Public Open Space Strategy

2014
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Adopted by resolution of the Council on 11th June, 2014.

Chief Executive Officer
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Summary

The Shire of Augusta Margaret River is a rural municipality situated on the Indian and Southern Ocean coasts approximately 250 kilometres south of Perth in the south west of Western Australia. The Shire comprises valuable agricultural and natural resources while also being an important tourist destination. The estimated population in June 2013 was 13,170, with a growth rate of 3.9% between 2012 and 2013.

The Shire has prepared this Public Open Space Strategy to guide the planning and development of public open space (POS) including parks, reserves and associated community and recreation facilities in the Shire. Initially, the urban areas of Margaret River, Augusta and Cowaramup will be addressed with other areas to be included in due course.

When adopted, the Strategy may be used:

1. to enhance the sustainable use, development and management of POS;
2. as a guide in preparing structure plans for developing urban areas;
3. to achieve equitable funding of recreation facilities in conjunction with Development Contribution Plans; and
4. as a resource in preparing and reviewing documents that have implications for the use and management of community resources.

Specific outcomes of the Strategy include the use of planning criteria in relation to the provision and development of POS including attention to catchment planning, facilities provision, shared paths, children, youth, seniors, health, sustainability and risk management.

Strategies are also included in relation to management of existing parks and reserves in Margaret River, Augusta and Cowaramup and also in relation to the provision of POS in future urban developments as the towns grow over the next twenty years.

The recommendations of the Shire’s adopted Land Asset Management Plan are addressed with strategies relating to areas of POS that could be converted to freehold to raise funds which would be directed to the upgrading of better located and utilised reserves.

Some direction is provided in terms of how to address urban infill development by acquiring cash-in-lieu of the provision of POS. In addition, a range of criteria is provided for the planning and design of POS in the structure planning of urban areas in response to best practice frameworks.

The Strategy seeks to better use and more efficiently manage the Shire’s extensive POS assets. It does this by establishing classifications for POS that are linked to particular levels of management and facilities provision, ensuring that expenditure is prioritised accordingly and resulting in better use of the Shire’s budget allocation for these assets.

The Strategy needs to be subject to periodic review to reflect demographic growth and change over time and the outcomes of ongoing urban development. It is recommended that a comprehensive review be undertaken five years following its adoption by Council.
1.0 Background

The population of the Shire in 2013 was estimated at 13,170. Population growth has implications for the ongoing provision and management of POS and recreation assets. Projections indicate that the Shire could reach a population of approximately 21,000 by 2031 (at an average annual growth rate of 2.6%). In the event growth is lower at around 2.1% per annum, the population in 2031 will be closer to 19,000.

This level of growth will result in an increase of up to 8,000 persons in the Shire between 2013 and 2031, mostly in the towns on Margaret River, Augusta and Cowaramup. It is therefore appropriate for the Shire to consider a strategy for not only providing POS for these growing communities, but ensuring that parks and reserves are developed with adequate facilities and infrastructure, and that the POS maintenance burden is environmentally and financially sustainable.

1.1 Description

The Shire of Augusta Margaret River has an area of approximately 2,240 square kilometres and an extensive coastline with around 120 kilometres of beaches, bays and rocky points. The Shire comprises rural countryside, white sandy beaches, native forests and National Parks.

Margaret River, Augusta and Cowaramup are the major towns in the Shire. Other settlements include Karridale, Witchcliffe, Prevelly/Gnarabup and Gracetown. There are more than 1,000 square kilometres of forest in the Shire including Scott National Park. The Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park includes the Boranup Karri Forest between Caves Road and the coast where karri trees reach 60 metres in height.
Margaret River is the commercial and administrative centre of the Shire and had a population of around 6,500 in June 2013. There are a number of public recreation spaces available to the community including Memorial Park in the town centre and Rotary Park on the Margaret River. Gloucester Park is home to many of the local sporting clubs and there are other facilities such as a golf club and bowls club where visitors are welcome.

Augusta had a population of approximately 1,400 in June 2013. With a comparatively older age profile, residents enjoy a quiet and relaxed coastal lifestyle with access to parks and walkways adjacent to the Blackwood River and Flinders Bay foreshores.

Cowaramup is a vibrant village with a population of approximately 950 in June 2013. It is an important focus for the surrounding agricultural district and a gateway to the southern Margaret River region.

