



# Open Space Strategic Management Plan

2025-30

## CONTENTS

Kaurna Acknowledgment .....	3
Community Vision 2034 .....	4
Putting the plan to work.....	5
Strategic integration .....	6
How to use.....	7
The role of the open space strategic management plan .....	8
Challenges and influences.....	9
COMMUNITY.....	9
ENVIRONMENT.....	10
LIVABILITY .....	10
LEADERSHIP .....	11
Planning Principles.....	13
PROVISION.....	13
3 REVIEW PATHWAYS (3R's) .....	13
SHADE.....	13
TOILETS .....	14
FENCING.....	15
IRRIGATION.....	15
DOG PARKS .....	16
The Open Space Catchment Hierarchy .....	17
HIERARCHY .....	18
REGIONAL:.....	18
DISTRICT: .....	18
NEIGHBOURHOOD: .....	19
LOCAL:.....	19
ACTIVITY TYPE .....	19
<b>Active</b> open spaces.....	19
<b>Family</b> open spaces .....	20
<b>Passive</b> open spaces.....	22
Actions.....	23
Appendix 1 Strategic integration .....	26
Appendix 2 Shade Matrix.....	33
Appendix 3 Family (playground) hierarchy service levels.....	34
Appendix 4 Playground Assessment Criteria.....	38

# Kurna Acknowledgment

**We acknowledge the Kurna Nation and its people as the traditional owners and custodians of the land in the area now known as the City of Onkaparinga.**

We recognise that this local living culture has developed over tens of thousands of years and that in today's contemporary context, Kurna and other Aboriginal people are actively engaged in community life and bring their rich cultural heritage to the connected community and sustainable future we aspire to.

We are mindful of Kurna people's spiritual relationship with country when we make decisions about our region and that protecting places of importance to Kurna culture has an impact on the wellbeing and prosperity of Kurna and other Aboriginal people.

We recognise our leadership responsibility to Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities, local businesses, and service agencies by actively engaging in a shared journey towards reconciliation.

# Community Vision 2034

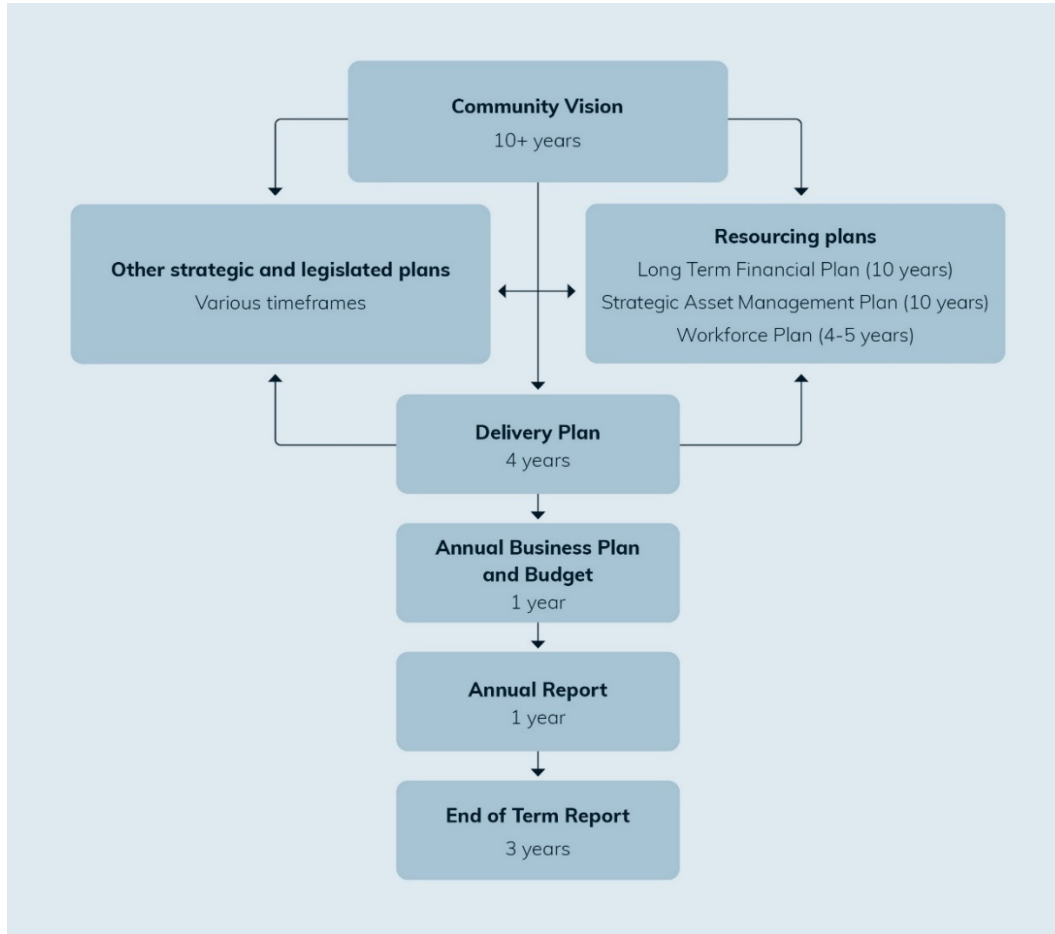
The Community Vision is designed to serve as a compass, providing direction for the collective work of the community. It is made up of elements that support and refine the vision, turning it into a guide for action.

The Community Vision 2034 features four themes to frame council decision making and the services and projects we deliver. Those themes are Community, Environment, Liveability, and Leadership, supported by 32 ambitious goals to reach a shared vision for Onkaparinga over the next ten years.

The Open Space Strategic Management Plan 2025-2030 (OSSMP) directly responds to the Community Vision as it:

- Inspires more healthy and active lifestyle choices throughout the community.
- Increase the inclusivity and quality of spaces and places for the enjoyment of all.
- Supports the transition towards a circular economy by maximising the lifespan of valued resources.
- Support integrated, sustainable and climate resilient approaches to developing well planned and safe places.
- Ensure water sources are effectively managed and used efficiently, and natural waterways preserved and protected.
- Increases collaboration on new and traditional approaches to protect and regenerate natural areas and biodiversity.
- Increases people's participation in decision making on matters that affect them.

# Putting the plan to work



Council partners with state and federal governments to develop and deliver services and programs for our community.

Council's Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP), Strategic Asset Management Plan (SAMP) and Community Vision comprise our suite of Strategic Management Plans as required under Section 122 of the Local Government Act 1999. These plans forecast how Council will sustainably resource our roles in realising the Community Vision. To ensure our resources are focused on community goals, we align our strategic plans with the goals of the Community Vision.

Engagement with Onkaparinga communities, along with our key stakeholders and partners is an essential part of developing these plans and strategies.

Strategies, legislated plans and resourcing plans inform the four-year Delivery Plan.

Council's Annual Business Plan reflects the Delivery Plan and sets out the activities for the year.

The themes of the Community Vision are integrated across our strategic documents.

# Strategic integration

The following provides a summary of how the OSSMP aligns with our Corporate Suite of documents which includes the Community Vision 2034, Long Term Financial Plan and Strategic Asset Management Plan.

A detailed breakdown of the OSSMP alignment with other strategic Council documents and plans can be found in Appendix 1.

Document	Description	OSSMP alignment
<b>Community Vision 2034</b>	To serve as a compass, providing direction for the collective work of the community. It is made up of elements that support and refine the vision, turning it into a guide for action	Its Themes, Key Result Areas and Goals to ensure we are delivering the Community Vision.
<b>Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP)</b>	<p>Forecasts how Council will sustainably resource our roles in realising the Community Vision.</p> <p>To ensure our resources are focused on community goals, we align our strategic plans with the goals of the Community Vision.</p>	Service levels have been developed with consideration of the LTFP. This ensures that the OSSMP can be delivered within our financial forecasting.
<b>Strategic Asset Management Plan (SAMP)</b>	<p>Provides an overview of our assets, how they are performing, the service levels we provide, our asset goals and objectives, areas for improvement and financial position.</p> <p>The SAMP sets the scene for our asset class management plans.</p>	<p>Changes to service levels proposed through the OSSMP and asset management plan reviews will have an impact on budgets and programs which will affect both maintenance and capital works.</p> <p>It is critical that these impacts are recognised through the asset class management plan reviews to ensure programs are adequately resourced.</p>

# How to use

The OSSMP guides how we sustainably plan our open space (including playgrounds) and endeavours to provide diverse connected open spaces equitably across the city to meet current and future community needs. It sets the principles, planning and direction for future provision, development, and maintenance of the open space network. The focus is on providing open space to the community within 500m of most households and does not propose or identify land for sale.

The OSSMP Planning Principles provide high level direction to ensure the provision and design of open space as well as the supporting facilities and infrastructure match the service levels outlined in the Catchment Hierarchy. The planning principles and catchment hierarchy also provide clear direction and inspiration for but not be limited to:

- Developed and undeveloped areas that:
  - Support physical and mental health.
  - Respond to the impacts of climate change and climate emergency declaration.
  - Contribute to urban greening objectives.
  - Provide an opportunity to conserve biodiversity and restore critical habitats and ecosystem services essential for human well-being.
- Playspaces, playgrounds and family spaces.
- Structured recreation areas such as sports grounds.
- Unstructured active recreation such as linear trails/paths, dog parks, skate and BMX parks.

The OSSMP will be used by:

- Policy Planners preparing, reviewing, and amending planning instruments pursuant to the requirements of The Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 (SA).
- Development Assessment Planners and Engineers during negotiations with land division applicants.
- Asset Planners as a framework to guide:
  - Development of district open space plans.
  - Potential land acquisitions and disposals.
  - Project planning and scoping including prioritising missing pedestrian links to retained neighbourhood, district, and regional playgrounds and reserves, ensuring safe and connected access for the community.
  - Strategies relating to parcels of recreation open space that contribute to the open space network.

