

CITY OF



MITCHAM

# **CITY OF MITCHAM**

# **OPEN SPACE STRATEGY**

# **2001**

**Prepared by: Craig Walker & Brett Hill**



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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The City of Mitcham aims to integrate the principles of ecologically sustainable development into all its strategic directions. This Strategy has been prepared with the aim of providing a sustainable open space network for the city now and into the future by balancing social, economic and environmental priorities.

It is important to note that there can be no single open space management model that will perfectly balance the often-competing demands of community recreation, financial responsibility, and environmental quality. Compromises, hard decisions and trade offs will always be required. Nevertheless, open space decisions should be taken against a background of the best available information.

In this context, the Strategy has three broad goals:

- ❑ To improve open space decision making,
- ❑ To identify and prioritise specific actions, and
- ❑ To inform the community about Council's strategic open space priorities.

To meet these goals the Strategy develops actions under nine headings. Some high priority actions are summarised below.

### *Statutory Obligations*

The Strategy notes that Council is progressing toward meeting the Community Land requirements under the new Local Government Act. Significant work remains to meet the Community Land exclusion provisions, to prepare management plans and to integrate leases and licenses with management plan objectives. Identified actions of the highest priority include:

- ❑ Establish criteria for exclusions from Community Land.
- ❑ Identify all land to be excluded from the classification of community land before 1/1/2003.
- ❑ Implement Council's Public Consultation Policy for all circumstances prescribed in the Local Government Act, 1999.

### *Adequate and Accessible*

The challenge to provide adequate local open space in several plains suburbs remains a high priority. Given fiscal restraints, the Strategy proposes improved data gathering to target specific allotments and innovative solutions to improve open space supply. These include road closures, joint use agreements and expansion of existing parks. Identified actions of the highest priority include:

- ❑ Identify specific allotments for long term acquisition in areas deficient in local open space.
- ❑ Continue current actions in relation to the closure of Jose St between Rozelle Reserve to create a larger Open Space area.

### *Changing Needs*

The need for flexibility in catering for changing recreation trends is acknowledged. Actions proposed include improved administrative decision making through creation of an inter-disciplinary management team, a focus on management of disused quarries as recreation sites, a continued emphasis on provision of youth facilities, and development of a flexible management system for reserves. Identified actions of the highest priority include:

- ❑ Work with State Government and consult with the community to determine a suitable site, building and management plan to relocate the Blackwood Community Recreation Centre as a two-court stadium. Options to be explored should include the possibilities of the existing site, Karinya Reserve and Blackwood High School.
- ❑ Continue to implement Council's Youth Facilities Strategy.
- ❑ Develop an internal reference group with wide representation that meets regularly to address issues relating to the planning and management of open space, animal management, recreation and sport.
- ❑ Publish a series of open space brochures.
- ❑ Continue implementation of the fencing and safety recommendations from 1999 City of Mitcham quarries report.
- ❑ Develop in consultation with relevant groups a strategy to safely manage sporting activities at appropriate quarry sites, such as Randell Park.

### *Metropolitan Open Space System*

The need for on going integration of Council's open space objectives with regional and metropolitan-wide strategies is recognised, with the Sturt River linear park concept identified as a high priority.

### *Regional Linkages*

Improving integration of local woodland reserve management with State Government initiatives such as Parklands 21 is recommended, along with improving the access of hills residents to recreation opportunities in the hills face zone.

### *Acquisition and Disposal*

The Strategy provides a set of criteria, based on strategic needs, for long term acquisition and disposal of open space. The use of a Geographic Information System to develop a comprehensive data set is also an identified priority in this area to provide improved planning and public information. Actions of very high priority include:

- ❑ Develop a business case, assessing any land parcel being considered for acquisition against the open space acquisition guidelines.
- ❑ Prepare a business case, assessing any open space being considered for disposal against the open space disposal guidelines.

### *Quality Open Space*

The need for safe open spaces catering for a diverse range of users is recognised. Priority actions are developed around best practice park design and maintenance, as well as improved communication with groups with specific needs. Recommended actions of highest priority include:

- ❑ Vegetate open space in a manner that provides clear sightlines.
- ❑ Locate, design and maintain public toilets to provide safe and 'vandal-proof' amenities for users of open space.

### *Conservation and natural features*

The Strategy notes the importance placed by the community on biodiversity protection and enhancement. In this area, the need for integration with State Government agencies is highlighted, as well as expanded community involvement in rehabilitation works. Finding a balance between protection of biodiversity values and maximising recreation opportunities is another priority for woodland reserves. Identified actions of the highest priority include:

- ❑ Control pest plants and animals that are a threat to biodiversity and conservation value on Council woodland reserves.
- ❑ Identify opportunities for inclusion, protection and enhancement of areas of remnant vegetation into new sub-divisions.
- ❑ Support Bush for Life to protect and enhance open space areas through activities such as creek rehabilitation, weed eradication and revegetation

### *Funding Options*

The need for additional funding to meet strategic open space objectives is acknowledged. The Strategy recommends actions to better match specific projects to State and Commonwealth funding sources, and the creation of a rolling, cumulative fund within Council's budget. Identified actions of the highest priority include:

- ❑ Identify priority sites and projects for funding opportunities under relevant under State and Commonwealth funding programs.
- ❑ Increase the allocation for open space acquisition and capital development by \$200 000 per annum and fund the increase from increased rates, and /or disposal of open space according to agreed guidelines.
- ❑ Amend Council's policy manual to ensure the open space acquisition and capital development budget line is a rolling, cumulative fund and is quarantined against uses other than acquisitions and capital development according to agreed guidelines, and all funds generated from the disposal of open space are dedicated to Council's open space acquisition and capital development budget line



# **PART 1 - INTRODUCTION**



## **1 INTRODUCTION**

The City of Mitcham commences six kilometres south of Adelaide, South Australia. It extends from the plains to the Adelaide foothills and contains many unique features including the Hills Face Zone, Australia's second National Park at Belair and the first fully planned 'garden suburb' in Australia at Colonel Light Gardens.

The City's total area is 7517 hectares, of which 1640 hectares can be classified as parks, gardens and recreational areas. Of these areas, Council owns 468 hectares and the National Parks and Wildlife Service 1172 hectares. In addition, the City contains a range of institutional and privately owned open space.

Council is striving to meet the current and future needs of residents and the environment through development of a strategic approach to open space decision making.

### **1.1 BACKGROUND TO THE STRATEGY**

Since the 1970s, several documents have been prepared examining various aspects of open space provision and management within the City.

A review of these documents is included in the Open Space Key Issues Paper, prepared prior to this Strategy. The Key Issues Paper also provides discussion of relevant social and environmental trends and issues.

It is important to read this Strategy with the Key Issues Paper as a background.

### **1.2 AIMS OF THE STRATEGY**

The overall objective of the Open Space Strategy is to develop a decision-making tool to provide for adequate, equitable and appropriate open space in the City.

The Strategy provides a framework that will enable Council to:

- Meet its statutory obligations in relation to the Local Government Act, 1999, particularly regarding Community Land provisions,
- Provide equitable access to open space across the City,
- Provide sufficient open space for community and recreational use that meets changing demands by having a flexible and adaptable approach to land use,

- Ensure the integration of the City of Mitcham's Open Space Strategy with the Metropolitan Open Space System (MOSS),
- Identify existing and possible future regional open space linkages relating to conservation and unstructured recreation activities,
- Develop guidelines and a recommended program for the acquisition and disposal of open space,
- Identify general facilities that are required within hierarchical levels of open space to maximise their amenity and enjoyment for appropriate user groups,
- Recommend strategies to enhance and protect open space areas that are of conservation value and contain natural features of significance; and
- Add to current recommended strategies to make best use of capital funding and income sources that are available to achieve the Strategy's objectives.

### **1.3 METHODOLOGY**

Preparation of the Open Space Strategy has involved the following tasks:

- Completing an inventory of open space in the City,
- Developing a Key Issues Paper,
- Holding stakeholder forums and consultation on key issues, and
- Writing the Open Space Strategy.

The inventory grouped open space into major classifications and identified the general uses of each space. The inventory process served to highlight the differing roles that each area of open space plays within a community.

The Key Issues Paper was prepared as the basis for discussion with the community and key stakeholders. The Paper identified a range of issues associated with the provision, development and maintenance of open space within the City.

Following the consultation process, a number of strategic objectives and actions were prepared to address each of the nine aims outlined above. These objectives and actions form the basis of this Strategy.

### **1.4 CONSULTATION**

Four forums were conducted during August 2000 to provide the community with an opportunity to have input into the Strategy. The forums were widely advertised in the local press and other information outlets. A range of groups was directly invited, including; sporting clubs, residents groups, environmental groups, schools and local traders.

The Strategy has also drawn upon recent consultations undertaken as part of the City West Action Plan and the Youth Recreation Needs Assessment Facilities Plan.

### **1.5 GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

The community places a great deal of value on open space and the benefits that it provides.

Council recognises the need to retain these areas for the enjoyment of current and future generations.

This Strategy was prepared with the following principles in mind:

- Open space has social, economic and environmental value. Council should work towards providing a sustainable balance between these three components.
- The community has diverse needs. The design of open space should reflect these demands by offering a variety of opportunities and experiences.
- The open space needs of the community will best be served by providing a range of open space types and settings, and also by developing spaces that complement each other in terms of the experiences they provide.
- All sections of the community have an equal right to access open space. There are a number of population groups within the community with a high demand for open space and limited access to transport. These include; children, adolescents, older people and people with disabilities. Open space should be designed with all user groups in mind. It should be easy to use, readily accessible and within a reasonable distance of residents.
- The needs of the community change over time. Open space should be responsive to changing demands. They must be flexible in design and capable of providing opportunities for multiple uses.
- The community is entitled to feel safe when it is using public open spaces. Areas should be designed in a way that enhances public safety.

### **1.6 DEFINITIONS**

A number of general categories of open space are discussed in the Strategy. These include:

**Local Open Spaces.** These areas provide easy access to the local community. Typically, they are small 'pocket' parks that cater to people in the local area and are close to home.

**Neighbourhood Open Spaces.** These areas offer a more diverse range of activities and can attract people from surrounding suburbs. They are within easy commuting distance, either by walking or cycling, and can act as important community links. For the purposes of the Strategy, this category includes those parks designated in the inventory and the Open Space Key Issues Paper as 'district' parks.

**Regional Open Space.** These are large or unique areas that attract people from a wide population catchment.

**Private and Institutional Open Space.** These areas refer to public schools, private schools, universities and other private & institutional land.

**National Parks & Wildlife Service Open Space.** These areas are owned and managed by the State Government's Department for Environment and Heritage.

## 1.7 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Throughout the development of this strategy, there have been a number of people who have contributed. The contribution of the following people has been greatly appreciated:

- John Barker and Connie Taverna (Planning SA),
- Phil Freeman (Office for Recreation Sport),
- Elected Members and staff of the City of Mitcham,
- Volunteers - Grant Cummins and Nadia Anderson, and
- Residents and stakeholders who participated in workshops and provided written feedback.

## **PART 2 - OPEN SPACE STRATEGY**



## **2 MEETING STATUTORY OBLIGATIONS**

Council is subject to a number of legislative constraints in its management of open space.

Of particular recent importance, the Local Government Act, 1999 gives new meaning to council-owned land, and provides several requirements regarding management practices, acquisition and disposal policies, tenancy agreements and community consultation.

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**GOAL: TO MEET STATUTORY OBLIGATIONS RELATING TO COUNCIL'S OPEN SPACE**

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### **2.1 COMMUNITY LAND**

With the exception of roads, the Local Government Act, 1999 deems all land owned by a council as at 1/1/2000 to be 'Community Land'.

This includes all land that is under a council's care, control and management, or held in trust. If a council wishes to exclude any of this land from the category of 'Community Land', it must specifically act to do so before 1/1/2003. To affect such an exclusion, a council must undertake community consultation according to its public consultation policy, and must pass a resolution.

Any land acquired after 1/1/2000 will require a clear statement of purpose in the relevant council resolution as well as a statement as to whether or not the acquisition is to be excluded from Community Land.

After 1/1/2003, any disposal of Community Land will require a revocation of the land from the classification of Community Land that will require Ministerial approval.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

**To ensure current Council owned land that falls under the exclusion criteria is excluded from the criteria of 'Community Land' by 2003.**

**To ensure all land acquisitions provide a clear statement of intent of use and of Community Land status.**

#### **ACTIONS**

**2.1.1 Establish a set of criteria for exclusions from Community Land.**

**2.1.2 Identify all land to be excluded from the classification of Community Land before 1/1/2003.**

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### **2.1.3 Prepare a register of Council's Community Land as required under the Act.**

## **2.2 MANAGEMENT PLANS**

The Local Government Act, 1999 requires Council to complete management plans for land that is, or will be, occupied under a lease or licence, or has or will be modified or adapted for the benefit or enjoyment of the community.

These plans require public consultation and, once adopted, will direct Council in regard to that land. The Act requires that plans are consistent with other official plans and policies about that land.

All plans must be in place by 1 May, 2005. Until these plans are adopted, Council is able to manage the land on a day to day basis without having a management plan in place. Council is obliged to provide a management plan for any newly acquired land 'as soon as possible after the requirement for the plan arises'.

### **OBJECTIVES**

**To ensure management plans are prepared for all Community Land by 2005.**

### **ACTIONS**

#### **2.2.1 Develop management plans for Community Land by 2005**

## **2.3 TENANCY AGREEMENTS**

The Local Government Act enables Council to offer tenancy agreements over community land. The maximum term for granting or renewing a lease or license is twenty-one years. If the lease or license is for less than five years, it is not a requirement to follow Council's 'Public Consultation Policy'.

Management plans must consider any existing or proposed leases or licences, and new tenancy arrangements must be consistent with, and have regard for, the management plan of the land.

