



Open Space & Recreation Strategy

2006 - 2016

*Section 1 -
Context*

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The preparation of the City of Marion Recreation and Open Space Strategy 2006 – 2016 is not a commitment from the South Australian Government or City of Marion to provide funds or make any contribution now or in the future.

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ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

The City of Marion's Open Space & Recreation Strategy 2006-2016 comprises three sections.

Section 1 – Context (this section)

This provides background information on strategies, plans, policies and legislation at state, regional and local levels, a planning framework and a summary of consultation feedback

Section 2 – Strategic Plan

Council-wide and Precinct level actions, implementation and budget

Section 3 – Appendices

Supporting background information, detailed consultation feedback, land database and maps

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background

The City of Marion's Draft Open Space and Recreation Strategy 2006-2016 will guide the sustainable planning, development and management of approximately 350 open spaces and recreation facilities within these open space settings.

The importance of open spaces and recreation opportunities to the community should not be under-estimated in defining the character of the City of Marion. 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.

This Strategy comprises the following sections:

Section 1 – Context

Background information relating to:

- State, regional and local strategies, plans, legislation and policies
- Trends and benefits relating to open space and recreation
- A Planning Framework to assess the provision of open spaces
- Demand for open space and recreation based on demographic profiles and consultation feedback from the community and other key stakeholders

Section 2 – Strategic Plan

- Council-wide and Precinct level strategic actions and Implementation Plan

Section 3 – Appendices

What is 'Open Space' and 'Recreation'?

For the purpose of this Strategy the terms 'open space' and 'recreation' are defined as follows:

Open Space

Parks and reserves and facilities in these spaces, coastal spaces, trails and other corridors that have value for a variety of purposes including recreation, sport, tourism, environmental and visual amenity

Recreation

Recreation can be both structured and unstructured (formal and informal) and include active and passive recreational activities such as sport, picnicking, use of play equipment, walking, cycling, jogging. This Strategy focuses principally on unstructured recreation.

Why is an Open Space and Recreation Strategy needed?

There are many human and environmental factors and trends that point to the need for a strategic approach to open space and recreation. The key factors are:

- Open spaces play a key role in people's physical and mental health and wellbeing by providing settings for participation in recreation, physical activity, social gatherings, relaxing
- Open spaces need to link with walking and cycling networks to facilitate opportunities for physical activity
- Higher expectation by the community that open spaces will be equitably distributed, accessible, safe, of high quality and provide diverse settings to meet the needs of user groups
- Open spaces can build community capacity through providing settings where people can interact and socialise
- With the ageing population there is a need for access to open spaces with appropriate amenities within walking distance of residences
- Young people want open spaces with recreation facilities that provide physical challenges and also quieter spaces for socialising with friends
- Increasing living densities increase the environmental, recreational, cultural and environmental value of open spaces
- There is a greater awareness of the need to protect and enhance the natural environment
- Protection and improvement of water quality and water conservation
- Risk management and safety
- Open spaces offer significant opportunities for tourism and economic benefits

Consultation with the community and other stakeholders revealed the following:

- A diversity of open space and recreation opportunities are needed to cater for people of all ages and interests
- Open spaces are valued as visual relief to the urban environment
- Coastal open spaces should be preserved for environmental and recreational purposes
- Access and safe linkages for walking and cycling are critical to their levels of use
- Amenities, including playgrounds and shade, need to be appropriately located and well maintained
- Facilities should be provided in open spaces for casual use such as tennis courts, basketball rings, soccer goals
- Open spaces and recreation settings should be designed to maximise safety
- Facilities are required for structured traditional sports
- Youth need facilities for unstructured recreation that cater for a range of active and passive interests for both females and males
- Open spaces should be landscaped so they are environmentally sustainable, enhance biodiversity and minimise water use
- Open spaces provide opportunities for the development of tourist destinations and experiences

How will we address these needs?

A Planning Framework is used as a tool to ensure, as much as possible, the equitable provision of accessible open spaces that offer diverse environmental and recreational settings to meet community needs. The Planning Framework consists of the following:

Guiding Principles

Guiding Principles reflect values relating to open space and they provide a structure, based on the principles of sustainability, for strategic directions relating to the provision and management of open space.

Planning Precincts

The City of Marion is divided into 3 Planning Precincts based on topographic features and demographic profiles as follows:

Northern Precinct	Tramway / City of West Torrens boundary to Sturt Road
Central Precinct	Sturt Road to Majors Road extended through to the coast
Southern Precinct	Majors Road extended through to the coast to Field River / City of Onkaparinga boundary

User Catchment levels and Classifications

Each open space is classified in 3 ways - User Catchment level, Functional classification and Landscape / Environmental classification.

User Catchment levels

User Catchment Levels reflect the distance people would be prepared to travel to use open spaces. The levels are:

Local Level	Small open spaces that cater for people living in a local community. These spaces are generally used for short periods of time or are for amenity value only. Distributed within 300 metres and not more than 500 metres of safe walking distance of all dwellings.
Neighbourhood Level	Larger open spaces than Local Level that cater for a broader catchment. They may cater for a range of activities or be natural areas with no facilities. Serves surrounding suburb areas and generally within walking or cycling distance, but some may drive.
Precinct Level	Larger and/or of greater complexity than Local and Neighbourhood open spaces. Serves residents predominantly from within the boundaries of the Northern, Central and Southern Precincts and can attract users city-wide and regionally. These open spaces can be used for long periods of time.
Regional Level	These open spaces appeal to a wide cross-section of the community and offer experiences for which people are prepared to travel longer distances such as organised sport. These open spaces are generally used for long periods of time. Attracts users from within and outside the City of Marion, and may include tourists.
State Level	Land owned and managed by state government or privately owned. Can attract users from within and outside the City of Marion, including tourists.

Functional classifications

Each open space is assigned a Functional Classification to reflect its primary use. The categories are:

Recreation - structured, physically active	Recreation/sport associated with clubs – usually competitive use
Recreation – unstructured, physically active	Participation in recreation/sport for social reasons such as tennis
Recreation – structured, passive	Recreation activities such as those offered through community and neighbourhood centres, libraries
Recreation– unstructured, passive	Informal recreation activities such as picnicking, relaxing
Physical activity / linkage	Walking, cycling and other shared use trails
Cultural / heritage	Sites that are of special significance to Marion's Indigenous and non-Indigenous community
Tourism	Sites that are tourist destinations as a key feature
Visual amenity / environmental	Open space for which its main purpose is to provide visual relief from the urban environment or is too steep to be accessible
Unclassified	Open space which does not have any significant current or potential value within the categories above

Landscape / Environmental classifications

Each open space is assigned a Landscape / Environmental Classification that reflects its primary physical setting. The categories are:

Formal/landscaped	Includes garden beds, turf, trees that provide a more formal landscaped appearance
Turf / lawn	Well maintained turf areas for the purpose of a sporting surface
Watercourse	Natural waterway, corridors for animals and birds to traverse, and biodiversity
Natural area	Land that features significant amounts of native vegetation or indigenous vegetation that may include provenance plantings
Undeveloped area	Land that features minimal or no vegetation
Wetland	Areas that are seasonally or permanently waterlogged and feature an abundance of vegetation that is adapted to life in saturated soil conditions
Drainage / stormwater	Land which controls stormwater run-off
Buffer	Land of recreational or environmental value that provides visual relief that is a buffer between incompatible land uses
Hard surface	Land that is predominantly surfaced for sport use such as tennis courts
Coastal	Land located between the coastline and the sea
Unclassified	Open space which does not have any significant current or potential value within the categories above

What do we intend to do with our open spaces?

A 10-year Strategic Plan, based on the above information, provides Council-wide and Precinct strategic actions for the City of Marion's open spaces. These actions are prioritised for implementation to commence as follows:

High	1 – 3 years	2006/07 – 2008/09
Medium	4 – 7 years	2009/10 – 20012/13
Low	8 – 10 years	2013/14 – 2015/16

The Council-wide section identifies actions within 8 goals:

1. Best distribution, mix and use of open spaces
2. Sustainable development and management of open space
3. Protecting and improving our natural environments
4. Designing for diversity and accessibility
5. Encourage active living through walking and cycling
6. Building community capacity
7. Promoting our open spaces
8. Creating authentic tourism experiences

The Precinct-wide section identifies actions that are specific to open spaces in each of the Northern, Central and Southern Precincts.

How will we implement it?

An Implementation Plan provides a framework for a coordinated and collaborative approach.

Key features of the Strategy's implementation are:

- Communicate the essential elements of the Strategy to the community
- Key strategies and policies relating to playground and court provision, acquisition and disposal of land, design standards, public toilet provision, disability access, and sun protection to be developed as a high priority, prior the redevelopment of open space
- Integration of the Strategy into the City of Marion Strategic Plan 2006-2020 and associated budget, Work Area Planning and Capital Works processes
- Development of open spaces to be undertaken in 3 stages –
 - Stage 1: Planning
 - Including community engagement, concept design, detailed design and budgeting approval
 - Stage 2: Construction
 - Stage 3: Evaluation
 - Including a user review and construction quality review
- Ensure adequate funding for open space projects and seek external funding where possible
- Ensure open space works link with Council's asset management systems and GIS mapping
- Monitor the implementation of the Strategy annually
- Undertake a major review of the Strategy every 4-5 years
- Represent the City of Marion's open space issues at state, regional and local levels.

Budget

The total estimated cost for implementing the City of Marion's Open Space & Recreation Strategy over a 10-year timeframe (2006-2016) is \$15.8 million. The estimated Council contribution to this total is \$10.8 million which includes Council's existing capital works funding allocation and estimated external grant funding from various federal and state agencies.

1 INTRODUCTION

The City of Marion recognises and acknowledges the value of open space and recreation in providing environmental, social, health and economic benefits to its community. The Open Space and Recreation Strategy 2006-2016 focuses on the strategic provision and management of open space and recreation, and builds upon the City of Marion's Community Space Strategy 1997 and Recreation Plan 1998-2002.

1.1 About this document

The City of Marion's Open Space and Recreation Strategy contains 3 sections as follows:

Section 1 – Context - background information, policy context and results of consultation

Section 2 – Strategic Plan – goals, strategies and actions

Section 3 – Appendices

Methodology

The following methodology was undertaken in the development of the Open Space and Recreation Strategy:

Reference group

A Reference Group was formed comprising Council staff from the departments of City Assets, Field Services, Community Development, Strategy, Development Services, and State Government representatives from Planning SA and the Office for Recreation & Sport. The principal role of the Reference Group was to provide input into the development of the Open Space and Recreation Strategy. In addition, other key Council staff have also provided input where appropriate.

Development of planning framework

The City of Marion's Draft Strategic Plan 2006-2020, and principles of sustainability provide the context for the planning framework.

The framework consists of the Strategy's guiding principles, User Catchment Levels, Functional Classifications and Landscape / Environmental Classifications, which combined form a tool to facilitate the effective provision and management of open space and recreation.

Identification of issues

There is a substantial body of research that identifies health, social, cultural, environmental and economic benefits and trends attributable to open space and recreation. This Strategy identifies key benefits and considers wider trends and issues that relate to the City of Marion based on this research.

Consideration has also been given to legislation, strategic directions, plans and policies at federal, state, regional and local levels and City of Marion demographic data. In addition, extensive consultation was undertaken with government and non-government agencies, Aboriginal Kurna representatives, recreation and sport associations, City of Marion recreation and sport providers, youth, primary school students and the wider community to identify their values, needs and issues in relation to open space and recreation.

1.2 Objectives

The following objectives are within the ambit of the City of Marion's *Draft Strategic Plan 2006 - 2020*, and are within the economic, environmental, social and cultural principles of sustainability:

1. Determine the parameters for open space and recreation (what is open space and recreation), develop definitions and categorise
2. Determine Guiding Principles to guide Council's decision-making in relation to open space and recreation
3. Determine community values, key issues and needs through consultation in relation to open space and recreation
4. Determine key issues and trends for provision and use of open space and recreation within Local, State and Federal Government contexts
5. Develop a plan that categorises and provides for an integrated system of open space that links with adjoining Councils and regionally
6. Identify a community/civic uniqueness in relation to open space and recreation that can be incorporated into an identity specific to the City of Marion
7. Identify funding and other resource opportunities for the acquisition and redevelopment of open space
8. Identify strategies to facilitate the effective and efficient sustainable development and management of open space and recreation within Council
9. Identify key maintenance issues for open space and recreation and management strategies
10. Identify economic development and/or tourism opportunities that relate to open space and recreation

11. Develop a plan, including the human and financial resources required for the effective and efficient implementation of open space provision and management that links with the principles of sustainability
12. Develop a framework for the on-going implementation and evaluation of the Open Space and Recreation Strategy

2 BACKGROUND

Open spaces with their wide variety of physical features are a key defining feature of the City of Marion. This section provides definitions for open space and recreation, and an overview of key benefits. Trends and issues relating to open space and recreation are also addressed, together with planning implications for the City of Marion.

2.1 Definitions of open space and recreation

The following definitions illustrate the diversity of settings that are encompassed by the terms 'open space' and 'recreation'. They have been developed to reflect types of open spaces and recreation activities in the City of Marion.

Open space includes:

- Parks
- Natural reserves
- Hills Face Zone
- Playgrounds
- Sports facilities
- River / creek corridors
- Transport corridors
- Coastal spaces
- Linear trails
- Vacant public land

Recreation refers to activities that are:

- Structured physically active, such as sports, fitness, dance, martial arts
- Unstructured physically active, such as walking, skating, cycling, swimming, tennis
- Structured passive, such as craft, friendship groups, board games
- Unstructured passive, such as picnicking, relaxing in parks

This Strategy focuses principally on unstructured recreation.

2.2 Amount and type of open space

There are approximately 350 open spaces totalling about 773 hectares that range from State level conservation and recreation parks to small local level reserves. Council is responsible for the care and control of approximately 360 hectares of these open spaces. In addition, there are approximately 6,000 metres of distinctive coastline from Marino to Hallett Cove that forms part of the western boundary of the City of Marion.

2.3 Benefits of open space and recreation

The benefits of open space and recreation are well documented and contribute significantly to the well-being of communities and individuals.

A healthy city

Open space and recreation are vital contributors to a healthy city. The World Health Organization (*Twenty Steps for Developing a Healthy City Project*, 1997) has identified qualities of a healthy city that include:

- A sustainable ecosystem
- A high degree of participation and control by the public over decisions affecting their health and well-being
- Access to a wide variety of experiences and resources, with the chance for a wide variety of contact, interactions and communication
- High health status

Open space and recreation are intertwined with these qualities of a healthy city. Councils should provide open spaces that are environmentally sustainable and offer a diversity of experiences and recreation opportunities to enhance physical and mental health and to build meaningful social contacts.

Health and well-being

There is strong evidence that stipulates physical improvement at any stage of life can be gained through leading a healthy lifestyle that includes sufficient physical activity. This can be gained through participating in sport, recreation or incidental physical activity such as walking to the shops. Sufficient physical activity can lead to a decrease in the incidence of cardiovascular disease, diabetes, hypertension, falls in the aged, some forms of cancer and improve mental health.

Councils have the capacity and capability to influence the types of infrastructure, urban environments and recreation and sport opportunities that can facilitate participation in the physical activity of all community members.

There is also evidence of the role parks play in people's well-being. This can vary according to the different types of experiences parks, or open spaces, offer as well as different ways people can experience parks. A spectrum of experiences can be obtained through just viewing nature, by being in nature, or by observing plants, gardens and wildlife. Parks that provide more natural environments can play a role in improving psychological well-being, reducing stress and tension, boosting immunity, and providing a sense of connectedness with a place. Parks are often the best access to nature for many, particularly those living in higher density dwellings as they provide an essential visual and experiential relief from the urban environment.

Community benefits

The building of social capital is a community benefit. Social capital is defined as active relationships between people, which engender trust and reciprocity and facilitate cooperation and cohesion in communities. These relationships provide people with a sense of belonging, support and social interaction. Social capital displays itself most strongly in health and

wellbeing. In essence, a person with diverse social networks is likelier to stay healthy, or recover from illness quicker, than a person with few, or no, social networks. Sport and recreation can provide strong community focal points that engender social networks.