The Plan will also form the basis for initiating partnerships with:

- Government agencies such as Planning SA, Office for Recreation and Sport, SA Tourism Commission, Department for Education, Department of Health Services, Department for Environment and Water, and relevant landscape boards such as Green Adelaide and the Hills & Fleurieu Green Adelaide as well as other Councils.
- The private sector (e.g. businesses and developers).

Community and interest groups (e.g. 'Friends of' and peak user groups).

# The role of the open space strategic management plan

The OSSMP principles, guide the development, management, and preservation of open spaces such as reserves, parks, playscapes and playgrounds as well as new green and brownfield developments.

It encompasses several key aspects including:

**Vision and goals:** It defines a clear vision for how open spaces should be utilised and preserved, setting long-term goals that align with the community's needs and values.

**Assessment and inventory:** It encompasses our existing open space assets and associated condition and usage data, guiding renewal as well as identifying gaps in coverage and areas needing enhancement.

**Prioritisation:** It guides our service levels as well as prioritizes areas for development, conservation, or restoration based on factors such as ecological importance, recreational value, and community need.

**Funding and resources:** It guides our Open Space Resource Prioritisation Document (RPD) which is considered as part of the annual budget process and our future works program. It also outlines strategic alliances and possible grant and advocacy funding opportunities.

**Design and planning:** The Open Space Catchment Hierarchy provides guidelines for the design and layout of open spaces to ensure they are functional, accessible, and sustainable.

**Community engagement:** Effective plans involve community input and feedback, ensuring that the needs and preferences of residents are considered in the planning process.

**Management and maintenance:** It acknowledges the requirement and ongoing costs associated with the management and maintenance of open spaces to ensure they remain in good condition and continue to serve their intended purposes.

**Policy and regulations:** It acknowledges relevant legislation, policies and regulations that influence how our open spaces are developed and used.

Overall, an OSSMP helps ensure that open spaces are effectively and sustainably managed and integrated into the broader urban or regional planning framework, enhancing quality of life, supporting biodiversity, and fostering community well-being.

# Challenges and influences

## COMMUNITY

### HEALTH

Obesity and overweight rates are increasing. Greater levels of physical activity can counter the obesity rate. Access to natural areas and features is also becoming increasingly critical to maintaining our physical and mental health as it can provide opportunities for passive recreation such as nature play, hiking and cycling. Open spaces also play a crucial role in fostering social interaction and community cohesion as they provide safe inclusive spaces that foster community gatherings and social networks. This can help support and grow neighbourhood identity and reducing social isolation.

### NATURE PLAY

The term 'Nature Play' encourages children to engage in unstructured, outdoor play in natural settings fosterer a connection with natural elements and the environment. Accordingly, it is acknowledged that nature play is based on the individual perception and may fall on a continuum from playgrounds constructed with natural materials to immersive experiences that may include exploration of our rivers, creeks and natural areas.

### COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

A social research survey to understand playground usage patterns and visitation as well as community infrastructure/equipment preference was completed. The survey was open for over eight weeks and received 543 completed surveys which included, 109 face-to-face interview and 434 online survey responses, all of these (100%) being Onkaparinga residents.

At a high level, the survey responses suggest:

- Leisure and children's play dominate usage
- Playgrounds focus areas should offer/provide:
  - Variety of equipment
  - Creativity focussed designed spaces
  - Opportunities for learning and skill development

The survey also identified that almost four in five (77% of respondents) indicated a preference for less playgrounds with more equipment within a 10-minute walk of most households. This suggests that residents seek more diverse play opportunities and are willing to extend their walk (travel time) for a more engaging play experience. The survey also identified that the top three suggestions to encourage visitation are better/more toilets, shade/shelters and enhanced safety/fenced off areas.

## ENVIRONMENT

### ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Councils have a legal responsibility to promote ecologically sustainable development (ESD), environmental protection and enhancement, and protect our area from natural and other hazards (*SA Local Government Act 1999*). This relates to managing biodiversity, soils, coasts, water and waterways, and minimising our contribution to climate change, resource overuse and adapting to climate change.

### CLIMATE CHANGE

Through our Climate Change Response Plan 2022-27 and climate emergency declaration, we have a direct role and responsibility to:

- aim to achieve net zero corporate emissions by 2040.
- increase tree canopy and vegetation cover.
- enhance the liveability of our city through climate responsive design in our streetscapes, public areas i.e. greening, cooling, biodiversity, water capture and infiltration, water quality, and alleviating the impact of extreme events to the community.
- enhance and improve the resilience of ecosystems and natural areas that we own or have care and control over to protect our natural heritage. Conserving and enhancing ecosystems within an open space network contributes to both mitigation and adaptation outcomes.
- reduce the carbon footprint of our services, facilities and projects and our reliance on fossil fuels, and to play our part in reducing emissions. This includes considering the types of materials we buy and use.

### URBAN GREENING

Different categories of open space provide different ecosystem and community benefits such as cooling and greening or biodiversity connectivity. Parks and reserves also provide space to plant larger species of trees, contributing to our canopy cover and urban greening targets, and allowing flexibility to plant a more diverse range of species.

### BIODIVERSITY

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) ensures development projects leave biodiversity in a better state than before. BNG ensures that urban growth and infrastructure projects contribute to the preservation and enhancement of natural ecosystems, promoting resilience and ecological health in urban and peri-urban environments.

### WATER

Water is an essential element to the survival and health of plants and whole ecosystems. Waterways provide a number of services such as amenity, cooling, ecosystem survival and flourish, flooding prevention and water treatment, infiltration, and carriage. Effectively managed and efficient use of water will help preserve this preserve resource and protect our natural waterways.

## LIVABILITY

### COST OF LIVING

The interplay between cost of living and the use of open spaces can reflect broader social and economic trends, influencing how these spaces are valued and utilised by different communities. Recent increases to the cost of living have placed pressure on the household budget with

households more likely to prioritise spending on essential needs, which could limit their ability to travel or participate in activities outside their immediate neighbourhood. This may lead to increased usage of nearby open spaces, as people seek affordable, close-to-home recreational options.

## HIGHER DENSITY LIVING

Increased density of our urban areas will raise the profile and importance of open space due to the reduction in private open space. It is critical that public space is useable and of high quality in these areas.

## POPULATION GROWTH

Population projections help us to understand the most likely future size, age structure and distribution of the population of the state. The current projections suggest that if the Medium or High growth scenarios are realised, our city's population may increase by 27,000 - 39,000 people by 2046. We anticipate growth will be accommodated through a combination of:

- Greenfield development: it's forecast that these large formalised residential housing developments may contribute upwards of 17,700 new dwellings in Onkaparinga by 2046.
- Infill development: infill development will occur throughout the city and is forecast upwards of 11,000 new dwellings by 2046.

Whilst the outcomes of population growth can shift, an increase in population will increase community demand on our open space and playspaces.

## NEW DEVELOPMENTS AND LAND DIVISIONS

Land divisions should provide quality land for community open space purposes (i.e. flat/undulating, large trees, views, well drained, natural beauty). Where possible open space should be located centrally within a development or catchment and not on extremities or peripheral areas.

That open space provided within new developments will be in accord with the policies outlined in the Onkaparinga Development Plan, Planning and Design Code or other relevant planning instruments.

## LEADERSHIP

### PLAYGROUNDS

- Overprovision

Benchmarking suggests that one playground per 1,500-2,000 people is considered an ample provision of playgrounds when considering total population of an area. Moreover, social research undertaken as part of this OSSMP identified that one playground for every 400-500 children age cohort 0-14 is a good benchmark in Australian towns and cities.

The City of Onkaparinga currently provides:

- Total Population: One playground for every 714 residents which is double the total population benchmark
- Children 0-14 years: One playground for every 124 children which is four times the benchmark for this cohort.

The above suggest the city has an overprovision of playgrounds.

- Age

The City of Onkaparinga owns and maintains 250 playgrounds that incorporate elements for a range of play experiences as well as associated amenities (such as seating, shelters, barbecues, fencing, toilets, and pathways). Of these, 51% are at or beyond their 20-year design life and a further 19% will also reach their 20-year design life in the term of this OSSMP (by 2029). It should also be noted that of these, the largest group are our smaller Local and Neighbourhood playgrounds.

Renewal of the current aged stock is not sustainable with current funding levels. Thereby, a significant reinvestment via rates (or other mechanism) or a reduction in our stock is required.

- Community and neighbourhood centres

Council manages several community and neighbourhood centres which serve as hubs offering a welcoming, safe and family friendly centre that enables people of all ages and backgrounds to take part and learn through a variety of local activities and services. Some of these centres encompass playgrounds which are generally used by program participants or on an ad-hoc basis by patrons. Like the rest of our playground stock, these playgrounds are aging and due for renewal.

- Cost

Like the cost-of-living increases associated with households, the cost to construct our playspaces including play equipment, seats, shelters, shade and irrigation (equipment) has also increased post COVID. This combined with the aged playground stock requires us to be innovative in how we plan and deliver these valued community assets as well as work with developers throughout the city.

Playspace equipment also requires general maintenance, noting that unusual, bespoke and/or elements that are outside our general maintenance practices may incur additional costs associated with inspection timings and length of visit as well as staff training and associated fleet/plant.

Moreover, while there is a general/perceived preference for natural wood play equipment by the community due to its aesthetic and environmental (climate change) benefit, these can exhibit issues with wood splitting and needing to be monitored once installed which can increase pressure on available resources and/or cause premature equipment failure.

