocols through learning, listening and celebration, including visibly promoting local Aboriginal cultures.

The City has implemented Nyungar language in the naming of parks and interpretive signage at Manning Park, Bibra Lake, Banksia Eucalypt Woodland Reserve, Kurrajong Reserve and C.Y. O'Connor beach. A key action of the RAP is to develop a plan to extend dual naming of features and naming of locations, parks and facilities across the City.

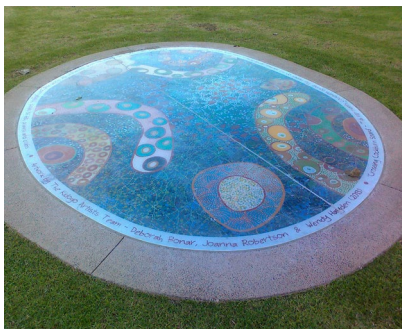


Figure 17: Kidogo Glass Artworks, North Coogee



Figure 16: Interpretive signage - Cockburn Central West Park



Figure 15: Nyungar Warden Katitjin Bidi - Derbal Nara (People's Ocean Knowledge Trail)

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage is significant across the City's networks of reserves, and large portions of regional reserves are registered sites, including Bibra Lake, Thomson's Lake, Lake Coogee, Woodman Point and the North Coogee foreshore area.

Two key Aboriginal historical trails demonstrate the rich history and culture of the Beeliar Nyungar people – the Nyungar Warden Katitjin Bidi - Derbal Nara (People's Ocean Knowledge Trail); and the Nyungar Tourist Trail at Port Coogee.

Several other registered Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sites are located within local reserves, including:

- Twin Bartram and David Gregg Park, Success – Place 3429
- Beaumont and Magnolia Park, Success - Place 15934
- Jubilee Park, Success - Place 3428
- Mather Reserve, Banjup - Place 3447
- Broadwater Park, South Lake - Place 4358

- Dixon Park, Hamilton Hill - Place 18332
- Kraemer Reserve, Banjup– Place 21811

Where appropriate, the City will engage with Traditional Owners to incorporate Nyungar language, interpretive signage and/or artworks within POS that contains registered Aboriginal Cultural Heritage sites.

Within POS more broadly where signage is proposed or replaced the City will engage with Traditional Owners to incorporate Nyungar language.

The Aboriginal Reference Group (ARG) has indicated a desire to incorporate Aboriginal artwork into park signage, ideally created with youth involvement to foster ownership and cultural learning. Their preference is for brighter, more vibrant signage to replace existing brown park signs, making cultural stories more engaging and accessible.

In appropriate locations new and upgraded POS should consider integrating culturally relevant design elements to foster connection to Country, highlight the significance of sites for protection and enhance visibility and meaningful representation of Aboriginal culture. This should include appropriate engagement and may include:

- Yarning circles – designed with use of local natural materials and circular forms to reflect cultural principles and support inclusive learning environments.
- Seating and communal tables in public spaces providing opportunities for cultural sharing and group use.
- Improved public Wi-Fi to support learning, events, and storytelling in park settings.
- Public art, interpretive and regulatory (e.g. protocol awareness) signage, cultural markers, and audio elements to share Nyungar Welcomes, Dreaming stories, and information about native flora and fauna.
- Interpretive walk trails.
- Spaces for cultural activities, ceremonies, gatherings, and storytelling; and quiet spaces for reflection.
- Plantings representing different cultural uses, including bush tucker or medicinal plants.

Hamilton Hill Swamp Precinct/Dixon Park

The Hamilton Hill Swamp Precinct has recently been included on the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Register – an outcome of the Hamilton Hill Swamp Precinct study. The area has been reserved under the Metropolitan Region Scheme (MRS) as 'Regional Open Space', and the City will advocate for the area to reflect the outcomes of the Hamilton Hill Swamp Precinct Study, including:

- Measures to make it a place of healing and bring community to the area, as suggested by Traditional Owners.
- Inclusion of information and interpretative signage, native plants, cultural trails, place names, use of language and protection of intangible values to recognise the environmental and Aboriginal Cultural heritage, as suggested by Traditional Owners and non-Aboriginal community members.

5.1.8 Active Recreation and Playing Fields

Participation in organised sport has a range of physical, social, and psychological benefits, playing a key role in community health and wellbeing.

Whilst the City has a well-distributed network of active playing fields for organised sports, many of these are constrained in their potential to expand in response to growing population demand, and some have current functionality issues. This means additional playing fields will be required to meet the needs of the community into the future.

The lack of district playing fields is a particular issue in the eastern area of the City, given future population growth in the Jandakot-North Treeby District Structure Plan and other potential portions of the 'Rural Water Protection' zone. The City commissioned 'Jandakot/Treeby District Structure Plan – Community Needs Analysis Report' identifies the need for 2 x 2 oval sites encompassing District Playing Fields, in addition to a further 2 x Department of Education ovals (ideally one of each in Jandakot and Treeby).

The City will also explore opportunities to secure additional land for active playing fields in the southern suburbs where subdivision and development is ongoing, population growth will be the strongest, and land opportunities still exist.

For all future district playing fields the City will advocate for dual playing size at a minimum, including within the Jandakot-North Treeby District Structure Plan area to ensure maximum functionality to meet community need.