Councils are direct providers or facilitators of numerous sport and recreation opportunities where people from a range of ages and abilities volunteer and participate in activities that reinforce social capital. Councils can also be influential in the creation of pedestrian and cycle friendly urban environments, including open spaces that provide opportunities for residents to interact with others.

Environmental benefits

The management of open space for ecosystem protection, biodiversity conservation and ensuring catchment water quality is critical. Open spaces provide opportunities to reinstate habitat through revegetation of local plant species and to develop habitat corridors for a variety of local animals and birds.

Open spaces also provide natural settings that can contribute greatly to the quality of the environment through mitigating air and water pollution, an aesthetic setting for passive recreation and environmental education, a visual amenity and relief to the urban environment.

Cultural benefits

The provision of open spaces and recreation are also important in building and sustaining the community's cultural fabric and can assist in creating a sense of belonging and connection. Open spaces offer settings that can provide opportunities for a physical cultural presence such as public art or landscaping, as well as settings for people to gather and build social connectedness. Open spaces can provide excellent opportunities for people to enjoy and participate in activities such as music, dance, visual art, festivals and events. Such activities in the public arena take place in a way that is highly visible to the rest of the community and build a profile of cultural vitality.

Recreational activities can have a strong cultural focus and be an avenue for people to connect with others of a similar cultural background in activities that are steeped in meaning for them.

Economic benefits

Recreation and open space have links with economic benefit. Both can play a role in tourism such as attracting people as participants or spectators of sporting or cultural events or to natural environments that offer special experiences such as parks and trails.

Economic benefits can also be realised through businesses being attracted to locate in a city that offers a pleasant environment for its workers, and through optimum real estate values by virtue of a property's proximity to open spaces and community facilities such as recreation and sport.

2.4 Trends and issues

Physical Activity

It is a well-documented fact that only about half the Australian and South Australian adult populations participate in sufficient physical activity to benefit their health. This includes participating in structured and/or unstructured activities and incidental activity such as walking to local destinations.

There is also evidence that children's participation in physical activity is declining with more leisure time spent in sedentary activities such as watching television and playing computer games. Children are also more likely to be driven to school and after-school activities than in previous generations, which means they are not participating in physical activity through walking or cycling.

Another key factor contributing to insufficient participation in physical activity is the design of the urban environment. Suburban areas should be permeable so people can readily gain access to destinations by walking or cycling. This needs to be supported by a well planned, safe and accessible walking and cycling network.

Linked to insufficient participation in physical activity is the issue of people being overweight / obese, which is associated with higher incidence of disease and death. Australia, as with many developed nations, has seen a steady increase in the incidence of this. About 60% of adults are overweight and of these, 20% are obese and almost 30% of children and adolescents are overweight or obese.

Due to the poor participation in physical activity by both adults and children, national recommendations have been developed specifying physical activity levels necessary for health and well-being. It is recommended that adults participate in a minimum of, '30 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity on most, preferably all, days' (*National Physical Activity Guidelines for Australians*, 1999). Moderate-intensity activity is physical activity at a level that will cause a slight but noticeable increase in breathing and heart rate. It is recommended that children and adolescents spend 60 minutes per day in moderate to vigorous physical activity and not more than two hours per day using electronic media for entertainment.

Implications for planning

The provision of accessible open spaces, recreation facilities and walking/cycling networks to create a permeable urban environment can assist in increasing levels of recreational and incidental physical activity. Consideration should be given to the needs of all sectors of the community including those who are less physically able.

Recreation choice

Participation in unstructured recreation is increasingly popular as people show a preference for activities that are not part of a team or club. In South Australia about 78% of people aged 15 years and over participated in sport and recreation activities (*Office for Recreation & Sport, 2004*). The top 10 activities were walking, aerobics / fitness, cycling, swimming, golf, tennis, running, Australian football, bush walking and netball. Participation in walking is more than double the popularity of the next activity, aerobics / fitness.

Almost half the people participating in recreation and sport (47%) did so only on an unstructured or informal basis rather than through clubs and commercial providers. About a fifth participated in structured activities only, such as through a club, and about a third participated in both structured and unstructured recreation and sport. Of the activities that featured in both structured and unstructured participation that is, swimming, aerobics/fitness, tennis and golf, unstructured participation rates were higher.

Implications for planning

People want a diversity of facilities and settings so they can participate in sport and recreation on days and times that suit them. There is a need for larger open spaces in particular to maximise recreation opportunities by providing amenities for informal, unstructured recreation such as fitness circuits or walking / jogging tracks.

Ageing

South Australia has an ageing population. As people age they are living independently for longer periods in the family home or other types of housing, often in lone person households. An increasing proportion of household heads are over 70 years of age, and this has largely been brought about by lower mortality rates and the Federal Government's policy of ageing 'in place', that is a decrease in the movement of older people to supported residential and aged care facilities.

The period 1946-1965 is known as the 'Baby Boomer' generation and marks the high fertility period post World War II. This generation is now ageing and between the years 2011 and 2031 Baby Boomers will make up a significant proportion of people aged 65 years and over. This generation has generally experienced a high standard of living and is expected to not only live longer, but also remain healthier longer, compared with previous generations.

Implications for planning

With older people living independently for longer periods, issues of effective promotion of recreation opportunities and physical and financial access will need to be addressed by recreation providers.

Open spaces will also need to address physical access by ensuring appropriate distribution so all residents have access to a local open space within walking distance of their homes. Consideration also needs to be given to appropriate provision of amenities such as paths, seating and shade and the issue of safety.

The ageing 'Baby Boomer' generation will want to maintain their health status as they get older and the role that open space and recreation will play in this is vital. Accessibility to activities to enhance physical and mental health will play an important role in the maintenance of well-being.

Youth

Recreation is an important component of young people's lives however, the young adult years are often marked by a decline in participation in recreation that involves physical activity, and particularly structured physical activities such as sport. This coincides with the ages young people leave school when their interests, commitments and preferences may be changing. Instead, many young people want places where they can spend time with friends without the constraints and commitments required of a structured club environment. Insufficient exposure for many to physical education in the secondary school years could also be a contributing factor.

Overweight and obesity are now recognised as issues for young people that can have serious health implications, particularly in later life. This is due in large part to recreational choices being made that comprise long periods of time spent in sedentary activities such as television and computer use, rather than in physically active pursuits.

Implications for planning

Participation in recreation activities can be a positive catalyst for the personal and social development of young people. It also has the capacity to provide positive outcomes for youth whose behaviour puts them 'at risk', and the needs of these young people should be considered. Accessibility, both physically and financially, is a key issue for youth and should be taken into consideration in locating recreation facilities and in recreation programming for young people.

Open spaces are important places for young people to legitimately spend time with friends as opposed to places such as shopping centres, where their presence may not always be welcomed. There is a need for recreation facilities and open spaces that cater for youth and provide settings for socialisation and opportunities to participate in physically challenging

activities. Physical access and safety are prime considerations in the development of open spaces and young people should be consulted in the design and development of open spaces to ensure their needs are met.

Urban development

The State Government through the Adelaide Metropolitan Planning Strategy has imposed an Urban Growth Boundary around metropolitan Adelaide. Its aims include preventing further development of greenfield sites into housing and arresting urban sprawl, creating an 'edge' to the metropolitan area, promoting a more compact city and maximising infrastructure in urban areas. One effect of this policy is that dwellings are being constructed on smaller blocks of land with smaller areas of private open space or backyards. Also, the demand for dwellings in Adelaide is increasing faster than the growth in population. Reasons for this include improvement in life expectancy with aged people staying in their own homes longer and the increase in dissolution of marriages with households being split into two or more dwellings. Both these scenarios result in an increase in lone person households and more pressure for housing, furthering the development of a 'compact city'.

Implications for planning

The importance of open space and recreation will increase. There will be less private land to pursue outdoor physical activities such as 'kicking a ball around' and people will need open space and recreation opportunities for socialisation with others. Recreation activities that offer opportunities for socialisation, particularly for those living alone, will need to be accessible and appropriate to their needs. The provision and management of open spaces that have appropriate amenities, are accessible, provide a contrast to the built environment, and take ecological and environmental considerations into account, will be critical to the well-being of communities.

Access

Access to sport and recreation experiences and open spaces is critical for everyone but particularly for the more vulnerable in the community such as the aged and people with a disability. Approximately 20 per cent of South Australians have a physical and/or intellectual disability. Many of these are aged and the majority live in the community in households rather than supported accommodation.

Open spaces and recreation facilities need to be linked by walking and cycling networks. They also need to be accessible by public or community transport where possible.

Access also includes the issues of safety and amenity. The community has a right to feel safe when using open spaces. This in turn can increase the use of open spaces and subsequently be a deterrent to criminal activity such as vandalism.

Implications for planning

Open spaces should be located within walking and cycling distance of all dwellings and recreation facilities by safe walking and cycling routes to facilitate an urban environment that encourages 'active living'. Where possible recreation facilities should also be located on or within walking distance of public transport routes. Any development or redevelopment of open spaces and recreation facilities should be within the context of the Disability Discrimination Act.

Culture

Multiculturalism is embedded in the fabric of Australian society and has added greatly to its richness. There is now a trend towards a higher proportion of new arrivals to Australia coming from the Asian region, which is in contrast to previous decades with migrants generating largely from Britain and Europe. This will add to the diversity of our local communities and the recreational choices available as they expand to meet demand.

Implications for planning

Efforts should be made when developing open space to ensure that the needs of all sectors of the community, including those of different cultural backgrounds, are taken into consideration and enacted upon, where possible, so open spaces assist in creating a sense of belonging.

Recreation provision should also reflect the needs of multicultural communities so that there is a building of social capital and a strong sense of connectedness and belonging.

Safety

Safety in the public realm is a major concern for many people, particularly those who are more vulnerable such as people with a disability, children and the aged. Safety can be enhanced through 'natural surveillance' where people look out for each other, 'natural access control' to prevent access by unauthorised persons, and 'territorial reinforcement' where people have a sense of ownership over a particular territory and have a respect for the territory of others. (*Department of Transport and Urban Planning, 2004*)

Skin cancer is a major health issue in Australia. It is caused by exposure to solar ultraviolet radiation (UVR) and access to shade can lessen this exposure and therefore lessen the risk of skin cancer. The provision of natural or built shade in open spaces and recreation facilities can make a major contribution to preventing this disease.

Implications for planning

Safety needs to be a priority in not only the design of open spaces and recreation facilities, but also physical access to them. Key design principles to enhance safety encompass:

- *Overall layout and visual appearance of an area*

- *Design, positioning and materials used for buildings*
- *Lighting and landscaping*
- *Encouragement of legitimate activities*
- *Ongoing management and maintenance of all aspects of an area*

Shade that is functionally, environmentally and aesthetically sympathetic to its surroundings should be of principal consideration to open spaces and recreation settings. The Cancer Council of South Australia has developed resources for Councils to assist in the provision of shade, which should guide Council owned settings via:

- *Natural shade - Shading SA, which identifies trees that provide high levels of UVR protection*
- *Built shade - Shade Structure Safety Guidelines, which provide guidelines for the design, installation and maintenance of shade structures.*

Water conservation

The South Australia Strategic Plan has a target to increase environmental flows by 500 GL in the Murray-Darling and major tributaries by 2008 as a first step towards improving sustainability in the Murray-Darling Basin, with a longer-term target to reach 1500 GL by 2018.

Implications for planning

Even if the target to increase environmental flows in the Murray-Darling and its tributaries is achieved, it is imperative that the City of Marion continue its reduction of water consumption as much as possible as the irrigation of parks, gardens and ovals is the major contributor to Council's annual water consumption (see 4.2.6).

Climate change

At a global level, scientists have concluded that a human-driven increase in greenhouse gas emissions is enhancing the natural greenhouse effect. Human activities – especially burning fossil fuels, clearing of forests and land-use change – have been the main driver of global warming and climate change in recent decades.

At a state level, climate changes are also acknowledged. In the last half century, South Australia has been warmer, southern coastal areas are drier and the State's northern half has experienced increasing rainfall. The South Australia Strategic Plan has a target to achieve the Kyoto target during the first commitment period (2008 - 2012).

Implications for planning

Potential implications for South Australia in relation to climate change will affect the provision and management of open spaces in the City of Marion. It is envisaged that these implications could include:

- *Higher temperatures – including more extremely hot days*

- *Associated health and mortality impacts on an ageing population, and increasing energy demand for air conditioning*
- *Greater frequency and severity of drought*
- *Decreased flows in water-supply catchments (including the Murray-Darling)*
- *Increased flood risk (despite drier average conditions)*
- *Shifts in conditions affecting biodiversity*
- *Increased incidence or severity of bushfires*
- *Coastal hazards, related to the effect of ocean warming on sea levels combined with storms of possibly increased intensity*
- *Damage to infrastructure, for example from coastal erosion, flooding and extreme heat*

Biodiversity

Biodiversity lies in the variety of all forms of life and is the web of life. It includes plants, animals, micro-organisms and the genes that they contain. All species rely on the natural environment, which contains their ecosystem, for their survival. The South Australia Strategic Plan identifies targets to increase biodiversity, which are:

- *Establishing five biodiversity corridors linking public and private lands across the state by 2010*
- *Creating nineteen marine protected areas by 2010*
- *Clearances of native vegetation being offset by significant biodiversity benefit by 2005*
- *Integrating native vegetation and biodiversity management in South Australia's eight Natural Resource Management regional plans by 2010*
- *No loss of species*

Implications for planning

Biodiversity is essential to sustainable open spaces. With increasing urbanisation biodiversity has been disregarded, with a loss of indigenous vegetation, disruption to wetlands and coastal areas, and a loss of habitats. Including native plants and animals as part of our urban landscape is important in how we maintain our environment and in defining our national identity. Increasing biodiversity should be a key consideration in the planning and management of open spaces throughout the City of Marion.

3 WIDER POLICY CONTEXT

This section contains reviews of Australian and South Australian legislation, state strategies and plans and regional considerations in relation to open space and recreation.

3.1 Australian and South Australian Legislation

There are a number of pieces of legislation that are pertinent to open space and recreation. They address a range of topics including the environment, local government, recreation grounds, native title and access for people with a disability. An overview of legislation is at Appendix 1.

3.2 State Strategies and Plans

State government agencies with an interest in open space and recreation were invited to provide feedback on issues that could affect the City of Marion's Open Space and Recreation Strategy. Responses were received from eight agencies with five reporting areas of interest that should be taken into consideration. A summary is at Appendix 2. Where feedback on state strategies was provided, this has been included in the following document review.

3.2.1 South Australia Strategic Plan – Creating Opportunity

The South Australia Strategic Plan is concerned with improving the well-being of South Australians within a framework of sustainability. It identifies targets and actions in six key strategic areas.

Objective 2, 'Improving well-being' relates closely to the City of Marion's open spaces and recreation settings. Reducing the number of overweight or obese South Australians and increasing the participation rate in sport and physical activities to promote health are identified as strategies to improve the quality of life of the community and individual citizens.

Implications for planning

It is imperative that the City of Marion provides accessible and safe open spaces and recreation settings and a network of linkages to connect destinations, in order to facilitate participation in recreational and incidental physical activity.

3.2.2 Strategic Infrastructure Plan for South Australia 2005-2006 – 2014-2015

The purpose of this plan is to guide new infrastructure investment and management by government and the private sector over the next 5-10 years. The Recreation and Sport section of the Infrastructure Plan acknowledges that almost half of the Australian population do not participate in sufficient physical activity to gain health benefits, and that 40 per cent of adults are overweight or obese, with this trend increasing. Also of concern is increasing levels of obesity among children of all ages.

Implications for planning

This is placing demands on facilities to be multi-purpose, accessible for use day and night as well as in adverse weather conditions to maximise opportunities for participation in physically active recreation and sport. There is also an opportunity for use of government land and buildings, such as schools, for community recreation and sport needs.