While these issues should not preclude innovation in our playspaces and play equipment, the initial and ongoing cost implications as well as the availability of parts needs to be understood to minimise the financial impact on the community.

## SYNTHETIC TURF

South Australia currently lacks guidelines for synthetic turf management. The City of Onkaparinga as part of the South Australian Local Government Recreation and Sport Network (SALGRSN), and together with the Office of Recreation, Sport and Racing (ORSR) is undertaking research to develop comprehensive guidelines to assist local government in the decision making and planning for the safe, effective and sustainable use and management of synthetic playing surfaces.

Environmental issues associated with synthetic turf include urban heat islands, microplastic pollution, habitat loss, and asset end-of-life waste. These need to be considered with the benefits provided for increased sport participation and overall community health. This project will aim to address these complex issues and consider both the environment and the community's recreational needs.

# Planning Principles

## PROVISION

Council will provide 4-5 hectares of open space for every 1,000 population. We will endeavour to provide public land within 500m of most households which could include any of the three Activity Types (Active, Family and Passive) detailed in the Catchment Hierarchy section below. It does not propose or identify land for sale.

A Family area with a dedicated play space will be provided within 750m walking distance of most households throughout the city.

We will provide four (4) Regional playspaces throughout the city.

While it is acknowledged that some smaller playgrounds that are already on-ground meet what would be categorised as a 'Local' service level, council will not construct or renew any new 'Local' playgrounds and will not support this level of provision as part of housing developments. Existing playgrounds that are on ground will be reviewed against the 3 review pathways (3R's).

## 3 REVIEW PATHWAYS (3R's)

When a playground is due for renewal and identified as a surplus asset, we will assess them against the 3R's.

- **Reclassify:** the playground is retained as part of the network and reclassified to a higher level hierarchy as determined by network requirements.

The Reclassify approach acknowledges the community feedback for larger, more elaborate play spaces that are a bit further away. Some playgrounds will need to be reclassified (usually up from Local to Neighbourhood) to achieve the playground within 750m of most household service level.

- **Reimagine:** removal of playground equipment and the open space retained and reimaged for other community/environmental use.

The Reimagine approach recognises that some playgrounds are not required to meet the single playground within a 750m of most household service level. Should playground equipment be removed the park/reserve/open space would be reimaged for the community, which could include fostering nature play, urban greening, habitat creation, maintaining green space, through tree planting, community gardens, biodiversity initiatives, or irrigated grass areas.

- **Rationalise:** assets that do not have a strategic alignment to the open space network.

The Rationalise approach recognises that some playgrounds and open space may not be required to meet the service levels outlined in this OSSMP and/or have a higher value to the community or other areas of council.

It should also be noted that the 3R's approach does not propose to remove all the playgrounds that are beyond their 20 year design life now. Playgrounds identified under the 3R's model will be reviewed and removed when they are beyond their design life, unsafe, not fit for purpose and unmaintainable as outlined in the Playground Assessment Criteria (Appendix 4). Subsequently, older playground(s) that are safe and fit for purpose will be maintained onsite until they are no longer serviceable.

## SHADE

### PLAYGROUND SHADE

Shade over our playgrounds has been identified by the community as a key element that encourages visitation. In addition to sun protection, shade over playgrounds provides the following benefits:

- **Cooling Effect:** Shade can significantly reduce the temperature of playground equipment and surfaces, making them safer and more comfortable for children to play on
- **Extended Playtime:** With shade available, children are more likely to spend longer periods playing outdoors, as they are shielded from direct sunlight and its associated discomforts.
- **Accessibility:** Shade makes playgrounds more accessible to children with sensitivities to sunlight, such as those with certain medical conditions or sensory sensitivities.
- **Parent and Caregiver Comfort:** Shade provides a comfortable space for parents, guardians, and caregivers to supervise children while they play, especially during hot and sunny days.

Shade sails can provide immediate shade over playgrounds and can be tailored to specific site requirements and colour schemes. However, shade structures do incur capital and operational costs and also have a life expectancy of 5-7 years before requiring either repair or replacement.

Shade provision should be aligned to our Regional and District Family playgrounds which have catchments that extend across and beyond the city and have high visitation.

The shade requirement at other locations will be guided by the Shade Matrix (Appendix 2) as part of the pre planning and design process. The Shade Matrix is a strategic assessment tool based on the reserve hierarchy, park function, time and user frequency. The Shade Matrix provides guidance on shade over playgrounds as well as built structures, that provide shade, such as gazebos and picnic shelters.

The Shade Matrix will also be provided to developers for consideration.

### NATURAL SHADE

Natural shade provided by a tree canopy is the most preferable approach to addressing shade within playgrounds, as they cool the environment and, in most cases, will outlive the 5-7 years useful life of shade sails.

However, while this approach supports our tree canopy and heat mitigation targets, it does not provide immediate shade to the user noting it may take 15 or more years for the tree to reach maturity. Selection of tree species also needs to mitigate the risk of tree/limb failure to council and the community when considering natural shade over playground equipment.

## TOILETS

We provide 70 public toilet facilities across our city. We manage public amenity requirements primarily using the OSSMP which defines the open space hierarchy and identifies and categorises service levels across our network of open space. There are also public toilets provided outside of our open space areas, primarily on main streets and along the coast at key locations.

The OSSMP service level that defines the requirement of a public toilet in a reserve is determined by the expected time users will spend at the location. Noting the significant costs associated with building and operating accessible compliant public toilets over their estimated 60-year life, they will only be provided at Regional Family and District Family reserves. These classifications provide a range of services that attract visitors from across our city and beyond. They are designed to ensure users who have travelled to and intend to stay for a long period of time at these reserves are supported by appropriate facilities.

## FENCING

Playground fencing can serve several important purposes:

- **Safety:** It helps keep children within a designated area and prevents them from entering other potentially dangerous areas. It can also deter unauthorised individuals entering the playground.
- **Security:** It provides a controlled environment where parents and caregivers can more easily supervise children.
- **Containment:** It keeps play equipment and toys contained within the area, reducing the risk of loss or damage.

Fencing around our playgrounds also need to consider:

- **Aesthetic and Community Integration:** Some people prefer playgrounds that blend seamlessly with the surrounding environment, believing that fences can create a barrier between the playground and the community or detract from the natural landscape.
- **Cost:** Installing and maintaining a fence can be expensive and needs to be considered as part of the budget for the life of the asset.
- **Access and Inclusivity:** Unfenced playgrounds can be more accessible to everyone, including those with mobility issues or those who might find gates challenging to navigate.
- **Supervision:** In some settings, playgrounds are designed to be easily visible and within close proximity to other facilities, allowing for effective supervision without the need for fencing.

Fencing around playgrounds will be considered at Regional and District playgrounds. Fencing will not be provided at lower classification playgrounds, unless there is a significant identified risk to users.

Subject to the specific area and/or activity requirements, fencing may also be provided at our Active and Passive open space areas.

## IRRIGATION

### TURFED SPORTS SURFACES

Turfed playing surfaces for organised sport, such as sports fields, ovals and pitches will be irrigated to a high standard to provide a high-quality playing surface.

Turfed playing surfaces will be irrigated according to relevant sport facility standards and should be vigorous and healthy all year round, capable of withstanding intensive sporting use.

## PARKS

An area of irrigated turf area will be provided adjacent all playgrounds where there is available land. The amount of irrigated turf provided should be directed by the intended use of the space, the likely intensity of use and the sustainable use of water. In most cases, only a portion of a park will be irrigated.

Depending on water restrictions, irrigated turf should be vigorous and healthy in appearance and capable of withstanding heavy foot traffic.

## SUSTAINABLE USE OF WATER

The extent of irrigation should match the intended use of the space and options to minimise irrigation should be considered.

To assist in the sustainable management of water, alternative options should always be investigated where it does not compromise its intended use, such as the use of high-canopied trees and mulched garden beds.

Drought tolerant species should be used wherever possible to minimise the need for long-term irrigation. Non-drought tolerant species may be considered for variety in limited situations where the on-going costs of irrigation are fully considered, and alternative options such as local rainwater harvesting, and recycled water are first investigated.

New landscaping will be irrigated where required for the purpose of establishment, for up to three years.

Smart/efficient irrigation systems will be utilised when economical.

## IRRIGATION IN NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Developers of new housing areas should be encouraged to use alternative options to irrigation in landscaping plans to allow for the management of community expectations and water security objectives. The use of Water Sensitive Urban Design Principles (WSUDP) is desirable.

