

CAMPBELLTOWN OPEN SPACE STRATEGIC PLAN



MARCH 2018

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INTRODUCTION

Background

Campbelltown is a regional city centre with significant future projected growth pressures anticipated for the region. The population is set to reach an estimated total population in excess of 350,000 by 2036. This includes the more than 18,000 new dwellings proposed in the Menangle Park and Mt Gilead planning precincts of the Greater Macarthur Urban Release Area, a number of other new land release areas, as well as urban renewal and infill development of the existing urban area. This increase in the projected population will require additional provision of Open Space.

The existing Open Space areas in the Local Government Area (LGA) have been developed progressively over many decades, with each wave of development in response to the prevailing context of the times. The Open Space needs of the existing population have continued to develop over recent decades and will continue to do so in the years ahead.

These challenges necessitate that Campbelltown City Council provides quality Open Space areas, settings and facilities in existing areas, as well as new release areas, to enhance the landscape character, provide for community recreation and protect biodiversity conservation and heritage values. It is essential that an appropriate level and mix of Open Space types is provided for the future, together with appropriate management models. To this end, Council is currently undertaking a review of its existing Open Space and preparing an Open Space Plan.

What is Open Space?

Public Open Space is land in public ownership that is used primarily for the purposes of recreation and/or environmental conservation. It includes all the land zoned RE1 Open Space Recreation on the Campbelltown LEP 2015. Public Open Space also includes public land zoned E2 Environmental Conservation and can also include lands zoned for special purposes (drainage reserves, road reserves and utility corridors), open space around community facilities, public urban spaces and road verges and nature strips.

Why do we need an Open Space Plan?

The Open Space Plan is a high level strategic document that assists in developing an integrated and balanced response to the demands of existing and future Public Open Space needs in the Campbelltown LGA, in order to best meet the needs of the community now and into the future.

The Plan aims to establish a framework and set of guiding principles to assist with the forward planning of the long term provision, development and management of Public Open Space to the year 2036.

The objectives of the Open Space Plan are to:

1. Review the existing Public Open Space in terms of its function and distribution
2. Develop a set of guiding principles for the integrated management of Public Open Space
3. Develop an action plan / an implementation strategy for the management of Public Open Space

Legislation and strategic context

- Local Government Act 1993 – Section 36 core objectives for community land
- Campbelltown LEP 2015 – objectives for Zone RE1 Public Recreation
- Campbelltown Community Strategic Plan 2013-2023 – community vision statement - “a connected community with opportunities to grow in a safe, sustainable environment”
- A Plan for Growing Sydney, Greater Macarthur Urban Land Release Investigation, Glenfield-Macarthur Priority Urban Renewal Corridor Strategy, District Plans of Greater Sydney Commission, (in preparation).

Council is developing a suite of plans and strategies to guide future direction, including the Playspaces and Sport and Recreation Strategies and the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, to form a planning framework for Open Space.

Local context – place, people

Campbelltown LGA is situated around 50 kilometres south west of the Sydney Central Business District (CBD) and covers an area of 312 km². Around 120 km² (or 38% of the LGA) is located within the Holsworthy Army Reserve, the Woronora Catchment Area and Dharawal National Park and State Conservation Area in the eastern part of the LGA.

Campbelltown LGA is dominated by a north-south alignment of natural and built features - the Scenic Hills, the Main Southern Railway, the M31 Hume Motorway and the Georges River. These features have provided the structure for a linear urban area nestled within a distinctive non-urban backdrop.

The area is characterised by four distinct landscape elements:

- A central urbanised valley set in a valley ringed by hills, dominated by its lower north-south ridges and Bunbury Curran and Bow Bowing Creeks system. It includes large areas of Open Space, including Smiths Creek and Kanbyugal Reserves.

- The Scenic Hills is a strong, undulating and highly scenic, largely open grazing landscape dotted with patches of remnant Cumberland Plain Woodland, natural water courses and some unique built heritage items and cultural landscape settings. The Scenic Hills embrace a major and several minor ridges from Denham Court to Mount Annan and provide a clear physical separation from the adjoining Camden and Liverpool LGAs.
- The Georges River Landscape and the East Edge Scenic Protection Lands are associated with the Georges River and significant sandstone bushland vegetation communities. The land adjacent to the Georges River from Glenfield south to St Helens Park, together with vegetated corridors joining the river and its tributaries, was identified in the 1970s as Regional Open Space, and the majority of this was then acquired by the NSW Government for conservation purposes. Georges River Corridor is home to a number of endangered and critically endangered ecological communities and numerous threatened and vulnerable species.
- Gently undulating open grazing landscapes of Mt Gilead and Menangle Park are to the south of Mt Sugarloaf are interspersed with bushland areas, including Noorumba Reserve and Beulah Forest to the south and the bushland gullies of Wedderburn to the east. Mt Gilead and Menangle Park will be developed as part of the Macarthur South Urban Growth Area.

Campbelltown was planned in the early 1960s as a compact satellite city contained within clearly defined edges, with a high priority placed on the protection of the historic, scenic and environmental qualities of the setting between the Scenic Hills and East Edge Protection Lands. In the 1970s, Campbelltown developed more rapidly after it became a growth corridor in the planned urban expansion of Metropolitan Sydney.

Campbelltown LGA now comprises 38 diverse suburbs and localities, home to a population of more than 155,000 people. Residents live in a range of housing types, from low density to medium density and limited high rise residential apartments in the suburbs and town centres. There is more dispersed housing in the rural-residential areas surrounding the suburbs and a small number of people reside on rural holdings.

In 2011, residents of Campbelltown were younger than the NSW average, with more very young children and fewer people over 65. However, overall the population is aging due to the high proportion of residents of the baby boomer generation. The LGA has a higher proportion of social housing and a lower Socio-Economic Index of Disadvantage (SEIFA) compared to the rest of NSW.

Campbelltown is becoming an increasingly culturally and linguistically diverse community. The number of Australian-born individuals within the area has

decreased with overseas-born individuals increasing in number, creating a more diverse and linguistically varied community than previously seen before.

Campbelltown is a significant centre for the Macarthur region, providing a broad range of high quality services and facilities, including a major regional hospital, Western Sydney University, two TAFE colleges, a regional arts centre, Campbelltown Sports Stadium, public transport, large shopping centres and a growing commercial and industrial sector.

The central urbanised valley of Campbelltown LGA is considered to be well supplied with public land zoned for passive and active recreation under the care, control and management of Council. Recreational facilities are dispersed throughout the LGA, including playing fields, sports courts, swimming pools, skate parks, playgrounds, and barbecue and picnic areas.

Campbelltown's location between the Nepean and Georges Rivers and the large areas of bushland along the Georges River regional corridor provide many opportunities for residents and visitors to connect with nature.

Residents have good access to the wider Sydney Metropolitan area while valuing the natural environment around Campbelltown. This is reflected in the vision of Campbelltown City Council – *“a City of choice and opportunity in a natural environment.”*

Open Space Trends

- With smaller backyards and higher density living, activities that once took place in private backyards now are taking place more in the public realm, including children's play, dog exercise, barbecues and entertainment, green space, large shade trees, space for contemplation and relaxation
- Increased awareness of and interest in protecting the local environment, improving sustainability
- Concerns about loss of biodiversity, trees and wildlife, as a result of fragmentation of habitat, increased urbanisation and new developments
- Concerns about declining levels of physical activity and the health and social implications of this
- Concerns about loss of connection with the natural world (nature deficit disorder)
- Play spaces as areas for the whole family, evenly distributed to ensure access for all and promotion of nature play to encourage learning and development
- Increase in walking for recreation and fitness, growth in cycling for recreation, mountain bikes, road bikes, with increasing demand for safe, accessible well connected walk/cycle paths.





