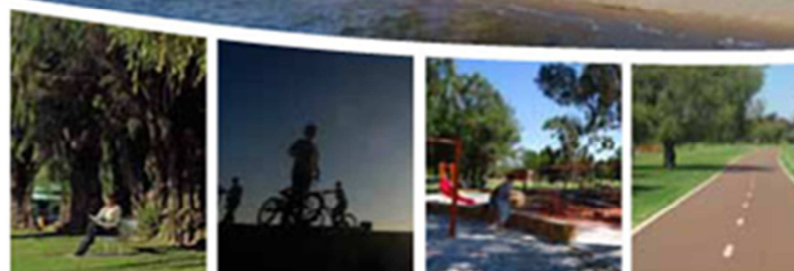


# Public Open Space

## City of South Perth Open Space Research: **Executive Summary**



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Public Open Space (POS) Strategy for the City has been prepared to:

- Understand the evolution, character and challenges facing the provision and management of POS in South Perth.
- Identify the ways the South Perth community is using POS in the City.
- Identify the values that the South Perth community attach to their POS system.
- Assess the contribution of existing POS reserves in meeting the challenge of building a sustainable future in which POS provides a range of recreational and social opportunities, which is readily accessible and enhances the natural and cultural resources of the City.
- Prepare a range of recommendations to guide the future design, development and management of the reserves that form the POS system in South Perth.

To achieve these objectives two reports have been prepared for the City:

1. *Public Open Space Issues and Challenges* - identifying the history of open space provision and recreation development in South Perth, as well as key challenges impacting open spaces in the future.
2. *Public Open Space Strategy* - evaluating POS within the City and presenting recommendations to guide the future development and management of individual parks and reserves within the City. This report also includes appendices documenting: 1) the results of an observation survey of the parks and reserves within the City; and, 2) a household survey investigating the recreation characteristics of South Perth households and their use and assessments of the reserve system.

The key findings for each report are presented below.

### *Public Open Space Issues and Challenges*

- The City has a long history of providing open space for recreation purposes through different approaches. This has produced a diverse and complex range of public open spaces.
- There are significant environmental challenges facing POS in response to changing climate scenarios including the requirement for water conservation, the need to protect biodiversity and the impact of recreational use on land and water degradation.

- The South Perth community structure has changed significantly over the last thirty years with increasing housing density (apartments, town houses etc.) attracting different age groups with a variety of recreational needs. This process is forecast to continue in the future.
- The importance of POS in improving the community health and well-being.
- The increasing population and higher density housing outcomes will place pressure on the City's open space resources.
- The importance of recreation areas as a building block for community formation and identity.
- POS management costs are increasing, particularly the cost of managing reticulated turf.
- Revenue received from the use POS is limited and largely static.
- Joint development and management initiatives between the City and other public and private agencies are important in developing future POS plans.

### *Observation Survey*

The observation survey was conducted during December 2011 and January 2012. Its key findings were:

- The high number of cyclists – both commuter and recreational – transiting through the City.
- Weekday park use peaking in the early morning and late afternoon.
- Most consistent users of parks were walkers, cyclists, dog walkers and joggers.
- The most intense users of parks were sporting teams either training or competing.
- Reserve use peaked at weekends particularly the use of sporting fields.
- Small parks and reserves attracted little to no observable use.
- Private and public events organised in reserves lead to the intense use of reserves over a short period of time.
- Those reserves with the greatest range of facilities attracted the greatest range of users.
- Many people come to parks (particularly the larger well used parks) just to 'sit and enjoy the view'.
- Playgrounds attracted use at various times of the day often in association with other activities, e.g., social gathering or sport events.
- Many recreation activities take place on parks that are not 'fit for purpose', e.g., passive use of active reserves.

### *Household Survey*

The household survey was conducted in January and February 2012. Its key findings were:

- Walking, dog walking and cycling are the main recreation activities undertaken by residents in their immediate local areas.
- Walking, visiting a playground, cycling and dog walking are the more frequently performed activities outside of where a resident lives.
- Active sports (team and individual) are an important recreation pursuit but this activity is more likely to occur outside of the area where a person lives.
- Most residents walk or bike to activities undertaken in their local area.
- The majority of residents are either very satisfied or satisfied with the parks provided by the City of South Perth.
- The parks attracting most positive comment were: Sir James Mitchell, Neil McDougall, George Burnett, South Perth Esplanade, Ernst Johnson Oval, Bodkin Park and Sandon Park.