Figure 1
Augusta Margaret River Shire
1.2 Public Open Space

For the purpose of the Strategy, public open space (POS) refers to areas of land or water that are Shire-managed and which residents and visitors have free physical or visual access. This includes Crown reserves and freehold land comprising open space or more natural areas such as parks, reserves, environmental corridors, urban spaces, streetscapes, greenbelts, beaches, lakes/rivers and foreshores.

Many of these areas provide for multiple functions and outcomes that enable passive recreation, informal active recreation, organised sport, landscape enhancement (visual amenity), environmental protection, and stormwater treatment in limited circumstances.

The provision of POS within developing residential areas is becoming increasingly important to enhancing quality of life. In the South West, the trend toward diminishing private open space in higher density developments (due to reductions in average lot sizes) is creating greater emphasis on the role of POS. Accordingly, the Strategy is anticipated to provide a strategic basis for the Shire to respond to the evolving needs of a growing community.

The importance of public open space...

The value that POS provides to the community is a combination of environmental, economic, social and cultural factors. For the purpose of this Strategy, the principal role of POS is to support health, recreation and leisure functions within the community including active pursuits such as organised sport, exercise and children's play. This role encompasses social and cultural activities including passive pastimes such as walking, sitting, and community interaction in natural environments and attractive parks.

The provision of public areas which people enjoy meeting and interacting in can play an important role in encouraging human contact and well-being (including mental health). Attractive parks, gardens and reserves play a significant role in this process. POS also provides a strong connection to nature for people living in urban areas who would otherwise have limited opportunity for daily contact with nature.

While parks, gardens and reserves play a significant role in this process, it is important to also acknowledge the role that other spaces such as town squares, shopping areas, civic places, main streets and pathways can play in providing appropriate, accessible, safe and appealing public spaces.

Environmental protection is also an essential role for POS, through habitat and biodiversity conservation, and air and water quality management. Effective planning for the conservation of biodiversity in POS can provide vital adaptation responses to climate change in the urban environment.

POS is important for its role in promoting community health, its natural attributes, contribution to neighbourhood character and community identity, cultural heritage value, benefits to tourism and the emotional connection people may attach to it.
1.3 Strategy Objectives

The Strategy is anticipated to provide a framework to guide the provision, development and management of POS over the next ten years. It will provide a basis for the provision of accessible and diverse parks and the delivery of appropriate recreation services to ensure sustainable use of the Shire’s resources. The Strategy will apply to the urban areas of Margaret River, Augusta and Cowaramup.

The ‘Vision’ for POS in the Shire is to “provide a linked network of functional and attractive parks and reserves that will broaden recreation opportunities for all sectors of the community and ensure the ongoing sustainable development and management of public open space.”

The key objectives of the Strategy are to:

- Identify key environmental, social, heritage and cultural values of POS;
- Identify gaps in the POS network and associated recreation facilities;
- Identify POS and recreation facility requirements in relation to urban expansion areas;
- Recognise the importance of indigenous flora and fauna and natural habitat;
- Meet the identified POS and recreation facility needs of the community;
- Prioritise the focus on, and upgrade of, higher value areas of POS;
- Explore opportunities for funding of upgrades from the disposal of any surplus POS;
- Provide guidance to efficient and sustainable management and maintenance outcomes; and
- Improve land use efficiency through partnerships and multi-purpose opportunities.

1.4 Methodology

The Strategy has been developed by the Shire as part of a more comprehensive strategic planning framework that seeks to provide for current and future community needs in relation to POS, and to sustainably manage recreation assets over strategic time frames.

To achieve the Strategy outcomes, the following methodology was employed to guide the preparation and implementation of the Strategy:

- Review available literature and data including demographics, urban growth strategies and asset management plans - prepare an inventory of existing POS.
- Investigate the range of functions of POS including ecological, cultural, visual and recreational.
- Ensure provision of a diversity of POS to meet existing and future community needs.
- Address the importance of accessibility and walkability to POS.
- Promote the safe use and enjoyment of POS through appropriate planning and design of POS and recreation facilities.
- Develop equitable outcomes to provide for consistent decision-making in relation to the ongoing development and management of POS.
- Ensure the community’s needs and aspirations are addressed through adequate community engagement.
- Recognise and respond appropriately to constraints on the Shire’s resources.
- Provide outcomes that assist with asset management planning for POS.
- Identify any POS that may be surplus to needs.
2.0 Policy Framework

2.1 Liveable Neighbourhoods Policy

Liveable Neighbourhoods (LN) has been adopted by the WA Planning Commission (WAPC) as an operational policy and is to be followed in the design and approval of structure plans and subdivision for new urban areas.