Careful consideration will also be given to the design, siting and orientation of future playing fields to ensure they are functional and financially sustainable.



Figure 18: Frankland Park Sports and Community Facility, Hammond Park

5.2 Environmental constraints and opportunities

Environmental constraints are increasingly shaping how local governments plan and manage POS. Urban development and planning for population growth requires careful balancing against environmental protection.

Climate change introduces further challenges, with the Urban Heat Island (UHI) effects a growing concern in POS planning. Prioritising larger well-connected space and canopy retention, incorporating shade trees, selecting climate-resilient vegetation, and applying water-sensitive urban design principles are key strategies for reducing heat stress and enhancing biodiversity, community wellbeing, and overall usability in POS.

Water availability is another key issue, with restrictions on water licences and the expansion of POS areas that lack irrigation infrastructure. This necessitates the use of drought-tolerant plant species, passive irrigation systems, and innovative landscape designs that reduce water dependency whilst still meeting the needs of the community.

In bushfire-prone areas, managing the interface between residential development and vegetated POS demands a delicate balance between retaining native vegetation for habitat (including ecological corridors), and implementing effective bushfire mitigation strategies. In structure plan areas the expectation is for bushfire mitigation to be contained within that site without impacting bushland on adjacent reserves. Land identified in a Structure Plan as bushland/conservation purposes is generally not to be managed in a low-threat condition for bushfire mitigation purposes, except where there is a legal obligation to do so (i.e. to comply with the City's Fire Control Order, if applicable).

These challenges require thoughtful planning that protects the environment while supporting urban growth, so POS can continue to provide social, recreational, wellbeing, ecological and climate mitigation benefits for future generations.

Retrofitting existing POS to meet the evolving needs of the community poses a challenge in balancing tree retention with new and expanded facilities. The City will seek to retain as many existing trees and vegetation as possible, and to include additional plantings to enhance the contribution of POS to urban greening and neighbourhood character.

Several Reserves contains natural areas which are also covered by the Natural Area Management Strategy (NAMS). The NAMS complements the POS Strategy by setting more specific guidance for the ongoing management of these areas and addressing key threats to biodiversity to ensure long term preservation of local flora and fauna.

5.3 Public utility corridors and service infrastructure

Across the City there are a range of utility corridors, and whilst many are reserved for a 'public purpose' and/or in public ownership, some are in private ownership and zoned 'Special Use' with a limited range of potential land uses, such as 'car park'.

The powerline corridor is the most significant, traversing South Lake, Cockburn Central, Success and Hammond Park. In Hammond Park some sections are cleared, whilst others support high-quality vegetation, offering potential to establish an ecological corridor. Where possible the City will seek to secure these landholdings to establish as an ecological corridor. Further information relating to the powerline corridor are included in the Suburb Profiles (Appendix 2), where relevant.



Figure 19: Transmission Line Corridors in South Lake & Success

While the City acknowledges the essential role of service infrastructure, the expectation is for such services be located outside of POS to ensure useability is not impacted. Proposals to place services within POS will only be considered where it can be clearly demonstrated that no reasonable alternative location exists. In such circumstances, a change of land tenure will be required to ensure appropriate management, access, and long-term protection of the public realm.



Figure 20: Infrastructure Services located in a Park illustrating an outcome the City seeks to avoid in future planning.

5.4 Activity Centres and commercial areas

POS can play a vital role in enhancing the functionality, appeal, and sustainability of activity centres and commercial areas. These specific benefits include:

- Enhancing the character and liveability of centres, supporting vibrant, mixed-use environments.
- Connecting key destinations within activity centres, improving accessibility by integrating pedestrian and cycling networks, reducing car dependency.
- Contributing to making the precinct more attractive and inviting, with a coherent identity and cultural relevance.
- Enhancing amenity and attracting business and investment to support the viability of the centre.
- Meeting the recreational needs of residents thereby encouraging inclusion of residential development in mixed-use environments.
- Providing opportunities for social interaction.
- Creating green spaces to provide visual relief, contribute to urban greening objectives, and create more comfortable environments in built-up areas.

Precinct Structure Plans for Activity Centres should address the issue of POS provision to enhance amenity and support a mixed-use environment in accordance with SPP 4.2 'Activity Centres' and SPP 7.2 'Precinct Design Guidelines'.

In Activity Centres, POS should be considered in the context of the whole public realm, including streetscapes with a higher expected level of landscaping, to provide comfortable public spaces that encourage physical activity, enable a range of uses and are accessible to all.

Where possible, POS close to Activity Centres should complement their role as community hubs and enhance amenity. The function POS may take will depend on the Activity Centre and identified need – it may be a pedestrian connection, or a place for workers and visitors to relax.



Figure 21: Cockburn Gateways Shopping Centre Development Approval

5.5 Industrial areas

Whilst often overlooked, POS in industrial areas can deliver a range of benefits for workers, the economy and environment to make the City more liveable. This includes:

- Contributing to creating high quality, attractive and accessible industrial areas that attract investment and provide amenity for employees and visitors.
- Enhancing worker wellbeing by providing spaces for relaxation and physical activity.
- Environmental benefit, providing an opportunity to contribute to tree canopy cover, reducing urban heat, increasing the City's climate change resilience and improving air quality.