## DOG PARKS

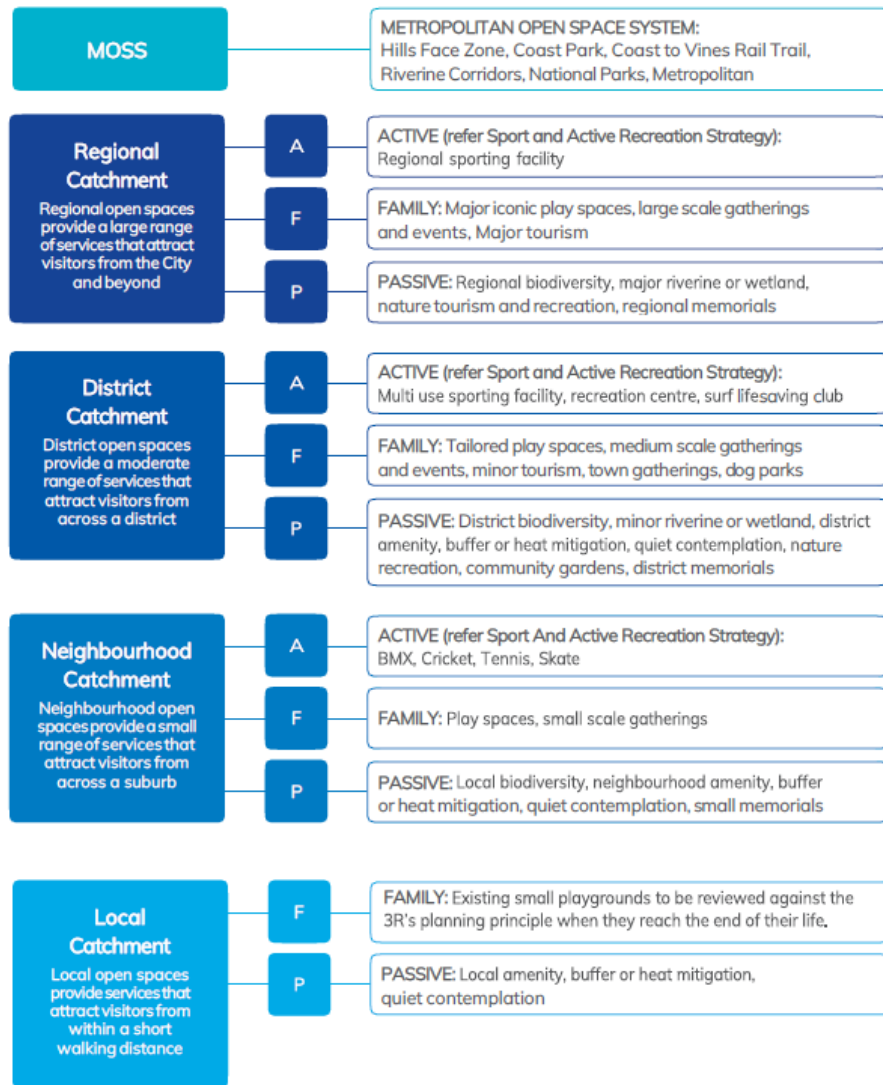
Council provides four dedicated off leash, fenced dogs parks at:

- Minkarra Park, Flagstaff Hill
- Hurtle John Potter Reserve, Woodcroft
- Dinton Farm, Huntfield Heights
- Symonds Reserve, Aldinga.

We also recognise that while fenced reserves, sports grounds and coastal areas are not dedicated dog exercise areas, in accordance with By-law 7 - Dogs, the community does use them in this manner.

It is a requirement under the council's by-law for dog owners to exercise effective control of a dog in any public place, either by physical restraint or by command. It is also a requirement for dog owners to carry a bag or another object for picking up after their dog. Always dispose of the waste correctly. Further information relating to council's by-laws including By-law 7 can be found on our website <https://www.onkaparingacity.com/Council/Documents/Documents/By-laws>.

# The Open Space Catchment Hierarchy



The Open Space Catchment Hierarchy endeavours to align the whole of life costs (CAPEX and OPEX) associated with these assets and community desire. Accordingly, it aims to provide equitable provision throughout the city in a financially sustainable manner balancing the increasing cost of equipment, materials, maintenance and labour with the impacts on rates, the cost of living and community want.

The OSSMP Catchment Hierarchy uses a combination of Hierarchy and Activity Type to guide the scoping, planning, engagement and development of our parks and playgrounds throughout the city.

Both the Hierarchy and Activity Type guide the service levels for the design, construction, and maintenance of our parks. However, regardless of the Hierarchy or Activity Type, all open spaces play a crucial role in enhancing climate resilience while simultaneously supporting community initiatives and natural ecosystems.

It should also be noted that while the OSSMP focuses on what council can control, namely land that is council owned land and/or land under the care and control of council; it does recognise the importance of non-council land such as national/recreation parks, beaches and schools. These open space areas provide critical opportunities and infrastructure that support and encourage the community's physical and mental health as well as habitat, corridors and sanctuaries for our wildlife and ecosystems.

## HIERARCHY

The open space hierarchy reflects the size of a park's catchment, visitation time, travel mode and/or significance of the open space. It informs access as well as our infrastructure provision such as car parking, toilets, shade and equipment (size and type).

The hierarchy includes four tiers; Regional, District, Neighbourhood and Local with an overview of these provided below.

### REGIONAL:

While usually large in size, this is not always the case as some land parcels may be relatively small but significant and of special interest and may encompass:

- Cultural: Areas that have a unique and cultural or historical significance
- Environmental: Areas of very high conservation value
- Destinations: Playspaces, beaches, foreshores and national parks
- Venues and Precincts: Sports grounds and/or open space precincts that attract local and regional tourism which support economic development.

Regional open space has a broad catchment attracting locals and visitors alike from across the region, state and possibly overseas. Typically, users travel by car, bus and in some cases bicycle to these locations and usually stay for a long period of time which may extend up to a day. Regional open space should be designed, funded and maintained to support and accommodate this visitation length and diversity of the visitors with respect to age, culture, language and accessibility.

While regional open space generally aims to attract visitors and support their stay, it is acknowledged that in some instances Regional open space may have a cultural and/or environmental significance whereby visitation should be limited or restricted. In these location(s), infrastructure provision should be tailored to meet the specific needs of the user group and location.

### DISTRICT:

This considers the wider community and areas that people deliberately choose to visit for the purpose of a specific activity which may include:

- Cultural: Areas that have a cultural or historical significance
- Environmental: Areas of high conservation value
- Destinations: Playspaces, dog parks and recreation parks
- Venues and Precincts: Sports grounds and/or open space precincts that attract locals and visitors and support economic development.

District open space has a broad catchment attracting visitors from across the City of Onkaparinga and possibly neighbouring council areas. Typically, users travel by car, bus and in some instances bicycle to these locations and intend to stay for a long period of time which may extend to half a day. District open space should be designed and funded to support and accommodate this visitation length and diversity of the visitors with respect to age, culture, language and accessibility.

While District Open Space generally aims to attract visitors and support their stay, it is acknowledged that in some instances District Open Space may have a cultural and/or environmental significance whereby visitation should be limited or restricted. In these location(s), infrastructure provision should be tailored to meet the specific needs of the user group and location.

## NEIGHBOURHOOD:

This category caters to the suburb or neighbourhood catchment and is normally distributed within 1km of households. It is typically designed to meet the needs of the whole family and supports short travel distances of 10-15 minutes that can be undertaken by foot or bicycle. While Neighbourhood open space supports short stays of less than two hours, it also places an onus on the visitor with respect to water, sun protection and toilet requirements. Accordingly, Neighbourhood open space may include:

- Cultural: Areas that have a cultural or historical value
- Environmental: Areas of medium high conservation value
- Destinations: Playspaces and open reserves
- Venues: Sports grounds and/or active recreation opportunities.

## LOCAL:

The Local category caters for the immediate community within walking and cycling distance and is normally distributed within 500m of households thereby providing local access to open space for relaxation and/or informal low-key activities. Local Open Space may include:

- Cultural: Areas that have a historical or cultural value
- Environmental: Areas of low conservation value
- Destinations: Reserves that provide opportunities to interact with nature, relaxation and/or informal low-key activities.

## ACTIVITY TYPE

The Activity Type broadly describe the primary 'activity' that occurs at the open space and encompasses Active, Family and Passive.

## ACTIVE OPEN SPACES

These focus on our multi-use sporting facilities, recreation centres, surf lifesaving clubs, BMX, cricket, tennis and skate activities. While the OSSMP identifies these locations, the service levels for our sporting and active recreation facilities are provided by Council's:

- The Sport and Active Recreation Action Plan (SARAP).
- Skate Facility Management Plan (SFMP).
- Endorsed Master Plans.

Sports grounds play a crucial role in promoting community physical activity, mental health and social interaction. The OSSMP recognises this and consequently supports the provision of playgrounds within these sporting facilities. However, the OSSMP also acknowledges that the primary focus/purpose of those visiting these locations is organised sport. Thereby the playground at our sport grounds provides a supporting or subsidiary role to families during their stay which is usually short and aligned to training and/or games (i.e.: less than a few hours).

Playgrounds provided at sports grounds will be guided by the sports ground lease and their development will be considered in respect to the surrounding play space network. These playgrounds will be developed to basic, local level, with a small play area targeting early to middle childhood. However, in instances where the playground is also easily accessible by the general community and is critical to meet our broader playground network service levels, it will be

developed to a neighbourhood level. Noting this, playgrounds located on a Regional (i.e.: Happy Valley Sports Ground or Aldinga Sports park) or District (i.e.: Bice Oval, Hackham Oval) Active open space (sports ground), will not be developed to a Regional or District level but rather to a local or neighbourhood level dependent on the play space network requirements.

## **FAMILY OPEN SPACES**

These provide for play, gatherings and events, tourism, memorials, and dog parks. Family service levels focus on providing facilities that accommodate these activities and typically centre around a key playspace and/or playground with supporting facilities and infrastructure to maximise and support the key users of this type of reserve.

### **What is a playspace v playground?**

A playground is a specific area with manufactured play equipment, while a playspace is a more natural space that encourages various forms of play, including free and imaginative play, sport, fitness in addition to structured activities. Accordingly, a built/manufactured playground would be provided in a playspace, however a playspace may not necessarily include a playground.

### **Why are playspaces important?**

Play is one of the most basic human rights and a crucial aspect of child development as well as a primary means through which children experience the world and life skills are acquired. As a provider of public spaces dedicated to play, the City of Onkaparinga plays an integral role in ensuring accessible and safe environments are available to support developmental needs and community well-being.

### **Play theory**

Play theory in general identifies three broad categories of play behaviour that apply across all ages but the way they are interpreted by each age group varies with some type of play assuming greater importance at particular stages of child development.

