

Tasmanian Open Space Policy and Planning Framework Attachments



Prepared for Sport and Recreation Tasmania
Department of Economic Development, Tourism and the Arts
December 2010

Prepared by:
Inspiring Place Pty Ltd
with
HM Leisure Planning Pty Ltd

Attachment 1
Notes from regional forums

Northern Tasmania forum

Launceston, Wednesday 21st April 2010

Desired outcomes from an open space policy framework:

- improved interaction between jurisdictions
- integration of provision across different agencies
- legislative change
- better information for customers to access and use open space
- improved marketing of open space opportunities
- increased open space to match needs of growing/changing community
- recognise every piece of open space as part of the overall open space system
- develop a comprehensive open space system that provide a range of open space types to best meet the diverse needs
- establish a buffering capacity to cater for changing demands and managing a viable use program
- develop criteria and requirements for open space
- collect good information (e.g. trends, participation, assets) to assist open space planning
- ensure protection of open space resources
- improve capacity for organisations to acquire land for open space
- minimise conflict between users
- identify key natural and cultural assets in relation to open space areas
- develop the capacity to demonstrate the benefits of an open space system for the community e.g. health, economic, social
- make sure that open space is fit for the intended purpose
- change the culture within the community as we can no longer afford to deliver 'grand' facilities
- initiate action to acquire key natural areas as these cannot be built
- develop processes for the disposal of open space that is not required or appropriate
- build expectation of user contributions for the use, management and maintenance of the open space system
- prepare an integrated management system for open space
- introduce appropriate legislation to achieve consistent messages
- pursue environmental sustainability
- develop a clear and working strategy for getting resources for open space management
- establish a good commuter trail network

Objective 1: To establish a well-planned, developed and integrated open space system at the state, regional and local levels.

Possible actions to achieve this objective are:

- change the culture of different organisations that manage open space and have adjoining open space responsibilities so they will work together
- change the legislation and open space provision ethos eg: acquiring 5% of a subdivision is the only legislated mechanism at present
- develop a method to better address the liability issue for Councils dealing with open space issues
- establish a common classification system for open space

- develop tools for measuring linkages, accessibility of open space provision
- prepare guidelines that help with retrofitting of open spaces
- create a strong framework for open space contributions
- develop a liaison process with developers about achieving good design outcomes for community open space
- encourage the preparation of outline development plans
- improve internal processes within organisations for working together across all aspects of open space e.g. planning, engineering, community services, environment, recreation
- make inter-agency liaison mandatory to ensure external inputs/advice
- revise the processes of Council leases of Crown land
- develop strategies for optimising linkage between open space resources
- identify strategies that enhance opportunities for gaining access to private land/open space

Objective 2: To develop the capacity for sustainable management of the Tasmanian open space system.

Possible actions to achieve this objective are:

- establish guidelines to assist with the management of different types of open space
- prepare better /appropriate legislation, planning scheme directions and asset management plans
- change the culture re the importance of provision and needs levels
- gain support at the State level for an open space system
- provide guidance for an open space investment strategy so that what is acquired contributes effectively to meeting needs
- demonstrate need to support budget
- set priorities as to what open space is to be offered
- adequate resourcing
- demonstrate social and community benefits from open space provision
- identifying benefits \$\$ from managing an open space system
- identify who/which organisations have maintenance capacities
- introduce user pays
- include open space in asset management plans

Objective 3: To ensure that the provision, planning and development of the open space system is based on assessments of demonstrated needs both now and in the future.

Possible actions to achieve this objective are:

- establish criteria for provision
- integrate needs assessments into the planning process
- establish systematic tools for collecting base-line data, monitoring trends, demographics and changes in needs/use over time
- develop tools for effective surveys and consultation processes
- give greater accountability to needs not politics
- encourage greater coordination and collaboration between organisations to avoid duplication
- provide access to and free exchange of data
- encourage pooling of resources

- ensure open space framework is marketed
- ensure and exchange of knowledge
- develop and promote an accountable acquisition and development process to minimise political action

Objective 4: To support an open space system that plays an important role in contributing towards the health and wellbeing of the Tasmanian community, and contributes to the 'livability' of urban, regional and rural areas.

Possible actions to achieve this objective are:

- pursue better funding and resources to allow this to be developed
- cater for multiple uses
- improve accessibility to riparian reserves, private land and other areas
- reduce car dependency through good provision of open space and connected open space
- reinforce the commitment to open space provision and livability outcomes within planning schemes
- market consistent messages strongly
- demonstrate links to healthy outcomes
- capitalise on the benefits of open space
- capitalise on current political attitudes and government make-up
- ensure greater education and liaison
- develop tools for measuring participation of informal open spaces
- legislate for an open space system that will achieve this objective
- direct resources to open spaces that have been developed to cater for multiple uses
- develop landscape management tools that allow open space to contribute to health and wellbeing, community identity and social connections
- provide an equitable level of open space opportunities for people with disabilities

Objective 5: To ensure the open space system will contribute towards social inclusion by developing, enhancing and supporting communities that are connected physically, socially and emotionally.

Possible actions to achieve this objective are:

- recognise the potential for using open space to support events
- understand the cultural differences for open space
- put an emphasis on the cultural uses of open space
- develop inclusive spaces
- apply better design to ensure accessibility and encourage use
- ensure disability access : see State Social Inclusion Strategy 2009
- greater emphasis on good open space design with this reflecting assessed needs
- ensure equity of distribution
- encourage community 'ownership' of open space
- ensure information and marketing on the diversity of open space opportunities
- seek access to open space resources owned by other organisations eg: schools, especially in small towns that cannot afford/ support significant levels of provision

- recognise small towns often miss out on diverse open space (traditional uses of open space often dominate)
- address issues of legal liability

Objective 6: To manage an open space system that sustains natural and cultural values and environmental services.

Possible actions to achieve this objective are:

- develop a common classification system that identify the primary purpose and different levels
- determine natural values as a guide to the actions to be taken
- seek specialist advice on the quality of natural resources so important areas are not overlooked and marginal areas do not attract excessive action/costs
- determine and define the responsibilities of Councils in environmental protection

Objective 7: To contribute directly and indirectly to the Tasmanian economy.

Possible actions to achieve this objective are:

- use the information to be gained from the SRT economic value study being undertaken
- address public liability issues
- retain the attractiveness of our open space to sustain economic benefits
- respond to changing trends in demand and use
- assess and respond to competition to minimise wasteful competition

North West Tasmania forum

Devonport, Tuesday 4th May 2010

Desired outcomes from an open space policy framework:

- provision of guidance on the consistent classification of open space
- establishing criteria for the classification of open space
- clarifying and promoting the purpose/role/importance of open space as part of a wider development and planning framework
- creation of a document that is easy to use
- a document and policy that dovetails with other Acts and regulations eg: coastal policy
- recognise that a number of other types of land use are also “open space” eg: farming, utilities, streetscapes, and hence need consideration in wider planning contexts so that the key objectives of open space are linked to other uses of land
- guidance as to the implementation process following the acquisition of land
- an open space acquisition process that is achievable from a financial perspective eg: there is no point recommending that more/particular open space resources are acquired if it is not economical to develop and maintain it
- provision of guidance to indicative standards of open space in terms of maintenance, size, facilities
- coordination and information exchange between Councils and other agencies re open space needs, resources, planning, availability/use etc
- recognition that open space is one integrated system regardless of ownership and that coordination of use and development is needed to optimise access and reduce duplication and competition between owning/managing agencies and especially between Councils
- recognition of the need to acquire a variety of open space beyond that which can be achieved through the 5% developer contribution process. This is needed to overcome the *local* level provision focus which is often all that Councils can achieve
- guidance as to a process to identify when more than 5% of a subdivision may be needed
- identification of open space acquisition strategies other than the 5% contribution process
- provision of criteria as to what is useable open space eg: size, condition, location
- guidance as to “big picture” needs eg: what the overall mix of open spaces should ideally include and when and how much may be needed (possibly through existing provision inventories and the preparation of outline development plans)
- recognition of hard spaces such as malls, streetscapes, plazas as open space resources as these are important in terms of accessibility, social interaction and social inclusion

Objective 1: To establish a well-planned, developed and integrated open space system at the state, regional and local levels.