### **OBJECTIVES**

**To ensure tenancy agreements are negotiated with regard to management plans.**

### **ACTIONS**

#### **2.3.1 Review all tenancy agreements against management plans.**

## **2.4 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION**

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Under the Local Government Act, 1999, Council is required to consult in relation to a number of land matters, including:

- Excluding land from classification as Community Land,
- Revoking the classification of land as Community Land,
- Adopting a management plan,
- Amending or revoking a management plan for Community Land, and
- Granting a lease or licence relating to Community Land (except where a lease or licence is authorised in an approved management plan and the term of the agreement is for five years or less).

It is important that Council is clear about its purposes and objectives for public consultation. Public consultation should lead to an informed decision making process and provide Council with the opportunity to be open and responsive to the views of the community and interested parties.

In arriving at decisions, Council should take into account the varied and sometimes divergent views relating to the social, environmental and economic issues of interest.

Community views should be considered within the context of budgetary constraints and the City's strategic open space needs.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

**To ensure comprehensive consultation with the public under all circumstances prescribed under the Local Government Act, 1999.**

#### **ACTIONS**

**2.4.1 Implement Council's Public Consultation Policy for all circumstances prescribed in the Local Government Act, 1999.**

#### **2.5 GENERAL COMPLIANCE**

Although the Local Government Act, 1999 is the most relevant statute, there are a number of other Acts to be observed by Council in managing its open space. These include:

- Development Act, 1993,
- Animal and Pest Plant Control Act, 1986,
- Environmental Protection Act, 1993,
- Native Vegetation Act, 1991,
- Public and Environmental Health Act, 1987,
- Heritage Act, 1993,
- Disability Discrimination Act, 1992,
- Water Resources Act, 1997, and
- Country Fires Act, 1989.

**OBJECTIVES**

**To ensure compliance with all relevant environmental, heritage, planning and disability legislation affecting Council land.**

**ACTIONS**

**2.5.1 Review Council's open space procedures, policies and actions against the requirements of relevant State and Commonwealth legislation.**

## MEETING STATUTORY OBLIGATIONS

### PRIORITISED ACTIONS

<b>ACTION NUMBER</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>LINKED ACTION</b>	<b>PRIORITY (1 - 5) *</b>
2.1.1	Establish criteria for exclusions from Community Land.	7.2.1	1
2.1.2	Identify all land to be excluded from the classification of community land before 1/1/2003.	7.2.1	1
2.1.3	Prepare a register of Council's Community Land as required under the Act.		1
2.2.1	Develop management plans for Community Land by 2005	8.6.1	2
2.3.1	Review all tenancy agreements against management plans.	4.2.1	2
2.4.1	Implement Council's Public Consultation Policy for all circumstances prescribed in the Local Government Act, 1999.		1
2.5.1	Review Council's open space procedures, policies and actions against the requirements of relevant State and Commonwealth legislation.	9.4.2	3

- \*  
 1 - very high priority  
 2 - high priority  
 3 - medium priority  
 4 - ongoing action - short or medium term  
 5 - ongoing action - long term

### **3 PROVIDING ADEQUATE AND ACCESSIBLE OPEN SPACE**

In comparison to many Adelaide Councils, the City of Mitcham contains relatively large areas of total open space (**Maps 1-4 show the distribution of open space across the City**).

The City has an excellent basis for development of an extensive open space network incorporating State Government recreation parks, the Hills Face Zone and Council holdings.

However, the geographic distribution of these spaces limits access to open space areas for significant numbers of residents.

The Open Space Key Issues Paper summarises available data on the distribution of open space under a number of different categories.

While data on Council-owned open space is sound, it should be noted that no comprehensive database of regional, institutional, private, and Crown-held open space has been prepared on a per-Ward basis.

Implementation of a Geographic Information System may permit preparation of such a database in the future. Until such an analysis is undertaken, however, conclusions about open space distribution per-Ward are necessarily limited.

It should also be noted that simple mathematical or geographic conclusions based on a per-Ward analysis may be misleading if they fail to fully account for the quality and accessibility of open space (note - the accessibility and flexibility of Mitcham's open space are addressed in Sections 4 and 8 of this Strategy).

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#### **GOAL: TO PROVIDE FOR ADEQUATE AND ACCESSIBLE OPEN SPACE**

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#### **3.1 PHYSICAL DISTRIBUTION OF OPEN SPACES**

As regards physical proximity to open space, the Australian Model Code of Residential Development (1995) suggests assessment against the following catchment standards:

- Local Open Space - (catchment of 300m),
- Neighbourhood Open Space - (catchment of 500m), and
- Regional Open Space - (catchment of 2km),

Based on these catchment standards the following can be deduced:

- Local Open Space is lacking in the suburb of Kingswood as well as in several precincts throughout the City. (**Refer Map 6**).

- ❑ Neighbourhood Open Space is lacking in significant portions of the north-western plains suburbs as well as suburbs around Glenalta and Blackwood (**Refer Map 5**).
- ❑ The City contains sufficient areas of regional open space.

As regards areas of open space per head of population, a standard of 2.82 hectares of total open space per 1000 people has been suggested (**Refer City of Marion, Community Space Strategy 1997 p.43**). Using this measure, and based only on Council owned open space, the following can be deduced:

- ❑ Suburbs to the west, north-west and north-centre of the plains areas (ie suburbs in Overton, Gault and Babbage Wards) contain comparatively less total open space per 1000 people than other suburbs in the City.
- ❑ Suburbs in Overton Ward (Clarence Gardens, Cumberland Park, Melrose Park and Daw Park) at 1.31 hectares of total open space per 1000 people, falls significantly below the suggested standard.

#### OBJECTIVES

**To provide equity in the geographic and demographic distribution of local, neighbourhood and regional open space.**

#### ACTIONS

- 3.1.1 Identify specific allotments for long term acquisition in areas deficient in local open space.**
- 3.1.2 Prioritise local open spaces to be upgraded to neighbourhood open space in areas deficient in neighbourhood open space.**
- 3.1.3 Explore the potential for expansion in accessibility and provision of private, institutional and Crown land as regional open space.**
- 3.1.4 Liaise with regional open space owners regarding improving community access.**

#### **3.2 LAND PURCHASE**

Whilst some efforts can be made to provide more open space in areas of short supply, these will be minimal, based on the financial resources required to purchase land in highly urbanised areas.

Given Council's limited financial resources, purchases of appropriate parcels in requisite areas will be constrained unless a substantial, dedicated fund is established. The need for a medium to long term funding process is discussed further in Section 10 of this Strategy.

Sites requiring investigation include:

- ❑ Clusters of cheap housing,

- ❑ Clusters of houses on opposite sides of a street that may allow the street to be closed and so add extra space,
- ❑ Vulnerable and obsolete industry sites,
- ❑ Old church and school sites, and
- ❑ Other significant private and government sites identified as surplus to requirements.

A study identifying vulnerable sites would ascertain land availability and cost. Such a study would build on existing data collected during the 1996 'Mitcham Plains Open Space Report'. Land agents can be approached to help identify particular sites of interest.

In addition to purchasing clusters of housing, Council can continue its program of acquisition along the Sturt River and Minno Creek to further enhance its linear parks system.

The continued development of this type of open space offers excellent recreation opportunities as well as providing additional benefits for flood mitigation, maintaining water quality and protecting biodiversity.

#### OBJECTIVES

**To ensure implementation of a long term targeted acquisition program in areas of short supply.**

**To enhance linear parks through acquisition.**

#### ACTIONS

**3.2.1 Identify and prioritise vulnerable sites and clusters of houses that may be suitable for acquisition and development as open space areas.**

**3.2.2 Continue the acquisition program along the Sturt River and Minno Creek.**

#### **3.3 PHYSICAL BARRIERS AND LOCAL OPEN SPACES LINKAGES**

The value and accessibility of local open space within a given location can be increased by developing linkages with other open spaces.

Proximity to adjacent parks should be an important consideration in any proposed land acquisition in order that linkages can be established through street modification. Utilising verges and modifying streetscapes can also help to develop a perception of more open space.

In certain circumstances road closures can also be considered to link parks. Council is currently in the process of closing the road separating the reserves at Rozelle Ave, Melrose Park.

This closure will create more open space and increase the safety of users of the reserve.

#### OBJECTIVES

**To maximise the use of verges and streetscape design to improve local open space linkages.**

**To explore the use of road closures as an option for expanding local and neighbourhood open space.**

#### ACTIONS

**3.3.1 Continue current actions in relation to the closure of Jose St between Rozelle Reserve to create a larger open space area.**

**3.3.2 Identify potential locations for future road closures based on maximising access opportunities to existing open spaces.**

**3.3.3 Identify priority opportunities to acquire landholdings adjacent to existing open space.**

**3.3.4 Explore potential to link together local open space by modifying street design to create linear open spaces.**

#### 3.4 JOINT USE AGREEMENTS

Council can consider entering into joint use agreements with private and institutional landowners as another method of gaining public access to land where purchase is not practical.

These arrangements are ideal where privately owned or institutional land is being under-utilised. Council may negotiate a licence agreement with a landowner for public access in return for a financial contribution to the development and maintenance of the area. An example of this type of arrangement is the Edwardstown Primary School oval and courtyard.

Council has negotiated with the school to gain restricted public access through the week and on weekends. In return, Council has agreed to contribute financially to the development of a pathway, pergola and barbecue area as well as providing some of the cleaning for the area.

#### OBJECTIVES

**To maximise public access to institutional and privately owned open space.**

#### ACTIONS

**3.4.1 Identify high priority opportunities to pursue joint use agreements with private and institutional landowners to gain public access to private land for use as open space.**

#### 3.5 INTERNAL RESERVES

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Colonel Light Gardens was developed as a garden suburb.

Its design allowed for the development of internal reserves based on the premise that building allotments abutting the reserves were smaller than neighbouring allotments.

Internal reserves were created for the use of the surrounding landowners to make up for the difference.

Presently, Council is allowing some residents private use of these reserves at its 'pleasure'. These areas include:

- Allotment 148 (known as Tidworth Crescent Salisbury Crescent Reserve),
- Allotment 167 (known as Salisbury Crescent Reserve),
- Allotment 54 (known as Yorke St Reserve), and
- Allotment 53 (known as Grange Road Reserve).

As a result of Colonel Light Gardens being placed on the Heritage List, Council must prepare a management plan for the suburb.

A component of this plan will address all non-privately owned open space.

It is recommended that the Colonel Light Gardens Management Plan review internal reserves and formulate policies for their use.

#### OBJECTIVES

**To improve the management of internal reserves in Colonel Light Gardens.**

#### ACTIONS

**3.5.1 Develop policies for future use of internal reserves for inclusion in the Colonel Light Gardens Management Plan.**

#### 3.6 DRAINAGE RESERVES

Council has a number of drainage reserves. These require costly ongoing maintenance, attract rubbish, and are generally unattractive. They also provide safety and security issues to neighbouring properties.

Consideration has been given to sale of these reserves. However, such a scheme would require participation and commitments from all landowners. Intermittent acquisition would leave Council with a commitment to maintain some inaccessible areas. Easements limiting land use may also make purchase an unattractive option.

Council may also consider leasing the land to adjoining property owners who would be responsible for the area's maintenance. This option would reduce Council's maintenance responsibilities while retaining ownership.

In areas where there is a lack of local open space, a more appropriate option may be to revegetate these areas and develop them as walking trails and bikeways.

This would provide linkages between established parks and reserves, and help to create further quality open space areas. The safety and security of users and abutting houses is a significant issue under this option.

**OBJECTIVES**

**To develop drainage reserves as local open space without compromising drainage function.**

**ACTIONS**

**3.6.1 Develop a priority action plan for the future role and management of drainage reserves.**

## PROVIDING ADEQUATE AND ACCESSIBLE OPEN SPACE

### PRIORITISED ACTIONS

<b>ACTION NUMBER</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>LINKED ACTION</b>	<b>PRIORITY (1 - 5)*</b>
3.1.1	Identify specific allotments for long term acquisition in areas deficient in local open space.	7.3.1	1
3.1.2	Research local open spaces to be upgraded to neighbourhood open space in areas deficient in neighbourhood open space.	7.3.3	2
3.1.3	Explore the potential for expansion in accessibility and provision of private, institutional and Crown land as regional open space.	5.1.3	3
3.1.4	Liaise with regional open space owners regarding improving community access.	6.4.1	4
3.2.1	Identify and prioritise vulnerable sites and clusters of houses that may be suitable for acquisition and development as open space areas.	3.1.1 7.3.1	5
3.2.2	Continue the acquisition program along the Sturt River and Minno Creek.	5.1.2 9.5.7	3
3.3.1	Continue current actions in relation to the closure of Jose St between Rozelle Reserve to create a larger Open Space area.		1
3.3.2	Identify potential locations for future road closures based on maximising access opportunities to existing open spaces.	7.3.3	4
3.3.3	Identify priority opportunities to acquire landholdings adjacent to existing open space.	7.3.3	3
3.3.4	Explore potential to link together local open space by modifying street design to create linear open spaces.		5
3.4.1	Identify high priority opportunities to pursue joint use agreements with private and institutional landowners to gain public access to private land for use as open space.		3

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<b>ACTION NUMBER</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>LINKED ACTION</b>	<b>PRIORITY (1 - 5)*</b>
3.5.1	Develop policies for future use of internal reserves for inclusion in the Colonel Light Gardens Management Plan.		2
3.6.1	Develop a priority action plan for the future role and management of drainage reserves.		2

- \*  
1 - very high priority  
2 - high priority  
3 - medium priority  
4 - ongoing action - short or medium term  
5 - ongoing action - long term

## **4 PROVIDING OPEN SPACE TO MEET CHANGING NEEDS**

The recreation and sporting needs of the community change over time, in response to a range of demographic, social, educational and employment pressures.

Current trends indicate an increased demand for informal and unstructured recreation as well as increased demand for indoor facilities for sports formerly played outdoors. In addition, awareness of the intrinsic environmental value of natural open space has increased.

There is greater emphasis on preventative health care through recreation. Walking is popular to develop and maintain fitness. Trends also indicate that there is a decrease in participation in traditional, organised team sports on grassed areas and an increased demand for hard surfaces used for activities such as skating, non-organised basketball and tennis.