- **Cognitive play** includes those activities that challenge the intellect of the child and can include games of strategy, exploration, observation, or those that use and develop language.
- **Social play** can be found both by using existing physical equipment and through learning and exploring with friends in the natural environment.
- **Physical play** is also often referred to as gross motor activity and can include running, hanging, climbing, experiencing height, agility/gymnastic activities, sliding, jumping, balancing, swinging, crawling, bouncing, spinning, rocking, ball games, skipping etc.

### **Planning for different needs**

Playspaces need to include a number of components to encourage cognitive, social and physical elements for a number of ages which may include:

- **Toddlers (ages 1-3):** Simple settings and small scaled with friendly surfaces and a familiar adult close by. These age groups cannot perceive danger and must be protected from hazards and sited away from traffic.
- **Infants (ages 3-6):** Co-ordination and physical skill development is relatively proficient by 5 years and children of this age need to practice and hone basic motor skills such as climbing, running, agility, skipping, and ball play.
- **Juniors (ages 6-12):** Play equipment used as Incidental props in their group games.

- **Teenagers (ages 13 +):** While it is acknowledged young people will use open space for a number of uses including skateboarding, bike riding, unstructured sport or just 'hanging out' with friends etc., the location needs to be carefully managed to avoid potential conflicts with younger children and their carers while ensuring a sense of ownership by the young people.
- **Adults:** Adults should not be excluded from using playgrounds with equipment design standards and structural requirements now considering this group. Naturally, provision for adults at the exclusion of children is not the intention.
- **Disabilities:** An inclusive playspace provides access to a variety of play experiences where everyone can engage and play together. This is not to say that every item of play equipment needs to be fully inclusive, but consideration should be given to access and inclusion in a number of playspaces across our council.

The Open Space Hierarchy outlines the catchment, visitation time, travel mode type and thereby dictates the playspace size and amount of supporting facilities that are provided. The following outlines the service level for our Regional, District and Neighbourhood Family areas.

Further breakdown of the Regional, District and Neighbourhood Family service levels can be found in Appendix 2.

- **Regional Family**

Our Regional Family areas are large-scale, high-profile destinations attracting large numbers of locals and visitors alike from across the region, state and possibly overseas. They are and will be located in urban areas or tourist locations, with good access from roads, public transport and the trails network.

Our Regional Family areas will include a regional play space that is iconic and unique in its design offering a large variety of play experiences that cater for intense levels of use and distinct or perceived create play areas. The play space and adjoining infrastructure will support long stays of up to a day by children (up to 150 or more children per hour), individuals and large group(s) from all ages, abilities and cultural backgrounds.

- **District Family**

Our District Family areas are located in urban areas or tourist locations, with good access from roads, public transport and the trails network. While they primarily attract locals and visitors from across the suburb and district, some district level play spaces will also cater for visitors from across Onkaparinga and possibly outside the city.

Our District Family areas will include a moderate play space (when compared to regional) that offers a variety of experiences that cater for high levels of use and extended stays of up to half a day. They will also cater to children (30-65 or more children per hour), individuals and group(s) from all ages, abilities, and cultural backgrounds.

- **Neighbourhood Family**

Our Neighbourhood Family areas consider the broader 'suburb or neighbourhood'. These areas may also be used incidentally i.e. en-route to or from a destination such as shops, schools or public transport and in some instances as physical links to other open space systems. They will provide a medium sized play area with a range of cognitive, social and physical play opportunities for children primarily in the 4-12 age groups (infants and juniors), but should also consider the needs of toddlers, and zones for exploration by young children under the guidance of adult supervision.

## PASSIVE OPEN SPACES

These are preserved and maintained in their natural or undeveloped state for the enjoyment of the community. They play a vital role in maintaining environmental health through habitat for native flora and fauna, support biodiversity as well as offering residents a peaceful retreat from urban life and recreational activities such as walking, birdwatching. They are typically managed to conserve the natural landscape, with minimal infrastructure to ensure the protection of ecological values.

Passive open space includes the following sub-types:

- **Woodland and Forest**

Areas of biological diversity and include Forest and Woodlands with dense shrubby understorey, Woodlands with open shrub and grassy understorey and open grassland.

- **Coastal**

Includes coastal dunes, cliffs, shrublands and samphire. Coastal terrestrial ecosystems are dynamic and though restricted to a thin band along the western edge of our council region, provide important habitat services and are vital in protecting us from coastal erosion, storm surges and flooding.

- **Riparian**

Includes deep channels and rivers, redgum woodlands, drainage lines in grassy woodland, sedgelands and swamps. Watercourse ecosystems are dynamic, playing a vital role in regulating water flow and mitigating floods.

- **Modified Landscapes**

Areas of undeveloped and informal open space containing little remnant vegetation and habitat.

Service levels support conserving and restoring ecosystem condition and improving ecological linkages as well as the establishment of canopy cover and mid/understorey. Passive open space may also provide opportunities for water sensitive urban design including passive irrigation and capture.

# Actions

The following actions will be undertaken over the life of the Open Space Strategic Management Plan 2025-2030.

COMMUNITY	
ACTION	PRIORITY
1) Where possible, design of our playspaces and other community areas such as dog parks to be inclusive and support access for all aspects of our community irrespective of age, culture, language and accessibility.	Ongoing
2) Community/Neighbourhood Centres: Identify playspace collaboration opportunities that support the Centre programs and broad community use	Medium
3) State Government: Engage with the State Government regarding collaboration opportunities for shared playspaces in strategic locations throughout the city.	Ongoing
4) Review and enhance the open space areas and asset information available through council's existing online platform(s) to provide an improved customer experience for our community	High

ENVIRONMENT	
ACTION	PRIORITY
5) Irrigation a) Provide irrigated turf (grass) to encourage physical activity such as kicking a ball or other social activities such as picnics and gatherings as part of our playground renewals. b) Explore opportunities for alternative water sources, passive irrigation as well as technologies to sustainable irrigate identified areas. c) Trial and adopt smart irrigation technology that supports sustainable watering as identified in the Water Study.	Ongoing
6) Trees a) Retain existing trees where possible as part of playground renewal projects. b) <b>Explore opportunities to increase tree canopy (at maturity) at its Family reserves.</b>	Ongoing
7) Heat reduction a) <b>Explore opportunities as part of our design and material selection to minimise retention of heat.</b> b) <b>Use of synthetic turf to be guided by the synthetic turf management guideline (under development)</b>	Ongoing
8) Explore opportunities to integrate <b>Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)</b> into council planning and projects	Medium

9) Continue implementation and reporting on required ecological restoration works within McHarg and Christie Creek Reserves, per SEB Management Plans and Vegetation Council requirements.	High
10) Recycled Materials a) Continue to explore opportunities for inclusion of recycled materials as part of playspace design b) Explore partnerships to reuse and/or recycle old playgrounds with the aim minimise the waste going to landfill	Medium
11) Integrate the Ecological Linkages Study and Natural Asset data into strategic planning	Ongoing
<b>LIVABILITY</b>	
<b>ACTION</b>	<b>PRIORITY</b>
12) Renew the Regional Jubilee Park: wooden fort playground. a) Maintain till renewal project is funded. b) Engage with the community to identify their playspace wants/desires; with their feedback helping guide the final design. 13) Seek external funding to ensure a quality outcome and minimise rate impact.	High
14) Commence planning and advocacy for the Aldinga Regional playspace a) Plan and cost for a Regional Playspace at Aldinga.	Medium
15) Plan and deliver at least six District level upgrades at: a) Woodcroft Farm Reserve, Woodcroft b) Market Square, Old Noarlunga c) Riverbend Park, Clarendon d) Gemmel Tassie Reserve, McLaren Vale e) Serpentine Reserve, O'Halloran Hill f) Hastings Reserve, Sellicks Beach g) Seek external funding to ensure a quality outcome and minimise rate impact.	High-Medium
16) Plan and deliver xx Neighbourhood playgrounds throughout the city	Ongoing
<b>LEADERSHIP</b>	
<b>ACTION</b>	<b>PRIORITY</b>
17) Review and Adjust the OSSMP Hierarchy a) Sports Grounds playgrounds i) De-couple sports ground playgrounds from their OSSMP hierarchy and identify which are critical to the broader playground network and which are there to support those playing sport. ii) Reclassify de-coupled playgrounds in accord with broader playground network	High

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>iii) Review leasing conditions as they apply to sports grounds to clarify roles and responsibilities.</li> <li>b) Use spatial analysis and asset inventory data to update the OSSMP hierarchy for reserves containing natural assets, making necessary adjustments to better define and classify these areas.</li> <li>c) Review existing and potential community usage (demand) of Family and Passive Reserves and identify capital improvements required to achieve service levels.</li> <li>d) Through research, demand and cost (CAPEX and OPEX) analysis, develop service levels for basketball <b>keyways</b> (including half courts) and zip lines as well as other higher order active recreation infrastructure <b>as required</b>.</li> </ul>	
<p>18) Condition Audit(s) &amp; evaluation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Updated condition data of all council playgrounds and develop a renewal Criticality Matrix.</li> <li>b) Identify 'Critical' playgrounds and their condition that are essential for the network to function i.e.: if they failed, the playground network would fail.</li> <li>c) Where possible, look to consolidate aged playground stock where there are two playgrounds on the one reserve</li> <li>d) Conduct ecological audits using nationally accredited methodologies to assess asset condition, criticality, and restoration priority. Develop a 5-year program for ecological restoration projects.</li> <li>e) Identify and evaluate ecosystem services provided by open spaces (e.g., carbon storage, flood control). Develop methods to quantify and potentially value these services.</li> </ul>	High
<p>19) Reviews</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Review and update the Open Space Styles Guide to ensure alignment with current strategic priorities such as the Climate Change Adaptation Plan</li> <li>b) Review Shade Matrix with the aim to understand the risk to the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Community from trees with respect to limbs drop</li> <li>ii) User from allergies and asthma</li> </ul> </li> <li>c) Review the Skate Park Facility Management Plan</li> <li>d) Review and update Community Land Management Plans (CLMP) to ensure alignment with the OSSMP hierarchy and activity type</li> </ul>	High
<p>20) Review the Open Space Resource Prioritisation Document (RPD) to reflect the endorsed OSSMP and criteria that supports the reduction of the heat island effect in identified areas such as Aldinga, Hackham and Sellicks Beach.</p>	High
<p>21) Coastal and Watercourse Built and Natural Asset Planning Integration: Develop methodologies and management plans to integrate built and natural asset management for coastal and watercourse areas. Focus on improving holistic and integrated asset planning.</p>	Medium

# Appendix 1 Strategic integration

This section outlines how the Open Space Strategic Management Plan aligns with various strategic Council documents.