- Adopted Strategies
- Strategies in Draft
- Strategies/Plans to be developed

OPEN SPACE VALUES, VISION AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Open Space Values

- Landscape character – the combination of city opportunities in a natural setting, with predominance of the green landscape perpetuating the green city image, highly valued as a community, visual and recreational asset
- Recreational opportunities – an extensive network of connected open space offering a wide range of recreational opportunities to encourage the health and wellbeing of the community, with trees that help define the character and identity of the neighbourhoods, providing scale, shade and encouraging people to walk and use the parks
- Biodiversity values – the contributions that biodiversity, natural resources and natural environmental features make to the quality of life, with plenty of opportunities to get close to nature, and environmental assets like the rivers and bushland that are critical to the LGA's sustainability
- Natural and cultural heritage – its Aboriginal heritage, the rich historical heritage from the early colonial period to more recent times, and the aesthetic and natural values of the bushland and river
- Community asset – the contribution Open Space makes to social cohesion and community engagement.

Open Space Vision

A well-developed Open Space network that conserves and reflects the landscape character and biodiversity of Campbelltown, offers a diversity of high quality recreational opportunities and experiences for all, builds on the rich natural and cultural heritage and is celebrated as a highly valued community asset contributing to the distinctive character and liveability of the contemporary Campbelltown City.

This vision is consistent with Council's community vision statement of "a *connected community with opportunities to grow in a safe, sustainable environment*".

Open Space Guiding Principles

There are four focus areas covering 14 guiding principles as part of this Plan:

1 Strengthening the existing Open Space network: connected, functional, accessible, sustainable

- 1.1 Campbelltown's Open Space areas are part of an integrated and connected network.
- 1.2 Campbelltown's Open Space areas are of an appropriate size, shape and slope and many areas can be adapted to support a range of activities experiences and settings.
- 1.3 Campbelltown's Open Space is accessible and safe, visually appealing and easy to interpret.
- 1.4 Campbelltown's Open Space is managed sustainably to maximise the protection of the local environmental values.

2 Managing the existing Open Space network: integrated, predictive, proactive

- 2.1 The management of Campbelltown's Open Space is well coordinated.
- 2.2 Upgrades and improvements to Campbelltown's Open Space are based on well-developed policies, plans and strategies.
- 2.3 Council takes the initiative in ensuring that Open Space is actively managed and well maintained, with clear procedures and protocols.

3 Preparing for future Open Space: planning, responding, funding, anticipation

- 3.1 Council develops the appropriate plans and strategies for future Open Space.
- 3.2 Council proactively responds to external plans and submissions that will directly or indirectly affect Open Space.
- 3.3 Council is able to fund the existing and proposed Open Space to meet the community needs.
- 3.4 Council will prepare for the future and develop Open Space concepts to help drive that future.

4 Involving the community in Open Space: communication, education, participation

- 4.1 Information on Campbelltown's Open Space is readily available and conveyed to the community.
- 4.2 Council actively works with the community to raise awareness and understanding of issues related to Open Space.
- 4.3 The Campbelltown community is encouraged to be involved in the management of the existing Open Space and planning for future Open Space.

FOCUS AREA 1 STRENGTHENING THE EXISTING OPEN SPACE NETWORK

1a Overview – values and key issues

The existing Open Space is highly valued by the community for sport and recreation, play and other activities and as space for nature. It has been developed progressively in a piecemeal manner. Land has been acquired by Council through various means, including developer contributions. Some Open Space is riparian land developed for recreation or remnant native vegetation for biodiversity conservation offsets. Distribution of Open Space is variable. Some suburbs have Open Space areas with well-connected corridors along creek lines or ridge tops, but other suburbs have discrete and separate Open Space areas that do not easily form a network. In some suburbs, the Open Space is made up of many small parcels of land, which lack flexibility. There are numerous parks that do not have good passive surveillance from streets. In most cases, embellishments have been done one by one, rather than as part of an overall plan. There are various inconsistencies of Open Space zoning, ownership and management. There is a need to consolidate and better define existing Open Spaces to ensure a focus on the opportunity provided by these spaces.

1b Guiding principles

Connected – Campbelltown’s Open Space areas are part of an integrated and connected network.

Functional – Campbelltown’s Open Space areas are of an appropriate size, shape and slope and many areas can be adapted to support a range of activities, experiences and settings.

Accessible – Campbelltown’s Open Space is accessible and safe, visually appealing and easy to interpret.

Sustainable – Campbelltown’s Open Space is managed sustainably to maximise the protection of the local environmental values.

1c Actions

1.1 Connected – Campbelltown’s Open Space areas are part of an integrated and connected network.

	Responsibility	Priority	Links with other Plans/Strategies
1. Adopt this Open Space Plan as the overarching strategy in a policy framework that includes the Playspaces and Sport and Recreation Strategies and Biodiversity Conservation Strategy.	Council	Essential	Community Strategic Plan
2. Develop and promote a network of high quality local, neighbourhood and district Open Space, so that there is a well distributed network of district parks and reserves and most residents live within 400 m of a local park and within 1 km of a neighbourhood park.	City Delivery	Important	Parks & Reserves Strategy
3. Enhance or establish the local character of Open Space, in partnership with the community, building on the sense of place to provide a diversity of facilities and settings.	City Delivery	Important	Parks & Reserves Strategy
4. Recognise that connectivity is extremely important to the utilisation of parks and reserves and increases the activity and length of time spent in the park.	City Delivery	Beneficial	Parks & Reserves Strategy
5. Highlight the importance of view corridors and vantage points as place makers. Ensure that these remain accessible to the community as Open Space or are incorporated into the streetscape design.	City Delivery; City Growth	Important	Open Space Strategy
6. Encourage people to use the existing natural connections linking Open Space areas along the creeks and across the ridge lines (eg, the linked Open Space areas through Leumeah). Use signage on site to direct people and include site specific information on the website.	City Delivery	Important	Open Space Strategy
7. Strengthen walking and cycling connections, current or future, between Open Spaces to capitalise on the natural assets. Improve connections between smaller Open Space areas to increase community opportunities to use these for local recreation.	City Delivery	Essential	Bicycle Plan, Footpath Plan
8. Promote ecological corridors, green links and connections along creeks linking Open Space areas. Investigate opportunities for accessible paths and boardwalks in bushland reserves.	City Delivery	Essential	Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, Destination Management Plan

9. Provide high quality civic spaces to form better links to, and between, existing Open Spaces, creating welcoming and pleasant spaces.	City Delivery; City Growth	Essential	CBD Structure Plans, Open Space Strategy
10. Use park signage as a way of highlighting connections. Continue to develop a LGA signage strategy, including Open Space signage.	City Delivery	Beneficial	Signage Strategy

1.2 Functional – Campbelltown’s Open Space areas are of an appropriate size, shape and slope and many areas can be adapted to support a range of activities, experiences and settings.

