Open Space Strategy 2025

Adopted on 16 September 2025

A safe, sustainable,
vibrant **Community**

CAMPBELLTOWN
CITY COUNCIL

Kaurna Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we work, live and play on Kaurna Yarta. We respect the unique connection and relationship Kaurna Peoples have to Country and their ever enduring cultural heritage.

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Introduction

The Open Space Strategy provides Council with strategic direction for the planning, development, management and use of the City's open spaces over the next 10+ years. It identifies the Focus Areas that will be required to meet the climate crisis and anticipated growth within the City, the Community's needs and desires as identified through ongoing community engagement activities.

Campbelltown is a metropolitan Council with its office approximately 10 km north east of the Adelaide GPO. Located on Kaurna Country and adjacent to the foothills of the Mount Lofty Ranges, our Council covers 24.35 km^2 and incorporates the suburbs of Campbelltown, Paradise, Athelstone, Newton, Hectorville, Rostrevor, Tranmere and parts of Magill and has five metropolitan neighbours; the Cities of Burnside, Tea Tree Gully, Norwood Payneham & St Peters, Port Adelaide Enfield and the Adelaide Hills Council.

Our area is predominantly residential with new dwellings mainly from infill development. We're a Community that's home to a rich cultural heritage, outstanding sports and recreation facilities, an emerging tourism and arts scene, and inspiring natural beauty including biodiversity reserves, remnant vegetation, three creek lines and a stretch of Karra Wirra Parri/River Torrens Linear Park.

City snapshot

With 70 parks and reserves in the City, our Community enjoys the many benefits of our various types of open spaces and recognises their intrinsic value and their role in making Campbelltown a great home to a diverse range of people:

397 hectares of open space	**57,160** residents
70 parks and reserves	**23.47** persons per hectare
64 playgrounds	**2.02%** population growth (12 months to June 2023)
16% of the City is open space	**40** median age in years
3 major creeks leading into **1** main river	**19.4%** of the population aged 0 to 17 years
19% canopy cover	**25.9%** aged 60 years and over
28,835 recorded street trees	**26%** lone person households
52 biodiversity managed reserves (96.64ha)	**42.2%** households with children (16.7% with children under 15 years)
85+ sport, recreation and leisure groups	**36.4%** born outside of Australia
3 community gardens and **1** community orchard	**35.9%** speak a language other than English at home
41 public art installations	**6.4%** report needing help in day-to-day lives due to disability
20km of creek lines	**31.2%** report a long-term health condition
5,500+ registered dogs	**$1,625** median weekly household income

Open Space Background

The roles of open space

Open spaces serve many roles for people and for the environment, with roles for example in water harvesting, habitat provision, canopy cover, cooling, biodiversity, and ecosystem benefits. They provide scenic beauty, bring tourism and economic benefits, offer space for us to move and be active, and they have the power to heal us, to bring us joy and happiness, to protect us, connect us, and with a key role in sustaining people's physical and mental health, they should even be considered part of our health system.

Open space influences

There are a range of influences on open spaces - particularly in an urban setting like our City – and they all impact good practice in how open spaces are planned, managed and maintained, for example:

- climate risk (including temperature, rainfall, extreme weather)
- population growth
- urbanisation and housing demand (higher density living, with a trend to less private open space e.g. backyards)
- reduced contact with nature, especially in children (nature deficit disorder)
- isolation, loneliness and social needs (e.g. lone person households)
- ageing populations
- disability, physical and mental health
- inclusivity (including all ages, abilities, genders and cultures)
- internet use and technology more broadly (e.g. smart sensors, Wi Fi, increased screen time)
- animals and pet ownership
- household composition
- costs of sustainable living
- increasing vulnerable communities
- working from home and the use of open spaces for commercial activity
- rising land costs
- competing community interests.

It is important to acknowledge these influences to ensure open space meets the needs of communities and Council, for example:

- reducing potential conflict around the provision of open space for both active and passive uses
- providing for solitary activities such as individual sports/exercise, walking, sitting as well as family/group/team activities to address demand for social connections

- providing for unstructured, outdoor, 'risky' play (e.g. nature play, parkour, immersive experiences)
- considering sensitive solutions regarding sensory stimuli
- conflict between nature and technology, the need for 'Digital Detox' and to provide opportunities to connect to / enjoy nature
- potential use of technology (e.g. smart sensors for management and to reduce costs, Wi Fi as a safety feature particularly for young people)
- active gender inclusivity (fixing any unintentional gender-based exclusion)
- considering if there is a need to split up spaces or program usage times as is commonly done with indoor recreation centres
- responding to the climate emergency declaration; environmental risks such as the heat island effect impacting comfort and safety of open space users, vegetation and fauna; fire and flood-damage to infrastructure, water availability and quality; risk management i.e. cost of repairs or replacement after extreme weather events and potential impact on procurement
- the rise in companion animals, perception of safety and potential conflict between dogs and other users
- housing shortage resulting from population growth, migration and slow construction rates as a critical urban planning challenge requiring a well-balanced approach to preserve open space
- cost of living influencing the demand for free or low-cost access to recreation, events and leisure, and people seeking close-to-home options.

Open space provision

Within our City there is almost 400 hectares of open space, representing 16.3% of the land area (or 447 ha including education spaces). South Australian planning guidelines have historically recommended a minimum 12.5% open space provision*, however in recent years there has been a shift towards more context-specific approaches focusing on access, quality and function.

Another benchmark often used is based on the amount of open space per 1,000 persons. The minimum provision of open space is often proposed to be 3 hectares per 1,000 persons. Overall, the City of Campbelltown provides above this recommendation with an average of 5.5 ha/1,000 persons (excluding Black Hill Conservation Park) or 6.9 ha/1,000 persons (including it).

Although the amount of open space for the City is therefore good overall, it is also vital to consider the balance of provision across the City. One of the issues faced in the City is a lack of open space in some parts of the City. These areas, known as open space 'gap areas', include Campbelltown (southern and central parts), Hectorville, Magill, Rostrevor (south-west) and Tranmere (north).

* Although it is noted a range in percentages can be found, with some development requirements lower at 10% (e.g. Western Australia) and some recommendations higher at 15% (e.g. UK, USA).

Projected population growth for the City will also have an impact on the amount of open space available per person (see Table 1). Several suburbs already provide open space at less than the benchmark amount of 3 ha/1,000 persons, and this will become more apparent as the population grows if new open spaces are not made available to the Community.

Population projections for our City suggest an increase from approximately 57,000 residents to some 64,000 by 2031 and perhaps 71,000 by 2041 (an additional 14,000 people). This will result in more people demanding quality open space as part of their recreational activities and/or commuting.

Table 1. Amount of open space in the City, by suburb.

Suburb	**Open space % of land**	**Open space* 2024 population (ha/1,000 persons)**	**Open space* forecast 2041 population (ha/1,000 persons)**
Hectorville	2.5	1.68	1.35
Rostrevor	2.7	2.07	1.53
Magill	4.4	2.14	1.83
Tranmere	7.1	2.44	1.92
Campbelltown	10.1	3.8	3.04
Newton	10.1	4.32	3.45
Paradise	17.2	9.96	7.62
Athelstone	16.5** / 31	21.52	19.1
Average	9.7** / 16.3	6.94	5.58

* Education open space is excluded as it is not always available / usable by the Community, as is other non-usable open space e.g. non-accessible screening buffers.
** The 16.5% and 9.7% figures exclude the non-Council owned or managed natural area of Black Hill Conservation Park (c.f. 31% and 16.3% including Black Hill). Hectares per 1,000 persons figures do include Black Hill in order to reflect it as open space that is accessible to the public.