Document	Description	OSSMP alignment
<b>Community Vision 2034</b>	To serve as a compass, providing direction for the collective work of the community. It is made up of elements that support and refine the vision, turning it into a guide for action	The OSSMP aligns with the Community Plan, its Themes, Key Result Areas and Goals to ensure we are delivering the Community Vision.
<b>Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP)</b>	<p>Forecasts how Council will sustainably resource our roles in realising the Community Vision.</p> <p>To ensure our resources are focused on community goals, we align our strategic plans with the goals of the Community Vision.</p>	The OSSMP service levels have been developed with consideration of the LTFP. This ensures that the OSSMP can be delivered within our financial forecasting.
<b>Strategic Asset Management Plan (SAMP)</b>	<p>Provides an overview of our assets, how they are performing, the service levels we provide, our asset goals and objectives, areas for improvement and financial position.</p> <p>The SAMP sets the scene for our class asset management plans.</p>	<p>Our Open Space Asset Management Plan contain technical detail about our open space assets.</p> <p>Changes to service levels proposed through the OSSMP and asset management plan reviews will have an impact on budgets and programs which will affect both maintenance and capital works.</p> <p>It is critical that these impacts are recognised through the asset management plan reviews to ensure programs are adequately resourced.</p>
<b>Debt Management Strategy</b>	<p>The management of debt is a key component of the LTFP and future financial sustainability and therefore, the Debt Management Strategy is an important tool and set of guidelines, helping to guide longer term decisions associated with debt.</p> <p>The principles and actions within the Debt Management Strategy dictate how Council is going to manage debt with a view to reducing it over time.</p>	<p>It is also critical that there is a strong alignment between the LTFP and the SAMP. The projections in the LTFP must align with the objectives and demands identified in the SAMP to ensure that sufficient budgets are allocated to achieve these objectives, and vice versa.</p> <p>Of importance to the LTFP, capital expenditure is split into two streams – renewal, and new and significant upgrades (which includes major projects), and these are funded differently. Renewal is funded via rates and new and significant projects are funded through a combination of rates and borrowing.</p>

		The OSSMP guides our future renewal, and new and significant upgrades works programs. Accordingly, projects supported by the OSSMP influence our rates and borrowings.
<b>Asset Rationalisation Policy</b>	Asset Rationalisation provides two key benefits, one to benefit the community, the other is a financial benefit for the organisation and by extrapolation, a benefit for the ratepayer.	<p>The OSSMP is one component or 'lens' to identify surplus land.</p> <p>The OSSMP lens is focused on its open space and/or playgrounds service levels. Land that is not required to meet these service levels, are not required from an open space lens. However, this is not the only lens that should be considered. Our Community, Environment, Liveability and Leadership strategic priorities need to be considered to understand if the said land has a strategic value or not. If not, then it maybe surplus and considered under the Debt Management Strategy.</p>
<b>Annual Business Plan</b>	Our Annual Business Plan and Budget sets out what we will deliver in the next financial year, and how it will be funded.	The OSSMP guides our future renewal, and new and significant upgrades works programs. Accordingly, project updates for the past financial as well as projects forecast for delivery in the upcoming financial year will be reported in the Annual Business Plan.
<b>COMMUNITY</b>		
<b>Community Capacity Strategic Plan 2021-24</b>	<p>Supports our communities to be involved in local matters and work together to make life better.</p> <p>This includes working towards community connectedness, developing skills, and providing opportunities for people to participate in and influence community life.</p> <p>To us this is 'community capacity' and it is important because a strong, vibrant community is one that works together, shares resources, and is optimistic about the future.</p>	<p>The OSSMP helps build community capacity by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Having places for people to meet others and join in activities</li> <li>• Helping local people be part of making decisions about our area and community</li> </ul>
<b>Arts and Cultural Development Action Plan 2022-25</b>	<p>Values local creativity, encourage diverse cultural expression and respect our Aboriginal, European and other cultural heritage.</p> <p>Arts and culture are an important part of everyday life and provide a</p>	<p>The OSSMP provides opportunity for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goal 1, Action 2.</li> <li>• Goal 2, Action 4 &amp; 6</li> </ul>

	platform for communities to interact, participate and come together.	
<b>Inclusive Communities Action Plan 2021-24</b>	Outlines our commitment to supporting and improving access and inclusion for people with disability.	<p>The OSSMP responds to the following Actions:</p> <p>9. Explore the application of universal design principles to new and existing infrastructure.</p> <p>22. Incorporate Inclusive SA Play Guidelines</p>
<b>Reconciliation Action Plan (reflection) 2022-24</b>	Provides a structured and strategic approach to advance reconciliation and demonstrate a commitment by the organisation to undertake action towards reconciliation.	<p>The OSSMP supports the following Deliverables:</p> <p>6. Demonstrate respect to First Nations peoples by observing cultural protocols</p>
<b>Sport and Active Recreation Action Plan (SARAP) 2021-25</b>	Recognises the importance of providing and supporting facilities, programs and services that encourage our communities to be physically active and experience and obtain these benefits.	<p>The OSSMP supports increased participation in physical activity within our open spaces.</p> <p>It directly supports the SARAP through its 'Active' open space (activity type) which provide for regional and multi-use sporting facilities, recreation centres, surf lifesaving clubs, BMX, cricket, tennis and skate activities.</p> <p>Service levels for sporting facilities are provided by the Sport and Active Recreation Strategy and are referred to in this Open Space Plan Strategic Management Plan as 'Active' to clearly show the linkages between the two strategies.</p> <p>The OSSMP also acknowledges that our 'Family' and 'Passive' open spaces also provide opportunities for physical activity.</p> <p>Specifically, the OSSMP responds to the following Actions:</p> <p>19. Prioritise asset projects in lower socio-economic communities to facilitate increased participation in sport and active recreation</p> <p>22. Undertake asset planning for outdoor community (non-club based) facilities to understand demand for (including but not limited to) tennis, netball, basketball keyways, outdoor gyms, aquatic based activity</p>

## ENVIRONMENT

### Climate Change Response Plan 2022-27

Outlines how we'll build on our strong track-record of practical, on-ground action to drive lasting change across five key goals that capture how we can respond to climate change impact

The OSSMP specifically responds to:

#### Goal 1 Climate Smart Neighbourhoods

- Deliverable 17: Open space – planning. Increase climate resilience in our parks and reserves by considering the following as part of the Open Space plan review.
- Deliverable 18: Open space – upgrades. Deliver open space upgrades which include design and funding for the following aspects wherever possible.
  - trees and vegetation including biodiverse areas
  - irrigation
  - permeability and water sensitive design

#### Goal 3 Climate Ready Communities

- Deliverable 4: Natural Asset Planning. Investigate asset management approaches for the strategic investment and management of our conservation sites.  
  
Develop an Ecological Restoration Program that will separate maintenance from our restoration (renewal) works and identify our restoration and remediation priorities for the next 10 years in a report to Council. This will include costings to inform future project and capital works bids and operational budgets.
- Deliverable 10: Native understory regeneration Identify further sites for native grassland regeneration.

#### Goal 4 Low Carbon Transition

- Deliverable 21: Supporting the local economy – buying local Support and promote the Go South Go Local website.  
  