The following opportunities exist in industrial areas:

- Enhancement of drainage reserves in or adjacent to industrial areas, including the potential for seating and amenities for workers.
- Enhancements or establishment of useable POS or other reserves within or accessible from industrial areas to improve the amenity of these areas.
- Improvements to streetscapes connecting to these areas, including provision of footpaths and shade given connectivity to any areas of POS.
- Use of POS as part of the cycling network where possible, recognising the safety issues associated with on-road bicycle lanes in industrial areas, conflicting with heavy vehicles.

Further information is included in the Suburb Profiles (Appendix 2), where relevant.



Figure 23: Greening of Industrial Areas

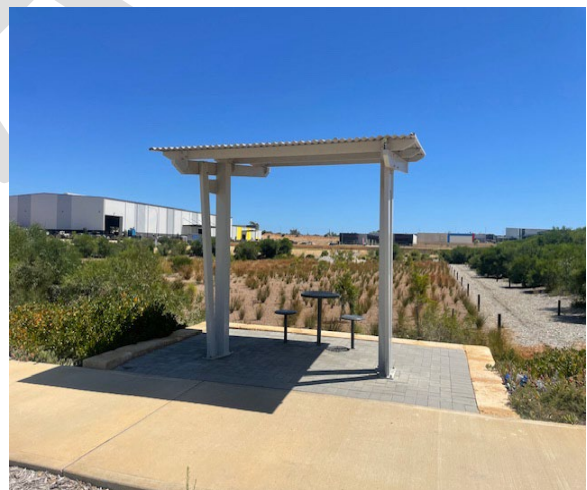


Figure 22: Lunch Area for Workers in Latitude 32

5.6 Events, activities and land uses

Reserves in the City of Cockburn are popular for events and private gatherings, enhancing community life and local vibrancy. With population growth and event applications tripling over the past decade - now exceeding 160 annually - effective management is essential to prioritise public and recreational use and minimise conflicts.

Community and commercial events must provide community benefit without compromising the primary purpose of reserves for public recreational use, and/or environmental protection, or cultural, and amenity values.

There has also been growing interest from commercial operators, such as mobile food vendors wanting to locate in reserves. This requires consideration of the potential impacts of such uses, and guidance on how such proposals will be considered by Council to protect the recreational values of reserves and support commercial zoned areas, including activity centres, and permanent food businesses.

Whilst this Strategy does not cover regional reserves, it is recognised they are often the most desirable and appropriate locations for events and mobile commercial traders because of their high-quality supporting amenities and large catchments.

Therefore, to understand how the broader network of reserves across the City function to accommodate events and activities for the benefit of the community, this section discusses the role of regional reserves in providing for such activities.

5.7 Large community events

Reserves in the City host popular large-scale community events, with growing attendance reflecting their strong community value. Events like concerts and cultural festivals support local businesses, foster connection, and boost park visitation. Their success relies on suitable locations with adequate space, amenities, accessibility, public transport, and parking. The City has a local planning policy that provides guidance for high and low frequency temporary events to streamline the process for low frequency events (1-5 a year) and set out clear requirements and approval pathways where required for high-frequency events (more than five a year).

Each year Council adopts a 'Season of Events Calendar' which includes a range of large-scale City-run community events held in local and regional reserves.

A key consideration is achieving an equitable distribution of events to maximise community participation and inclusion.

The table and map below outline current active reserve locations for major City-run events, and future potential locations identified in an audit of POS, based on size, parking, and public transport accessibility:

TABLE 9: CURRENT & POTENTIAL POS LOCATIONS FOR LARGE CITY-RUN EVENTS

Current active locations (including Regional Reserves)	Future potential locations (identified in POS audit)
Atwell Reserve, Atwell Aubin Grove, Reserve Coogee Beach Reserve (Regional Reserve), Coogee MacFaul Park, Spearwood Manning Park, Hamilton Hill (Regional Reserve) * Success Regional Sporting Facility, Success Treeby Reserve, Treeby	Anning Park, South Lake Beale Park, Hamilton Hill Beeliar Reserve, Beeliar Botany Park, Hammond Park Dixon Reserve, Hamilton Hill Davilak Reserve, Hamilton Hill Legacy Park, Cockburn Central Len Packham Reserve, Coolbellup Meller Park, Bibra Lake Nicholson Reserve, Yangebup Santich Park, Munster South Coogee Reserve Tempest Park, Coolbellup Victor Kailis Oval, Cockburn Central
<i>*Environmentally sensitive area which may not be suitable for future large events</i>	<i>NB. Many of these lack supporting amenities which limit potential to host events.</i>

The City will undertake a review of all identified POS locations (current and potential) to identify appropriate locations for major City-run events, informed by community consultation, considering the following:

Environmental Impact:	Potential damage to vegetation, wildlife habitats, and waterbodies, including consideration of noise and light pollution.
Appropriate infrastructure:	- Sufficient space to safely accommodate expected activities and attendance. - Appropriate supporting amenities. - Availability of parking, public transport options, and safe pedestrian access.
Community Impact:	- Impact on nearby residents, businesses, park users. - Impact on organised sports.
Safety:	- Appropriate emergency access. - Ability to meet all health, safety, and insurance requirements.
Financial Considerations:	- Costs (including cleanup). - Economic benefits.
Equitable distribution:	Accessible and distributed across the City to provide residents the opportunity and maximise equitable participation and inclusion.

