

ITEM 12.3.15 DRAFT OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

Report Type	Decision
City Plan Theme	Economy Community Environment & Heritage Placemaking Leadership
Report Author	Urban Designer – Open Space and Recreation (Corporate Services)
Report Summary	This report presents the Draft Open Space Strategy and the Background Report for considerations and endorsement for community consultation.
Attachments	Attachment 1 – Draft Open Space Strategy (Under separate cover) Attachment 2 – Draft Open Space Strategy Background Report (Under separate cover)

RECOMMENDATION

Council resolves that:

- 1. The Director Corporate Services' report titled "*Draft Open Space Strategy*" be received and noted.**
 - 2. The Draft Open Space Strategy and Background Report (Attachment 1 and 2) are approved for community consultation to occur in July and August 2020.**
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Report

At its meeting on 14 May 2019, Council resolved as follows:

"That the Director Corporate Services' report titled "Open Space Strategy Review Project" be received and noted."

The report presented on the 14 May 2019 included a review of the current Open Space Strategy 2013. This review documented the progress made on implementing the current open space strategy, identified gaps in the implementation and also identified strategic or industry changes, such as trends or expectations, which would influence the new Open Space Strategy.

Subsequent to the May 2019 report the Draft Open Space Strategy was developed. The development of the Draft Strategy included initial community consultation period and extensive background research and analysis. A working Draft of the Strategy and Background Report was provided to Elected Members via the Elected Member extranet for review in June 2020, there was no feedback received during this period.

The Draft Open Space Strategy aims to identify the strategic direction for open space across the City ensuring consistency with existing strategic planning and meeting the needs of our community and environment and changing expectations.

This includes two documents:

1. Draft Open Space Strategy (**Attachment 1**)
2. Draft Open Space Strategy: Background Report (**Attachment 2**)

The City of Port Adelaide Enfield has a range of open space including sporting grounds and golf courses, parks and reserves, linear parks along the coast, river systems, wetlands and stormwater reserves, natural areas, plazas or town squares, and streetscapes.

Open Space includes all land which is publicly owned and managed and is publicly accessible for community use. Open Space performs many functions within the City including conserving our natural environment, providing areas for sports and recreation, creating spaces for events and socialisation, greening our city, and supporting economic development and tourism to name a few.

Draft Open Space Strategy

The development of the Draft Strategy has been based on research into industry trends and usage data, a needs analysis identifying the provision, distribution, community expectations and development of our open space and any other relevant information and mapping.

The Draft Strategy provides a guide for the development and provision of open space now and into the future. The goal is to ensure that everyone in our community has access to open space, that our open space supports a range of activities and opportunities from sport to events, and that the environmental function of our open space is maintained.

The Draft Strategy includes strategic outcomes and directions, priority projects, and an action plan (which shows some actions identified which relate to specific sites). The directions and projects identified will be integrated into the City of PAE's Asset Management Planning, Long Term Financial Planning and Capital Works Program.

Six strategic outcomes, see below, have been identified in the Draft Strategy based on the key findings of the Background Report and the City of PAE's commitment through other plans and strategies. The Draft Strategy is included in **Attachment 1**.

Strategic Outcomes	
2.1 Equitable Provision and Changing Urban Form	Our community will have access to an equitable provision of quality open space that responds to urban form and creates walkable neighbourhoods.
2.2 Natural Systems, Environment and Climate Change	We consider environmental function and sustainability within the planning, design and management of our open space to provide our community with the opportunity to connect with nature and to protect our natural environment.
2.3 Sport Facility Provision	Our community will have access to a range of quality sports facilities and activity areas across the city, including opportunity for both formal and informal participation.
2.4 Recreation, Health and Wellbeing	Everyone in our community will have access to open space, facilities and opportunities to support health and wellbeing and community connection.
2.5 Destinations, Culture and Art	Our community will have opportunities to connect with heritage, culture and art through open space that facilitates events and programs across the City.
2.6 Improve Decision Making	We take a considered approach to future development and decision making and constantly improve our knowledge and processes to ensure we are providing the best outcome for our community.