Support local business through council procurement policy.
- Deliverable 22: Greening our supply chain and supporting the circular economy – recycled materials

		<p>Continue to monitor and trial new materials and products.</p> <p>Work with manufacturers to make products from recycled materials.</p> <p>Expand use of recycled materials in our road reconstruction works and developer contributed assets.</p> <p>Investigate opportunities for a demonstration project that uses recycled materials in multiple asset types (i.e. roads, footpaths, stormwater) in a single location.</p> <p>It also supports Deliverables 1.4, 1.5, 1.10, 1.11, 1.16, 3.1, 3.2, 3.5, 4.22, 5.3, 5.4</p>
Green City Strategic Management Plan 2017-22	<p>Is divided into two sections (urban forest and energy) with corresponding principles, targets and aims therein.</p> <p>It values urban forest and recognises the importance of tree canopy to the success of urban environments. Trees provide shade which in turn reduces the heat island effect, provides comfort, improves the look and feel of our city and supports other plants and wildlife.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retain existing trees and increase tree canopy (at maturity) by 20% at its Family reserves.</li> <li>• Increase tree canopy at its Passive reserves by 30%.</li> </ul> <p>Supports irrigated turf (grass) adjacent all our playgrounds</p>
Coastal Adaptation Plan	<p>Outlines how we will manage changes to our coastline over time; explaining our adaptive management approach to anticipate and respond to the impacts of climate change and sea-level rise as well as our goals and actions for the next seven years.</p>	<p>The OSSMP will align with the Coast Decision-making Framework (Acton 1.4) when considering projects and activities within the coast</p>
Ecological Linkages Study	<p>Identifies priority habitat areas and landscape level habitat corridors for a selection of flagship species.</p>	<p>The OSSMP will reference the Study findings when considering the requirements to meetings its open space and/or playgrounds service levels.</p>
Water Options Analysis (under development)	<p>Seeks to understand how we are using water in buildings and for irrigating open space and streets (including passive) across our council area and centralise the records of water use from across different departments to improve our understanding of water use.</p>	<p>The findings of the Analysis may help identify open space that could be used to pilot new water treatment/techniques. It may also help guide irrigation service levels for our open space.</p>

<b>Canopy Target Review</b>	<p>Reviewed our tree canopy cover target for the urban area and identified that our Parks/Reserves are currently sitting at 26%. It also identified that while planting new trees is beneficial, they take time to mature and thereby canopy benefits may not be experienced for up to 10 years. Noting this retention of trees where possible is important to not only avoid additional costs for new plantings but provide maximum canopy benefits.</p>	<p>The OSSMP will endeavour to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retain existing trees where possible as part of its playground (Family) renewal projects.</li> <li>• Increase tree canopy (at maturity) by 20% at its Family reserves.</li> <li>• Increase tree canopy at its Passive reserves by 30%.</li> <li>• Identify new open space opportunities for the establishment of tree canopy.</li> </ul>
<b>LIVEABILITY</b>		
<b>Coast Park Plan 2019</b>	<p>Includes a number of priority segments including design and construction of O’Sullivan Beach and Seaford Esplanade segments and concept planning for Port Willunga North, Ochre Point and Maslin Foreshore segments.</p>	<p>The OSSMP will reference the Plan when considering the requirements to meeting its open space and/or playgrounds service levels.</p>
<b>Tourism Strategic Plan 2019-23</b>	<p>Implementation of the Plan aims to increase visitor expenditure to a total of \$300 million in 2023. This is to be achieved by increasing day visitation and expenditure, as well as securing a greater share of overnight visitors to South Australia.</p> <p>Note: our Economic Growth &amp; Tourism Strategic Plan 2025-30 is underdevelopment and will supersede the Tourism Strategic Plan 2019-23.</p>	<p>The OSSMP will support the Plan by prioritising quality outcomes as well as Regional and District playground projects to increase day visitation to the area.</p> <p>Open space (Passive) projects will also focus on priority areas maximise quality biodiversity outcomes which again may increase day visitation to the area.</p>
<b>Trails and Cycling Strategic Management Plan 2016-21</b>	<p>Sets the principles, planning and direction for future provision, development and maintenance of the trails and cycling network.</p>	<p>The OSSMP recognises the relationship between how our community and biodiversity access and use our trail/cycling and open space networks.</p>
<b>Waste and Recycling Strategic Plan 2017-21</b>	<p>Outlines how we manage waste within our community with an aim to minimise the amount of waste going to landfill.</p>	<p>The OSSMP supports the service we provide as outlined in the Plan. Accordingly, it supports waste diversion techniques where appropriate as well as minimising the ongoing operation waste costs at our open space areas.</p>
<b>Skate Facility Management Plan 2016-21</b>	<p>The Skate Facilities Management Plan responds to Aim four (4) and action 4.6 of the Sport and Active Recreation Strategic Management Plan</p>	<p>Skate parks are located in our open spaces. While the Skate Facilities Management Plan provides direction and service levels relating to our skate parks,</p>

	<p>(SARSMP) which was reviewed and superseded to be the Sport and Active Recreation Action Plan (SARAP) 2021-25.</p> <p>The Skate Facilities Management Plan establishes a hierarchy and guides our sustainable provision, development, upgrade and management of skate facilities in the City of Onkaparinga.</p>	<p>the OSSMP provides the location framework and guides supporting infrastructure provision.</p>
<b>LEADERSHIP</b>		
<p><b>Onkaparinga Local Area Plan (August 2020)</b></p>	<p>Provides an outline of where, how and when we plan for different types of urban development to occur over the next 10 + 10 years and what strategic infrastructure and services will be required to enable this development.</p>	<p>The OSSMP respond to and/or support the following:</p> <p>Effective and Efficient Infrastructure</p> <p>Strategy 12: For established areas undergoing change, plan for local and community infrastructure needs such as stormwater, greening, local streets, active transport, open space +community facilities</p>
<p><b>Community Land Management Plans</b></p>	<p>Covers all Community Land that is either owned or managed by the City of Onkaparinga that has common characteristics and intent.</p> <p>Each parcel of Community Land has been categorised based on its core usage, with this usage defined by the Land Management Plan. Activities outside this categorisation are not permitted.</p>	<p>The OSSMP supports various Active, Family and Passive activities our community land.</p>

## Appendix 2 Shade Matrix

Time of use:	No/Never	Sometimes	Yes/always	Score
Peak activity at the site is likely to occur between 10am and 3pm	1	2	3	
The site is well used over summer	1	2	3	
The site is well used over spring and autumn	1	2	3	
Duration of use:				
Activity at the site generally occurs for 30 minutes or more at a time	1	2	3	
Level of use:				
The site is well used on weekends	1	2	3	
The site is well used on weekdays	1	2	3	
Nature of the site and the activity:				
Users of the site are exposed to high levels of indirect radiation (e.g., UV reflection from water)	1	2	3	
The site is located within the coastal zone	0	N/A	3	
Activity at the site is likely to occur in minimal clothing	1	2	3	
There are a range of alternative nearby shade options available such as shelters and natural shade	YES = 0 NO = 1			
<b>Grand total</b>				

### Scoring

9-15	Shade over playground not required, consider the use of natural shade
16-19	Shade over playground not required but a shade shelter required near to the play activity (may already exist)
20-28	Built shade over playground to be considered

# Appendix 3 Family (playground) hierarchy service levels

The Open Space Hierarchy outlines the catchment, visitation time, travel mode type and thereby dictates the playspace size and amount of supporting facilities that are provided. The following outlines the service level for our Regional, District and Neighbourhood Family areas.

- **Regional Family**

Our Regional Family areas are large-scale, high-profile destinations attracting large numbers of locals and visitors alike from across the region, state and possibly overseas. They are and will be located in urban areas or tourist locations, with good access from roads, public transport and the trails network.

Our Regional Family areas will include a regional play space that is iconic and unique in its design offering a large variety of play experiences that cater for intense levels of use and distinct or perceived creative play areas. The play space and adjoining infrastructure will support long stays of up to a day by children (up to 150 or more children per hour), individuals and large group(s) from all ages, abilities and cultural backgrounds.

Other key aspects of Regional Family areas include a safe (normally fenced) play area for young children and areas where parents and carers can meet and socialise in a safe environment. Children's birthday parties are common occurrences in such parks and parents can prepare barbecues in areas with good surveillance of play equipment which may have an additional safeguard of fencing or design parameters that help prevent children from leaving the playspace.

Regional Family areas also need to be versatile to accommodate for the various functions and events hosted by Council, the community and private enterprise. Our Regional Family areas need to consider the relationship between the playspace, supporting infrastructure and areas that could host events and large-scale activities.

Our Regional Family open spaces also provide an opportunity to support our environment through cooling and greening initiatives. Our renewal programs will explore opportunities to increase tree canopy and sustainable/smart water use technologies when economical. We will also prioritise the retention of existing mature tree canopy.

Our service standard identifies provision of four Regional Family areas within the City of Onkaparinga; three existing sites at Jubilee Park (the Adventure playground), Port Noarlunga, Thalassa Park, Happy Valley and Wildfred Taylor Reserve, Morphett Vale and commencing planning for a fourth Regional Park in the Aldinga area during the life of this OSSMP.

Assets at these locations are at various stages of their lifecycle and have a high community value. Asset renewal will be considered, as required, as part of Council's asset management and long-term financial planning.

- **District Family**

Our District Family areas are located in urban areas or tourist locations, with good access from roads, public transport and the trails network. While they primarily attract locals and visitors from across the suburb and district, some district level play spaces will also cater for visitors from across Onkaparinga and possibly outside the city.

Our District Family areas will include a moderate play space (when compared to regional) that offers a variety of experiences that cater for high levels of use and extended stays of up to half

a day. They will also cater to children (30-65 or more children per hour), individuals and group(s) from all ages, abilities, and cultural backgrounds.

Key aspects of District Family areas include a safe (possibly fenced) play area for young children and areas where parents and carers can meet and socialise in a safe environment. Children's birthday parties are common occurrences in such parks parents can prepare food in areas with good surveillance of play equipment.

District Family areas need to be versatile to accommodate for the various small-scale functions and events hosted by Council and the community. Accordingly, our District Family areas need to consider the relationship between the playspace, supporting infrastructure and areas that could host events and activities.

District Family areas may also include a dog park.

Our District Family open spaces also provide an opportunity to support our environment through cooling and greening initiatives. Our renewal programs will explore opportunities to increase tree canopy and sustainable/smart water use technologies when economical. We will also prioritise the retention of existing mature tree canopy.

Assets at these locations are at various stages of their lifecycle and have a high community value. Asset renewal will be considered, as required, as part of Council's asset management and long-term financial planning.

- **Neighbourhood Family**

Our Neighbourhood Family areas consider the broader 'suburb or neighbourhood'. These areas may also be used incidentally i.e. en-route to or from a destination such as shops, schools or public transport and in some instances as physical links to other open space systems.

They will provide a medium sized play area with a range of cognitive, social and physical play opportunities for children primarily in the 4-12 age groups (infants and juniors), but should also consider the needs of toddlers, and zones for exploration by young children under the guidance of adult supervision.