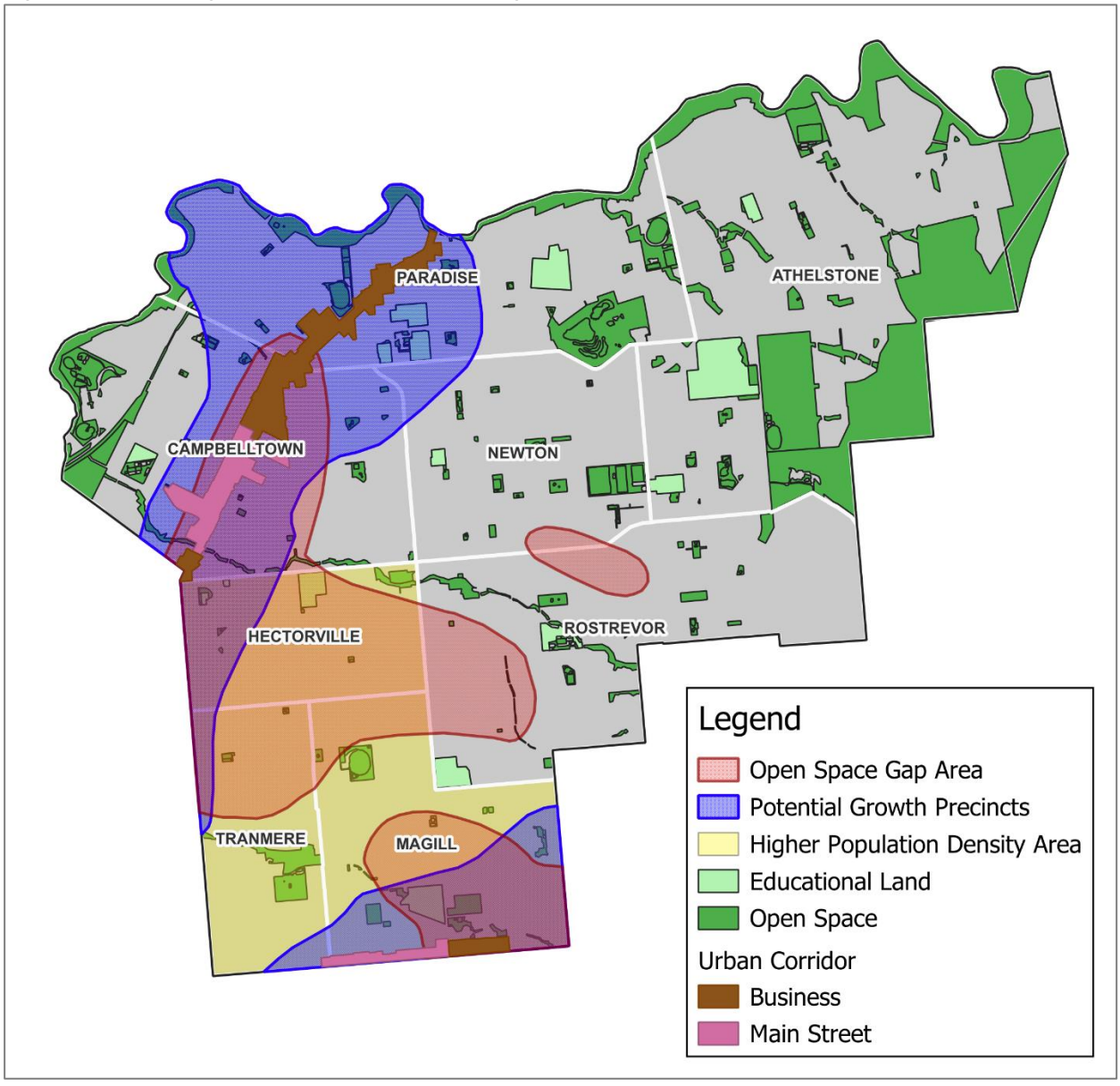
It is also acknowledged that not all open space supports active Community use in a practical way (e.g. some creek lines are excluded as they require a greater focus on riparian landscape management and/or flood management, and some streetscape lands comprise narrow vegetation buffers and are inaccessible to the Community). As a result, we typically refer to open space to include only that which is more readily available from a Community perspective (e.g. walkways and trails, play spaces, sports fields, urban forests, seating areas etc).

While some open space (as described previously) is not readily available for active or passive use by the Community, it is still valued for other reasons such as biodiversity, wildlife corridors or flood management, and where these parcels serve a dual purpose, they have been included in open space calculations.

The open space gap areas, primarily Campbelltown (southern and central parts), Hectorville, Magill, Rostrevor (south-west) and Tranmere (north) are depicted in Figure 1 in the areas shaded red. The gap areas have been identified using multiple criteria including:

- Analysis of areas within a 300m distance of open space (see the 3-30-300 rule on page 9; supporting map in Appendix 1)
- Population density (by suburb; supporting map in Appendix 1)
- Urban heat mapping and canopy cover (supporting map in Appendix 1)
- Identified potential growth precincts including current and expected future higher-density housing developments (supporting map in Appendix 1)
- Identified urban corridors (business and main street zones)
- Potential barriers in accessing open space (e.g. main roads or waterways).

Figure 1. Balancing Provision – open space gap area map.



Open space hierarchy

An open space hierarchy approach is used in recognition that not all open spaces require the same level of development and maintenance. The hierarchy level reflects the size, catchment, scope, visitation time, travel mode and significance of the open space. It informs infrastructure provision such as type of equipment, seating, shade, toilets and access, and ensures the appropriate allocation of resources is dedicated to each open space.

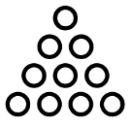
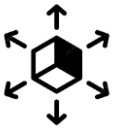
Council's Open Space Hierarchy and Facilities Guide details the hierarchy levels including Regional, District, Neighbourhood and Local level categories, with a subcategory of Minor Park within the Local level.

Regional	**District**	**Neighbourhood**	**Local**
Draws people from across and beyond the Council area for example due to: - large size - high quality - high profile location - cultural/ environmental/ recreational uniqueness of the site, facilities or activity. Generally offers diverse activity options with multi-functional spaces and is associated with longer visits to the site, possibly extending up to a day, with users often travelling by vehicle to the site.	Draws people from across broad districts across the Council area for example due to: - large or medium size - good quality - good location - good appeal of the site, facilities or activities. Generally offers diverse activity options and is associated with longer visits to the site, possibly extending up to half a day, with users often travelling by vehicle to the site.	Provides a focus for the local 1 to 2 suburbs for example due to: - size of the open space (being larger than a local park) - good quality - appeal of the facilities. Generally has a focus on local recreational activity and is associated with shorter visits to the site extending up to about 2 hours, with users often travelling to the site on foot or bicycle.	Generally caters for the immediate Community (from a cluster of streets to 1 suburb) due to small size, lower profile location and lower-key facilities. **Minor** Generally associated with lower recreation value due to very small size and/or very limited infrastructure (but may like other open spaces contribute to biodiversity, canopy cover, visual amenity, character of an area and offer pedestrian/cycle connections).

Open space planning principles

The challenge faced in open space planning is that open space needs to work harder and harder to meet all these needs. We consider four key ways to address this.

Opportunities to strengthen open space:

1. **Quality** of open space	i.e. design, performance, variety, amenity, hierarchy, size, shape, relationship to neighbourhood, biodiversity, water, etc.
 2. **Quantity** of open space	i.e. provision, demand, population density, land area percentage, amount of open space per 1,000 persons
 3. **Distribution** of open space	i.e. connections between open spaces, connections to local open space, to district/regional open space, to walking and cycling connections
4. **Activation** of open space	i.e. programming, events, spaces for group activities, Community engagement and interaction, physical enhancements

Council's approach accordingly includes a combination of managing existing open spaces, upgrading existing open spaces and providing new and expanded open spaces. This enables us to maximise the capacity of existing open space, create new open spaces and provide better connections within and between open spaces.

Council will also use the 3-30-300 rule as a guide to increase green equity in planting programs and open space planning. This approach recommends Governments focus on achieving:

- 3 trees visible from every home (and business)
- 30% overall canopy at a suburb/neighbourhood level, and
- A maximum of 300m distance between every home and a green space where people can meaningfully connect with nature.

This benchmark is associated with higher public health, lower crime, improved property values and many other Community benefits, helping improve the City's climate resilience and ongoing liveability.