	Responsibility	Priority	Links with other Plans/Strategies
1. Ensure that the Open Space is able to function now and into the future, based on the physical attributes of each parcel, including size, shape and slope.	City Delivery	Essential	Open Space Strategy
2. Ensure that a range of Open Space opportunities are provided for the community, catering for both active and passive recreation and offering areas that are adaptable as the population changes.	City Delivery	Essential	Open Space Strategy
3. Ensure that the distribution of Open Space throughout the LGA provides a diversity of experience, rather than a concentration of activities, facilities and settings in specific locations.	City Delivery	Essential	Parks & Reserves Strategy
4. Prioritise connectivity and functionality as key aspects before planning any park embellishment.	City Delivery	Important	Parks & Reserves Strategy
5. Undertake embellishments at a level appropriate for the designated hierarchy to meet the needs of the current community. Enhance the importance of district parks through suitable embellishments adding new activities. Do not over-embellish small isolated parks.	City Delivery	Essential	Parks & Reserves Strategy
6. Create nodes of activity in local and neighbourhood parks by grouping together, in accessible locations within each park, those facilities that require high levels of maintenance.	City Delivery	Beneficial	Parks & Reserves Strategy
7. Ensure that embellishments are flexible and adaptive so future needs can be accommodated.	City Delivery	Beneficial	Parks & Reserves Strategy
8. Designate suitable areas of Open Space, preferably within Campbelltown CBD, as multi-functional event space to be used for community and major cultural events. Investigate the possibility of Hurley Park, Centenary Park and/or Campbelltown Showground for this purpose.	City Delivery City Lifestyle	Essential	Destination Management Plan, Sports & Recreation Strategy
9. Continue to liaise with local schools regarding shared usage of playing fields and other opportunities.	City Lifestyle	Beneficial	Sports & Recreation Strategy
10. Consider opportunities for multiple uses (eg, stormwater infrastructure in parks) where the recreational values of the land will not be restricted. Take into account negative impacts that can result, including the effects of periodic flooding on playing surfaces and the need for accrued field top dressing and storm sediments to be removed periodically to restore flood water storage volumes in detention basins. Fenced stormwater detention basins in Open Space should be rezoned as Infrastructure.	City Delivery	Beneficial	Floodplain Risk Management Plan
11. Review any landlocked or small and isolated Open Space as part of any proposal for urban renewal. Investigate potential for that Open Space to be reconfigured to activate the street frontages, improve access and natural surveillance and enhance neighbourhood landscape character.	City Delivery; City Growth	Essential	Open Space Land Review

12. Identify small spaces zoned RE1 that do not serve any recreational, conservation or landscape function, but are only residual open spaces left over for Council to manage, and zone these to the surrounding land use and classify as operational land for possible future disposal.

City Delivery;
City Growth;
City Governance

Beneficial

Open Space Land Review

13. Identify those larger areas zoned RE1 that are not currently functioning well as Open Space and assess them against specified criteria to clarify those individual sites that should then be subject to a further, more detailed review regarding future use.

City Delivery;
City Governance

Important

Open Space Land Review

1.3 Accessible – Campbelltown’s Open Space is accessible and safe, visually appealing and easy to interpret.

Responsibility

Priority

Links with other Plans/Strategies

1. Incorporate Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) considerations into all Open Space designs, management and maintenance (eg, through the provision of way finding elements to build the perception of public safety).

City Delivery;
City Lifestyle

Essential

Parks & Reserves Strategy

2. Acknowledge that activity in Open Space provides the best passive surveillance and deterrent to anti-social behaviour. Work towards improving use of Open Space areas through design upgrades and other measures to help encourage more women and the elderly in particular to use the parks. Incorporate way finding elements into the Renew-Connect-Revitalise City-wide Improvement Program.

City Delivery;
City Lifestyle

Essential

Parks & Reserves Strategy,
Crime Prevention Plan

3. Provide quality playspaces for all ages, not only children and young people.

City Delivery

Important

Playspaces Strategy

4. Increase opportunities for young people to access sporting and recreational activities. Provide places for youth to recreate and socialise near safe and affordable public transport.

City Delivery;
City Lifestyle

Essential

Youth Strategy,
Park & Reserves Strategy

5. Provide active and passive recreational facilities and activities to encourage healthy lifestyles, including for older people. Integrate walking connections with facilities including resting places through local streets to encourage easy exercise as part of everyday life. Encourage more participation in active sport through facilities upgrades.

City Delivery;
City Lifestyle

Essential

Aging Strategy,
Parks & Reserves Strategy

6. Enhance the local centres with pedestrian friendly streets, new trees, inviting civic spaces and attractive street furniture. Develop the public domain as the community focus through public art, playspaces, community events and so on.

City Delivery;
City Growth

Essential

Glenfield to Macarthur
Planning Strategy

7. Investigate opportunities to improve all abilities access into some Open Space areas, through accessible pathways and park furniture. Investigate options for continuous paths of travel, all abilities play areas and other park facilities.

City Delivery;
City Lifestyle

Important

Parks & Reserves Strategy,
Playspaces Strategy

8. Ensure that new neighbourhood and district parks and reserves are designed to include cycleway connections, bike racks and other cycling facilities, and sufficient car parking for the facilities provided.

City Delivery

Beneficial

Parks & Reserves Strategy

1.4 Sustainable – Campbelltown’s Open Space is managed sustainably to maximise the protection of the local environmental values.

	Responsibility	Priority	Links with other Plans/Strategies
1. Acknowledge that the natural values and nature activities in Open Space are as equally important as social and recreational activities. Recognise the fundamental relationship between the natural environment and recreational activities and the importance of managing activity and facility development, as well as careful management of the environment.	City Delivery; City Lifestyle	Essential	Biodiversity Conservation Strategy
2. Encourage sustainable use of Open Space, compatible with the capacity of the site. Ensure that the functionality of the site is considered in conjunction with the environmental values and undertake steps necessary to protect those values, including managing adverse impacts, constraining use or restricting access to sensitive sites.	City Delivery	Essential	Parks & Reserves Strategy
3. Highlight the important role of wildlife corridors and the small remnants of the endangered ecological communities of Cumberland Plain Woodland and Shale Sandstone Transition Forest in the urbanised valley. Incorporate these natural assets into the ongoing park maintenance and in any park upgrade or embellishment.	City Delivery	Important	Biodiversity Conservation Strategy
4. Highlight the importance of Open Space in managing the impacts of climate change, the urban heat island effect, total water cycle management and other environmental issues (eg, to implement recommendations of the Climate Change Risk Assessment Adaptation Report and the Cool Cities Initiative).	City Delivery; City Development	Beneficial	Sustainability Strategy
5. Consider the financial dimension to sustainable management and the high maintenance costs for some types of Open Space. Create an overarching landscape structure through low maintenance landscapes that increases the visual amenity, identity and economic performance of Open Space.	City Delivery	Important	Open Space Strategy

FOCUS AREA 2 MANAGING THE EXISTING OPEN SPACE NETWORK

2a Overview – values and key issues

There are limited funds for operational maintenance and capital improvements of the existing Open Space. As more Open Space land is acquired, further pressure is placed on these limited funds. A significant proportion of these funds is spent cutting grass in underutilised Open Space. The existing maintenance regimes need to be reviewed. There is the need for a more focussed and coordinated approach to managing the open space, clearly describing how the Open Space is to be managed, based on a clear vision for each park and reserve, how this can be done and how it will be funded. More detailed planning is required and some of this is now underway, but gaps have been identified that must be addressed.

2b Guiding principles

Integrated - The management of Campbelltown’s Open Space is well coordinated.

Predictive - Upgrades and improvements to Campbelltown’s Open Space are based on well-developed policies, plans and strategies.