LN promotes a range of site responsive town parklands which have clear sightlines from nearby streets and buildings, are safe to use, and are conveniently located to enable easy access for the local residents. Three types of public parkland are identified:

- regional open space - defined in a regional structure plan and/or region scheme.
- foreshore reserves - land adjacent to a stream, river, lake or coast.
- public open space - active and passive parks including district sports grounds, local parks, and community purpose sites.

LN indicates that a sustainable balance between local parks, neighbourhood parks and district recreation grounds should be achieved to ensure access to a diversity of recreation opportunities. Small local parks (up to 3,000m² in area) are essential to provide accessibility to young families and should be provided within walkable local catchments (within 150-300 metres of houses). Neighbourhood parks (3-5,000m²) should be provided within 400 metres of all dwellings servicing 600-800 dwellings, while large district parks provide for more formal sporting and other recreation opportunities. Note: these levels of service are considered to be primarily for application in larger cities, with often comparatively higher densities, and require some reconsideration where applied in regional areas e.g. in towns with less than 10,000 population.

Liveable Neighbourhoods indicates that public parkland should:

- provide a balance between conservation, active and passive uses;
- support legibility of the urban environment and the establishment of neighbourhood identity by incorporating natural and cultural elements;
- incorporate land for connected open space for walking and cycling;
- include district parks with informal play areas and formal playing fields;
- include neighbourhood parks with informal play areas and passive use;
- include local parks within safe walking distance of all dwellings;
- provide for development of parks by the subdivider to a minimum standard to enhance residential amenity;
- take into account shared use of open space e.g. ovals and schools;
- incorporate contemporary urban water management principles;
- incorporate water sensitive urban design where recreation use is not compromised or where conservation values are enhanced.

Community purpose sites for community centres, halls, libraries, child care and emergency services may be required by the Shire to address community needs arising from demographic growth and change. These should be located in town or local centres, possibly in conjunction with parkland or other POS.

Public Open Space Strategy
2.2 Development Control Policy 2.3 - Public Open Space in Residential Areas

The basic component of this 2002 WAPC policy is the requirement that, when subdividing land for residential purposes, ten percent of the gross subdivisible area is required to be given up free of cost by the subdivider for the purpose of POS. The ten percent requirement is derived from recommendations contained in the Stephenson-Hepburn Plan prepared for Perth in 1955. This Plan states that for most areas a standard of 3.36 hectares per 1,000 persons (excluding school playing fields) is recommended as sufficient for POS.

In terms of the location and distribution of POS, the WAPC favours an overall balance between passive open space, readily accessible to all residents, and recreational open space in larger units suitable for active leisure pursuits. The WAPC will seek the advice of local government in relation to the location and distribution of POS as well as in relation to the suitability in physical terms of land for development as open space.

The Commission is not prepared to accept as open space land which is occupied by public utility uses such as drainage sumps. However, it may agree to such features as landscaped compensating basins being included and credited either in whole or in part as a portion of a POS contribution. In order to be acceptable, compensating basins and drainage reserves need to be located, designed and landscaped that the public is able to use the open space for safe, passive and/or active recreation and amenity is not impaired.

The Commission’s general practice is that up to one hundred per cent of compensating basins may be credited towards the POS requirement where the land is not subject to permanent inundation, unfenced and fully usable for recreation purposes. Up to fifty per cent may be credited in other circumstances subject to the advice of the Shire.

The Policy also refers to the Planning and Development Act which contains provisions under which a cash payment can be made by the subdivider in lieu of providing land for open space. The Commission recognises that the use of these provisions should be encouraged in certain circumstances, including where:

- the land area is so small that a 10% contribution would not be of practical use;
- there may be sufficient POS already in the locality; or
- POS is planned nearby pursuant to a planning scheme or structure plan.

Cash-in-lieu funds should be applied:

- for the purchase of land for parks, recreation grounds or open spaces generally, in the locality in which the land included in the plan of subdivision is situated;
- in repaying any loans raised for the purchase of any such land; or
- for the improvement or development of parks, recreation grounds or other POS, subject to the approval of the Minister for Planning.

Expenditure of cash-in-lieu funds must be directly related to the use or development of land for public open space purposes. The use of these funds would not normally be acceptable for community halls, indoor recreation centres, enclosed tennis courts, or facilities for private clubs where access by the public is restricted. Acceptable expenditure may be for clearing, seating, earthworks, spectator cover, grass planting, landscaping, toilets, change rooms, reticulation, lighting, play equipment, pathways, fencing, walk trails, car parking and relevant signage.