Design principles

Council's open space design principles include:

- Green and resilient (environmental sustainability, ecological design, sustainable infrastructure complementing the natural settings)
- People-orientated function (Community-focused, user requirements)
- Safety (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design [CPTED] principles)
- Access for all (Universal Design principles, Open and Welcoming)
- Healthy and active (play and movement, e.g. Active Design principles)
- Nature connection (benefits of contact with nature, biophilic design)
- Innovation (inspiring, innovative play and park design best practice)
- Variety (promoting different experiences)
- Culture and creativity (e.g. identity, interpretation, artwork)
- Operations (e.g. well-managed, consider financial and other resources).

Further attention is drawn to the following specific design considerations:

Infrastructure

Good practice open space planning seeks to optimise the use of open space and minimise infrastructure that restricts use to a single purpose. Infrastructure selection will reference good practice asset management in line with Council's Asset Management Plans. Good practice will also consider if proposed infrastructure is likely to decrease:

- the variety of activities that can take place
- the number of people of varying ages and abilities who can use or choose to use the space.

Open spaces should include facilities appropriate to the type and hierarchy of the open space as per Council's Open Space Hierarchy and Facilities Guide, as well as consideration of how people travel to open space (e.g. cycling routes, bike racks, car parking).

Lighting

Public lighting requirements should be considered in line with CPTED principles including safety and security requirements. Lighting should be designed to minimise negative impacts on biodiversity as well as having due consideration of nearby residential housing. As per Council's Open Space Hierarchy and Facilities Guide, lighting is generally only considered in Regional and District-level open spaces as well as Neighbourhood-level sporting spaces.

Shade

Natural shade from trees is the preferred approach to addressing shade as trees also offer cooling and ecological benefits and in most cases will outlive the 5-7 years useful life of shade sails. While this approach supports Council's tree canopy and heat mitigation targets, it does not provide immediate shade to the user noting it may take 15 or more years for the tree to reach maturity so in some cases shade sails may be required when immediate shade is required.

Irrigation

Irrigated open spaces are cooler and often more inviting for users. Irrigated turf/grass should be provided where possible at activity spaces to encourage active and passive recreation, but alternatives may be considered where this does not compromise intended use. Irrigated areas should consider water usage (including through smart technology) and investigate all alternatives (e.g. nearby bores, aquifer recharge schemes, water sensitive urban design principles, increased use of drought-tolerant and waterwise native plants).

If synthetic turf is proposed to support sporting infrastructure, a full assessment should be undertaken to consider whole-of-life environmental and financial implications as well as social and health implications.

Public toilets

Council's Open Space Hierarchy and Facilities Guide is used to guide public toilet service levels. This is based on the expected time users are likely to spend at an open space, including the potential length of time people may spend travelling to reach the location, to ensure those open spaces provide appropriate service levels to their users.

Dogs in open space

Dog owners are required to have their dogs under adequate control at all times in public areas to ensure they do not impact on other people and dogs using those areas, as well any native wildlife or vegetation found there. This is achieved either by having dogs 'on leash', or, in many of the City's open spaces, it is permitted to exercise dogs 'off leash' provided they remain under effective control and do not interfere with other users of those spaces. Council's Animal Management Plan identifies which open spaces are 'on' and 'off leash' as well as any open spaces where dogs are not permitted to enter (excluding service dogs).

Dog off-leash fenced areas

Most of the benefits generally associated with fenced off-leash areas can be achieved in unfenced off-leash areas e.g. community meetups. Fencing an area will essentially isolate that space for a single purpose and prevent use of the space for any other purpose.

Fencing should only be considered:

- where there are inadequate spatial buffers between off-leash areas and other incompatible reserve activities
- where there is a potential hazard such as that associated with a road or trail/pathway
- to prevent dogs encroaching in sensitive biodiversity areas.

If fencing is required, partial fencing and or visual/physical landscape buffers should be the priority. This will ensure active supervision of dogs.

Fenced areas should be well-designed to help manage risk by including sensory and landscape elements to attract/distract dogs, disperse dog and human activity, and break sightlines between dogs and other dogs and entry points.

Reserve and playground fencing

Reserve and playground fencing should consider:

- aesthetic integration (e.g. to reduce detracting from the natural landscape)
- access and inclusion (e.g. unfenced playgrounds may be more accessible to everyone including those with mobility issues; at the same time, fencing may offer support to some caregivers in their supervision of children, particularly in areas with higher numbers of children with a disability)
- Community integration (e.g. to reduce barriers between playgrounds and the Community, or to other parts of the open space; whole of playground fencing may be more welcoming and encourage Community integration rather than fencing off one or two accessible elements)
- proximity to other facilities (e.g. passive surveillance may be achieved through proximity to other facilities) and to sensitive biodiversity areas
- hierarchy level (e.g. a playground on a local road may be small enough in size to encourage greater interaction between adults and children, reducing the likelihood that a child might wander off unnoticed; the targeted age group of users may influence whether a fence is required)
- outcomes of a risk assessment for the specific site.

Reserve and playground fencing should only be considered when a risk assessment identifies:

- inadequate spatial buffers between play areas and areas that are potentially dangerous for children
- a potential hazard such as that associated with a road or trail/pathway.

If fencing is required, partial fencing and or visual/physical landscape buffers should be the priority. Fencing should not hinder sightlines for pedestrians or vehicles using the adjacent footpath and road networks. Fences and barriers should be minimised within and connecting to walking and cycling paths and other linear open spaces, whilst supporting wildlife connectivity along biodiversity corridors.

Change of use

Proposals to change the use of an open space area should consider:

- the cost-benefit (social, environmental, economic) of any proposed changes
- the justifiable reasons as opposed assumed demand for a proposal
- how the site helps Council achieve open space objectives across a particular catchment
- whether the proposal undermines other Council policy or State Government legislation.

Strategic open space land purchasing principles

Strategic open space land purchasing principles were developed and endorsed by Council in 2014 with the primary focus to consider land acquisition and/or improvements where current provision is limited.

The principles are based on the concept that in order to fully address the gaps in open space provision, future land acquisition must be planned strategically with due consideration to where there is the most limited provision, rather than as an ad-hoc approach when land is listed for sale. It is not the intent to pursue any forced or compulsory land acquisition.

Acknowledging some suburbs or parts of suburbs are lacking in open space that is usable for community purposes, a number of possibilities for land acquisition were pursued namely:

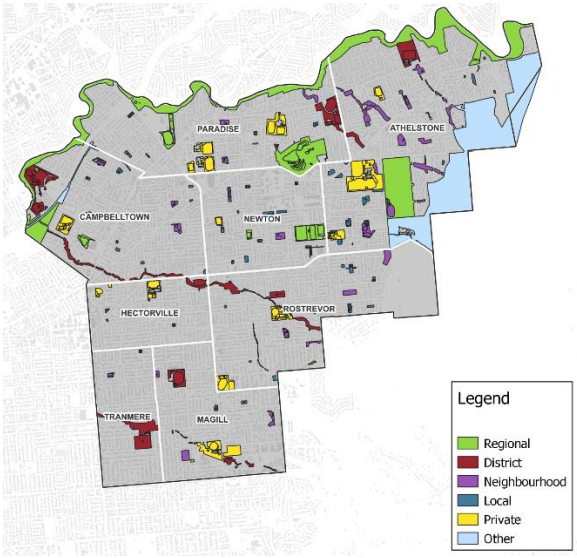
- basic land acquisition
- consolidation of existing reserves
- road closures.

In doing so, both the total quantity and the quality of open space is to be evaluated along with the visibility of the open space, barriers to access (e.g. main roads), potential for activation, and connectivity of parks and reserves (and other Community facilities). Acquisition of land adjacent to existing reserves is generally preferred to ensure spaces are usable and for the ability to provide mixed experiences for the whole Community.

Achievements over the past 10 years

The following achievements over the past 10 years demonstrate the wide range of projects and programs undertaken to work towards our Open Space Vision.

Open space hierarchy implemented
A hierarchy framework was put in place to guide the development and management of individual reserves.



Playground and Exercise Equipment Plan developed
Adopted in 2017, the strategy provides a plan for the replacement, consolidation and installation of playgrounds and exercise equipment in the City along with priorities for implementation.

Strategic open space land acquisition
Budget was allocated for strategic open space land acquisition and land was purchased at Melba Court Hectorville to expand the size of the existing reserve, enabling more diverse recreation opportunities and an increased number of plantings.