### *POS Strategy*

Each park in the city was individually assessed. The most common key findings were:

- High level of investment in reserve infrastructure.
- Overuse of flat reticulated turf as a landscape form.
- High level of maintenance.
- Lack of fit between the characteristics of the catchment population and the facilities provided within parks and reserves.
- High quality of sporting facilities to support South Perth based clubs.
- Lack of recreation and landscape variety.
- Limited biodiversity and use of native plantings.
- Lack of tree planting and shade.
- Need for greater seating.
- Need to plan for future changing housing/population structure.
- Lack of paths through and around reserves.
- Good relationships with State agencies producing a range of joint initiatives.
- General satisfaction with the quality of the reserve system.

Broad recommendations were prepared for individual parks. Common key recommendations were:

- Reduce the amount of reticulated turf.
- Increase the amount of native planting.
- Zone planting for differential watering requirements.
- Improve access within reserves.
- Increase tree planting.
- Encourage more mixed use of reserves.
- Investigate the potential for revenue raising possibilities.
- Need to plan for forecast future housing and population characteristics.

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## APPENDIX 1: PUBLIC OPEN SPACE CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

There are a wide range of parks and reserves within the City that fulfil a range of different functions and accommodate different uses and activities. The city's parks have been categorised into a classification framework based on a classification system developed by the State Government (WA Govt, 2009) that identifies the differential roles of different types of park in meeting the needs of the local and wider community. This classification forms a background against which judgements can be made about their ability to meet the future needs of the City as well as its contribution to wider metropolitan populations. The classification is as follows:

### Reserve Classifications

#### Regional Reserves

*Regional reserves are those areas of publicly owned and managed land whose primary purposes are to protect and enhance their valued natural environment and encourage passive recreation and enjoyment. The reserves are considered of regional significance because of their important contribution to the metropolitan region's sense of place and their attraction of users from throughout the region.*

#### District Reserves

*District reserves are those areas of publicly owned and managed land whose primary purpose is to accommodate formal sport, other forms of recreation and to protect/enhance their valued natural environment. The reserves are considered of district significance because of their attraction to a wide range of users from a range of surrounding suburbs.*

#### Neighbourhood Reserves

*Neighbourhood reserves are those areas of publically owned and managed land whose primary purpose is to meet the recreational needs of the immediate local suburb and to develop/enhance the local 'sense of place'.*

### **Local Reserves**

*Local reserves are those areas of publically owned and managed land whose primary purpose is to meet the recreational needs of the surrounding residential population and to develop/enhance the local sense of place.*

Under this classification system a series of characteristics are attached to each category of reserve and these are reproduced on the next pages.

While such categories and recommendations are most commonly used in developing a new pattern of recreation provision in newly developing suburban areas they are also useful in providing a guide to facility provision in established suburban areas that have been the subject of the vagaries of historic open space provision and development that often bears no relationship to contemporary standards.



