

1. RATIONALE

The City of Marion owns, develops and manages a network of open spaces ranging from small parks to large reserves. The parks and reserves include a range of classifications including natural landscapes, sport and play.

Open spaces contribute to a healthy city and community and the health and wellbeing of residents and visitors through the provision of recreation opportunities and natural environments. Open space can also attract economic benefits, such as through tourism.

Playgrounds are a fundamental and vital part of physical, mental, emotional and social development and a primary element through which life skills are learned. Public places dedicated to play provide accessible and safe environments to support developmental needs and community wellbeing.

2. POLICY STATEMENT

Accessible and diverse open spaces are distributed across the City of Marion that:

- contribute to neighbourhood character;
- provide opportunities for active living and community engagement;
- protect and enhance natural environments;
- improve our community's individual and collective health and wellbeing; and
- provide sustainable environmental outcomes.

The provision, development, and management of open spaces occurs in accordance with this Policy and the remaining components of the *Open Space Framework*.

3. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this policy are to:

- 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.
- Ensure sustainable provision and management for current and future generations.

4. POLICY SCOPE AND IMPLEMENTATION

Scope

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

This policy is one component of the Open Space Framework comprising:

Open Space Framework		
1	Open Space Policy (inclusive Guiding Principles, Open Space Hierarchy and requisite classifications)	Sets the principles to guide the provision, development and management of open space. Identifies the level of use for each open space and potential types of facilities that may be included.
2	Open Space Service Levels	Defines types of facilities and indicative costs for each classification within the Open Space Hierarchy.
3	Open Space Plan	Provides a long term plan to ensure the City of Marion resources, manages and develops a variety of open space. The Plan informs Council's Long Term Financial Plan and Annual Budget process.
4	Open Space Methodology	Defines the process for planning, engagement and delivery of individual open space projects.

Implementation

4.1 Guiding principles for open space

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 to 500 metres of their residence and/or work place.
- Playgrounds will be provided within walking distance (approximately 500m or averaging provision of one playground per 1,000 residents), where possible, of every residence, taking pedestrian barriers into account.
- Design that enhances safe use of open spaces including good passive surveillance, in line with Australian Standards.
- 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.
- Playgrounds will be designed to encourage child development through physical, cognitive, creative and social play.

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.

4.2 Open space hierarchy

An *Open Space Hierarchy* is applied across the City of Marion's open space network to enable Council to assess what types of open space and playgrounds are required now and into the future and to ensure accessibility and adequate diversity. The location and design complexity of open space and playgrounds located in the open space network is guided by the Open Space Hierarchy.

Local Level

<i>Categories</i>	<i>Description</i>
<i>Purpose</i>	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.

Neighbourhood Level

<i>Categories</i>	<i>Description</i>
<i>Purpose</i>	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.

Regional Level

<i>Categories</i>	<i>Description</i>
<i>Purpose</i>	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.

City Wide Attraction

<i>Categories</i>	<i>Description</i>
<i>Purpose</i>	City Wide Attraction Level open spaces attract city wide visitors and tourists and offer a unique opportunity to celebrate the City of Marion sense of place and offer environmental benefits through the enhancement of natural landscapes.

State Level (owned by others)

<i>Categories</i>	<i>Description</i>
<i>Purpose</i>	Open space managed for public benefit under a State or Federal Government management plan including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marino Conservation Park. • Hallett Cove Conservation Park • Glenthorne National Park • Field River

4.3 Open space 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. *Open Space Service Levels* for each classification define the types of facilities and indicative budgets at each site.

Open space classification	Description
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 play space is the dominant feature of the open space.
Sport	Where sport facilities are the principal 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.

5. DEFINITIONS

<i>Term</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Playground	A space that has facilities and amenities for the purposes of formal, informal, active and passive play.
Open space	<p>Open Space is any piece of City of Marion owned land that is accessible to the public and is not a building, that provides opportunity for recreation and / or conservation.</p> <p>Open Space can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green space, including reserves and community gardens • Playgrounds and youth recreation spaces • Public plazas • Community courts. <p>Open Space is not a verge or roundabout unless specifically mentioned.</p>
Open space hierarchy	The hierarchy that categorises open spaces from local to state levels to indicate user catchments, guide equitable distribution, and standards for the provision of facilities such as playgrounds, picnic amenities, pathways, public toilets.

6. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

<i>Role</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>
<i>Unit Manager Open Space and Recreation Planning</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversee policy implementation. • Recommend policy changes, as needed.
<i>Open Space and Recreation Planning Team</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out associated landscape architecture and planning works current to the endorsed works program.
<i>Project Support Officer Open Space and Recreation Planning Team</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify Governance of recommended policy changes and apply suggested edits for Council endorsement.

7. REFERENCES

City of Marion

- Open Space Framework
 - Open Space Policy
 - Open Space & Playground Service Levels
 - Open Space & Playground Methodology
 - Open Space Plan
- Asset Management Plans
- Business Plan 2019 - 2023
- Community Vision - Towards 2040
- Long Term Financial Plan 2021 to 2031
- Strategic Plan 2017- 2027
- Community Engagement Policy
- Public Health and Safety Policy
- Tree Management Framework
- Walking and Cycling Strategy

South Australian Government

- 20 year State Infrastructure Strategy
- 30 Year Plan for Greater Adelaide
- Development Act 1993
- Development, Planning and Infrastructure Act 2016
- Local Government Act 1999
- Planning, Development & Infrastructure (General) Regulations 2017
- South Australian Public Health Act 2011
- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, Attorney-General's Department

8. REVIEW AND EVALUATION

The Policy will be scheduled for review in 2024 to align with the Open Space Framework mid-life review or every four years to align with the City of Marion Policy Framework