Enhanced open space connections
Connections were strengthened to and between open spaces such as pedestrian and cyclist access to creekline trails, along with access to 'secret' open spaces via laneways. New bridges, pathways, ramps and signage works support this.

Key destination improvements
A number of key visitor destinations were upgraded including Morialta Parri / Fourth Creek Trail, the Thorndon Park Super Playground / 'Paripardu' and Paradise Recreation Plaza.

Local reserve improvements
A number of local and neighbourhood play spaces were upgraded including Anderson Court, Grantham Grove, Melville Grove, Grandview Grove and Fox Avenue Reserves.

Sporting open space improvements
Campbelltown Memorial Oval, Daly Oval and Max Amber Sportsfield undertook major redevelopments to improve the sporting facilities for local clubs and the Community.

Improvements were also undertaken (and continue) at various soccer, tennis and netball facilities including surfacing, lighting and clubrooms.

Master Plans were adopted for the Foxfield Oval Reserve Building and Lochiel Park Golf Building, and Tennis Facility Concepts prepared.

Biodiversity improvements
Increased commitment to biodiversity sites including new plantings, annual participation in National Tree Day, ongoing support for Community involvement (e.g. local Landcare Groups), and dedicated Biodiversity Staff now embedded within Council.

An Urban Forest Strategy was developed, with a target minimum of 1,200 trees planted per year. The Tree Assistance Grant Program and Vibrant Verges Grant Programs were both launched, strengthening corridors across open spaces.

Water management projects

Managed Aquifer Recharge scheme implemented (stormwater injection to enhance groundwater sustainability); Upstream biodiversity improvements to filter water; Smart irrigation (real-time monitoring systems to track water use, saving costs and water). Water Sensitive Urban Design (treenet pits, reduced kerbing, raingardens, pervious concrete e.g. Hamilton Tce).

Action-based spaces developed

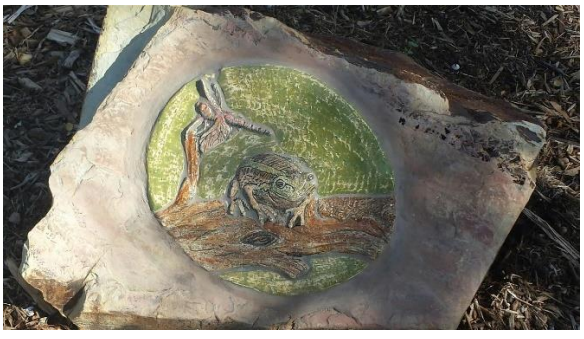
Council improved the quality and diversity of local activity opportunities aimed especially at older youth through a focus on action-based spaces. We followed a risk-benefit approach to support feelings of freedom, learning and risk-taking, and won two SA/NT Strategic Planning Awards for 'Planning for Play' and the Paradise Recreation Plaza Master Plan.

Grant funding received

State Government Open Space Grants were awarded to help improve Morialta Parri / Fourth Creek Trail, the transformation of Paradise Skate Park into Paradise Recreation Plaza, Melba Court Reserve (land acquisition and redevelopment), the Campbelltown Community Orchard to Thorndon Park Trail, and several tennis/netball courts and other sports facility upgrades.

Art-based initiatives

Previously uncommon in the City, many open spaces now have public art elements ranging from large murals on public toilets and other walls to colourful mosaics, small etchings on rocks and large wooden carved animals that support local artists, strengthen place connection, and also often double as play pieces or other opportunities to connect to nature.



Cultural-based initiatives

Launched in 2024, the Reconciliation River Walk is a 1.2km loop with 9 wooden markers with QR codes to view videos by Kaurna Elders sharing knowledge of Kaurna Country along Karra Wirra Parri / River Torrens Linear Park in Athelstone and Highbury, a collaboration with Kaurna Elders and the City of Tea Tree Gully.

Enhanced wayfinding and interpretation

New directional and educational signage projects were undertaken through the implementation of the Chain of Trails Master Plan, and in 2024 the Thorndon Park Nature Trail was launched to encourage visitors to wander, sit, look, smell and listen to the natural surrounds.

Lochiel Park Green Flag Award

Lochiel Park has been awarded the International Green Flag Award – the benchmark standard for quality public parks around the world – every year since 2018/2019, recognising the hard work of the local Community and Council to manage this unique open space. Lochiel Park has become known as a 'green village' with a strong sense of place created in harmony with the natural surrounds.

State and National awards

Paradise Recreation Plaza won the Parks and Leisure Australia (PLA) Park of the Year Award and the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) State Award for Parks and Open Space.

Thorndon Park Super Playground won State Awards from PLA and the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia, and the National AILA Award for Excellence in Play Spaces.

How the strategy was created

To ensure alignment with Council's Strategic Plan 2028 and accompanying suite of Strategic Sub Plans (Appendix B), the Strategy was developed based on feedback gathered during the Strategic Plan 2028 process, recent Open Space Master Plans, and a series of workshops across Council departments throughout 2023 and 2024. This approach ensured the Strategy reflects the priorities of the City and fosters collective ownership and alignment across Council.

Positioned within the portfolio of the Environment Plan specifically, the Open Space Strategy has been developed to align with the Environment Plan's Vision for "A resilient, sustainable, vibrant City for all" and Mission "We make decisions today that create a better and more environmentally sustainable future for all".

Community consultation repeatedly tells us the elements particularly valued by our Community are:

- Open spaces with trees
- Nature and wildlife
- Access to Karra Wirra Parri / River Torrens Linear Park and other creekline walking trails
- Public parks and reserves.

There has also been an upward trend of increasing importance of open space assets shown in our Community Satisfaction Survey since 2020, with an average importance rating of over 8 out of 10. Our 2023 survey revealed that 'quality of parks and reserves' had the highest importance levels followed by 'River Torrens Linear Park and 'suitability of park furniture'. With connections to open space assets, 'condition of footpaths and walking trails' were also considered very important. Satisfaction levels for these items tend on average to be slightly lower than importance levels.

Several greening initiatives were also rated as being very important to the Community including 'native vegetation protection', 'tree canopy cover' and 'climate change action'. Main issues raised tended to focus on the quality of our footpaths and streetscape including verges and maintenance of trees and other vegetation. By closely integrating our open space planning with broader infrastructure planning, our projects and programs reflect the priorities of the City.

What people said they want us to prioritise:

More green space

Leading and adapting for Climate Change

Improve walkability

Preserving / improving the natural environment and open space

Open space including active recreation, sport, culture, flood mitigation, waste

Improve equipment at playgrounds and reserves

More footy/cricket ovals needed

Improve and maintain parks/ open space

Sport parks and facilities for young groups

Increase plantings - trees and/or shrubs

Hold more outdoor events / festivals

Emerging demand for different types of sport facilities

Better paths and trails

Beautify the city, undertake more verge plantings and/or review verge maintenance