Proactive - Council takes the initiative in ensuring that Open Space is actively managed and well maintained, with clear procedures and protocols.

2c Actions

2.1 Integrated – The management of Campbelltown’s Open Space is well coordinated.	Responsibility	Priority	Links with other Plans/Strategies
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1. Manage Open Space in an integrated way, considering all aspects of landscape character, recreational opportunities, environmental conservation, natural and cultural heritage significance and community expectations.	City Delivery	Essential	Open Space Strategy
2. Ensure that there is good integration of objectives and actions regarding Open Space matters across all relevant Council strategies, plans and policies.	City Delivery; All	Essential	Community Strategic Plan
3. Base all decisions on Open Space embellishments on a systematic whole-of-park approach using a more prescriptive and predictive process, rather than in reaction to short term community issues and demands. Use strategies such as the Playspaces Strategy, Sport and Recreation Strategy and the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy as the basis for these plans.	City Delivery	Important	Parks & Reserves Strategy, Playspaces Strategy, Sport & Recreation Strategy, Biodiversity Conservation Strategy
4. Identify the Open Space with a primary objective for biodiversity conservation. Consider rezoning some of the bushland reserves as E2 Environmental Conservation to reflect this primary objective.	City Delivery; City Growth; City Development	Beneficial	Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, Open Space Land Review
5. Review CLEP 2015 zoning for all Public Open Space. Ensure that newly landscaped Public Open Space areas in urban renewal areas (eg, new parks in Minto) are zoned RE1 and classified as community land.	City Delivery; City Growth	Beneficial	Open Space Land Review
6. Use the Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan to identify drainage areas which may be suitable for large scale landscape treatments including revegetation with riparian species (eg, Eagle Creek Reserve, Eschol Park).	City Delivery	Beneficial	Floodplain Risk Management Plan, Biodiversity Conservation Strategy

7. Investigate the Biobanking potential of Council's Open Space areas to contribute to Strategy enhanced and funded local biodiversity conservation. Integrate Biobanking areas into the Open Space network to ensure that these areas are valued by the community.
8. Review the internal organisational structure to provide for a fully integrated Open Space approach to all parks and reserves, to co-ordinate planning and budgeting, capital works, asset management, land management and maintenance, community consultation and involvement, monitoring and reporting.
9. Develop and maintain strong links between all relevant staff to assist with the coordinated management of Open Space and to facilitate exchange of ideas.

City Delivery;
City
Development

Beneficial

Biodiversity Conservation

City Delivery;
All

Essential

Open Space Strategy

City Delivery;
All

Essential

Open Space Strategy

2.2 Predictive – Upgrades and improvements to Campbelltown's Open Spaces are based on well-developed policies, plans and strategies.

1. Prepare an integrated Open Space Map and Data Base which provides details of the location, type and condition of all Open Space in the LGA.
2. Develop a forward plan for the progressive embellishment of district and neighbourhood parks.
3. Develop landscape concept plans for Public Open Space as the first step in any Renew-Connect-Revitalise Program asset upgrade, taking into consideration landscape character, recreational, biodiversity conservation and heritage values. Ensure that all works are designed, planned and implemented in an integrated manner, including planting, seating, paths, signage and fencing.
4. Continue to prepare Plans of Management for the major bushland reserves. Update the generic plans of management for all community lands zoned RE1.
5. Develop a suite of landscape master plans for significant Open Space areas (eg, Victoria and Kayess Parks, Minto) with a consistent format for ease of use.
6. Prepare landscape master plans and concept plans for town centre parks, as part of any urban renewal program.
7. Ensure that Campbelltown LGA is well provided with district and regional sporting facilities as identified in the Sports and Recreation Strategy.
8. Develop a Campbelltown policy and plan for dogs off-leash exercise areas within Open Space.
9. Develop a Campbelltown policy and plan for outdoor fitness equipment and sports practice areas within Open Space.

Responsibility

Timeline

Links with other Plans/Strategies

City Delivery

Beneficial

Open Space Strategy

City Delivery

Essential

Parks & Reserves Strategy, Sports & Recreation Strategy, Playspaces Strategy

City Delivery

Important

Parks & Reserves Strategy, Asset Management Plan & Strategy

City Delivery

Important

Parks & Reserves Strategy

City Delivery

Important

Parks & Reserves Strategy

City Delivery;
City Growth

Important

Parks & Reserves Strategy

City Delivery;
City Lifestyle

Essential

Sports & Recreation Strategy

City Delivery

Beneficial

Parks & Reserves Strategy

City Delivery

Beneficial

Parks & Reserves Strategy

10. Ensure that Open Space planning incorporates the recommendations/actions contained within Council's adopted Public Art Strategy. Include the planning and design of art and culture within Open Space to encourage social interactions.
11. Review and update the Walking Tracks Concept Plans adopted in March 2004. Develop a Walking Trails Plan. Utilise the existing fire trails linking local reserves and public recreation areas with the scenic natural areas along the Georges River south from The Basin.
12. Review all policies relevant to Open Space, identify policy gaps and develop new policies that would assist in the management of the Open Space (eg, filtering in bushland; access through parks and reserves to neighbouring properties, memorials in parks and reserves).
13. Adopt the Draft Roadside Vegetation Policy and Plan. Implement the associated management action plan, incorporate the best practice measures into Council's works procedures, and use the checklist prior to any works being done within the identified road reserves.
14. Develop an Urban Tree Strategy including guidelines for planning for tree retention and replanting on infrastructure upgrades. Identify priorities for tree planting, including "hot spot" areas for canopy tree planting, locations for street tree planting to create shady links and other green infrastructure.
15. Establish protocols to ensure street tree planting is of appropriate species and installed in a way to minimise adverse impacts on surrounding infrastructure and that new street and park tree planting takes into account district views (eg, across to the Scenic Hills and East Edge Scenic Lands).
16. Review and update plant species lists including the Street Tree Technical Guidelines and Preferred Species List and Sustainable Planting Policy July 2014.
17. Update the Asset Management System regularly and include more detailed descriptions of open space assets. Use agreed and consistent terms and definitions for Open Space hierarchies, functions and landscape character. Investigate including natural assets in the asset management system, incorporating ecological data as well as infrastructure data for Open Space areas.

City Delivery; City Lifestyle Beneficial

Public Art Strategy

City Delivery Beneficial

Walking Trails Plan, Destination Management Plan

City Delivery Important

Biodiversity Conservation Strategy

City Delivery Important

Roadside Vegetation Plan

City Delivery Essential

Urban Tree Strategy

City Delivery Important

Urban Tree Strategy, Visual Analysis Study

City Delivery Beneficial

Urban Tree Strategy

City Delivery Beneficial

Asset Management Plan & Strategy, Biodiversity Conservation Strategy

2.3 Proactive - Council takes the initiative in ensuring that Open Space is actively managed and well maintained, with clear procedures and protocols.

