

A woman with brown hair, wearing a white sleeveless top and a large grey backpack, is seen from the side, looking up at a dense forest of tall trees. The scene is bright and green, suggesting a sunny day in a park or forest.

Open Space Plan

Strategic Infrastructure Plan 2024

Acknowledgement of expert advice

- FourFold Consulting – Brooke Williams (panel facilitator)
- Terraform – Terry Harper
- BlueSky – Craig Meineke
- Vee Design – David Hatherly



Alignment with our vision

The Open Space Plan is helping to achieve our Corporate Plan 2022–2027 and realise our vision:

Our Moreton Bay. Amazing places. Natural spaces.

This Plan supports two strategic pillars and their goals:



OUR VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

Moreton Bay will have vibrant communities that proudly come together to participate in and celebrate different cultures and life experiences, with access to the services and facilities they need.



OUR HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS

Moreton Bay achieves a healthy and resilient natural and built environment that enhances our identity and supports biodiversity and more sustainable lifestyles.

Read more about Council's Corporate Plan and the pillars that underpin it at:
moretonbay.qld.gov.au/Services/Reports-Policies/Corporate-Plan



Welcome

The people of Moreton Bay love the amazing places and natural spaces that make our city great. From parks and sports fields to our beautiful natural environments, we want to see our great outdoors protected, preserved and enjoyed for generations to come.

Our communities value the natural environment for its beauty, amenity, biodiversity, and lifestyle.

Our parks provide relaxation, exercise, recreation, and meeting spaces, while our sports fields offer a range of fun, fitness, entertainment, community, and lifestyle opportunities contributing to improved health and wellbeing for our residents and visitors alike.

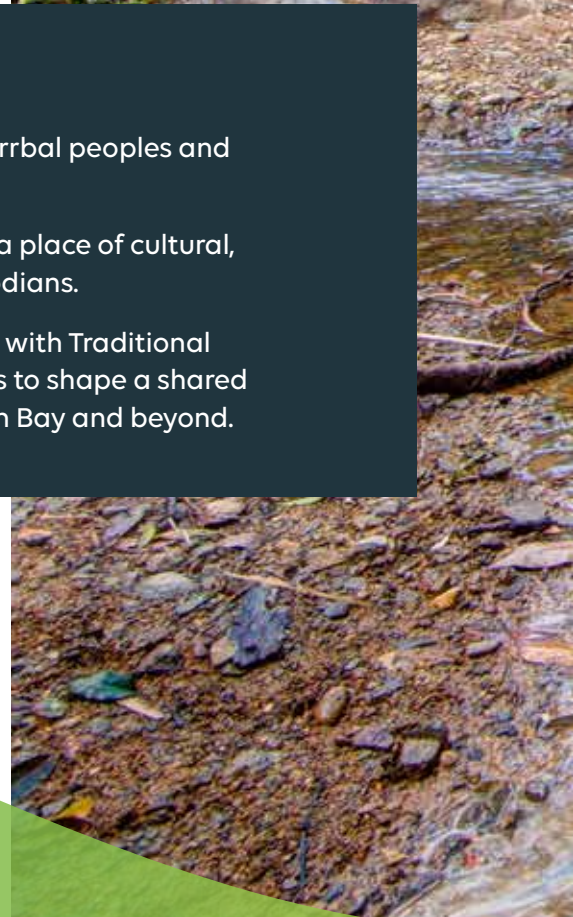
This Open Space Plan sets the strategic principles, values, classifications and planning actions to guide the future management and preservation of the City of Moreton Bay's open space infrastructure, including natural area open spaces and parks, over the next 20 years.

Acknowledgment of Country

City of Moreton Bay acknowledges the Jinibara, Kabi Kabi, and Turrbal peoples and pays respects to Elders, past, present and emerging.

Council recognises that the Moreton Bay region has always been a place of cultural, spiritual, social, and economic significance to its Traditional Custodians.

Council is committed to reconciliation and working in partnership with Traditional Custodians and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to shape a shared future for the benefit of all communities within the City of Moreton Bay and beyond.







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Disclaimer

City of Moreton Bay and its officers accept no liability for decisions made based on information, expressed or implied, provided in this document. Nothing in this document should be taken as legal advice.

1. Introduction

Parks and reserves are essential infrastructures for our communities and fundamental to creating great places to live. They contribute to sustainable healthy natural environments and the protection of our social and ecological functions.

This plan defines open space to include parks, natural areas, linkage parks and pathways, some waterways and foreshores, informal parklands, sports-grounds, courts, play spaces, Aboriginal cultural heritage areas, historic sites, as well as recreation trails for walking and cycling.

It will support Council to provide a healthy and productive network of open spaces including parks, natural, semi-natural and engineered green spaces and assets valued for what they are, the ecosystem, along with the recreational and community services they provide. It notes their contribution to regional biodiversity and environmental resilience.

Our open spaces link together to provide pathways and we are working to improve links along ecological corridors and neighbourhoods. These connections create access for our native fauna (habitats and movement pathways) as well as pathways for residents to walk, roll, and ride.

This plan informs Council's infrastructure planning and provision, the Planning Scheme, Local Government Infrastructure Plan, capital works programs, and operational budgets in a way that is consistent with our vision and principles for delivery of parks and reserves.

It also contributes to the implementation of Council's Environment and Sustainability Strategy, Community Wellbeing Strategy, and Growth Management Strategy.

A parks classification system and hierarchy has been established to support these functions, ranging from natural areas to local neighbourhood parks, through to our special regional parks.

Council also has a reputation for the provision and maintenance of high-quality sports parks across the city.

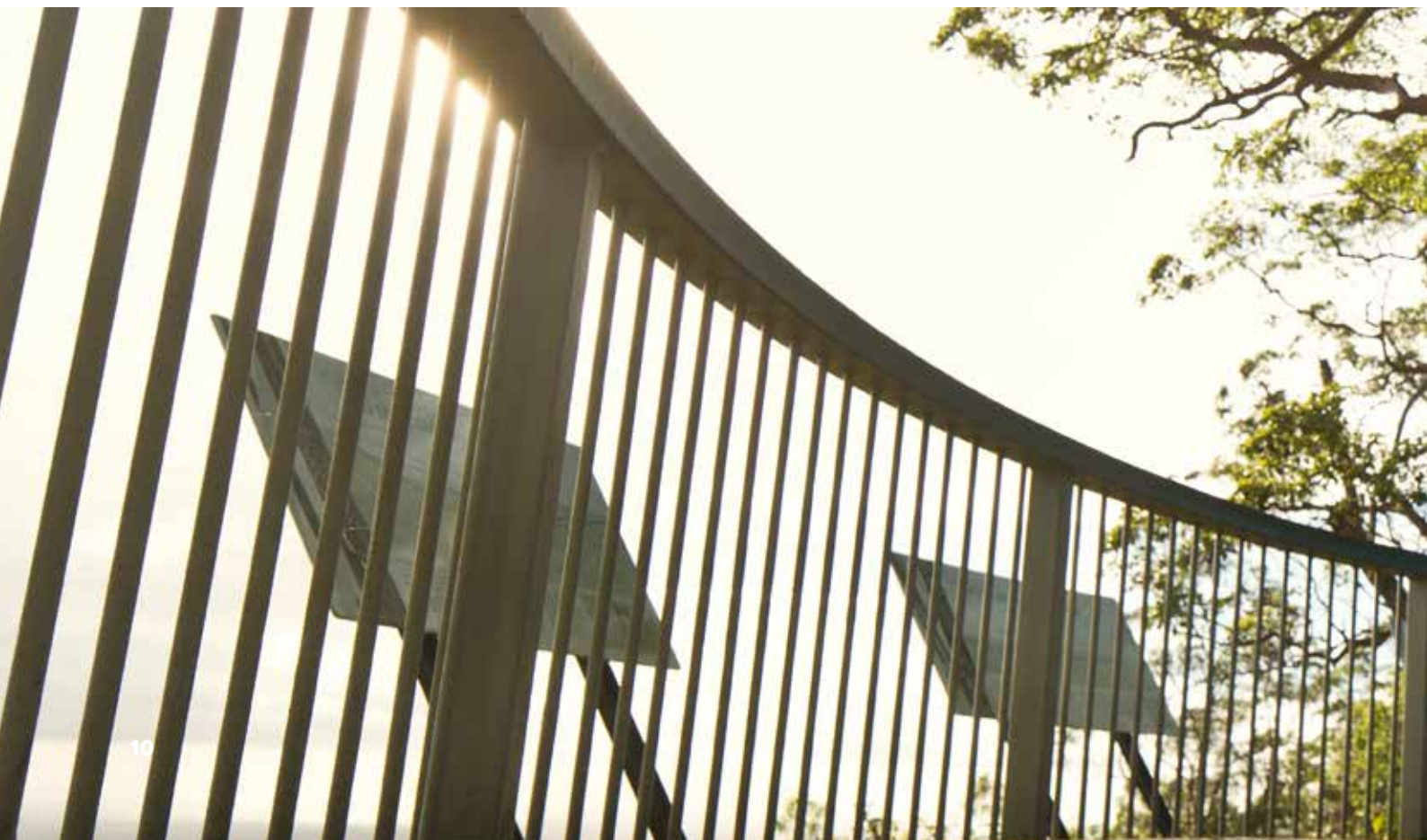
Moreton Says survey - what our communities told us:

- Our city's environmental values are very important.
- These values should be protected from degradation resulting from human use or development.
- Walk, rolling, cycling or riding is a great way to access our city's unique natural spaces.