3.2.3 Planning Strategy for Metropolitan Adelaide – Draft April 2005

The Development Act 1993 (see Appendix 1) stipulates that a Planning Strategy be prepared and maintained to reflect the State Government's policy directions for the physical development of the State. It is strongly aligned with the South Australia Strategic Plan and is implemented at the local government level through Councils' Development Plans. The overarching theme of this Strategy is to provide a sustainable framework for Adelaide to be a 'green' and 'creative' city.

The Planning Strategy also addresses the Metropolitan Open Space System including the Hills Face Zone, which is identified as a setting for recreation and biodiversity opportunities. The provision of recreation and sport facilities at state, regional and local levels is also acknowledged as essential to improving well-being.

Implications for planning

The Strategy focuses on open space and recreation at metropolitan and regional levels and the City of Marion should link with the Strategy's directions as follows:

- *Growing prosperity - the development of sustainable tourism that focuses on a range of special assets can enhance Adelaide's tourism appeal and visitor experiences. Coast Park and the Aboriginal Tjilbruke Dreaming Trail are identified as significant tourist destinations in the City of Marion that provide recreational, leisure and interpretative activities. The importance of accessibility via green pedestrian and cycle linkages is also highlighted to link with the 'green' theme of the Strategy.*
- *Improving wellbeing - to improve the quality of life and well-being of the community and its citizens by focusing on people being healthier, fitter and safer.*

- *Attaining sustainability - through efficient use of water and protection of water resources, and protection and linkages of biodiversity areas.*
- *Fostering creativity – through improving the design quality of public space, conservation of places that have historic value both for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal citizens, and inclusion of art in public places.*
- *Building communities - regional activity centres (including the City of Marion) are identified as vibrant multifunctional centres to serve surrounding areas with a range of accessible facilities and services including open space and recreation facilities. Neighbourhoods should include open spaces and recreation settings that are safe and provide a variety of experiences accessible by walking and cycling. The Urban Growth Boundary provides a physical frame of the metropolitan area to prevent continued urban development spreading into rural areas. The effect of this will be denser development as urban land becomes scarce, and diversity of housing options, a proportion of which will have large dwellings on minimal sized blocks. This will increase the social, environmental and economic value of open spaces that should be for inclusive community use.*
- *Health and community services - living environments that support healthy lifestyles and active communities should be fostered by providing a range of open space and recreation settings within neighbourhoods and encouraging walking and cycling to access these places.*

3.2.4 Metropolitan Open Space System (MOSS)

MOSS is identified in the Planning Strategy for metropolitan Adelaide as a regional network of parks and open spaces throughout the metropolitan area. MOSS includes public and private open spaces, significant watercourses and the metropolitan coastline.

A major initiative is Coast Park, which is a shared use linear park 70 kilometres in length. It abuts the coastline from North Haven in the north to Sellicks Beach in the south travelling through Marion from Marino to Hallett Cove. This portion of the Park is only accessible for walking as the topography dictates its steep undulating nature at several locations.

Implications for planning

MOSS relates to a number of zones/areas within the City of Marion, which includes the Coast Park, Hills Face Zone, Sturt River Linear Park, Glenthorne and Field River Valley.

3.2.5 Urban Forest Biodiversity Program

Since its inception in 1997, the Urban Forest Biodiversity Program (UFBP) has successfully delivered biodiversity protection and rehabilitation programs for the Mount Lofty Ranges Greater Adelaide region through regional biodiversity planning, a package of conservation programs and extensive stakeholder collaboration.

This collaborative approach, guided by biodiversity planning principles, has assisted the UFBP to initiate and implement projects of regional priority that incorporate planning, monitoring, remnant protection, threat abatement, assisted natural regeneration, revegetation and education.

Within the highly fragmented Mount Lofty Ranges Greater Adelaide region, where less than 13% of remnant vegetation remains, the UFBP has identified and targeted areas of high biodiversity value that are under threat or poorly represented in the current reserve system. This approach, (outlined further in Turner, M.S, 2001) enables the UFBP to invest resources into priority areas for maximum biodiversity gain and to contribute to the conservation of the entire region's diversity.

The UFBP invests resources through the delivery of three programs, Urban Forest Biodiversity Program, Urban Forest Million Trees Program and Coast Park. As a package, they deliver a diversity of targeted on-ground initiatives and technical assistance throughout the region. The following provides a summary of the programs:

- The *Urban Forest Biodiversity Program* targets high priority biodiversity areas for protection through on-ground action and capacity building.
- The *Million Trees Program* works with many stakeholders to buffer and link remnant vegetation and create large blocks of habitat on public open space while improving amenity, air and water quality in metropolitan Adelaide.
- *Coast Park* works with a variety of stakeholders along the entire metropolitan coastline to protect and rehabilitate coastal habitats (see 4.3.2).

Implications for planning

In the planning and management of open space in the City of Marion, these programs represent an opportunity to improve and enhance the City's natural landscape. To be consistent with these strategies, open space planning must incorporate biodiversity conservation planning principles that will ensure areas of native vegetation are adequately protected and there is no further decline in the biodiversity value of these assets.

In summary, these planning principles should reflect the following:

- *Protection of all areas of native vegetation*
- *Rehabilitation and restoration of areas of native vegetation through active management*
- *Enhancement of areas through revegetation (including natural regeneration) for buffering and linking high priority areas.*

The UFBP is able to provide funding and resources to high priority projects. There is great potential to improve the City's areas of open space through Council's support and involvement in these programs.

3.2.6 Hills Face Zone

The Hills Face Zone (HFZ) is a component of Adelaide's Metropolitan Open Space System and one of Adelaide's most treasured natural assets. Its primary purpose is the preservation and enhancement of its natural character, and as a natural backdrop to the urban metropolitan area.

A review of the HFZ was completed in 2004 that recommends Councils' Development Plan policies should support and reinforce the natural topography and native vegetation, and enhance the biodiversity of the area. It also recommends that Development Plans recognise the complementary recreation and tourism roles in the HFZ (see 4.1.3).

Implications for planning

HFZ land in the City of Marion includes some built environments as well as significant areas of open space, about half of which is State conservation/recreation parks. The principal project that affects HFZ land is the Marion South Plan, which proposes a series of actions to bring most of the private HFZ open space, along with other Metropolitan Open Space System (MOSS) zoned land surrounding Hallett Cove, Sheidow Park and Trott Park, into an integrated and appropriately managed 'greenbelt'. The initial method of funding included some interchange of HF zoning which did not receive State Government support. The State Government is now proposing to work with Council in finding other methods of achieving the 'greenbelt'.

3.2.7 Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan for the Mount Lofty Ranges and Greater Adelaide Region

The plan, prepared by the Mount Lofty Ranges Interim Integrated Natural Resource Management Group, draws upon more than 200 reports and strategies and establishes regional priorities for natural resource management. Protecting our water resources, both freshwater and marine, and ensuring adequate supplies of water for both human use and dependent ecosystems are critical issues. The ongoing loss of our natural biodiversity is also a major concern.

The plan will act as the central reference point for natural resource management in the region and be accompanied by an Investment Strategy, which will provide greater detail regarding the proposed actions and associated funding requirements for the next three years. The plan and its Investment Strategy will be subject to regular review.

3.2.8 Towards South Australia's State Natural Resources Management Plan 2005-2010

The State Natural Resources Management (NRM) Plan will, once adopted, set the strategic policy framework for working towards sustainable natural resources management over the next five years in the context of longer term goals. The City of Marion strategic directions, policies and programs are consistent with many of the key directions of the State NRM Plan

and Council has worked independently and with partners in delivering natural resource management outcomes and activities consistent with these key directions.

3.2.9 South Australia's Greenhouse Strategy

The development of an industry-wide Greenhouse Strategy by 2006 is a priority of the South Australia Strategic Plan. The South Australian Government aims to position the State as a leader in addressing climate change, achieve the South Australia Strategic Plan target for greenhouse gas emissions set by the Kyoto Protocol for the first commitment period 2008-2012 (108% of 1990 levels), and ensure the State is prepared for long-term climate change and able to adapt.

Implications for planning

Local governments perform a range of roles relating to greenhouse and climate change in facilitating local sustainability initiatives, via building and planning controls, infrastructure provision, community facilities, and managing environmental hazards (especially flooding) likely to be affected by climate change.

The City of Marion needs to act now to mitigate any potential negative outcomes to our natural resources resulting from climate change. Use of water in parks and reserves needs to be carefully managed and the planting of indigenous or appropriate native species of vegetation in open spaces may need to be the first choice to ensure they thrive in what is predicted to become a drier climate. Water efficiency also needs to be considered in the maintenance of sporting venues that require a turf surface.

3.2.10 Water Proofing Adelaide – A thirst for change, 2005 – 2025

Metropolitan Adelaide faces significant challenges in relation to water supply and management due to stresses on the River Murray and Water Proofing Adelaide is a blueprint for the management, conservation and development of Adelaide's water resources to 2025.

Implications for planning

Water Proofing Adelaide is divided into three sections that will all impact on the management of the City of Marion's open spaces:

- Management of our existing resources – more sustainable management and use of groundwater and surface water including water to sustain ecosystems.*
- Responsible water use – the majority of mains water use for community purposes is for watering of parks, gardens, and open spaces. Council is implementing a Water Reduction Strategy and there is scope for further improvement in reducing water use through the planting of water-efficient vegetation.*
- Additional water supplies – there is potential for increasing the retention and use of rainwater, stormwater and wastewater in open spaces and recreation facilities.*

3.2.11 Statewide Sport and Recreation Facility Audit – December 2002

Sport and recreation facilities are integral to participation in physical activity. The Statewide Sport and Recreation Facility Audit is a key policy initiative of the Office for Recreation & Sport for the provision of sport and recreation infrastructure to facilitate participation in physical activity, and particularly structured physical activity such as sport. It provides a baseline inventory of publicly owned facilities and attributes a hierarchy of international, national, state and regional levels to each facility. Local level facilities are not within the scope of this audit. It should be noted that facilities are classified according to the survey feedback received from each facility.

The Office for Recreation & Sport is currently developing a State Level Sporting Facility Strategy that will link with this facility audit. This will act as a guide for funding for these facilities based on economic benefit to the state.

Implications for planning

The audit identifies the following levels of facilities in Marion. Each classification has subsidiary levels to provide further classification, for example to be classified as 'International' a sport has had to have held competition/s within a range of levels from world level to national level.

<i>International</i>	<i>Marion Bowling Club</i>
<i>National</i>	<i>Marion Leisure and Fitness</i>
<i>State</i>	<i>Cove BMX Club</i>
<i>Regional</i>	<i>Marion Swimming Centre</i>
	<i>Edwardstown Oval</i>
	<i>Hallett Cove skate facility</i>
	<i>Marion Sports and Community Club</i>

Redevelopment of these sites may need to take their hierarchical status into account, as this can affect the quality and type of facilities that should be provided.

3.2.12 Provision of Public Aquatic Facilities – Strategic Directions – May 1997

The purpose of the Provision of Public Aquatic Facilities strategic document was to identify current and future provision of public aquatic centres in South Australia. The Strategy identified four market segments for the aquatics industry: recreation, education, fitness and sport. An Update Report on Public Aquatics is currently being developed.

Implications for planning

South Australia is urgently in need of an aquatic facility that can cater for all four market segments and the land at The Domain, on the corner of Diagonal and Morphett Roads, has been identified by the State Government and City of Marion as an appropriate site for the South Australian State Aquatic Centre. This facility, that has received Federal and State Government funding, will aim to meet the needs of all user groups from elite to recreational.

3.2.13 Draft Recreational Trails Strategy for South Australia 2005 – 2010

The value of trails to the well-being and health of people and the environment has been recognised in the development of this statewide approach to the planning, development, management and promotion of land and water-based recreational trails which include non-motorised activities such as walking, cycling, horse riding, canoeing, kayaking and scuba diving. A key role of the Trails Strategy is to guide State and Local Government on the priorities for the allocation of resources and whilst the Strategy focuses on state and regional level trails it also provides support for key local level trails that are the responsibility of local governments.

Implications for planning

Key state level trails located partially in the City of Marion are Coast Park, Coast to Vines Rail Trail (formerly the Willunga to Marino Rail Trail) and the Sturt River linear trail. There is potential to enhance these trails to maximise their use, identify connector routes and paths, and identify additional local level recreational trails.

3.2.14 Physical Activity Strategy for South Australia 2004-2008

The Physical Activity Strategy, developed by Ministerial, government and community representatives, provides direction for a more active South Australia through participation in sport and physical activity. This document proposes a multi-faceted approach that includes program provision, research, policy, promotion, education and supportive physical environments.

Implications for planning

Insufficient participation in regular physical activity is a major issue that can impact on the quality and length of people's lives. The provision of accessible open spaces, recreation settings such as trails, sport facilities, and linkages to create walking and cycling environments, can assist in encouraging participation in both structured and unstructured physical activity.

3.2.15 South Australian Youth Recreation Strategy

The South Australian Youth Recreation Strategy focuses on participation in unstructured recreation, which is non-competitive and non-membership based, of young people aged 12-24 years. It particularly focuses on those less likely to participate in recreation.

The findings highlighted include the negative effects of social issues such as alcohol, family breakdown, drugs and depression on young people, and young indigenous people in particular; socialising with friends is strongly valued; a large proportion of leisure time is spent in sedentary activities such as watching television; feeling unwelcome in public places; and a

reliance on shopping centres as gathering places for social interaction. It was also recognised that the provision of skate parks, which Councils build for youth, only cater for a small proportion of young people, generally young males. Barriers to participation in recreation include lack of awareness of opportunities, accessibility, cost and peer pressure.

Implications for planning

Council needs to provide a range of accessible and safe places and spaces for young people where they can legitimately spend time with friends and participate in a range of low cost passive and active recreational activities (see 4.1.3).

**3.2.16 South Australian Tourism Plan 2003-2008
Cycle Tourism Strategy 2005-2009
Responsible Nature-based Tourism Strategy 2004-2009**

The South Australian Tourism Plan focuses on developing sustainable destinations and products, with a key focus being on natural and cultural attractions that offer unspoilt and authentic destinations. Cycle Tourism, which includes cycling for recreation and sport, is highlighted as a potential niche market opportunity that is currently under-realised and can build upon the growing interest in outdoor activities and healthy lifestyles. Nature-based Tourism is also highlighted as a niche tourism market for South Australia that includes national parks and protected areas, coastal tourism, cycling and conservation programs. The forging of strong partnerships, including with local government, is highlighted as essential to enable a whole-of-government sustainable approach.

Implications for planning

The City of Marion has two state level tourism destinations that are identified in the Plan – Warriparinga and Coast Park. There is also scope to provide track and trail experiences, which can include cycling, with the Coast to Vines Rail Trail (formerly the Willunga to Marino Rail Trail) partly located in Marion, and the development of other trails such as the Sturt River Linear Trail.

**3.2.17 State Mountain Bike Plan for South Australia – Mount Lofty Ranges Region
2001-2005**

People are increasingly participating in unstructured recreation and sporting activities and cycling, including mountain biking, is one of these activities that is experiencing a rapid increase in popularity. A significant environ for mountain biking is the Mount Lofty Ranges. This setting has high biodiversity and conservation importance, making a strategic response imperative if the ecological and recreational settings are to be effectively managed. This strategic response will be a blueprint for application to other areas in the future.

Implications for planning

With an increase in participation in unstructured recreation activities such as mountain biking, coupled with the feedback from consultation with Marion's young people, the demand for a facility that caters for more 'extreme' sports, such as mountain biking, is likely to be high.

3.2.18 Recreation and Sport Horse Strategy July 2000

This strategy is a guide for the planning and provision of infrastructure and services for the horse industry that includes recreational horse riding. The need for high quality and environmentally sustainable trails that support safe and enjoyable horse riding is essential for the pursuit of this recreational activity. A recommendation states that 'recreation trail riding will occur on designated trails and routes'.

Implications for planning

The Coast to Vines Rail Trail, which is being developed as a state tourist destination, is co-located in the City of Onkaparinga and the City of Marion between Marino and Hallett Cove. The trail is accessible for horse riding in the City of Onkaparinga's portion (approximately three-quarters of the trail) but not in the City of Marion due to the incomplete development of the trail and the unsuitability of its surface for horse riding in its developed sections.