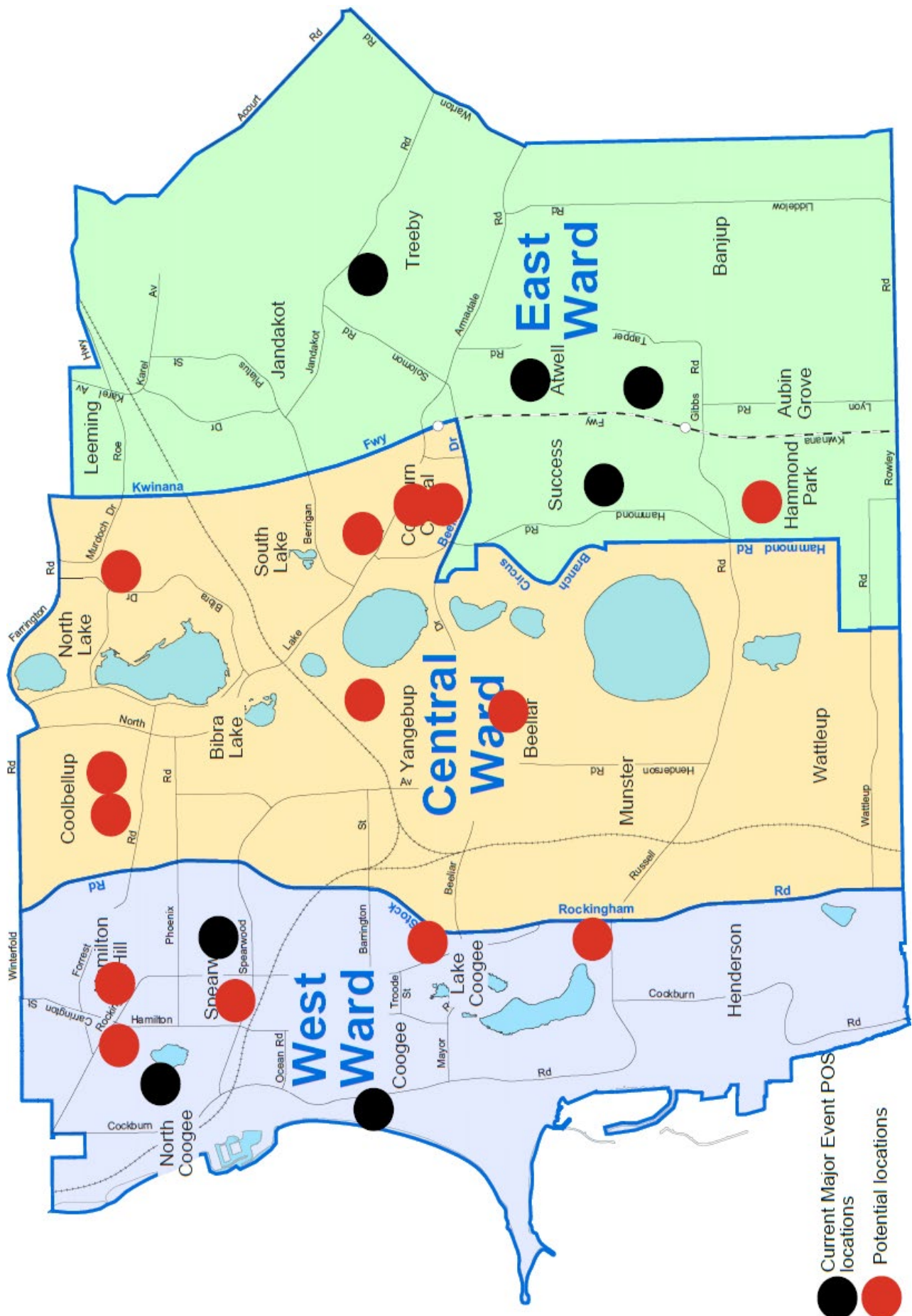


Figure 24: Current & potential POS locations for large City-run events

5.8 Small scale community events

The City hosts other community events and activities in open spaces that support their use and benefit the community, such as mobile outdoor activities. The City will continue aligning event types and locations with community needs while preserving open space function and environmental values.

Open spaces also host a range of community-led events that strengthen sense of community and contribute to health and vitality of the community. The City 'Public Event Guidelines' and Local Planning Policy 'Temporary Events' provide a framework for community events dependent on their frequency, number of attendees and other characteristics.

This provides for ease of hosting small scale community events and ensures a clear approval framework for events to ensure their success and minimise any negative impacts.



Figure 25: City run Froggy's Fun on the Green, Manning Park

5.8.1 Social gatherings and informal use

POS often accommodates private social gatherings and a range of informal recreational and social uses, a demand that will increase with population growth, smaller backyards and increased cultural diversity.

While exclusive use isn't allowed, the City manages conflicts through a 'park usage notification' system to ensure shared public access. New open space designs, especially in high-density areas, should consider these needs.



The City will continue to provide a framework to support balancing private social gatherings with organised events and public access to manage potential conflicts.

5.8.2 Commercial uses

Open space reserves must be protected and prioritised for public recreation and environmental purposes, especially as population growth increases demand for these spaces.