Employment trends indicate increased female participation in the workforce as well as increased part time and casual employment. Workers are also retiring earlier and staying in their homes for longer. All of these trends have impacts on recreational and open space requirements.

Council open space management must be flexible and inclusive of both current and emerging leisure pursuits. By understanding these changing needs, open space capable of offering a range of opportunities can be provided.

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### **GOAL: TO PROVIDE OPEN SPACE THAT MEETS CHANGING NEEDS**

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#### **4.1 FLEXIBLE USE REGIONAL FACILITIES**

Council has several regional open space areas capable of hosting a range of activities.

For some spaces (eg. BMX tracks), catering for multiple uses is problematical. For most regional spaces, however, it will be possible to develop facilities that cater to a range of uses. Regional sites with potential for improved flexibility include; Hewett Sports Ground, Blackwood Hill Oval, St Marys Park and Blackwood Community Recreation Centre.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

**To maximise the flexible use of regional facilities.**

**To develop new and existing facilities that offer multiple use opportunities for both the community and sporting and recreation organisations.**

#### **ACTIONS**

- 4.1.1 Develop the Hewett Sports Ground and Blackwood Hill Oval as multi purpose regional sporting facilities that cater for cricket, football, netball, tennis and other sports and social activities while maintaining a community focus.**
- 4.1.2 Redevelop St Marys Park as a multi purpose regional sporting facility and as a community focussed recreation area.**
- 4.1.3 Work with State Government and consult with the community to determine a suitable site, building and management plan to relocate the Blackwood Community Recreation Centre as a two-court stadium. Options to be explored should include the possibilities of the existing site, Karinya Reserve and Blackwood High School.**

#### **4.2 TENANCY AGREEMENTS**

Council should review its use of tenancy agreements. The Local Government Act, 1999 provides clear guidelines for the use of leases and licenses. Leases provide organisations with control and exclusive use of a facility at all times. Licences offer exclusive use of specific areas of facilities only at nominated times.

Without disadvantaging sporting and recreation clubs, Council should look to implement agreements that offer the community the most flexibility in relation to access to community land. In most cases this will be a licence.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

**To maximise the use of flexible tenancy arrangements.**

#### **ACTIONS**

- 4.2.1 Negotiate tenancy agreements that provide flexibility in relation to community access.**

#### **4.3 UMBRELLA MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES**

To optimise passive and active leisure opportunities for the community, it is important that facilities are managed well. One method worthy of consideration is the establishment of umbrella management groups that take direct responsibility for running a facility. These groups have representatives from organisations that use the facility as well as from the local community, council and, perhaps, surrounding business people.

To succeed, these management structures require the cooperation of the organisations involved. They may not be satisfactory in all situations.

However, Council can investigate opportunities to establish these umbrella bodies as facilities are redeveloped and as tenancy agreements are renegotiated.

#### OBJECTIVES

**To investigate opportunities to establish umbrella management groups to manage multiple use facilities.**

#### ACTIONS

**4.3.1 Investigate opportunities to establish umbrella management groups during tenancy negotiations.**

#### **4.4 EMERGING SPORTS AND RECREATION**

A number of sports are attracting rising participation rates.

A skate facility at the Westbourne Park Oval, Cumberland Park has been recently completed, with two more proposed. BMX tracks have been constructed at Hawthorndene, Mortlock Park and Suffolk Reserve.

Mountain bike riding is also attracting increased participation in the hills. Opportunities should be developed to cater for this sport in a managed and ecologically sustainable manner. To this end, the State Government is developing a strategy to ameliorate potential environmental impacts. It is important that Council has ongoing input into this plan.

Horse riding is also undergoing a strategic planning process at the State Government level. As with other recreational activities that utilise large tracts of open space in the City's hills, horse-riding must be managed to ensure the activity is environmentally sustainable. **(see also Section 9.2.2).**

Mitcham also contains sites attractive to abseilers and rock climbers **(see also Section 4.7)**

#### OBJECTIVES

**To acknowledge emerging sports and recreation in open space planning and management.**

**To ensure provision of ecologically sustainable mountain bike riding and horse riding opportunities.**

#### ACTIONS

**4.4.1 Continue to implement Council's Youth Facilities Strategy.**

**4.4.2 Develop a maintenance program for existing BMX facilities.**

**4.4.3 Work with State Government to develop guidelines for management and planning of mountain bike and horse riding activities.**

#### **4.5 OPEN SPACE REFERENCE GROUP**

Successful implementation of an Open Space Strategy requires a coordinated approach to planning for the provision and maintenance of open space.

Council should establish a management mechanism that captures expertise from across departmental boundaries. Information should also be shared on a regional basis by discussing planning strategies and proposed outcomes with neighbouring councils.

##### **OBJECTIVES**

**To improve open space planning and management decision-making.**

##### **ACTIONS**

**4.5.1 Develop an internal reference group with wide representation that meets regularly to address issues relating to the planning and management of open space, animal management, recreation and sport.**

**4.5.2 As necessary, meet with neighbouring councils to discuss regional open space opportunities and issues.**

#### **4.6 PROMOTING COUNCIL'S OPEN SPACE**

To increase awareness and improve capacity for people to use open space, brochures can be published covering; parks and reserves, walking trails, sporting grounds, recreation facilities, behaviour guidelines, safety etc.

Signage can also be used to improve promotion. Signage at significant open space areas should inform users of the services available, and signs on major roads should indicate the locations of facilities. It is important that signage presents positive and helpful information, as well as offering appropriate warnings.

Signage should offer; information on interpretation, suggested uses for the area, opening and closing times, and opportunities for feedback to Council.

Clear signage can also contribute to a feeling of safety and ownership. Signage should acknowledge specific activities prescribed or allowed under by-laws.

The use of actively helpful signs (eg. 'please walk on the path') is preferable to that of restrictive signs (eg. 'get off the grass').

Large, legible signs are most effective when they use standard symbols and are painted with strong colours. Signs should be strategically located and should include information on how the community can report maintenance and vandalism problems. Opening and closing times should also be clearly visible.

#### OBJECTIVES

**To promote awareness of the City's open space network.**

#### ACTIONS

- 4.6.1 Develop an open space promotions plan.**
- 4.6.2 Develop a uniform corporate signage style.**
- 4.6.3 Publish a series of open space brochures.**
- 4.6.4 Install signs on access roads to significant open space areas.**
- 4.6.5 Provide interpretive information on areas of historical, cultural and environmental significance.**
- 4.6.6 Use signage to promote open space, encourage reporting of undesirable behaviour and to seek feedback.**

#### **4.7 MANAGING DISUSED QUARRIES**

Twenty-seven disused quarries lie within Council reserves. These include quarries at Lynton Depot, McElligotts Reserve, Randell Park and Sleeps Hill. These areas provide significant risk management issues for Council.

They also provide potential sites for rock climbing, abseiling, geological ecotourism and social historical preservation.

#### OBJECTIVES

**To ensure Council owned disused quarries are safe.**

**To enhance opportunities for adventure sports and tourism at Council owned quarries.**

#### ACTIONS

- 4.7.1 Continue implementation of the fencing and safety recommendations from 1999 City of Mitcham Quarries Report.**
- 4.7.2 Develop, in consultation with relevant groups, a strategy to safely manage sporting activities at appropriate quarry sites.**
- 4.7.3 Install signage to highlight the geological and social historical features of specific quarry sites.**

## PROVIDING OPEN SPACE TO MEET CHANGING NEEDS

### PRIORITISED ACTIONS

ACTION NUMBER	ACTION	LINKED ACTION	PRIORITY (1 - 5)*
4.1.1	Develop the Hewett Sports Ground and Blackwood Hill Oval as multi purpose regional sporting facilities that cater for cricket, football, netball, tennis and other sports and social activities.	4.3.1 5.2.2	3
4.1.2	Redevelop St Marys Park as a multi purpose regional sporting facility and as a community focussed recreation area.		2
4.1.3	Work with State Government and consult with the community to determine a suitable site, building and management plan to relocate the Blackwood Community Recreation Centre as a two-court stadium. Options to be explored should include the possibilities of the existing site, Karinya Reserve and Blackwood High School.		1
4.2.1	Negotiate tenancy agreements that provide flexibility in relation to community access.		2
4.3.1	Investigate and prioritise opportunities to establish umbrella management groups to manage multiple use facilities.		4
4.4.1	Continue to implement Council's Youth Facilities Strategy.	8.1.1 8.4.4	1
4.4.2	Develop a maintenance program for existing BMX facilities.	8.6.1	2
4.4.3	Work with State Government to develop guidelines for management and planning of mountain bike and horse riding activities.	6.4.1 9.2.2	2
4.5.1	Develop an internal reference group with wide representation that meets regularly to address issues relating to the planning and management of open space, animal management, recreation and sport.		1

<b>ACTION NUMBER</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>LINKED ACTION</b>	<b>PRIORITY (1 - 5)*</b>
4.5.2	As necessary, meet with neighbouring councils to discuss regional open space opportunities and issues.	3.1.1 3.1.4	3
4.6.1	Develop an open space promotions plan.		4
4.6.2	Develop a uniform corporate signage style.		3
4.6.3	Publish a series of open space brochures.	9.6.2	1
4.6.4	Install signs on access roads to significant open space areas.		3
4.6.5	Provide interpretive information on areas of historical, cultural and environmental significance.		3
4.6.6	Use signage to promote open space, encourage reporting of undesirable behaviour and to seek feedback.	8.4.1	5
4.7.1	Continue implementation of the fencing and safety recommendations from 1999 City of Mitcham quarries report.		1
4.7.2	Develop in consultation with relevant groups a strategy to safely manage sporting activities at appropriate quarry sites, such as Randell Park.		1
4.7.3	Install signage to highlight the geological and social historical features of specific quarry sites.	4.6.2 4.6.5	4

- \*  
 1 - very high priority  
 2 - high priority  
 3 - medium priority  
 4 - ongoing action - short or medium term  
 5 - ongoing action - long term

## **5 THE METROPOLITAN OPEN SPACE SYSTEM AND THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

Through the Metropolitan Open Space System (MOSS), the State Government seeks to create a network of regional open spaces in order to establish a second green belt around Adelaide.

The ultimate intent is to create a clearly defined and linked system of public and privately owned land of an open or natural character.

The network provides a visual contrast to the built urban environment and caters for a range of active and passive leisure uses. MOSS and other regional Council Open Space areas represent important priorities for the State Government.

Within the City of Mitcham, land located within the State Government MOSS study area includes land extending from Bedford Park along the Sturt River through Eden Hills and Bellevue Heights up to Craighburn and through the Belair and Brownhill Creek areas to Mt Barker Road.

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**GOAL: ENSURE THE CITY OF MITCHAM DEVELOPMENT PLAN PROTECTS AND ENHANCES THE CITY'S OPEN SPACE NETWORK**

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### **5.1 MOSS**

#### *Incorporating MOSS Planning Principles*

Currently, Council works towards fulfilling the MOSS ideology by linking its open spaces and by integrating its planning with MOSS planning principles.

The metropolitan-wide principles of development control are listed in Council's Development Plan. The principles include land use requirements for public and private owners to protect the environment and to minimise the impact of development.

#### *Developing and Enhancing MOSS in Mitcham*

The importance placed on MOSS by the State Government provides Council with a basis for funding opportunities through the Planning and Development Fund.

Councils which have identified key pieces of privately owned land that are significant as nodes or links in the metropolitan open space system can, under certain conditions, apply for funds from the Planning and Development Fund to purchase this land for public access.

With this in mind, Council has identified high priority areas to investigate as potential sites to develop in accordance with the MOSS study area principles. These include sections of land along the Sturt River.

In addition to the major areas identified in the Development Plan and the Sturt River, there are other small areas located on the edge of the MOSS and Hills Face Zone that may be suitable for purchase to enhance the MOSS study area.

These areas can only be identified by detailed site analysis based upon an agreed set of inclusion criteria. Such an investigation is beyond the scope of this Strategy.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

**To ensure that developments within MOSS observe the relevant provisions prescribed by the City of Mitcham Development Plan.**

**To maximise funding opportunities for priority developments through the Planning and Development fund.**

#### **ACTIONS**

**5.1.1 Advise relevant applicants of MOSS objectives and principles during development assessment process.**

**5.1.2 Investigate sections of the Sturt River from Bedford Park to Upper Sturt as potential high priority sites to further implement the intent of MOSS.**

**5.1.3 Investigate and identify institutional zoned land parcels that are high priority sites to expand MOSS.**

#### **5.2 REVIEWING THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

In accordance with the Development Act, Council is required to maintain a Development Plan. The Development Plan is the main statutory document used by the Council to assess and control development within the City.

The aim of the Development Plan is to facilitate '...proper, orderly and efficient planning and development' for the City through zoning.

Council's Development Plan may make general and specific provisions for open space.

General provisions are made when seeking to prescribe how an area of open space should be created when, for example, land is being divided, for example, adjacent to a designated watercourse.

Specific provisions designating a defined area for open space may be made in any the following circumstances:

- **Where the land is owned, or in the care, control and management of Council.** The strongest development control over land use is ownership. Where Council owns land used as open space, it can further ensure its future use as Open Space through an appropriate zoning, (typically 'Special Use').
- **Where the land is currently in State Government or other public ownership and is used wholly or partly for Open Space.** A zoning reflecting the open or institutional use of the land may be introduced, with the agreement of the Crown, to allow for the continued use and development of the land for institutional and open space purposes.
- **Where the land is owned privately but is earmarked for purchase by Council or the State Government.** Delineating the area as open space in the Development Plan will allow some protection against development that would prejudice its use as open space<sup>1</sup>.
- **Where the land is part of a broadacre parcel and delineated to be set aside as open space under the land division process,** as in the case of Craighburn Farm.

Open space designation is an appropriate step in the process of ensuring land is retained or converted to open space, provided that there is an intention to secure the land by one of the four approaches described above.

