

1. RATIONALE

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

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

2. POLICY STATEMENT

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

3. CONTEXT

Open spaces are highly valued by the community. They provide natural settings for a range of activities and enhance neighbourhood character that reflects the different eras of settlement and topography that exist in the north and south of the city. The City of Marion owns and maintains approximately 300 diverse open spaces comprising 346 hectares that cater for a wide range of recreational uses, and have significant public and environmental value. In addition, the City of Marion is home to large parcels of open space that include the state owned Hallett Cove Conservation Park, O'Halloran Hill Recreation Park and Marino Conservation Park, and privately owned open space at Glenthorne Farm and Sheidow Park.

The *Development Act 1993* sets out provisions for the acquisition of open space as a result of larger scale land divisions. In these instances Council can ensure that the land which adds the most community and environmental value to the open space network is allocated. This open space most commonly then becomes community land under Council's long-term ownership and management. In addition, the *30-Year Plan for Greater Adelaide*, as a volume of the state's planning strategy, outlines directions for land-use change and development in South Australia that includes policies and targets relating to open space.

The *South Australian Public Health Act 2011* requires Councils to ensure their built and natural environments, that include open space, contribute to the health and wellbeing of their community. This is to be achieved via the provision and management of sustainable environments that are connected, safe, support active living and healthy eating, and mitigate and adapt for climate change impacts.

4. VISION

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

5. PRINCIPLES

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

- **Accessibility and Amenity**
 - Access for the majority of people to at least one type of open space within 400 - 500 metres of their residence and/or work place
 - Design that enhances safe use of open spaces including good passive surveillance
 - Design that enhances the character and amenity of neighbourhoods
 - Well distributed open space to mitigate the urban heat island effect
 - Provides destinations that support the cycling network
 - Facilities and amenities to support the primary function of the open space
 - Contributes to the amenity and attractiveness of business precincts
- **Multi-functional and Adaptable**
 - Responds to demographic and land use changes so open space performs different roles in response to community needs
 - Encourages active living to promote health and wellbeing for everyone
 - Provides a diversity of accessible opportunities, settings and experiences for people of all ages, abilities and interests
 - Provides opportunities for gardening and growing food locally
 - Strengthens the cultural richness of communities through opportunities for cultural expression and interactions
 - Provides settings for commemoration
 - Provides outdoor settings that attract visitors and tourists
- **Environment Protection and Sustainability**
 - A focus on protecting, preserving and enhancing natural environments
 - Use of water sensitive urban design
 - Mitigation and adaptation to climate change impacts
 - Opportunities for people to connect with nature
- **Placemaking and Community Involvement**
 - Communities are encouraged to be involved in the planning and activation of open spaces that are important to them

6. SCOPE

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

7. OPEN SPACE FRAMEWORK

The open space framework comprises 2 elements – a Hierarchy and Classifications. These are described below.

Application of this framework across the open space network enables an assessment of what types of open space are required now and into the future to ensure accessibility and adequate diversity.

6.1 Hierarchy

The Hierarchy describes the level of use for each open space and potential types of facilities that may be included. The Hierarchy in Council's Playspace Policy will inform the level of playspace provision within open spaces.

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

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

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

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

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

6.2 Classifications

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

Table 2 – Classifications for open space in the City of Marion

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

8. RELATED DOCUMENTS

The following key City of Marion policies and plans relate to open space:

- City of Marion Community Vision – Towards 2040
- City of Marion 10-Year Strategic Plan (under revision)
- City of Marion 3-Year Business Plan 2016-2019
- City of Marion Development Plan
- City of Marion Long Term Financial Plan
- Asset Management Plan
- Community Garden Policy
- Community Land Management Plans
- Irrigation Management Plan
- Remnant Vegetation Plan
- Playspace Policy
- Climate Change Policy
- Streetscape Policy
- Asset Management Policy
- Disposal of Land and Assets Policy
- Tree Management Policy
- Community Consultation and Engagement Policy

9. REFERENCES

- Development Act 1993
- 30 Year Plan for Greater Adelaide
- South Australian Public Health Act 2011
- State Public Health Plan, South Australia: A Better Place to Live 2013
- Australian Government, Department of the Environment
[Built environment | In Brief | State of the Environment 2011 \(SoE 2011\)](#)
- Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources
<http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/Home>
- Resilient South – Integrated Vulnerability Assessment Technical Report, April 2014

Policy Name and version no.	City of Marion Open Space Policy - V1.0
Last update	Not applicable
Last Council review (report reference)	Not applicable
Next review due	To be aligned with the timeframe for the Open Space Plan
Responsibility	Team Leader, Open Space and Recreation