Commercial activities are generally inappropriate in open space reserves, as they conflict with their intended purpose and should be located in commercial zoned areas or activity centres as identified in the local planning framework.

Whilst activities such as markets can provide a community benefit, they can also negatively impact POS by damaging turf, disrupting sports schedules, straining amenities, and causing issues like noise, traffic, and parking for nearby residents. Turf damage can render playing fields unsafe and lead to costly repairs. As such, these types of uses should not be automatically considered appropriate for POS.

Non-food/beverage traders (e.g. flower sellers) are not supported in POS unless associated with an approved temporary event, as they do not enhance recreational use and can undermine permanent established businesses.

However, it is recognised in limited and specific circumstances temporary commercial events and registered food trucks may have a community benefit, complement reserve functions and align with contemporary community expectations.

Table 10 summarises the City's approach to commercial uses in open space reserves to ensure their protection for public recreation and conservation, and minimise land use conflicts:

TABLE 10: GUIDANCE FOR COMMERCIAL USES IN PUBLIC OPEN SPACE

Type of commercial use	Key principles
Mobile food vendors	• Food/beverage businesses should be located in activity centres where they are accessible and have supporting infrastructure, ensuring their long-term viability. • Recognising potential community benefit in activating reserves and enhancing enjoyment, there are five registered food vehicles in Regional Reserves - North Coogee foreshore (2), Manning Park (2), and Bibra Lake Regional Park. • Sites chosen for high patronage, longer visits, adequate infrastructure (access, parking and toilets), and minimal impact on permanent food businesses. • Identified sites have operated successfully for an extended period, demonstrating their suitability. • If a café is established at the Bibra Lake Aboriginal Cultural Centre, the existing Mobile Trading site may be discontinued or repurposed as a satellite operation of the café. • Mobile food vendors are not permitted in other reserves to protect public use and support Activity Centres' viability. • Restricting food vendors to these sites provides certainty for investment in permanent food establishments which commit long-term to supporting community year-round, not just in favourable conditions (e.g. good weather, special events, peak hours).

	City will implement an approval process for mobile food traders at designated sites, supporting traders while prioritising recreation, environmental values, and protecting Activity Centres viability.
Mobile commercial vendors (non-food)	- Commercial businesses should be located within activity centres for accessibility and infrastructure support, ensuring their long-term viability. - Mobile commercial traders are not supported unless associated with an approved temporary event. - Restricting these uses provides certainty for investment in permanent commercial establishments which commit long-term to supporting community year-round, not just in favourable conditions.
Temporary Events – Low frequency (1-5 occasions)	- Must align with community values, protect environmental and recreational assets, and contribute positively to the public experience. - Preference for location on non-sporting reserves, with priority given to community groups and sporting clubs over private commercial ventures. - Preference given to locations with existing infrastructure (e.g. parking, toilets) to minimise impacts. - All temporary events must demonstrate the following: - Clear community benefit, such as cultural enrichment, economic stimulation, or recreational value - Sustainable operation - Appropriate public accessibility - No conflict with community or sporting uses - No negative environmental or cultural heritage impact - No adverse impact on local businesses - Guided by a local planning policy to provide a transparent and appropriate framework for ensuring low-frequency temporary commercial events address these principles.
Temporary Events - High frequency (6+ occasions)	- Must align with community values, protect environmental and recreational assets, and contribute positively to the public experience. - Generally only supported on non-sporting reserves, with priority given to community groups and sporting clubs over private commercial ventures. - Preference given to locations with existing infrastructure (e.g. parking, toilets) to minimise impacts. - All temporary events must demonstrate the following: - Clear community benefit, such as cultural enrichment, economic stimulation, or recreational value - Sustainable operation - Appropriate public accessibility - No conflict with community or sporting uses - No negative environmental or cultural heritage impact - No adverse impact on local businesses - No negative impact on residential amenity. - Guided by a local planning policy to provide a transparent and appropriate framework for assessing and approving high-frequency temporary commercial events to ensure they address these principles. 'Public Building Approval' and 'Development Approval' required (advertised for public comment).

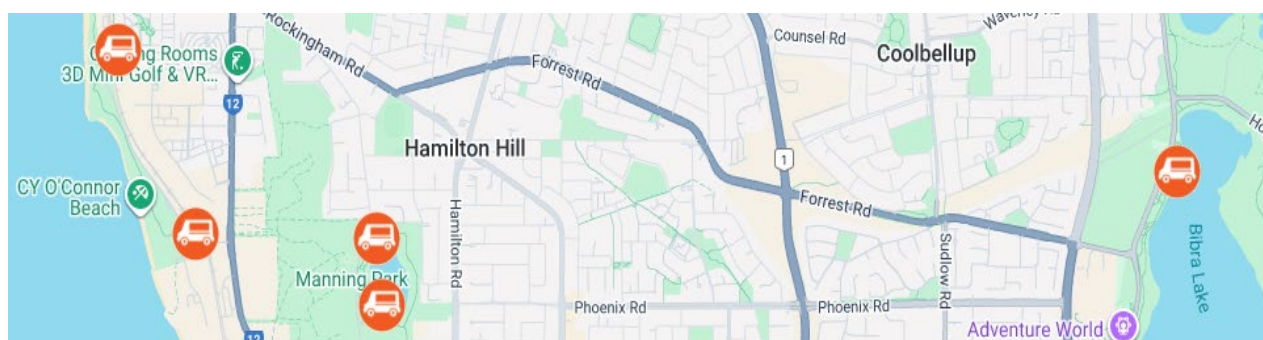


Figure 26: Mobile food truck sites

5.8.3 Public Open Space use summary

Table 11 below sets out how POS use will be prioritised as a public asset to meet the needs of the community, dependent on its primary function as identified in this Strategy:

TABLE 11: PUBLIC OPEN SPACE USE BY FUNCTION

	Local Open Space Primary Function		
	Sporting Space	Recreation Space	Nature Space
PRIMARY USES:	✓ Prioritised for organised sport training and games. ✓ Informal use for general community recreation and enjoyment around scheduled organised sporting activities.	✓ Prioritised for general recreational use by the community. ✓ Flexibility for informal use for general community recreation and enjoyment. ✓ Private gatherings.	✓ Protection of environmental values is prioritised. ✓ Access for passive recreation designed to ensure no negative impact on environmental values.
POTENTIAL COMPLEMENTARY USES:	▪ Community events and activities (not-for-profit) where no conflict with organised sports, and consistent with applicable local planning policy.	▪ Community events and activities (not-for-profit) where no conflict with organised sports, and consistent with applicable local planning policy.	▪ Organised community planting or nature-based activities where access can occur without damaging environmental values; and where no safety issues (such as contamination).
LOW PRIORITY USES:	▪ Temporary commercial events.	▪ Temporary commercial events.	▪ N/A.
INCOMPATIBLE USES:	▪ Mobile vendors unless associated with an approved temporary event or formal sporting activity; or food vendors with approval in a designated site.	▪ Mobile vendors unless associated with an approved temporary event, designated trading site or temporary food permit.	▪ Community events. ▪ Temporary commercial events. ▪ Mobile vendors unless associated with an approved temporary event

5.9 Community feedback summary

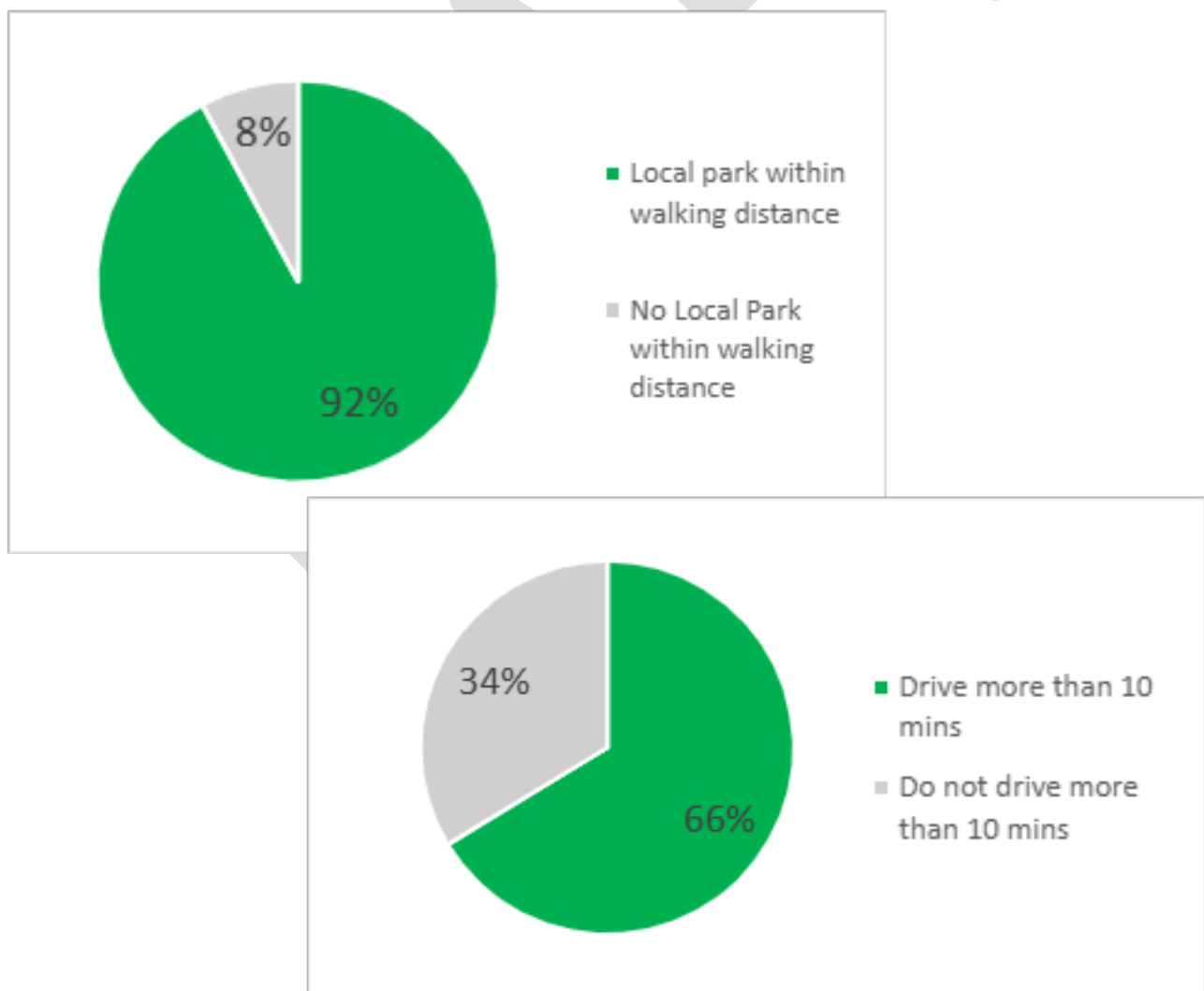
The City's POS is highly valued, and community engagement consistently identifies how important it is to the community.