Public Open Space Strategy
2.3 Local Planning Strategy

The Shire’s Local Planning Strategy (LPS) was finalised in 2011 and provides the long term strategic planning direction for the Shire. It outlines a strategy to achieve sustainable development where opportunities are identified.

The LPS comprises a central planning policy of the Planning Scheme setting out the Shire’s general aims and intentions for future growth, sustainable development and orderly and proper planning.

Figure 2
Margaret River Planning Strategy

In relation to POS the LPS requires the provision of parks and reserves to be consistent with relevant State government policy. Towns and neighbourhoods should be provided with a balance of both active and passive open spaces which enjoy a high level of connectivity and incorporate multi-functional spaces to meet community needs.

Planning for POS and other community facilities pursuant to the LPS is specifically required to consider how facilities for seniors, youth and community health generally are delivered. In particular, the need for new facilities over the short to medium term includes the provision of subdistrict level playing fields.

The LPS further indicates that walking and cycling will be encouraged by ensuring development-funded provision of high quality pathway infrastructure in new subdivisions and the upgrading of existing infrastructure where infill or redevelopment occurs. The Shire’s Path Plan and the Margaret River Townsite Strategy provide recommendations in relation to additional footpaths and dual use paths.

Public Open Space Strategy
2.4 Community Infrastructure Report

This 2012 Report identified the future community facility needs in the context of the SuperTowns project. With the population of the Shire potentially growing to over 20,000 people over the next 20 years there will need to be clear plans in place for delivery of infrastructure and facilities needed to support the community as it grows.

Key findings in relation to POS and recreation were identified as:

- Balance the needs of peak period visitation by tourists with those of residents.
- The most immediate task is to address facilities where capacity has been exceeded. As all of these are district level facilities the Shire must consider the distance between settlements in their planning, including consideration of the mobility of youth and seniors and the distance required to travel to access facilities.
- Surfing, boating and fishing facilities are not covered in the existing standards and therefore a significant gap exists in the current standards in view of the importance of these activities in the region.
- Gloucester Park precinct is most likely at capacity. A capital works programme has been suggested to meet the short-medium term requirements of user groups.
- Soccer is a growing sport in the region with high participation rates. Additional facilities are required in the short term and consideration should be given to balancing provision of these facilities within the region.
- Hockey, netball and basketball have the greatest immediate need for facilities - shared facilities for basketball and netball will maximise flexibility.

2.5 Townsite Strategies

Recent pressures on land availability for settlement, the provision of infrastructure and community services, and impacts upon nature conservation, landscape, heritage and social values, are reflective of the Shire’s growth. In accommodating the expected growth over the next 20 to 25 years, strategic and sustainable planning is required to orderly manage the population change in accordance with accepted environmental, cultural and social standards. Accordingly, the Shire has prepared land use Strategies for the towns of Margaret River, Augusta, Cowaramup, Witchcliffe, Karridale and Kudardup.

The primary purpose of these Strategies is to present a planning and urban design framework and to guide development of the town expansion areas. The Strategies identify planning and urban design objectives which are important to the orderly and efficient management of future development across the Shire.

The general objectives of the townsite strategies are to:

- present a clear vision for the character and scale of future development;
- provide an overview of the planning, sustainability and environmental context;
- assess and implement outcomes from community consultation;
- sensitively build upon the existing built form while conserving and enhancing natural features;
- provide an adequate level of community facilities to serve the needs of the growing population; and
- establish guidelines for the urban structure of the towns and for sustainable residential, commercial and tourist development.
3.0 Demography

3.1 Resident Population

The estimated resident population (ERP) of the Shire was 13,168 in 2013, an increase of 19% over the 2006 population of 11,052. Table 1 summarises the estimated permanent resident population change between 1991 and 2013, with an average annual growth rate between 1991 and 2011 of 3.4%. The growth rate between 2011 and 2013 was 3.8% according to the ABS.

Table 1
Estimated Resident Population 1991-2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shire of AMR</td>
<td>6,218</td>
<td>8,106</td>
<td>10,228</td>
<td>11,052</td>
<td>12,228</td>
<td>13,168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,888</td>
<td>2,122</td>
<td>824</td>
<td>1,176</td>
<td>940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inter-census average annual growth rate</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average annual growth rate 1991-2011</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: ABS Regional Population Growth (p: preliminary)

In 2011, 50.1% of residents in the Shire were male and 49.9% female compared to the figures for Australia of 49.4% male and 50.6% female. The Census also indicated that 1% of residents in the Shire were indigenous persons, compared with 2.5% in Australia.

