



# Open Space

## Outcome 2041:

A diverse and green network of open space contributes to our healthy lifestyle.

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## Target:

Maintain the rate of 5ha per 1,000 residents and ensure an equitable distribution of publicly accessible open space by 2041.





Open space is the network of land and water that supports recreation and sport, trails and paths, nature conservation and visual relief from the urban environment. These open spaces complement and contrast with the built environment.

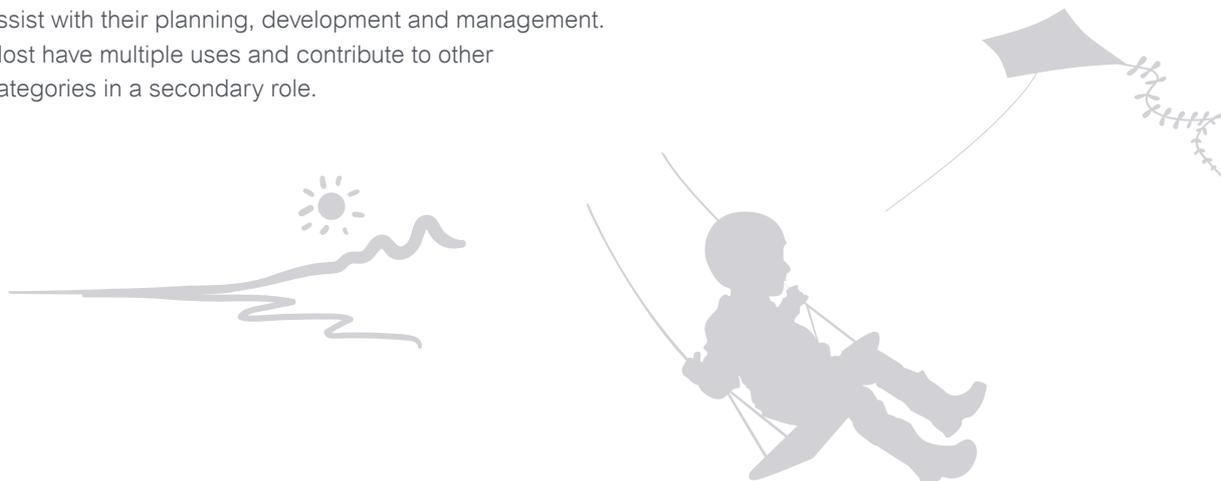
Our open space network is highly valued by the community and contributes to the Sunshine Coast's unique character, relaxed and healthy lifestyle and rich biodiversity. It gives a sense of ownership and belonging to local communities and neighbourhoods, making them desirable places to live. It provides spaces for enhancing landscape and character values, supporting biodiversity and ecological services, and active and passive sport, recreation and cultural activities. It provides the 'green frame' of our urban areas, edging our rivers, beaches and foreshores lining our streets and identifying our communities. It also makes the Sunshine Coast an attractive place to visit and supports tourism, events and economic growth.

Open space is owned and managed by council, the state government and numerous other public and private land managers. It is the council owned and managed open spaces that are the focus of this strategy. Open spaces managed by other landowners (eg national parks and forestry reserves) significantly contribute to the Sunshine Coast open space network. Policies within this strategy can be used to guide partnerships and collaborative management efforts with other open space providers.

Securing and developing open space is a high priority of council. A range of mechanisms are utilised to ensure appropriate and functional open space is publicly accessible.

The Sunshine Coast's open space areas have been grouped into categories based on their primary use, to assist with their planning, development and management. Most have multiple uses and contribute to other categories in a secondary role.

- **Recreation**  
recreation parks, amenity reserves, linear parks, and trails. Spaces used for informal social, recreational and cultural activities which connect people and provide visual relief from the built form.
- **Landscape**  
landscape corridors and streetscapes. Vegetated areas / living infrastructure build on the natural character and amenity of neighbourhoods which provide key linkages.
- **Sport**  
facilities for playing formal sports, including fields, courts and supporting infrastructure. This use includes specific purpose sports that have limited multi-use due to the nature of the sport.
- **Environmental and coastal**  
these areas support the preservation and enhancement of biodiversity and coastal protection. They can provide opportunities for people to interact with the natural environment where appropriate.
- **Other**  
areas that contribute to open space functions, eg education facilities, caravan parks, waterways, riparian corridors, and drainage reserves. This category also includes open space not controlled by council eg national parks, state forests, state managed sports and recreation facilities, SEQ Water areas and lands managed by Unitywater.



## Planning for change

The drivers of change will have varying levels of impacts on open space and will continue to present challenges for the future.

Key impacts may include:

- increased pressure on natural and developed open spaces in and around urban areas
- impacts on high use open spaces along the coast and adjacent to waterways as a result of sea level rise and flooding events
- loss of or damage to culturally significant landmarks, vegetation and grass surfaces as more severe weather events occur
- increasing need to provide cooler, vegetated areas to balance increasing temperatures
- increasing demand to support emerging tourism and sporting event sectors
- reduced physical activity resulting in an increase of chronic diseases.

To proactively respond to these likely impacts and seek new opportunities, a strong set of policy positions has been prepared to achieve the desired outcome.

## Council's role

Council has a key role in the planning, land management and infrastructure delivery of a publicly accessible open space network for recreation, sport, amenity and conservation purposes. Council is responsible for the setting of strategic directions, developing policy, implementing planning and regulatory powers to expand and maintain a quality network.

Council plays a role in supporting community, volunteer and sporting / organisations involvement in the valuable management of the open space network.

Council also works collaboratively with other open space land managers developing strong partnerships to gain public access to open spaces which further contribute to the diversity of a regional network.



# Open Space policy positions

## 5.1 An integrated and connected open space network is provided that is responsive to a changing environment and respects community needs:

- a Future generations experience similar or improved provision and standards.
- b Open space is protected for its appropriate function including openness.
- c Open space is flexible and adaptable to allow for diverse recreational, sporting and cultural experiences.
- d The network reflects and enhances the local landscape and character.
- e The network plays a role in mitigating the impacts of climate change.
- f The community's recreation use and commercial activities are complementary and integrated.
- g Effective and efficient design and location ensures an affordable, resilient and high quality open space network.

## 5.2 The open space network ensures equitable access to a range of experiences to encourage active and healthy lifestyles and supports community wellbeing:

- a Functional, safe and well-connected spaces and places are provided.
- b Innovation, sustainability, activation and creativity are driving factors.
- c Access to recreation parks in urban areas supports self-contained and active communities and encourages social inclusion.
- d People are connected to nature and outdoor experiences.
- e Sport and active recreation spaces are provided to encourage participation and involvement.

## 5.3 Open space provides the green frame around and within our built form to connect us to the environment and create a strong sense of identity within a community of communities:

- a Open spaces are protected from urban expansion, over embellishment and utility encroachment.
- b Open space connects and frames urban and rural communities, strengthening character and identity.
- c Urban forests and gardens in our parks and streets support and enhance social, economic and environmental values.
- d Ecological and open space values continue to build upon our natural advantage.
- e Environmental values are balanced with recreation opportunities in keeping with the natural setting.
- f Cultural, heritage and historical values within our public open spaces are enhanced and preserved.

Refer to Part C for technical detail and planning directions specific to the Open Space theme.