3.3 Regional Considerations

Council areas are neither geographically nor socially isolated as residents and visitors continually cross Council boundaries in pursuing their activities, which includes recreation activities. This section provides an overview of projects and issues relating to open space and recreation at a regional level, which may impact upon the City of Marion.

City of Mitcham

The City of Mitcham is located to the east of the City of Marion and shares a boundary of South Road with major linkages being the main east/west roads to Cross Road, Daws Road and Sturt Road.

A strategy that could impact upon City of Marion residents is the City of Mitcham's Mountain Bike Strategy. It aims to effectively manage this activity that has experienced increased participation in recent years and is popular with males up to the age of 35 years. Mountain biking occurs in eight reserves in the Mitcham hills and foothills areas, including the reserves in the suburbs of St Marys, Pasadena and Lynton, which are adjacent to the City of Marion.

City of Onkaparinga

The City of Marion has completed its section of Coast Park (see 4.3.2) however, the development of the City of Onkaparinga's northern section of Coast Park, that is Christies Creek to the City of Marion's boundary, is a low priority due to issues regarding access to the oil refinery and SA Water land. The City of Marion and City of Onkaparinga also share the state level recreational facility of the Coast to Vines Rail Trail (formerly the Willunga to Marino Rail Trail) (see 4.3.6). The City of Marion has worked in partnership with the City of Onkaparinga and other key stakeholders to develop Signage, Facilities and Marketing Plans for the Coast to Vines Rail Trail to guide a coordinated approach to the facility across both Council areas. The proposed Sturt River Linear Park will commence at Coromandel Valley and reaches the City of Marion at Warriparinga. It will provide a recreational, cultural and natural link (see 4.3.4).

City of Holdfast Bay

The City of Holdfast Bay adjoins the City of Marion's western boundary. There are a number of current projects relating to open space and recreation that connect with the City of Marion. Coast Park when completed, will link at the boundary of Kingston Park and Marino (see 4.3.3), the Tramway Park project will link with the Glenelg tramway (see 4.3.4), and the Sturt River Linear Park (see 4.3.5). Other potential projects that are being investigated include Gilbertson Gully Reserve which links with the City of Marion's Gully Road Reserve in Seacliff Park, and the Tjilbruke Springs site at Kingston Park that could have a cultural link with Warriparinga.

City of West Torrens

The City of West Torrens is a stakeholder in the Tramway Park project (see 4.3.3), which is the boundary between the two Councils. Another linkage that connects West Torrens and Marion is the shared use trail aligning the Sturt Creek, which West Torrens has identified as a linkage that can provide improved access to existing open space.

The City of West Torrens has a deficiency of open space for residents in the section suburbs of Plympton and Kurralta Park bordered by Anzac Highway, South Road, Marion Road and the Glenelg Tramway. Residents in this area access the Glandore Community Centre in the City of Marion that offers open space and a diversity of recreation activities.

Metropolitan Adelaide Inner Southern Region - Regional, Open Space and Recreation and Sport Strategy 1998-2003

The Inner Southern Region Strategy includes the local government areas of Marion, Mitcham, Unley and Holdfast Bay. The strategy is part of a government initiative to take a regional approach to open space, and recreation and sport strategic planning.

Issues that arose from the plan include:

- Facilities should be developed efficiently and effectively to provide maximum benefit to the community
- Facilities should be responsive to the changing needs of the community
- Supporting local and state sport providers to ensure their long term survival
- Recognising that environmental considerations are an important part of strategic planning and that this concurs with community views
- Safe cycling and walking linkages need to be available for transport and recreational use
- Facilities that cater for youth are an area of deficiency
- An integration of cultural and heritage elements into open spaces and recreation and sport facilities is required

Some of the projects included in the strategy such as the South Australian State Aquatic Centre, Warriparinga with the Living Kurna Cultural Centre and wetlands, the connector road at Hallett Cove to address access and linkage issues, Coast Park, and the revegetation of sections of the Field River, have been completed or are in progress. Other projects identified in this strategy for the City of Marion include various sites to improve access/linkage, environmental protection in the Field River area, designing of open spaces so they reflect user needs, and protection of cultural sites such as the Tjilbruke Trail.

Natural Resource Management Board

The City of Marion covers areas in the following catchments:

- Patawalonga (Sturt Creek from South Road to Anzac Highway)
- Onkaparinga (Field River, Waterfall Creek and a number of small isolated coastal catchments in the southern part of the City).

The Natural Resource Management Board is responsible for improving water quality within catchments. Catchment water management plans have been prepared to improve catchment water quality in cooperation with the community, Councils and the private sector.

4 COUNCIL WIDE CONTEXT

This section contains reviews of key City of Marion strategies, plans, projects and policies relating to open space and recreation, provides an inventory of recreation and sport clubs that use Council owned facilities in the City of Marion, and a summary of other Council owned facilities that offer recreation and sport activities.

4.1 City of Marion Strategies

The following provides a summary of Council strategies that will impact upon open space and recreation provision and management.

4.1.1 City of Marion Strategic Plan 2006 - 2020

The Community Vision paints a picture of a future for the City of Marion that we can aspire to. The Community Vision was created as part of the development of the *Community Plan: Towards 2020* and Marion's Sustainability Indicators. It was developed through extensive consultation to identify the aspirations, needs, issues and priorities for the City. The Vision reflects input from Elected Members, Council staff and members of the community.

Open space and recreation play an important role in the realisation of the Community Vision's four goals that link with the principles of sustainability:

1. Community Wellbeing
2. Cultural Vitality
3. Dynamic Economy
4. Healthy Environment

The Corporate Vision builds on these goals with strategies to ensure resources are focused on areas of priority that deliver increasing benefits to our community and provides a framework to facilitate the building of social capital and to work collaboratively with stakeholders for optimal outcomes.

The strategies that the provision and management of open space and recreation can assist the City of Marion in achieving are:

- A strong sense of community in our neighbourhoods
- An engaged and participative community
- A well planned city to improve character, amenity and safety
- Healthy lifestyles and healthy communities
- Ease of access to travel within and outside the City of Marion
- A learning community
- Embrace diverse cultures and communities
- Expression of identity and belonging

- Cherish the past and respect our heritage
- Cultural and artistic activity are fostered
- A strong adaptable and diversified economy
- Preserve water quality and maximise water conservation
- Protect and enhance biodiversity

4.1.2 Development Plan

The Development Act states that the State Government is responsible for developing a Planning Strategy for Metropolitan Adelaide. This Planning Strategy states that Councils are required to provide detailed policies in order to implement the Strategy in the form of Development Plans. These provide direction on the types of development that are appropriate within a Council area, through land use zoning and development principles and objectives that may apply to a particular zone, or across the whole of Council. Detail for the assessment of individual development applications is also provided. In assessing development applications against the relevant provisions of the Development Plan, Council acts as a 'relevant authority' pursuant to the Development Act and not as a Council.

To reflect Council's intentions for open space, the Development Plan makes provision for public open space in broad acre land divisions and 'land adjoining a watercourse or drainage line' to 'facilitate a range of active and passive recreation activities to meet the needs of the community, including local open space within reasonable walking distance of every urban dwelling'. Issues relating to safety, access, retention of features of cultural value, habitat, water quality and management, biodiversity and maintenance are also addressed.

The Objectives and Principles of Development Control in the following Development Plan Zones are those that apply most directly to open space and recreation. These are summarised below:

Landscape (Buffer) Zone

Objective

- Integrates landscaped screening techniques with usable open space for recreational purposes

Principle of Development Control

- Should primarily comprise active and passive recreation facilities, integrated with but secondary to landscape buffer treatment.

Conservation Zone

Objective

- Land and features of major conservation significance, including geological monuments, areas of botanical and historical interest and sites of archaeological occupation, are conserved in their natural state for reference and educational purposes

Principles of Development Control

- Conservation Zone conserved in its natural state
- Recreation areas and visitor facilities should be compatible with the objective of the zone

Special Uses Zone

Objective

- A zone accommodating special public and private activities of an institutional or open character

Principles of Development Control

- In the Special Uses Zone bounded by Marion, Sturt and South Roads:
 - o The design of recreation areas should ensure adequate interlinking for pedestrian and cyclist movements which includes access-ways between active and passive recreation areas and limited access across the Sturt River
- Development proposals should recognise the desirability of:
 - o Integrating recreation and community facilities
 - o Multiple use and sharing of facilities
 - o Retaining the open space character

Coastal Zone

Objectives

- Maintenance and improvement of the open space character and recreational opportunities of the coast
- Development of a recreational, tourist and institutional nature in appropriate locations
- Maintenance of open space links with the various local and regional open space networks and corridors to ensure passive recreational linkages

Principle of Development Control

- Development should be for the benefit and use of the public and not for private interests

Hills Face Zone

Objectives

- A zone in which the natural character is preserved and enhanced or in which a natural character is re-established to preserve and develop native vegetation and fauna habitats and provide for passive recreation in an area of natural character
- A zone accommodating low-intensity public/private open space where structures are located and designed to preserve and enhance the natural character of the zone

Principle of Development Control

- Development should not be undertaken unless it is associated with a public open space area and together with native landscaping, it preserves and enhances the natural character of the zone.

Recreation (Community) Zone

Objective

- A zone accommodating special public and private recreational and community uses

Principles of Development Control

- Development should comprise, primarily, public and private recreational and community facilities, including sporting areas, schools, racecourse and passive reserve areas
- Development following the Sturt Creek between Sturt Road and the Glenelg Tramway should retain existing, and particularly, indigenous trees, the open character of the area, and provide safe and convenient pedestrian and cyclist movements along Sturt Creek and adjacent facilities.

- In Hallett Cove:
 - o Recreation facilities, tracks and trails should be designed and located to prevent environmental degradation and loss of amenity to the area
 - o Active recreation facilities should be provided with a landscaped buffer of not less than 10 metres when they abut residential land uses.

MOSS (Field River Valley) Zone

Objectives

- Provides linear open space and regional open space for a range of passive and active recreational activities in both natural and landscaped settings as part of the Metropolitan Open Space System (see 3.2.5).
- Preservation of Aboriginal heritage
- Provision of pedestrian and cycle paths within an integrated system of open spaces linking adjoining areas
- Provision of active formal sporting facilities and open area informal sporting and recreation facilities

Principles of Development Control

- Development should be primarily for passive recreational purposes, including walking and cycle trails, and for landscaping, re-vegetation and screening of the Extractive Industry Zone and General Industry Zone
- Development in the Worthing Mine area may be for active recreational purposes and functions ancillary to those recreational purposes, such as clubrooms and car parking.

4.1.3 City of Marion Youth Plan 2005 - 2008

The 2005 City of Marion Youth Plan provides Council with the results of the youth consultation process and suggests thirty-eight recommendations to support the needs of young people and their families. The Youth Plan provides a service planning framework that will set the direction for Council supported youth services over the next three years.

A key objective of the Youth Plan was to allow young people the opportunity to have a say on issues that were important to them. With the support of secondary schools within the City of Marion, Council's Youth Advisory Committee, twenty agencies and nineteen youth workers, 1,305 young people and agency workers contributed to the Youth Plan. The Youth Plan provides a detailed description of the consultation process and a full analysis of the findings.

The results of the consultation process for the 2005 Youth Plan did not identify the need for substantial changes to the overall structure of Council's youth services but it did identify key areas where significant new initiatives and improvements to existing services are required to support the needs of young people and their families over the next three years. Recreation and open space were identified as key areas.

A full description of the consultation process and details of the consultation findings and analysis are provided in the Youth Plan.

4.1.4 Cultural Plan 2005-2010

'Living Our Culture' the City of Marion Cultural Plan 2005 - 2010 outlines the Council's key directions and initiatives in supporting the arts and cultural development for the next five years. It aims to help nurture sustainable, creative and culturally vibrant communities in the City of Marion, and inspire people to actively participate in the City's many cultures in all their diversity.

The plan is based on, and attempts to express, a collective vision of the cultural values, purposes and hopes of the varied communities of the City of Marion and of their elected representatives. It sets out a vision for encouraging and growing the City of Marion's local cultures, and their expression through the arts, and emphasises the importance of cultural development for the City's future sustainability.

The Cultural Plan contains an Action Plan that has seven goals that promote new directions for the next five years, as well as maintaining Council's ongoing commitments. The objectives that most closely relate to open space and recreation include:

- Strong community cultures in which individuals and communities actively participate
- A strong sense of belonging to and connection between and within local communities and the natural environment
- Local communities and environments benefit from thriving and authentic cultural tourism initiatives
- The importance of the Kurna culture is recognized and respected
- Healthy and sustainable Aboriginal communities
- Culturally vibrant public environments that encourage active community use and sharing
- Attractive, well-designed public spaces, and infrastructure that engage hearts, minds and senses without damaging the environment
- Conserve and protect Marion's physical and cultural heritage, including its built and natural environment

4.1.5 Marion Community Space Strategy 1997

The Marion Community Space Strategy 1997 was developed by Hassell Pty Ltd in association with Brecknock Consulting and was endorsed by Council in September 1996.

The term 'community space' was chosen, rather than the more common term 'open space', as it was considered it more accurately reflected the fact that spaces should address both human and environmental needs. Community space refers to 'green' community spaces such as parks, 'brown' community spaces that are more natural open spaces, and 'black' community spaces such as car parks and roads that have potential for recreational use. Combined, these types of spaces focus on human and environmental needs to varying degrees.

The objectives of the Community Space Strategy were to:

- Identify objectives and areas of priority needs
- Recognise the role of community space as a means of improving the amenity of urban areas and identify opportunities to encourage this
- Review and evaluate current community space provision levels and identify areas of imbalance
- Place the City of Marion in a regional context and integrate community space initiatives with other Council and State initiatives
- Address environmental as well as human community space needs
- Identify opportunities for improving the quality of community space provision in a manner that meets community needs

Consultation revealed that the City of Marion community particularly valued community spaces that were natural environments, and provided safe and family friendly places to visit.

Main issues related to:

- Equity of access for all sectors of the community
- Equity of distribution with more / better quality community space, particularly in the East and West Wards
- The preservation of community space for future generations
- Enhancement of existing community spaces to enable more linkages for cycling and walking, upgrading of major parks taking into account crime prevention through environmental design, and increased facilities for young people

Marion was divided into four planning areas to determine the supply of community space. The amount of community space in each planning area was largely defined as follows:

- Northern Area from the tramway to Oaklands Road – had the lowest levels of community space in terms of quantity but a range of types of urban open spaces
- Central Area from Oaklands Road to Seacombe Road – average in terms of the quantity and range of community space
- Hills Area from Seacombe Road to Majors Road – the smallest area but containing major parcels of land but a lack of small local spaces
- Southern Area from Majors Road to Field River – presented the best opportunities for achieving environmental objectives with water quality and revegetation being priority issues. Human needs could be met by improvements to existing spaces

A strategic response identified objectives and strategies relating to the following areas:

- Linked network
- Natural environment
- Amenity and identity
- Health and safety
- Community involvement
- Information and promotion
- Priority needs

The 1997 Community Space Strategy can offer some valuable guidance for the 'open space' component of the 2006-2011 Open Space and Recreation Strategy. The updated objectives and guiding principles developed within a framework of 'sustainability', and the community's values and issues remain similar. Issues such as equitable and diverse provision, balancing of human and environmental needs, accessibility and safety, links to facilitate walking and cycling, and community involvement in decision-making, continue to be relevant.

Some of the strategies have been completed, or are in progress, via projects such as the Living Kaurna Cultural Centre at Warriparinga; the Marion South Plan, Coast Park, the Tramway Park, Coast to Vines Rail Trail, Oaklands Park Wetland, the establishment of the Cove Youth Service at Hallett Cove, and the 'dogs in parks' component of Council's Animal Management Plan. Other strategies can be a reference point for the development of an Action Plan for the 2006-2011 Open Space and Recreation Strategy.

