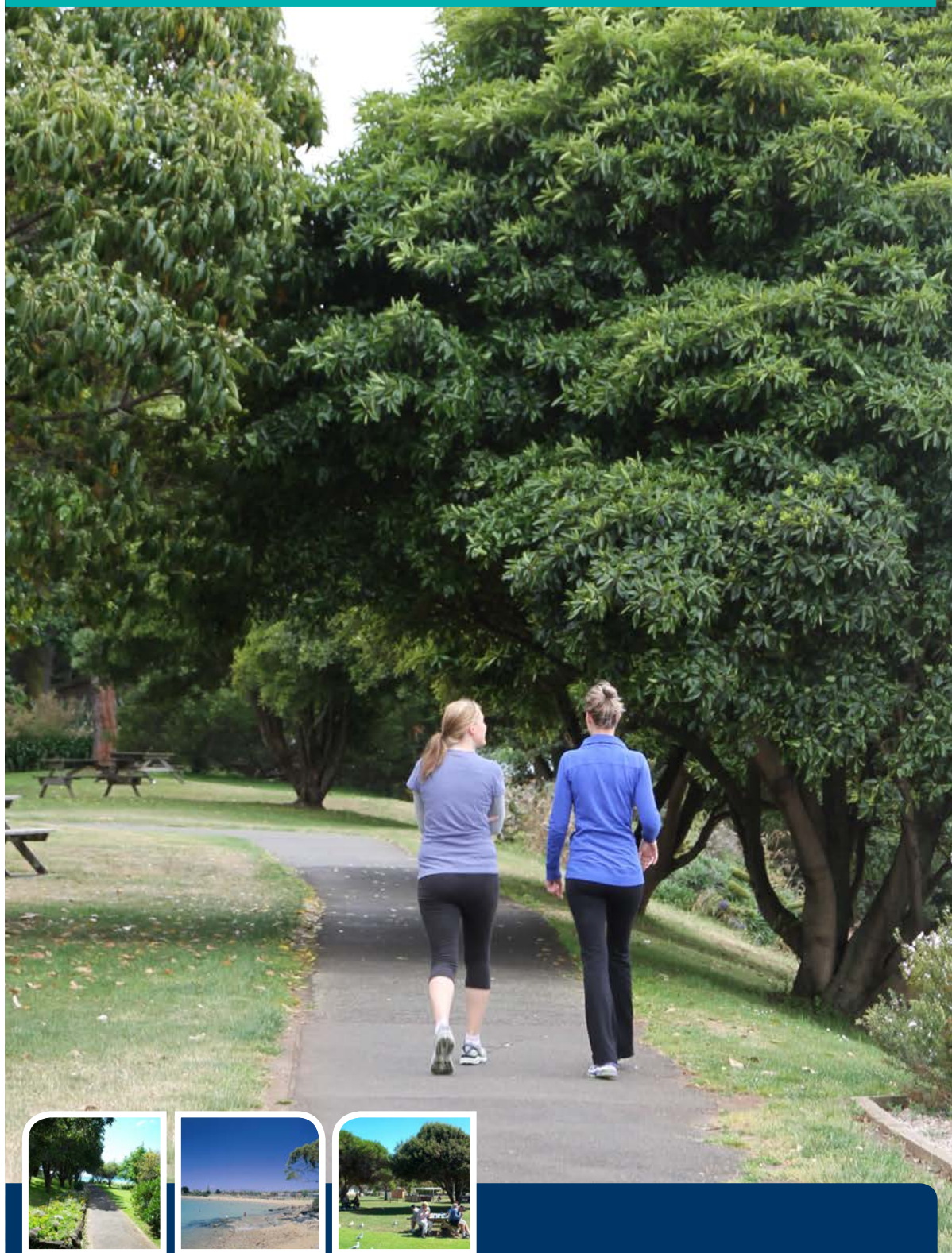




Open Space Strategy

CS TF CI 1 V2



The City with Spirit

Contents

1	INTRODUCTION	3
2	DEFINITIONS	3
3	PURPOSE	4
4	PRINCIPLES	4
5	POLICY	5
6	STRATEGIC ACTIONS	6
7	UPDATED PLANS	13
8	ACHIEVED OUTCOMES	13
9	PUBLIC OPEN SPACE DEVELOPMENT STANDARD - MATRIX	15
10	REFERENCES	16

Next Date of Review:

1 January 2015

Document Controller:

City Infrastructure Manager

Date Adopted by Council:



1. Introduction

This strategy is the “umbrella” document to provide a comprehensive framework for the provision, role, use, development, management and maintenance of public open spaces in the City of Devonport. It is linked to the “Guidelines for the Planning, Design & Construction of Public Open Space 2007” and the Public Open Space Service Level Document.