#### *Section 30 Reviews*

Section 30 of the Development Act requires that Council regularly reviews its Development Plan. These reviews are used to determine the Development Plan's appropriateness and its consistency with the State Government Planning Strategy.

The Planning Strategy presents current State Government development policy. Its main aims are to guide and coordinate State Government activity in the construction and provision of services and infrastructure, and to provide direction for future development to the community, the private sector and to local government.

#### *Plan Amendment Reports*

Changes to the Development Plan can be made by a Plan Amendment Report (PAR). This can be done to achieve rezoning in a particular area of importance, or to amend the 'Objectives and Principles of Development Control' within existing zones. The PAR process is rigorous and requires the approval of the State Government.

A PAR recommending rezoning or amendments to existing provisions needs to be based on detailed investigations and thorough research. The PAR

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<sup>1</sup> In these circumstances, it should be noted that designating an area as 'open space' would be pointless and potentially misleading if its purchase was not intended to be subsequently enacted upon. Due to financial and current use limitations, Council is not able to purchase all the land it may want for use as open space. For this reason, it is strongly recommended that any delineation of land as open space in the Development Plan be underpinned by a budgetary allocation.

requires the preparation of statement of intent, a description of the changed circumstances leading to the request for the amendment, and an outline of the issues to be addressed.

With the PAR process in mind, Council can identify open space that is zoned for other uses and, where practical, investigate a rezoning to reflect the area's use as open space. This will provide a zoning that is consistent with current use and offer some future protection as open space.

Given that most local open space is small in size, and in some cases unsuitable for other land uses, assessing open space for zoning consistency should focus on larger local open space areas (ie. greater than 15 000 m<sup>2</sup>).

Another area that merits investigation is government land. Subject to negotiation, some public schools with playing fields and hard court areas can provide potential opportunities for use by the community as open space. This is demonstrated by the Edwardstown Primary School joint use agreement.

In addition to the negotiation of these types of agreements, further protection for open space on larger public school properties may be provided by rezoning these areas to a zone that is consistent with their current use as open space.

If investigations conclude that changes to the Development Plan in relation to open space can be made, it is recommended that a PAR review open space across the City rather than proceed on an individual basis.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

**To ensure Development Plan zoning protects and enhances the City's open space.**

**To ensure any PAR process reviews open space across Council rather than specific areas on an individual basis.**

#### **ACTIONS**

**5.2.1 Consider the protection of key public and private open space areas through Section 30 Development Plan reviews.**

**5.2.2 Map, using GIS, those areas of public and private open space greater than 15000 m<sup>2</sup> and review for zoning consistency.**

**5.2.3 Investigate areas that Council intends to secure or seeks to retain as open space and, where appropriate, use the PAR process to change the zone to one that is consistent with open space use.**

## THE METROPOLITAN OPEN SPACE SYSTEM AND THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

### PRIORITISED ACTIONS

ACTION NUMBER	ACTION	LINKED ACTION	PRIORITY (1 - 5)*
5.1.1	Advise relevant applicants of MOSS objectives and principles during the assessment process.		4
5.1.2	Investigate sections of the Sturt River from Bedford Park to Upper Sturt as potential high priority sites to further implement the intent of MOSS.	9.5.7	2
5.1.3	Investigate and identify institutional zoned land parcels that are high priority sites to expand MOSS.		2
5.2.1	Consider the protection of key public and private open space areas through Section 30 Development Plan reviews.		2
5.2.2	Map, using GIS, those areas of public and private open space greater than 15000 m <sup>2</sup> and review for zoning consistency.		3
5.2.3	Investigate areas that Council intends to secure or seeks to retain as open space and, where appropriate, use the PAR process to change the zone to one that is consistent with open space use.		3

- \*  
 1 - very high priority  
 2 - high priority  
 3 - medium priority  
 4 - ongoing action - short or medium term  
 5 - ongoing action - long term

## **6 REGIONAL OPEN SPACE LINKAGES**

The development of regional networks offers opportunities for access to a range of community spaces both within the Council area and the region.

The amenity of open space is greatly increased by improving access and developing linkages to other open space areas both within the City and beyond.

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**GOAL: DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN A LINKED REGIONAL OPEN SPACE NETWORK**

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### **6.1 LINKING THE HILLS AND PLAINS**

The City's hills area contains a number of important regional open spaces, including; Shepherds Hill Recreation Park, Belair National Park and Brownhill Creek Recreation Park.

Providing linkages between these spaces, and between the hills area and the plains will enable Council to progress an integrated network of open space throughout the City and improve accessibility to regional open spaces.

Drainage lines often, although not always, provide the most appropriate and accessible linear spaces to link the hills and plains.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

**To enhance the role of paths, trails, reserves, bikeways and drainage lines as links between hills and plains.**

#### **ACTIONS**

**6.1.1 Prepare and implement a plan to develop links between the Sturt River Linear Park and Belair National Park including via;**

- **Turners Avenue, Olave Hill Road and Upper Sturt Road,**
- **Main Road and Minno Creek, and**
- **Fiveash Drive, Shepherd Hill Recreation Park, Saddle Hill Reserve, Watiparinga Reserve, Gloucester Avenue and Sheoak Road.**

**6.1.2 Prepare and implement a plan to improve the link from Brownhill Creek Road to Belair National Park via Pony Ridge Road and Sheoak Road.**

- 6.1.3 Prepare and implement a plan to identify, promote and develop access points from the plains to the hills face zone, including; Ayliffes Road, Redgum Drive, Riviera Court, Seaview Crescent, Railway Tce, Hogarth Road / Sleeps Hill Drive, Seaview Road, Braemar Road, Anderson Avenue, Weemala Drive, Brownhill Creek Road and Hartley Grove.**

## **6.2 HABITAT CORRIDORS**

Developing linkages between open spaces can provide ecological as well as social benefits by providing a means for wildlife to move between ecosystems.

Creeks and drainage lines are particularly important for habitat corridors, and establishment of indigenous vegetation in these areas has the added benefit of improving water quality.

In the plains areas, problems associated with drainage corridors (vandalism, housebreakings and fire) can also be addressed through creation of habitat corridors. Some plantings have been undertaken along drainage reserves in Pasadena.

In the hills areas, work has been progressing over several years to replace exotic vegetation with locally indigenous species. Continuation of these projects will serve to enhance the habitat corridors in this part of the City.

Development of habitat corridors also complements recreation and tourism opportunities.

### **OBJECTIVES**

**To enhance the role of creeks and drainage reserves as habitat corridors.**

### **ACTIONS**

- 6.2.1 Create indigenous vegetation corridors by linking drainage reserves in St Marys.**
- 6.2.2 Continue indigenous vegetation plantings along drainage reserves in Pasadena.**
- 6.2.3 Continue vegetation restoration works along Brownhill Creek, Sturt River and Minno Creek.**

## **6.3 LINKS THROUGH THE HILLS FACE ZONE AND BEYOND**

A walking trail linking open spaces along the hills face zone has been discussed in several forums, including the Mitcham Open Space Advisory Committee and in the 1999 City of Mitcham Environmental Action Plan. Such a trail may traverse several of the following:

- Shepherd's Hill Recreation Park
- Saddle Hill Reserve
- Watiparinga Reserve
- Sleeps Hill Recreation Park
- Belair Reserve
- Windy Point Reserve
- Lynton Depot
- Lynton Dump
- Randell Park
- Anderson Avenue Reserve
- Brownhill Creek Recreation Park
- McElligotts Quarry Reserve
- Brownhill Reserve
- Carrick Hill
- Waite Agricultural Research Institute

Linkages should also be explored between local open space and regional open space beyond the City of Mitcham. The Cleland Conservation Park is one such regional open space.

#### OBJECTIVES

#### To maximise links across the Hills Face Zone

#### ACTIONS

**6.3.1 Develop a hills face zone walking trail from Shepherd's Hill Recreation Park to Waite Agricultural Research Institute.**

**6.3.2 Develop linkages between the Mitcham hills face zone and open space in adjacent Cities.**

#### 6.4 INTEGRATING WITH STATE GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

In addition to MOSS, Council should consider other regional and State plans when developing and planning for its open space. Whilst some of the following are not complete, it is important that Council be active participants in their development and implementation.

- **The Parklands 21 Study reviews** existing planning, cultural and economic information on open space. Its vision is to 'Deliver a network of parklands that links the city, the suburbs, the coast and the hills of Adelaide to provide open space for future generations.'
- **The Recreational Greenways Bill** proposes a network of trails across the State that pass through Crown, Council and privately owned land. The purpose of the trails is to create access for walking, horse riding, cycling and skating.
- **The Mount Lofty Ranges Parkland Strategy** is an initiative that aims to link National Parks and Wildlife reserves, Forestry SA reserves and other public land throughout the Adelaide Hills. It also refers to the development of a network of trails that links parks in the Mt Lofty Ranges.
- **The Recreation Trails Strategic Plan** is developing future directions for recreation trails between 2001 - 2006. It will identify a management structure to implement and monitor the strategy, identify key issues and develop a model for encouraging community volunteer involvement.

- **The State Off-Road Cycling Strategy** aims to develop a coordinated approach to the development of policy, infrastructure, marketing, standards and education in order to provide a framework to enable access to ecologically sustainable off-road cycling.
- **The State Horse Strategy** aims to provide a clear picture on the horse industry as well as outline strategic directions, opportunities, and guidelines for the planning and provision of infrastructure and services. This may lead to horse trails that link between the Mitcham, Adelaide Hills and Onkaparinga Councils.

#### OBJECTIVES

**To provide support to State Government initiatives that complement the City of Mitcham's open space objectives.**

#### ACTIONS

- 6.4.1 Maintain dialogue with State Government departments regarding progress of relevant initiatives including:**
- **Parklands 21,**
  - **The Recreational Greenways Bill,**
  - **The Mount Lofty Ranges Parkland Strategy,**
  - **The Recreation Trails Strategic Plan,**
  - **The State Off-Road Cycling Strategy, and**
  - **The State Horse Strategy**
- 6.4.2 Regularly review State Government initiatives when planning for major open space developments.**

## REGIONAL OPEN SPACE LINKAGES

### PRIORITISED ACTIONS

ACTION NUMBER	ACTION	LINKED ACTION	PRIORITY (1 - 5)
6.1.1	Prepare and implement a plan to develop links between the Sturt River Linear Park and Belair National Park via Turners Avenue, Olave Hill Rd and Upper Sturt Road Main Road and Minno Creek, and, Fiveash Drive, Shepherd Hill Recreation Park, Saddle Hill Reserve, Watiparinga Reserve, Gloucester Avenue and Sheoak Road.		3
6.1.2	Prepare and implement a plan to improve the link from Brownhill Creek Road to Belair National Park via Pony Ridge Road and Sheoak Road.		3
6.1.3	Prepare and implement a plan to identify, promote and develop access points from the plains to the hills face zone, including; Ayliffes Road, Redgum Drive, The Riviera, Seaview Crescent, Railway Tce, Hogarth Road / Sleeps Hill Drive, Seaview Road, Braemar Road, Anderson Avenue, Weemala Drive, Brownhill Creek Road and Hartley Grove.		2
6.2.1	Create indigenous vegetation corridors by linking drainage reserves in St Marys.		5
6.2.2	Continue indigenous vegetation plantings along drainage reserves in Pasadena.		3
6.2.3	Continue vegetation restoration works along Brownhill Creek, Sturt River and Minno Creek.	9.2.1	3
6.3.1	Develop a hills face zone walking trail from Shepherd's Hill Recreation Park to Waite Agricultural Research Institute.	9.3.2	3
6.3.2	Develop linkages between the Mitcham hills face zone and open space in adjacent Cities.	4.5.2	5

ACTION NUMBER	ACTION	LINKED ACTION	PRIORITY (1 - 5)
6.4.1	Maintain dialogue with State Government departments regarding progress of relevant initiatives including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parklands 21</li> <li>• The Recreational Greenways Bill</li> <li>• The Mount Lofty Ranges Parkland Strategy</li> <li>• The Recreation Trails Strategic Plan</li> <li>• The State Off-Road Cycling Strategy</li> <li>• The State Horse Strategy</li> </ul>	9.5.1	4
6.4.2	Regularly review State Government initiatives when planning for major open space developments.	6.4.1	1

- \*  
 1 - very high priority  
 2 - high priority  
 3 - medium priority  
 4 - ongoing action - short or medium term  
 5 - ongoing action - long term

## **7 GUIDELINES AND PROGRAM FOR ACQUISITION AND DISPOSAL OF OPEN SPACE**

Council's open space network has grown significantly since the 1950's. Acquisitions, whilst largely ad-hoc or associated with major subdivisions, have provided the basis for a comprehensive open space network.

These acquisitions have also, of course, incurred significant maintenance costs for Council. They have also provided open space that may be not needed in a given location, may not serve a useful purpose, and may not meet the strategic open space needs of the City.

Council's long term aim should be to consolidate existing holdings into a network that best meets the current and future needs of the community and the environment in the most cost-effective manner possible.

A guiding principle of this Strategy is to provide the City with an open space network that delivers a sustainable balance between social, economic and environmental values. A formal criteria, or guideline, based on these values can be used to assist decision making regarding acquisition and disposal of open space.

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**GOAL : OPEN SPACE ACQUISITION AND DISPOSAL BASED ON RELEVANT SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES**

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### **7.1 ACQUISITION GUIDELINES**

Based on the identified trends and needs, the 'Open Space Acquisition Guidelines (**Appendix 2**) provide a guide to achieve informed decision-making regarding potential acquisitions.

It should also be noted that, in accordance with the new Local Government Act, Council must consider, prior to any land acquisitions, whether the land should be classified as Community Land or excluded from this category.

The Act also requires identification and documentation of the reasons for purchase and the intended use of the land, as well as adoption of a management plan.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

**To improve strategic decision making in acquisition of open space.**

**To ensure any acquisition of open space advances the City's open space objectives.**

## **ACTIONS**

### **7.1.1 Develop a business case assessing any land parcel being considered for acquisition against the Open Space Acquisition Guidelines (refer Appendix 2)**

## **7.2 DISPOSAL GUIDELINES**

This strategy recommends that disposal of open space only be considered in cases where such disposal is demonstrably beneficial to the City's open space network.