Our open space values

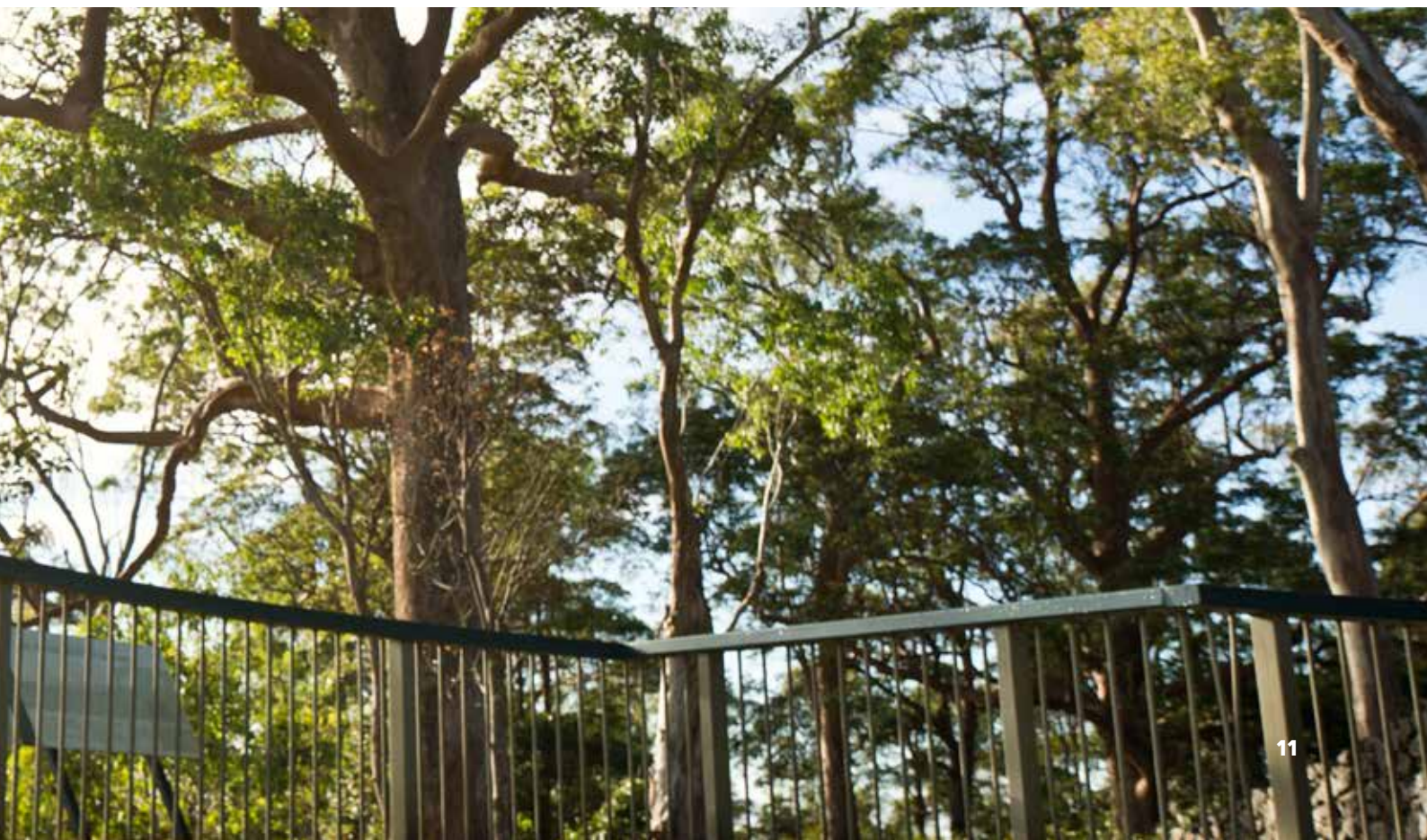
Values:	Support:	
Environment and biodiversity	• Preservation, restoration and conservation of flora and fauna. • Understanding of nature. • Connection to nature.	
Sport, activity and health	• Mental health - access to open areas and movement. • Formal and informal sports. • Personal and group fitness.	
Leisure and recreation	• Relaxation. • Lifestyle. • Social gathering. • Serendipitous interaction.	
Economic benefit	• Property values. • Amenity. • Commercial activity.	
Cultural activity	• Events. • People connections. • Relationship to nature. • Behaviour and lifestyle patterns.	

Cultural heritage	• Traditional Custodians' areas of cultural significance. • Relationships to Country. • Cultural practice - past and continuing. • Storylines embedded in landmarks. • Evidence of traditional practices.	
Amenity and identity	• Visual appeal. • Clean air. • Cool shade. • Pleasant vistas and views. • Street appeal and embellishment. • Locally specific - climate, geography.	
Community and environmental resilience	• Disaster management. • Protection of residential areas from natural hazards. • Natural disaster resilience.	



Looking to the future we are focused on:

- letting our parks tell our stories, show our character and identity both as a city and at our local neighbourhood level
- acknowledging that higher density neighbourhoods are being encouraged in appropriate locations and as such, communities need access to quality parks as backyards become smaller, placing higher demand on playgrounds and picnic areas
- strengthening access and inclusion in all park-type areas so everyone can enjoy our parks no matter their background, age, gender or ability
- measuring, reporting and sharing our progress with our communities about open space provision and activation
- conserving, protecting and enhancing the environmental values of open space areas, with particular emphasis on protection and restoration of values in our natural areas - using clearly defined functions, types of use, nominate areas of high value for extra protection, and improve opportunities for our communities to connect and enjoy the natural environment across all open spaces and park types
- connecting and linking parks into a network for biodiversity and vegetation coverage to minimise urban heat effects and preserve biodiversity and green space links
- recognise and value the ongoing connection of Traditional Custodians to the natural environment, including open spaces and waterways.







2. Purpose

This plan provides a strategic framework for planning and policy relating to the establishment of public open spaces across the City of Moreton Bay over the next 20 years. It is guided by underpinning action plans that will be reviewed every five years and will:

- align with Council's Corporate Plan 2022-2027 and its pillars and strategies
- establish open space preservation and management principles
- define the open space types and functions of natural areas, wildlife corridors, recreation, and active green spaces
- identify direction, plans and policies for current and future Council-owned spaces
- inform future land use and infrastructure planning across the city to ensure open space and green infrastructure are key elements of future development, including new growth areas
- consider the importance of urban biodiversity and tree cover and how to maximise it when managing the open space network
- ensure the actions in Council's Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) are used as guiding principles for this plan's development
- embed the recognition of Traditional Custodianship in land management practices
- implement strategies that value and support the ongoing connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to their land and waterways
- inform strategic planning initiatives in environmental, transport, water and asset management programs about the role and function of open space
- adhere to a framework for responsible financial planning and management of open spaces.

3. Planning context

This plan sits under our Environment and Liveability Strategy. The strategy is supported by a suite of underpinning plans which together inform the Corporate Plan's five strategic pillars, as shown in the diagram below.



While the Open Space Plan relates to the Healthy Environments pillar, it is also intrinsically linked to the Vibrant Communities pillar and delivers the infrastructure to support many aspects of the Community Wellbeing Strategy.

This plan directs and informs Council's response to the city's open space needs, Planning Scheme, budget processes, and long term infrastructure planning.



State and local policy and plans

Planning Act 2016: Council has a requirement to regularly update its planning scheme in line with state requirements, including the State Planning Policy (SPP) and ShapingSEQ which identify requirements for liveable communities and provision of open space. We also adhere to a framework for responsible financial planning and management of open spaces.

MBRC Planning Scheme 2016: Sets Council's statutory land use planning and infrastructure requirements.

Local Government Infrastructure Plan (LGIP): Sets out planned open space infrastructure and sequencing. Council can levy infrastructure charges on new development that can be used to fund open space infrastructure identified in the LGIP.

Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy - Living Coast Plan: Sets the planning framework for management of coastal hazard risks along our coast and estuaries. The Open Space Plan considers the Living Coast Plan in the identification of foreshore parks and natural area conservation parks.

Biodiversity Plan: Defines a regional conservation network and specific requirements relating to preservation of biodiversity that are beyond the management of Council's open space network.



SEQ Regional Plan 2017 - ShapingSEQ

ShapingSEQ provides a regional framework for growth management across the region. This includes:

- valuing and protecting the natural environment, productive land, resources, landscapes, and cultural heritage
- valuing design and embracing the climate to create high-quality living environments.

"Well-planned and maintained urban greening supports community health and wellbeing, as well as urban wildlife and flora. It can also help manage stormwater quantity and quality, contribute to air quality, reduce urban heat island effect,



promote urban food production, enhance views, and increase visual privacy between buildings.” - SEQ Regional Plan

In the context of the Open Space Plan, urban greening relates to green infrastructure and plantings within open spaces across all park types.

“The Moreton Bay–Sunshine Coast (Northern) inter-urban break will be retained as a regionally significant green break providing open space, amenity, and other non-urban landscape values between the major urban areas of the Metro and Northern sub-regions; this will also serve to retain their distinctive lifestyles. This inter-urban break protects the landscape setting of the heritage-listed Glass House Mountains National Park and water quality of the Ramsar listed wetlands of the Pumicestone

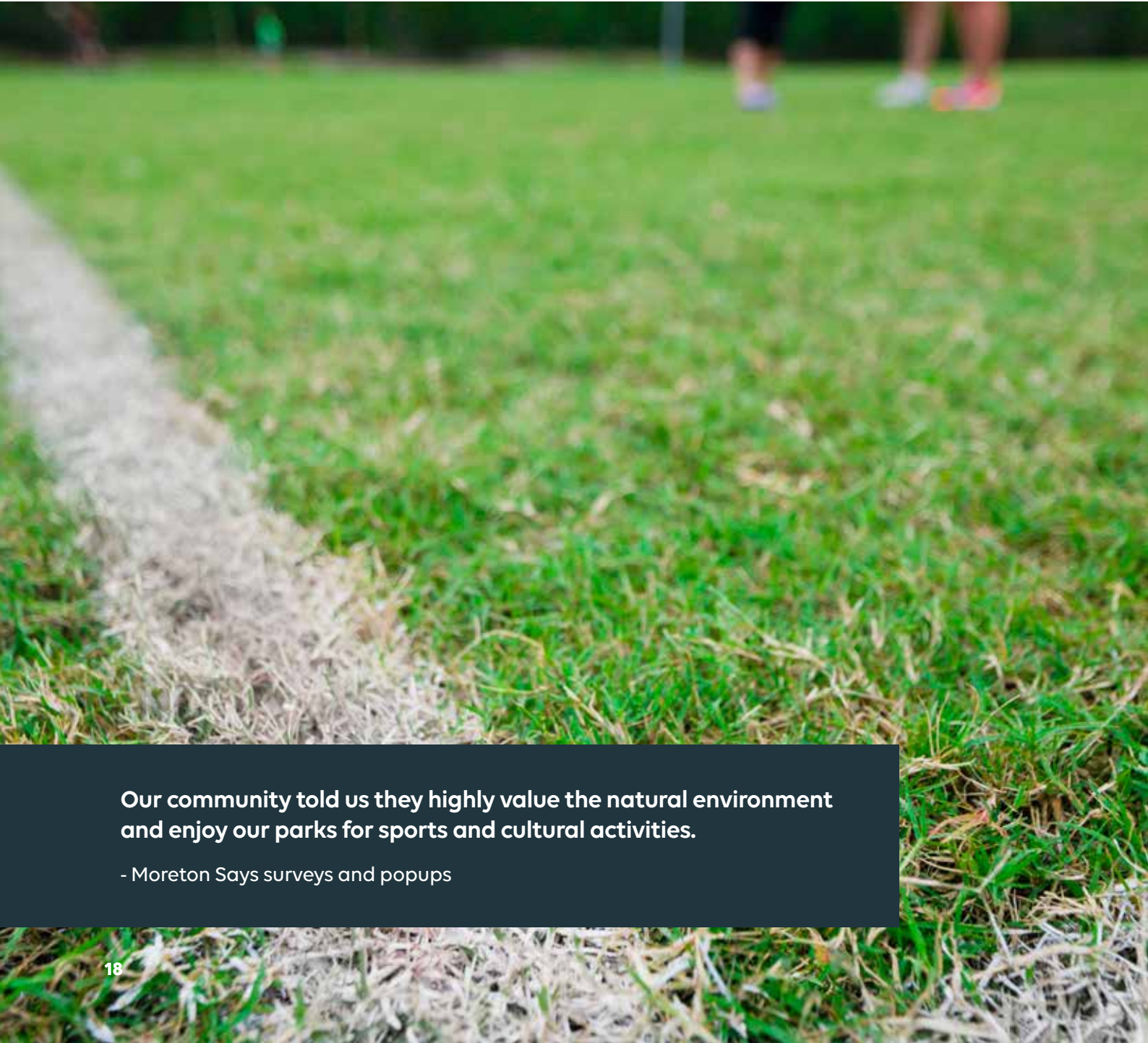
Passage, and preserves opportunities for agricultural production and forestry, tourism, and outdoor recreation. The Queensland Government will continue to work with Moreton Bay Regional Council (now City of Moreton Bay) and Sunshine Coast Council to determine the extent and values of this inter-urban break, and investigate mechanisms to ensure its long-term protection, coordinated management and greater utilisation in accordance with its stated values.” - SEQ Regional Plan