This strategy encompasses the acquisition, development and maintenance of the open space asset holding including sporting precincts. The financial framework within which the strategy is developed is the 10 year Financial Plan. It provides policy direction in conjunction with other strategic documents for more active recreational infrastructure, like the Recreation Strategy.

The achievement of policy directions must be considered in the context of Asset Management plans; affordable level of service of facilities; responsible environmental management; capacity of the community to establish and maintain. As the representative body for the community, Council will consider resource parameters in the annual budget process.

The implementation of an Open Space Strategy must be considered in combination with all such documents as it is impacted by those plans and the capacity of the community through Council to resource implementation against competing demands. Consequently, open space development requires strategic consideration to maximise the value of development contributions and operating expenses.

2. Definitions

The following definitions are provided to ensure consistency of language within the policy and strategy as there are nuances associated with terminology within legislation governing open space and public land.

‘playground’ is an area designed for children to play freely which is predominately equipment based. Equipment can include a swing set, slide, climber, monkey bars, etc.

‘play space’ is an area within public open space, designed for children to play freely which can be either equipment based or a modified landscape or a combination of the two. Landscaping can include a grassed mound, level grassed area for ball games, natural bushland, etc.

‘public open space’ or *‘open space’* is all parks, gardens, reserves, road reserves and other parcels of land owned and or managed by Council, which is accessible to the public and serves an open space purpose. This includes spaces provided for passive, active, formal and informal recreation as well as for conservation purposes.”

‘public land’ is specific to land gazetted as public open space in accordance with the Local Government Act section 177A and comprises those parcels of land identified on Council’s Public Land register.

‘Development property’ refers to areas of land owned by Council which are held for the primary purpose of assisting planned economic development within the municipality. These properties may serve a secondary function as open space with associated maintenance service levels.

‘hierarchy’ is determined by the geographical area being serviced; (i.e. catchment), level of use; and significance. The three levels of hierarchy are Neighbourhood, Sub-region and Region.



'neighbourhood public open space' or 'neighbourhood open space' is space which services an area contained within a 500 metre radius, generally with a population of up to 900 people or 200 - 300 households. It may contain facilities and/or features of neighbourhood natural or cultural significance. The minimum size of Neighbourhood public open space should be in the order of 0.5Ha. Existing Neighbourhood space is exempt of this criterion.

'sub region/al public open space' or 'sub region/al open space' is space which services an area contained within a radius of up to 2.5km, generally servicing a population of 4,500 people, or 1,000 households. Generally a cluster of neighbourhoods makes up a sub-region. It may contain facilities and/or features of sub-region natural or cultural significance. The minimum size of Sub-region public open space should be in the order of 1.5Ha. Existing Sub-region space is exempt of this criterion.

'region/al public open space' or 'region/al open space' is space which services an area including and beyond the municipal boundaries, generally servicing a population of 20,000 people, or more than 5,000 households. It may contain facilities and/or features of state, national, natural or cultural significance or host cultural or sporting events of regional interest. The minimum size of Region public open space should be in the order of 4.5Ha. Existing Region space is exempt of this criterion.

'master plan' is a document which guides the future direction of a particular parcel of open space which utilises existing strategies, policies, and service levels as a guide to its development. It allows for the strategic planning of capital and operational budgets. The master plan document may include the following sections: Acknowledgements, Aim, Vision, Technical Information, Pressures and Opportunities, Existing Conditions Analysis, Detailed Actions, a Works Action Plan, Conceptual Elevations, and Landscape Plan.

3. Purpose

To provide for the outdoor leisure needs of the community in balance with the enhancement of the fundamental environmental and cultural qualities of open space resources.

This will be achieved through the provision of appropriate maintenance, renewal and development of existing reserves and diversified recreational opportunities with the emphasis on encouraging increased use of existing open space resources rather than by adding new open space.