Table 2 provides the estimated population of selected localities in the Shire in 2006 and 2011 derived from ABS data, and includes estimates for 2013.

Table 2
Estimated Resident Population of Localities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Locality</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Augusta</td>
<td>1,150</td>
<td>1,300</td>
<td>1,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margaret River</td>
<td>5,250</td>
<td>5,925</td>
<td>6,550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cowaramup</td>
<td>620</td>
<td>820</td>
<td>950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prevelly/Gnarabup</td>
<td>525</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other areas/rural</td>
<td>3,507</td>
<td>3,633</td>
<td>3,698</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shire</td>
<td>11,052</td>
<td>12,228</td>
<td>13,168</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: ABS and Shire of AMR

Note: The Census counts for localities have been adjusted to reflect the revised ERP data. The boundaries of localities may not be directly comparable between 2006 and 2011 as Census collection districts have changed in that time to reflect revised statistical geography and population increases.
3.2 Age Profile

The median age in the Shire was 39 in 2011 compared to 36 in Western Australia and 37 in Australia. Table 3 indicates that the median age increased significantly from 32 in 1991 to 39 in 2011.

Table 3
Median Age 1991-2011

<table>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: ABS

Table 4 indicates the age distribution of the 2011 resident population across six age groups and compares the Shire with Western Australia and Australia.

The Shire’s population has higher proportions of children and lower proportions of young adults. It is likely that Cowaramup and Margaret River contribute significantly to the higher proportion of children in the Shire (21% compared to 19.3% for Australia) in view of their attraction to younger family households.

The proportion of pre-school and school age children in the Shire is higher than in Western Australia or Australia. The proportion of adults aged 25-64 is also higher in the Shire. The Shire has a much lower proportion of young people aged 15 to 24 (9.1%, compared to 13.7% in Western Australia). The proportion of residents in the Shire aged over 50 is 33.1% compared to 30.4% in Western Australia.

Table 4
Age Distribution 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age group</th>
<th>0-4</th>
<th>5-14</th>
<th>15-24</th>
<th>25-49</th>
<th>50-64</th>
<th>65+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shire of AMR</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
<td>13.6%</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td>36.8%</td>
<td>20.6%</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WA</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>12.9%</td>
<td>13.7%</td>
<td>36.2%</td>
<td>18.1%</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
<td>35.1%</td>
<td>18.3%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: ABS 2011 Census data.

Note: Percentage totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Table 5 indicates broader age profiles for selected localities in the Shire. This table attempts to reflect generational cohorts i.e. children and youth, adults (aged less than 50 years), middle aged adults (aged 50-64 years) and senior adults aged 65 years or over.

It is notable that the median age of residents in Margaret River and Cowaramup is less than the national and State medians while the median age of Augusta is 56, with a third of residents aged 65 or over.
Table 5
Generational Profile of Localities 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Median Age</th>
<th>Age group</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Children/Youth</td>
<td>Adults</td>
<td>Middle-age</td>
<td>Seniors</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0-19</td>
<td>20-49</td>
<td>50-64</td>
<td>65+</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margaret River</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>29.1%</td>
<td>45.2%</td>
<td>16.8%</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Augusta</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>15.55%</td>
<td>24.1%</td>
<td>26.85%</td>
<td>33.5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cowaramup</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>33.5%</td>
<td>45.6%</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shire of AMR</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>26.5%</td>
<td>40.4%</td>
<td>20.6%</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: ABS, 2011 Census data

Note: percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Figure 2 below illustrates the proportional age structure of the Margaret River locality; the Shire and Australia based on 2011 Census data. The comparison highlights the differences between the Shire and Australia in terms of children and younger adults. The proportion of younger adults and those aged over 50 years is much lower in Margaret River while the proportion of children and adults aged 30-50 is higher.

Figure 3
Age Structure 2011
The differences in the Shire’s age structure from 1996 to 2006 indicated in Figure 3 demonstrates significant ageing of the Shire’s population over time with the median age increasing from 33 in 1996 to 39 in 2011.

Figure 4
Shire of Augusta Margaret River Age Structure 1996-2011

Census data and population forecasts have suggested for some time that there is an element of ageing of Australia’s population. This now appears to be tempered to some degree by what is an apparent minor baby boom in many areas. The increasing number of younger people moving to the South West, and an increase in fertility has resulted in increasing birth rates, particularly in regional growth areas.