Regional greenspace aims to ensure the community has access to a range of quality open space and recreational opportunities. The Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning will work with stakeholders to investigate how ShapingSEQ can support planning for multiple greenspace outcomes in strategic locations as a medium priority.

Listening to our community

This plan has been strongly informed by community across the Moreton Says engagement program, specific engagement for Council's five key Strategies, and developed in collaboration with internal stakeholders.

The plan will include a monitoring process and feedback opportunities for future evaluation and review to ensure our communities are informed of progress.



Our community told us they highly value the natural environment and enjoy our parks for sports and cultural activities.

- Moreton Says surveys and popups

Community feedback - Moreton Says

The Moreton Says Pulse Survey 42 referenced open space areas and parks. Our communities' love for natural areas and common values are summarised below.

Our communities like to access parks and open spaces for:



43%
spaces for relaxing
and being with nature



39%
spaces for daily exercise (walking,
running, bike riding, classes)



38%
picnic and
barbecue facilities



36%
tables and seating



33%
playground
(all ages and abilities)



32%
nature-based play areas



24%
pathways



24%
dog off leash areas



24%
spaces for social gathering



23%
more, free and low-cost
community programs



21%
places for concerts,
performances, community events



15%
fitness equipment



15%
spaces for teens



11%
playgrounds under 8s



7%
skate parks

Our communities also told us:



53%
like to be active in
public outdoor spaces



53%
like to go for bushwalks
and to go mountain biking



49%
like to have social gatherings
in public outdoor spaces



46%
like general exercise and
17% play sport



43%
enjoy outdoor music,
theatre or arts events



39%
use outdoor
spaces for reading



32%
use the playgrounds
or fitness equipment



25%
participate in
group classes



24%
watch sports
played by family



"More bushland reserves and linear linkages to reserves outside of flood areas (mosquitoes). Most corridors are restricted to drainage lines."

- Caboolture and surrounds resident

"Areas set aside for bushwalking, birdwatching only - excluding dogs, bikes and horses."

- Bribie Island and coastal areas resident

"More mountain biking skills parks that are accessible to tweens and teens, such as the Nerang bike riding area, or even a simpler area but enough to accommodate huge demand especially in the Warner and Eatons Hill area."

- Hills District resident

Key statistics



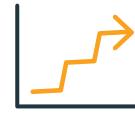
Population nearing
500,000
(additional
200,000 by 2041)



3rd
largest local
government
in Australia by
population



3rd
largest number of
residential dwellings
in Australia



5th
fastest growing
local government
in Australia by
population



19.8%
are under
15 years old



17.3%
are over
65 years



20%
with some form
of disability



4 million
visitors each year



39 years
median resident age



3
Traditional Custodian
groups (Jinibara, Kabi
Kabi, Turrbal)



20.9%
of population
born overseas



42%
of people walk
for exercise in
Queensland



2045km²
land area



14,000ha+
reserves and parks



10,000ha
natural area reserves,
riparian corridors, and
road reserves with high
biodiversity values



13.2%
cycle for
fitness/activity



294km
of coastline
and estuaries



4
local civic parks
1 district civic park



3
regional
civic parks



736
recreation
parks



657
playground areas



392km
of pathways
through parks



66
dog off
leash areas



58
local, district
and regional
foreshore parks



23
district sports parks



3
regional sports parks



84.2%
of Queensland
children participate
in physical activity



288ha
of dedicated
sports parks



143km
of designated
recreation trails



4,400ha
of land private for
conservation



23
skate parks



31
dirt BMX/MTB
jump tracks

Planning context

The following diagram demonstrates the relationship between Council's five strategic pillars and how each strategy aligns to the desired open space outcomes and actions, underpinned by nine open space principles.



Relationship to open space outcomes

Social and cultural identity and connection	■
Community safety and resilience	■
Connected and universally accessible	■
Well-designed, affordable - safe, healthy, sport and recreation	■
Environmentally resilient and supportive	■
Sustainable and responsive natural areas	■
Conserve and preserve connections, links and habitat	■
Allow for active healthy lifestyle choices	■
Diverse range of sport and recreation	■
Design standards - best practice and affordable	■
Vibrant active parks	■
Cultural and creative experience	■
Financially sustainable	■
Monitoring and improving	■

Park actions (related to strategic pillars)

Identify elements reflected in design, signage and classification	■
Cultural identification with natural areas and conversation with Traditional Custodians	■
Universal access across the range of spaces and infrastructure	■
Accessibility to parks as a standards of service	■
Seek to complete open space corridors for connection and active transport	■ ■
Supportive of community resilience through framework of support	■
Resilient and supportive: mitigate urban heat island effects, flooding, bush fires	■
Corridors for biodiversity and destination spaces for habitat	■
Definitions and functionality - natural areas: reflect use and embellishment	■
Plan and design based on relationship to place and function	■
Manage areas based on protection and restoration classifications	■
Review design standards - best practice	■ ■
Hierarchy and classifications - recreation and sport	■
Vibrant and active space	■
Flexible - multifunctional where compatible and appropriate	■
Monitoring and evaluation	■ ■
Reporting	■ ■





4. Council's role

Council plays the key role in the provision of public open spaces and parks across the city. While our large National Parks and State Forests are the responsibility of Federal and State Government.

Council plans for and acquires parks through the development process or where there is a deficit in supply through a formal acquisition process.

Council maintains the upkeep and manages the activities within parks as part of our usual business.

5. Principles of Open Space Planning

Council uses the following guiding principles when planning for open space infrastructure to ensure balanced and positive outcomes.



4.1 Open space classifications



4.2 Our city identity



4.3 Access and connection



4.4 Resilience



4.5 Well designed



4.6 Environmental sustainability



4.7 Activated parks



4.8 Financial sustainability



4.9 Monitor and improve







5.1 Open space classifications

The following classification system and definitions of open space areas support the range of uses and protect the sensitivities of our open spaces across five categories:

Caring for Country				
Recreation parks	Foreshore recreation parks	Civic parks	Sports parks	Natural areas
Amenity	Local	Local	Local	Conservation
Linear linkage	District	District	District	Restoration
Local	Regional	Regional	Regional	Low impact
Neighbourhood			Specific	Multifunctional recreation
District			Showgrounds	Multifunctional infrastructure
Regional			Hard to locate	



Recreation parks

Recreation parks are located throughout the city and offer many different experiences. They range from local, district and regional recreation parks to the extensive foreshore park areas (such as the Redcliffe foreshore).

They may include areas to kick a ball, play on swings, exercise your dog, or have a picnic, and provide an important focal point for social interaction.

Recreation parks mitigate urban heat island effects and add natural amenity to urban areas. They also contribute to the conservation of nature by providing space for natural processes of regrowth, water infiltration, and habitat.

In some instances, they may be co-located with urban infrastructure or form part of a floodplain or stormwater management or natural area. These should be carefully designed to minimise impacts on the park's amenity and function.

Type of park	Description
Amenity parks	Small spaces such as garden beds, planted, landscaped environmental features, native vegetation and areas that provide visual relief from the urban form. They typically have limited embellishment and recreation opportunities.
Linear linkage parks	Linear in shape and orientation. They facilitate connectivity between destinations, residential catchments, and the open space network. They may provide informal recreation opportunities such as walking and cycling, and incorporate areas for play and/or fitness equipment, seating, WSUD and shade trees.
Local recreation parks	Provide informal passive and active recreation, and leisure opportunities appropriate to a community's setting and context. These parks are in accessible, prominent neighbourhood areas supporting active transport and providing for the community's recreational needs. Local recreation parks provide visual amenity, small areas for kick-a-bout activities, playgrounds, seating, picnic spaces and shade cover.

Neighbourhood recreation parks	(1ha - 3ha) provide a higher level of amenity and embellishment and can serve densely populated areas with high demand for active park areas. These parks may include playgrounds, embellishments or activities for all age groups.
District recreation parks	Provide an intermediate level of recreation opportunities and facilities to a district catchment. These parks are located in a variety of settings and cater for large numbers of people. They often include a destination playground that provides a range of play and activities for children and teenagers. In addition to standard facilities and spaces, district recreation parks may have bushland areas for nature appreciation, internal roads, off street parking, public amenities and areas for community gathering and performances.
Regional recreation parks	Provide the highest level of recreation opportunities and facilities to a regional catchment. They may provide a significant range of recreational facilities and spaces or provide a facility for high-spectator-capacity elite-level events. They can support large numbers of people and events, which means their locations must be accessible via active and public transport.
Foreshore recreation parks	(local, district and regional level) Our coastal parks provide direct access to the bay and ocean. They are generally linear in nature and are some of the most popular destinations in the region. They vary significantly and include a range of park infrastructure such as fishing facilities and water access. In some coastal communities they provide the main recreation opportunities. Foreshore recreation parks range in scale from local to regional. They are very sensitive natural environments that contribute to our city's sustainability. These parks are often located within or adjacent to the Moreton Bay Ramsar area, which is recognised for its internationally important environmental values. Some foreshore areas may therefore be defined as conservation reserves.
Civic parks	(local, district and regional level) Often referred to as plazas, town squares or public spaces, civic parks provide important areas for people to relax, eat a meal, meet friends, or attend events. They may also offer facilities such as playgrounds, shade, and seating areas. They are designed to provide amenity in our centres and create destinations that attract people. While located in highly urbanised areas, nature plays an important part in these spaces.