Possible actions to achieve this objective are:

- resourcing to implement open space plans and to acquire, develop and maintain reserves
- skills acquisition amongst staff
- development of open space strategies
- preparation of indicative development costs so councils can assess their capacity to acquire and develop open space resources
- an enhanced rationale for developer contributions
- assert the capacity to sell open space that is identified as being in excess of needs or inappropriate for the desired uses

Objective 2: To develop the capacity for sustainable management of the Tasmanian open space system.

Possible actions to achieve this objective are:

- provision of indicative costs for the development and operation of different types of open space resources
- provision of information on applicable maintenance standards for various levels of use
- recognition that undeveloped open space already has a cost
- development of service levels that are appropriate to the classification and hierarchy of open space (same as dot point 2 above?)

Objective 3: To ensure that the provision, planning and development of the open space system is based on assessments of demonstrated needs both now and in the future.

Possible actions to achieve this objective are:

- undertake continuous assessment of open space provision and needs in the light of demographics
- review gaps in the open space system to assess the existing mix and provision levels and to identify additions and changes needed to match community needs
- collect information on the use of open space resources to assess the extent to which provision meets needs
- ensure coordinated and consistent research is undertaken
- ensure developed and undeveloped reserves can accommodate long term changes of demand generated by potential growth in the population

Objective 4: To support an open space system that plays an important role in contributing towards the health and wellbeing of the Tasmanian community, and contributes to the 'livability' of urban, regional and rural areas.

Possible actions to achieve this objective are:

- pursue connectivity and links to increase open space use and value
- all actions in earlier sections will contribute to this objective

Objective 5: To ensure the open space system will contribute towards social inclusion by developing, enhancing and supporting communities that are connected physically, socially and emotionally.

Possible actions to achieve this objective are:

- ensure disability access to and optimum mobility at open space resources
- assess service area demographics in terms of age, income, transport access and the implications to need
- provide distribution performance criteria eg: a playground within 500 m of all children to ensure accessibility
- review the regional perspective in terms of opportunities so that gaps can be identified and filled
- take “hard” spaces into account eg: streets, plazas, malls as these generate a great deal of social interaction
- ensure good security at open space resources
- ensure open space sites are attractive and comfortable in terms of dimensions, seating, shelter, heating, movement

Objective 6: To manage an open space system that sustains natural and cultural values and environmental services.

Possible actions to achieve this objective are:

- assess and document important natural values of open space resources
- assess resources in terms of topography, insolation (slope, aspect), wind, location, orientation and determine the implications to whether the land should be acquired and how uses will be designed in to it
- acknowledge that some open space is reserved purely for its conservation values and that recreational uses may need to be defined or constrained eg: on a seasonal basis

Objective 7: To contribute directly and indirectly to the Tasmanian economy.

Possible actions to achieve this objective are:

- collect data to demonstrate the link between open space resources and community health as an indicator of the medical savings achieved through provision
- explore the potential for commercial activities being conducted on open space sites and the contribution these can make to Council income and the wider economy eg: cafes, bike hire, boat hire
- explore commercial opportunities at water-based sites eg: canoe hire, fishing and the goods and services these users purchase
- promote Tasmania’s open spaces to tourists to attract visitors to the State and as part of a lifestyle package to attract long term residents
- demonstrate how large open spaces can be used to host festivals etc but be careful that one success eg: Agfest, does not kill off other small agricultural shows

Southern Tasmania forum

Hobart, Friday 23rd April 2010

Desired outcomes from an open space policy framework:

- a consistent open space framework/strategy, including standardised 'zones', guidelines for the application of the 5% developer contribution standard, and template for Planning Scheme provisions and local open space plans
- review of developer contributions standards (e.g. 5% under the *Local Government Act*) – this standard does not necessarily relate open space provision to need, doesn't relate to some situations (stratum development) ongoing maintenance requirements or partnerships
- a state-wide approach to the application of the 5% standard contribution
- increased understanding about the diverse types and functions of open spaces at the local government level
- better resourcing and partnerships for the management and maintenance of open space (e.g. management of regional level open space facilities should not be entirely the responsibility of local councils)
- agreed categorisation of open space – standardised classification system and hierarchy – category may also relate to level of funding
- consideration of compensation provisions under current legislation, in relation to the acquisition of open space
- consideration of liability and risk management issues
- prioritisation of regional open space
- better quality open space, and better linkages – a system rather than discrete 'pockets' of open space
- what the community wants - provision related to demonstrated need
- improved clarity/processes for dealing with access (e.g. trails) that traverse private land (e.g. leases, licenses etc)
- improved access to open space - equity of access
- improved promotion of health and wellbeing in the workplace
- cross-agency linkages
- an improved process for the transfer of old esplanade titles to public ownership
- minimisation of the tensions between planning and land management (e.g. planners see opportunities to acquire land for open space purpose, but the maintenance costs can be a barrier for land managers) – need for clear open space policies

Objective 1: To establish a well-planned, developed and integrated open space system at the state, regional and local levels.

Possible actions to achieve this objective are:

1. consistent classification and hierarchy system (state-wide), based on function and size, responds to the multi-functional nature of open space
2. funding – for acquisition, improvements, maintenance – may be based on significance of open space in relation to the state hierarchy
3. guidelines for preparing an audit of open space
4. formally adopting guidelines relating to open space planning and design (e.g. Healthy By Design) – statutory support for open space

5. state policy on open space
6. legislative framework – review and clarify legislation relating to open space
7. measure of the quality of open space over time
8. ongoing collection and application of quantitative data/research on open space trends, provisions and use – central ‘space’ for information sharing (e.g. web-based)
9. implementation of health impacts assessments
10. guiding principles relating to how open space is zoned in planning schemes
11. clarity on risk management issues (‘Safer By Design’)
12. accessibility – including mobility impaired
13. mechanism for cross-government partnerships

Objective 2: To develop the capacity for sustainable management of the Tasmanian open space system.

Possible actions to achieve this objective are:

1. collaborative partnerships and integration – cross-sectors and cross-disciplines, including guidelines for how the agencies work together – ‘triggers’
2. seeing the bigger open space picture – open space greater than land owned by local councils, e.g. includes urban spaces (malls), importance of land managed by other government agencies as well as private land – the definition is important in guiding this
3. state-wide open space classification and hierarchy system
4. considering the impacts of use and development if open space impacts on other values
5. addressing the resourcing issue – looking at mechanisms for sustainable (ongoing) resourcing at state, regional and local levels
6. determining the role that open spaces can play in climate change adaptation/mitigation measures
7. linking open space management and maintenance to community schemes (e.g. work for the dole, prison labour) as a means of minimising costs and providing learning opportunities
8. better promoting the values associated with open space (e.g. correlations with health and wellbeing, value for money)
9. look at the capacity of open spaces to meet the diverse needs of the community (e.g. user conflicts, illegal access)
10. working with the community all the way along – collaborative and cooperative approach is critical
11. consider mechanisms for attracting private sector funding into open space planning and management

Objective 3: To ensure that the provision, planning and development of the open space system is based on assessments of demonstrated needs both now and in the future.

Possible actions to achieve this objective are:

1. collect and apply findings of quantitative data collection
2. use future land use models (e.g. Metropolitan Plan) to determine likely future needs (e.g. increase inner city residential density will increase the importance of provision of open space accessible from these areas)

3. review sale of state-owned land in light of the contribution to the open space system (e.g. sale of school land, crown land)
4. link in with local government strategic planning – council policies and planning scheme provisions
5. development diverse mechanisms to capture the views of the broader community in relation to open space needs
6. more effective planning for expected and emerging needs

Objective 4: To support an open space system that plays an important role in contributing towards the health and wellbeing of the Tasmanian community, and contributes to the ‘livability’ of urban, regional and rural areas.