Sale of open space should occur if, and only if, a direct consequence of the sale is acquisition of new, or improvements to existing, open space.

Disposal of open space is, in most cases, politically unpopular. Community consultation has consistently revealed an extensive open space network is an attractive feature of living in the City of Mitcham.

When considering any disposal, Council should undertake extensive community consultation process involving the neighbourhood and other interested parties. The community should be advised of the reasons for disposal, the anticipated value of the land and how the funds will be redistributed.

Council must also be aware of the Local Government Act that permits Council to sell Community Land only where the classification of Community Land has been revoked in accord with the conditions of the Act<sup>2</sup>. Should Council wish to have the opportunity to consider alternate future use or development or disposal of part or all of a parcel, Council should consider excluding the parcel from Community Land where possible (**refer Section 2.1**) before 1/1/2003.

As for open space acquisition, any assessment for disposal should be informed by agreed guidelines. A set of guidelines is included in Appendix 2.

## **OBJECTIVES**

**To improve strategic decision making in disposal of open space.**

**To ensure any disposal of open space advances the City's open space objectives and complies with the requirements of the Local Government Act.**

## **ACTIONS**

### **7.2.1 Prepare a business case assessing any open space being considered for disposal against the Open Space Disposal Guidelines (refer Appendix 2).**

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<sup>2</sup> It should be noted that where Community Land is affected by a reservation, dedication or trust, the revocation of the Community Land classification may be difficult and requires the approval of the Minister.

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### **7.3 PROGRAM OF ACQUISITION AND DISPOSAL**

Identification of specific allotments for acquisition or disposal was not undertaken as part of this Strategy.

Preparation of such a program requires analysis of a range of weighted variables, and would most accurately be pursued using a Geographic Information System (GIS). This Strategy recommends implementation of a Council GIS as a priority.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

**To develop a strategic long term acquisition and disposal schedule.**

#### **ACTIONS**

- 7.3.1 Work with land agents to identify larger obsolete blocks and residential allotments or clusters with low improved value.**
- 7.3.2 Give preference to developing existing open space, including acquisition of additional land to increase the size of local open spaces that are currently an insufficient size to meet community demand.**
- 7.3.3 When a Geographic Information System is implemented, develop a layer identifying and prioritising potential acquisition and disposal targets. Land parcel data should be analysed and evaluated against a range of variables based on the acquisition and disposal guidelines (refer Appendix 2).**
- 7.3.4 Notify targeted land owners of Council's long term acquisition objectives and seek early opportunities for purchase.**

## GUIDELINES AND PROGRAM FOR ACQUISITION AND DISPOSAL OF OPEN SPACE

### PRIORITISED ACTIONS

ACTION NUMBER	ACTION	LINKED ACTION	PRIORITY (1 - 5*)
7.1.1	Develop a business case assessing any land parcel being considered for acquisition against the open space acquisition guidelines.		1
7.2.1	Prepare a business case assessing any open space being considered for disposal against the open space disposal guidelines.		1
7.3.1	Work with land agents to identify larger obsolete blocks and residential allotments or clusters with low improved value.	3.2.1	3
7.3.2	Give preference to development of existing open space including acquisition of additional land to increase the size of local open spaces that are currently an insufficient size to meet community demand.	7.3.3	3
7.3.3	When a Geographic Information System is implemented, develop a layer identifying and prioritising potential acquisition and disposal targets. Land parcel data should be analysed and evaluated against a range of variables based on the acquisition and disposal guidelines.	7.3.2	3
7.3.4	Notify targeted land owners of Council's long term acquisition objectives and seek early opportunities for purchase.		4

- \*  
 1 - very high priority  
 2 - high priority  
 3 - medium priority  
 4 - ongoing action - short or medium term  
 5 - ongoing action - long term

## **8 PROVIDING QUALITY OPEN SPACE**

Maximising equity in open space provision involves more than simply considering the physical distribution of open space across the City. Open space will benefit more people and be used more frequently when it is designed with the needs of all diverse users in mind.

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**GOAL : PROVIDE QUALITY OPEN SPACE AREAS WHICH  
MAXIMISES ACCESS FOR ALL USER GROUPS**

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### **8.1 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

Community forums have strongly indicated that residents place a high value on open space and are keen to play an ongoing role in its development.

Currently, when developing open space, Council consults with residents in the immediate area.

It is important that input is sought from a broad and representative section of the local residents. In addition to current consultation processes, consideration should be given to holding focus group meetings.

Consulting with a broader and more inclusive group has the potential to capture feedback from groups that may otherwise be excluded, such as; children, young people and people with a disability. Such consultation also has potential to:

- Provide more relevant open space to the community,
- Limit conflict,
- Address safety issues including crime prevention in more depth,
- Provide an effective measure of Council's performance, and
- Save staff time and resources.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

**To maximise the input of the community into open space decision making.**

#### **ACTIONS**

**8.1.1 Where appropriate, actively seek input on the design and location of open space from young people, children and their caregivers, and people with a disability.**

**8.1.2 As appropriate, use focus groups as a part of the consultation process when developing open space.**

## **8.2 SPORT AND RECREATION CLUBS**

Sporting reserves are an essential and desirable component of the City's open space network. By providing venues for clubs and outdoor activities, sporting reserves add to the culture and community spirit of an area.

Recent trends have seen a decreased participation in some traditional organised sports, and increased participation in a broader range of sports and informal recreation activities.

The introduction of poker machines has also affected the potential for some clubs to gain and retain social members.

Sporting clubs are increasingly competing for resources, and those with low membership bases will struggle to survive in the long term.

Many clubs have indicated a desire for greater communication with Council in relation to their open space and facility requirements.

In relation to playing fields, sporting clubs are keen to have their grounds in the best possible condition. This is often difficult due to the concentration of use that many grounds experience.

Council's challenge is to provide a sustainable quality of playing surface which, as near as possible, meets the requirements of the clubs.

Most clubs operating on Council playing fields now have standard agreements identifying the terms and conditions of ground use. These agreements may require that Council maintains the ground whilst clubs provide any special requirements for their sport.

The establishment of a regular forum would provide clubs with an opportunity to give feedback to Council on their current situations and to develop closer links. Discussions around a number of issues including ground management could occur.

### **OBJECTIVES**

**To enhance feedback from sport and recreation clubs.**

### **ACTIONS**

**8.2.2 Establish a regular forum with local sport and recreation organisations to develop closer relationships with Council.**

## **8.3 CRIME PREVENTION**

Crime prevention covers a range of issues including personal safety and vandalism.

To minimise the potential for crime, these issues should be considered in the development and design of open space.

If a space is perceived to be unsafe, sections of the community will choose not to use it. To ensure maximum use, planning should address vegetation, lighting, signage and surveillance measures.

When planting an area, it is important to consider the mature size and growth pattern of vegetation and how this may screen activity or provide hiding places for flashers or other undesirable people.

Providing clear sightlines will allow for the surveillance of people and property from either below or above trees and shrubs.

### *Safety Lighting*

Lighting can be used in several ways to improve safety. It can focus attention on a specific area in order to discourage unlawful and undesirable activities. The perception of a safe environment encourages use of open spaces, which itself can enhance safety.

Safety lighting will not be required on all open space, however consideration should be given to how it may benefit each area.

## **OBJECTIVES**

**To minimise the potential for crime on Council-owned open space.**

## **ACTIONS**

**8.3.1 Vegetate open space in a manner that provides clear sightlines.**

**8.3.2 In areas where after dark use is encouraged, design and develop open space with appropriate safety lighting.**

## **8.4 MANAGING DIVERSITY**

Open space can provide a broad range of opportunities to the entire diverse community, including those people with specific needs or with strong links with the Aboriginal history of the area.

### *People with a Disability*

The needs of this group mirror those of the general community. However, people with disabilities may have specific barriers to overcome when accessing open space.

Council has recognised this and has made recommendations in its Disability Action Plan regarding ease of access to parks and gardens for all people.

Council can encourage and foster a culture of inclusion and access for people with disabilities by designing open space in consultation with representatives of disability groups. It can also provide specific measures to increase access, such as the development of equal access play spaces.

Equal access play spaces are designed to provide a play experience for children who, due to a disability, cannot use and enjoy traditional playgrounds.

Play spaces designed for equal access aim to provide access for all and to create an area that is not reliant on manufactured equipment. This provides a safe, stimulating and unique environment for all users.

Signage should use symbols to assist those with vision impairment or literacy difficulties.

#### *Older People*

Personal safety is a major issue for the elderly. Given that the average age of residents is increasing, sound planning will aim to cater for this older population.

Requirements may include; actual and perceived safe areas, sufficient car parking, unobstructed and even pathways, shade, seating and quiet areas for watching others including their grandchildren.

#### *Young People*

It is important for young people to have access to open space where they can gather and socialise. Key facilities to provide informal recreation opportunities for this group include tables, seating and toilets.

Council has also recognised the need for more formal facilities and is in the process of redeveloping the BMX track at Hawthorndene and building three skate parks throughout the City.

#### *Aboriginal Heritage*

Increased engagement of the Aboriginal community will provide opportunities to advance reconciliation through raising awareness of the pre-European history of the City's open spaces.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

**To provide equity of access to open spaces and facilities for people with a disability.**

**To improve the provision of open space facilities for young people.**

**To provide equity of access to open spaces and facilities for older people.**

**To promote the involvement of Aboriginal communities in the management and development of open space.**

#### **ACTIONS**

**8.4.1 Consider the needs of disabled users in the design of open space facilities.**

**8.4.2 Investigate opportunities to develop equal access play areas.**

**8.4.3 Design amenities in open space for older adults including seating and shade.**

**8.4.4 Consider the needs of young people when developing open space.**

**8.4.5 Where appropriate, recognise and consult with Aboriginal communities during management and development of open spaces.**

**8.5 HEALTH AND SAFETY**

Council has common law and statutory obligations to minimise risk of injury to users of its open spaces.

Managing risk in a systematic manner will minimise potential harm to users of the open space network. In addition, by developing a perception of safety, usage is increased which can itself enhance physical safety.

*Play Spaces*

There is a perception that where play spaces for children are made safe, they are also made unimaginative and unadventurous. To provide areas that are stimulating and encourage imaginative play, a park can include:

- Natural environments such as trees, low bush plantings and herb gardens,
- Safe or modified access to creeks in a park environment, and
- Hideaway places and cubbie houses,

Addressing safety in regard to these types of facilities also requires designing areas that allow children to remain visible to caregivers from vantage points such as seating and barbecue areas. The interaction between dogs and children's play space also requires management.

*Public Toilets*

In some open space areas, the provision of public toilets can pose a safety problem. Concerns regarding graffiti, vandalism and other forms of undesirable behaviour in and around toilets can have an effect on the level of use and enjoyment experienced at parks and reserves. A number of approaches can be taken to provide safer environments where the provision of toilets is a problem. These include:

- Flood lighting an area,
- Installing single cubicle toilets, and
- Restricting or limiting times that toilets are open.

*Sharps Disposal*

The safe disposal of sharps has become an important issue in open space settings. Current research suggests that the provision of sharps disposal units

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does not encourage intravenous drug use in the area in which it is located, however it does encourage the responsible disposal of sharps.

### *Shading*

Provision of adequate shading can minimise exposure of the community to ultraviolet radiation and reduce the risk of skin cancer. The Anti-Cancer Foundation has developed guidelines for shade planning and design for outdoor facilities and parks. Council should assess the shade needs of its open space against these guidelines and address any gaps.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

**To ensure safety around toilet facilities.**

**To ensure that open spaces provide a safe but stimulating environment for children.**

**To provide adequate shading to reduce the risk of skin cancer.**

#### **ACTIONS**

**8.5.1 Provide sharps disposal units in priority public toilets located on open spaces and other identified risk locations.**

**8.5.2 Locate, design and maintain public toilets to provide safe and 'vandal-proof' amenities for users of open space.**

**8.5.3 Assess the provision of shade on Council owned open space against Anti-Cancer Foundation 'Guidelines for Shade Planning and Design'.**

#### **8.6 MAINTENANCE STANDARDS**

Standards of maintenance strongly influence levels of use and enjoyment of open space.

The City of Mitcham currently spends more than \$1.2 million per year on open space maintenance. This reflects the level of importance that Council places on its parks and gardens and the input it believes is required to maintain these areas in a condition that is acceptable to the community.

To prioritise and plan for the care and maintenance of open space, a prioritised list of maintenance standards has been developed over several years.

Assessment and priority rating of recreational open spaces was undertaken according to:

- Areas with high levels of community use,
- Areas containing playgrounds and other well used general facilities (eg. barbecues, shelter sheds or special features),
- Community expectations based on past history,

- Current distribution and demand for open space in a given area (ie. some open space has high demand due to low provision, or may be sited adjacent high level user groups such as schools or high density housing areas),
- Past or existing co-use of an area via a current tenancy agreement, and
- Association with a building of historical significance.

Woodland Reserves have also been assessed on the basis of:

- Need for fire protection,
- Level of indigenous and exotic vegetation (and need for weed control),
- Amount of community use and passive recreation, and
- Level of Council and community commitment to revegetating an area.

To reflect the changing needs of the community, Council will benefit from a regular review of the priority list with particular emphasis on identifying areas that no longer conform to a priority area.

Water use on irrigated reserves is also a significant financial and environmental cost. The community is increasingly expecting major water consumers to change their consumption patterns and relieve the demand upon the resources of the River Murray. Technologies such as aquifer recharge and sewer mining may provide more sustainable solutions to the use of mains water.

#### OBJECTIVES

**To ensure best practice maintenance standards are developed and implemented for all Council reserves.**

#### ACTIONS

**8.6.1 Review at least annually open space maintenance priority listings.**

**8.6.2 Investigate options for more efficient use of mains water and alternate water sources on Council reserves.**

#### **8.7 BENCHMARKING PERFORMANCE**

As with other organisational areas and departments with complex management issues, open space management may benefit from implementation of an evaluation system that is based on 'best practice'.