4.1.6 City of Marion Recreation Plan 1998–2002

This plan was developed in response to the Metropolitan Adelaide Inner Southern Region – Regional Open Space and Recreation and Sport Strategy 1998-2003 and within the context of the City of Marion's Community Space Strategy 1997. Long term and short term goals were identified.

Long-term goals included:

- Adopting a broad view of the concept of 'recreation' so it recognises the diversity of needs and lifestyles of the City of Marion community and its role in community well-being and economic growth
- Determine a position on the City of Marion's role in providing recreational services

Short-term goals included:

- A regional informal / unstructured recreation facility be provided between Main South Road and Lonsdale Road
- Providing a range of recreation and sport facilities in the northern area that also cater for young people
- Address physical access to recreation facilities for residents in the suburbs of Warradale, Oaklands Park, Dover Gardens and Seacombe Gardens
- Undertake an analysis of the nature of the City of Marion community and compare the profile to recreation facilities available
- Promotion of recreation opportunities, apart from traditional sports
- Unity of recreation facilities / opportunities in Marion through the development of a signage system, and networking and communication between recreation providers and City of Marion staff
- Support regional projects that add to the diversity of recreation opportunities in the City of Marion

The 2002 Recreation Plan had a limited brief but can still be a useful document in guiding the development of the 2006-2011 Open Space and Recreation Strategy. The development of the Guiding Principles and a Planning Framework, in conjunction with feedback from community

consultation undertaken for the 2006-2011 Strategy, will continue to effectively address issues such as diversity of provision to meet community needs, accessibility, and a regional approach.

4.1.7 Dry Zones

Dry Zones are public areas that have been declared alcohol free for a specified period of time. They have been developed as a tool for police to more effectively manage alcohol related public disorder issues and to engender a sense of safety in the community. Dry Zones in Marion have widespread local community support and currently apply to the open space and recreation sites of Capella Drive Reserve, Hallett Cove; the foreshore at Heron Way, Hallett Cove; Coast Park from Marino to Hallett Cove; and Shakes Crescent Reserve, adjacent to the Hallett Cove Shopping Centre.

4.2 City of Marion Management Plans

4.2.1 Community Land Management Plans

In accordance with the requirements of The Local Government Act 1999, Council has prepared and implemented Community Land Management Plans. These plans cover all land under Council's care and control that were not excluded from Community Land classification prior to 31 December 2002. The Community Land Management Plans legally define the following key issues:

- Purpose for which the land is held by Council
- Objectives, policies and proposals for the management of the land
- Legal description and limitations over the land
- Performance targets

The Community Land Management Plans support and empower Council's Community and Corporate Plans to affect or influence Council land. The Community Land Management Plans define to what extent Council policies will affect or be utilised in the management of Council land. In all instances the Community Land Management Plans will define Council's dealings with, and use of its land parcels. The Community Land Management Plans are legally enforceable documents that limit Council's dealings with its land except through the appropriate due process as defined by the Local Government Act 1999. Council cannot alter the intent, purpose or function of its land parcels without reference to and compliance with the Local Government Act 1999.

The plans, policies and procedures empowered by the Community Land Management Plans can only be altered after appropriate community consultation and involvement. The Community Land Management Plans have precedence over any other plan, policy or procedure of Council. Any additional plans, policies or procedures of Council would need to be empowered and supported by the appropriate Community Land Management Plan to enable them to be acted upon when dealing with Community Land.

4.2.2 Animal Management Plan (dogs in parks)

The City of Marion has developed an Animal Management Plan in accordance with the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 (see Appendix 1). In the development of this Plan, Council has endorsed the following provisions for dogs which:

- Must be on a leash in public places, except parks, where they can be off-leash under effective control
- Must be on a leash at all times on walking trails and between the hours of 10.00am – 8.00pm during daylight saving hours on the sandy beach at Hallett Cove
- Can exercise off leash under effective control outside the above hours at Hallett Cove beach and in the rocky beach areas in the City of Marion
- Must be prohibited within a fenced children's playground
- Can be on a leash within 3 metres of an unfenced children's playground
- Must be on a leash on any grounds where there is organised sport, during those times when organised sport is being played

4.2.3 Environmental Management System

The Environmental Management System is part of Council's management system used to develop and implement environmental policy and manage environmental performance in all areas of its operations. The City of Marion is accredited under ISO14000.2004.

4.2.4 Environment Management Plan

- Local Agenda 21 was introduced to Council in 1995 as part of a strategic planning program known as the Integrated Local Area Planning (ILAP) process that aimed to address the priority environmental, social and economic issues affecting the City.
- The 'Environment Management Plan' (formerly the 'Local Agenda 21 Environmental Policy and Action Plan (1997)') details the City of Marion's commitment to working with the community to promote ecologically sustainable development in the local area.
- The Plan, first drafted by the Environment Policy Advisory Committee and endorsed in 1997, committed the City of Marion to the continuous improvement of its corporate environmental performance and the way in which it manages the local environment. The Plan will be reviewed during 2006.
- Strategies and Actions contained within the plan that relate to the management of open space and recreation in the City of Marion include:
 - o B1 – Aim: To identify priority areas for protection
Strategy: Develop an inventory of areas of remnant vegetation and areas suitable for protection, restoration or rehabilitation, including public and private land, drainage reserves, roadside vegetation and other habitat corridors.
Review existing strategies, data and surveys including elements of the Community Space Strategy.
 - o B4 – Aim: To retain open space for the protection of biodiversity.
Strategy: Identify open space areas with high biodiversity value, including watercourses and habitat corridors.

Using Community Space Strategy as a framework to identify priority open spaces on the basis of biodiversity value.

4.2.5 Coastal Management Strategy 1997

The City of Marion's Coastal Management Strategy 1997 provides a management framework to ensure both the protection and restoration of Council's seven kilometres of unique coastline while improving recreational opportunities. The coast is characterised by high cliffs, small coves and a rocky coast, includes world famous geological formations at Hallett Cove and has significant cultural presence of the Tjilbruke Dreaming Trail. The coastal environs are a key feature of the City of Marion's open spaces. The City of Marion has worked with the State Government and the community in implementing a range of improvements, including protection of remnant vegetation and revegetation and the establishment of Coast Park.

4.2.6 Sustainable Irrigation Plan

This plan was developed as a result of the original Water Restrictions put in place in October 2003 and the fact that the City of Marion's open spaces are a major contributor to water consumption. The Plan includes a list of all irrigated open spaces, their method of irrigation, and an action plan to identify changes to allow a reduction in water usage where practicable. Modifications identified included automating manual systems, reduction in areas irrigated with complementary changes to the landscaping, and locations where irrigation was ceased entirely. This is Stage 1 of the ongoing work required to ensure our systems are as effective as possible in minimising water use.

4.2.7 Warriparinga Interpretive Centre Conservation and Management Plan

Warriparinga is a Council reserve of about six hectares that borders the last remaining naturally embanked section of the Sturt River on the Adelaide Plain. It has great significance to the Kurna people and provides a tangible link with their ancestors and their way of life. It is also a significant site of non-Aboriginal Australian cultural heritage. Warriparinga means 'Windy place by the river' in the Kurna language. The Warriparinga Interpretive Centre Management and Conservation Plan was prepared in conjunction with the Warriparinga Steering Committee in 1995. Recommendations in this Plan relate to Aboriginal heritage, European heritage of buildings and landscape, ecology, landscape assessment and design proposals, architectural design proposals, interpretive signs and symbols, future planning of Laffer's Triangle, and implementation and management.

4.3 City of Marion Projects

4.3.1 South Australian State Aquatic Centre

The Marion Swimming Centre, constructed in 1976, is a heated outdoor facility now thirty years old. There has been an on-going commitment by the City of Marion to continue to provide the community with a swimming facility.

The City of Marion has pursued the development of a South Australian State Aquatic Centre at the Domain since 1997 to serve recreational and sport users alike. The history of this project since this time has involved negotiations with state and federal governments and the private sector.

A study in 1999-2000 identified a need for a state level, year round, aquatic facility. This attracted funding from the State Government on the basis of a Public Private Partnership.

Following a change of State Government in 2002, the City of Marion was invited to bid in competition with other Councils for the State Aquatic Centre that would include swimming, diving and water polo. In 2003 the City of Marion lodged its bid unopposed and in 2004 signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the development of the Centre via a Public Private Partnership. Following expressions of interest from six consortia, feedback from the State Government indicated that funding was insufficient to proceed.

In February 2005 the City of Marion lodged an unsuccessful funding submission with the Federal Government. The State Government subsequently announced a funding contribution of \$15 million subject to a matching contribution from Federal Government. The City of Marion will provide the site at the Domain and seek the balance of funds required from a Public Private Partnership. In October 2005 Council lodged a further funding submission to the Federal Government for the 2006-2007 budget and was successful in obtaining \$15 million.

The challenge for the City of Marion is to provide a sustainable aquatic facility that meets the needs of the local community as well as users from regional, state, national and international levels, and to provide a balance between competitive and recreational use of the aquatic and complementary facilities.

4.3.2 Marion South Plan

The Marion South Plan encompasses the suburbs of Hallett Cove, Sheidow Park and Trott Park, which have a range of geographical and urban environment features. These include coastal areas, large tracts of open space including Hills Face Zone land, Glenthorne Farm (a 200 hectare site owned by the University of Adelaide), and Field River at the boundary with the City of Onkaparinga.

The Marion South Plan includes a number of proposals for both the built and natural environments. The proposals relevant to open space and recreation are the Marion South Greenbelt and the Connector Road. The implementation of these projects will result in a more permeable urban environment that will facilitate accessibility and participation in physical activity for both recreational and commuting purposes.

Greenbelt

One of the major components of the Marion South Plan is the Marion South Greenbelt which is a plan to establish a publicly accessible and revegetated Greenbelt in the south of Marion. The plan aims to add some 265 hectares of land into public ownership with improved management for environmental and recreational benefits.

The Greenbelt land comprises public and private land, which has no integrated consistent land management practices. Areas of the Greenbelt managed by the Department of Environment and Heritage have a programmed approach to maintenance and regrowth, albeit within limited budgets. The private lands in the Greenbelt (part Field River and adjacent to the Linwood Quarry) are not actively managed, and in the case of Field River, is the subject of extensive off-road vehicle use that is causing significant environmental damage. The parts of the Greenbelt that are excess to the Southern Expressway corridor and Glenthorne Farm, do not have a program for improved environmental management. The recent formation of the 'Friends of the Lower Field River' highlights the degree to which the community value the area and further community activity to encourage improved environmental management would provide much needed assistance.

Connector Road

The connector road will run from the corner of Berrima Road and Lander Avenue to Lonsdale Road, and then through Shakes Crescent Reserve to Gledsdale Road/Zwerner Drive, to link the suburbs of Hallett Cove, Trott Park and Sheidow Park. The road will have a length of 1.4 kilometres, link the three suburbs and provide access to the broad range of facilities that include the Hallett Cove R-12 School and The Cove Sports and Community Club.

The new connector road will have a signalised intersection at the junction of Lonsdale Road that will create the necessary conditions for cyclists and pedestrians to safely cross Lonsdale Road and will enable the completion of the regional Coast to Vines Rail Trail (formerly Willunga to Marino Rail Trail), which is a shared use recreational and commuting trail. The completion of the connector road also has the benefit of allowing more direct bus routes between the suburbs.

4.3.3 Coast Park

Coast Park is a State Government initiative to link places of interest and provide a publicly accessible linear park along the whole length of the metropolitan coast. Coast Park is an iconic project in the City of Marion and hugs this picturesque section of coastline for approximately six kilometres from Marino in the north to Hallett Cove in the south, passing through the State's significant geological site of Hallett Cove Conservation Park. A public artwork signifies the gateway to Marion's southern entrance at Marino. Educational signs and artwork are also located along the Park.

4.3.4 Tramway Park

The Glenelg Tramline forms the northern boundary of the City of Marion. The State Government has identified this corridor, named the Tramway Park, as having the potential to contain an off-road shared use path aligned with the tramline for recreational and commuting purposes. It is a trail that provides linkages between the Adelaide Park Lands and Coast Park, with bikeways and recreational and sporting facilities, and will enhance the recreational and amenity value of the surrounding suburbs.

The City of Marion is working in conjunction with the State Government, the Councils of Adelaide, West Torrens, Unley and Holdfast Bay, and other key stakeholders to develop the design and, in future, implement this project.

4.3.5 Sturt River Linear Park

A master plan was developed in July 2005 to identify priorities for the future development along the river corridor with the aim of establishing a continuous public open space link from Coromandel Valley in the City of Onkaparinga to the Patawalonga Basin in the City of Holdfast Bay. The Sturt River Linear Park traverses the City of Marion from Bedford Park in the south to Glengowrie in the south. Its aim is to be a sustainable watercourse that addresses recreational, biodiversity and cultural needs.

4.3.6 Oaklands Park Wetland

The location for the proposed Oaklands Park Wetland is the existing Transport SA Driver Training Centre on Oaklands Road, Oaklands Park. This project has been actively promoted by the Patawalonga Catchment Water Management Board since 1997 and has been part of the State Government's approved Patawalonga Catchment Water Management Plan since 2001. A significant benefit of this project is that it will greatly lessen the impact of polluted road runoff on metropolitan Adelaide's near shore environment and it has the potential support of a stormwater aquifer system recharge project which is fundamental to delivering the Water Proofing Adelaide strategy (see 3.2.10). Half of the site has been secured by the City of Marion through the Minister for Environment and the remaining portion is registered to the Commissioner of Highways. At the time the original wetland concept was developed it was thought the land would be surplus to the State Government's requirements. However, the site is now required for at least 5 to 10 years, or more. The relocation of the Wetland further south in the Oaklands Estate Reserve is being assessed.

Stage 1 and Stage 2 designs have been developed for a viable wetland to be constructed. Stage 2 would enable the Wetland to be completed to achieve high water quality and improvement performance. The only significant issue remaining is the transfer of the land to allow Stage 1 to proceed.

4.3.7 Coast to Vines Rail Trail

The Coast to Vines Rail Trail is a 38-kilometre shared-use regional trail that follows the old rail corridor from Marino to Willunga (formerly known as the Willunga to Marino Rail Trail). Marketing, Signage and Facilities Plans for this trail have been developed by the City of Onkaparinga in conjunction with the City of Marion and other key government and non-government stakeholders. This trail is yet to be completed in the City of Marion, and the section that connects Hallett Cove with Sheidow Park is reliant on the development of the connector road over Lonsdale Road as part of the Marion South Plan (see 4.3.2).

A staged implementation of these plans will result in a facility that has state tourism value as well as being a regional and local facility for both recreational and commuting walkers and cyclists.

4.4 City of Marion Policies

4.4.1 Asset management policy

The City of Marion is the custodian of a large and diverse asset portfolio worth more than \$396m, which includes land and buildings relating to open space and recreation provision. This policy sets the principles that will govern the long-term provision of asset related services. Council is committed to strategic asset management to assist in the determination of appropriate and sustainable levels of service. The Asset Management Framework and Strategy, developed within the context of this policy, sets out the process to determine the life cycle cost of each service and a funding model to achieve and sustain the target service levels.

4.4.2 Public consultation policy

The City of Marion values effective consultation in developing a positive relationship with its community, recognising that community input can assist in decision-making processes. It also recognises the right of community members to be informed and provide information to Council that can be taken into consideration in decision-making.

4.4.3 General environmental policy

The City of Marion General Environmental Policy ensures effective environmental performance in all activities, is committed to the principles of sustainability, and aims to integrate environmental considerations with economic, cultural and social factors

4.4.4 Leasing / licensing policy

The City of Marion provides a range of recreation and sport facilities for use by incorporated community groups and organisations through leasing or licensing arrangements. Their use for structured and unstructured activities plays a key role in strengthening the community's social fabric. To ensure maximum community benefit, these facilities should align with community needs, provide a diverse range of activities, be highly utilised, and managed to ensure sustainable provision of recreation and sport opportunities.

5 PLANNING FRAMEWORK

A Planning Framework has been developed within Guiding Principles that provide a context of sustainable development. The Planning Framework consists of **User Catchment Levels** that identify the distance people are prepared to travel to open spaces, **Functional Classifications** that identify the use of open spaces, and **Landscape / Environmental Classifications** that identify a diversity of natural settings. Combined these provide a robust tool to facilitate the effective provision and management of open space and recreation.