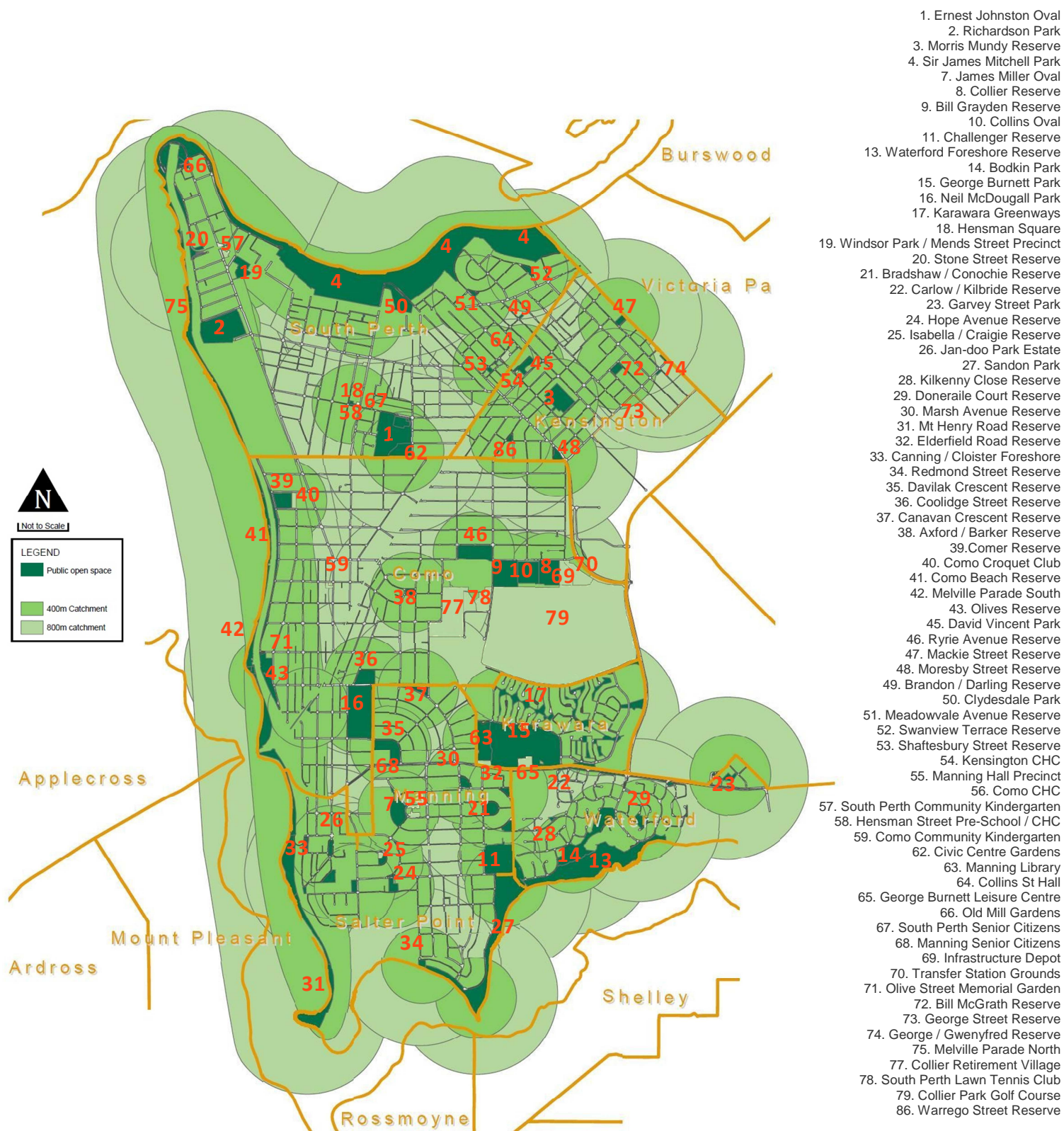
Classification	Size	Catchment	Location	Timing of use	Facilities
Local	0.2 – 1ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 400m</li> <li>• 5 minute walk</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 minute walk to local residents</li> <li>• Good, safe walk/cycle access</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Predominantly day time, to early evening (daytime hours &amp; light)</li> <li>• Does not require lighting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited on-street parking, with service level access provided</li> <li>• Possible playground equipment (based on catchment demographics)</li> <li>• Informal play and recreation areas</li> <li>• Areas for dog walking under control</li> <li>• Natural shade and tree cover</li> <li>• Possible reticulated turf (with hydro-zoning)</li> <li>• Possible bin and seats</li> <li>• Footpaths</li> <li>• Signage</li> </ul>
Neighbourhood	1-5ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 800m</li> <li>• 10 minute walk</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Central to surrounding neighbourhood.</li> <li>• Access to good, safe walk/cycle paths.</li> <li>• Good passive surveillance.</li> <li>• Build on natural elements.</li> <li>• Sense of place.</li> <li>• Simultaneous use.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Day to late evening</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As above as well as:</li> <li>• formalised verge parking where necessary</li> <li>• Community play equipment (based on catchment demographics)</li> <li>• Shelter structures</li> <li>• Irrigated lawn (incorporating hydro zoning)</li> <li>• Seating facilities</li> <li>• Drinking fountains</li> <li>• Picnic areas with barbecues and washing facilities</li> <li>• Small public toilet facilities</li> <li>• Small-scale hardstand multi-use court such as basketball/tennis</li> <li>• Lighting for limited evening use — safety and security only (e.g. barbecues)</li> <li>• Bus stop location desirable</li> <li>• Bicycle racks</li> <li>• Power supply access</li> </ul>
District	5-20ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2km</li> <li>• 5 minute drive</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Central to catchment</li> <li>• District distributor roads</li> <li>• Good passive surveillance</li> <li>• Public transport networks</li> <li>• Co-location of community facilities to create 'hub' feel</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Day to late evening</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On and off-street parking including associated public vehicle entry/s, with provision for service vehicles</li> <li>• Play equipment, appropriate to the size and location of the Reserve. The number and type of playgrounds will depend on the layout of the public open space and location of other play facilities in close proximity</li> <li>• Formal sport and recreation activities</li> <li>• Multi-purpose clubroom facility/s with outdoor open social areas, community areas, storage areas, informal spectator viewing facilities (where appropriate)</li> <li>• Sports field lighting</li> <li>• Informal active recreation facilities (multi-use courts etc.)</li> <li>• Informal play and recreation areas</li> <li>• Areas for dog walking under control and possible canine facilities</li> <li>• Natural shade and tree cover</li> <li>• Formal shelter structures</li> <li>• Reticulated turf accommodating hydro-zoning</li> </ul>