4. Principles

The following principles will underpin Devonport City Council's approach to open space strategy and policy:

- 4.1 **Connectivity:** the physical reference of one space to another space through tracks, roads, signs supporting a variety of transport options;
- 4.2 **Close proximity:** the distance from any residence to an open space that promotes health and well being outcomes at varying levels;
- 4.3 **Variety:** open spaces will provide a range of opportunities to engage passive and active recreation and nature engagement and conservation;
- 4.4 **Inclusion:** open spaces provide experiences for people of all abilities and backgrounds and opportunities for engagement in planning are provided;
- 4.5 **Biodiversity:** the network of open spaces contributes to the preservation of thriving communities of flora and fauna;
- 4.6 **Affordability:** the capacity of the community to financially develop and annually maintain open space assets;
- 4.7 **Governance conformance:** management practices are implemented.



5. Policy

Devonport City Council will deliver strategic Open Space objectives for the public by:

- 5.1 Providing open space equitably across the municipality;
- 5.2 Promoting open spaces within the municipality to increase patronage and awareness of open space based activity opportunities available for the City residents and visitors;
- 5.3 Ensuring Open spaces cater for the diversity of social, cultural, community development and physical and mental needs of the community;
- 5.4 Encouraging and or implementing environmental protection and improvement measures to sustainably support communities of flora and fauna;
- 5.5 Incorporating community engagement in the design, development and management of open spaces including play spaces;
- 5.6 Encouraging flexible use of existing open spaces;
- 5.7 Maintaining or enhancing access to a broad range of recreational opportunities and improving or reinforcing links to open spaces within and outside the City;
- 5.8 Providing adequate resources and best practice in asset management;
- 5.9 Provide a consistent approach in the design, development, and maintenance of open spaces across the municipality;
- 5.10 Managing expectations of the community with respect to duplication of services and or development of multiple facilities;
- 5.11 Developing supporting policies, procedures and practices to integrate principles of open space strategy.



6. Strategic Actions

The action plan contains the policy statements and describes the strategic actions that need to be taken to fulfil the identified objectives of the Devonport City Council Open Space Strategy.

The plan also ensures the identification of clear responsibilities for Council and staff, and specific timeframes for completing activities and identification of resources required.

Definitions;

Timeframes

OG Ongoing – day to day tasks which are budgeted for annually

ST Short Term – 1 to 2 years, MT Medium Term – 2 to 5 years, LT Long Term – 5 to 15 years

Resources required

A-OPEX -Annual Operational Expenditure – staffing or operational resource allocated as part of the annual plan

F-OPEX -Future Operational Expenditure – identified increased requirements for future consideration in annual allocation

F/A CAPEX –Future or 2013-14 Capital Expenditure – identified infrastructure requirements

An annual review of the action plan will be undertaken by the internal working group, as part of Councils annual planning. Allocation of resources to complete actions will be considered as part of Council annual budget deliberations.

CI = City Infrastructure, SC = Sustainable Communities, PL = Planning, F = Finance, MT&R = Marketing , Tourism & Recreation, OP = Operations Dept



Policy	Action	Resources	Responsibility	Time Frame
5.1	Providing open space equitably across the municipality.			
5.1.1	Review opportunities through the Planning scheme to increase open space provision in areas which have been identified as deficient and/or in areas where no suitable open space exists within a new development proposal. Where achievable, these spaces, in the case of a development, will be provided and developed at the cost of the developer and will consist of features which are consistent with the Guidelines for the Planning, Design & Construction of Public Open Space 2007 and updates.	A-Opex	PL/CI	OG
5.1.2	Review opportunities to decrease open space provision in areas which have been identified as surplus to facilitate the redevelopment of other spaces, as per the Guidelines for the Planning, Design & Construction of Public Open Space 2007 and updates.	A-Opex	PL/CI	OG
5.1.3	Provide new open spaces to create strategically important links with existing open spaces through development applications	A-Opex	PL/CI	OG
5.1.4	Provide transparent account linkage to demonstrate the connection between Public Open Space Contributions and development of Public Open Space where financial contributions are deemed appropriate over land contribution.	F-Opex	F / CI PL	OG
5.2	Promoting open spaces within the municipality to increase patronage and awareness of opportunities available for the City residents and visitors.			
5.2.1	Update and/or create brochures/leaflets for key open spaces and highlight the significance of open space and promote the open space values to the community. This should include focus group based material. E.g. Play spaces, Trails and Walks, Picnic and BBQ areas, Swimming Beaches, Natural areas etc.	F-Opex	SC / CI/ MT&R	OG
5.2.2	Partner with sporting organisations to stage events within Devonport utilising existing infrastructure to gain exposure to national levels.	A-Opex	MT&R	OG
5.2.3	Continues to provide resources to deliver the partnership accountabilities Council has with the Arboretum.	A-Opex	SC	OG