While an ageing population is occurring in the Shire and in Australia generally, the future demographic of the Shire could include an increasing proportion of younger families which may counteract to some degree the national trend. This outcome assumes that new residential areas will attract a similar demographic to the already emerging growth areas. Accordingly, the ageing population of the Shire may slow to some extent as growth occurs over the next twenty years.
3.3 Education and Employment

Table 6 indicates that the Shire comprises slightly lower proportions of people with higher educational qualifications compared to Australia. However, the Shire has a much higher proportion of certificate qualified people compared to Australia, which reflects the higher proportion of technicians and tradespeople resident in the area (as indicated in Table 7).

Table 6
Level of Education, 2011 (as a percentage of persons aged 15 and over with qualifications)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Margaret River</th>
<th>Augusta</th>
<th>Cowaramup</th>
<th>Shire of AMR</th>
<th>Australia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Certificate</td>
<td>37.3%</td>
<td>42.4%</td>
<td>36.6%</td>
<td>36.9%</td>
<td>32.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diploma</td>
<td>14.2%</td>
<td>16.1%</td>
<td>14.6%</td>
<td>15.3%</td>
<td>14.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor</td>
<td>22.1%</td>
<td>14.8%</td>
<td>25.1%</td>
<td>22.0%</td>
<td>24.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Diploma</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-grad. degree</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not stated/inadequately described</td>
<td>20.1%</td>
<td>23.1%</td>
<td>19.5%</td>
<td>20.2%</td>
<td>19.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: ABS, 2011 Census data.

Table 7 indicates that the Shire has a very high percentage of technicians, tradespeople and labourers compared to Australia, possibly reflecting the construction, farming and other industries in the Shire. The Shire also has lower proportions of administration workers and professionals compared to the Australian population.

Table 7
Occupation, 2011 (employed persons aged 15 years and over)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Margaret River</th>
<th>Augusta</th>
<th>Cowaramup</th>
<th>Shire of AMR</th>
<th>Australia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Technicians/trades workers</td>
<td>19.5%</td>
<td>20.5%</td>
<td>16.6%</td>
<td>17.8%</td>
<td>14.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labourers</td>
<td>15.4%</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
<td>14.6%</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Machinery operators</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professionals</td>
<td>14.4%</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
<td>14.0%</td>
<td>21.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Managers</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
<td>14.4%</td>
<td>24.3%</td>
<td>18.0%</td>
<td>12.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admin. workers</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
<td>9.7%</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
<td>14.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales workers</td>
<td>10.8%</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community/personal service workers</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
<td>11.6%</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
<td>9.7%</td>
<td>9.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: ABS, 2011 Census data.

Table 8 indicates that the median household income of the Shire was $1,096 in 2011, while the Margaret River median household income was $1,194, slightly lower than Australia’s median household income of $1,234.

Public Open Space Strategy
Table 8
**Income, 2011** (persons aged 15 years and over)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Median income/week</th>
<th>Margaret River</th>
<th>Augusta</th>
<th>Cowaramup</th>
<th>Shire of AMR</th>
<th>Australia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personal income</td>
<td>$627</td>
<td>$427</td>
<td>$635</td>
<td>$593</td>
<td>$577</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household income</td>
<td>$1,194</td>
<td>$647</td>
<td>$1,254</td>
<td>$1,096</td>
<td>$1,234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family income</td>
<td>$1,376</td>
<td>$909</td>
<td>$1,435</td>
<td>$1,327</td>
<td>$1,481</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: ABS, 2011 Census data.

### 3.4 Household Structure

Table 9 confirms that the Shire has a higher proportion of couple families without children and a slightly lower proportion of couple families with children in comparison to Australia. The Shire has a much lower proportion of one parent families while Margaret River has higher proportions of couple families with children and one parent families. In view of the older demographic in Augusta, there is a significantly lower proportion of couple families with children while the opposite is evident in Cowaramup.

Table 9
**Family Characteristics, 2011**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Margaret River</th>
<th>Augusta</th>
<th>Cowaramup</th>
<th>Shire of AMR</th>
<th>Australia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Couple families with children</td>
<td>46.2%</td>
<td>28.0%</td>
<td>49.4%</td>
<td>43.1%</td>
<td>44.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Couple families without children</td>
<td>36.5%</td>
<td>62.8%</td>
<td>36.7%</td>
<td>42.5%</td>
<td>37.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One parent families</td>
<td>16.4%</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
<td>13.5%</td>
<td>15.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: ABS Census data.

Table 10 indicates that the Shire has higher proportions of family households compared to Australia with lower proportions of single person households. Augusta has a very high proportion of (older) single person households while Cowaramup has a significantly higher proportion of family households in comparison to the Shire and Australia.