Classification	Size	Catchment	Location	Timing of use	Facilities
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waste facilities</li> <li>• Benches and seats etc.</li> <li>• Drinking fountains</li> <li>• Picnic areas with barbecues, shade structures, tables and washing facility/s.</li> <li>• Public toilet facilities</li> <li>• Safety and security lighting and possible ancillary features where required.</li> <li>• Path networks (informal trails, dual use paths, etc.)</li> <li>• Signage — directional and interpretive</li> <li>• Bicycle facilities (i.e. Racks)</li> <li>• Drainage, electrical, sewer and communication infrastructure</li> </ul>
Regional	20ha +	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most people drive, cycle or walk;</li> <li>• More than 1 geographic area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Major road and public transport networks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Day to late evening</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On-site and formal verge parking or on-street parking with restrictions</li> <li>• Internal roadways for service, building and car park access</li> <li>• Service access and compounds with lockable storage facilities</li> <li>• Regional play equipment - The number and type of playgrounds will depend on the layout of the POS and location of other play facilities within close proximity</li> <li>• Formal sport and recreation activities</li> <li>• Multi-purpose clubroom facilities with outdoor open social areas, community areas, storage areas, informal spectator viewing facilities etc</li> <li>• Sports field lighting</li> <li>• Informal active facilities (full court, multi-use court facilities etc.)</li> <li>• Informal play and relaxation areas</li> <li>• Areas for dog walking under control and possible canine facilities</li> <li>• Natural shade and tree cover</li> <li>• Formal shelter structures and or pavilions or varying sizes to cater for group functions and social activities</li> <li>• Reticulated turf, accommodating hydro-zoning</li> <li>• Waste facilities and possible compound for clubs/groups</li> <li>• Benches, seats, and other park furniture etc.</li> <li>• Drinking fountains</li> <li>• Several picnic areas with barbecues, picnic tables and washing facilities</li> <li>• Public toilet facilities distributed throughout the reserve servicing relevant nodes</li> <li>• Safety and security lighting and possible ancillary features where required.</li> <li>• Pedestrian and cycle path networks</li> <li>• Signage — directional, interpretive and informational (e.g. conservation points)</li> <li>• Bicycle facilities (i.e. racks)</li> <li>• Possible event infrastructure</li> <li>• Drainage, electrical, sewer and communication infrastructure</li> </ul>

## APPENDIX 2: CATEGORISATION OF SOUTH PERTH PARKS

Regional Reserve	District Reserve	Neighbourhood Reserve	Local Reserve	Small Local Reserve
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Milyu Nature Reserve (DEC Managed)</li> <li>• Mt Henry Reserve</li> <li>• Canning River Foreshore Reserve</li> <li>• Andrew Thompson Reserve</li> <li>• Sandon Park</li> <li>• Sir James Mitchell Park (incorporating South Perth Esplanade &amp; Clydesdale Park)</li> <li>• Collier Park Golf Course</li> <li>• Royal Perth Golf Course (leased)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Windsor Park</li> <li>• James Miller Oval</li> <li>• Richardson Park</li> <li>• Morris Mundy Reserve</li> <li>• Ernest Johnson Oval (incorporating Hensman Reserve and Sandgate Reserve)</li> <li>• Collier Reserve, Collins Oval (leased) and Bill Grayden Reserve</li> <li>• Challenger Reserve</li> <li>• Neil McDougall Park</li> <li>• George Burnett Park</li> <li>• South Perth Lawn Tennis Club (leased)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comer Reserve</li> <li>• Karawara Greenways</li> <li>• Como Beach Reserve</li> <li>• Bodkin Park</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• David Vincent Reserve</li> <li>• Bill McGrath Reserve</li> <li>• Mackie Street Reserve</li> <li>• Ryrie Avenue Reserve</li> <li>• Bradshaw / Conochie Reserve</li> <li>• Carlow / Kilbride Reserve</li> <li>• Garvey Street Park</li> <li>• Hope Avenue Reserve</li> <li>• Isabella / Craigie Reserve</li> <li>• Marsh Avenue Reserve</li> <li>• Jan-Doo Park</li> <li>• Mt Henry Road Reserve</li> <li>• Davilak Reserve</li> <li>• Coolidge Street Reserve</li> <li>• Axford / Barker Reserve</li> <li>• Canavan Crescent Reserve</li> <li>• Olives Reserve</li> <li>• Moresby Street Reserve</li> <li>• Swanview Terrace Reserve</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Warrego Street Reserve</li> <li>• Hensman Square</li> <li>• Meadowvale Avenue Reserve</li> <li>• Shaftesbury Street Reserve</li> <li>• Brandon / Darling Reserve</li> <li>• George / Gwenyfred Reserve</li> <li>• George Street Reserve (near Berwick)</li> </ul>