Sports parks

Sports parks offer people the opportunity to play their favourite organised sports. These parks may have a range of fields, courts and surfaces and are often some of the most well used parks in the region.

They may include other facilities like club houses, change rooms, lighting, and car parking. Some sports parks provide for specific uses such as equestrian facilities.

They also contribute to the conservation of nature by providing space for natural processes of regrowth, water infiltration, and habitat.

In some instances, they may be co-located with urban infrastructure or form part of a floodplain or stormwater management or natural area. These should be carefully designed to minimise impacts on the park's amenity and function.

Type of Park	Description
Local sports parks	Provide spaces and facilities for organised sporting activities to a local area. They may include formal playing areas, courts, and amenities such as clubhouses, toilets and change facilities. These facilities may support smaller rural and coastal communities.
District sports parks	Provide larger spaces and facilities for formal, organised sporting activities, and include a variety of playing areas such as courts, playing fields and surfaces. They usually accommodate sports at a district and local function sports level. Districts may also provide necessary ancillary infrastructure such as court and field lighting, clubhouses, change rooms, toilets and basic spectator seating. In most locations they are multi-use and promote the shared use of facilities between several clubs and sporting codes. Some informal recreation opportunities may also be provided for visitors and residents.

Regional sports parks	Provide the highest standard of spaces and facilities for formal, organised sporting activities. They are large parks which can cater for high visitor numbers, and accommodate a diverse range of regional, district and local function sports and events. They also include other physical activity infrastructure for the local community. Multi-use in nature, they can support several clubs and organisations that share facilities, fields, courts, and spaces. Some informal recreation spaces may also be provided.
Specific sports (including hard to locate sport)	These sports have specific locational requirements and do not suit standard sports park locations, such as equestrian and golf courses. They can accommodate hard to locate sports whose inherent risk or specific requirements require careful location, planning and management to minimise risk, hazards and impacts to the community and environment. Hard to locate sport includes paragliding, archery, aviation, motorcycling (including trail bike), car racing, shooting, rock climbing, horse sports, and competitive powered water sports. Specific sport parks usually require a high level of proactive management.



Natural areas

The primary purpose of these areas is to conserve and protect the natural environment. Their natural flora, fauna and ecological processes support the city's biodiversity and play significant role in the city's identity.

These areas provide the community access to and amenity from natural environments but are managed through a classification system. They also provide important alternative places for social interaction focused on nature appreciation.

Natural areas are managed primarily for their conservation and preservation value. This means preserving native fauna and flora and protecting them from the harmful effects of encroachment and impacts of adjoining land uses.

They may also have tangible and intangible cultural heritage values, requiring extra levels of protection.

Conservation	Sensitive habitat areas generally have limited or very controlled public access to ensure valued ecosystems and biodiversity are not damaged. They may have some encumbrances or physical constraints such as topography or poor access.
Restoration	These natural areas are links for biodiversity restoration or offset plantings and regeneration of the natural ecosystems. They are set aside in the same way as sensitive habitats but may not yet have the same level of established ecosystems. Access to these areas is limited and their environmental purpose promoted.
Low impact	These areas preserve important bushland landscapes and provide unique nature-based low impact recreation opportunities. They provide passive recreation opportunities such as walking or horse-riding trails which are directed and carefully managed through the environment. There may also be spaces set aside for picnics and small gatherings, to observe the area's natural values.
Multifunctional recreation	These areas provide a range of nature experiences and recreational opportunities (including mountain biking, horse riding, walking, or rolling trails). They need to be well managed to ensure that recreational uses do not cause adverse impacts on environmental values.

Multifunctional infrastructure	Some natural areas are constrained with or by non-park related. infrastructure, often related to stormwater quality and quantity purposes. They may also include other infrastructure such as powerlines, towers, pipes, or cabling. These need to be managed to ensure that infrastructure uses do not cause adverse impacts on environmental values.
Caring for Country	City of Moreton Bay recognises the unique and fundamental role environmental values play in connecting Traditional Custodians to Country and providing habitat for native plants, fungi and animals that are central to traditional knowledge and customs. Traditional Custodians and Council actively undertake habitat restoration across conservation areas under their management. These areas provide an opportunity to conserve important cultural and environmental values by making them accessible to Traditional Custodians. Caring for Country is a separate and additional identification that can be applied to a reserve, subject to consultation process.



Caring for Country

Working with Traditional Custodians in Open Space Management Plans

City of Moreton Bay and the Kabi Kabi people have been working together to understand the best way to manage the Godwin Beach Environmental Reserve to protect its sensitive environmental and cultural heritage values.

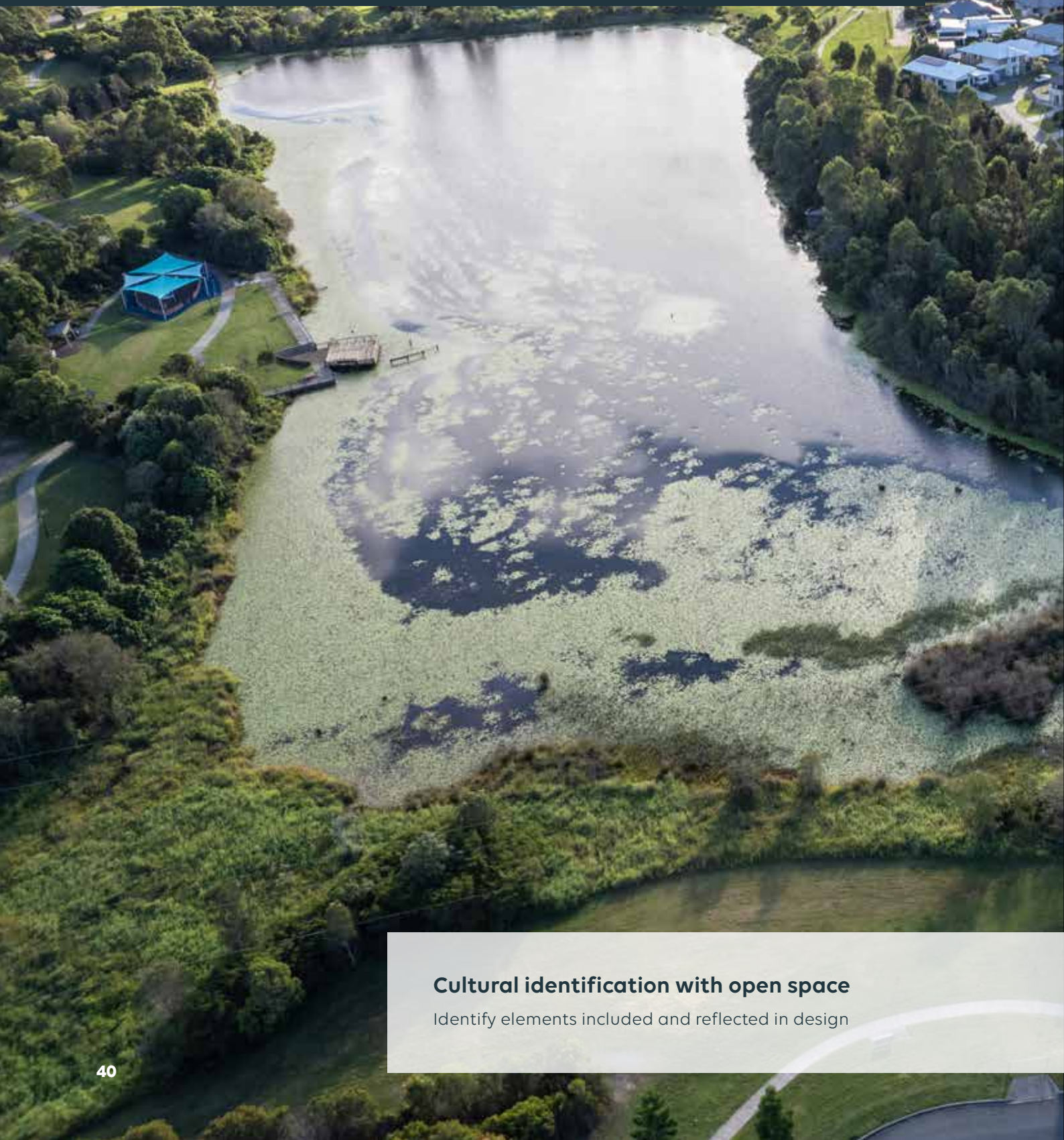
The Kabi Kabi people highly value this reserve, recognising it as a remaining pocket of land in a much larger complex of cultural sites. Godwin Beach Reserve would have once been a gathering and camping site, located close to a Bora (ceremonial) Ring and fish traps. We have worked together to identify an extensive cultural heritage site across the entire reserve area and have been in ongoing discussions around its management to protect these values. Council continues to work with the Kabi Kabi people to inform management of this site, which also includes walking trails.







5.2 Our city identity



Cultural identification with open space

Identify elements included and reflected in design



There are multiple urban centres across the City of Moreton Bay which are the focus of our communities. Our open spaces provide a context to celebrate our natural and cultural identity.

An area's identity within open space can be defined as:

- reflection of character of built form and vegetation
- scenic amenity and views
- use of local materials in construction of facilities and embellishments
- connections to history through layout, uses, garden design trends
- furniture that connects to stories, identities or offers a unique element
- cultural recognition of Traditional Custodians, early European settlement, cultural diversity, and today's community culture.

The MBRC Planning Scheme 2016 acknowledges this variety of character within its strategic framework.

Our open spaces provide a context to celebrate our natural and cultural identity. Design and signage provide for local communities to connect to significant elements such as the coast, rivers, and ranges.