Don't over-develop open spaces

Creative spaces – artwork, nature play

Sustainable park furniture and play equipment

Asset maintenance and renewal

Lighting for exercise at dawn and dusk

Open Space Vision and Mission

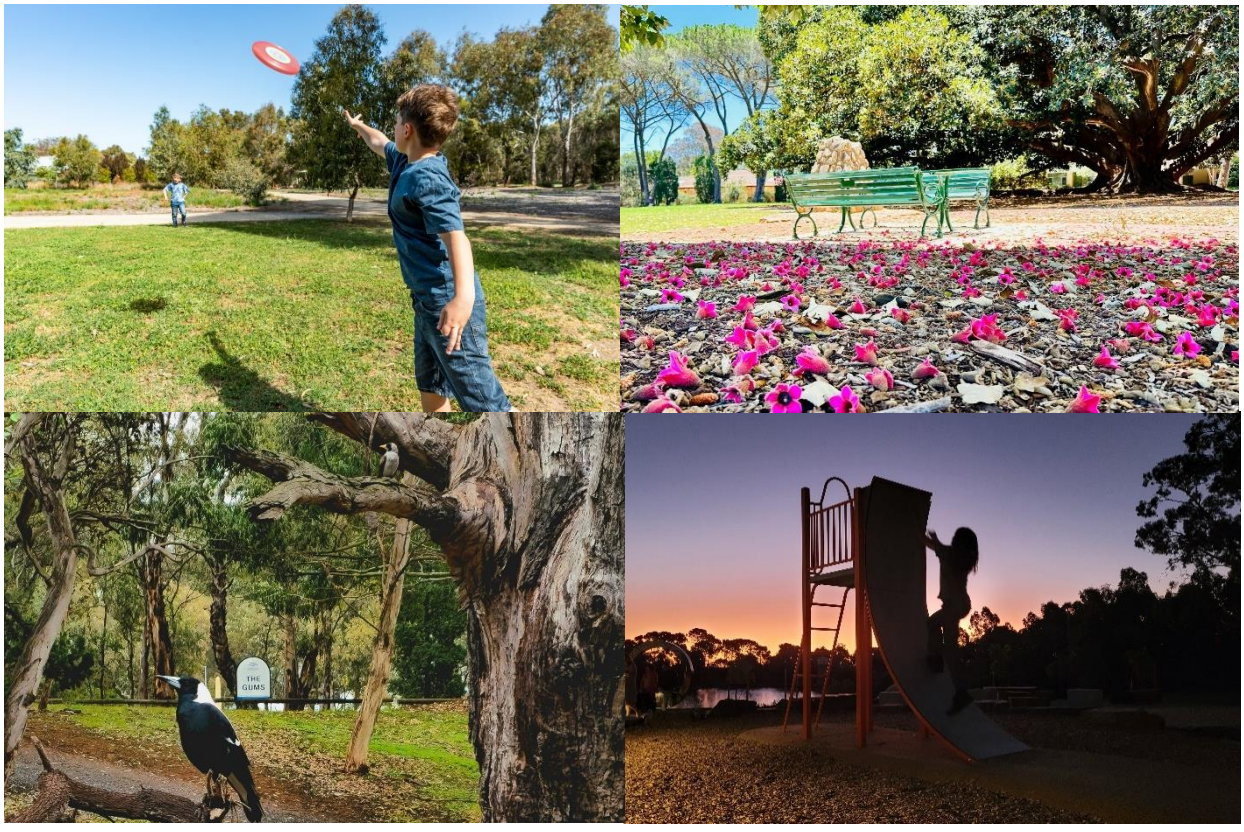
Designed with a 10-year timeframe in mind, the Vision for the Open Space Strategy is:

"A diverse open space network for our Community and our environment"

To achieve our Open Space Vision, the City's Open Space Mission is to:

- Provide diverse types of open space with a focus on biodiversity, landscape character and sport and recreation provision
- Achieve diverse activity opportunities for people of all ages, abilities, cultures and social groups
- Develop strong connections within and beyond the City through watercourses, open space corridors, facilities and landscapes
- Facilitate connections between people and parks while connecting individuals to one another to strengthen our Community
- Ensure appropriately designed and managed open spaces consider innovative opportunities while balancing asset sustainability.

This Open Space Mission is also aligned to the City of Campbelltown's Vision for *'A safe, sustainable, vibrant Community'* and Mission *'The Community is the centre of everything we do'.*



Open Space Directions

The Open Space Directions revolve around three key 'Focus Areas' that guide us to strengthen open space in alignment to the planning principles of quality, quantity, distribution and activation:

1. Sustainable	2. Accessible	3. Inclusive
Designed and managed to balance ecological health and stability, Community well-being, and long-term usability, with a focus on: • Strategic provision and approach • Well-designed and performing to needs • Maintained to hierarchy • Enhanced greening and biodiversity • Canopy cover • Water management • Environmental stewardship • Activation • Innovative solutions • Financial responsibility	Designed and managed to be well-connected, available to and usable by everyone, with a focus on: • Access* (all ages, genders and abilities) • Distribution (focus on open space gap areas**) • Population growth • Connections to and within spaces • Walking and cycling connections • Habitat corridors • Overall quantity • Size and shape • Transport options to open space • Safety and comfort • Relationship to neighbourhood and to the Community	Designed and managed to welcome everyone through diverse offerings where nobody feels excluded, with a focus on: • Variety of types • All cultures and backgrounds • All ages, genders and abilities • Sensory solutions • Companion animals • Passive and active use opportunities • Aesthetics • Formal and informal activity opportunities • Minority sports and activities • Individual and group preferences • Nature and technology preferences

* Access and inclusion considerations are guided by Council's Accessibility Checklist for Open Space as linked to open space hierarchy levels (Council's Open Space Hierarchy and Facilities Guide).

** While the City of Campbelltown generally has a very good provision of open space and range of recreation facilities, parts are lacking open space as shown on the Balancing Provision – open space gap are map (page 7). The gaps in these areas should be addressed or compensated through a combination of strategic land acquisition and improving existing open spaces or recreation facilities.

Sustainable Open Spaces

Designed and managed to balance ecological health and stability, Community well-being, and long-term usability

Where we are headed

Council will use this Focus Area to:

- Build on previous work in this space, acknowledging the climate emergency and that quality green spaces provide long-term environmental, social, and economic benefits to our Community.

Underlying principles

- Open spaces serve many roles and hold significant value in various ways including environmental, social, cultural, health, recreational and economic.
- Green infrastructure is vital for creating liveable and resilient cities for example through improving biodiversity, cooling, and boosting community well-being.
- Through quality design, good maintenance practices, activations and initiatives such as eco-friendly landscaping, water conservation measures and native planting, open spaces will be healthy, vibrant and accessible for everybody while reducing maintenance costs and environmental impact.

1. Sustainable Open Spaces		
#	Focus Area	Directions

1.1	Ecological health and stability	• Embed biodiversity and conservation into open space decision-making (develop a Biodiversity Strategy including guiding principles for which species to plant and where within Council reserves)
		  ○ Identify spaces for biodiversity enhancement
		  ○ Manage sites in accordance with the Strategy.
		• Maintain and enhance key landscapes and trees to preserve and promote the unique character of the City, e.g. Lochiel Parklands, substantial trees in parks and selected streetscapes (consider Legacy Trees in all open space masterplans and redevelopments).
		• Implement Council's Urban Forest Strategy using the 3-30-300 rule as an aspirational target to prioritise plantings within and connecting to open spaces

	Ecological health and stability (cont.)	○ Maintain existing (healthy trees) wherever possible ○ Explore opportunities to increase tree canopy as part of reserve improvements. • Embed sustainable water management into open space decision-making (develop an Integrated Sustainable Water Management Plan for the City) ○ Review irrigation of reserves according to Hierarchy (provide irrigated turf/grass at activity spaces to encourage active and passive recreation, and consider alternatives where it does not compromise intended use) ○ Continue to implement smart irrigation technology including adjustments to watering schedules based on weather forecasts ○ Continue to develop water capture and alternative water use initiatives. • Embed heat reduction considerations into open space decision-making ○ Use the Local Government Recreation and Sport Network guidelines and decision-making tool (under development, 2025) to assess all potential synthetic turf installations to consider environmental issues as well as Club/sport needs and financial implications ○ Explore opportunities as part of design and material selection to minimise retention of heat and maximise natural shading and cooling ○ Use the Urban Heat Mapping Tool and Analysis to identify locations and evaluate the impacts of localised urban heat. • Prioritise the inclusion of recycled materials as part of open space improvements including play equipment and park furniture. • Explore opportunities to reuse and/or recycle old open space assets to minimise waste going to landfill. • Embed sustainable, circular and full lifecycle procurement and waste management considerations into open space decision-making ○ Consider a review of the provision, placement and servicing of bins in open space.

		• Embed energy efficiency design principles into open space decision-making to ensure carbon emissions are minimised and maladaptive practices are avoided.