Responsibility Priority

Links with other Plans/Strategies

1. Undertake a detailed and thorough review of the maintenance regimes and budgets for all Open Space areas.

City Delivery Essential

Open Space Strategy

2. Develop and maintain service standards for the maintenance of all Open Space areas.

City Delivery Essential

Open Space Strategy

3. Establish separate budget accounts to provide for more specific maintenance costs for each type of Open Space, including state road verges, local road verges and residual open spaces, parks, sportsgrounds, bushland reserves, and so on.
4. Investigate a broad range of options to reduce maintenance costs on under utilised areas. Reinvest any savings from reduced open space maintenance costs towards other works within Open Space (eg, upgrades to parks and reserves close to town centres, bush regeneration works within the urbanised valley and new parks and reserves as they are handed over to Council) and maintenance for newly established areas.
5. Review maintenance regimes and budgets for high costs areas including city centre parks, road medians and entry gardens. Balance the evaluation of the high cost of maintenance of these areas with the desire to maintain the green image of the LGA. Consider alternative treatments where feasible.
6. Manage the seasonal staffing demands for sportsground maintenance and grass cutting. Consider flexible working arrangements including longer summer work hours, seasonal casual staff, time off in winter, winter works program focusing on landscape maintenance tasks.
7. Reduce the areas and frequency of mowing in some specific locations (eg, surrounds around Bob Prenter Oval, Macquarie Fields, and Quirk Reserve, Bradbury). Look for opportunities away from residential properties for differential mowing regimes, no-mow areas or tree, shrub and ground cover planting to reduce areas that require frequent mowing. Use biodiversity mapping and on-ground investigations to identify potential areas for no-mow treatments. Trial various treatments to encourage growth of local grasses and ground covers that require reduced maintenance.
8. Continue to provide joint summer and winter playing facilities, and work with the clubs and associations to ensure that there is sufficient down time between seasons for ground changeover and maintenance. Manage bookings at the end of season to allow for ground access by Council's Operations Staff to carry out routine maintenance at season changeover. Keep at least two weeks free of sports bookings at season change over. Get club and association boards to support this in the interests of improved ground conditions for the competition seasons.
9. Investigate capacity constraints for popular and rapidly growing sports (eg, soccer) particularly around the provision of competition and training facilities. Organise greater shared use of facilities between sporting codes.
10. Investigate the condition of some playing fields on flood prone land, which have sufficient space but not the required quality, lacking irrigation and drainage, floodlights that do not comply with relevant Australian Standards, lack supporting facilities and other shortfalls, and work towards plans for improvements, including funding options.

City Delivery	Beneficial
City Delivery	Important
City Delivery	Important
City Delivery	Beneficial
City Delivery	Important
City Lifestyle; City Delivery	Essential
City Lifestyle	Beneficial
City Delivery; City Lifestyle	Beneficial

Open Space Strategy
Biodiversity Conservation Strategy
Sports & Recreation Strategy
Sports & Recreation Strategy
Sports & Recreation Strategy

11. Upgrade facilities at sporting grounds to cater for spectators as well as players as funds become available (eg, small play areas, more shaded seating).
12. Continue to respond rapidly to damage from graffiti and other vandalism. Look to design out safety and security concerns with better lighting, fencing, signage, CCTV and so on.
13. Investigate the potential for other active recreation activities (eg, mountain bike track, at Kanbyugal Reserve, Woodbine). Investigate potential sources of funding for this.
14. Continue with the practice of protecting and preserving those bushland areas in good condition as priority over restoring or enhancing those in poorer condition. Ensure that the rationale for prioritising work areas is based on biodiversity values and strategic importance and is well communicated.
15. Investigate options for funding for more bush regeneration works other than noxious weed control and bush fire hazard reduction, including providing seed funding for grant funding applications. Investigate having a dedicated bush regeneration team to undertake on-ground works in the bushland reserves, including hazard reduction works, and help develop volunteer networks.
16. Investigate the regeneration potential for bushland areas first before undertaking any revegetation planting. Establish protocols for where revegetation is more appropriate.
17. Define activity nodes on the Georges and Nepean Rivers more clearly and improve management around these nodes to help control public access. Consider activities not currently formally addressed (eg, kayaking access).
18. Continue to educate Council's Operations Staff on Threatened Species and Endangered Ecological Communities. Develop and keep updated a Standard Handbook of Procedures for best practice environmental management to guide implementation of on-ground works.
19. Introduce a program of rainy day workshops with Council's Operations Staff on other Open Space matters, including rain gardens and other water sensitive urban design (WSUD), no-mow zones, and hold two way discussions on existing work practices and potential improvements.

City Lifestyle; City Delivery Beneficial

City Delivery Essential

City Delivery Beneficial

City Delivery Beneficial

City Delivery Important

City Delivery Important

City Delivery Beneficial

City Delivery Important

City Delivery Beneficial

Sports & Recreation Strategy

Parks & Reserves Strategy,
Crime Prevention Plan

Open Space Strategy,
Destination Management Plan

Noxious Weeds Strategy

Noxious Weeds Strategy,
Bush Fire Risk Management
Plan

Biodiversity Conservation
Strategy

Destination Management
Plan, Walking Trails Plan

Biodiversity Conservation
Strategy

Open Space Strategy

FOCUS AREA 3 PREPARING FOR FUTURE OPEN SPACE

3a Overview – values and key issues

There is a large amount of new development about to take place in Campbelltown LGA. The community vision is for the LGA to remain a green city into the future even with the major population changes that are occurring. Council needs to be ready for this future with clear purpose and direction and be in control of the process, rather than reacting to the development proponents. The challenge for Council is to facilitate new growth, meet the recreation needs of a growing population and preserve and ultimately enhance the natural environment. This new development will require a plan for future acquisitions of Open Space to address any identified shortfalls including multi field sportsgrounds and multi court sports facilities.

3b Guiding principles

Planning – Council develops the appropriate plans and strategies for future Open Space.

Responding – Council proactively responds to external plans and submissions that will directly or indirectly affect Open Space.

Funding – Council is able to fund the existing and proposed Open Space to meet the community needs.

Anticipation – Council will prepare for the future and develop Open Space concept plans to help drive that future.

3c Actions

3.1 Planning – Campbelltown CC develops the appropriate plans and strategies for future Open Space.

	Responsibility	Priority	Links with other Plans/Strategies
1. Ensure that any new proposals for Open Space are consistent with the vision and guiding principles for Open Space within the LGA.	City Delivery; City Development	Essential	Open Space Strategy
2. Ensure that new development areas include an adequate amount of Open Space for the full range of open space types; for active recreation including team sports; informal recreation including playgrounds; and for environmental protection, biodiversity conservation and heritage conservation where these assets are present.	City Delivery; City Development City Lifestyle	Essential	Open Space Strategy
3. Ensure that Open Space Recreation is given an appropriate weighting in any proposed development and that Campbelltown LGA remains a place that is well provided with areas for neighbourhood and district sport and recreation to meet the needs of population growth and anticipated future requirements.	City Delivery; City Development City Lifestyle	Essential	Open Space Strategy, Sports & Recreation Strategy
4. Prepare a S94 plan, incorporating information from the Sports and Recreation and Playspaces Strategies to validate the existing population needs for sport and recreation areas and forecast future population growth. Ensure that the plan includes other Open Space needs, including passive recreation.	City Delivery; City Development City Lifestyle	Essential	S94 Plan
5. Implement a benchmark provision model for new developments to ensure that there is adequate provision of good quality land for Public Open Space, not just drainage or flood prone land or landscape buffers to busy roads, and that the land is integrated into the existing Open Space network.	City Delivery; City Development	Essential	Open Space Strategy

- 6. Develop planning controls specifying a minimum area for any bushland reserve that is part of any development proposal within a new release area to ensure its long term viability, and a minimum width of any proposed wildlife corridor, based on OEH guidelines.
- 7. Develop a Land Dedication Policy, with Open Space acquisitions being considered as part of the strategic planning process rather than at development assessment.
- 8. Develop the Campbelltown Sports Stadium and surrounding land as a regionally significant integrated sports and entertainment precinct to provide a gateway to the regional city centre.
- 9. Develop concept plans for a linear park linking Campbelltown and Macarthur Railway Stations.
- 10. Protect wildlife corridors in the southern new land release areas to link the Georges and Nepean Rivers.