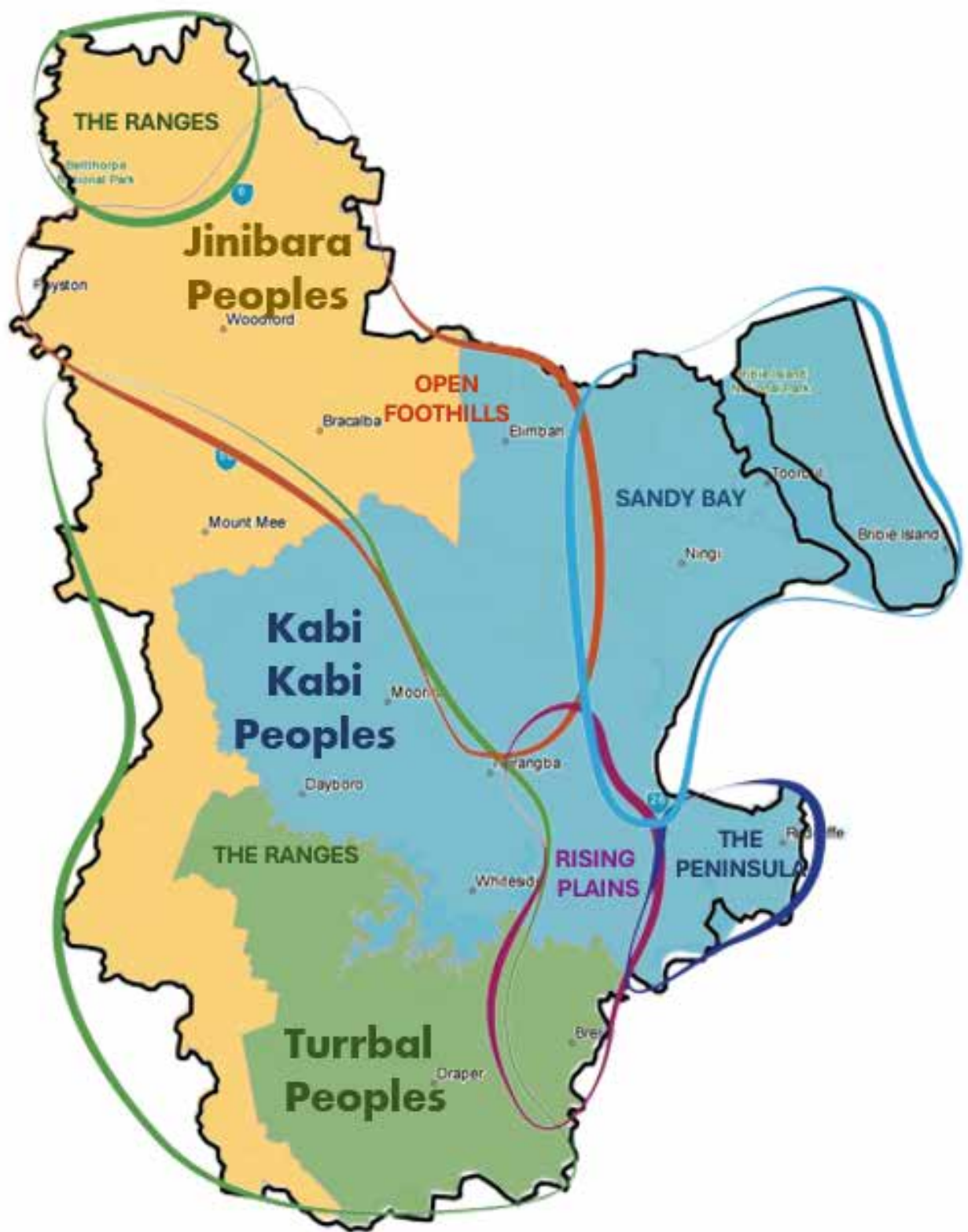
The City Character Map below highlights what shapes our open space and natural environment areas.

Our identity: City of Moreton Bay

Council's change to a city status in July 2023 represents an exciting coming-of-age moment for our diverse communities.

"The philosophy of this transformation is to first preserve and invest in the lifestyle we love, so that we don't lose our character in the face of incredible population growth. That means retaining the country charm of our rural towns and protecting our spectacular coastline to foster sustainable development of new housing, industries, retail, and manufacturing. It helps us give more shape to our polycentric city vision, to strategically invest in the unique potential of our existing centres and townships, rather than funnelling all our resources into a single centralised CBD."

- Mayor Peter Flannery



City of Moreton Bay's diverse and rich identity

- Three Traditional Custodian areas: Jinibara, Kabi Kabi and Turrbal peoples.
- Coastal areas: Bribie Island and Redcliffe Peninsula
- Riverine areas and rising plains
- Hinterland and ranges: Part of the national heritage listed Glass House Mountains - Mount Miketeebumulgrai, Mount Elimbah (Saddleback) and Mount Tunbubudla (The Twins).

Successful reflection of our identity

- Improved sense of community belonging and connections to place.
- Use of signage and other wayfinding technology with urban and landscape design to portray the unique identity of our city.
- Acknowledgement and continued development of the relationship with Traditional Custodians for cultural heritage recognition, continuing cultural practice (such as meeting spaces), identifying opportunities for continued Caring for Country practices, and environmental management of open space areas.
- Design across the range of open spaces matches the place and cultural needs across our varied communities.
- Developing access points to the coast and rivers that define our city and are identified with the culture and character of these waterways.
- Considering specific access points for people with low or limited mobility.







Wayfinding and identity

Council uses a suite of well-designed signage to aid wayfinding and support our regional identity.

City of Moreton Bay's signage encourages residents to cycle or walk and discover the incredible public open space network.

Signage is designed in three colour themes to reflect the hinterland, urban, and coastal environments where it is installed.

Our signage is built from robust materials to withstand changing conditions and it is accessible, legible, and inclusive for our diverse communities.

Wayfinding signs are installed along key active transport routes, within town centres and community facilities to help people easily navigate their way around the neighbourhood.

Interpretive signage is also used to recognise cultural or historic areas of interest, to cultivate a sense of community for particular people, places, or events.

Outdoor recreation signage can highlight recreation trails and help residents and visitors to discover outdoor activities while also being made aware of the risks and challenges associated with outdoor adventure.

Council endorsed the *Wayfinding and Interpretive Signage Guidelines* in 2019.





5.3 Access and connection



Connected and Universally Accessible

Universal access to the range of spaces and infrastructure

Accessibility standards of service

Corridors of open space and connection - for active movement

Physical connection for people

Our communities strongly communicated the importance of valuing the natural environment and the ability to appropriately connect and access those spaces.

Our communities want to:

- connect to and enjoy the open space areas around them
- walk to local recreation parks
- conserve natural areas
- enjoy the amenity and destinations offered in district and regional recreation parks.

Our communities also want ready access to a range of sporting opportunities that facilitate and encourage active participation in sports and fitness activities.

Council will continue and extend our natural areas network, using multifunction areas to provide and manage access, as well as nominating specific open spaces to achieve high-level accessibility.

This Open Space Plan seeks to provide a range of experiences for our communities across all levels of ability and eliminate barriers that may exclude some members of our communities from open space areas.







Principles for universal design

Creating easy access allows everyone (including people with reduced mobility, communicative ability, or understanding) to freely and independently enjoy our open spaces, particularly parks.

This means acknowledging the rights of people affected by environmental barriers, and the advantages that accessibility offers to everyone, regardless of their situation.

This will take time to achieve and reach across our open space networks.

Universal accessibility means planning with the following seven principles:



1: Equitable use



2: Flexibility in use



3: Simple and intuitive use



4: Perceptible information



5: Tolerance for error



6: Low physical effort



7: Size and space for approach and use

Our opportunity

Parks play a key role as social connectors, through passive casual connections or organised activation of park spaces.

Council already provides for and encourages social groups, families, and communities to meet up in parks. This is important as our neighbourhoods increase in density and private outdoor space reduces.

Parks include features such as dog off leash areas (DOLAs) which particularly support communities and neighbourhood connections. Communities appreciate the management and support of pet ownership, and this feature is one of the most requested embellishments for parks.

Community gardens are another open space area requested by our communities. Shared gardens can take a range of forms and require careful management to support access and inclusion across community groups. This plan supports the managed development of community gardens in appropriate locations.

Parks also support mental health and wellness, relaxation, and connection to nature. Their role for development of community resilience and connection is therefore vital.

As urban areas become increasingly populated and life intensifies, parks can provide quiet respite or escape, relaxation and places for recreation and leisurely moments.

Being inclusive across our diverse communities and providing for a range of abilities is also significant to our communities. This includes people from multicultural backgrounds, LGBTQIA+, seniors, women and girls.

Our Traditional Custodians have specific requirements for meeting and gathering places, which can be incorporated into our open space planning. This requires continued conversations and collaborative planning.

Accessibility and inclusion

Sports facilities have a strong community building function as well as supporting general health and wellbeing. We note that these spaces must be inclusive across all ages, genders and abilities. This is reflected in Council's standards for amenities and change facilities to meet community needs.

Connection for biodiversity

Our open space network supports our natural environment and particularly our city's biodiversity with directly connected linkages and steppingstone areas.

Direct linkages allow fauna movement, breeding areas and habitat. The Biodiversity Plan will establish a conservation network that aligns with this plan, including steppingstones (open space areas that provide a haven or steppingstone for fauna to move across our city).

It is not always possible for linkage parks to provide the full connection; these steppingstones play a significant role in connecting, protecting, and enhancing biodiversity.

Council and the community can both support the connection and management of spaces for biodiversity values.

The Open Space Plan acknowledges the specific values and relationships across the open space network for biodiversity and supports our city's conservation areas and green infrastructure. The open spaces classifications in this plan align to the Biodiversity Plan and its conservation network.

Successful access and connection

Our open space areas help to provide a connected network for biodiversity, water movement and human movement.

Green infrastructure elements for wildlife road crossings and linkages are used to minimise harm and maximise connection.

Accessibility and inclusion are embedded design considerations for recreation and sports functions of open space areas.

A range of appropriate community uses in parks are considered within design of recreational parks.

Natural area biodiversity links are priorities to complete connections for urban wildlife and the conservation network (refer to the Biodiversity Plan).

Supporting plans

- Adult Change Facility Network Plan (includes guidance for all types of parks and facilities).
- Building Code of Australia and accessibility requirements.





5.4 Resilience

Community safety and resilience
Supportive of community resilience
Environmentally resilient and supportive
Mitigate urban heat Island effects; flooding



Resilience is defined across three focus areas: environmental, community, and infrastructure.

Environmental resilience

Our natural environment's capacity to recover, withstand, or adapt to extreme events (e.g. recycled water projects and sports fields, managing bushfire hazards and connected trails for fauna movement).

Our natural environments are under constant pressure from urban development and activity. There is a need to support our ecosystems' resilience from the impacts of climate change, address biodiversity threats and pressures, edge effects, be proactive in pest management, and treat wetlands and waterways as natural systems.

This plan focuses on understanding and managing bushfire risks, flood impacts and other environmental risk areas through appropriate land use responses and management practices for open space and natural areas.

And particularly it supports sustainable design and management to control impacts on the overall health of the open space network, particularly natural areas.

Community resilience

How our communities respond, recover and adapt after major events, and the changes to climate (specifically urban heat island effects).

Our communities' resilience is supported by:

- community development and connection through casual use, activation and events in parks
- use of park areas for disaster management, as required in the Local Disaster Management Plan - this may include gathering or distribution of support or resources
- using multifunction natural areas as buffers for natural hazards like flooding and bushfire.

Parks and open spaces generally provide green spaces and shade to assist in reduction of urban heat island effects.