1.2	Community well-being	• Expand environmental stewardship initiatives such as:
		  ○ Identify potential 'community involvement' biodiversity/planting sites for promotion to schools, the Community and environmental groups.
		  ○ Develop Community landscape spaces that support participation in developing and maintaining the landscape (e.g. Community gardens or productive landscapes) and associated support programs (e.g. farmer's markets, produce swaps), potentially linked to higher and medium urban development areas.
		• Enhance nature-based recreation areas and environmental interpretation opportunities at parks such as Lochiel Parklands, Gums Reserve, Wadmore Park/Pulyonna Wirra, Thorndon Park and creekline trails.
		• Support Community open space activations to showcase places and spaces in different ways and to amplify the value of open spaces
		  ○ Partner with local food vendors, artists and performers to make open spaces lively.
		• Embed creativity and the arts in planning and design to support local arts, encourage expressive movement (e.g. 'flowbars'), add vibrancy and strengthen place values (e.g. unique nature play features).
		• Consider the development of a Placemaking Strategy for the City.

1.3	Long-term usability	• Manage open spaces strategically using Council's Asset Management Plans, ensuring assets are maintained sustainably for the long term and provide suitable levels of service to the Community. • Continue to monitor open space assets, research new engineering techniques and materials, investigate and, if appropriate, apply techniques in problem areas. • Review Council's Hierarchy Framework to guide the development of open space and individual reserves. • Develop Master Plans for regional and district sport and recreation precincts to establish high quality, diverse and innovative key parks and reserves

	Long-term usability (cont.)	○ Consider upgrades to irrigation and sporting surfaces as fundamental to the purpose of having sports facilities. • Seek funding for and implement adopted Master Plans including the Foxfield Oval Reserve Building, Lochiel Park Golf Building and Recreational Areas, and Tennis Facility Concepts. • Review the Playground and Exercise Equipment Plan and continue to enhance parks and playgrounds to strengthen the quality and diversity of activity opportunities including intergenerational play and nature play. • Use Council's Design Principles to guide the development of open spaces, Master Plans and Concept Plans. • Develop and adopt the Maintenance Guidelines for Open Space as linked to hierarchy management. • Strengthen the destination value of Regional and suitable District parks with the provision of innovative play and activity opportunities in these parks. • Consider technology to capture data to assist in the development, management, activation and maintenance of open spaces (e.g. smart bins). • Prioritise open space land acquisition and redevelopment that is strategic, considers long-term financial planning and asset management and maintenance implications.

Accessible Open Spaces

Designed and managed to be well-connected, available to and usable by everyone

Where we are headed

Council will use this Focus Area to:

- Work towards eliminating barriers along access measures (including proximity, density, quality, safety and amenities) for all potential open space users to provide equitable access to open space.

Underlying principles

- Everybody should be able to access and use public open space.

- Access to quality open space is essential for playing, movement, wellbeing, nature connection and community pride.
    - As houses have changed with smaller blocks and less open space, the importance of open space continues to be even more important.
    - While much attention is given to children's play areas and youth sports, it is equally important to ensure that adults have accessible and engaging open spaces to remain healthy and active and to connect with nature.

2. Accessible Open Spaces		
#	Focus Area	Directions
2.1	Well-connected	• Improve road crossings, signage (wayfinding and destination) and landscapes to strengthen the physical and visual connection between parcels of open space, as aligned to Council's pedestrian and cycling-related strategies. • Continue the implementation of the Chain of Trails Master Plan with Morialta Parri / Fourth Creek Trail as a central spine and improvements along other creeklines and drainage areas in line with Council's Creekline Management Plans. • Improve and seek opportunities for creating shade and habitat corridors within and between parcels of open space.

	Well-connected (cont.)	• Improve connections to key conservation and nature based open space such as creeklines, Wadmore Park/Pulyonna Wirra, Black Hill Conservation Park and Morialta Conservation Park including:
		  ○ Landscape connections
		  ○ Signage to direct people to and within these areas
		  ○ Pathway networks and amenities within the natural areas that support activity
		  ○ Potential land acquisition (e.g. along creeklines) to achieve linear connections and support biodiversity corridors and walking/cycle networks
		  ○ Nature play elements to foster deeper connections with nature through interactive experiences
		  ○ Tourism-related links to the Hills Face Zone.

2.2	Available to everyone	• Improve the provision and quality of open spaces in areas where there is a gap in provision or unmet needs, including:
		  ○ Potential land acquisition where open space is lacking or inadequate in an area
		  ○ Improvements to the quality and function of existing open space to compensate for gaps
		  ○ The enhancement of parks in higher density areas.
		• Pursue partnerships with schools to increase the availability of quality playing fields and facilities in the City to meet growing Club needs and increase physical activity in the Community.
		• Develop a Sport and Recreation Strategy to guide the development, management, and promotion of sports and recreational activities in open spaces (and beyond) including:
		  ○ Existing provision and future needs analysis
		  ○ Undertake a review to examine equitable Club and group use of Council open spaces (including related built infrastructure).

2.3	Usable by everyone	• Adopt and use the Accessibility Checklist for Open Space as linked to hierarchy management. • Present major project plans and Master Plans for Regional and District open spaces to Council's Disability Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee for feedback. • Establish and maintain quality 'access for all' play spaces in Regional and suitable District recreation parks strategically located across the City, including

	Usable by everyone (cont.)	Thorndon Park, River Torrens Linear Park and The Gums Reserve.
		• Embed Age Friendly principles, for example:
		  ○ Improve the quality and accessibility of pathways in streets that link to River Torrens Linear Park and other regional and district recreation parks and sports grounds.
		  ○ Include rest stops (e.g. seating) where practical to promote 'Active Ageing' programs.
		• Embed Child and Youth Friendly principles, for example:
		  ○ Improve the quality and accessibility of pathways with strong connections to youth activity areas
		  ○ Ensure children and young people are able to play and interact with open spaces in their Community
		  ○ Design elements to ensure children can engage independently (e.g. height of water fountains)
		  ○ Engage with 'Children's Voices' as experts in their own lives and how they want to play and spend time in open spaces.
		• Consider ways to improve perceptions of safety to support increased access to open space for all genders.
		• Consider ways to promote interaction across generations within open spaces.
		• Consider installing drinking fountains in open spaces with high pedestrian traffic, at BBQ facilities, and where there are opportunities to do physical activity.
		• Support clubs and groups who lease, hire or otherwise wish to access open space for leisure pursuits.
		  ○ Work with clubs to understand, and respond to, current and future needs.
		• Promote and create different ways to experience the open spaces that Campbelltown has to offer.

Inclusive Open Spaces

Designed and managed to welcome everyone through diverse offerings where nobody feels excluded

Where we are headed

Council will use this Focus Area to:

- Design and manage open spaces that support diversity, advocate for social justice and demonstrate that Council values people of all ages, identities, abilities, cultures, sexualities, faiths and beliefs, experiences and backgrounds.

Underlying principles

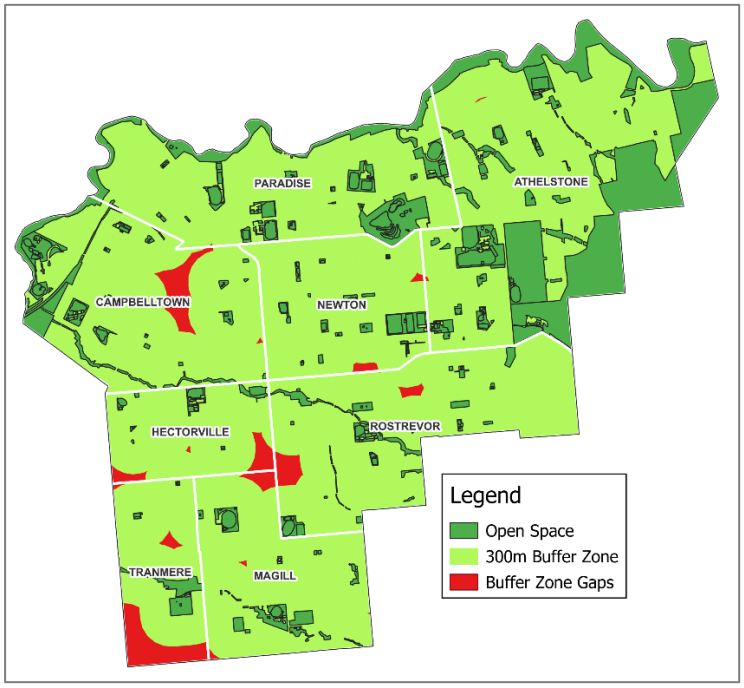
- Everybody should feel included when they visit or use a public open space.
- Open space brings people together and builds strong, connected and resilient communities. Feeling connected to place is an essential part of belonging and open spaces help facilitate this.