At this stage, Council has no formalised method of measuring community perceptions of standards of care and maintenance. Nor is there a formal method for comparing open space expenditure with that of other local government authorities.

Benchmarking projects may provide valuable information on both the operational management of open space and users' attitudes to these areas.

This form of performance measurement can help Council to track its own performance from year to year as well as compare its outcomes against similar organisations.

Opportunities to participate in these projects with other councils in South Australia and the eastern states of Australia are emerging as local government authorities realise the potential for this type of management approach.

#### OBJECTIVES

**To explore open space benchmarking projects.**

#### ACTIONS

**8.7.1 Research cost and benefits of open space benchmarking projects and assess applicability for Mitcham.**

### **8.8 GENERAL FACILITIES CHECKLIST**

The wide range of activities carried out on open space in the City creates increased demand for a broad range of facilities.

The provision of general facilities will have an impact on the experiences available, the types and numbers of people attracted to an area, and a park's maintenance levels and design requirements.

Working toward installation of appropriate facilities will provide a consistent level of facilities and experiences for park users throughout the Council area.

**Appendix 3** contains a 'General Facilities Checklist' that will enable assessment of the level of equipment appropriate for the type and hierarchical level of an area.

#### OBJECTIVES

**To continually improve provision of appropriate facilities at Council open space.**

#### ACTIONS

**8.8.1 When developing open space, assess the requirements for facilities against the General Facilities Checklist (refer Appendix 3).**

**8.8.2 Establish, as a layer on Council's Geographic Information System, the open space inventory with up to date information regarding facilities at each site.**

### **8.9 ART WORK IN OPEN SPACE**

In addition to functional facilities, Council should consider enhancing the amenity and attractiveness of open space through installation of art works. The community and local artists can be involved in the development of interpretive murals, sculpture, totems, ceramics etc, to enhance the 'sense of place' among local residents.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

**To improve open space attractiveness and enhance community ownership.**

#### **ACTIONS**

**8.9.1 Identify potential open space sites and partners for community art development.**

## PROVIDING QUALITY OPEN SPACE

### PRIORITISED ACTIONS

<b>ACTION NUMBER</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>LINKED ACTION</b>	<b>PRIORITY (1 - 5)*</b>
8.1.1	Actively seek input on the design and location of open space from young people, children and their caregivers, and people with a disability.	2.5	2
8.1.2	As appropriate, use focus groups as a part of the consultation process when developing open space.	2.4.1	2
8.2.2	Establish a regular forum with local sport and recreation organisations to develop closer relationships with Council.	4.3.2	4
8.3.1	Vegetate open space in a manner that provides clear sightlines.	2.2.1	1
8.3.2	Identify areas where after-dark use occurs and design and develop open space with appropriate safety lighting.	2.2.1	2
8.4.1	Design all open space facilities and signage to be accessible and useable for people with disabilities.	2.2.1	4
8.4.2	Investigate opportunities to develop equal access play areas.	2.2.1	2
8.4.3	Design amenities in open space for older adults including seating.	2.2.1	3
8.4.4	Consider the needs of young people when developing open space.	2.2.1	2
8.4.5	Where appropriate, recognise and consult with Aboriginal communities during management and development of open spaces.	2.2.1	2
8.5.1	Provide sharps disposal units in priority public toilets located on open space and other identified risk locations.	2.2.1	2
8.5.2	Locate, design and maintain public toilets to provide safe and 'vandal-proof' amenities for users of open	2.2.1	1

<b>ACTION NUMBER</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>LINKED ACTION</b>	<b>PRIORITY (1 - 5)*</b>
	space.		
8.5.3	Assess the provision of shade on Council owned open space against Anti-Cancer Foundation 'Guidelines for Shade Planning and Design'.		3
8.6.1	Regularly review open space maintenance priority listings.		3
8.6.2	Investigate options for more efficient mains water use and alternate water sources on Council reserves.		2
8.7.1	Research cost and benefits of open space benchmarking projects and assess applicability for Mitcham.		4
8.8.1	When developing open space, assess the requirements for facilities against the General Facilities Checklist		2
8.8.2	Establish, as a theme on Council's Geographic Information System, the open space inventory with up to date information regarding facilities at each open space.	9.4.3	3
8.9.1	Identify potential open space sites and partners for community art development.		2

- \*  
 1 - very high priority  
 2 - high priority  
 3 - medium priority  
 4 - ongoing action - short or medium term  
 5 - ongoing action - long term

## **9 OPEN SPACE WITH CONSERVATION VALUE AND NATURAL FEATURES OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Residents place a high aesthetic and cultural value on open spaces with conservation significance. These areas are essential to developing a sense of cultural identity and spiritual enrichment, and also to provide recreation and biodiversity protection.

Council is in a unique position to aid the protection and enhancement of native plant associations and fauna on its woodland reserves. The City contains some of the last remaining examples of *Eucalyptus microcarpa* (Greybox) woodland in the State, as well as many species of threatened animals, trees, grasses and shrubs.

Some woodland reserves with areas of conservation significance include; Blackwood Hill Reserve, Randell Park, Belair Reserve, Sleeps Hill Reserve, Windy Point Reserve, Upper Sturt Reserve and Mountbatten Reserve.

Council can also play a role in the restoration of habitats. Pest plants and animals as well as vandalism pose significant threats to the biodiversity of the City's woodland reserves, particularly along Sturt River and Brownhill Creek. Restoration works should be guided toward integrating resource management principles with State Government agencies, such as the Patawalonga Catchment Water Management Board and the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Natural geological features and Aboriginal heritage must also be considered in any strategy to protect, enhance and develop woodland reserves. Geological features exposed through human activities such as quarrying are also valuable local assets.

Council can also act to protect and enhance local indigenous vegetation through its role as regulator of new housing developments in the City. Planning of open space in sub-divisions should incorporate plantings of appropriate local species.

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**GOAL: TO PROTECT, ENHANCE AND RESTORE OPEN SPACE WITH CONSERVATION VALUE AND SIGNIFICANT NATURAL FEATURES**

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### **9.1 NATIVE VEGETATION**

Control of pest plants and feral animals is essential to protect and restore areas of indigenous habitat. Council actions should be guided by the Animal and Pest Plant Control (Agricultural Protection and Other Purposes) Act that provides lists of prohibited plants and animals for each State region.

Rehabilitation projects must be carefully planned to ensure the sustainability of fauna and flora, and to prevent further environmental degradation through erosion, the use of herbicides or sudden loss of habitats.

Woodland reserves along watercourses also provide important recreational, aesthetic and educational opportunities. Council owned reserves adjacent to watercourses include; Riverside Drive, Frank Smith Park, Mitcham Reserve and Godden Reserve.

Managing land along watercourses presents specific management priorities. Sustainable management practices will aim to maintain the health of the river ecosystem, restore aquatic habitats, rehabilitate riparian vegetation and improve water quality. The long term opportunity to develop linear parks incorporating Council and State Government land should also be pursued **(see also Section 9.5)**.

#### OBJECTIVES

**To recognise, preserve and enhance existing remnant vegetation and habitats within Council woodland reserves.**

**To recognise the potential for open space of poor environmental quality to be rehabilitated.**

**To manage Council woodland and riverine reserves to enhance significant regional habitats and corridors.**

**To enhance community awareness about the value of local watercourses.**

#### ACTIONS

**9.1.1 Identify threatened species of plants and animals on Council woodland reserves.**

**9.1.2 Re-establish locally indigenous vegetation and biodiversity on Council woodland reserves.**

**9.1.3 Control pest plants and animals that are a threat to biodiversity and conservation value on Council woodland reserves.**

**9.1.4 Identify opportunities for inclusion, protection and enhancement of areas of remnant vegetation into new sub-divisions.**

#### **9.2 TRAILS, TRACKS AND TOURISM**

Recreation in woodland reserves can provide the opportunity for educating and informing residents and others about the value of conserving and enhancing biodiversity. However, recreation activities can also impact adversely on the conservation values of the City's woodland reserves resulting in pollution, erosion and damage to vegetation.

A sustainable approach will provide for development of actions to allow for the maximum community benefit while preserving ecological values.

**OBJECTIVES**

**To maximise recreational opportunities in woodland reserves in an ecologically sustainable manner.**

**ACTIONS**

**9.2.1 Progress eco-tourism recommendations from the City of Mitcham 1999 Natural Heritage Ecotourism Report.**

**9.2.2 Identify recreation activities with significant environmental impacts and manage them within Council woodland reserves.**

**9.3 BEST PRACTICE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

Through revising and updating its own practices and procedures, Council administration can maximise the protection and enhancement of woodland reserves.

Currently generic land management and maintenance procedures have been developed for reserves under five broad categories, including the category defined as 'woodland reserves with plant associations of high biodiversity value'.

These procedures should be broadened to develop specific management plans for each woodland reserve. Reserves with known significant remnant vegetation or potential as wildlife corridors should be assessed as a priority.

Geographic Information Systems are providing land managers with the ability to better plan works programs and management regimes by permitting a planned approach to mapping and removal of exotic vegetation.

The Environmental Management System specification ISO 14001 should also be used to amend procedures as necessary and to develop a culture of continuous environmental improvement. This will provide for maximised efficiency in resource use as well as reduced risk of pollution.

**OBJECTIVES**

**To maximise the protection and enhancement of woodland reserves through best practice environmental management.**

**ACTIONS**

**9.3.1 Develop management plans for all areas under Council's care and control with significant remnant native vegetation and habitat.**

**9.3.2 Regularly review reserve management and maintenance procedures to ensure they conform with best horticulture practices regarding stormwater discharges, weed control techniques and local indigenous plantings.**

**9.3.3 Improve Council's natural resource data by:**

- ❑ **Developing a register of areas of significant local stands of native plant associations,**
- ❑ **Developing capability for GIS mapping of locally indigenous vegetation against a set of management classifications, and**
- ❑ **Integrating Planning SA property data base with Council database of woodland reserves.**

#### **9.4 ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCIES**

It is neither an efficient use of Council resources nor sound natural resource management practice to undertake conservation enhancement works in isolation. Management of Council owned open space must be coordinated with the activities of environmental statutory bodies and other major landholders in the City. Weed control in particular must be undertaken strategically if it is to prove effective in the long term.

State Government agencies share many of the challenges and priorities involved with managing areas of conservation significance and are themselves significant landholders in the City. National and recreation parks at Belair, Brownhill Creek, Sturt Gorge and Shepherds Hill provide opportunities for joint promotion, planning and projects.

Appropriate management of Council's woodland reserves involves pursuit of regional as well as local habitat protection objectives. This is particularly the case with watercourses, where poor land management significantly impacts on habitat values downstream. The involvement of the Patawalonga Catchment Water Management Board in this regard is essential. It is also necessary that dialogue with natural resource planners from adjoining Councils is developed and maintained. Frank Smith Park is one such reserve to benefit from a joint project with Onkaparinga Council.

Council can also play a role in managing its woodland reserves to promote national and international environmental objectives. The planting of trees as a greenhouse gas abatement measure is one example where local land management can advance national environmental priorities.

Addressing development pressures on the Hills Face Zone is another strategy doomed to failure without the involvement of State Government. Constructive engagement and strong working relationships between all levels of government will provide opportunities for joint projects, cost savings and information sharing to the benefit of residents and the environment.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

**To recognise and promote Council successes in managing its woodland reserves to advance national and global environmental objectives.**

**To maximise partnerships with major landholders in the City to advance national and global environmental objectives.**

#### **ACTIONS**

**9.4.1 Work actively to advance State and Commonwealth Government initiatives that are complementary to Mitcham's open space objectives, including:**

- Roadside Vegetation Protection Program (The Mount Lofty Ranges Catchment Program),**
- Urban Forest Biodiversity Project (Natural Heritage Trust),**
- Comprehensive Catchment Water Management Plan and sub-catchment plans for Sturt River and Brownhill Creek (Patawalonga Catchment Water Management Board),**
- Cities for Climate Protection (Australian Greenhouse Office),**
- Parklands 21 (Planning SA),**
- Greater Mount Lofty Ranges Park (Environmental Department),**
- Sturt River Linear Park (Planning SA).**

**9.4.2 Work towards integrating resource management techniques with National Parks and Wildlife Service and other major landholders.**

#### **9.5 INVOLVING THE COMMUNITY**

A good indicator of the success of actions to effectively manage open space with conservation value is the level of community awareness and support.

Council has a strong tradition of supporting community participation in environmental projects through its work with Bush for Life, Urban Forest Biodiversity Project, Our Patch, Greening Australia and others.

Through a variety of information, education and consultation actions Council should continue to work toward the maximum participation by the community in the protection and enhancement of open space with conservation value.