5.1. Sustainable Development as a background to the Guiding Principles

International context

The '1987 Brundtland Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development – Our Common Future' brought the concept of sustainable development onto the international agenda. It also provided the most commonly used definition of sustainable development describing it as:

'Development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.'

This principle was incorporated in the Rio Declaration adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), meeting in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992. The adoption of *Local Agenda 21* at the Summit also provided suggestions on what could be done to promote sustainable development. Importantly, *Agenda 21* recognised that the success of sustainable development depended on the active cooperation of local authorities and communities.

National Strategy for Ecological Sustainable Development

The Australian National Strategy for Ecological Sustainable Development defines ESD as:

'Using, conserving and enhancing the community's resources so that ecological processes on which life depends are maintained, and the total quality of life, now and in the future can be increased.'

'Sustainability' in the City of Marion

The City of Marion made a commitment to Local Agenda 21 in 1995 and developed its first Local Agenda 21 Environmental Policy and Action Plan in 1997. In Marion the focus on 'Sustainability' with its four pillars of environment, social, cultural and economic, has now become a key driver for its strategic directions as part of its Community and Corporate Plans. Marion is embracing the challenge to make decisions that take an integrated approach that will provide net benefits to the environment, economy and society, building a creative and diverse community culture.

Core elements of sustainability in the City of Marion include:

- Integrated solutions to environmental, social/cultural and economic issues
- Global and local issues are inextricably linked
- Need to operate within the environmental carrying capacity of ecosystems
- Efficient use of resources and minimising consumption
- Respecting our heritage and embracing cultural diversity
- Working in partnership

5.2 The Guiding Principles

The following Guiding Principles are within the ambit of the City of Marion's Strategic Plan 2006-2020. Their purpose is to guide the planning process and to provide directions and priorities for the sustainable provision and management of open space and recreation.

Environmental sustainability

Environmental sustainability provides for safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of air, water, land and ecosystems and avoiding, remedying or mitigating any adverse effects of activities on the environment.

Conserving biodiversity

Biodiversity is the variety of all living things; the different plants, animals and micro-organisms, the genetic information they contain and the ecosystems they form. At global, regional and local levels the best way to conserve biodiversity is to preserve our natural habitats and ecosystems. Protection and enhancement of natural systems to support biodiversity are objectives of Council.

Water management

Water resources need to be managed in an integrated manner with all other natural resources. Council aims to manage water resources consistent to the objectives of the Natural Resources Management Act. The principle aims for managing water include; an integrated catchment approach, managing water for the environment, protecting water quality and conserving water resources.

Catchment water

A catchment is an area of land that collects water, which drains to the lowest point in that area which in Marion could be creeks, rivers, stormwater systems or the sea. The City of Marion is located within the Patawalonga and Onkaparinga Water Catchment areas and also contains some small coastal catchments. Improved water quality in catchments and the Gulf of St Vincent are environmental objectives of Council.

Coastal management

Council has a commitment to managing access to the coast whilst protecting and restoring its unique environmental features. The Council's Coastal Management Strategy, together with the Metropolitan Coast Park Concept Plan, provides a coordinated strategic approach to coastal management in Marion.

Linkages of open space

Open spaces, from regional to local neighbourhood parks, are located throughout the City of Marion. Where possible open spaces should link to provide facilities such as walking and cycling paths, as well as the development and maintenance of environmental habitats. Open spaces which includes land in the Metropolitan Open Space System, Hills Face Zone, waterway linear parks, Coast Park, and transport corridor parkway trails, should be linked where possible and opportunities investigated that create greater public access and improved environmental management.

Social sustainability

The social dimension of sustainability encompasses political, cultural and people-centred issues to ensure the basic conditions exist for human life to flourish.

Physical activity

Participation in regular moderate intensity physical activity throughout life (minimum of 30 minutes per day on most days of the week, *National Physical Activity Guidelines for Australians, Department of Health & Ageing, 2003*) is essential for the wellbeing of individuals and vibrancy of communities. People can engage in structured physical activity such as sport, in unstructured physical activity such as cycling and walking, and in physical incidental activity that occurs as part of daily living such as walking to recreation venues or through open space to access public transport and services. There should be a focus on facilitating participation in all types of physical activity for all community members.

Partnerships

Collaboration, cooperation and partnerships are essential in achieving positive outcomes for the provision and management of open space and recreation. Partnerships should be encouraged and fostered with the community, government and private sectors in the planning, acquisition, development and management of open space and recreation facilities, projects and programs.

Safety

The community is entitled to feel safe when using open space and recreation facilities. Open spaces and recreation facilities should enhance safety by being well designed, constructed and maintained to meet crime prevention strategies.

Sun protection

Skin cancer is the most common and costly cancer in Australia, which occurs through over-exposure to ultra-violet radiation and all members of the community should be encouraged to adopt protective behaviours. Shade for sun protection should be provided in open spaces and recreation facilities for use during the peak UV periods of the day, either through natural means such as trees or built means such as shade structures.

Access and equity

Access and equity has physical and social components. The community has an expectation to access open space and recreation facilities and programs that are located within appropriate distances from residents, and preferably by non-motorised or public modes of transport. To ensure appropriate distribution of open space and recreation, the acquisition and sale of land may be necessary. Also, the diverse social needs of residents and visitors, which can include affordability, physical ability, culturally relevant opportunities, age and interest specific opportunities, should be considered in the provision and management of open space and recreation.

Flexibility and diversity

The needs and preferences of the community change over time and open space and recreation should be responsive to trends and changing demands for new opportunities and experiences. Open spaces also need to be flexible in design and provide opportunities for multiple and compatible uses.

Cultural sustainability

Culture means many things to many people. In its broadest sense it means, 'our values and aspirations, traditions and shared memories, the ways we develop, receive and transmit these, and the ways of life these processes produce' (*City of Marion website*). The Open Space and Recreation Strategy will link with the City of Marion's Cultural Plan 2005-2010.

Aboriginal community

The Kurna people are the traditional owners and spiritual custodians of the land. In the spirit of reconciliation the City of Marion is committed to the provision, redevelopment and management of open space and recreation, which is of benefit to Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.

Culturally relevant opportunities

Open space and recreation should provide opportunities that reflect Marion's cultural heritage and sustain the needs of Marion's culturally diverse groups.

Opportunities for creativity

Open space and recreation should provide opportunities for creative and innovative design to create public places that are visually engaging with a 'sense of place'.

Economic sustainability

There is an increasing need for economic issues to be considered as an integral part of Council's business operations.

Efficient and effective resource management

Council is a custodian and responsible for the planning, development and management of substantial assets relating to open space and recreation. These important community resources should be developed and managed in a sustainable manner within Council's Asset Management Framework.

Tourism

Open space and recreation in the City of Marion can offer a wide variety of tourism experiences, particularly in the fields of eco and cultural tourism. Eco tourism is, 'specialised, low-capacity, discrete, 'educational', conservation-minded and returns tangible benefits to the local community/natural resource.' Cultural tourism 'celebrates our way of life, who we are and the diversity of our land' (*South Australian Tourism Plan 2003-2008*).

Public realm

The provision, development and management of well-planned open and public spaces, and recreation facilities provide opportunities for people to gather and participate in public life and enhance the City of Marion's reputation as a place to live and visit. These spaces and facilities have the potential to attract people to the City of Marion and assist in sustainable economic development.

5.3 Planning Precincts

The City of Marion is divided into 3 Planning Precincts as follows:

- Northern Precinct - Tramway boundary with City of West Torrens to Sturt Road
- Central Precinct- Sturt Road to Majors Road through to the coast
- Southern Precinct - Majors Road through to the coast to Field River and boundary with City of Onkaparinga

Table 1 indicates the areas and ratios of open space owned by the State government and City of Marion.

Table 1 – Areas and ratios of open space in City of Marion

<i>Planning Precinct</i>	<i>Total land area (ha)</i>	<i>Area of total open space (ha)</i>	<i>Area open space owned by City of Marion (ha)</i>	<i>Area open space owned by State (ha)</i>	<i>% total open space</i>	<i>% open space owned by City of Marion</i>	<i>% open space owned by State</i>
Northern	2,187.2	113.6	113.6	0	5.2%	100.0%	0%
Central	1,499.4	355.3	95.4	259.9	23.7%	26.9%	73.1%
Southern	1,934.5	303.9	200.8	103.1	15.7%	66.0%	34.0%

5.4 User Catchment Levels

Each parcel of land that has recreational value has been categorised in three ways according to User Catchments, Functional Classifications and Landscape / Environmental Classifications. Details of each of these categories are below. A database of land, together with a key to Classification categories, is at Appendix 3.

The purposes of the User Catchment groups are to:

- Ensure that all City of Marion residents have access to a diversity of open spaces and recreation settings
- Determine equity and diversity of provision of open space and recreation experiences.

A User Catchment group is applied to all open spaces of recreational value in the City of Marion (see Maps 1-5 in the Appendices). Table 2 provides a description of each User Catchment level.

Table 2 – User Catchment Levels

Local Level

<i>Description</i>	Small open spaces that cater for people living in a local community. These spaces are generally used for short periods of time or are for amenity value only
<i>User catchment</i>	Distributed within 300 metres and not more than 500 metres of safe walking distance to all dwellings
<i>Types of facilities</i>	May include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimal park furniture - Play spaces with low level of complexity in identified areas of need - Shade for high use areas - Public / community art

Neighbourhood Level

<i>Description</i>	Larger open spaces than Local Level that cater for a broader catchment. They may cater for a range of activities or be natural areas with no facilities.
<i>User catchment</i>	Serves surrounding suburb areas and generally within walking or cycling distance, but some may drive
<i>Types of facilities</i>	May include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Single use sport facility for club or community use - Park furniture / amenities - Play spaces with greater complexity than Local Level - Fitness equipment - Turf kick-about area - Shade for high use areas - Public / community art - Public toilets only if can service identified need

Precinct Level

<i>Description</i>	Larger and/or of greater complexity than Local and Neighbourhood open spaces
<i>User catchment</i>	Serves residents predominantly from within the boundaries of the Northern, Central and Southern Precincts and can attract users city-wide and regionally. These open spaces can be used for long periods of time.
<i>Types of facilities</i>	May include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilities for unstructured recreation - Single use sport facility for club or community use - Special natural and/or heritage features - Play spaces that are unique and complex - Fitness equipment - Walking / jogging track - Park furniture / amenities - Shade for high use areas - Public / community art - Public toilets

Regional Level

<i>Description</i>	These open spaces appeal to a wide cross-section of the community and offer experiences for which people are prepared to travel longer distances such as organised sport. These open spaces are generally chosen to be used for long periods of time.
<i>User catchment</i>	Attracts users from within and outside the City of Marion, and may include tourists
<i>Types of facilities</i>	May include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Multi-use sport facilities for structured sport - Play spaces of various complexity - Fitness equipment - Walking / jogging track - Park furniture / amenities - Shade for high use areas - Public / community art - Public toilets

State Level

<i>Description</i>	Land owned and managed by state government or privately owned. This description excludes privately conducted recreation activities such as martial arts centres, dance classes, swimming pools, which are not included in the scope of this Strategy.
<i>User catchment</i>	Can attract users from within and outside the City of Marion, including tourists
<i>Types of facilities</i>	Dependent on type of open space

USER CATCHMENT LEVELS

<p>Local Level <i>Rosslyn Street Reserve, Clovelly Park</i></p>	<p>Neighbourhood Level <i>Roy Lander Reserve, Seaview Downs</i></p>
	
<p>Precinct Level <i>Capella Drive Reserve, Hallett Cove</i></p>	<p>Regional Level <i>Mitchell Park Reserve, Mitchell Park</i></p>
	
<p>State Level <i>Hallett Cove Conservation Park</i></p>	<p>Linkage <i>Coastal Walking Trail, Marino to Hallett Cove</i></p>
	

5.1.5 Classifications

The purpose of assigning classifications to open space and recreation facilities is to assess the distribution, diversity and qualities of open space and recreation experiences to ensure equity and servicing of specific needs. A Functional Classification and Landscape / Environment Classification is applied to all open spaces of recreational value in the City of Marion.

Functional classifications

Functional classifications consider the primary purpose of an open space or recreation facility relating to values people place on them, to assist with planning and management and for marketing purposes (see Maps 6 and 7 in the Appendices).

Table 3 – Functional classifications

<i>Recreation - structured, physically active</i>	Recreation/sport associated with clubs – usually competitive use
<i>Recreation – unstructured, physically active</i>	Participation in recreation/sport for social reasons such as tennis
<i>Recreation – structured, passive</i>	Recreation activities such as those offered through community and neighbourhood centres, libraries
<i>Recreation– unstructured, passive</i>	Informal recreation activities such as picnicking, relaxing
<i>Physical activity / linkage</i>	Walking, cycling and other shared use trails
<i>Cultural / heritage</i>	Sites that are of special significance to Marion's Indigenous and non-Indigenous community
<i>Tourism</i>	Sites that are tourist destinations as a key feature
<i>Visual amenity / environmental</i>	Open space for which its main purpose is to provide visual relief from the urban environment or is too steep to be accessible
<i>Unclassified</i>	Open space which does not have any significant current or potential value within the categories above

Landscape / environmental classifications

Landscape / environmental classifications consider the physical status and characteristics to assist with planning and management and for marketing purposes (see Map 8 in the Appendices).

Table 4 – Landscape / environmental classifications

<i>Formal/landscaped</i>	Includes garden beds, turf, trees that provide a more formal landscaped appearance
<i>Turf / lawn</i>	Well maintained turf areas for the purpose of a sporting surface
<i>Watercourse</i>	Natural waterway, corridors for animals and birds to traverse, and biodiversity
<i>Natural area</i>	Land that features significant amounts of native vegetation or indigenous vegetation that may include provenance plantings
<i>Undeveloped area</i>	Land that features minimal or no vegetation
<i>Wetland</i>	Areas that are seasonally or permanently waterlogged and feature an abundance of vegetation that is adapted to life in saturated soil conditions
<i>Drainage / stormwater</i>	Land which controls stormwater run-off
<i>Buffer</i>	Land of recreational or environmental value that provides visual relief that is a buffer between incompatible land uses
<i>Hard surface</i>	Land that is predominantly surfaced for sport use such as tennis courts
<i>Coastal</i>	Land located between the coastline and the sea
<i>Unclassified</i>	Open space which does not have any significant current or potential value within the categories above

6 OPEN SPACE & RECREATION DEMAND

This section consists of City of Marion demographic data and information on the community's preferences and priorities.

6.1 Implications of the Demographic Profile

The following provides a brief summary of the socio-economic and demographic profile of the three study areas, with comparison to the Adelaide Statistical Division (ASD), based on the 2001 Australian Bureau of Statistics Census of Population and Housing. The areas are defined as follows:

- *Marion North* - Tramline/West Torrens Council boundary to Sturt Road
- *Marion Central* - Sturt Road to Marino/Hallett Cove suburb boundary and along Majors Road
- *Marion South* - Marino/Hallett Cove suburb boundary and along Majors Road to Onkaparinga Council boundary
- *ASD* - Adelaide Statistical Division (ie Metropolitan Adelaide)

Detailed demographic data is at Appendix 4.

6.1.1 Population

The City of Marion has a total population of 80,909 (Australian Bureau of Statistics 2005).

6.1.2 Age

Marion North and, to a lesser extent, Marion Central have an older population than the ASD, whilst Marion South has a younger population. Marion South's age structure reflects a higher proportion of family households with higher proportions in the 35-49 year and 0-19 year age groups. Marion North and Marion Central have significantly higher proportions of persons in the 65 years and over age groups and lower proportions in the family age groups, which is also reflected in a higher proportion of widows and lone person households.

The current age profiles of the three areas would indicate a demand for more active and more family oriented recreation and sporting opportunities in the South and less active / passive opportunities in the Central and Northern areas.