Possible actions to achieve this objective are:

1. use positive branding to promote connections between open space and health, and attract funding – ‘Healthy Parks, Healthy People’ – successful in Victoria
2. stronger government leadership (e.g. develop forum/mechanism for government open space planning, including health and education divisions) – need for a stronger mechanism to drive collaboration and provide leadership
3. engaging with the community – reaching the diversity of users
4. aiding councils to advertise open space opportunities
5. planning for open space to play a role in socialising (e.g. gathering/meeting space) – including consideration of ‘walkable catchments’ and ‘activity centres’ (e.g. using spatial data systems such as SIPS)
6. implementing needs analysis
7. developing multiple-use capacity and flexibility of use (e.g. integrating arts with recreation and alternative transport)

Objective 5: To ensure the open space system will contribute towards social inclusion by developing, enhancing and supporting communities that are connected physically, socially and emotionally.

Possible actions to achieve this objective are:

1. equity of provision, including quality of open space provided
2. discouraging (e.g. through planning and design) anti-social behaviour in our open spaces
3. providing active transport opportunities – connecting open spaces for non-motorised users
4. addressing dog access issues
5. being creative with open space design (e.g. one site can serve multiple functions)
6. considering our ageing population in planning and design (current system based largely on the Baby Boomer generation) – being flexible in addressing needs of changing user profiles
7. flexibility in design – allowing for future retrofitting
8. designing/programming for multiple use of sports reserves
9. collaborating with the community on open space design
10. aim for non-private vehicle access to open space (‘active transport’ principles)
11. provide access for the mobility impaired
12. consistent approach for addressing risk and safety issues – important to get it right in the initial design

Objective 6: To manage an open space system that sustains natural and cultural values and environmental services.

Possible actions to achieve this objective are:

1. recognise the need for the open space system to have the capacity to respond to a changing environment (e.g. role in climate change adaptation)
2. reserving water required to manage our open space system
3. implementing biodiversity conservation measures as a function of our open space system
4. ensuring that we understand the natural and cultural values of our open space system – inform use and development

Objective 7: To contribute directly and indirectly to the Tasmanian economy.

Possible actions to achieve this objective are:

1. ongoing research on the value of open space – some values are difficult to measure – decide on a series of performance (e.g. see community indicators Victoria)
2. health savings as a result of providing opportunities for activity and social gathering
3. linkages with affordable housing
4. the potential role of the Tas open space system in carbon storage – carbon offset schemes
5. quantifying the employment opportunities related to open space planning, design, management and use – and communicating this as a benefit to the state eco

Attachment 2
Open space Classification System

1 . P a r k s

Parks include neighbourhood parks, playgrounds, ornamental gardens, vantage points and lookouts. They may support activities such as walking, cycling, dog exercise, children's and adult play, picnicking, sightseeing, social and cultural events, artistic activities and relaxing.

Indoor recreation facilities and support amenities such as halls, tourism destinations, clubs, toilets etc. are often provided in association with Parks.

Purposes

The purposes of Parks are:

- to provide opportunities for residents and visitors to pursue a wide range of predominantly self-managed informal, passive and active non-competitive recreational and educational activities at the local, sub-municipal, municipal and regional level
- to provide support facilities for visitors e.g. toilet/change facilities, social and management facilities, play equipment and picnic/ barbeque areas
- to provide venues for a range of other occasional uses including fairs, civic events and similar activities
- to provide sites capable of use for flood mitigation and for community gathering points at times of civic emergency
- to conserve any natural and cultural values
- to provide for other open space categories which are able to co-locate with Parks(e.g. Linear and Linkage, Landscape and Amenity, and Conservation and Heritage open spaces).

Amenities

The specific amenities, which may need to be provided in Parks will vary depending on the size, predominant uses, and other nearby land uses. Those amenities, which may be provided, include:

- a. picnic and barbeque facilities

- b. club and social rooms
- c. weather shelters and shade
- d. play equipment, seating and safety fencing (where required)
- e. lighting for improved access and security
- e. signs indicating the venue name and use regulations
- f. rubbish bins
- g. food services support points (e.g. power, water, phone); and
- h. visitor information services including visitor centres and interpretation.
- i. other visitor and user infrastructure associated with any approved activities
e.g. camping areas and huts within national parks
- j. trails and pathways.

Parks should be of a size, which allows flexibility of use and diversity across an array of activities, needs and ages. Wherever possible, single use provision should be avoided or designed out.

2. Outdoor Sports Venues

Sports open spaces are defined as sites used for active, competitive, and often organised/structured sport and recreation. They include sports grounds used for a wide range of team and individual competitions, outdoor sports courts and outdoor pools.

Outdoor Sports Venues can have a range of other recreation facilities and support amenities associated with them, including community halls and sports stadia, club rooms, management buildings, toilet/change facilities, informal gardens, and trails and pathways. Outdoor Sports Venues should be connected to residential and other community services by trails and pathways where possible, facilitating non-motorised transport.

Purposes

The purposes of Outdoor Sports Venues are to provide:

- opportunities for residents and visitors to participate in formal, structured, competitive recreational and educational activities at the local, sub-municipal, municipal and regional level
- opportunities for residents to watch and spectate sporting competitions
- appropriate support facilities for sports participants and spectators e.g. toilet/change, social and management facilities; informal lawns; play equipment; picnic/barbeque areas
- venues for a range of other occasional uses including fairs, civic events and similar activities and as refuges, marshalling points and emergency services bases in times of civil disaster (e.g. flood and fire)
- for other open space categories, which are able to co-locate with sports e.g. Linear and Linkage, Parks and Conservation and Heritage open spaces.

Amenities

The specific amenities to be provided at or in association with Outdoor Sports Venues will depend on the roles for which the open spaces are being managed. Outdoor Sports Venues serving regional competitions and championships will generally have greater provision of, and more substantial amenities than those serving local markets. Non-urban Outdoor Sports Venues often require more amenities than some sub-regional or local sports open spaces in urban areas because of the comparative lack of other opportunities.

The specific amenities, which may be assessed for provision at Outdoor Sports venues are:

- a. club, umpires and social rooms
- b. spectator areas
- c. weather shelters

- d. lighting for improved access, security and night training
- e. signs indicating the venue name and user groups and contact numbers, use regulations
- f. parking for officials, players and spectators
- g. ground maintenance equipment storage
- h. food and water services
- i. toilets
- j. rubbish bins
- k. security and entry control fencing
- L. trails and pathways (internal, and connecting to external sites).

Sports open spaces should be of a size, which offers use flexibility and a diversity of sports; which facilitates and/or can accommodate long term growth and change of uses, and which enables and facilitates the co-location of uses. This will optimise utilities provision and the provision of change/social facilities, parking, lighting etc. Wherever possible, single use provision should be avoided or designed out in favour of multiple-use of the facilities. The level of provision of facilities for individual sports should reflect research into the minimum number needed to provide for viable competition and/or viable user clubs.

3. Landscape and amenity

Landscape and Amenity open spaces are defined as sites which have landscape and amenity features and value which warrant reservation and protection ahead of use for other purposes. These areas may also have significant natural or cultural values (e.g. remnant native vegetation), as well as an informal recreational use focus.

Landscape and Amenity open spaces include buffer areas between differing land use types, small garden and tree plantings in urban and rural areas, drainage areas, land which is protected to provide scenic views, and ridge lines which provide a backdrop to urban or other land uses.

Landscape and Amenity open space reserves are likely to play an increasing role in climate change adaptation in the future, including areas that provide a buffer to rising sea levels and storm surge, such as coastal fore dunes.

Purposes

The purposes of Landscape and Amenity open spaces are:

- to protect open spaces which have landscape and amenity significance at the local, sub-municipal, municipal and regional level
- to provide opportunities for residents and visitors to appreciate the landscape'
- to enhance the setting and quality of urban and rural environments
- to provide opportunities for educational and scientific study and research
- to provide high quality environments for suitable of recreational activities compatible with the sustainable management of the natural and cultural values
- to provide for other open space categories, which are able to co-locate with, Landscape and Amenity open spaces (e.g. Linear and Linkage open space and Conservation and Heritage open space)
- to play a role in climate change adaptation.