Resilience is built through multiple organisations and across a range of responsibilities. Council's role is supported by individuals, local community groups, not for profits, and all levels of government.

Infrastructure resilience

How our city and Council can recover and adapt to build back stronger. How we can look to the future and consider the best design options for resilience or balance replacement cost with extreme avoidance design.

Infrastructure resilience relates to the quality and durability of our built infrastructure. It relates to the protection of high value infrastructure that can be damaged in natural hazard events such as flooding and bushfires.

Successful resilience planning

Park activations and events develop lasting connections that provide community support in times of crisis.

- Natural event recovery cost is balanced to levels of risk and development costs.
- Development of facilities that support efficient recovery through adaptation of design and materials to minimise cost and damage.
- Inclusion of park designs that match Local Disaster Management Plan requirements.
- Open space areas and plantings are used to mitigate the impacts of urban heat island effects.

Supporting plans

- Local Area Disaster Management Plan
- Biodiversity Plan
- Asset Management Plans
- Land Buyback for Environmental Purposes Program





5.5 Well designed



Design standards - best practice and affordable

Well designed, affordable - health, sport, and recreation

Good design means creating great places for community to use and enjoy. It enhances the sense of place within an area and can promote cultural and environmental interactions.

Well-designed neighbourhoods include adequate parks and open spaces that respond to existing and emerging community needs and the natural environment, such as:

- establishing standards of provision
- a range of open space types with a mixture of experiences and capacity based on the communities they serve.

Recreation and sports parks in new and emerging growth areas establish key infrastructure within communities. They must be planned early and consider the land use, road and access patterns, environmental corridors, and landscape planning elements.

Well-designed recreation and sports parks also consider economic and environmental sustainability and the local identity. Standard design considerations include:

- access and circulation in and around the open space
- the park's form, function and additional embellishments
- suitability of materials used for embellishments and landscaping
- social and cultural elements that can be supported or enhanced
- environmental impacts are minimised, and environmental values supported
- economic cost and benefit of the design.

Safety

Safety is an important early consideration in the good design of public parks and open spaces. Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) are international standards that promote the use of seven principles in the planning, design and management of the built environment and include:

1. Activation
2. Passive surveillance
3. Personal and community 'ownership' of the outcomes
4. Supportive management
5. Legibility in the environment
6. Territorial clarity
7. Limiting vulnerable places.

Crime prevention and safety are key elements of well-designed parks.

Location

Parks and open spaces function within surrounding land uses to serve residential and employee populations. They contribute towards liveable neighbourhoods and provide recreation and social connection points. Parks are the life and heart of our local communities.

The design quadrant

The following table highlights the four key considerations for the design of our public parks.

Create and enhance sense of place	Design relates to context
• Vibrant space in which people want to spend time. • Acknowledges Traditional Owners' cultural significance. • Feels safe and looks attractive. • Accommodates a range of activities and events. • Has a positive relationship to the buildings around it. • Has a clear public purpose and is inviting to the public to enter and feel connected. • Visually interesting.	• Allows for risk and experience, providing a place to explore. • Encourages positive social interaction. • Flooding and water impacts are considered and managed. • Plantings are appropriate to native species, topography, place and include shade. • Enhances the interface between public and private spaces - the streetscape it creates. • Climate sensitive design (provides shade within urban areas to counter heat impacts, water to appropriate areas to keep plants alive).
Economic and environmental sustainability	Promote social, cultural and environmental interactions
• Planned resilience - can it withstand impact of events, how does it adapt over time to change, how does it recover. • Robust or fit for purpose inclusions which are maintainable assets. • Resilient plant species are matched to locations. • Materials are chosen for value, environmental and community benefit. • Lifecycle of elements are considered - how long they last. • Flood impacts area considered and consciously planned.	• Responds to current and future economic lifecycle. • Encourages social interaction and connection across communities. • Provides learning opportunities for communities. • Uses playgrounds as points of connection.

Successful well-designed parks

- Clear design guidelines for developers and Council to support attractive functional and popular parks.
- Park designs support use and benefits to local neighbourhoods.
- Parks are visually appealing and enjoyable natural areas.
- Accessibility and universal design are embedded for all recreation parks, including accessible furniture, toilets, fencing, soft-fall matting, shade, and play equipment.
- Sustainability works with natural systems, particularly stormwater management and waterways.
- Demand and potential impact of nature-based recreational activities are balanced with the environmental values of the open space network.
- Suitable facilities and assets provided to protect biodiversity values.
- Monitor and maintain natural areas to ensure recreational use does not result in environmental harm or impact biodiversity values.

Supporting plans

- Infrastructure Design Standards
- Planning Scheme Policy - Integrated Design
- Local Government Infrastructure Plan





5.6 Environmental sustainability



Sustainable and adaptive natural areas

Definitions and functionality for natural areas

Related to place and function

Conserve and preserve connections and habitat

Protection and restoration classifications



Our community values City of Moreton Bay's natural environment and green infrastructure. Community feedback supports the ongoing maintenance and care of existing areas, together with further extension of the green network.

Our special natural areas and network, wildlife habitat and movement corridors will be connected, protected, and enhanced as opportunities arise. Green infrastructure (fauna rope bridges, underpasses, and exclusion fencing) supports biodiversity and mitigates threats by protecting and facilitating wildlife movement across open spaces and transport corridors.

Open space classifications aid the development of appropriate maintenance schedules, nominate embellishments or inclusions, and direct decisions around allowable uses. They support sustainable use and adaptive management of natural areas, aiming to conserve areas of high ecological values. Restoration and protection of natural areas supports the connection and overall health of our natural environment.

The classification system and action plan guide the selection and design of nature-based recreation sites, in collaboration with delivery partners such as Council's Environment and Sustainability Planning and Policy.

Green infrastructure supports, protects, and conserves our natural areas and biodiversity. The seven principles used for planning green infrastructure include:

1. Linkage
2. Multifunctioning
3. Integration
4. Flexible
5. Diversity
6. Sustainable
7. Evidence-based.

These principles are used to choose and align projects to ensure an effective green infrastructure network is supported across our city, while protecting vulnerable biodiversity values.

This plan's key focus is on biodiversity conservation, connecting, protecting, and enhancing biodiversity values, minimising edge effects, and mitigating threats. Its aim is to promote sustainable use of natural areas, while treating waterways and wetlands as natural systems within the open space network.

Successful environmental sustainability

- Natural areas are protected, enhanced and valued across the city.
- A network of natural areas (reserves) that support environmental and biodiversity values.
- Classification system supports management and maintenance of open spaces. Infrastructure resilience relates to the quality and durability of our built infrastructure. It relates to the protection of high value infrastructure that can be damaged in natural hazard events such as flooding and bushfires.

Supporting documents

- Environment and Sustainability Strategy
- Biodiversity Plan (under development)
- Local Government Infrastructure Plan
- Land Buyback for Environmental Purposes Program.







5.7 Activated parks

Allow for active healthy lifestyle choices

Vibrant active parks

Cultural and creative experience



Recreation parks

Recreation parks cater to a diverse range of experiences from passive leisure activities to vibrant large group events. Parks should be designed to support activation through cultural events and participation, with appropriate lighting, power access and shade. Stages, amphitheatres and amenities blocks are critical for these higher-level uses.

Sports parks

Our sports parks and showgrounds stimulate vibrant and active lifestyles and community activities across our city.

Sports participation trends evolve over time. For example, there has been strong growth across the city in netball, Australian Rules football, and soccer, while cricket, baseball and athletics has remained stable. Provision of sports fields needs to be flexible to respond to trends and changes in demand over time.

Our aim is to plan sports facilities that are fit for purpose, with flexible field configurations that can change and adapt with trends, while providing efficient and financially astute sports master planning.

Multifield sports complexes provide the most effective and efficient way to support regional sports that require multiple competition games, parking and support infrastructure for multiple sports.

Civic parks

Vibrant civic centres are supported by civic parks which provide a focal point and promote gathering, events and community connection. They are breakout spaces from offices and commercial buildings. They are havens in urban areas, providing recreation, relaxation and engagement. They should be designed to stimulate and enrich centres.

Foreshore parks and tourism

City of Moreton Bay has 294km of foreshore that includes foreshore parks which are a major contributor to the city's tourism and activations. These spaces contribute the identity and connection residents have with our beaches and ocean. They are used for festivals and events, (such as triathlons and boating), as well as fun runs and walks.

Ecotourism

Ecotourism is a potential key attractor for our city. It provides visitors with unique experiences of our beautiful natural environment. Ecotourism should be undertaken in appropriate locations, minimising negative environmental impacts while supporting and preserving the natural environment. Ecotourism should not occur in conservation areas.

Successful activation

- A network of performance spaces established with appropriate facilities to support events in parks across the city.
- People active and present in our parks.
- Organic social gatherings in parks.
- Management of commercial and community pop-ups in parks that connect the community.
- An annual program of community, cultural and tourism events that connect community to their local, district or regional parks.
- Vibrant sports parks that provide for a diverse range of sports.
- Supporting sports tourism and sports carnivals.
- Community facilities located in sports parks to facilitate activation and efficient use, where compatible.

Existing programs

- Sports programs and club support across a diverse range of sports.
- Festivals and cultural events using a range of venues including parks and open spaces.
- Library pop-ups in parks.







5.8 Financial sustainability



Our open spaces, particularly parks, are master-planned and may require staged delivery to ensure balanced financial budgets.

Our strategic priority is to provide an equitable and accessible distribution of recreational open space areas across the city, securing adequate land for future parks and open spaces as required.

Council will consider the full cost of providing open space areas (especially parks) - including the environmental and social benefits for our communities.

Our facilities are planned as a network across a range of levels and sports field grades related to location and demand. Planning considerations also focus on establishing community facilities within sports parks which demonstrate efficiencies in provision, activation, and community benefit.

Our open space areas support tourism and economic benefits through lifestyle and destination attraction. Appropriate land use planning, commercial activity location and accessibility provide significant tourism opportunities for our city. Tourism planning also acknowledges the importance of our natural environment and recreation activities as regional assets. These need to be balanced with the environmental cost or potential damage of overuse or mismanagement.

Successful financial sustainability

- Balanced standards of service with rate of provision.
- Consideration of social and community benefit within financially sustainable costs.
- A staged approach to the delivery and development of park networks.
- A regional balance of types and functions for even and equitable access to parks.