The City is also well placed to work collaboratively with local educational and research institutions in the City including; Flinders University, CSIRO, high schools and primary schools.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

**To maximise participation by the community in the protection and enhancement of open space with conservation value.**

**To improve public access to environmentally significant areas of open space without causing significant detrimental environmental impacts.**

**ACTIONS**

- 9.5.1 Support Bush for Life to protect and enhance open space areas through activities such as creek rehabilitation, weed eradication and revegetation.**
- 9.5.2 Develop a comprehensive brochure series on biodiversity protection.**
- 9.5.3 Assist major land holders in the City to identify, protect and enhance native vegetation.**
- 9.5.4 Involve schools and the community in development of education materials and processes.**

## OPEN SPACE WITH CONSERVATION VALUE AND NATURAL FEATURES OF SIGNIFICANCE

### PRIORITISED ACTIONS

<b>ACTION NUMBER</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>LINKED ACTION</b>	<b>PRIORITY (1 - 5)*</b>
9.1.1	Identify threatened species of plants and animals on Council woodland reserves.	9.4.3	2
9.1.2	Re-establish locally indigenous vegetation and biodiversity on Council woodland reserves.	9.6.2	3
9.1.3	Control pest plants and animals that are a threat to biodiversity and conservation value on Council woodland reserves.	2.5.1	1
9.1.4	Identify opportunities for inclusion, protection and enhancement of areas of remnant vegetation into new sub-divisions.		1
9.2.1	Progress eco-tourism recommendations from the City of Mitcham 1999 Natural Heritage Ecotourism Report.		3
9.2.2	Identify recreation activities with significant environmental impacts and manage them within Council woodland reserves.	4.4.3	2
9.3.1	Develop management plans for all areas under Council's care and control with significant remnant native vegetation and habitat.	2.2.1	3
9.3.2	Regularly review reserve management and maintenance procedures to ensure they conform with best horticulture practices regarding stormwater discharges, weed control techniques and local indigenous plantings.	2.2.1	2
9.3.3	Improve Council's natural resource data by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Developing a register of areas of significant local stands of native plant associations.</li> <li>❑ Developing capability for GIS mapping of locally indigenous vegetation against a set of management classifications.</li> <li>❑ Integrating Planning SA property data base with Council database of woodland reserves.</li> </ul>	9.1.1 2.2.1 6.4.1	4

<b>ACTION NUMBER</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>LINKED ACTION</b>	<b>PRIORITY (1 - 5)*</b>
9.4.1	Work actively to advance State and Commonwealth Government initiatives that are complementary to Mitcham's open space objectives, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Roadside Vegetation Protection programs.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Urban Forest Biodiversity Project</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Comprehensive Catchment Water Management Plan and sub-catchment plans for Sturt River and Brownhill Creek.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Cities for Climate Protection project</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Parklands 21</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Greater Mount Lofty Ranges Park</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The Sturt River Linear Park</li> </ul>	6.4.1 5.1.3 4.4.3 9.6.5	2
9.4.2	Work towards integrating resource management techniques with National Parks and Wildlife Service and other major landholders.		2
9.5.1	Support Bush for Life to protect and enhance open space areas through activities such as creek rehabilitation, weed eradication and revegetation.	9.6.5	1
9.5.2	Develop a comprehensive brochure series on biodiversity protection.		3
9.5.3	Assist major land holders in the City to identify, protect and enhance native vegetation.	9.9.2	2
9.5.4	Involve schools and the community in development of education materials and processes.		3

- \*  
1 - very high priority  
2 - high priority  
3 - medium priority  
4 - ongoing action - short or medium term  
5 - ongoing action - long term

## **10 SECURING ADEQUATE FUNDING**

Securing adequate and sustainable funding is essential to achieve the key recommendations of this Strategy.

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### **GOAL: OBTAIN SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO MEET THE CITY'S ONGOING OPEN SPACE REQUIREMENTS**

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#### **10.1 FUNDING PARTNERS**

State Government funding assistance for acquisition and development of open space derives primarily from three agencies;

- Office for Recreation and Sport,
- Planning SA, and
- Transport SA (Bike South).

The Office for Recreation and Sport makes funds available through its 'Regional Facilities Grant Scheme'. This program provides funding for regional recreation and sports facilities.

The facility must be of regional significance, be a focal point for regional competition or be used as a regional coaching and training centre. This funding does not extend to the purchase of land but focuses on the development of facilities.

Planning SA administers the Planning and Development Fund. This fund is directed toward achieving a network of accessible open space areas, both public and private, that have an open and natural character. Projects are assessed individually. However, priority is given to areas of regional significance.

Bike South can provide funding to increase bicycle transport links. Funding tends to focus on projects with relevance to commuter cycling and is directed toward achieving an effective path on which to ride, both on and off road. Funds can be used to develop linear pathways.

Besides the State Government's funds for open space, there is a range of specific issue funding opportunities at the State and Commonwealth levels. These include issues related to; environment enhancement and protection, water quality improvement, flood mitigation and skills training.

Potential funding sources include:

- Arts for Public Places (Arts SA),
- Patawalonga Catchment Water Management Board (SA Department for Water Resources),

- Urban Forest Biodiversity Program (SA Department for Environment and Heritage),
- Catchment Management Subsidy Scheme (SA Department for Water Resources),
- Natural Heritage Trust (Commonwealth).

Strategic funding partnerships may provide another option for creating open space. One example is through the management of storm water. Funds may exist through programs such as the Catchment Management Subsidy Scheme to purchase housing and industrial sites that can be redeveloped as storm water management areas. As well as providing an operational function, these areas will create more open space. These funding opportunities are discussed further in Section 10.

#### OBJECTIVES

**To maximise funding from all external sources to enhance and develop open space areas.**

#### ACTIONS

**10.1.1 Identify priority sites and projects for funding opportunities under relevant under State and Commonwealth funding programs.**

#### 10.2 COUNCIL FUNDING

Funding for maintenance of open space currently stands at over \$1.2 million per year. It is not considered that this budget can be reduced if strategic maintenance objectives are to be met.

Funding for significant open space acquisitions and capital development has traditionally derived from borrowings and/or State Government assistance.

An open space acquisition and capital development fund has recently been established with recurrent funding of approximately \$50 000 per year.

This amount is not considered sufficient to meet the long term acquisition and development objectives of this Strategy.

This Strategy recommends that Council consider increasing its current open space acquisition and development allocation by \$200 000.

These additional funds should be derived from a rate increase (increasing rates by one percent will provide approximately \$170 000), and/or from disposal of current open space as per disposal guidelines (refer Appendix 2).

Community forums reveal ambivalence regarding increasing rates to provide adequate funding. However, they also indicated strong support for additional funds to be directed to this area.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

**To ensure sufficient funds are raised and allocated to meet the priority Open Space Strategy actions.**

**To develop a funding mechanism to ensure that funds raised for open space acquisition and development are used for that purpose only.**

#### **ACTIONS**

**10.2.1. Increase the allocation for open space acquisition and capital development by \$200 000 per annum and fund the increase from increased rates, and/or disposal of open space according to agreed guidelines.**

**10.2.2 Amend Council's policy manual to ensure the open space acquisition and capital development budget line is a rolling, cumulative fund and is quarantined against uses other than acquisitions and capital development according to agreed guidelines, and all funds generated from the disposal of open space are dedicated to Council's open space acquisition and capital development budget line.**

### **10.3 OTHER FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

Council should seek to explore non-traditional opportunities to raise funds for open space acquisition and development.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

**To explore non-traditional funding opportunities to enhance and develop open space.**

#### **ACTIONS**

**10.3.1 Identify sites for 'user pays' opportunities.**

**10.3.2 Encourage major industry operators and developers of local urban estates to contribute to the establishment and maintenance of open space areas.**

**10.3.3 Promote private sector involvement and sponsorship with funding, provision and management of open space areas and facilities.**

**10.3.4 Identify and investigate trusts, foundations, and charitable bodies as potential funding sources.**

**10.3.5 Identify and develop volunteer involvement and contribution in open space development.**

## SECURING ADEQUATE FUNDING

### PRIORITISED ACTIONS

ACTION NUMBER	ACTION	LINKED ACTION	PRIORITY (1 - 5*)
10.1.1	Identify priority sites and projects for funding opportunities under relevant under State and Commonwealth funding programs.		1
10.2.1	Increase the allocation for open space acquisition and capital development by \$200 000 per annum and fund the increase from increased rates, and /or disposal of open space according to agreed guidelines.		1
10.2.2	Amend Council's policy manual to ensure the open space acquisition and capital development budget line is a rolling, cumulative fund and is quarantined against uses other than acquisitions and capital development according to agreed guidelines, and all funds generated from the disposal of open space are dedicated to Council's open space acquisition and capital development budget line		1
10.3.1	Identify sites for 'user pays' opportunities,		2
10.3.2	Encourage major industry operators and developers of local urban estates to contribute to the establishment and maintenance of open space areas.		2
10.3.3	Promote private sector involvement and sponsorship with funding, provision and management of open space areas and facilities,		3
10.3.4	Identify and investigate trusts, foundations, and charitable bodies as potential funding sources,		3
10.3.5	Identify and develop volunteer involvement and contribution in open space development.		2

- \*  
 1 - very high priority  
 2 - high priority  
 3 - medium priority  
 4 - ongoing action - short or medium term  
 5 - ongoing action - long term

## **PART 3 – APPENDICES AND MAPS**



## **APPENDIX 1 - SUMMARY OF PRIORITISED ACTIONS**



## SUMMARY OF PRIORITISED ACTIONS

ACTION NUMBER	ACTION	LINKED ACTION	PRIORITY (1 - 5) *
<b>PRIORITY ONE</b>			
2.1.1	Establish criteria for exclusions from Community Land.	7.2.1	1
2.1.2	Identify all land to be excluded from the classification of community land before 1/1/2003.	7.2.1	1
2.1.3	Prepare a register of Council's Community Land as required under the Act.		1
2.4.1	Implement Council's Public Consultation Policy for all circumstances prescribed in the Local Government Act, 1999.		1
3.1.1	Identify specific allotments for long term acquisition in areas deficient in local open space.	7.3.1	1
3.3.1	Continue current actions in relation to the closure of Jose St between Rozelle Reserve to create a larger Open Space area.		1
4.1.3	Work with State Government and consult with the community to determine a suitable site, building and management plan to relocate the Blackwood Community Recreation Centre as a two-court stadium. Options to be explored should include the possibilities of the existing site, Karinya Reserve and Blackwood High School..		1
4.4.1	Continue to implement Council's Youth Facilities Strategy.	8.1.1 8.4.4	1
4.5.1	Develop an internal reference group with wide representation that meets regularly to address issues relating to the planning and management of open space, animal management, recreation and sport.		1
4.6.3	Publish a series of open space brochures.	9.6.2	1
4.7.1	Continue implementation of the fencing and safety recommendations from 1999 City of Mitcham quarries report.		1
4.7.2	Develop in consultation with relevant groups a strategy to safely manage sporting activities at appropriate quarry sites, such as Randell Park.		1
6.4.2	Regularly review State Government initiatives when planning for major open space developments.	6.4.1	1
7.1.1	Develop a business case for any land parcel being considered for acquisition as against comprehensive strategic guidelines.		1
7.2.1	Prepare a business case, assessing any open space being considered for disposal against the open space disposal guidelines.		1
8.3.1	Vegetate open space in a manner that provides clear sightlines.	2.2.1	1
8.5.2	Locate, design and maintain public toilets to provide safe and 'vandal-proof' amenities for users of open space.	2.2.1	1
9.1.3	Control pest plants and animals that are a threat to biodiversity and conservation value on Council woodland reserves.	2.5.1	1
9.1.4	Identify opportunities for inclusion, protection and enhancement of areas of remnant vegetation into new sub-divisions.		1

ACTION NUMBER	ACTION	LINKED ACTION	PRIORITY (1 - 5) *
9.5.1	Support Bush for Life to protect and enhance open space areas through activities such as creek rehabilitation, weed eradication and revegetation.	9.6.5	1
10.1.1	Identify priority sites and projects for funding opportunities under relevant under State and Commonwealth funding programs.		1
10.2.1	Increase the allocation for open space acquisition and capital development by \$200 000 per annum and fund the increase from increased rates, and /or disposal of open space according to agreed guidelines.		1
10.2.2	Amend Council's policy manual to ensure the open space acquisition and capital development budget line is a rolling, cumulative fund and is quarantined against uses other than acquisitions and capital development according to agreed guidelines, and all funds generated from the disposal of open space are dedicated to Council's open space acquisition and capital development budget line		1

- \*  
 1 - very high priority  
 2 - high priority  
 3 - medium priority  
 4 - ongoing action - short or medium term  
 5 - ongoing action - long term

ACTION NUMBER	ACTION	LINKED ACTION	PRIORITY (1 - 5) *
<b>PRIORITY TWO</b>			
2.2.1	Develop management plans for Community Land by 2005	8.6.1	2
2.3.1	Review all tenancy agreements against management plans.	4.2.1	2
3.1.2	Research local open spaces to be upgraded to neighbourhood open space in areas deficient in neighbourhood open space.	7.3.3	2
3.5.1	Develop policies for future use of internal reserves for inclusion in the Colonel Light Gardens Management Plan.		2
3.6.1	Develop a priority action plan for the future role and management of drainage reserves.		2
3.7.1	Work with developers to ensure urban consolidation projects create open space in areas lacking local open space		2
4.1.2	Redevelop St Marys Park as a multi purpose regional sporting facility and as a community focussed recreation area.		2
4.2.1	Negotiate tenancy agreement that provide flexibility in relation to community access.		2
4.4.2	Develop a maintenance program for existing BMX facilities.	8.6.1	2
4.4.3	Work with State Government to develop guidelines for management and planning of mountain bike and horse riding activities.	6.4.1	2
5.1.2	Investigate sections of the Sturt River from Bedford Park to Upper Sturt as potential high priority sites to further implement the intent of MOSS.	9.5.7	2
5.1.3	Investigate and identify institutional zoned land parcels that are high priority sites to expand MOSS.		2
5.2.1	Consider the protection of key public and private open space areas through Section 30 Development Plan reviews.		2
6.1.3	Prepare and implement and plan to identify, promote and develop access points from the plains to the hills face zone, including; Ayliffes Road, Redgum Drive, The Riviera, Seaview Crescent, Railway Tce, Hogarth Road / Sleeps Hill Drive, Seaview Road, Braemar Road, Anderson Avenue, Weemala Drive, Brownhill Creek Road and Hartley Grove.		2
8.1.1	Actively seek input on the design and location of open space from young people, children and their caregivers, and people with a disability.		2
8.1.2	As appropriate, use focus groups as a part of the consultation process when developing open space.	2.4.1	2
8.3.2	Identify areas where after dark use occurs and design and develop open space with appropriate safety lighting.	2.2.1	2
8.4.2	Investigate opportunities to develop equal access play areas.	2.2.1	2
8.4.4	Consider the needs of young people when developing open space.	2.2.1	2
8.4.5	Where appropriate, recognise and consult with Aboriginal communities during management and development of open spaces.	2.2.1	2
8.5.1	Provide sharps disposal units in priority public toilets located on open space and other identified risk locations.	2.2.1	2
8.6.2	Investigate options for more efficient mains water use and alternate water sources on Council reserves.		2
8.8.1	When developing open space, assess the requirements for facilities against the General Facilities Checklist		2
8.9.1	Identify potential open space sites and partners for community art development.		2