Age projections to 2016 in Marion North and Marion Central indicate a decrease in proportion of persons aged 0-9 years and 35-44 years and an increase in proportion of persons aged 15-29 years. There is a substantial increase in the proportion of persons aged 50-69 years in Marion North (50.7%) and a smaller increase in Marion Central (33.2%). Marion South is projected to experience an increase in proportion of persons aged 0-9 years, 25-34 years and a substantial increase in persons aged 55-75+ years (165.7%).

6.1.3 Country of Birth

As can be seen above the three areas have a higher proportion of Australian born residents than the ASD. Of the persons born overseas a significant proportion are from the United Kingdom, with Marion Central and Marion South having a higher proportion than the ASD. The remaining overseas-born groups with higher numbers reflect post-war migration (Italy, Greece, Germany, Poland and the Netherlands). There are relatively small but increasing numbers of persons from Asia and Africa, which reflects that the City of Marion is increasingly becoming a home for overseas students and new arrivals.

6.1.4 Weekly Household Income

Weekly household income is comparatively high in Marion South and low in Marion North, whilst Marion Central more closely reflects the ASD. The lower household income in the North reflects both the age structure (higher proportion of pensioners / self-funded retirees and a lower proportion of persons of working age) and smaller household sizes (less family and more lone person households). Higher household incomes in Marion South, however, does not necessarily reflect higher disposable income as expenses such as mortgages and vehicle ownership are higher in the South.

6.1.5 Educational institution attending

There is a significantly higher proportion of the population attending pre-school, infants / primary and secondary school in Marion South than Marion North, Marion Central and the ASD. This reflects the age and household structure of the three areas. Similar proportions of persons across the areas attend TAFE or university. This reflects the proximity to tertiary facilities, in particular Flinders University. The proportion of persons not attending an educational institution is reflective of the age structure, with a proportion significantly higher in Marion North and Marion Central than in Marion South.

6.1.6 Qualifications

Marion South has a slightly more educated population than the remainder of Marion, though a lower proportion with qualifications than the ASD. Marion South has a relatively high proportion of persons with a Certificate or Diploma.

6.1.7 Occupation

There are a slightly higher proportion of Managers, Administrators and Professionals in Marion Central and Marion North than Marion South, but all areas are lower than the ASD. There is a higher proportion of intermediate and elementary clerical, sales and service workers in the three areas than in the ASD. Marion North has a higher proportion of labourers and related workers than Central and South, though similar to the ASD.

6.1.8 Housing Tenure

Home ownership is highest in Marion Central, whilst the proportion of houses being purchased is highest in Marion South reflecting the timing of development in the City of Marion. Marion North has a significantly higher proportion of dwellings rented from the South Australian Housing Trust (SAHT), whilst Marion South have less than one percent SAHT. The proportion of privately rented dwellings is also significantly higher in Marion North.

6.1.9 Dwelling Type

The proportion of separate houses is significantly higher in Marion South and Marion Central than the ASD and Marion North. Conversely the proportion of semi-detached in Marion North is significantly higher than the ASD and the remainder of Marion, reflecting the significant proportion of SAHT double unit dwellings in the area. Marion North also has a significantly higher proportion of flats/units than the ASD and the rest of Marion.

6.1.10 Family/Household Structure

As indicated previously, Marion South has a significantly higher proportion of family households with children, reflecting the age structure, timing and nature of development in the area. Conversely Marion North has a significantly higher proportion of lone person households reflecting the older age of residents in the area and the higher proportion of widows (particularly women).

6.1.11 Number of persons usually resident per household

As indicated above Marion North, and to a lesser extent Marion Central, has a significantly smaller household size than Marion South and the ASD, reflecting the age and family structure of residents in these areas.

6.1.12 Vehicles per dwelling

A significantly higher proportion of dwellings in Marion South have two or more vehicles than the remainder of Marion and the ASD. This reflects both the size and structure of households (that is couples with children) and a lack of access to public transport services, as well as a lack of local services and facilities. Conversely lower vehicle ownership in Marion North reflects the smaller household sizes, good access to public transport (bus, train and tram) and relatively good access to services and facilities. The hilly nature and more convoluted street pattern of the southern area, compared with the flatter more easily navigated streets in the Marion North and to a lesser extent Central, is not conducive to using alternative forms of transport such as walking and cycling.

6.2 Community preferences and priorities

Extensive consultation was undertaken from April to July 2005 with government and non-government agencies, recreation and sport providers, representatives of the Kurna Yerta Regional Heritage Development Board, City of Marion youth, primary school students, and the wider community. Consultation was in the form of surveys and information sheets, except with the Aboriginal Kurna representatives where a face to face meeting was held. A total of 1,205 responses were received (Table 3). The following provides a summary of the results of the consultation conducted for the purpose of this report.

Table 3
Summary of consultation

<i>Stakeholders</i>	<i>No. of responses</i>
Federal, State, Local Government levels	8
Marion recreation and sport providers and associations	62
Health agencies environmental agencies Multicultural agencies Marion community & residents' groups	18
Committees of management of halls	7
Regional recreation and sport providers	4
Kurna Yerta Regional Heritage Development Board	2
Marion youth	445
Marion primary school students	346
Marion wider community	313
	<i>1,205</i>

6.2.1 Community Surveys

About the surveys

Two types of surveys were used to obtain community feedback on both topics of 'open space' and 'recreation'. The aim of the surveys was to gain information on the values, needs and issues of the Marion community. Neither survey was based on a statistically valid research model, however the information provides a valuable guide to the views of the City of Marion's community in relation to open space and recreation.

Community Survey 1

This community survey focused on obtaining qualitative information. The survey was completed by participants at the key Council events of 'Marion Celebrates' held at The Domain, and a family oriented 'Connecting Parents' event held at the Marion Swimming Centre as part of Council's

'Connecting Parents' project that aims to support families in need. A total of 81 responses were received.

Community Survey 2

Members of the wider community including representatives from health, environmental and multicultural agencies, and community and residents' groups completed this community survey. It sought a mixture of qualitative and quantitative information and was completed by a total of 232 people from throughout the City of Marion.

Results of Community Survey 1

The following is a summary of key findings of the surveys administered at the two community events completed by 81 respondents. A full report is at Appendix 5.

Open Space

Main open spaces used in the City of Marion

- Local reserves, playgrounds and ovals
- Warriparinga Wetland
- Cycling / walking trails / Coast Park
- Marion Swimming Centre
- Oaklands Estate Reserve

Main purposes of open spaces

- Family outings and children's play
- Use of playgrounds and picnic areas
- Recreational ball games
- Walking and cycling for fitness and commuting
- Dog exercise areas
- Locations for recreation facilities / activities including netball, cricket, tennis, ovals for unstructured activities, skate boarding
- Educative purposes

Positive features of open spaces

- Access to areas of natural beauty providing a contrast to the urban environment and offering tranquility, views, wildlife, trees
- Places where children can be outdoors and active
- Free of charge
- Accessibility within walking distance of home
- Well maintained and clean
- Enclosed spaces for young children's play

Negative features of open spaces

- Litter and dog faeces left in parks
- Vandalism and graffiti
- Poorly maintained pathways
- Need for more convenient car parking
- Need for more amenities in parks including toilets, tables, seating, public phones
- Poorly maintained cricket nets and unfenced playgrounds

Suggested improvements

- More open spaces / green areas / wetlands
- More amenities in parks including barbeques, tables, seating, shade, public phones
- Playgrounds that are well maintained, and have fencing and shade
- More walking / cycling paths with better lighting
- More provision of bags for dog faeces and areas for dog exercise
- More areas for ball games
- Skate park in northern sector of the City of Marion
- New indoor pool
- Revegetation of Field River Valley
- Adventure playground
- Botanic gardens

Recreation

Main recreation / sport facilities used in the City of Marion

- Marion Swimming Centre
- Walking / cycling paths
- Marion Fitness and Leisure Centre
- Coast Park
- Competitive, structured sports including basketball, cricket, football, rugby, tennis, netball, lawn bowls
- Warriparinga Wetland
- Parks and playgrounds
- Community centres
- Skate park at Hallett Cove

Reasons for using the recreation / sport facilities

- To participate in active recreation – two thirds of respondents participated in unstructured activities and one third in structured activities
- To participate in passive recreation such as senior citizens', scouts, playgroup, socialising

- Ambience that venues / locations provide such as fresh air, serenity, sense of freedom, relaxing, friendly, fun
- Ease of access by being within walking distance
- Free / low cost
- Safe
- Access to well maintained and managed facilities
- Cyclists use facilities for travel / commuting

Positive features of recreation / sport facilities

About half the respondents had no complaints about facilities

- Ease of access
- Well designed and maintained facilities including the Marion Swimming Centre
- Friendly / social atmosphere
- Open space and landscaping
- Free or low cost
- Clean, safe facilities

Negative features of recreation / sport facilities

A need was identified for:

- More shade
- Better public toilets that are safe and have disability access
- Low cost activities for low income families
- Safety in open spaces
- Facilities for youth
- Potential closure of Marion Swimming Centre

Suggested improvements

- Indoor swimming centre and amenities at the Domain
- Keep existing Marion Swimming Centre
- More facilities and activities for youth including a skate park with accessible toilets and basketball rings
- Extension and better maintenance of cycling paths
- Expand and modernise the basketball stadium at Marion
- Skate park and bike tracks for young children
- Adventure playground
- More dog training areas
- More archery clubs
- More places to store and lock bikes
- Youth art projects
- Activities for children and youth on weekends and holidays

Results of Community Survey 2

The following is a summary of the survey completed by 232 members of the City of Marion's wider community. A full report is at Appendix 6.

Three open space areas used and how often used, daily, weekly, monthly and annually

- The most common use of open space was on a weekly basis
- The most popular open space on a daily, weekly, monthly or annual basis was the Hallett Cove Conservation Park and Hallett Cove Beach
- Other popular open space areas used on a regular and frequent basis were Heron Way Reserve, Grand Central Avenue Reserve, Oaklands Estate Reserve, Hazelmere Reserve, Pavana Reserve and Nari Reserve

What activities are undertaken in these open space areas

- By far the most popular activities undertaken in the open space areas are walking, picnics and family gatherings
- Other popular activities included walking the dog and informal sport such as cycling, swimming, running and tennis
- Places for children to play or playgrounds

Identified problems in accessing open spaces in Marion

A significant majority of respondents did not have problems accessing open space in Marion. For those who identified problems they included:

- Safety
- Maintenance
- Lighting
- Quality of appearance
- Transport
- Car parking

Two things you like most, or value about open space in Marion

- Good maintenance, cleanliness, facilities in good order
- Freedom to enjoy open space, peace, tranquility
- Accessibility, somewhere to walk, cycle, within walking distance
- Good location for dogs, facilities for dog faeces appreciated
- Safe for children and family activities
- Trees and birds
- Variety, number of reserves available
- Facilities most liked were barbeques, pathways, tennis courts, toilets, parking, rubbish bins and playgrounds

Two things disliked most or valued least about open spaces

- Lack of facilities such as lighting, toilets, seating, playground facilities, bike racks, seating and tables away from play areas
- Vandalism, graffiti, no security
- Dog faeces
- Dogs not on leads, uncontrolled, fear of attacks
- Rubbish and litter
- Need for more environmental conservation

Opportunities for Council to enhance / improve open space

- Park infrastructure
- Lighting
- Community involvement
- Sustainable landscaping such as water efficiency
- Improved management
- Play equipment
- Age-specific facilities
- Accessibility
- Provision of civic space

The opportunity to raise more specific improvements for open space resulted in the following main comments:

- More toilets, fitness circuits, wetlands and shade trees
- More barbeques, tables and settings, seats, shade
- Re-establish reeds in Field River, remove exotics around watercourses

Additional comments on open space

Thirty-one issues were raised in relation to the final question in the survey about open space that asked for any additional comments. The three main responses were:

- Open spaces are excellent, retain along foreshore, do not develop, priceless, keep open spaces, adds value to residential areas
- More dog parks for dogs off leash – could trial at Hallett Cove
- Do not sell off for housing especially Nari Reserve, Hallett Cove

Awareness of range of recreation facilities and activities at City of Marion

- More than 50% were aware of the facilities and activities available
- Only about 12% were unaware of activities available
- Council's *City Limits* publication and the *Messenger* newspaper were the most effective tools in promoting recreation activities in the City of Marion

Usage of recreation facilities in the City of Marion

- More than 60% of respondents used recreation facilities
- Only 9% did not use recreation facilities
- The most highly attended recreation facilities were the library with 44% and swimming pool with 31%
- Ovals, often for children's sport were the next most used recreation facility (23%)
- The Marion Cultural Centre was attended by 19% of respondents
- Tennis, basketball and netball courts were used by 15% of respondents

Participation in recreation activities in the City of Marion

- 30% of respondents recorded participation in activities
- 39% of respondents recorded they did not participate in activities
- Structured recreation activities included tennis soccer, volleyball, netball, golf, and bowls
- Unstructured recreation activities included walking, cycling, swimming, snorkelling and jogging, kite flying, casual sport, playground activities, taekwondo and dog training as well as attendance at the Leisure and Fitness Centre and the gym at the Marion Swim Centre.
- Community involvement activities were also quoted such as community projects, Cooinda Seniors Centre, Road Runners Club, being a member of the local Bicycle User Group and Friends of Warriparinga, dog obedience classes and attending Council events. Several people were involved in culture and art activities such as art exhibitions, floral art at Cooinda and the Marion Recreation Art and Craft Fair.

Facilities or activities missing in the City of Marion

- A relatively low number of respondents (20%) identified gaps
- No deficiencies in facilities and activities were found by 30% of respondents

Of those respondents who stated there were gaps the responses included:

- Facilities for young people such as skate parks, smaller bike trails, blue light disco and local activities
- More widespread activities for the over 50s
- Dog facilities
- Cultural activities
- Walking / cycling paths
- More open space in coastal areas
- More facilities and amenities in open spaces such as play equipment, fitness circuits, seating, barbeques, lighting, bike facilities, toilets, shade, interpretive walks, food outlet
- Access to new State Aquatic Centre
- One particular area where gaps and issues were identified was at Hallett Cove and individual suggestions were made for facilities including tennis courts for community access, cycling path with picnic stops, playgrounds, adventure park, dog park, bowling green and swim centre

Problems accessing facilities and activities

- The significant majority of respondents (42%) did not have problems accessing facilities and activities
- 17% identified problems accessing facilities and activities
- The most common problems in accessing these facilities and activities were due to poor lighting, location, maintenance, appearance and parking

Additional comments

Respondents provided a range of specific comments that are also noted in Appendix 6.

6.2.2 Consultation with Kurna

In April 2005 a meeting was held with the Chair, Lynette Crocker, and a Member, Anja Iacuone, of the Kurna Yerta Regional Heritage Development Board. The following is a summary of feedback as it relates to open space and recreation.

Sturt Triangle

The most significant place for the City of Marion for the Kurna community is the Sturt Triangle bounded by Marion Road, Sturt Road and South Road. The reasons for this are:

- It is the starting point for the Tjilbruke Trail that is an important trail along the coast for all South Australians and visitors to our state
- There is potential to develop the Tjilbruke Trail for tourism with clear interpretive signs linking the trail points
- It is important for men's dreaming and needs to be respected as such
- There is potential for this site to be used to strengthen the Aboriginal culture, particularly for men
- All buildings relating to indigenous and non-indigenous cultures on the site should have a 'unifying alliance with the same aims and objectives'
- There are other opportunities that could include conservation, revegetation, eco-tourism, cultural tourism, bush tucker trail of edible food, cultural trail

Warriparinga Wetland and Reserve

The Warriparinga Wetland and Reserve is a significant site that could include:

- The men's story and men's business
- Description of the land and its spirituality
- Information about Tjilbruke as a peacemaker which is a positive message for our young people

Coast issues

- Need for an integrated approach to the coast and Tjilbruke Trail
- The coast should be as undeveloped as possible, with the maximum public space, easy access to the beach and links between key places and interpretive signage
- The coast should be for walking and cycling with shared use paths, disability access and car parking

Open space issues

- There is potential for dual names to raise awareness of Aboriginal significance and culture
- Use of more indigenous plants and natural vegetation for water conservation and conservation values
- Good interpretive signage about Aboriginal history would raise the importance of, and respect for, cultural issues to the general community and this signage could be linked to initiatives such as bush tucker trails that are set in a more natural environment in Marion's open space

6.2.3 Consultation with City of Marion Youth

Youth in the City of Marion, including Council's Youth Advisory Committee, were consulted via focus groups as a component of consultation for the City of Marion's Youth Plan 2005-2008 and via a survey. The survey was designed to complement the questions asked in the focus group sessions.