5.9 Monitor and improve



Monitoring and evaluating the Open Space Plan and actions is required to measure our success. Annual feedback will be provided to the community through an Open Space Report Card. This monitoring could include:

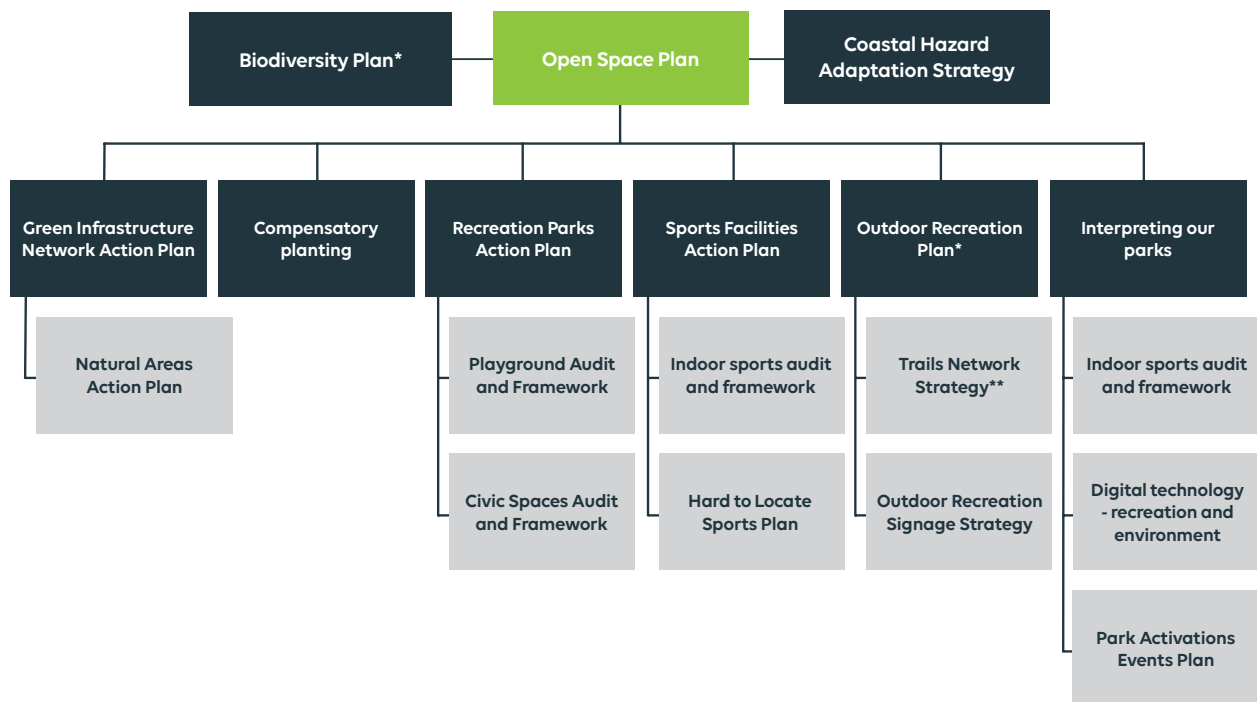


Successful monitoring

- A monitoring system for patterns of use and development of open space network over time.
- Regular feedback from the community on satisfaction and use of parks and open space recreational areas.
- Improvement in protection of natural areas and completion of strategic linkages.
- Inclusion of parks in emerging areas to ensure they meet standards and rates of provision.

6. Open space planning

The following plans are being developed or reviewed to support delivery of the Open Space Plan.



Supporting documents

This plan is also informed by the following City of Moreton Bay documents or programs:

- Planning Scheme
- LGIP and Planning Scheme Policies
- Open Space Planning for Growth Areas
- The Mill Civic Space and Park Guidelines
- The Mill Public Art Guidelines
- Urban Design Charter
- Community Gardens Guide
- Signage Plan

6.1 Standards of service

Our standards are based on benchmarks and best practice. The Open Space Types Standards will be embedded in the Infrastructure Design Standards to support the development of appropriate design standards for accessibility, durability, resilience, safety, and functionality.



6.2 Funding sources

Our city's open space infrastructure is funded from a range of sources. While most infrastructure is Council-delivered, developers contribute significant components at the time of subdivision while other grants and programs assist with embellishments and facilities in the open space areas.

Delivery	Source	Method
Developer	LGIP Performance outcomes	- Identified infrastructure items - Rate of provision - Design
Council	LGIP Local community Infrastructure Project Grants Operational	- Infill areas - Upgrades - Design approach - Enliven with activity
Grants	State and federal grants Sports association grants	Grant applications for embellishment and management
State owned parks	State parks and forests	Preservation of important natural areas
Federal projects	Better cities and other programs	- Grants programs - Preservation of important natural areas
Making linkages - support other infrastructure projects	Stormwater infrastructure Road infrastructure	- LGIP stormwater - Green Infrastructure Programs - road crossing and linkage corridors for fauna
Residents	Management of private property <i>Land for Wildlife</i>	- Although privately owned, our communities have a significant role supporting our habitat, local identity, and amenity in their neighbourhoods - Many important links and stepping-stones for our natural environment and our city's biodiversity are supported on private land - Naturehoods: Your backyard and outdoor spaces guideline



7. Action plan (5 years)

Action		Tasks
1. Open space classifications		
1.1	Apply open space types to mapping, design and maintenance.	• Include open space types in asset management plans. • Outline open space classification in management plans for relevant properties purchased under Council's Land Buyback for Environmental Purposes program. • Open space classifications guide design approach and inclusions.
1.2	Match classifications with Asset Management Plans.	• Review asset management plans for terminology and alignment of open space descriptions.
1.3	Geographic information system (GIS) validation project for open space classifications.	• Work with internal stakeholders and align with conservation network defined in the Biodiversity Plan.
1.4	Land use and infrastructure planning considerations in the Planning Scheme.	• Identify policy directions to facilitate appropriate land use outcomes within open space areas.
1.5	Revise desired standards of service for each park type.	• Note new park types/classification neighbourhood park, standards and best locations in higher density areas.
2. Regional identity		
2.1	Link regional identity with place design and open space embellishment.	• Establish and implement signage suite for open space. • Open space areas are designed to relate to and celebrate the local identity or cultural heritage.
2.2	Engage with Traditional Custodians on cultural heritage and continuous use of open space areas. Identify projects for ongoing management and development of cultural connection (such as Godwin Beach Reserve).	• Ongoing dialogue with Traditional Custodians on the development or revision of implementation plans such as the Recreational Plan, Natural Areas Plan and Outdoor Recreation Plan. • Ongoing dialogue with Traditional Custodians on the enduring cultural connections to Country, including waterways, parks, and reserves.
2.3	Provide recreation space that supports diverse cultural experiences and groups across our city to enjoy the local natural environment.	• Provide a range of outdoor performance spaces and embellishments that support social connection, engagement, cultural events and activation.
2.4	Provide suitable access to coastal and riverine features (parks and pathways) to enhance access and connection for the community.	• Foreshore parks include appropriate upgrades and embellishments in line with a playground plan and recreation plan to ensure these popular and vibrant areas support local and tourism needs. • Appropriate balance of budget allocation and programming of these areas. • Continued management of commercial activations of these spaces and protection of natural biodiversity values. • Consideration of Coastal Hazard Adaptation Plan and implementation actions.

2.5	Prepare design guidelines for open space infrastructure.	- Although privately owned, our communities have a significant role supporting our habitat, local identity, and amenity in their neighbourhoods. - Many important links and stepping-stones for our natural environment and our city's biodiversity are supported on private land. - Naturehoods: Your backyard and outdoor spaces guideline.
2.6	Develop accessible signage and digital technologies to support and extend wayfinding.	Investigate digital technologies options.
2.7	Encourage multi-arts experiences in recreational parks.	Cultural services programming for park activities.
2.8	Review <i>Wayfinding and Interpretive Signage Guidelines</i> .	Review at 5 - 10-year intervals.
2.9	Measure sense of community belonging with intercept surveys.	- Include relevant park questions in the intercept surveys. - Score and report on progress with open space provision and activation and share this information with our communities.
3. Access and connection		
3.1	Work towards universal access to amenities and facilities at all district and regional parks (across park classifications).	- Provide equitable access to all levels of ability to raise standards for park facilities over time. - Note inclusion elements of the Community Wellbeing Strategy.
3.2	Investigate cultural connection and use of environmental areas for Traditional Custodians.	Build relationships and understand Traditional Custodian values for specific parks.
3.3	Develop graded trails in a range of natural area multifunctional parks to allow low mobility access (e.g. wheelchairs).	- Implementation through Outdoor Recreation Plan and Trails Plan. - Nominate easy access natural areas for all abilities access.
3.4	Nominate regional foreshore parks for development of high quality and level of accessibility, e.g. Woorim and Suttons beach.	- Nominate easy access beach and foreshore areas for all abilities access. - Support with appropriate amenities.
3.5	Dog off lead area monitoring and review of policy and provision.	Five-year review program of DOLA policies, directions, and implementation.
3.6	Establish community gardens.	Consider appropriate locations and management based on community interest, requests, and evaluation of community benefit.
3.7	Use research to inform investments in accessible places and activities.	Use data to understand what recreational activities people with disabilities want to participate in and areas they want to visit.

Action		Tasks
3.8	Improve accessibility information online for open space and recreation areas.	- Review online accessibility information for sport and recreation venues. - Connect to Digital Technology for Parks Project.
4. Resilience		
4.1	Establish standards to ensure high value embellishments and infrastructure are protected or appropriately designed to withstand events like flooding, heat waves, storms, and bushfire.	- Standards of service for parks are used to consider natural hazard risks and inform the appropriate location and design of facilities to be resilient to flood, bushfire and heat hazard risks. - Undertake urban heat impact assessment.
4.2	Investigate risk and management of natural hazards in natural areas.	Natural Hazard Risk Assessments (including for Bushfire) inform natural area planning strategic prioritisation of sites for further investigation.
4.3	Develop Natural Areas Plan.	Management of natural areas.
4.4	Develop Biodiversity Plan.	Monitor and manage biodiversity.
4.5	Provide community gathering spaces in district and regional level facilities to support disaster management and community reach.	- Identify and nominate parks in disaster management plans. - Provide facilities to parks to match demand.
4.6	Open spaces in riparian areas acknowledge environmental values, connect, protect, enhance cultural stories to support local communities develop resilience and risk management strategies (noting flooding and inundation risks).	Stormwater and flood risk management work is done in consultation with parks planning processes to consider appropriate areas for linkage parks and connections for riparian restoration and water quality.
4.7	Understand safety and inclusion issues in parks.	- Audit and survey women and girls using parks - perceptions and experiences of safety and active use. - Include and involve youth in design and programming of parks.
4.8	Investigate recycled water and water saving projects for sports parks.	Align with Integrated Water Management Plan.
4.9	Digital technology for parks.	Investigate digital technology for data collection and monitoring to support infrastructure resilience.
4.10	Align with Local Disaster Management Plans.	Check relationship and requirements of the Local Disaster Management Plan and the open space network. Align any needs for disaster management activities, storage or maneuvers during events.
4.11	Align with asset management plans to balance resilience in terms of durability, and maintenance.	Review and check with asset management plans.