Five priority projects

For five of the six strategic outcomes priority projects were identified. These projects represent the project which will have the most impact on the provision and development of open space within the City. There is not a priority project for the strategic outcome 2.2 Natural Systems, Environment and Climate Change, this is because the priority project is the Greening our City which is a foundation initiative in the Living Environment Strategy. The five priority projects are detailed below:

Priority Project 1: Securing the future provision of open space

This project aims to increase the provision of open space in low provision areas. The strategy recognises the complexity of land acquisition, that it can be opportunistic and that it can take a long time to achieve. This project looks to ensure that the governance and procedure to acquire land is formalised so that opportunities can be identified and pursued.

Priority Project 2: Managing the use of sporting open space

There is a high demand on our sporting open space which will increase as populations increase. The supply of our sporting open space is difficult to increase due to the size of open space required. Therefore, it is critical that our current sporting open space is utilised appropriately and over and under use of sporting open space is managed.

Priority Project 3: Promoting our open space

We have some really amazing open space in the City and we should promote it. Research shows that effectively promoting open space and activities that occur there can significantly increase the use of that open space. This is important not only for our community but can also attract visitors to the City.

Priority Project 4: Semaphore Foreshore Master Plan

The Semaphore Foreshore is a regional open space within the City. It is a popular location for the local population, with a strong community surrounding it, as well as a popular destination for visitors to the City. Its importance not only as a destination but also from an environmental perspective justifies it being a high quality and unique space.

Priority Project 5: Public Convenience Review

Providing public conveniences in open space can make a significant difference in the visitors experience of that space particularly for families with young children, the elderly or people with a disability. However, they can also be expensive, difficult to locate, and maintain. This project aims to provide a clear guideline for the provision of public conveniences and an action plan for improving the provision across the City.

Background Report

The Strategic outcomes and directions identified within the Draft Strategy has been based on research into industry trends, usage data, needs analysis identifying provision and distribution, community expectations and feedback from consultation processes. The Background Report is a summary of this research, see **Attachment 2**. The Background Report will be used continuously to assess proposed projects against the strategic directions identified within the Draft Strategy.

The Background Report includes consideration of the following:

- Open Space Category (how we define its function) and Hierarchy (defined through the Development Plan);
- Open Space provision and distribution;
- State Strategic Target – Walkable Neighbourhoods;
- Our changing urban form – how our city is changing;
- Urban heat islands;
- Identifying priority areas;
- Tree canopy;
- Managing stormwater;
- Sporting open space;
- Appropriate levels of planning; and
- Open Space Framework – provision and development guidelines.

The background Report identified some key considerations such as:

- Approximately 30% of open space classified as 'Local' hierarchy is under the size requirement identified within the Development Plan;
- There is an uneven provision of open space across the City with some high provision areas (Walkerly Heights, Dry Creek, coast) and some low provision areas (Enfield/Clearview, Rosewater/Ottoway, Birkenhead/Peterhead);
- There are a number of areas where the 'walkability' of the neighbourhood (as defined by the *30-year Plan for Greater Adelaide*) could be improved by improving open space provision;

- There is a high rate of infill development in the City which increases the demand for open space due to higher population and less private open space;
- Areas where there are identified urban heat islands are also areas with low open space provision;
- Our tree canopy is decreasing this should be a focus not only for our open space development but across the whole City;
- How we manage our stormwater is being influenced by the changes in the urban form with more pressure being put on the stormwater infrastructure through infill development. This needs to be continuously monitored; and
- There is high demand for our sporting open space – it is critical that this is managed appropriately for both sporting clubs and the general community.

Community Consultation on the Draft Open Space Strategy

The next step in the development of the Open Space Strategy is to undertake community consultation on the Draft document.