City Delivery; City Development	Essential
City Delivery; City Development	Beneficial
City Lifestyle; City Growth	Beneficial
City Delivery; City Development; City Growth	Beneficial
City Delivery; City Development; City Growth	Essential

Biodiversity Conservation Strategy
Biodiversity Conservation Strategy
Destination Management Plan
CBD Structure Plans
Biodiversity Conservation Strategy

3.2 Responding – Council proactively responds to external plans and submissions that will directly or indirectly affect Open Space.

- 1. Protect existing Open Space in close proximity to town centres and look for opportunities to make new and improved connections between Open Space. Consider land swaps in some locations for better street access to open space (eg, Matthews Reserve at Ingleburn).
- 2. Require all infill development to maximise protection and minimise any adverse impacts on environmental values, natural systems and scenic landscapes. Require proposals to demonstrate that the existing Open Space is enhanced not degraded as a result of the proposal.
- 3. Require all greenfield development to provide adequate, well-planned open space networks, based on projected catchment, demographic data and so on, which must be endorsed by Council, and the Public Open Space is to be incorporated into the plans at the earliest possible stage of the development.

City Delivery; City Growth City Development	Essential
City Delivery; City Development	Essential
City Delivery; City Growth City Development;	Essential

Open Space Strategy
Local Planning Strategy
Open Space Strategy

4. Develop specifications for developer funded and managed Open Space embellishments. Develop specifications and guidelines for construction and maintenance of new Open Space areas. Ensure that consideration is given to the ongoing maintenance costs for Council (eg, include requirements for grassed areas in new park developments to be planted with couch not kikuyu, with formalised edges and mowing strips, and to be of a regular shape with a minimum width of 2.5 m suitable for Council's mowing machinery). Ensure that the relevant Council Operations Staff are included in periodic inspections of new park developments at least six months before the scheduled handover.
5. Investigate other options for new Open Space areas, with the developers to retain the maintenance liability for new open spaces (eg, through covenants on community title, or through public access to private Open Space).

City Delivery;
City
Development

Important

Parks & Reserves Strategy

City Delivery
City
Development;

Beneficial

Open Space Strategy

3.3 Funding – Council is able to fund the existing and proposed Open Space to meet the community needs.

1. Ensure that decisions regarding future Open Space areas are made for the long term, rather than a short term response to current funding shortage for embellishments, acquisitions or new facilities.
2. Identify opportunities, consistent with the zoning provisions, for small scale commercial development such as kiosks and cafes within Public Open Space to provide additional funds for ongoing maintenance (eg, cafés at Burrendah Reserve, Raby, and Marsden Park, Campbelltown).
3. Investigate opportunities for leasing large areas of residual Public Open Space that have no recreational, biodiversity conservation or environmental protection values (eg, non-vegetated road reserves, drainage reserves and utility reserves) to generate income and reduce the cost to Council to maintain these areas.
4. Review Open Space fees and charges, including sportsground hire, and clearly document the cost base for these (eg, as percentage of maintenance costs).
5. Use S94 funding and other developer contributions to fund embellishments to existing Open Space where appropriate.
6. Identify priority biodiversity corridors and Biobanking sites for offsets. Extend Biobanking after an assessment of its efficacy at Noorumba Reserve.

Responsibility

Priority

Links with other Plans/Strategies

City Growth;
City Delivery

Essential

Open Space Strategy

City Delivery

Beneficial

Open Space Strategy

City Delivery;
City
Governance

Beneficial

Open Space Land Review

City Lifestyle

Beneficial

Sports & Recreation Strategy

City Delivery;
City
Development

Essential

S94 Plan

City
Development;
City Delivery

Important

Biodiversity Conservation Strategy

3.4 Anticipation – Council will prepare for the future and develop Open Space concept plans to help drive that future.

1. Develop concept plans for Open Space in new release areas and areas that may be potentially part of any urban renewal program in anticipation of future community needs.
2. Investigate the need for a new regional sports facility in the southern part of Campbelltown LGA in the new land release area.
3. Work towards creating improved Open Space outcomes at Glenfield west of the railway as part of any redevelopment of the Hurlstone Agricultural High School site, to form an Open Space network linking the Bunbury Curran Creek corridor to the Glenfield Urban Growth area.
4. Plan for the future when the Georges River Corridor will become an increasingly important recreational asset as the population grows and infill development takes place.
5. Investigate all opportunities to link The Scenic Hills with the Western Sydney Parklands.
6. Investigate opportunities for a commercial holiday park or camping accommodation for visitors exploring the bushland areas.

Responsibility	Priority	Links with other Plans/Strategies
City Delivery; City Growth	Beneficial	Open Space Strategy
City Delivery; City Lifestyle; City Growth	Important	Sports & Recreation Strategy
City Delivery; City Growth; City Development	Essential	Open Space Strategy
City Delivery; City Growth; City Development	Beneficial	Koala Plan of Management, Biodiversity Conservation Strategy
City Delivery; City Growth; City Development	Beneficial	Destination Management Plan
City Delivery; City Growth; City Development	Beneficial	Destination Management Plan

FOCUS AREA 4 INVOLVING THE COMMUNITY IN OPEN SPACE

4a Overview – values and key issues

Public Open Space is an important community asset, it helps define local neighbourhoods, builds community connections, improves community health and well-being, and helps protect and conserve the local environment. Council has a well-publicised Environmental Education Program focussing on the natural environment and sustainability. Its Renew-Connect-Revitalise City-Wide Improvement Program for upgrades to parks and reserves is well publicised and there is good community feedback to surveys about these infrastructure upgrades. Information about local sporting clubs and sportsgrounds is readily available. The community has an opportunity to have a say on Open Space planning and recreational facilities planning and funding during the public consultation period for draft LEP/planning proposals for new release planning areas, draft DCPs and Section 94 plans and VPAs. Council needs to continue to look for the best ways to engage with, inform and involve the community in decisions about Open Space.

4b Guiding principles

Communication – Information on Campbelltown’s Open Space is readily available and conveyed to the community.

Education – Council actively works with the community to raise awareness and understanding of issues related to Open Space.

Participation – The Campbelltown community is encouraged to be involved in the management of the existing Open Space and the planning for future Open Space.

4c Actions

4.1 Communication – Information on Campbelltown’s Open Space is readily available and conveyed to the community.

	Responsibility	Priority	Links with other Plans/Strategies
1. Make information about Campbelltown’s Open Space readily available to the community. Collate and publish all relevant environmental, recreational and landscape plans, strategies and policies on Council’s website and provide a clear link from the home page. Regularly update this information.	City Governance; City Delivery	Essential	Open Space Strategy
2. Use new technologies to let the community know about the Open Space (eg, phone app that allows the community to find recreation facilities). Expand the use of QR codes on park signs.	City Governance; City Delivery	Beneficial	Open Space Strategy
3. Promote the wide range of Public Open Spaces in the LGA. Provide cross links on Council’s website between information on recreational and bushland areas. Ensure that the information is accessible and inclusive for the various cultural groups living in the community.	City Governance; City Delivery	Beneficial	Open Space Strategy
4. Continue to promote the environmental values of Campbelltown widely, through the use of images of the natural areas, local wildlife, endangered species and ecological communities within Campbelltown. Incorporate these images into park infrastructure through public art, interpretive and wayfaring signs to enhance the sense of place.	City Governance; City Delivery	Essential	Environmental Education Strategy
5. Continue to update the recreation information on Council’s website and expand on information on the sporting facilities, activities and sports available as upgrades are proposed, planned and implemented.	City Delivery; City Lifestyle; City Governance	Essential	Sports & Recreation Strategy

6. Develop information about the playspaces in Public Open Space and make it readily available and inclusive to the various cultural groups living in the community.