4.12	Review use of parks for temporary refuge and sleeping rough.	Align with Housing and Homelessness Action Plan and use of public parks.
4.13	Biosecurity Plan.	Manage restricted and prohibited plants and animals under Council's biosecurity obligations (Environmental Services).
5. Well designed		
5.1	Establish functional and design standards for each park type within infrastructure design standards.	- Infrastructure Design Standards for internal and external use. - Appropriate inclusion and reference in the Planning Scheme.
5.2	Land preservation for future park acquisition in emerging areas.	Develop acquisition / land preservation guidelines as part of structure planning - particularly related to areas outside of Priority Infrastructure Area of Local Government Infrastructure Plan experiencing development pressures.
5.3	Include accessibility standards for parks in Infrastructure Design Standards. Identify types of parks for prioritisation and inclusion.	Create a range of accessible and distributed accessible parks based on established targets and design principles in Infrastructure Design Standards.
5.4	Consideration of community safety in park design.	- Community engagement on levels of perceived safety and use of parks. - Work on design process with community to showcase and consider park safety design. - Playground Plan. - Recreation Parks Action Plan.
5.5	Maintenance (see 4.8).	Link to Asset Management Plans.
5.6	Masterplans for parks.	Park landscaping and functional briefs require a master planning process.
5.7	Develop criteria for nature-based recreation parks and natural areas (multifunction recreation reserves).	Outcomes, inclusions, and locations to inform: Natural Areas Plan and Recreation Plan.
5.8	Monitoring.	Monitor impact of design of recreation activities on natural areas.
6. Environmental sustainability		
6.1	Revised classification system of natural areas with definitions and list of functions and permitted uses.	See Action 1.1.
6.2	Develop a framework for nature-based recreation to inform selection and design of these reserves and sub classifications of district parks.	Develop criteria, outcomes, and decision framework.
6.3	Network planning for all open space types (refer 6.1).	- Biodiversity Plan - Conservation Network. - Natural Areas Plan. - Outdoor Recreation Plan. - Local Government Infrastructure Plan.

Action		Tasks
6.4	Identify strategic environmental links for connection, protection and purchase through the Land Buyback Program.	• Conservation Network Plan. • Land Buyback Program.
6.5	Investigate digital technologies for open space infrastructure.	• Enable efficient and sustainable management of parks. • Support education and information sharing with the community.
6.6	Sustainable and efficient design meets Environment and Sustainability Strategy targets.	• Efficient lighting. • Materials consideration. • Maintenance regime. • Recycle and reuse materials.
6.7	Efficient use and recycling of water for sports parks.	• Investigate options to further extend the recycled water network for sports parks across the city. • Investigate appropriate capture and reuse of water for sports fields.
6.8	Identify strategic connections for protection of biodiversity values and recreation links.	• Refer to Biodiversity Plan. • GIS analysis and review of open space areas. • Trails network planning.
6.9	Asset Management Plans.	• Review plans to align with functional requirements of various park classifications.
6.10	Develop Green Infrastructure Implementation Program or Plan for continued development of open space network.	• Provide clear and relevant connection with green infrastructure and the Land Buyback for Environmental Purposes Program. • Plan for voluntary offset planting for other infrastructure projects.
6.11	Investigate cultural connection and use of environmental areas for Traditional Custodians.	• Apply the Reconciliation Action Plan and Traditional Custodian engagement for relevant projects.
7. Activated parks		
7.1	Allow park use for events and programs to encourage use and connection, enliven and enrich our communities.	• Identify policy directions to facilitate appropriate land use outcomes within open space areas. • Ensure appropriate bylaws are in place to allow for park activation and event management. • Review bylaws.
7.2	Create suitable venues for events at district level to activate the city. Work with program providers to facilitate spaces that can grow activation in key parks: District and regional recreation, district and regional sports, showgrounds, and civic spaces.	• Provide performance spaces in district and regional recreation parks with appropriate levels of facilities to support events, including shade, stages, parking, and electricity. • Identify policy directions to facilitate appropriate land use outcomes within open space areas. • Factor these inclusions into appropriate park masterplans.
7.3	Digital technologies for park enhancement project.	• Enhance park use, community engagement and wayfinding. • Investigate digital technologies for park activation, event creation and support, park stories and community interactions or experiences. • Develop hybrid place overlays for parks.

7.4	Playground Plan.	• Audit and analysis of playgrounds across the city, including equipment types, focus of playgrounds and functionality. • Examine elements such as shade and safety.
7.5	Sports Facilities Plan (including indoor sports).	• Model sports requirements and anticipated growth. • Monitor demand and trends in sports participation. • Develop an action plan for future development of sports facilities across the city.
7.6	Review Outdoor Recreation Plan.	• Consider recreational access to natural areas for a range of outdoor activities.

8. Financial sustainability

8.1	Infrastructure Design Standards consider cost implications.	• Evaluate embellishment costs and resilience.
8.2	Environmental sustainability costs factored into park developments.	• Environment and Sustainability Strategy requires Council to consider carbon emissions cost of its activities, resulting in flow on effect for park design and maintenance. • The Strategy's implementation plans will investigate these costs. • Consider other environmental cost implications within the design phase of park planning.
8.3	Plan for voluntary offsets for Council construction and activities.	• Plan for voluntary offset planting for other infrastructure projects.
8.4	Factor social costs and strategic alignment in overall cost of park development.	• Project cost benefits are established at early planning stages.
8.5	Long term financial planning for parks infrastructure.	• Plan for long term future parks requirements across the city. Connect to the network planning for the Local Government Infrastructure Plan.
8.6	Growth monitoring and network planning considers future infrastructure needs of growth across the city.	• Infrastructure modelling and planning for existing and new areas.
8.7	Develop Advocacy Plan for conservation, parks, sports facilities and playgrounds.	• Investigate grants, loans and funding opportunities to develop the plan.

9. Monitor and improve

9.1	Investigate development of digital technologies to support open space monitoring, data capture, management, and activation.	• Investigate how digital technologies can support understanding and use of open space areas across the city.
9.2	Implement a Parks and Open Spaces Score Card.	• Annual report card published on Open Spaces Plan webpage.

8.Glossary

Term	Definition
Biodiversity value	Biodiversity and ecosystems provide the following services, uses, and values: • provision of products (food, timber, fibre, medicines) • cultural (aesthetic, spiritual, recreational) • regulation (maintenance and control of natural processes such as floods, fire, climate) • support (nutrient cycling, pollination, water purification, soil fertility) • ethical (preserving biodiversity for existing and future generations) • scientific (understanding how life evolves and functions). Biodiversity values extend to natural areas, special natural areas and wildlife habitats, including core habitat, ecological corridor habitat, and stepping stone habitat. They also extend to isolated trees.
Core habitat	Natural areas and wildlife habitats which support biodiversity and ecological processes of individual species.
Crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED)	Designing new or redeveloped environments in ways that help to create safer spaces and reduce crime.
DOLA	Dog off leash area.
Ecological corridor habitat	Allows wildlife movement between core habitat areas (facilitates dispersal between flora and fauna populations), increasing their long-term viability and resilience to natural hazards, or other stressors.
Edge effects	The impacts of population and urban environments on natural habitats.
Environment and Sustainability Strategy	Provides a roadmap to guide the actions of Council and our communities to deliver our vision, the Our Healthy Environments goal, and outcomes in the Corporate Plan 2022-2027.
Extreme avoidance design	Extreme avoidance design is an approach with low risk tolerance as a response to natural hazards.
Green infrastructure network	A connected network of natural ecosystems, semi-natural environments and engineered green spaces and assets that include: parklands, waterways and wetlands, large and small tracts of natural and re-established ecosystems, ecological corridors, grassy fields, street and habitat trees, community gardens drainage swales, and innovative technologies such as vegetated roofs, bioretention basins, wildlife crossing and nesting infrastructure.
Green infrastructure	Safely connects natural areas and wildlife habitats through built infrastructure that facilitates wildlife movement across barriers such as roads (e.g. wildlife fencing, rope bridges, wildlife underpasses and exclusion fencing). Provides wildlife habitat where it is being impacted through land use or environmental change (e.g. nest boxes).
Green infrastructure	Safely connects natural areas and wildlife habitats through built infrastructure that facilitates wildlife movement across barriers such as roads (e.g. wildlife fencing, rope bridges, wildlife underpasses and exclusion fencing). Provides wildlife habitat where it is being impacted through land use or environmental change (e.g. nest boxes).

Growth areas	Growth areas are defined as the areas identified for greenfield development or urban expansion within the Moreton Bay Planning Scheme or the SEQ Regional Plan.
Local Community Infrastructure Project (LCIP)	Local community infrastructure projects are specific projects funded to meet a specific local identified need.
Local Government Infrastructure Plan (LGIP)	Identifies Council's plans for trunk infrastructure for urban development at a desired standard of service in a coordinated, efficient and financially sustainable manner.
Natural area	A terrestrial or aquatic area which supports biodiversity values, includes different ecosystems and vegetation communities with a diverse range of native flora and fauna species and other ecological features.
Natural hazard	A physical event that may cause damage to property, infrastructure, livelihoods, human health, service provision, environmental resources or other. e.g. heatwave, flooding, bushfire, landslide, earthquake, tsunami, cyclone, severe wind, severe thunderstorm, sea level rise, storm tide inundation and coastal erosion.
PIA	Priority Infrastructure Area as defined by the Local Government Infrastructure Plan.
Public open space	A variety of spaces urban environments that are readily and freely accessible to the community for recreation and enjoyment. Green public open space refers to publicly accessible areas that have some greenery, and generally support some recreational activity, i.e. parks, sports fields and nature reserves. May also include vegetated streetscapes, street trees and public-school grounds.
Private open space	Spaces such as golf courses, acreage and rural areas which provide important open space but are not controlled by Council. These areas may be controlled in other ways through zoning, environmental offset covenants and conservation partnerships. Private green spaces such as residential gardens and private golf courses are not included in green public open space.
Regional Conservation Network	Core and stepping stone (patches) habitat, ecological corridor habitat and other linkages that provide connectivity, including areas that are a priority for restoration and enhancement. The network includes both public and private land.
Regional open space network	Moreton Bay's extensive network of open areas (parks and natural areas), including plant life, water features and other natural environments. These areas are protected from development of residential, commercial, industrial or institutional uses.
Special natural area	A terrestrial or aquatic area supporting biodiversity values of special significance, and managed to connect, protect, and enhance its biodiversity values.
Stepping stone habitat	Small patches of habitat such as isolated habitat trees or groups of trees help animals to move safely through urbanised areas.