# City of South Perth Public Open Space: Executive Summary



## APPENDIX 4: DISTRIBUTION OF OPEN SPACE WITHIN SOUTH PERTH SUBURBS

Suburb/Area	Open Space Name	Area m <sup>2</sup>	% POS
Salter Point 1870000 m <sup>2</sup>	Mt Henry Rd Reserve	4645	
	Mt Henry Reserve (Cloisters)	36717	
	Mt Henry Reserve (Spit)	39739	
	Mt Henry Reserve (Infill)	16166	
	Jan-Doo Park	3104	
	Hogg Avenue Bushland	7942	
	Sandon Park and Triangle	180097	
<b>Total</b>		<b>288411</b>	<b>15.4%</b>
Waterford 1500000 m <sup>2</sup>	Waterford Foreshore Reserve	142147	
	Bodkin Park	58983	
	Kilkenny Close Reserve	1435	
	Doneraile Court Reserve	8803	
	Carlow/Kilbride Reserve	765	
	Garvey St Reserve	5419	
<b>Total</b>		<b>217553</b>	<b>14.5%</b>
Karawarra 990000 m <sup>2</sup>	Karawarra Greenways	100754	
	George St Reserve	1908	
	Goss Ave Bushland	34790	
<b>Total</b>		<b>137451.95</b>	<b>13.9%</b>
South Perth 4910000m <sup>2</sup>	Old Mill Gardens	2967	
	Melville Pde North	8718	
	Stone St Reserve	6758	
	Western Foreshore (Groynes)	12947	
	Western Foreshore (Scouts)	1814	
	Western Foreshore (S. Canning)	22061	
	Western Foreshore (N. Canning)	30002	
	Western Foreshore (Scouts)	1422	
	Western Foreshore (Skinny)	17174	
	Western Foreshore (Palms)	7336	
	Windsor Park	21650	
	Richardson Park	65156	
	Milyu Nature Reserve	36096	
	Sir James Mitchell Park	638883	
	Clydesdale Park	23054	
	Olives Reserve	26221	
	Ernest Johnston Oval	59378	

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Suburb/Area	Open Space Name	Area m <sup>2</sup>	% POS
	Civic Centre Gardens	17518	
	Shaftesbury Street Reserve	3060	
	Meadowvale Ave Reserve	2231	
	Swanview Tce Reserve	3673	
<b>Total</b>		<b>1008120.2</b>	<b>20.5%</b>
Como 5980000 m <sup>2</sup>	Comer Reserve	17890	
	Melville Pde North	8718	
	Melville Pde South	19198	
	Western Foreshore (Como)	15089	
	Neil McDougall Park	91273	
	Collier Reserve	46784	
	Collins Oval	33934	
	Comer Reserve	17890	
	Bill Grayden Reserve	46784	
	Ryrie Ave Reserve	34425	
	Axford/Barker Reserve	3553	
	Coolidge St Reserve	17815	
<b>Total</b>		<b>353352</b>	<b>5.9%</b>
Manning 1650000 m <sup>2</sup>	Canavan Cres Reserve	6322	
	Davilak Crescent Reserve	24693	
	James Miller Oval	17595	
	Isabella/Craigie Reserve	3907	
	Challenger Reserve	79313	
	Bradshaw/Conochie Reserve	9333	
	Marsh Ave Reserve	4698	
	Elderfield Road Reserve	2289	
<b>Total</b>		<b>148150</b>	<b>9.0%</b>
Kensington 2020000 m <sup>2</sup>	David St Reserve	643	
	Moresby St Reserve	5308	
	David Vincent Park	6734	
	George St Reserve	1908	
	George/Gwenyfred Reserve	623	
	Mackie St Reserve	4225	
	Bill McGrath Reserve	4573	
<b>Total</b>		<b>24014.118</b>	<b>11.9%</b>