The consultation will include the following actions:

- Consultation page on the Council website utilising the new Have Your Say PAE online consultation platform.
- Online or hardcopy feedback forms.
- Virtual Q&A session on the Draft Strategy with the Urban Designer – Open Space and Recreation.
- Further information will be available by contacting the Council either through the Customer Service or Urban Designer – Open Space and Recreation.
- Posters, flyers and a copy of the Draft Strategy will be provided in the Civic Centre, Libraries, and Community Centres.
- Posters and flyers at key shopping districts including Port Adelaide, Semaphore Road, and Prospect Road.
- Signs at popular open spaces promoting the Draft Strategy consultation.
- Consultation promoted through Council website and social media.

To address concerns raised previously on the reach and effectiveness of our community consultation the following steps have been taken:

- The planned consultation for the Draft Strategy is utilising the new web-based consultation platform 'Have Your Say PAE'. This platform will capture more data on how many people have engaged with the consultation through viewing the page but have not actually provided a submission.
- Simplifying the feedback form to a single question rather than a multi-question survey to encourage more responses.
- Ensuring both an online and offline feedback option.
- An additional consultation activity is planned, a virtual Q&A session, to provide an opportunity for discussion about the plan, and flexibility for people to join from the comfort of their own home.

The consultation will occur between July – August 2020.

City Plan Relationship

The Draft Strategy contributes to the following City Plan Themes:

- Community: We are a safe, vibrant, inclusive and welcoming city for our residents, businesses and visitors alike.

- Placemaking: We are a unique and distinctive collection of active places, created and cared for through strong partnerships.
- Environment & Heritage: We are a low carbon, water sensitive and climate resilient City and our built heritage is protected, embraced and celebrated.
- Leadership: We are an innovative, collaborative and high performing leader within local government.

Legislative Context and Related Policies

The Draft Open Space Strategy will work in conjunction with the Active Recreation Facilities Plan.

The Draft Open Space Strategy is consistent with other strategic plans including:

- The 30-year plan for greater Adelaide (State Strategic Plan)
- Adapt West Climate Change Adaptation Plan
- Living Environment Strategy
- Sports Development Plan
- Animal Management Plan
- Inclusive Communities Plan
- Tourism Strategy and Action Plan
- Draft Arts and Culture Strategy and Action Plan
- Parks and Gardens Asset Management Plan

Stakeholder Engagement

Open Space is publicly available for use by the community and as such the development of the Open Space Strategy is of interest to all members of the community.

A program of community consultation was undertaken to inform the development of the Draft Strategy including:

- Review of Community Perception Survey results;
- Workshop with Port Environment Centre;
- Review of consultation undertaken for the Sports Development Plan;
- Online survey

The development of the Draft Strategy had continuous involvement from Elected Members, including:

- May 2019 Council Report showing results of the review
- September 2019 Drop in consultation session with Elected Members
- Jan 2020 Council Workshop showing background research and analysis
- June 2020 Review of Draft Open Space Strategy by Elected Members

The community consultation which is to be undertaken on the Draft Strategy will aim to provide all interested parties an opportunity to provide feedback. The summary of proposed consultation activities is included in the body of this report.

Risk Management

There is some risk that the delivery of some strategic directions and actions identified within the Draft Strategy will not be possible due to considerations such as resourcing. This is considered a minor risk as this document is intended to guide Council decisions and is subject to the annual budget process, it is expected to change when required and a review of the document is recommended in 5 years.

Financial Management

The Draft Strategy identifies a number of strategic outcomes and directions intended to improve the provision, design and development of open space across the City now and in the future. As a strategic document the Open Space Strategy takes a forward-looking approach to the provision, design and development of the open space within the City. This means that a large portion of the strategic directions identified within this Strategy are not currently funded or are improvements to 'business-as-usual'.

Environmental and Heritage

Open space can have a significant impact on the health and wellbeing of both the community and the environment. The Draft Strategy aims to improve both the social and environmental benefits of open space.