3. Inclusive Open Spaces		
#	Focus Area	Directions
3.1	Welcome everyone through diverse offerings	• Provide a variety of quality open spaces that collectively welcome and cater for a range of ages, abilities, identities, cultures and activities (including Club and Community use). • Provide a variety of types of open space for passive and active use including 'developed' open spaces with classic play equipment as well as 'wild' open spaces with minimal infrastructure and nature play. • Create and promote information on how and where to play locally, including for older youth and adults, including encouraging play beyond the playground.
3.2	Where everybody feels included	• Undertake a review using a social inclusion lens for action across open spaces.

	Where everybody feels included (cont.)	• Review Council's Playground and Exercise Equipment Plan with a view to provide a variety of equipment, creatively-designed spaces, nature connection and opportunities for learning and challenge. ○ Include accessibility features in line with the Accessibility Checklist for Open Space. • Use Council's Cultural Heritage Project to inform Kaurna naming of open space as appropriate, as part of Council's commitment to Reconciliation and respect to Kaurna people. • Present major project plans and Master Plans for Regional and District open spaces to Council's Reconciliation Advisory Committee for feedback. • Partner with education sites to increase visitation to the Reconciliation River Walk. • Improve and maintain facilities that support less traditional and informal activities to support minority preferences. • Promote getting moving and staying active in the outdoors for all ages, identities and cultures.

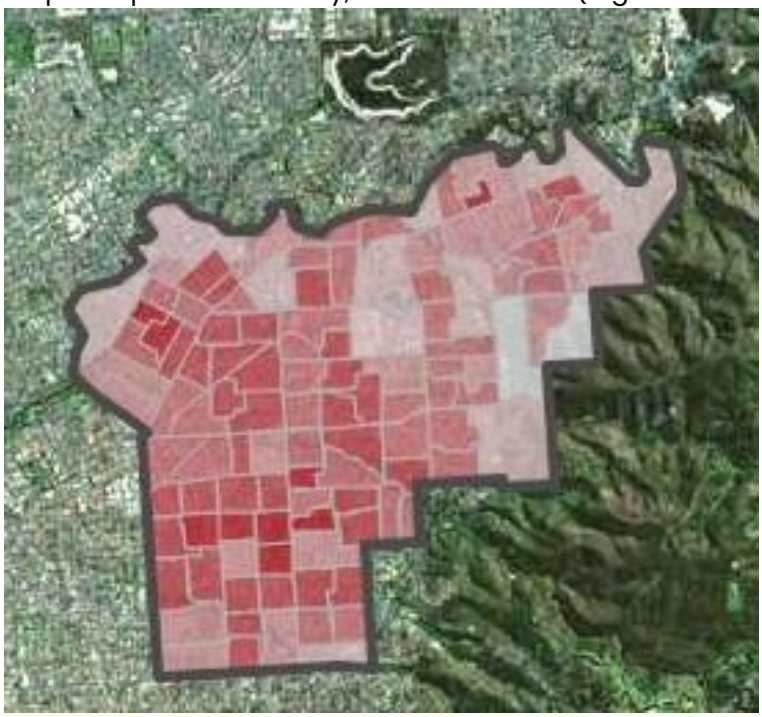
Appendix A: Gap area contributing maps

Map 1. 300m distance to open space (3-30-300 rule): buffer zone gap areas (in red).



Source: Campbelltown City Council SA, 2024.

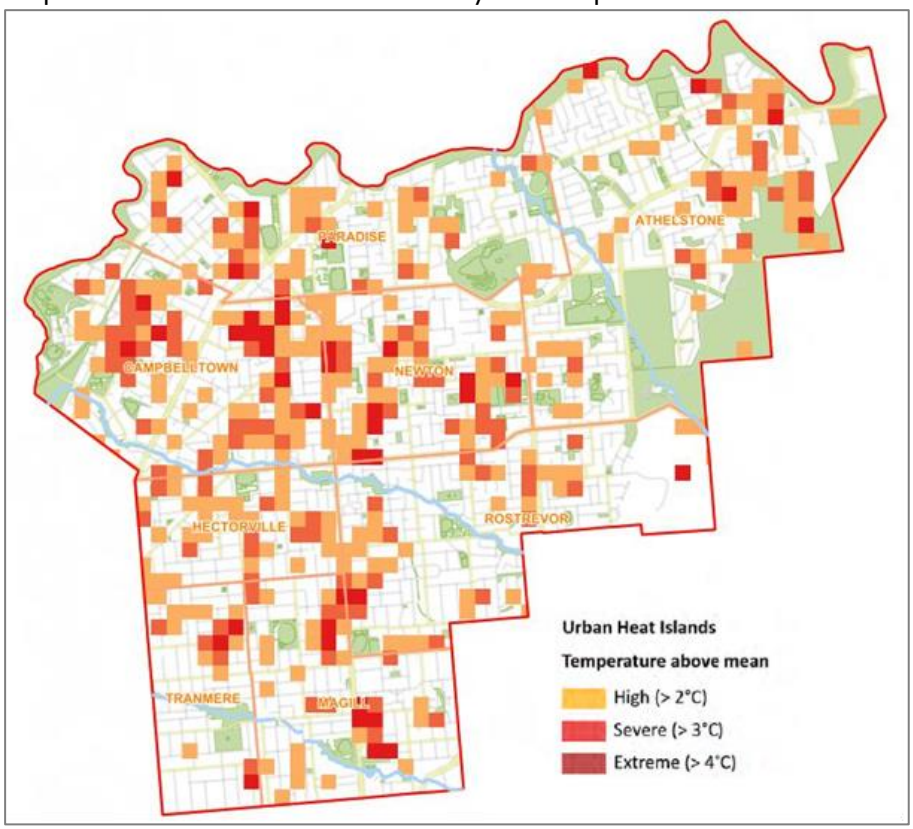
Map 2. Population density, usual residence (highest density areas are in darkest red).



Source: .id Community Demographic Resources, 2021 ABS data.

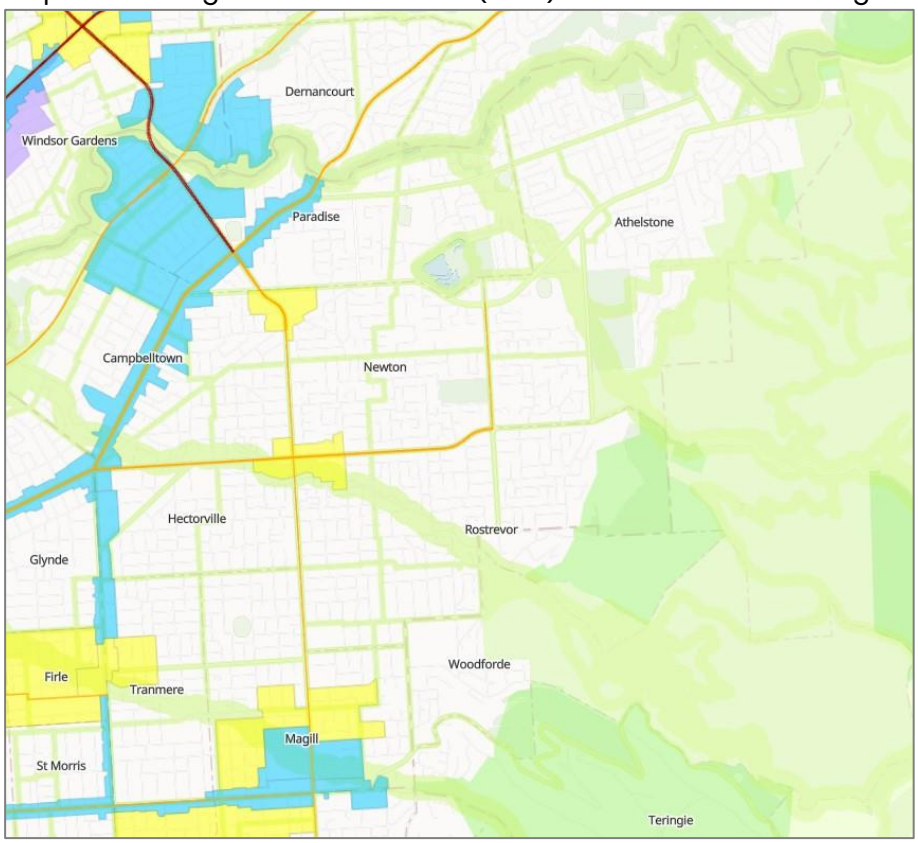
Notes: The University of South Australia's Magill Campus is currently undergoing a master planning process by Renewal SA, projected to increase population density in Magill with some 400 additional dwellings proposed. The Sensa Paradise housing development is also currently under construction in Paradise with some 130 additional residences under construction.