Amenities

The amenities provided at Landscape and Amenity open spaces would depend on the predominant nature and purpose of each site and other nearby land uses. Lookouts and other viewing facilities may also warrant consideration.

The size of Landscape and Amenity open spaces will be determined by the attributes of the landscape and/or amenity resource; the size of the area required to protect the resource, and/or; the area required to ensure site and resource sustainability. In all instances, the larger and more "complete" the site, the better is its capacity to provide the values and benefits for which it has been reserved.

4. LINEAR AND LINKAGE

Linear and Linkage open spaces include cycling and pedestrian paths, off and on-road cycling reservations, unused road and rail reservations, service easements which provide linear reserves and routes. It also includes small pathways and routes, which provide links to other open spaces or other public and community venues (e.g. to shops, schools, residential areas). Linear and Linkage open spaces are predominantly for human use, but may also serve as wildlife corridors, and may be associated with riparian areas.

Purposes

The purposes of Linear and Linkage open spaces are:

- to provide safe opportunities for residents and visitors to walk, cycle and as appropriate, ride horses or motorised vehicles for short, medium and long distances
- to provide opportunities for non-motorised transport, such as commuting to work, school, shopping and other community destinations
- to provide access *to* and *between* other open spaces and activity nodes (e.g. sports reserves, informal parks, lookouts, indoor venues), and between other land uses (e.g. residential, retail and work places)
- to enhance urban and rural amenity and to provide land use buffers
- to provide opportunities for urban conservation and ecosystem observation and study (e.g. 'green corridors' that may act as wildlife habitat and movement corridors)
- to provide for other open space categories, which benefit from co-location with Linear and Linkage open space (e.g. Conservation and Heritage, Foreshore and Waterway).

Where possible, and particularly in urban areas, Linear and Linkage open spaces used for recreation should ideally have return loops and circuits; and exit routes or points that allow users to escape or avoid personal attack, fire, flood or other dangerous conditions.

Amenities

The amenities provided at or in association with Linear and Linkage open spaces depend on the length and purposes for which the open spaces are managed.

Where there is a predominant recreational and/or tourism use (compared, for instance, with conservation or habitat protection), a greater level and range of amenities should be provided and should increase with the length of the reserve. These may include public toilets, seating, rubbish bins, bike racks and lookouts.

Linear and Linkage open space with a strong commuting focus generally require few amenities. Dispersed seating, bike racks, water fountains, and good signage is often all that is required. Lighting may also be required in some situations.

The size of Linear and Linkage open spaces will be determined by their key purposes and location. Spaces used for recreational purposes can generally be narrower than those used for other purposes and may well be far longer than those established for example, to protect streamside habitats or to provide wildlife movement corridors. The size of areas reserved for natural habitat purposes will be determined by the assessed minimum area or length required for a sustainable ecosystem.

5. FORESHORE AND WATERWAY

Foreshore and Waterway open spaces are defined as estuaries, foreshores, beaches, creeks, rivers and lakes and the land and water areas associated with them. These open spaces serve a wide range of purposes including recreational, transport, water quality and aquatic ecosystem management, habitat protection and amenity.

Increasingly, some of these areas will play a role in climate change adaptation, including buffering rising sea levels from residential areas, and absorbing the impacts of increased storm surge events.

Purposes

The purposes of Foreshore and Waterway open spaces are:

- to protect and restore foreshore and waterway resources where they have significance at all levels in the open space hierarchy

- to protect foreshore and waterways which contribute to ecosystem protection, stability and enhancement
- to ensure compliance with state, national and international conservation agreements and covenants
- to provide opportunities for residents and visitors to appreciate the foreshore and waterway assets
- to contribute to scenic and amenity qualities
- to provide opportunities for educational and scientific study and research
- to provide resources for a wide array of recreational activities including swimming, fishing, sailing, boating, rowing, sunbathing, picnicking/ socialising, walking, nature study, photography and sightseeing
- to provide linkages between open spaces areas, and to surrounding residential land and other community services;
- to provide opportunities for a range of economic benefits to be achieved through the commercial use of the resources for tourism, boating, shipping and fishing
- to support other open space categories, which are able to co-locate with, waterway and lake open space (e.g. Linear and Linkage, Conservation and Heritage, Landscape and Amenity, and Utilities and Services open spaces).

Amenities

The amenities to be provided at or in association with Foreshore and Waterway open space depend on the predominant nature and purpose of each site and the associated land areas. Those, which will need specific consideration include:

- a. car and boat parking and traffic management facilities and services
- b. fish cleaning and wash-down areas
- c. use and service areas capable of supporting high activity levels

- d. kiosks, restaurants and other food services
- e. trails and pathways
- f. lookouts and other viewing facilities
- g. boat ramps, moorings and appropriate service buildings and yards
- h. lifeguard and other safety facilities and services.

The array of amenities provided at sites which are small or which have importance for other purposes (e.g. conservation, landscape, heritage may be restricted to deter excessive and detrimental recreational or other uses).

The size of Foreshore and Waterway open spaces will be determined by:

- a. the attributes of the resource
- b. the size of the area required to protect the resource and to ensure ecosystem sustainability
- c. the extent of existing foreshore/coastal reserves
- d. the size of the area required to minimise impacts on other uses
- e. the area required to establish viable recreational and commercial activities together with the appropriate service areas.

In all instances, the larger and more “complete” the site, the better is its capacity to provide the values and benefits for which it has been reserved.

6. CONSERVATION AND HERITAGE

Conservation and Heritage open space areas are those that have been set aside for their natural and/or cultural values, and may be developed to meet a range of non-structured, ‘nature-based’ recreational pursuits in a predominantly informal setting. Examples of this category includes National Parks and other categories of the state reserve system, State Forest, forest reserves, council managed land of conservation significance, and even private reserves where public access has been granted.

Conservation and Heritage open space generally have vegetation, habitat, archaeological, building remnants, land uses or other features that warrant

conservation and protection ahead of their use for other purposes.

Conservation and Heritage open spaces include areas of natural vegetation and flora and fauna habitat, and sites that record Aboriginal (and European settlement) use of the land.

Maintaining the natural and cultural values for which a reserve has been declared should be the primary aim of this category. Some sections of these areas will not be suitable for regular or high levels of recreational use (e.g. wilderness areas).

All recreational and other types of use should be monitored and managed in a sustainable manner. Many of these types of open space will have management plans or similar documents that should remain the primary management tool.

Purposes

The purposes of Conservation and Heritage open spaces are:

- to maintain and enhance natural and cultural values, in accordance with state and national legislation and management documents
- to ensure compliance with State, national and international conservation agreements and covenants
- to protect environmental services, which contribute to water management, water catchment management, fire management and other appropriate activities
- to provide opportunities for residents and visitors to experience and learn about their natural environment
- to contribute to scenic and aesthetic qualities
- to provide interpretation of the values
- to provide opportunities for educational and scientific study and research
- to provide high quality environments for a limited array of recreational activities including non-motorised trail-based recreation (trail bike facilities will be appropriate in some locations), nature study, and sightseeing

- to provide linkages with other open space categories, which are able to co-locate with Conservation and Heritage open space (e.g. Landscape and Amenity open space and Linear and Linkage open space).

Amenities

The amenities provided within Conservation and Heritage open spaces would depend on local environmental conditions and management intent of the site and that of adjacent land uses.

The size for Conservation and Heritage open spaces will be determined by:

- a. the distribution of the natural and cultural values
- b. the size of the area required to protect the values
- c. the area required ensuring ecosystem sustainability (e.g. wildlife habitat, biodiversity conservation).

From a conservation perspective, larger, intact, rather than smaller sites and fragmented sites should be maintained. The larger a site and the more it is connected to other open spaces (particularly those which are also of conservation and heritage significance), the better is its capacity to provide the values and benefits for which it has been reserved. From a heritage perspective, intact sites can better provide the values and benefits for which they have been reserved.

7. UTILITIES AND SERVICES

Utilities and Services open spaces are defined as reserves established to provide for a range of essential urban and rural services. They include road reserves, flood management areas, water catchments, road development, utilities easements (power, water, gas) and environmental nuisance abatement zones.