The first phase of engagement took place in February/March 2025, with Consultation activities including community drop-in sessions, surveys and review of consultation outcomes from other Council planning projects such as the Strategic Community Plan.

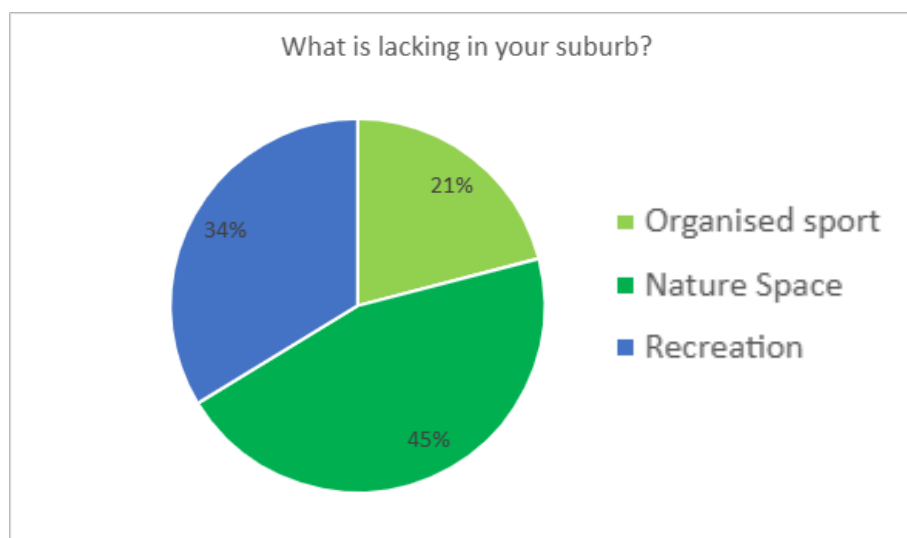
Overall, the engagement activities supported the view there is generally an adequate supply of open space across the City, and the focus should be on improving existing POS rather than developing new POS.

Around 80% of the people who responded to the survey were happy with the quantity and quality of Open Space in their area.

The survey highlights that a very high proportion of people have a local park within walking distance of their home, underscoring strong community access to green spaces - even though many still choose to travel further for park visits. People most often travel more than 10 minutes by car to visit regional open space, which they associate with better amenities.



The chart below summarises responses to what respondents considered was most lacking in their suburbs:



Below is a summary of what the community values most in POS, and what could be improved. Further details will be provided following completion of phase two advertising.

What the community values	Where we could do better
• The variety of playgrounds • Free community events • Natural landscape and bushland • The mix of recreational activities available among the parks	• Increased provision of amenities such as seatings, toilets, BBQ, picnic facilities and shaded areas. • More toddler and dog friendly infrastructures • Better management of off-leash dogs in POS • Better integration of Aboriginal cultures • Improved consideration for multicultural diversity • More parking spaces in popular locations • Better accessibility via public transport /walking/cycling • Better access to and within parks for the ageing population and people with disability. • Greater diversity of activities within parks. • Better activation of local spaces • Increased lighting and surveillance • More natural landscape/wildlife habitat support • Better and more consistent maintenance across parks.

It is recognised the community value a wide range of amenities in POS. The City will balance the desire for more facilities and amenities in parks against the need to provide a consistent and equitable approach to POS and financial sustainability, given the substantial cost associated with installing and maintaining park infrastructure.

The outcomes of consultation have been considered in preparation of this Strategy and discussed as relevant throughout the document.

5.10 Planning and decision-making framework

The City has developed key objectives, and general guiding principles to inform POS network planning and POS design along with the Suburb-specific priorities and considerations, to respond to the outcomes of this Strategy:

Diversity and choice <i>Objective: A network of quality POS that meets the diverse recreational, sporting, social and cultural needs of the community now and into the future.</i>	
<i>Guiding principles for POS network planning</i>	<i>Guiding principles for POS design</i>
1. A hierarchical approach to ensure appropriate spatial distribution of POS with different catchment to cover travel patterns of the community. 2. A range of POS functions within the community to enable choice for all ages, abilities and user groups. 3. Quality sporting spaces to encourage physical health, mental and emotional wellbeing and social connection through sport participation. 4. Provision for POS to accommodate events in appropriate locations. 5. POS with flexibility to change over time to meet the requirements of an increasing population and changing recreational demands. 6. Providing workers with opportunities for leisure and recreation in POS nearby the City's Activity Centres, commercial and industrial areas. 7. For all future district playing fields the City will advocate for dual playing size at a minimum, including within the Jandakot-North Treeby District Structure Plan area to ensure maximum functionality to meet community need.	- Diversity of design that celebrates local areas and create a sense of place and cohesion within the community. - Enhance opportunities for 'nature contact' in POS design by integrating and connecting natural areas where appropriate with other recreational elements to maximise their usage and benefit to the community. - Identify opportunities for POS to include features that support intergenerational activities (walking path, seating) and/or a mix of diverse play areas with elements for all ages while balancing the need for designated areas in some circumstances for senior to feel comfortable and safe. - Identify opportunities for POS design and upgrades to include features to meet the needs of seniors, dependent on its role in the hierarchy and the needs of the community. - Inclusion of toddler friendly and/or youth-oriented elements in POS upgrades as options for community feedback where gaps in provision are identified. - Inclusion of 'quiet zone' elements in POS design options for community consultation where appropriate. - Requirement for structure plans and subdivisions to include POS concept plans, and upfront identification of water availability.