Focus groups with youth

A series of focus groups were conducted at five schools with a total of 280 young people. The findings relating to Council's provision and management of open space and recreation are as follows:

Results of focus groups

It is clear from the following feedback that unstructured recreation in many forms is highly valued, as are open spaces that are aesthetic, accessible, safe and offer activities of interest to older young people.

Recreation activities respondents like doing in leisure time in the local area

<i>Activities</i>	<i>No. of times identified</i>
Unstructured activities - Skating / BMX, swimming, surfing, fishing, walking, music, reading	201
Structured sport - Cricket, tennis, football, netball, soccer	47
Creative arts - Drama, theatre, poetry, dance, drawing	19
Other structured groups - Clubs, youth group, church, scouts, cadets, martial arts	18
Events / gigs - Local venues, under-age raves, live music, big day out	13

Recreation activities respondents think should be offered in the local area

<i>Activities</i>	<i>No. of times identified</i>
Recreation centers / venues - Snow dome, adventure playground, theme park, arcades, pool halls, indoor sports centers, skirmish, pool	41
Skate parks / bike tracks - Northern area skate park, indoor skate park, BMX jumps in southern area	38
Youth events - Local bands, events in halls, under-age raves /discos	22
Low cost activities	11
Drama / arts opportunities - Recording studio for young people	10
Sporting facilities - Tennis courts, soccer grounds, horse riding	9
Water sports - Surfing	8
Drop-in centers / places to hang out	8
Graffiti wall	4
More youth centres	2

Respondents' idea of the ideal park or reserve

<i>Features of an ideal park</i>	<i>No. of times identified</i>
Landscaping - Flat grassed area, ponds, trees / plants	66
Facilities / amenities - Public toilets, barbeques, seating	52
Play equipment - Higher swings, equipment for older young people, adventure playground	45
Skate park / bike jumps	18
Sporting facilities – tennis half-courts	13
Shelter – gazebo shade	10
Food available	8
Park suitable for dogs	4
Good lighting	4
Well maintained	2

Survey of youth

A survey was designed to seek views and comments from young people at a sample of secondary schools throughout the City of Marion. The survey comprised five questions relating to open space and recreation with a mixture of qualitative and quantitative information sought. Responses were received from 165 students from 12 to 18 years. The majority of respondents lived in the Marion Council area (73%).

The following is a summary of findings. A full report is at Appendix 7.

Results of survey

The form of transport used to access favourite park, beach or youth centre

- Car as passenger 33%
- Pedestrian 21%
- Bicycle 18%
- Bus 16%
- Train 6%
- Car as driver 5%
- Other – skateboard 0.6%

Identified problems in accessing open spaces or recreation facilities and activities in Marion

A significant majority of respondents (75%) experienced no barriers to using open space or recreation facilities and activities in Marion.

Barriers to access open spaces or recreation were identified by 16% of respondents as shown in the following table:

	<i>Open Space</i>	<i>Recreation Facilities</i>	<i>Recreation Activities</i>
Not available	2	1	2
No transport	3	4	4
Poor facilities	6	6	3
Costs too much	1	4	2
School or work commitments	6	4	4
Not safe	7	3	3
No-one to go with	4	3	3
Activities not at a suitable time	2	4	6
Not of interest	12	11	11
Other	2	2	2

Facilities and activities not available in the City of Marion and the best locations

Facilities and activities that could be considered by Council included:

- Swim centre
- Bike park / track
- Skate park
- Rock climbing
- Netball, basketball, volleyball courts
- Soccer oval
- Concerts

Best locations for facilities and activities in the City of Marion included:

- Hallett Cove
- Sheidow Park
- Near Marion Cultural Centre
- Westfield Marion
- Marion Swim Centre
- Beach
- Open spaces

Methods to make parks, youth centres, libraries, swimming pool more youth friendly

- Improving the sense of security and amenity of the areas
- More facilities were also required through better playgrounds; parks and water-slide at the swimming pool; more toilets, lights, barbecues; more flowers, trees and plants
- More sporting activities with transport arranged to key venues
- Locations developed for young people need to be for the older teenagers as well and identified and promoted as adventurous. A theme park, a sports centre and a boxing ring were also requested.
- Events for young people with live bands, music, beach and free park events
- Lowering the pool entry fee to attract more young people
- Dog faeces bags to be more prevalent in parks
- Library resources should be especially chosen for young people

6.2.4 Consultation with Primary School students

Survey of primary school students

A survey was designed to seek views and comments from young people attending five primary schools throughout the City of Marion. The survey comprised nine questions with a mixture of qualitative and quantitative information sought. A total of 346 students participated in the survey ages 10 – 13 years with 83% living in the City of Marion.

The following is a summary of findings. A full report is at Appendix 8.

Results of survey

Nominate your favourite park by name or street

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| - Oaklands Estate Reserve | 12% |
| - Field River | 11% |
| - Hugh Johnson Reserve | 10% |
| - Pavana Reserve | 10% |
| - Skate park | 7% |
| - Ovals | 5% |

How do you access your favourite park, sport or recreation activity

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| - Walking | 51% |
| - Car | 35% |
| - Bicycle | 33% |
| - With your parent | 31% |
| - Train | 10% |
| - Bus | 4% |
| - Other – skate board | 2% |

Most popular activities in your favourite park

- Playing on equipment / playgrounds 38%
- Play / sport 44%
- Informal play 7%

The following sports were identified as popular:

- Football 61%
- Soccer 25%
- Basketball / netball 15%
- Sport 13%
- Tennis 10%
- Cricket 5%

All other activities raised as popular activities of choice were unstructured including:

- Socialising / hanging out with friends 16%
- Picnics 1%

Active recreation and adventurous activities that directly related to the favourite parks or open spaces were identified by 35% of respondents and described as:

- Riding bikes on bike tracks and jumps
- Playing at creeks, yabbing, skimming rocks
- Skate boarding
- Feeding and watching ducks
- Walking the dog
- Space to run, running
- Walking on beach and swimming
- Rockwall climbing
- Life saving

Favourite sport or recreation activity enjoyed through participation

Most respondents answered with multiple favourite sports that have been listed below according to the number of responses:

Football	107	Walking	5
Soccer	72	Ice skating	3
Netball	66	Calisthenics	3
Basketball	53	Badminton	3
Tennis	25	Hockey	3
Dancing	19	Beach	2
Swimming	18	Softball	2
Skipping	18	Table tennis	2
Bike riding	18	Boxing	1
Gymnastics	12	In-line hockey	1
Cricket	12	Indoor hockey	1
Aerobics	10	Lifesaving	1
Volleyball	8	Ballet	1
Karate / taekwondo	7	Rugby	1
Horse riding	6	Archery	1
Running	6		

Location of nominated favourite sport or recreation activity

Respondents participated at:

- School 36%
- Club / group 24%
- School / club / group 18%

Some schools use community facilities and open space whilst some schools use their own facilities and open space. It can be assumed by the responses that approximately half of the primary school children who responded may be using Council-owned and maintained facilities for their favourite activity.

Barriers to use of favourite park, playing sport or participating in recreation activities

From the total of 346 responses:

- No barriers identified 53%
- Barriers identified 36%

Barriers identified to participation included:

<i>Barriers</i>	<i>No. of times identified</i>
No-one to go with	44
No transport	31
Poor facilities	24
Not available	19
Not safe	19
Timing of activities	17
Work or school commitments	15
Not of interest	13
Too expensive	11
Other – bad weather	6
Too many people or too far	4
No way to cross Landers Road safely	1

Suggestions to make parks, sport and recreation activities more child and youth friendly

The suggestions made were considered in four areas of facilities, activities, parks and issues.

The following table summarises the suggestions made for facilities and parks and sports, and the number of responses for each issue:

<i>Suggestions</i>	<i>No. of times identified</i>
More playgrounds, better equipment, more enclosures	63
More skate parks and ramps	30
Better safety	26
Playgrounds / equipment for older children, such as soccer, football, goals, netball, basketball rings	26
More and cleaner toilets	24
More shelter, shade, shade over playgrounds	22
More and better drinking fountains	21
More bike tracks, jumps, BMX tracks	15
More tennis courts, hand tennis court	13
More benches, tables and chairs, rubbish bins	12
More basketball and netball courts, large netball and basketball courts at Sheidow Park	11
More grassed areas, more paved areas, no trees lost	11
Better maintained and cleaner parks and playgrounds	10
Council to provide grants for school equipment and activities	9
Better and faster barbeques	9
Larger parks and playgrounds, more parks	9
More soccer pitches	4

<i>Suggestions cont'd</i>	<i>No. of times identified</i>
Flying fox	4
More dog faeces receptacles	3
More football ovals, an oval at Sheidow Park	3
Horse riding facility	2
Shelter and play equipment at Wistow Cr Park, Trott Park	2
Swimming pool for learning to swim	1
A park like St Kilda	1
Snow dome	1
Soccer goals at Edwardstown Oval	1

6.2.5 Needs analysis of recreation and sport providers

Survey of City of Marion recreation and sport clubs

Surveys were distributed to 104 recreation and sport clubs in the City of Marion to obtain feedback on current and future issues pertaining to their particular recreation or sport activity. Responses were received from 35 clubs.

Clubs were asked questions relating to their open space / grounds and buildings that included:

- What facilities are important to the club
- Level of use
- Are current needs being met
- What are future needs for next 5-10 years

Responses could not generally be grouped together as the responses reflected individual situations.

The responses to two questions about facilities important to clubs, and current and future needs of clubs have been summarised below. Responses to all questions are at Appendices 9-10.

Facilities important to clubs

Open space / grounds

<i>Facilities</i>	<i>No. of responses</i>
Toilets	28
Outdoor lighting of sport area	23
Car parking	23
Shelter / shade	22
Outdoor furniture	26
Wheelchair access	12
Children's play equipment	5

Buildings

<i>Facilities</i>	<i>No. of responses</i>
Club room	27
Kitchen	22
Meeting room / hall	16
Change room	15
Wheelchair access	14

Meeting of current and future needs

Open space / grounds

<i>Current needs met</i>	<i>No. of responses</i>	<i>Future needs (5-10 years)</i>	<i>No. of responses</i>
Yes	19	Yes	11
No	15	No	13
Unsure	1	Unsure	3
No response	-	No response	8

Buildings

<i>Current needs met</i>	<i>No. of responses</i>	<i>Future needs (5-10 years)</i>	<i>No. of responses</i>
Yes	21	Yes	7
No	12	No	15
Unsure	1	Unsure	4
No response	1	No response	9

6.2.6 Forum with recreation and sport providers

Consultation was also undertaken via a Forum attended by 21 recreation and sport providers, including three schools, from throughout the City of Marion. This consultation had several purposes including seeking information of value to the development of the Open Space and Recreation Strategy.

Issues that were raised from small group discussion are summarised below:

Summary of key issues of recreation and sport providers in the City of Marion

<i>Issue</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Management Training	- Training required on sponsorship, grants/funding applications, financial management, insurance, marketing, committee management to improve club and volunteer management practices
Risk Management	- Concerns about unsafe facilities and programs
Sport Training	- Sport providers need accredited leaders/coaches/trainers
Volunteers	- Concerns with lack of volunteers and volunteers with relevant skills
Facilities	- Concerns re upgrading of facilities and maximising use of facilities - Need for accessible, secure and affordable facilities
Funding	- Concerns re need for increases in fees if funding not secured - Insufficient funding can lead to limitation in activities/programs - Need to maintain infrastructure so it is safe and meets the needs of users - Difficulty funding insurance
Membership	- Need for additional membership, retention of senior players, juniors competing with other pressures for their time such as work
Equal Opportunity	- Recreation and sport providers and Council should consider equitable access in planning and programming
Accessibility	- Older people have difficulty accessing recreation activities - Students have difficulty accessing community sports facilities
Promotion	- Need to promote Marion as an 'active community' - Recreation and sport providers need affordable and accessible promotional avenues
Communication/Networking	- Establish or maintain an active relationship with state government and peak associations - Development of communication channels between Council and Marion recreation and sport providers
Programs	- Need access to sport and recreation resources
Participation in Physical Activity	- Facilitate participation in physical activity
School – Community Group Links	- Need for workable links and partnerships between schools and recreation and sport providers
Transport	- Facilitate accessibility to recreation and sport activities for young people and older adults
Research	- Enable recreation and sport providers to access current research findings, trends, and statistical data to assist with club planning

The responses highlight the importance of Council continuing to support recreation and sport clubs in the management of facilities, volunteers / members, sport officials, funding and accessibility.

6.2.7 Needs analysis of multi-use sports facilities in the City of Marion

Surveys were distributed to management of eight major multi-use sport facilities in the City of Marion to obtain information on current and future needs of their open space / grounds and buildings.

Four responses were received from:

- Edwardstown Soldiers' Memorial Recreation Ground
- Marion Sports and Community Club
- Morphettville Park Sporting Club
- Plympton Sporting and Recreation Club

Each facility had specific current and future needs including tennis court resurfacing, sharing of facilities, vandalism, lighting of oval and building renovations. Details of responses are at Appendix 11.

6.2.8 Needs analysis of halls in the City of Marion

Surveys were distributed to management committees of nine halls in the City of Marion that are venues for a variety of structured and unstructured recreation and sport activities. The purpose of the survey was to ascertain the frequency of use as well as current and future issues.

Responses were received from:

- Ascot Park Scout Hall
- Cosgrove Hall
- Edwardstown Senior Citizens' Hall
- Edwardstown Memorial Community Hall
- Park Holme Community Hall
- Toc H Hall
- YMCA

All halls were well utilised by groups during the day and evening, participating in activities including sport, meetings, dance, fitness, bible study, theatre and bowls.

The principal current issues were lack of disability access and need for additional space. Potential future issues included concern for economic viability of a user group, lack of space, disability access and car parking. Details of responses are at Appendix 12.

6.2.9 Recreation and sport associations

Surveys were distributed to nineteen recreation and sport associations relevant to activities offered in the City of Marion. The purpose was to obtain information on current and future needs relating to their activity or, in the case of Sport SA and Recreation SA, on sport and recreation generally.

Responses were received from six associations as follows:

- Bowls SA
- Recreation SA
- South Australian Cricket Association
- South Australian Cycling Federation
- South Central Junior Cricket Association
- Sport SA

All except Bowls SA stated current issues affecting them including the recognition of significance of the velodrome at Edwardstown Oval, shortage of cricket grounds and club management.

Four associations expressed a variety of responses on what they considered to be future needs including, maintenance of amenities and sport surfaces, need and lack of open space for new facilities, adequate open space and use of sport facilities for unstructured recreation, especially in the northern area of the City of Marion, and an accessible walking / cycling network. Detailed responses are at Appendix 13.

6.2.10 Individual requests to the City of Marion

In addition to feedback received from consultation, a number of individual requests have been received. These have included:

- Consideration be given to establishing a Community Use Agreement with Bethesda Christian College, South Plympton. The school's proposal includes a joint redevelopment project in partnership with the City of Marion and Office for Recreation and Sport for the:
 - o resurfacing of six tennis / basketball courts including relocation of two courts
 - o landscaping
 - o use of existing play equipment and surrounding grassed play area
 - o use of existing soccer pitch
- A fitness circuit at Hamilton Secondary College, Mitchell Park
- Skate facility on George Street Reserve, Marion
- Skate facility at Sheidow Park
- Lighting of Hallett Cove Skate Park
- Retention of coastal reserves
- Dog free area at Hazelmere Reserve, Oaklands Park, for use by children
- Community garden in Morphettville

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