Neighbourhood Family areas also support adults, children and children beginning to travel independently with consideration for a picnic area, shelters and/or tables to support short stays from 10 minutes to 2 hours by small groups and families.

This level of facility places an onus on the user to consider their water, sun protection and toilet requirements as it is within walking/cycling distance for the local community. Over development of neighbourhood family areas can also increase regional and district visitation which can negatively impact on nearby residents through traffic congestion, car parking, noise and aesthetics. Thereby, while drinking fountains and shade over the playground (in accord with the shade matrix) maybe considered, these are generally considered above the neighbourhood service level and will only be provided in exceptional circumstances. BBQ's and toilets are above the neighbourhood service level and therefore will not be included.

Assets at these locations are at various stages of their lifecycle and have a high community value. Asset renewal will be considered, as required, as part of Council's asset management and long-term financial planning.

## Family Playground Service Level Table

DEMAND	Regional	District	Neighbourhood
<b>Catchment</b>	Large-scale, high profile destinations attracting locals and visitors alike from across the region, state and possibly overseas	Attracts locals and visitors from across the suburb and district May cater for visitors from outside the city	Attracts the broader 'suburb or neighbourhood' and within walking/cycling distance for the local community.
<b>Duration</b>	Long stay up to a day	Extended stays from 2 – 4 hours and possibly up to half a day	Short stays ranging from half an hour to 2 hours
<b>Group(s)</b>	Large scale gatherings and several separate groups	Medium scale gatherings and multiple separate groups	Small scale gatherings such as a few family groups at the same time

PLAY SPACE	Regional	District	Neighbourhood
<b>Target cohort</b>	Toddlers, infants, juniors and teenagers; 0-13+ years of age		
	Adult play and/or interaction as part of play should also be considered		
<b>Usage</b>	150 or more children per hour	30-65 or more children per hour	Up to 20 children per hour
<b>Play experience</b>	Iconic and unique	Tailored and/or themed	Reflects local area and topography
<b>Development</b>	Supports the development of sensory feedback and gross motor skills and as well as cognitive, social/group and physical play opportunities		
<b>Accessibility</b>	Inclusive catering for all ages, abilities and cultural backgrounds		
	To include 'Communication Boards' that enable users to express thoughts, needs, wants and ideas in a non-verbal manner by pointing to the symbols, or using gestures while a communication partner points to the symbols.		Signs to be provided in accord with Corporate Signage Suite
	To include a number of play elements that are accessible and/or support different accessible/sensory elements		To include at least one accessible play element
<b>Areas</b>	May include defined or perceived separate areas focusing on specific age groups and/or abilities		

Shade over playground	<p>Main play areas to be shaded during peak times, such as middle of a summer's day</p> <p>Built shade structures (i.e. shade sails) to be considered and included where possible</p> <p>Natural shade is also to be considered</p>	Shade Matrix to determine shade provision
Materiality	<p>Timber products can be used but are not mandatory and should be guided by the investigations and engagement feedback.</p> <p>If hardwood is to be included, it needs to be seasoned with a very strong preference towards sustainably sourced natural unprocessed Australian hardwood with all bases and tops treated to minimise water ingress and splitting.</p> <p>Robinia is <b>NOT</b> to be used.</p>	

SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTRE	Regional	District	Neighbourhood
Support	Supports caregivers, parents and guardians		
Access	Designed for all ages, abilities and cultural backgrounds		
Toilets	To be considered		Above service level, not to be included
Built shade	Built structures such as gazebos and picnic shelters catering for groups to be included as part of the shade pallet and in accord with the Shade matrix.		Built structures to be considered in accord with the Shade matrix.
Irrigated turf (grass)	<p>To be provided.</p> <p>Provision to encourage physical activity such as kicking a ball or other social activities such as picnics and gatherings.</p> <p>Smart/efficient irrigation systems will be utilised when economical</p>		
	Events space: While not its primary focus, the design and location of this area should also consider events and large-scale activities		n/a
BBQ's	Will be considered	May be considered	Above service level, not to be included
Fencing around the playground	Will be considered	May be considered	Only considered if there is an identified risk to users.
Paths	Connections that support connectivity to and within the playspace can be considered		

3-phase Power	May be considered	Above service level, not to be included
Public art	May be considered	Above service level, not to be included

ENVIRONMENT	Regional	District	Neighbourhood
Tree and tree canopy	Retain existing trees where possible as part of its playground (Family) renewal projects. Increase tree canopy (at maturity) by 20% at its Family reserves.		
Water use	Subject to the findings of the Water Study, explore opportunities for alternative water sources, passive irrigation as well as technologies to sustainably irrigate identified areas.		
Climate change	Allocate a minimum of 5% of the project budget towards climate change initiatives such as irrigation and/or tree canopy		
Materials	Explore opportunities for inclusion of recycled materials as part of playspace design		
	Synthetic turf is not to be used on our Family and Passive open spaces		

## Appendix 4 Playground Assessment Criteria

<b>Considerations</b>	
<b>Community Usage</b>	How frequently is the playground used? A well-used playground might justify extending its life, while one with low usage might be a candidate for removal.
<b>Future Development</b>	Are there any planned developments or infrastructure projects in the area that could affect the need for the playground?
<b>Vandalism/Anti-social Behaviour</b>	High rates of vandalism or other negative behaviours could justify removing or redeveloping a playground.
<b>Accessibility</b>	Does the playground meet accessibility standards? If not, and if it would be costly to make compliant, it might be better to remove it.
<b>Age of Equipment</b>	Beyond the condition rating, the actual age of equipment can impact the likelihood of future failures or safety concerns and availability of replacement parts
<b>Community Feedback</b>	Input from local residents or users on whether they believe the playground is still valuable.
<b>Environmental Impact</b>	Is the playground located in an area where removal might benefit the environment (e.g., rewilding projects)?

Decision-Making Matrix		
LOCATION		
ASSESSMENT DATE		
Criteria	Scoring Guidance	Score 1-5
Function Rating	1 (Poor but still functional): Playground equipment shows signs of wear and tear but is generally operational. Surface materials may be fading or slightly damaged but are still safe.	
	3 (Moderate): Significant wear and some minor parts may need repairs or have been repaired recently. Functionality is intact but may become problematic soon.	
	5 (End of life not functioning): Multiple pieces of equipment are broken or unusable. Entire playground is in a state of disrepair, posing a safety hazard or being unusable.	
Safety Concerns	1 (No safety concerns): Regular inspections show no major risks. Equipment meets safety standards.	
	3 (Moderate concerns): Some minor hazards identified that could be addressed through repairs (e.g., loose bolts, worn surfaces).	
	5 (Significant safety issues): Major safety concerns that pose immediate risks (e.g., broken equipment, exposed sharp edges, damaged safety surfacing).	

Proximity to alternative existing Playgrounds 750m	1 (<1 other playground within the service): The playground is isolated with no other options nearby, possibly affecting the community's access to outdoor play.
	2 (<2-4 other playgrounds within the service): The playground is relatively isolated with no other options nearby, possibly affecting the community's access to outdoor play.
	3 (<3-5 other playgrounds within the service): There are a few playground(s) easily accessible within a 5-10 minute walk, ensuring children have alternative play areas.
	4 (<6-7 other playgrounds within the service): There are some playground(s) easily accessible within a 5–10-minute walk, ensuring children have alternative play areas.
	5 (>7 other playgrounds within the service): There are multiple playgrounds easily accessible within a 5–10-minute walk, ensuring children have alternative play areas.
Maintenance Costs	1 (Low or no costs): Minimal costs for routine upkeep (e.g., annual inspections, minor repairs or 5-10% of the asset value).
	3 (Moderate costs ~20-40% of replacement value): Requires more frequent repairs, but costs are manageable within existing budgets.

	<p>5 (High ongoing costs &gt;50-60% of replacement value): Requires major repairs or frequent maintenance, such as fixing broken or failing equipment regularly. If the accumulated cost of maintenance over a period (e.g., 15-20 years) exceeds 60% of the replacement cost, it might indicate that a replacement would be more economical in the long run.</p>	
Spare Parts Availability	<p>1 (Easily available): Parts for repairs are readily available, either through manufacturers or local suppliers.</p>	
	<p>3 (Moderately available): Some delays or difficulty in sourcing parts, but it is still possible.</p>	
	<p>5 (No parts available): Parts are discontinued or unavailable, making repairs difficult or impossible.</p>	
Partial Decommission	<p>1 (No sections or components removed): All original equipment is still in place and functional.</p>	
	<p>3 (Some components removed): Smaller pieces or less critical sections have been taken down.</p>	
	<p>5 (Large sections decommissioned): Significant parts of the playground have already been removed, reducing its functionality.</p>	
Vandalism/Anti-social Behaviour	<p>1 (None): Playground is well-maintained, with no reports of vandalism or anti-social behaviour.</p>	
	<p>3 (Occasional incidents): Some minor vandalism or incidents but not a consistent issue.</p>	
	<p>5 (High levels): Regular occurrences of vandalism or other anti-social behaviour that affects the playground's usability or safety.</p>	

Environmental Impact	1 (No environmental benefit): Removal would not significantly benefit the environment or surrounding area.	
	3 (Moderate impact): Some positive environmental impact, such as freeing space for greenery or reducing urban heat.	
	5 (Removal would benefit local environment): Removal could enable significant environmental improvements, such as water management, habitat restoration, or reducing pollutants.	
	Score	/40

SCORE	RISK LEVEL	ACTION
0-19	Low	No action - monitor
20-29	Medium	Monitor with possible removal
30+	High	Remove