

1. RATIONALE

Council will provide accessible and diverse open spaces that are distributed across the City that contribute to neighbourhood character, provide opportunities for active living and community engagement, and protect and enhance natural environments.

2. POLICY STATEMENT

This policy sets the principles to guide the provision, development and management of accessible and diverse open spaces in order to improve sustainable environmental outcomes and our community's individual and collective health and wellbeing.

3. OBJECTIVES

The City of Marion owns, develops and manages a network of open spaces ranging from small parks to large reserves in order to:

- Ensure sustainable provision and management for current and future generations.
- Enhance people's physical and mental health and wellbeing through open space that is accessible and provides opportunities for active living and social interaction.
- Improve the amenity of neighbourhoods and business/industrial precincts so they are attractive places to live and work.
- Contribute to people's sense of place and connection with the character of a neighbourhood.
- Mitigate and adapt to climate change impacts.
- Provide sustainable and attractive natural environments.

4. PRINCIPLES

The following principles guide the provision, development and management of open space:

- **Accessibility and Amenity**
 - Access for the majority of people to at least one type of open space within 400 - 500 metres of their residence and/or work place.
 - Design that enhances safe use of open spaces including good passive surveillance.
 - Design that enhances the character and amenity of neighbourhoods.
 - Well distributed open space to mitigate the urban heat island effect.
 - Provides destinations that support the walking and cycling network.
 - Facilities and amenities to support the primary function of the open space.
 - Contributes to the amenity and attractiveness of business precincts.
- **Multi-functional and Adaptable**
 - Responds to demographic and land use changes so open space performs different roles in response to community needs.
 - Encourages active living to promote health and wellbeing for everyone.
 - Provides a diversity of accessible opportunities, settings and experiences for people of all ages, abilities and interests.
 - Provides opportunities for gardening and growing food locally.
 - Strengthens the cultural richness of communities through opportunities for cultural expression and interactions.
 - Provides settings for commemoration.
 - Provides outdoor settings that attract visitors and tourists.

- **Environment Protection and Sustainability**
 - A focus on protecting, preserving and enhancing natural environments
 - Use of water sensitive urban design
 - Mitigation and adaptation to climate change impacts
 - Opportunities for people to connect with nature
- **Community Involvement**
 - Communities are encouraged to be involved in the planning and use of open spaces that are important to them

5. POLICY SCOPE AND IMPLEMENTATION

This policy applies to the provision of Council owned open spaces and any other open spaces for which Council has a formal contract or agreement to develop and/or maintain.

6. OPEN SPACE HEIRACHY AND CLASSIFICATIONS

Application of a defined hierarchy and requisite classifications across the open space network enables an assessment of what types of open space are required now and into the future to ensure accessibility and adequate diversity.

6.1 Hierarchy

The Hierarchy table below identifies the level of use for each open space and potential types of facilities that may be included. The Hierarchy in Council's Playground Policy will inform the level of playground provision within open spaces.

Table 1- Hierarchy of open space in the City of Marion

Local Level	
Categories	Description
Purpose	Local Level open spaces are less complex in design providing limited facilities that generally cater for a low density urban environment. They provide environmental value through urban heat mitigation, contributing to biodiversity, water management, and improving air quality.
Types of facilities	<p>May include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Minimal park furniture and amenities such as park bench, drink fountains > Pathways for accessibility > Playgrounds > Opportunities for community gardens > Natural shade > Nature Play

Neighbourhood Level	
Categories	Description
Purpose	Neighbourhood Level open spaces will be of a higher quality with a diversity of character in locations that cater for a higher density population. Due to the broader scale of facilities people can use these open spaces for extended periods of time. They provide similar environmental value as Local Level open spaces.
Types of facilities	<p>May include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Sporting and recreation facilities > Park furniture and amenities such as park bench, shade, drink fountains > Pathways for accessibility > Playgrounds > Opportunities for community gardens > Shelter and natural shade > Nature Play

Regional Level	
Categories	Description
Purpose	Regional Level open spaces are large, high quality destinations that have broad appeal and attract visitors and local community members alike. They can offer sporting facilities, and unique play and recreation opportunities. Environmental benefits are provided through the enhancement of natural landscapes.
Types of facilities	May include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Significant sporting and recreation facilities > Diverse opportunities for play for a range of ages > Playground > Park furniture and amenities including public toilets > Opportunities for community gardens > Shade and shelter > Pathways for accessibility > Public art > Off-road car parking > Nature Play

State Level	
Categories	Description
Purpose	Open space managed for public benefit under a State or Federal Government management plan
Types of facilities	May include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Walking, cycling, mountain bike and horse riding trails > Shelters and barbecues > Specialist sporting areas > Nature play areas > Educational signage > Areas for protection and enhancement of local native flora and fauna

6.2 Classifications

Classifications describe the functional and environmental character of open space. Each open space is attributed one or more classifications to ensure a diversity of settings and experiences are provided across the open space network.

Recreation – active	Designed for active informal recreation that can include facilities such as playgrounds, grassed areas for ball games, multi-purpose courts, fitness equipment.
Recreation – non-active	Designed primarily for passive recreation activities such as relaxing, strolling, picnics, and barbecues.
Play	Where a playspace is the dominant feature of the open space. Provision of playgrounds is guided by the City of Marion’s Playground Policy (2016).
Sport	Where sport facilities are the principle purpose of the open space that are associated with club membership – usually competitive use. There can be community use outside of competitive sport schedules.
Dog park	Where a principal use of the open space is for dog off-leash exercise.
Formal garden	Where a formal garden is a feature that may have historic and/or cultural significance.
Community garden	Designed to include more formal recreation activities that may be restricted, such as community gardens.
Linear / linkage	Walking, cycling and other shared use off-road trails that are used for recreational and commuting purposes.
Cultural / heritage	Open space that is of special historic/cultural significance to indigenous and/or non-indigenous communities.
Nature conservation	Where the protection and/or improvement of biodiversity is of high value, including linking areas of remnant vegetation for passage of wildlife.
Natural landscaping area	Open space managed for general enhancement of natural amenity and passive recreation.
Wetland/watercourse/stormwater	Where a key focus is for a wetland, watercourse, and/or stormwater management.
Coastal	Where open space is situated in a coastal setting and plays a role in protecting the coastal environment.
Road reservation	Road reserves that contribute to the open space network but its primary purpose is land banking for potential future changes to transport corridors.

7. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Unit Manager Open Space and Recreation Planning is responsible for the implementation of this policy.

8. REFERENCES

- Development Act 1993 (SA)
- 30 Year Plan for Greater Adelaide
- South Australian Public Health Act 2011 (SA)
- State Public Health Plan, South Australia: A Better Place to Live 2013
- Australian Government, Department of the Environment¹
- Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources²
- Resilient South – Integrated Vulnerability Assessment Technical Report, April 2014

9. REVIEW AND EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed once during a term of Council. Its review will be initiated by the Governance Department.

¹ Source: [Built environment | In Brief | State of the Environment 2011 \(SoE 2011\)](#)

² Source: <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/Home>