Utilities and Services open space is likely to play an increasing role in climate change adaptation in the future, including areas that provide a buffer to rising sea levels and storm surge, such as coastal fore dunes.

Purposes

The purposes of Utilities and Services open spaces are:

- to ensure that sufficient space is reserved for all essential urban and rural services
- to ensure the safe operation of and to minimise the impact of essential services provision on other land uses
- to ensure the protection of utilities and services infrastructure from hazards such as flood and fire
- to play a role in climate change adaptation
- to optimise the economic benefits of utilities and services provision
- to provide for other open space categories, which are able to co-locate with, Utilities and Services open spaces (e.g. Linear and Linkage, Conservation and Heritage and Landscape and Amenity).

Amenities

Amenities are not generally provided in Utility and Services Reserves, except where they are associated with other open space uses such as Linear and Linkages.

The size of Utilities and Services open spaces as they will be determined by:

- a. The purpose for which the resource has been reserved
- b. Health and safety rules and regulations associated with each use
- c. Adjoining land uses
- c. The size and dimensions of the area required to minimise impacts on other uses
- d. The area required allowing viable use together with the appropriate service areas.

8. PROPOSED OPEN SPACE

Proposed open spaces are defined as areas, which have been reserved or *are* likely to be reserved to meet future needs of the community. Proposed Open Space may fall into any one of the other open space categories. As yet undeveloped open spaces would have their eventual uses allocated to them following an assessment of the need for other open space types.

Some open space areas, which have yet to be developed may also be considered for sale or development in the longer term. In the interim, they remain as Proposed Open Spaces.

Purposes

The purposes of the Proposed Open Spaces are:

- to provide a reserve or 'bank' of open spaces which can be used to meet the need for other open space categories;
- to provide opportunities to improve the distribution of all other open space categories;
- to help ensure that the distribution of and linkages between other open space areas can be improved;
- to provide for future expansion or other identified need; and
- to provide an asset, the value of which can be realised to permit reinvestment in other open space resources.

Amenities

The amenities to be provided at or in association with Proposed Open Space will be determined when the space is allocated to one or more uses.

Earlier acquisition processes have often determined the sizes for Proposed Open Space. However sizes, which reflect the projected long-term use of surrounding areas should be included in outline development plans or should be acquired. If the possible future use has not been determined at all, then parcels of land, which are capable of contributing usefully to most open space types should be acquired or zoned.

Attachment 3
Open space planning process

Stages	Guidance on process
<p>1. Agree on the need for open space planning</p>	<p>Open space planning should be initiated in response to the desire to help create healthy, viable, well-balanced <i>communities</i>. Planning occurs when there is recognition of the inability of the existing resources to meet community needs, because of a desire to protect important open space assets, because of changing demographics and needs in the community and because of population growth.</p> <p>Open space planning can also grow out of the value systems of the community or influential groups in it and through political action. While these influences may appear to run counter to good planning, a research-based approach to planning and provision can help to ameliorate interest group or political influences and achieve the most effective and equitable outcomes.</p> <p>In the present day, the reasons for acquiring and developing open space must have a logical, defensible basis as the process may well need to be defended in court, to the community and in the wider political arena.</p>
<p>2. Establish a Project Steering Team with representation from all key stakeholders</p>	<p>Establishment of a project steering team made up of the key stakeholders relevant to open space planning within a given region or area is an important tool, not only for project management purposes, but also to ensure that key stakeholders have a common vision, facilitating co-operation between agencies, local councils and others in the achievement of a quality open space system.</p> <p>An open space project steering team provides the opportunity to gain input from the key stakeholders, including various land managers and owners, as well as planning, recreation, community development and environmental specialists. The project steering group may also have linkages to peak user groups, private landowners.</p> <p>The project steering team should be 'driving' the open space planning process throughout the life of the project – and hopefully beyond.</p>

3. Define the provision purpose principles and objectives

Although the broad purpose of an open space planning study may have been determined in the first phase of the process, the ideas generated at that point should be taken as being provisional, to be tested and refined through the remainder of the study.

In this second stage, a more specific purpose and a number of objectives should be established with these covering the *scope* of the open spaces and open space *types* to be covered; project *inputs* (budgets, staffing); project *outputs*, (the “products” of the planning process such as the types, amounts and quality of open spaces acquired and developed), and project *outcomes*, these being e.g. the benefits enjoyed to the community or measurable improvements in the quality and sustainability of the environment. Other objectives may relate to how open spaces are to be managed and programmed, who will have access to them and for what purposes. All objectives should have measurable outcomes.

Open space provision does not occur in a vacuum: rather, it is very much a reflection of the values, attitudes and aspirations of the community and of special interest groups within it. In the light of this, principles such as equity of opportunity, flexibility of use, diversity of opportunity, co-location, quality, viability, consolidation of provision and accessibility, and others where relevant, should be established.

Together, the objectives and principles can then be used to guide decisions on the acquisition of open space, the uses to which it is allocated and the management practices applied to it.

4. Review the policy context

Local, regional, agency and state open space provision planning schemes, statutes and other policies and guidelines frequently establish a range of provision conditions, opportunities, requirements *and* limitations on provision needs and requirements and as such, must be given detailed consideration

5. Establish and implement a community consultation program

The Project Steering Team group cannot involve everyone with an interest in open space issues or everyone who may need to be given the opportunity to contribute to the planning process. Therefore, establishing a wider community consultation process, including meetings, forums, newsletters, surveys etc, will help to ensure that other divisions *in the same organisation*, adjoining Councils, private property owners (as deemed relevant), relevant community-based regional and State agencies and individuals are informed and given the opportunity to be involved in the planning process.

Frequently, other groups and agencies have work programs and commitments that impact on or require the use of open space. They may manage or even own open space resources that, under certain conditions, may be used by the general community for *its* purposes rather than solely for those of the owning agency. These could include school facilities, water storage reserves, road reserves, utilities easements, private recreation venues (e.g. riding schools, nature parks, theme parks), as well as farmland, beaches and foreshores, offshore resources (swimming areas, reefs used for fishing, snorkelling and tourism), and forests managed (and perhaps even planted) for timber harvesting.

Involving these other organisations in the open space planning process achieves both a professional exchange of information and views and can also unlock resources that might have otherwise been unavailable.

6. Evaluate the current and projected demographic characteristics of residents living in and to be serviced by the open space provision being assessed/planned

If we do not know who it is we are providing for, we will not know what to provide. As such, understanding the size, growth, distribution, socio-economic characteristics, cultural mix and a range of other community attributes provides some important guidance to the acquisition and development of some types of open space. Used in association with inventory data and community consultation, a demographic analysis also assists considerably with determining priorities for action and the scale and distribution of provision.

7. Establish an open space inventory of all existing open space and for key open space assets in adjoining and /or regional areas

An inventory of open space assets is a key tool in the planning process. A classification of open space by type and/or purpose is an important component of an inventory. Together, they allow an assessment of venue sizes, how much open space exists in the study area, what types of open space there are, how much there is of each type, the spatially and hierarchical distribution of opportunities, and if the data is collected, a range of other characteristics including quality, uses, users and use rates, ownership, site attributes, shortcoming and services, adjoining land use, levels and types of competition and the like.

Inventory data allows an evaluation of supply and through a “gap analysis”, provides a key input to identifying possible shortfalls of provision. Inventory data can be matched against user and community needs, population



characteristics, industry best practice and provision trends and models to provide guidance as to additional provision needs and /or the reallocation, development and upgrading of existing open space resources.

The inventory should be translated into spatial information (mapped) to allow interpretation of spatial relationships, overall distribution and linkages. GIS should be considered as a tool, not only for mapping, but to allow geographic analysis of socio-economic and demographic indicators. On-site audits of open space may need to be undertaken in order to complete the types of information required for the inventory.

8. Apply the open space classification and hierarchy system to the inventory

Where an open space planning study has begun by defining a range of social, community, health, environmental and heritage outcomes that it seeks to achieve, it is often not possible to effectively define the mix of open space types, sizes, configurations (amongst other attributes) that will be needed to achieve those outcomes. Hence, this stage of the process is important in defining the open space types that make up the overall system.