Policy	Action	Resources	Responsibility	Time Frame
5.3	Ensuring open space caters for the diversity of social, cultural, community development and physical needs of the community.			
5.3.1	Develop initiatives from the Recreation Master Plan with appropriate passive recreational linkages.	F/A-Capex	MT&R/CI	MT
5.3.2	Manage development property to acceptable maintenance standards while land is held for appropriate development.	A-Opex	OP/CS	OG
5.4	Encouraging environmental protection and improvement measures in relation to flora and fauna.			
5.4.1	Encourage and promote flora and fauna corridors by consistent zoning, ownership and management regimes through the planting of indigenous plantings unless an established heritage character of exotic vegetation exists. Buffer widths of creeks and rivers will be determined by the appropriate government agency.	A-Opex	PL/CI	OG
5.4.2	In environmentally sensitive areas adequately address weed control as part of the management and maintenance of relevant open spaces, and incorporate community involvement in the process	A-Opex	CI/Op/SC	OG
5.4.3	Design, construct and maintain open spaces to minimise environmental degradation. E.g. Vegetation preservation, Utilise recycled products where practical, maximise solar passive design.	F-Capex	CI/OP/SC	OG
5.4.4	Incorporate Water Sensitive Urban Design principles (WSUD) in the design, construction and maintenance of new open spaces and modify existing spaces as determined appropriate.	F-Capex	CI/OP	OG
5.4.5	Monitor outfalls and develop appropriate gross pollutant collection points for stormwater to improve outfall quality to beach reserves.	F-Capex	CI/OP	OG
5.4.6	Consider the impact of proposed developments on existing vegetation corridors and created corridors as development occurs. Include consideration of the additional impact of fire breaks on Council land up to property boundaries.	A-Opex	PL/CI	OG
5.4.7	Develop ongoing management practices for environmental zones and the CNBC offset site.	A-Opex	SC /CI/OP	ST/OG



Policy	Action	Resources	Responsibility	Time Frame
5.4.8	Develop a PAMA with the state Government to assist in the management of endangered species	A-Opex	CI/PL/SC	MT
5.5	Incorporating community engagement in the design, development and management of open spaces including play spaces.			
5.5.1	Identify and consult all relevant stakeholders who may have a clear interest in the space to be redeveloped. For example, an adjacent school, recreation facility, or other organisation. This should be initiated from the initial design stage and in keeping with the Guidelines for the Planning, Design & Construction of Public Open Space 2007.	F-Capex	CI/SC	OG
5.5.2	Develop community partnership opportunities for management of open spaces	A-Opex	SC/CI	OG
5.5.3	Develop a Policy on Memorials and Monuments (including war memorials) for the municipality with reference to open spaces. This policy will address Council's stance on the provision of same when approached by a community member to install/erect such an object. This will ensure transparency and consistency.	A-Opex	SC/CI	MT
5.5.4	Develop a policy which ensures transparent processes when Council is approached by volunteer/service club/community group to assist and/or partake in a Council Project, in particular, ones which affect public open spaces	A-Opex	SC/CI	MT
5.6	Encourage flexible use of existing open spaces.			
5.6.1	Prepare a Lighting Strategy/direction paper for the municipality which includes public open spaces	A-Opex	CI	MT
5.6.2	Prepare an Amenities/Toilet management plan for facilities associated with public open spaces	A-Opex	CI	LT
5.6.3	Council investigate possible open space sites for future neighbourhood community gardens. The aim being to facilitate a stronger sense of community as well as provide cost effective, fresh and nutritious food.	A-Opex	SCI	MT