City Delivery;
City
Governance

Important

Playspaces Strategy,
Community
Engagement Framework

4.2 Education - Campbelltown CC actively works with the community to raise awareness and understanding of issues related to the Open Space.

Responsibility

Priority

Links with other Plans/Strategies

1. Encourage people to explore Open Spaces in their area, not only those parks and reserves with structured activities. Promote parks as spaces for many activities, not just playgrounds, including nature appreciation, relaxation, contemplation, social interaction, exercise and other health benefits. Emphasise the value of bushland areas for community health and well-being.

City Delivery

Beneficial

Parks & Reserves Strategy

2. Continue to identify and raise awareness of endangered ecological communities (eg, Cumberland Plain Woodland using Pembroke Park as a regional focal point).

City Delivery;
City
Development

Important

Environmental Education Strategy

3. Continue to highlight the natural and cultural heritage assets within Open Space and make the information on specific sites available on the website and on interpretive signs on site.

City Delivery;
City
Development

Important

Parks & Reserves Strategy

4. Highlight the value of trees to provide scale and shade, encourage people to walk and use parks, help define the character of a neighbourhood and perpetuate the green city image. Promote parks as spaces for trees and undertake community tree planting in local parks in addition to the annual National Tree Planting Day.

City Delivery;
City
Development

Essential

Urban Tree Strategy
Environmental Education Strategy

5. Continue to deliver environmental education programs to create a sustainable connected community that is actively engaged with the surrounding natural environment.

City
Development

Important

Environmental Education Strategy

6. Educate the community about how the uses of recreational Open Spaces change over the years to reflect the needs and trends of the times and the people that use them.

City Delivery

Beneficial

Parks & Reserves Strategy

4.3 Participation - The Campbelltown community is encouraged to be involved in the management of existing Open Space and the planning for future Open Space.

Responsibility

Priority

Links with other Plans/Strategies

1. Involve the local Indigenous community regarding sites of cultural heritage, through guided walks and talks, interpretive signs and so on. Develop an Aboriginal perspective in other Public Open Space. Encourage the Indigenous community to participate in the management of natural areas and other environmental programs in parks and reserves.

City Lifestyle

Important

Aboriginal Strategy, Destination
Management Plan

2. Continue to encourage community involvement in the planning and design of Open Space, in particular, in landscape and facilities upgrades to parks and reserves, through on line surveys, community events, temporary signs on site and other methods, and ensure that these are well publicised.
3. Investigate ways for greater community involvement in the longer term planning of future
4. Continue to engage with the community through the volunteer Bushcare program, walks and talks and other activities focusing on the local environment and other topics.
5. Investigate ways to increase the community stewardship of Public Open Space.
6. Continue to support community organisations which play a role in the management of Open Space (eg. sporting clubs assisting with playing field maintenance).
7. Investigate the level of interest in community gardens within Open Space and take further action if there is demonstrated interest.
8. Investigate the feasibility of establishing a community nursery to provide local provenance for restoration works within the LGA and to further engage the community in biodiversity conservation initiatives
9. Consult with young people on spaces for youth, including court facilities, games tables, sports practice areas and kick about areas. Encourage their input into the design of these facilities and other positive recreation opportunities.
10. Investigate sites suitable for citizenship gardens where plants provided to new citizens can be planted on their behalf as a commemoration.

City Delivery	Essential	Parks & Reserves Strategy, Community Engagement Framework
City Delivery; OGM	Beneficial	OpenSpace Strategy, Community Open Space, Engagement Framework
City Delivery; City Development	Important	Environmental Education Strategy
City Delivery; City Development	Beneficial	Environmental Education Strategy
City Lifestyle;	Important	Sports & Recreation Strategy
City Delivery	Beneficial	Parks & Reserves Strategy
City Delivery	Beneficial	Biodiversity Conservation
City Lifestyle; City Delivery	Important	Youth Strategy, Community Engagement Framework
City Delivery	Beneficial	Parks & Reserves Strategy

DEFINITIONS

Open Space Categories

Parks – areas set aside to provide for recreational, cultural, social and educational activities and pastimes, including passive recreational activities, casual playing of games, play or fitness equipment, picnicking, relaxation and contemplation, tree and shrub planting. (small < 0.5 ha, medium 0.5 – 2 ha, large > 2 ha)

Sportsgrounds – areas set aside for organised and informal sporting facilities and games including team field sports, sports courts, aquatic centres, golf courses and other active recreational [activities](#).

Natural areas (bushland, water courses, wetlands, escarpments) – areas set aside primarily for nature conservation and environmental protection, including natural landform and vegetation, riparian areas with natural vegetation along natural creeks.

Ancillary/residual open space – drainage lines, road reserves, utility corridors and other green areas that are reserved for another purpose and do not function as a park due to their poor location, incompatible land uses, poor access, or only function to assist pedestrian movements between roads or adjacent areas.

Much of the Public Open Space is owned by Campbelltown City Council and is classified as Community Land under the Local Government Act. There is some Council owned land classified as Operational Land and some land owned by the NSW Government under the care, control and management of Campbelltown City Council.

Open Space Hierarchies

Local Open Space

Functions

Can have various uses, depending on the nature of the space:

- passive recreation and low key informal play, running around
- green spaces in the built environment, spaces for trees and other vegetation
- relaxation, contemplation, enjoying the outdoors, getting close to nature
- meeting point for nearby residents
- visual or environmental amenity, buffer between different land uses.

Location and size

- in residential areas
- catchment area of 400 m radius, which is about a 5 minute walk along local streets
- small, should be at least 0.2 ha and are usually less than 1 ha.

Facilities

- facilities are limited as they are mainly used by locals for frequent short stays
- may have seating, some simple play equipment, small grassed area to run around
- shade trees and other vegetation
- maybe a tap and bin in a limited number of locations.

Examples

Murray Reserve, Minto; Figtree Reserve, Eschol Park; Gargary Reserve, Ambarvale; Stranraer Reserve, St Andrews

Neighbourhood Open Space

Functions

Can have a number of different functions (eg, park and bushland, park and sportsground):

- used for a range of passive and active recreation depending on the characteristics of the space and the facilities
- a community focal point, contributes to and reflects neighbourhood character, place for neighbourhood events
- varied topography, often good vantage point
- green lungs for the neighbourhood
- can connect along linear parks or local streets with other open space to form a network.

Location and size

- in residential area, often near other community facilities (eg, schools, neighbourhood shops)
- most users live within 800 m radius, which is about a 10 – 15 minute walk
- moderate size, area should be at least 0.5 ha, with good frontage to local streets, access from number of directions.