Table 10
**Household Composition, 2011**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Margaret River</th>
<th>Augusta</th>
<th>Cowaramup</th>
<th>Shire of AMR</th>
<th>Australia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family household</td>
<td>73.4%</td>
<td>61.2%</td>
<td>81.4%</td>
<td>72.5%</td>
<td>71.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single person household</td>
<td>21.7%</td>
<td>35.9%</td>
<td>16.4%</td>
<td>23.5%</td>
<td>24.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group household</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: ABS Census data.

Public Open Space Strategy
3.5 Cultural Diversity

Table 11 indicates that 72.5% of Shire residents stated that they were born in Australia while 9% were born in the UK and 3.1% in New Zealand. The proportions for Australian residents were lower – 69.8% were born in Australia, 5.1% in the UK and 2.2% in New Zealand.

Cowaramup had the highest proportion of residents born in Australia with 79.2% while 71.2% of Margaret River residents were born in Australia (compared to 69.8% of Australian residents).

Table 11
Country of Birth 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country of Birth</th>
<th>Margaret River</th>
<th>Augusta</th>
<th>Cowaramup</th>
<th>Shire of AMR</th>
<th>Australia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>71.2%</td>
<td>75.3%</td>
<td>79.2%</td>
<td>72.5%</td>
<td>69.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
<td>8.95%</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>0.85%</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not stated</td>
<td>8.05%</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other countries</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
<td>15.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: ABS, 2011 Census of Population and Housing

Table 12 indicates that 27.4% of persons in the Shire had both parents born overseas and that 54.7% had both parents born in Australia.

Table 12
Birthplace of Parents 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Birthplace of Parents</th>
<th>Persons in the Shire of AMR</th>
<th>Persons in Australia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Both parents born overseas</td>
<td>27.4%</td>
<td>34.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father only born overseas</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother only born overseas</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both parents born in Australia</td>
<td>54.7%</td>
<td>53.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: ABS, 2011 Census of Population and Housing
Table 13 indicates that 7.7% indicate that there are two or more languages spoken at home (compared to 20.4% in Australia) and that 87.5% of residents spoke English only at home (compared to 76.8% in Australia).

Table 13  
Languages spoken at home 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Persons in the Shire of AMR</th>
<th>Persons in Australia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English only spoken at home</td>
<td>87.5%</td>
<td>76.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italian</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portuguese</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandarin</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or more languages spoken at home</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
<td>20.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: ABS, 2011 Census of Population and Housing

Table 14 indicates that 36.9% of Shire residents indicate that they do not follow a religion while 18.8% are Anglicans and 16.2% Catholic.

Table 14  
Religious Affiliation 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Affiliation</th>
<th>Persons in the Shire of AMR</th>
<th>Persons in Australia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No religion</td>
<td>36.9%</td>
<td>22.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catholic</td>
<td>16.2%</td>
<td>25.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anglican</td>
<td>18.8%</td>
<td>17.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uniting Church</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian - not further defined</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: ABS, 2011 Census of Population and Housing
3.6 Population Projections

Table 15 summarises Shire population projections prepared for the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing by the ABS in 2008, and by the WA Planning Commission in 2012. This indicates that the population of the Shire could increase to over 17,000 by 2026.

Table 15
Shire of Augusta Margaret River - Population Projections 2011-2026

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2026</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dept of Health &amp; Ageing ¹</td>
<td>12,820</td>
<td>14,218</td>
<td>15,637</td>
<td>17,040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WA Tomorrow 2012 ²</td>
<td>13,000</td>
<td>14,400</td>
<td>15,800</td>
<td>17,200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source:
1. Customised projections prepared for the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing by the ABS. The projections are not official ABS data.
2. Band ‘C’ (median) projections. Western Australia Tomorrow, WAPC, 2012.

Notwithstanding the difficulties of projecting population change in high growth areas over strategic time frames, it would be difficult to argue that the growth of the Shire over the next 20 years will not be significant in view of the anticipated outcomes of the Regional Centres Development Plan, the Local Planning Strategy and adopted townsite strategies.

Projections prepared by the AEC Group on behalf of the Shire are largely based on a doubling of the population of Margaret River and ongoing urban development in other areas anticipated by the implementation of adopted townsite strategies.

In forecasting population (Table 16) the Shire has assumed that Margaret River’s population will almost double between 2011 and 2031 and the remainder of the Shire will increase at an average annual growth rate of 2% between 2011 and 2031. It is therefore anticipated that the Shire will reach a population of approximately 21,000 by 2031.