Policy	Action	Resources	Responsibility	Time Frame
5.7	Maintaining or enhancing access to a broad range of recreational opportunities and improving or reinforcing links to open spaces within and outside the City.			
5.7.1	Identify and reinforce both primary (mainly off road) and secondary (mainly on road) links between region, sub region and neighbourhood open spaces through the development of streetscapes as part of the planning assessment process for developments and during the redevelopment of existing open spaces as per the Guidelines for the Planning, Design & Construction of Public Open Space 2007.	A-Opex	PL/CI	OG
5.7.2	Develop a continuous and viable system of primary fauna corridors around and across the municipality through the enhancement and extension of the fauna corridors along the alignments of waterways, the Kelcey Tier Greenbelt and Don Reserve areas as part of the planning assessment process for developments and during the redevelopment of existing open spaces.	A-Opex	PL/CI/SC	OG
5.7.3	Coordinate the planning, management and development of open space along and across municipal boundaries through the reviewing of opportunities with developers, the Latrobe, Central Coast, Kentish Councils, Parks and Wildlife, Sports and Recreation Tasmania and other relevant bodies to develop an overall and coordinated approach to the management of open space along the Don River, Mersey River, Forth River and along the Bass Strait coast.	A-Opex	PL/CI/SC	OG
5.7.4	Secure open space areas along critical trail networks through the negotiation with the relevant authorities to gain commitment to ongoing open space use of land not owned by the Devonport City Council but forming part of the trail system.	A-Opex	CI/CS/PL	OG
5.8	Providing adequate resources and best practice asset management.			
5.8.1	Investigate external sources for funding in the form of grants or sponsorship for open space redevelopment projects.	F-Capex	MT&R/CI	OG



Policy	Action	Resources	Responsibility	Time Frame
5.8.2	Include annual budget allocations for the renewal and development of public open space in Councils Capital Works and Operation Programs in consultation with adopted Master Plans and Strategies.	F-Capex F-Opex	CI/OP/SC	OG
5.8.3	Develop and regularly review a service and asset management plan for public open space.	A-Opex	CI	OG
5.9	Providing a consistent approach in the design, development, and maintenance of open spaces across the municipality.			
5.9.1	Review existing and develop new design standards which assist in managing key functions for each identified open space contained within the Guidelines for the Planning, Design & Construction of Public Open Space 2007, the Public Open Space Standards and Technical Notes 2007.	F-Capex	CI/OP/SC	OG
5.9.2	Develop a standard and strategy for park furniture in public open spaces in accordance with the already adopted standards as per the Guidelines for the Planning, Design & Construction of Public Open Space 2007, and the Public Open Space Standards and Technical Notes 2007.	A-Opex	CI/OP/SC	OG
5.9.3	Develop a Policy on Memorials and Monuments (including war memorials) for the municipality with reference to open spaces. This policy will address Council's stance on the provision of same when approached by a community member to install/erect such an object. This will ensure transparency and consistency.	A-Opex	SC/CI	MT
5.10	Managing expectations of the community with respect to duplication of services and or development of multiple facilities;	F-Capex	CI/OP	MT
5.10.1	Support the Recreation Committee strategies through staged implementation of capital projects in accordance with approved budget allocations.	F-Opex	CI/PL	ST
5.10.2	Maintain the currency of asset information to ensure financial information associated with the asst holding is accurate. (Asset data feeds into financial detail provided to committees to assist decision making)	A-Opex	F/CI/MT&R	OG



Policy	Action	Resources	Responsibility	Time Frame
5.11	Developing supporting plans, policies, procedures and practices to manage implementation of open space objectives.			
5.11.1	Annually review the open space service levels to incrementally improve the detail captured and respond to cultural, environmental or economic change or extension of ownership.	A-Opex	CI/OP	OG
5.11.2	Development and adoption of the new Development Guidelines 2013.	A-Opex	PL	ST
5.11.3	Develop a maintenance procedure and guidelines for conservation of head-stones and other cemetery memorabilia.	A-Opex	CI/OP	MT



7. Updated Plans

Since the initial adoption of the Open Space Strategy, resources for development of master plan documents and their implementation has taken a more strategic direction. Open Space development has followed target areas e.g. the Urban Design Framework; The Cycling Strategy; the Aquatic Centre Redevelopment, creating a development focus and drawing development funds.

This trend is expected to continue into the future as these and other developments driven by the community, like the Home Maker centre, draw follow on funds to integrate draw card developments into the emergent areas adjacent.

The original objective to develop individual master plans for multiples of public open spaces, large and small is tempered with the realisation that the original vision is unachievable and a more feasible proposition is required. To that end, the broad policy statements of the original Strategy will be implemented through targeting focus areas for development in the short to medium term with linkage strategies and plans a key focus of Strategy implementation.

A review of the Strategy is recommended in a further five years to provide an opportunity to confirm that the amended focus is achieving results and has informed practices.

8. Achieved Outcomes

The adopted Strategy of 2008 assisted in providing direction on a range of matters which have been substantially advanced or completed. The following table notes the achievement of these strategic actions.