Defining the *hierarchy* of open space types to be covered is important in that venues at different hierarchical levels offer different experiences and benefits, serve different markets and clienteles, have different resourcing needs (and costs), and can often attract funding from quite different sources. Further, some open space uses are not viable at, for example, the local level while the provision of other resources at only a higher hierarchical level could exclude use by many in the community. In addition to the application of the hierarchy, each open space area should be classified by type. The classification system outlined in Attachment 2 provides a basic system to be applied across the state. The classification system provides a consistent means of classifying open space by function, purpose and general environmental characteristics. Each type of open space will have a broad set of management requirements, appropriate level and type of facility provision and maintenance regime.

The hierarchy and classification system is intended to be a basic tool to aid land managers – primarily local government staff, in open space planning.

9. Assess community and user needs

As the ultimate users of many types of open space, an assessment of community views on needs and priorities, on the adequacy (in terms of e.g. supply and user facilities), mix, condition, and accessibility of open space opportunities is an important tool for determining what to acquire and develop, where to do so, and where priorities should be directed.

10. Assess trends in open space provision, use and need

Understanding long term trends in the recreational activities of the community, the demand for different types of open space, and patterns and schedules of use assists considerably in deciding what resources to acquire and develop or how existing open spaces may need to be changed to more effectively cater for community needs.

Each of local, regional, national and overseas trends in each of the provision *use* and *users* of open space warrants assessment in many open space planning projects.

11. Identify improvements to existing provision and additional provision needed to effectively meet the demands of current and future populations

This planning stage uses the findings of previous stages to formulate a list of potential open space improvements, reassignments and acquisitions needed to effectively meet current and projected future community needs.

The analysis should also seek to achieve a balance of provision across different types of open space, differing hierarchical levels of provision and the distribution of open space resources.

Provisional conclusions should be reviewed with all key user and interest groups to ensure that what is proposed will be operationally viable and effectively meet needs and expectations

12. Identify sites for acquisition, reallocation, development and disposal

This stage seeks to identify the most appropriate sites for acquisition and development, in keeping with the objectives and principles established in stage 2.

Decisions need to be made regarding the land resources which are to be considered e.g. only Council owned, Crown land, private open space, private land being used for other purposes. It is possible that land allocated to other uses will also warrant consideration e.g. farmland; conservation and water management reserves, and transport and utilities easements

A range of criteria may need to be developed to assess optional resources including size, location, shape, encumbrances, ownership, adjoining uses, access to services, and cost of acquisition as these characteristics influence the final quality and mix of what is provided. In some instances, land disposal may be considered as a means of achieving positive long-term outcomes.

13. Proceed to acquisition and development

A range of issues may need to be taken at this point including funding capacities, rezoning, reallocation of uses, development, allocation of uses and users and establishing management processes and responsibilities. Monitoring use and performance is critical to ensuring that the desired outputs and outcomes are achieved.

Attachment 4
Open space strategies and initiating
actions

Governance and planning policies

OBJECTIVE 1: To establish an integrated and consistent open space policy and planning framework for Tasmania.	
Policy 1: The Tasmanian open space planning framework will provide a strategic, 'whole-of-government' approach to open space planning and provision in Tasmania.	
Planning and governance strategies	Initiating action
1.1 Adopt a Tasmanian government open space policy and planning framework – vision statement, objectives, policies and recommended strategies.	Draft policy framework to follow due governance processes for approval consideration.
1.2 Ensure that the open space policy and planning framework is recognised and integrated with other related areas of State policies including (but not limited to) community health, transport, environmental management, social inclusion, education and community services.	All relevant government agencies would be requested to consider how the policy integrates with current strategic and operational programs, once the policy is endorsed.
1.3 Review existing mechanisms for cross-government partnerships, sharing of information and collaboration in the implementation of the open space policy and planning framework.	This would be one of the outcomes resulting from implementation of strategy 1.2
1.4 Ensure that future government policies, strategies and plans (e.g. transport, health, sport and recreation) are consistent with achieving the open space policy.	This would be one of the outcomes resulting from implementation of strategy 1.2
1.5 Revise the processes for managing crown land lease arrangements in relation to the open space policy and planning framework.	This would be one of the outcomes resulting from implementation of strategy 1.2
1.6 Investigate the opportunities under the provisions of the <i>Civil Liability Act 2002</i> or through amendments to the Act that will allow for better management of public liability risk issues across Tasmania's open space system.	This would be one of the outcomes resulting from implementation of strategy 1.2
Policy 2 : The Tasmanian open space planning framework will incorporate open space policy guidance to aid integrated state, regional and local planning.	
Planning and governance strategies	Initiating action
2.1 Ensure the policies within regional and metropolitan planning frameworks are consistent with the open space policy and planning framework.	Support the integration of the policy framework within the three regional planning strategy plans under preparation.
2.2 Ensure that new planning schemes are consistent with achieving the draft open space policy and planning framework.	Ensure the proposed standard or common elements in preparation for planning schemes are consistent with achieving the open space policy framework.
2.3 Support the preparation and implementation of regional open space strategy plans.	Support the preparation and revision of regional open space plans consistent with the outcomes of the regional planning strategy plans

Policy 2 : The Tasmanian open space planning framework will incorporate open space policy guidance to aid integrated state, regional and local planning.	
Planning and governance strategies	Initiating actions
2.4 Support local councils in the preparation of municipal open space strategy plans and the preparation of plans (e.g. management plans and master plans) for the overall open space system or selected open space areas.	Encourage councils to increase resources for open space planning and give priority in funding support where open space priorities have been identified and assessed through strategic planning processes.
2.5 Develop an information bank of relevant research to assist open space planning and information sharing.	Identify a suitable information base for information regarding open space planning e.g. Sport and Recreation Tasmania, LGAT
2.6 Facilitate good liaison processes with developers to achieve beneficial open space outcomes (i.e. social, economic and environmental) for the community.	Continue to promote the benefits of greater liaison between council staff and developers.
2.7 Foster internal management processes within organisations that will allow greater capacity for working together towards achieving the open space policy.	Review existing internal processes with respect to the open space policy framework.
2.8 Foster the preparation of precinct structure plans or local development plans that will help guide the use and development of land including the provisions, development and management for future open space.	Identify power for such plans to be prepared within planning schemes and/or promote as example of best practice planning.
2.9 Review current legislation provisions relating to open space to ensure consistency of purpose in relation to the draft open space policy including processes for acquisition and disposal of open space.	Seek LGAT support for the review of current legislation to provide better governance for managing future use options for open space.
2.10 Develop improved open space provision guidelines that relate to stratum developments and ongoing requirement for maintenance requirements.	Seek LGAT support for the review and development of guidelines.
Land management strategies	Initiating actions
2.11 Support land managers in the preparation of management plans for major open space areas within the State.	Increase the budget allocations to allow for the preparation of management plans based on priority needs across the State.
2.12 Encourage open space to be included within asset management plans.	Review the current scope of asset management plans and capacity to include open space areas in future upgrading of the plans.
Training and education strategies	Initiating actions
2.13 Support training and skill development in open space planning and management.	Support opportunities for skill development including any LGAT programs related to open space planning.

Policy 3: The Tasmanian open space planning framework will foster consistency in the adoption of planning tools and processes to support effective open space planning.

Planning and governance strategies	Initiating action
3.1 Develop a common open space hierarchy and classification system that can be applied across the State.	Review of the draft open space hierarchy and classification system set out in Section 3 of this report.
3.2 Develop a consistent approach to the application of zones covering open space within planning schemes.	Review recommendations set out in Section 3 of this report.
3.3 Develop guidelines for improving the assessment of open space needs in relation to 5% developer contributions under the <i>Local Government Act</i> .	Review recommendations set out in Section 3 of this report.
3.4 Consider the merits of reviewing other state planning legislation that would allow council to prepare and operate developer contribution plans for the provision, use, management and maintenance of open space.	LGAT to review merits of introducing legislation to allow councils to operate developer contribution plans for open space (and recreation services).
3.5 Develop guidelines for achieving a more consistent and effective approach to open space planning processes.	Review recommendations set out in Section 3 of this report.