Map 3: Urban heat islands in the City of Campbelltown.



Source: Department for Environment and Water's Adelaide Metro Thermal 2022 Project Report.

Map 4: 'State Significant Infill Areas' (blue) and 'Local Infill Investigation Areas' (yellow).

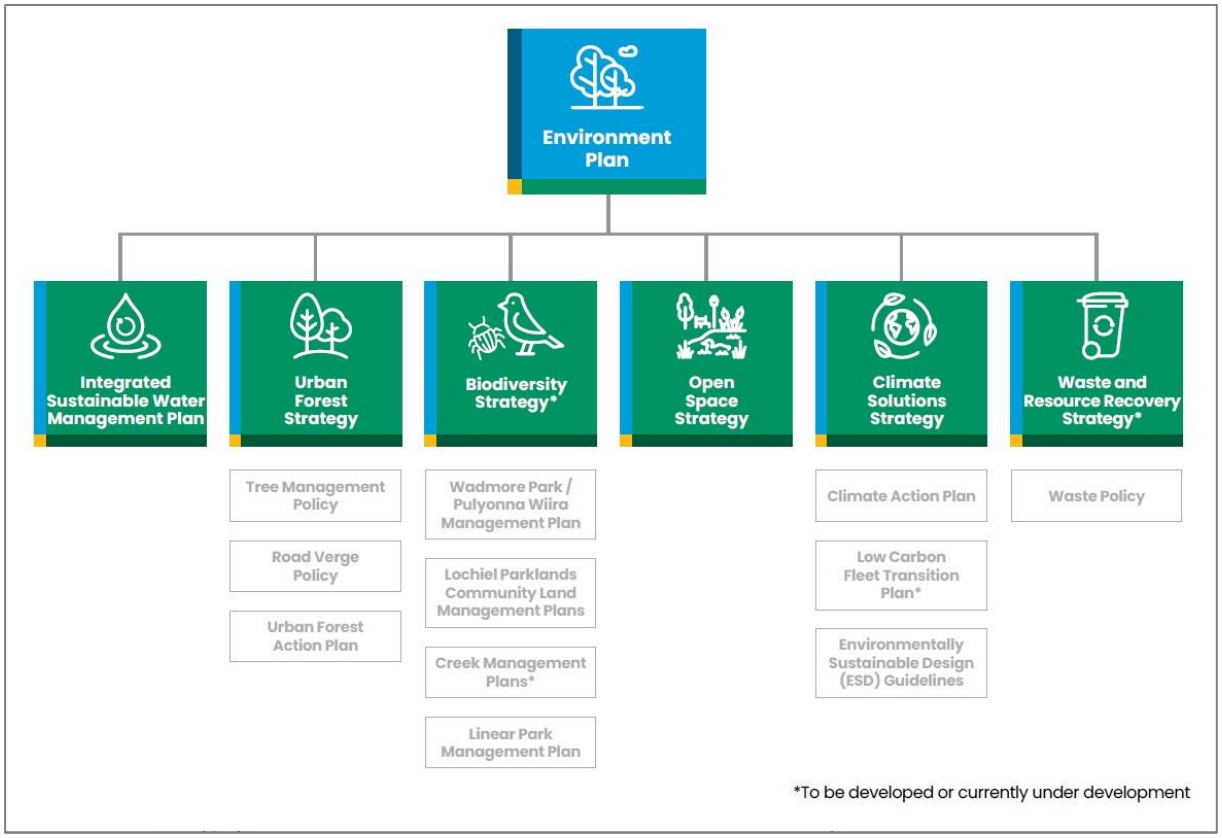


Source: South Australian Government's Greater Adelaide Regional Plan, 2025.

Appendix B: Architecture

The Open Space Strategy provides a framework to support the actions and considerations contained within our Strategic Plan and suite of accompanying Strategic Sub Plans (namely the Community Wellbeing Plan, Environment Plan, Economic Development Plan, Long Term Financial Plan and Infrastructure Asset Management Plans).

Within the portfolio of the Environment Plan, the Open Space Strategy sits alongside a series of other strategies and action plans as shown below. Some of these supporting documents have already been developed, and others will be developed over the life of the Environment Plan.



Appendix C: Glossary & Reference List

Glossary

3-30-300 rule	A framework to establish targets for urban greening and to guide the design of equitable green spaces to help ensure city-wide access to open space, focusing on: • 3 trees visible from every home (and business) • 30% overall canopy at a suburb/neighbourhood level, and • A maximum of 300m distance between every home and a green space where people can meaningfully connect with nature (generally considered to be high quality open space of at least 1ha in size).
Active Ageing	The concept that older adults are heathier and happiest when they stay active and maintain social interactions, delivering social and economic benefits for the whole Community.
Biodiversity	Variety of flora and fauna, and the ecosystems in which they live.
Biophilic design	Design principle focusing on integrating nature into the built environment to enhance human wellbeing and support biodiversity.
Children's Voices	A framework to engage and consult with children (up to 18 years of age) as experts on their own lives, recognising children as the best source of advice on matters affecting their lives.
Companion animals	Domestic animal (or pet).
Digital Detox	Avoiding the use of digital technology to reduce distractions from devices, allowing connection in person rather than through a screen.
Directions	Activities or actions proposed to be undertaken to help address Focus Areas. They do not commit Council to funding an action, but they are to guide Council on appropriate actions and priorities.
Focus Areas	Specific considerations identified to help fulfil the Vision of the Open Space Strategy.
Green infrastructure	Includes both natural and designed greening – from natural areas, parks, street trees, verges and laneways to green roofs and rain gardens that capture stormwater.
Legacy trees	Trees that have achieved near-maximum size and age, generally being significantly larger and older than the average trees in the landscape.
Mission	A statement that explains Council's purpose and guides decision making and direction.

Nature deficit disorder	The concept that a lack of exposure to nature can lead to behavioural, emotional and health issues, highlighting the negative effects of reduced outdoor experiences.
Open space	Open space refers to all Community Land as defined in the Local Government Act 1999 including sportsgrounds, recreation parks, creek lines, natural and biodiversity areas, drainage areas and streetscapes.
Smart sensors	Sensors or devices with microprocessors to sense, detect and measure various parameters in the physical environment.
Sustainability	Planning and providing for the needs of current and future generations, creating resilient and prosperous communities and protecting the environment and ecosystem services.
Vision	An achievable future state we wish to achieve in the longer term.

Reference List

- ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics)
- Council's Accessibility Guidelines and Accessibility Checklists
- Council's Open Space Hierarchy and Facilities Guide
- Council's Environment Plan 2028
- Council's Strategic Plan 2028
- Council's adopted Strategic Sub-Plans, Master Plans, Strategies and Policies
- Design principles and guidelines (including Active Design; Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design; Universal Design; 3-30-300 rule: How much green do we need?; Safer Parks: Improving Access for Women and Girls)
- Green Adelaide's Metro Urban Greening Strategy: A resilient and liveable Adelaide for all 2025-2030
- Green Flag Award planning guidelines
- idCommunity (Profile ID)
- Place Score online resources
- State Government Department for Environment and Water's Adelaide Metro Thermal 2022 Project Report
- State Government Greater Adelaide Regional Plan, 2025
- State Government planning guidelines