Principle	Action
Governance conformance	Ensure maintenance regimes comply with the adopted Public Open Space Standards and Technical Notes 2007.
Connectivity	Develop a path network strategy which complements the already adopted path network analysis plan and service levels in accordance with the relevant information pertained in the Guidelines for the Planning, Design & Construction of Public Open Space 2007, and the Public Open Space Standards and Technical Notes 2007.
Variety	Develop the following Play Space Master Plans: Victoria Street Reserve; Pioneer Park; Miandetta Park East; Mersey Bluff Reserve; Madden Street Reserve; Jacaranda Place - Jasmine Court; Hiller Flora Reserve; Berkeley Court
Affordability	Include an annual budget allocation for the redevelopment for public open space including play spaces in Councils Capital Works and Operation Programs in consultation with adopted Master Plans, the Guidelines for the Planning, Design & Construction of Public Open Space 2007, the Public Open Space Standards and Technical Notes 2007.



Principle	Action
Governance conformance	Review the adopted Master Plans, Guidelines for the Planning, Design & Construction of Public Open Space 2007, and Public Open Space Standards and Technical Notes 2007 annually to ensure that they remain current and consistent with other Council policies, standards and procedures.
Governance conformance	Undertaken asset management, including removal and replacement, in accordance with the Public Open Space Standards and Technical Notes 2007 and other relevant Council policy or standard.
Inclusion	Develop a Community Consultation Policy/Strategy which ensures consistency on Councils approach to community consultation
Governance conformance	Prepare a Signage policy/strategy for the municipality which includes public open spaces
Inclusion	Incorporate visual cues and symbols that welcome different cultures to Councils community facilities including public open spaces
	Investigate and follow up on report recommendations already received by Council in relation to access for all abilities
Inclusion	Develop plans and establish a sensory play space in Devonport
Variety	Identify open spaces and play spaces which are to be fully accessible and develop them in accordance with the relevant Standards and Policies
Governance conformance	Prepare a Public Art Policy for the municipality which includes public open spaces



9. Public Open Space Development Standard Matrix

Public Open Space development requires a guideline to inform community expectations associated with reasonably achievable levels of infrastructure service within types of public open space. The following matrix is to be used as a guide for the reasonably achievable level of development applicable to the type of open space with reference to the dominant Landscape Character.

Reserve Type	Regional			Sub-Regional			Neighbourhood (all character types)	Development
	Bushland	Formal Parkland	Informal Parkland	Bushland	Formal Parkland	Informal Parkland		
Features								
Shared pathways	~	~	~	~	~			
Footpaths	✓	✓	✓	~	~	~	~	✓
Playgrounds		~			~			
Formal plantings		~						
Annual Flower beds		~						
Seats	~	✓	~	~	~	~	~	
Picnic tables	~	~	~		~			
Litter bins	~	✓	✓		✓	~		
Lighting	~	~	~		~	~	~	~
Trees	✓	✓	~	✓	✓	~	~	~
Grassland maintained to Service Level schedule		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓

Key:



Provided



May be provided but not standard

Not provided



10. References

This strategy is to be implemented in conjunction with Council's strategic directions and other relevant Council (DCC) Policies and Strategies in particular:

- DCC Strategic Plan 2009 - 30
- DCC Recreation Strategy Plan 2012 -
- DCC Guidelines for the Planning, Design & Construction of Public Open Space 2007(and as updated)
- DCC Family and Children's Services Policy (2004)
- DCC Devonport and Environs Planning Scheme 1984
- DCC Cycling Network Strategy 2010-2013
- DCC Pedestrian Network Strategy(2012)
- Devonport Signage Strategy 2013-2018
- Open Space and Recreation Service and Asset Management Plan
- Devonport Weed Strategy 2012-2016
- Devonport City Council Stormwater Strategy (2012)
- Devonport City Council Cemetery Strategy 2011-2030
- Mersey Vale Memorial Park Master Plan 2011-2030



Contact Information

Council Office

44-48 Best Street Devonport TAS 7310

Postal address

PO Box 604 Devonport TAS 7310

Phone number

(03) 6424 0511

Facsimile number

(03) 6424 9649

Email

council@devonport.tas.gov.au

Website

www.devonport.tas.gov.au

Community Consultation

www.speakupdevonport.com.au

Facebook

www.facebook.com/DevonportCityCouncil

After Hours Emergency Number

(03) 6423 3074
(5pm – 8am Monday to Friday and weekends)

find us on **facebook**