Facilities

- range of facilities as users stay for a while,
- some active recreation facility (eg, practice walls and half courts, single playing field),
- play equipment, fitness equipment,
- parks seats and tables, picnic seating, bins, bubblers,
- walking paths or bush tracks, may have interpretive information,
- areas of vegetation either remnant vegetation or planted areas, large shade trees,

Examples

Midlothian Reserve, St Andrews; Bellevue Park, Leumeah; Abington Reserve, Glen Alpine; Startup/Trotwood Reserves, Ambarvale; John Kidd/Harvey Brown Reserves, Blair Athol; Oswald Reserve, Rosemeadow; Mandurama Reserve, Ambarvale

District Open Space

Functions

Can have a number of different functions (eg, park and bushland, park and sportsground):

- used by residents and visitors drawn from across the LGA
- provide a variety of spaces, settings and facilities for both active and passive recreation and community activities
- cater for a large number of people for all age groups and levels of ability and a range of activities
- used for significant community events

Location and size

- centrally located within a suburb or between a number of suburbs within a 5 km radius
- access by various ways (eg, walking, cycling, driving, public transport)
- large area, greater than 2 ha, often greater than 5 ha

Facilities

- users may spend several hours there involved in a number of activities
- shared facilities (eg, several sporting organisations share space and facilities)
- can be multiple playing fields, sports courts, sports practice area, swimming pools, skate parks
- picnic areas with barbecues, play equipment, fitness equipment
- track heads for bushwalks, interpretive signs
- dog exercise areas
- toilets, car parking

Examples

St Helens Park, St Helens Park; Seddon/Kennett Parks, Glenfield; Bradbury Oval, Bradbury; Milton Park/Macquarie Road Reserve/Bob Prenter Park/Hazlett Park/Bensley Reserve, Macquarie Fields

Regional Open Space

Functions

- destinations for regional sporting events, large community events, regional community activities, or integral part of regional facility

Location and size

- usually large area, with good access

Facilities

- varied according to the purpose, can be either specialised use or a wide range of facilities
- range of facilities are provided for lengthy stays, seating and other facilities for large numbers of users
- car parking on site, good public transport access

Examples

Raby Sports Complex, Raby; Campbelltown Stadium, Leumeah; Simmos Beach, Macquarie Fields

Open Space Functions and Landscape Character

Functions – the uses/purpose for a space:

- Access – Area set aside to link other areas (eg, a path, cycleway or grassed corridor connecting streets).
- Biodiversity conservation – Area set aside for the conservation of native vegetation and wildlife.
- Civic space – Area in front of or surrounding a community or civic building (eg, library, community centre, indoor sports centre, school).
- Commemoration – Commemorative areas (eg, memorial gardens, cemeteries).
- Cultural events - Area designated for cultural events (eg, community events, festivals, district shows, entertainment or markets).
- Environmental amenity – Area set aside for tree protection, space for nature, bush fire asset protection zones.
- Health/fitness – Area with facilities for informal exercise and fitness activities, shared paths, sports walls, etc.
- Heritage conservation – Area set aside for the protection and interpretation of cultural heritage items, or curtilage around these items (eg archaeological site, heritage building, heritage garden, significant trees).
- Outdoor sports – Area set up for the playing of organised outdoor sports.
- Play space – Area with facilities and settings for outdoor play.
- Relaxation – Area for quiet enjoyment, contemplation, tranquillity, urban escape.
- Road reserve – Area within a road reserve including vegetated road islands, road closures, wide nature strips, but excluding the road maintenance zone.
- Social recreation – Areas with facilities and/or settings for family or group social activities that cater for a range of ages (eg BBQs, picnics, informal play, casual games, kick about areas).
- Stormwater management - Area set aside primarily for drainage or stormwater management, including ponds, dams, detention basins.
- Utility reserve – Area set aside to provide for current or future infrastructure (eg, power).
- View point – Area set aside for public access to a scenic vantage point.
- Visual amenity – Area set aside to enhance the visual quality of an area, soften the built environment, as a visual buffer between different land uses, landscaped entry treatments.

Landscape character - the landscape form and/or vegetation type of a space:

- Bushland - Natural vegetation of the land, with its characteristic plant species and structure.
- Managed turf - Open area of turf managed for organised field sports or other recreation.
- Open grassland - Open area of predominantly exotic grasses.
- Open parkland - Informal park setting with grass and scattered trees, shrub plantings.
- Ornamental garden - Manicured or formal garden with specimen trees and garden beds.
- Outdoor sports structures - Enclosed managed turf or synthetic playing surfaces for specific sports (eg, tennis, netball, athletics, lawn bowls).
- Riparian corridor - River or creek corridor, either open water course or piped creek, with either natural or planted vegetation.
- Roadside reserve - Natural or planted vegetation along roadsides, as a tree reserve, buffer or screen.
- Rough area - Unmanaged vegetation (native and/or exotic) on undeveloped or disused land.
- Tree plantation - Planted forest or woodland (native and/or exotic).
- Urban open space - Landscaped paved urban space with tree plantings.
- Wetland - Pond or lake which is at least seasonally inundated with water surrounded by either natural or planted vegetation.

Assessment criteria for Open Space areas for review

- Without ecological value, no value for biodiversity conservation
- Little landscape character
- No natural or cultural heritage values identified
- Currently serving no recreation purpose
- Not well used or valued by the community
- Poor accessibility
- Poor natural surveillance
- Poorly connected to other Open Space
- Duplicated by other similar Open Space close by that has more options for recreation
- Has little potential for improvement as functional Open Space due to its physical characteristics - location, size, shape, slope
- Not required for drainage
- Not required due to the likely nature of future development around the site

Additional assessment criteria for Open Space areas for review of their extent

- Retaining large street frontages to enhance natural surveillance (frontage >20 m or the corner block location)
- Final size of the Open Space should be appropriate for the hierarchy and function (functional neighbourhood Open Space >0.5 ha)

KEY DOCUMENTS

- Campbelltown Community Strategic Plan 2013
- Campbelltown Local Planning Strategy 2014
- Campbelltown LEP 2015
- Campbelltown Sustainable City DCP
- Sustainability Strategy 2015
- Asset Management Strategy & Plan 2015
- Biodiversity Conservation Strategy (in preparation 2016)
- Sport and Recreation Strategy (in preparation 2016)
- Playspaces Strategy (in preparation 2016)
- Macarthur Destination Management Plan 2016-2020
- Environmental Education Strategy (in preparation 2016)
- Youth Strategy 2013-2017
- Ageing Strategy 2013
- Aboriginal Strategy 2014
- Crime Prevention Plan 2015-2018
- Upper Georges River Environmental Strategic Plan 2010
- Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan 2015
- Visual Analysis Study 2011
- Heritage Study Review, Paul Davies Pty Ltd, April 2011
- Roadside Vegetation Management Plan, Molino Stewart, 2015
- Bushfire Risk Management Plan 2012
- Climate Change Risk Assessment Adaptation Report March 2012
- Biodiversity Study Stage 2 2008
- Noxious Weeds Strategy (in preparation 2016)
- Koala Plan of Management (in preparation 2016)
- Plans of Management for Ingleburn, Pembroke, Noorumba, Simmos Beach, Bunbury Curran Reserves
- Master Plan for St Helens Park and others
- Glenfield to Macarthur Priority Urban Renewal Corridor Strategy 2015
- Ingleburn Structure Plan 2015
- Greater Macarthur Preliminary Land Release Strategy 2015
- Draft Menangle DCP
- VPAs for East Leppington, Edmondson Park, UWS Campbelltown, Airs/Bradbury
- Section 94 plans and drafts for Menangle Park and Glenfield Road Urban Release Areas
- various other planning proposals
- Significant Tree Register
- Closure and Sale of Walkways Policy
- Corporate Sponsorship of Council Activities Policy