

open space design guidelines fact sheet



For Landcom Projects



Open Space Design Guidelines

Fact Sheet

A growing body of research from around the world is adding weight to what most of us have intuitively believed: that our parks and open spaces are good for us. But what is also emerging from this research is that the quality of design of our public open spaces has a direct bearing on how often we use these spaces, how safe we feel when we are there and what level of enjoyment and wellbeing we gain from the experience.

About the guidelines

As a government agency with responsibility for delivering sustainable communities, Landcom is aware of the critical role that public open space plays in developing and nurturing those communities. The Open Space Design Guidelines have been developed to help deliver the best possible outcomes for open space. The results, we hope, will be places that are much loved, well used and greatly enjoyed.

The objectives of the guidelines are:

- To demonstrate our commitment to best practice in open space planning and design.

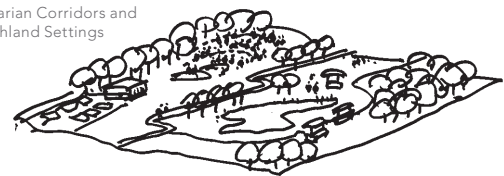
- To engender shared values within Landcom as to what defines best practice in open space design and delivery.
- To demonstrate a consistent, accountable and transparent process for open space design, delivery, management, maintenance and handover to all of our partners and stakeholders in that process.
- To provide a framework upon which more detailed design and delivery processes can be built.

The scope of the guidelines

These guidelines focus on the typical forms of public open space for which Landcom is responsible for delivery through its development projects. These include parks ranging in size from 0.5 to 2 Ha or more, and corridor open spaces often associated with creeks, rivers and foreshores, or bushland with a focus on pedestrian and cycle paths in a setting of linked open spaces.

Some typical public open space settings.

Riparian Corridors and Bushland Settings



Larger parks (up to several hectares) incorporating facilities such as sports fields and courts



Smaller parks from 0.5 up to 1 Ha mostly focused on passive recreation uses



Corner Parks or Playgrounds usually inner urban infill sites only



Key principles

The guidelines include key principles upon which open space is to be designed, delivered and managed. These include:

1. Be meaningful to place and community
2. Be multi-functional and adaptable
3. Provide diversity
4. Encourage social interaction
5. Promote health and wellbeing
6. Provide equity and accessibility
7. Embody environmental sustainability
8. Ensure financial sustainability

The document also includes guidelines for:

Design and delivery – objectives for a successful delivery program from design and documentation to final handover to the end owner.

Ownership and maintenance handover – objectives and processes that will assist a smooth handover of ownership and long term maintenance.

Checklists are also provided to establish delivery processes and design principles are being met as a project progresses.



Public open spaces should provide opportunity for informal physical activity for children, especially within residential areas where private gardens are small or non-existent. Photo - Forest Glade



Major public open spaces set the social and recreational framework for new communities. Their design and delivery must receive the widest support if they are to be successful places. Photo - Park Central.



Victoria Park



Macarthur Gardens

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