Environmental sustainability policies

OBJECTIVE 2: To have the capacity to manage an open space system that contributes to environmental sustainability	
Policy 1. The Tasmanian open space system will protect and enhance ecological processes, biodiversity conservation and environmental services.	
Land management strategies	Initiating action
1.1. Ensure that the environmental values of open space areas are understood, including the presence and location of rare, threatened or endangered communities and species are documented, and that management actions respond directly to these values.	Undertake environmental assessments (including consideration of environmental services requirements), or compile existing information for all open space areas (note: some small parcels such as urban parks may not require such extensive research).
1.2. Ensure that the level of use, extent of development and intended user groups are consistent with the environmental values of the open space area.	Undertake environmental impact assessments to determine user-related impacts. This may be complimented by use data (e.g. installation of visitor counters to determine visitor numbers).
1.3. The management and maintenance of open space will be based on 'environmental best-practice', including minimal resource input (e.g. water and energy usage), and minimal impact on environmental services (e.g. water quality, storm water drainage).	Undertake water and energy audits for larger and/or more highly developed open space areas, to provide baseline data, and allow reduction targets to be formulated.
1.4. Ensure that open space use does not impinge upon environmental management practices required to maintain biodiversity values, including environmental burns, weed management programs etc.	Prepare environmental management plans for open space areas with a strong natural ecosystem values, or other special management requirements, including timing.
1.5. Explore the opportunities for the open space system to contribute to biodiversity conservation (e.g. linking 'green corridors', minimising habitat fragmentation, revegetation and weed management projects).	Use the open space inventory and spatial information to determine opportunities for linking 'natural' open space areas via 'green corridors'. This may include opportunities to rehabilitate riparian corridors that also provide non-motorised trail linkages.
Policy 2. The Tasmanian open space system will protect and enhance cultural heritage, local character and aesthetic values.	
Land management strategies	Initiating action
2.1. Ensure that the level of use, extent of development and intended user groups are consistent with the cultural heritage values of the open space.	Undertake cultural heritage assessments, or compile existing information for all open space areas.

Policy 2. The Tasmanian open space system will protect and enhance cultural heritage, local character and aesthetic values.	
2.2. Recognise the aesthetic value that open spaces can have (e.g. riparian reserves, forested skylines), and the contribution to a local landscape, as a significant value in addition to recreation, environmental and other values.	Integrate visual analysis as a component of open space planning and management. Visual analysis should consider the impact of land use activities (e.g. timber harvesting) on the visual values of an open space area or broader landscape, as well as the potential impact of facility and amenity development within open spaces.
2.3. Explore the opportunities for the interpretation of open space, as a means of communicating the cultural heritage, as well as environmental values.	Prepare thematic interpretation strategies for open space areas with particular natural, cultural, and/or social values or associations, outlining a range of mediums to communicate the identified themes or stories, where appropriate.
Design strategies	Initiating actions
2.4. Ensure that the design and development of open space is appropriate to the local character of the area, including the density and extent of development, type of facilities provided, and materials used.	Ensure open space zones allow consideration and respect for the intents and provisions of surrounding zones detailed in the Planning Scheme regarding the location, design and type of facilities intended to be provided within a given open space area.
Policy 3. The Tasmanian open space system will contribute directly and indirectly to climate change mitigation and adaptation.	
Planning and governance Strategies	Initiating actions
3.1. Incorporate climate change research and 'best practice' into open space planning, including strategies and actions that are intended to mitigate the predicted impacts of climate change (e.g. retention of native vegetation for carbon storage, minimising emissions, and regulating local climate), and those that are aimed at impact adaptation (e.g. the role of foreshore 'buffers' to sea level rise and storm surge).	Incorporate relevant actions of the Tasmanian Framework for Action on Climate Change and other relevant state and national policies and strategies into open space planning at levels of governance.
3.2. Ensure that the Tasmanian open space system has the capacity to respond and adapt to environmental changes brought about by climate change.	Ensure that open space assets are planned and designed to accommodate the predicted direct impacts of climate change, in particular sea level rise and storm surge. This may include strategic location of facilities, amenities and other support infrastructure away from high-risk areas, to avoid expensive remediation works. Consider the role that green corridors may play in the species adaptation to climate change (e.g. minimising habitat fragmentation to facilitate migration to more suitable habitats).

Policy 4: The Tasmanian open space system will facilitate non-motorised transport (or 'active') transport, minimising emissions, and lowering Tasmania's carbon footprint.	
Planning and governance strategies	Initiating action
4.1. Incorporate 'active', or 'sustainable' transport policy, strategies and guidelines into open space planning at all levels of government.	<p>Incorporate the key priority areas outlined in the <i>Tasmanian Walking and Cycling for Active Transport Strategy</i>, prepared by the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources, in particular those relating to "supportive land use systems that encourage walking and cycling", and "improved policy and planning that ensures that walking and cycling needs are considered".</p> <p>Ensure that open space planning and development is consistent with local transport and trail plans, and responds to the observations and recommendations in key documents such as the <i>Trails Tasmania Strategy</i>, and <i>Healthy By Design</i>.</p>
4.2. Ensure that the open space system is connected by a network of off-road transport routes, and trails facilitating non-motorised transport.	Identify linear open space areas, including riparian reserves, green corridors, and other linkages that can be developed or upgraded to provide non-motorised connections between open space areas, and between open spaces and surrounding residential and other community destinations. This action should be implemented at both regional and local levels.
Design strategies	Initiating actions
4.3. Further facilitate the non-motorised transport opportunities associated with open spaces through the installation of quality support facilities (e.g. end of trip facilities such as showers and toilets), including bike racks and lockers, safe road crossings and signage.	Identify priorities for new or upgraded support facilities for non-motorised transport routes and trails, which will improve safety, environmental management, and the quality of experience for users. The types and capacity of support facilities will also be guided by the open space classification and hierarchy system.
Policy 5: The Tasmanian open space system will be managed in a cooperative way, with the various land managers and the community working in partnership to achieve environmentally sustainable outcomes.	
Planning and governance strategies	Initiating action
5.1. Implement a consistent approach to the environmental management of our open space system across all levels of government.	Seek agreement on, and endorse, the Tasmanian Open Space Policy and Planning Framework, including the proposed suite of consistent planning tools.
5.2. Develop a state open space system that responds to the capacity of the government and the community to manage sustainably.	Implement the proposed hierarchy and classification combined with needs analysis, to determine priorities for planning, development and management across all governance levels.

Policy 5: The Tasmanian open space system will be managed in a cooperative way, with the various land managers and the community working in partnership to achieve environmentally sustainable outcomes.

Land management strategies	Initiating actions
<p>5.3. Develop partnerships with local environmental groups to aid in the management and maintenance of open space areas.</p>	<p>Support volunteerism through consistent approaches to public liability insurance, clear and practical agreements, outlining the responsibilities of the parties involved (e.g. through MOU's), skill development and funding.</p> <p>The Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service and Forestry Tasmania have good working volunteer involvement models that could be broadened and adopted by local government.</p>
<p>5.4. Encourage knowledge-sharing between the various land managers, including specialists, to facilitate 'best practice' and innovative environmental planning, design and management practices.</p>	<p>Consider the development of an open space working group (e.g. key agencies, local government and stakeholders, meeting twice a year).</p>