ACTION NUMBER	ACTION	LINKED ACTION	PRIORITY (1 - 5) *
9.1.1	Identify threatened species of plants and animals on Council woodland reserves.	9.4.3	2
9.2.2	Identify recreation activities with significant environmental impacts and manage them within Council woodland reserves.	4.4.3	2
9.3.2	Regularly review reserve management and maintenance procedures to ensure they conform with best horticulture practices regarding stormwater discharges, weed control techniques and local indigenous plantings.	2.2.1	2
9.4.1	Work actively to advance State and Commonwealth Government initiatives that are complementary to Mitcham's open space objectives, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Roadside Vegetation Protection' programs.</li> <li>❑ Urban Forest Biodiversity Project</li> <li>❑ Comprehensive Catchment Water Management Plan and sub-catchment plans for Sturt River and Brownhill Creek.</li> <li>❑ Cities for Climate Protection' project</li> <li>❑ Parklands 21</li> <li>❑ Greater Mount Lofty Ranges Park</li> <li>❑ The Sturt River Linear Park</li> </ul>	6.4.1 5.1.3 4.4.3 9.6.5	2
9.4.2	Work towards integrating resource management techniques with National Parks and Wildlife Service and other major landholders.		2
10.3.1	Identify sites for 'user pays' opportunities,		2
10.3.2	Encourage major industry operators and developers of local urban estates to contribute to the establishment and maintenance of open space areas.		2
10.3.5	Identify and develop volunteer involvement and contribution in open space development.		2

- \*  
 1 - very high priority  
 2 - high priority  
 3 - medium priority  
 4 - ongoing action - short or medium term  
 5 - ongoing action - long term

ACTION NUMBER	ACTION	LINKED ACTION	PRIORITY (1 - 5) *
<b>PRIORITY THREE</b>			
2.5.1	Review Council's open space procedures, policies and actions against the requirements of relevant State and Commonwealth legislation.	9.4.2	3
3.1.3	Explore the potential for expansion in accessibility and provision of private, institutional and Crown land as regional open space.	5.1.3	3
3.2.2	Continue the acquisition program along the Sturt River and Minno Creek.	5.1.2 9.5.7	3
3.3.3	Identify priority opportunities to acquire landholdings adjacent to existing open space.	7.3.3	3
3.4.1	Identify high priority opportunities to pursue joint use agreements with private and institutional landowners to gain public access to private land for use as open space.		3
4.1.1	Develop the Hewett Sports Ground and Blackwood Hill Oval as multi purpose regional sporting facilities that cater for cricket, football, netball, tennis and other sports and social activities.	4.3.1 5.2.2	3
4.5.2	As necessary, meet with neighbouring councils to discuss regional open space opportunities and issues.	3.1.1 3.1.4	3
4.6.4	Install signs on access roads to significant open space areas.		3
4.6.5	Provide interpretive information on areas of historical, cultural and environmental significance.		3
5.2.2	Map, using GIS, those areas of public and private open space greater than 15000 m <sup>2</sup> and review for zoning consistency.		3
5.2.3	Investigate areas that Council intends to secure or seeks to retain as open space and, where appropriate, use the PAR process to change the zone to one that is consistent with open space use.		3
6.1.1	Prepare and implement a plan to develop links between the Sturt River Linear Park and Belair National Park via Turners Avenue, Olave Hill Rd and Upper Sturt Road Main Road and Minno Creek, and, Fiveash Drive, Shepherd Hill Recreation Park, Saddle Hill Reserve, Watiparinga Reserve, Gloucester Avenue and Sheoak Road.		3
6.1.2	Prepare and implement a plan to improve the link from Brownhill Creek Road to Belair National Park via Pony Ridge Road and Sheoak Road.		3
6.2.2	Continue indigenous vegetation plantings along drainage reserves in Pasadena.		3
6.2.3	Continue vegetation restoration works along Brownhill Creek, Sturt River and Minno Creek.	9.2.1	3
6.3.1	Develop a hills face zone walking trail from Shepherd's Hill Recreation Park to Waite Agricultural Research Institute.	9.3.2	3
7.3.1	Work with land agents to identify larger obsolete blocks and residential allotments or clusters with low improved value.	3.2.1	3
7.3.2	Give preference to development of existing open space including acquisition of additional land to increase the size of local open spaces that are currently an insufficient size to meet community demand.	7.3.3	3
7.3.3	When a Geographic Information System is implemented, develop a layer identifying and prioritising potential acquisition and disposal targets. Land parcel data should be analysed and evaluated against a range of variables based on the	7.3.2	3

<b>ACTION NUMBER</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>LINKED ACTION</b>	<b>PRIORITY (1 - 5) *</b>
	acquisition and disposal guidelines.		
8.4.3	Design amenities in open space for older adults including seating.	2.2.1	3
8.5.3	Assess the provision of shade on Council owned open space against Anti-Cancer Foundation 'Guidelines for Shade Planning and Design'.		3
8.6.1	Regularly review open space maintenance priority listings.		3
8.8.2	Establish, as a theme on Council's Geographic Information System, the open space inventory with up to date information regarding facilities at each open space.	9.4.3	3
9.1.2	Re-establish locally indigenous vegetation and biodiversity on Council woodland reserves.	9.6.2	3
9.2.1	Progress eco-tourism recommendations from the City of Mitcham 1999 Natural Heritage Ecotourism Report.		3
9.3.1	Develop management plans for all areas under Council's care and control with significant remnant native vegetation and habitat.	2.2.1	3
9.5.2	Develop a comprehensive brochure series on biodiversity protection.		3
9.5.3	Assist major land holders in the City to identify, protect and enhance native vegetation.	9.9.2	2
10.3.3	Promote private sector involvement and sponsorship with funding, provision and management of open space areas and facilities,		3
10.3.4	Identify and investigate trusts, foundations, and charitable bodies as potential funding sources.		3

- \*  
 1 - very high priority  
 2 - high priority  
 3 - medium priority  
 4 - ongoing action - short or medium term  
 5 - ongoing action - long term

ACTION NUMBER	ACTION	LINKED ACTION	PRIORITY (1 - 5) *
<b>PRIORITY FOUR</b>			
3.1.4	Liaise with regional open space owners regarding improving community access	6.4.1	4
3.3.2	Identify potential locations for future road closures based on maximising access opportunities to existing open spaces.	7.3.3	4
4.3.1	Investigate and prioritise opportunities to establish umbrella management groups to manage multiple use facilities.		4
4.6.1	Develop an open space promotions plan.		4
4.7.3	Install signage to highlight the geological and social historical features of specific quarry sites.	4.6.2	4
		4.6.5	
5.1.1	Advise relevant applicants of MOSS objectives and principles during assessment process.		4
6.4.1	Maintain dialogue with State Government departments regarding progress of relevant initiatives including:	9.5.1	4
7.3.4	Notify targeted land owners of Councils long term acquisition objectives.		4
8.2.2	Establish a regular forum with local sport and recreation organisations to develop closer relationships with Council.	4.3.2	4
8.4.1	Design all open space facilities and signage to be accessible and useable for people with disabilities.	2.2.1	4
8.7.1	Research cost and benefits of open space benchmarking projects and assess applicability for Mitcham.		4
9.3.3	Improve Council's natural resource data by:	9.1.1	4
		2.2.1	
		6.4.1	

- \*  
 1 - very high priority  
 2 - high priority  
 3 - medium priority  
 4 - ongoing action - short or medium term  
 5 - ongoing action - long term

ACTION NUMBER	ACTION	LINKED ACTION	PRIORITY (1 - 5) *
<b>PRIORITY FIVE</b>			
3.2.1	Identify and prioritise vulnerable sites and clusters of houses that may be suitable for acquisition and development as open space areas.	3.1.1 7.3.1	5
3.3.4	Explore potential to link together local open space by modifying street design to create linear open spaces.		5
4.6.2	Develop a uniform corporate signage style.		3
4.6.6	Use signage to promote open space, encourage reporting of undesirable behaviour and to seek feedback.	8.4.1	5
6.2.1	Create indigenous vegetation corridors by linking drainage reserves in St Marys.		5
6.3.2	Develop linkages between the Mitcham hills face zone and open space in adjacent Cities.	4.5.2	5
9.5.4	Involve schools and the community in development of education materials and processes.		3

- \*  
 1 - very high priority  
 2 - high priority  
 3 - medium priority  
 4 - ongoing action - short or medium term  
 5 - ongoing action - long term

## **APPENDIX 2 - ACQUISITION AND DISPOSAL GUIDELINES**



## OPEN SPACE ACQUISITION GUIDELINES

**NOTE - The following guidelines provide the basis for preparation of a business case for proposed acquisition.**

What is the purpose of the acquisition? (provide a clear statement)?
What level of access will the community have to this land?
Is there public open space of similar size and proposed function?  Within 300m (local) YES/NO OR Within 500 m (neighbourhood) YES/NO
Is the land adjacent to existing open space? YES/NO If YES specify how acquisition will enhance current function.
Has the acquisition been identified as a priority acquisition target within Council's Geographic Information System (GIS)? YES/NO
Are sufficient funds available in Council's open space development and acquisition fund? YES/NO
Does acquisition advance State Government objectives? YES/NO If YES, has co-funding been sought?  YES/NO
Will acquisition require contamination remediation or land subsidence amelioration. YES/NO If YES, what will this cost?
Is private or institutional open space available within:  300m (local open space) or 500m (neighbourhood open space)  Specify the feasibility of a joint use agreement with the private or institutional land owner.
Does the land have significant biodiversity value? YES/NO  If YES will Council acquisition enhance protection status?  YES/NO
Does the land have historical or cultural significance? YES/NO  If YES specify.
Has a user pays arrangement been explored? YES/NO  If YES specify.

Will the acquisition be excluded from Community Land? YES/NO
Does a generic management plan exist for land of this class?  YES/NO If YES which one?  If NO a specific plan will be required at a cost of \$.....
Will the land be tenanted? YES/NO  If YES to whom and under what terms?
Will acquisition incur specific duties regarding heritage, public health, native vegetation, animal and pest plant control, environment protection? YES/NO  If YES specify?
Specify projected costs to provide infrastructure to meet safety and diversity objectives (eg. crime prevention, disability access, youth and aged needs, toilets, play spaces).
Specify projected costs to provide and operate general facilities as per Council's General Facilities Checklist (refer Appendix 3).
Specify on going maintenance costs.

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## OPEN SPACE DISPOSAL GUIDELINES

**NOTE - The following guidelines provide the basis for preparation of a business case for proposed disposal.**

<p>Will the funds raised be used to acquire new open space, or implement improvements to existing open space.</p> <p>YES/NO</p> <p>Specify how disposal will progress identified strategic open space requirements.</p>
<p>Will disposal increase the number of areas in the City which are greater than 300 m from local open space and 500 m from neighbourhood open space.</p> <p>YES/NO</p>
<p>Does the land have any historical significance to the Council or the State YES/NO Does the land have any cultural significance to the Council or the State YES/NO Does the land have any agricultural significance to the Council or the State YES/NO</p> <p>If yes specify</p>
<p>Does the land have any bio-diversity, conservation or environmental significance to the Council or State?</p> <p>YES/NO</p> <p>If YES specify</p>
<p>Does the land currently advance MOSS or other State Government strategies?</p> <p>YES/NO</p> <p>If YES specify.</p>
<p>Will there be social, economic or environmental impacts on adjacent land if the land is lost as open space?</p> <p>YES/NO</p> <p>If YES please specify.</p>
<p>Will disposal reduce recreational open space opportunities in the City?</p> <p>YES/NO</p> <p>If yes, provide further information to support disposal.</p>
<p>How many local open spaces are within 300m of the land proposed for disposal?</p>
<p>What function does the land currently fulfil, and what will be the impact on current users?</p>

Has the land been excluded from Community Land as per the Local Government Act?
Was the land acquired with financial support from some form of grant or funding scheme?  YES/NO  If YES, what are/were the conditions attached to the support?
Does the land have any other encumbrances?  YES/NO  If yes, specify .
Are there any other costs associated with the sale of the land?  YES/NO  If yes specify.
Is the likely net market return sufficient to fund significant improvements to the open space network? (Note - consider capital, income, cost of sale and operating costs).

## **APPENDIX 3 - GENERAL FACILITIES CHECKLIST**



## General Facilities Checklist

### Regional Open Space : Target Standard Facilities

- formal car parking areas that are paved and marked
- picnic tables
- a range of sporting and/or recreational facilities (eg. ovals, courts, clubrooms, bowling greens, skate facilities, BMX track, basketball/netball)
- a playground
- shelters (gazebo, pergola)
- seating
- drinking fountains
- rubbish bins
- barbecues
- public toilet (disabled, needle collection)
- lighting
- pathways
- large areas of shade
- good access to major roads and transport links
- the ability to cater to large amounts of people

### Neighbourhood Open Space : Target Standard Facilities

- informal car parking
- single use sporting and/or minor recreational facilities (eg. oval, tennis court, clubroom, bowling green, skate facility, BMX, basketball/netball)
- shelters (gazebo, pergola)
- seating
- picnic tables
- drinking fountains
- rubbish bins

### Neighbourhood Open Space : Potential Additional Facilities

- playgrounds
- barbecues
- public toilets (disabled, needle collection)
- lighting
- pathways
- areas of shade
- suitable area to cater to local communities
- recycling bins

### Local Open Space : Target Standard Facilities

- some shade
- a suitable area to cater to local communities

### Local Open Space : Potential Additional Facilities

- a specific recreational facility (eg skating, BMX track, basketball/netball)
- playground
- picnic table
- drinking fountains
- rubbish bins
- barbecues
- pathways