Environmentally sustainable

Objective: POS that contributes to the protection and enhancement of environmental values, designed to be sustainable and climate resilient.

Guiding principles for POS network planning	Guiding principles for POS design
1. POS that contributes to the protection and enhancement of environmental values, including protection of ecological corridors. 2. POS that contributes to the City's urban tree canopy. 3. POS that balances recreational function and bushfire management with the appropriate protection of environmental values. 4. POS that applies water sensitive design in a balanced way, without limiting the recreational and sporting outcomes for the community. 5. POS designed to help mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change. 6. POS that provides habitat for local fauna. 7. POS that provides healthy natural areas that are resilient to the impacts of climate change. 8. POS along the coast planned with consideration for future coastal hazards that may impact their recreational value.	1. POS upgrades to prioritise retention of mature trees and/or inclusion of additional tree planting where appropriate to enhance tree canopy cover and shade. 2. POS designed to respond to natural site features to protect environmental values and landscape character. 3. Multi use POS to consider functional compatibility and water requirements. 4. Use of natural shade wherever possible, including for park infrastructure and nearby playgrounds with consideration for the root zone of trees. 5. Ensure community events, their location and programming respond to community need whilst complementing and enhancing POS function and ensuring no negative impact on amenity or environmental values of the area. 6. Requirement for structure plans and subdivisions to respond to identified Ecological Corridors and any other more localised ecological linkages and identify measures to protect and enhance these linkages. 7. Requirement for structure plans and subdivisions to address Local Planning Policy 5.22 'Environmental Conservation' where applicable.

Safe, welcoming and inclusive

Objective: POS that is safe, welcoming and inclusive, enhancing local character and sense of place.

<i>Guiding principles for POS network planning</i>	<i>Guiding principles for POS design</i>
1. POS designed to consider the needs of the whole community appropriate for its level in the hierarchy and dependent upon the types of activities and user groups it will cater for. 2. POS that fosters connection to Country and more visible and meaningful representation of Aboriginal culture. 3. POS that is comfortable for all users, with appropriate seating, shade, and amenities dependent on the level in the hierarchy and identified function. 4. POS that includes adequate shade to reduce UV radiation exposure for users, particularly children, upholding their right to safely access and enjoy public playgrounds. 5. POS that fosters social connections, designed to support a strong sense of place and contribute positively to local identity and neighbourhood character. 6. POS to promote intergenerational use, integrating diverse features that are enjoyable and beneficial for all ages.	1. Consultation to inform POS design and upgrades to ensure they are relevant, engaging, and reflective of the community's diverse needs and interests. 2. New POS to consider integrating culturally relevant design elements to foster connection to Country and more visible and meaningful representation of Aboriginal culture. 3. Secondary Park signage to include Dual Naming (English/Aboriginal) where appropriate/relevant and in line with Geographical Naming Committee Naming Guidelines. 4. Where appropriate identify opportunities to embed cultural inclusion in all stages of POS planning, design, and activation. 5. New informative/Interpretive signage to be dementia and autism friendly. 6. Continue to make all new playgrounds accessible. 7. POS designed to be safe, applying crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) principles.

Accessible and connected

Objective: POS that is accessible and well-connected to neighbourhoods.

<i>Guiding principles for POS network planning</i>	<i>Guiding principles for POS design</i>
1. POS located within safe and convenient walking distance of most dwellings. 2. POS that enhances overall walkability of neighbourhoods to support active transport options and informal physical activity. 3. All users have convenient and safe access to and through POS.	1. POS designed to maximise accessibility. 2. Structure plans to demonstrate connectivity to proposed and existing POS and the pedestrian/cycling network. 3. Consider accessibility to natural areas to provide the whole community with the opportunity to connect with nature.

Financially sustainable

Objective: POS designed with consideration of long-term financial sustainability to ensure efficient and effective use of resources for the current and future community.

<i>Guiding principles for POS network planning</i>	<i>Guiding principles for POS design</i>
1. A clear hierarchical approach to POS planning which recognises different standards of assets to meet community needs in a financially sustainable manner. 2. POS planned to ensure no unsustainable financial burden so POS can continue to serve the community without compromising future resources. 3. Innovative and sustainably POS that minimises maintenance and whole of life costs, balanced against functionality.	1. All new POS to be designed and embellished with consideration of future maintenance, ongoing associated costs and asset replacement costs. 2. When replacing or installing a new shade sail, include new tree planting to provide long-term natural shade and reduce or eliminate the need for future shade structures.