Livability and social inclusion policies

OBJECTIVE 3: To support an open space system that contributes to social inclusion, community connectivity and community health and well-being	
Policy 1: The Tasmanian open space system will be developed in collaboration with the Tasmanian community, and be based on demonstrated need.	
Planning and governance Strategies	Initiating action
1.1. Integrate livability and social inclusion principles into Regional Land Use Frameworks, planning schemes and relevant documents.	Endorse the Tasmanian Open Space Policy, with it's broad focus on livability, social inclusion and equality. Directly address 'livability' and social inclusion definitions, principles and guidelines into both statutory and non-statutory documents, including the Regional Land Use Frameworks, planning schemes, policies and guidelines, with an aim to give these ideals and principles greater 'weight' at all levels of governance.
1.2. Ensure that open space is equitably distributed, with a consistent level of quality, facilitating social inclusion and community pride.	Undertake in-depth needs assessment, including preparation of open space audits and mapping, socio-economic and demographic analysis, as well as community consultation, to aid in determining equality in open space distribution of provision. Equitable cost of access and use of open spaces should also be considered.
1.3. Be flexible in order to adapt to changing community needs and user group profiles.	Minimise overall development of open space, to provide flexibility of use and retrofitting. Minimise the development of specific facilities/infrastructure to suit a single user group where possible, allowing easier future retrofitting.
Policy 2: The Tasmanian open space system will facilitate community health and well-being, including physical activity through good design, linkages, and quality facilities.	
Planning and governance strategies	Initiating actions
2.1. Endorse and implement 'livability' and physical activity guidelines, including the <i>Premier's Physical Activity Plan</i> , and <i>Healthy By Design</i> .	Incorporate the principles and actions outlined in state 'livability' guidelines and documents, such as <i>A Social Inclusion Strategy for Tasmania and Healthy By Design</i> , <i>Trails Tasmania Strategy</i> , and the <i>Premiers Physical Activity Plan</i> , among others, into land use and community development planning and management processes.
Design	Initiating actions
2.2. Accommodate multiple-use where possible, including shared-trails, to cater for a range of compatible user groups, and consolidating resource input.	Ensure that shared use is considered in the planning of all open space assets, this includes consideration of the types and design of facilities as well as management and programming requirements to accommodate multiple user groups. Avoid developing open spaces for a single purpose or specific user group where possible. The need for single-use facilities in some situations should be acknowledged, particularly where safety issues may result from shared use.

Policy 2: The Tasmanian open space system will facilitate community health and well-being, including physical activity through good design, linkages, and quality facilities.	
Design	Initiating actions
2.3. Provide opportunities for rest, relaxation, and other non-active (or passive recreational) pursuits, which connect people with their natural environments.	Use the open space audit and classification system, in addition to local community consultation, to identify the need for improved or additional opportunities for passive recreation. Facilitate passive recreation through quality and safe design (e.g. creation of quiet and private spaces in gardens parks or natural areas, with seating, shelters etc, appropriate landscaping, and separation from more active pursuits).
2.4. Discourage anti-social behaviour through design, passive surveillance and increased visitation.	Encourage the adoption of the principles of 'Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)' ¹ , and prepare CPTED guidelines for the state. Implement the relevant principles, objectives and actions of the Healthy By Design Guidelines (e.g. 'Safety and Security').
Policy 3: The Tasmanian open space system will be accessible and well-connected.	
Planning and governance strategies	Initiating actions
3.1. Develop an open space system that is well-connected to residential areas and other community destinations by a network of trails and public transport routes.	Implement the Tasmanian Walking and Cycling for Active Transport Strategy Prepare regional and local trails plans, including mapping of the open space system and non-motorised transport network.
Policy 4: The Tasmanian open space system will be equitable, and incorporate enhanced opportunities for people with mobility impairment or disability.	
Design strategies	Initiating actions
4.1. Provide enhanced opportunities for people with mobility impairment or disability to access and experience open spaces.	Implement Universal Access Standards within open spaces where appropriate, with particular consideration given to natural areas, where access has been limited in the past.

¹ See <http://www.cpted.net/>

OBJECTIVE 4: To manage an open space system that contributes to the Tasmanian Economy.	
Policy 1 : The Tasmanian open space system will be planned, developed and managed with consideration given to delivering a potential a range of economic benefits to the Tasmanian community.	
Planning and governance Strategies	Initiating action
1.1 Support ongoing research into the broader economic benefits of open space to the Tasmanian economy.	Review recent research into the value of sport and recreation to the Tasmanian economy, commissioned by Sport and Recreation Tasmania in the document The Value of Sport and Physical Recreation to Tasmania.
1.2 Recognise the potential for open space to be an essential preventative component of improving public health and reducing health costs to the community.	Support the Menzies Research Institute Tasmania and other health organisations to continue research into the beneficial links between health and use of open space/parks/natural areas.
1.3 Recognise the potential for open space to support affordable housing outcomes and contribute to the economic value of livable areas.	Ensure open space values (social, economic and environmental) are considered in planning for affordable housing.
1.4 Recognise the potential for open space to contribute towards carbon offset schemes.	Identify existing offset schemes and the potential to establish/add new open space contributions that contribute resources towards open space management.
1.5 Raise greater community awareness regarding the wide ranging benefits of open space.	Extend public communication to support/increase the budgets of agencies so as to achieve more effective management and maintenance of these assets.
Policy 2 : The Tasmanian open space system will improve Tasmania's competitiveness as a destination for visitors to access and enjoy the diverse open space values.	
Marketing and promotion strategies	Initiating action
2.1 Market and promote the distinctiveness of Tasmania's open space system as part of the Tasmanian visitor experience.	Support Tourism Tasmania and the Tasmanian tourism industry in marketing and promotional tourism linked to sustainably managed open spaces.
2.2 Recognise the potential of open spaces to support events.	Event organisers continue to assess the opportunities for utilizing open space areas to host events, festivals and community programs consistent with achieving sustainably managed open spaces.

Policy 2 : The Tasmanian open space system will improve Tasmania's competitiveness as a destination for visitors to access and enjoy the diverse open space values.	
Marketing and Promotion Strategies	Initiating Action
2.3 Improve access to information about Tasmania's open space system to residents and visitors including publications, websites, promotions, guidebooks, better mapping, signage, media etc.	Review the scope to better inform residents and visitors of the accessible and diverse open space system through existing communication tools and in particular access via electronic media.
2.4 Monitor visitor feedback about the quality of experience given the overall condition, facilities, services and management of the open space system.	Review and respond to visitor feedback through the Tasmanian Visitor Surveys, customer surveys and industry feedback concerning access, use and enjoyment of the existing open space system.
Policy 3 : The Tasmanian open space planning framework will support greater public and private investment in appropriate infrastructure and services that benefit access, use and management of Tasmania's open space system.	
Design Strategies	Initiating Action
3.1 Support appropriate product development and provision of facilities within open space areas that are sustainable and will service the needs of visitors and the community.	Ensure that development approval processes consider the potential for new development to support access to open space areas and mitigate any impact on open space values.
Land Management Strategies	Initiating Actions
3.2 Explore the opportunities for users to contribute towards the ongoing commitment for sustainable management of the open space areas and facilities being used.	Identify opportunities for developing greater user contribution to achieve sustainable outcomes, develop the business case and engage with the stakeholders to consider options for how this may be introduced and the benefits to users and managers.
3.3 Foster and support the potential for contributions from commercial users of the open space system to assist with sustainable management of the open space areas and facilities being used.	Consider the various mechanisms by which this may be undertaken in use of open space areas including requirements on permits, leases, seeking customer contributions and operator licences for sustainable management.
3.4 Investigate the capacity for building greater volunteer involvement and support, including community trails partnerships.	Continue the current efforts and programs to support and build volunteer partnerships with open space managers.

Tasmanian Open Space Policy and Planning Framework

About this document:

The Tasmanian Open Space Policy and Planning Framework is made up of three documents:

- Tasmanian Open Space Policy and Planning Framework: **Summary**
- Tasmanian Open Space Policy and Planning Framework: **Main Report**
- Tasmanian Open Space Policy and Planning Framework: **Attachments**

The Tasmanian Open Space Policy and Planning Framework was prepared by Inspiring Place Pty Ltd with HM Leisure Planning Pty Ltd.

A copy of this document can be downloaded from the Sport and Recreation Tasmania website:
www.sportandrecreation.tas.gov.au

Published December 2010

© 2010 The Crown in right of Tasmania, represented by Sport and Recreation Tasmania.

All rights reserved.



Sport and Recreation Tasmania

phone: 1800 252 476

email: sportrec@development.tas.gov.au

web: www.sportandrecreation.tas.gov.au