Table 16
Preliminary Population Projections 2011-2031

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2026</th>
<th>2031</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Margaret River</td>
<td>5,925</td>
<td>7,000</td>
<td>8,275</td>
<td>9,775</td>
<td>11,650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remainder of Shire</td>
<td>6,303</td>
<td>6,950</td>
<td>7,675</td>
<td>8,475</td>
<td>9,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shire of Augusta MR</td>
<td>12,228</td>
<td>13,950</td>
<td>15,950</td>
<td>18,250</td>
<td>21,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average annual growth rate</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2.75%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: ABS, AEC Group and Shire of Augusta Margaret River
Note: The AEC Group figures have been modified to reflect the ERP for 2011 (12,228) published by the ABS on 30 August 2013.

Public Open Space Strategy
The average occupancy rate across all dwellings in the Shire is considered low at 2 persons per dwelling and results from the high proportion of vacant dwellings in the Shire (33.2%). This average occupancy rate may reduce further over time due to the trend to an ageing population, but tempered by an increase in the proportion of family households. However, if the vacancy rate of dwellings decreases as a result of increasing permanent residents in the Shire (possibly as an outcome of the Regional Centres Development Plan), the occupancy rate may increase across all dwellings to around 2.2-2.4 persons/dwelling.
4.0 POS Inventory

4.1 POS Classification

The Shire has adopted a four tiered classification system for POS generally to reflect the different roles and catchments of each category.

Local POS (A and B)
Small parks that service the daily recreation needs of the residents in the locality - generally up to 3,000 square metres in area and within 300 metres of dwellings. Local POS ‘A’ is generally developed POS identified for improvement, specific landscaping or additional ongoing management while Local POS ‘B’ will benefit from only basic management e.g. mowing or fire risk management.

Neighbourhood POS
Larger parks located within walking distance of dwellings that provide both a recreation and social hub for the community - generally up to 1 hectare in area and within 400 metres of dwellings e.g. Pioneer Park, Cowaramup; Memorial Park, Margaret River; Blackwood River foreshore, Augusta.

District POS
Large sporting reserves and recreation grounds that provide more formal sporting and recreation opportunities for the district and require specific facilities such as change rooms, car parking and lighting e.g. Gloucester Park, Margaret River.

Conservation reserves
Important regional reserves that protect threatened species and support intact or rehabilitated areas of natural environment such as native bushland, foreshores, wetlands and coastal habitats e.g. nature reserves, river foreshores, national parks.

It should be noted that some POS can function as more than one classification from time to time. For example, district parks can also provide certain neighbourhood functions to the local community. In addition, some higher profile parks can function as specific ‘destinations’ due to the facilities provided.

A ‘destination park’ is POS that comprises attractions or facilities that people are specifically willing to visit in order to enjoy the environment or facilities provided e.g. Rotary Park in Margaret River can be considered a destination park but it also functions as neighbourhood POS and has significant conservation values.

Other reserves
There are other areas that are not considered parks or recreation reserves for the purpose of the Strategy. These areas comprise landscape buffers to development or contain drainage infrastructure etc. They are not generally used for recreation purposes but may include areas of landscape significance or other values. These areas are managed by the Shire via an asset management framework and are maintained as required.
4.2 POS Inventory

Table 17 comprises an audit of parks and reserves including local, neighbourhood and district POS, and conservation areas. Local POS ‘A’ is generally developed POS identified for improvement, specific landscaping or additional ongoing management while Local POS ‘B’ will benefit from only basic management e.g. mowing or fire risk management. Park/reserve names are not necessarily approved and may require further consideration prior to being applied.

Table 17
Inventory of Public Open Space

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Reserve/Lot No.</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(vested purpose/vested body/class + description)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Parks &amp; Recreation/Shire of AMR/C – part ‘rails to trails’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Municipal Offices, Parks &amp; Recreation/Shire of AMR/C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Wallcliffe Road. District Recreation Ground.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Aquatic Centre, football ovals, tennis courts, bowls greens, skate Park,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>BMX track, Shire administration centre.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Gloucester Park</td>
<td>R39689 R44736</td>
<td>27.3ha</td>
<td>Parks &amp; Recreation/Shire of AMR/C – part ‘rails to trails’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lots 1, 13, 14,</td>
<td>1.42ha</td>
<td>Municipal Offices, Parks &amp; Recreation/Shire of AMR/C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>40, 41, 45, 999</td>
<td>20.1ha</td>
<td>Wallcliffe Road. District Recreation Ground.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Aquatic Centre, football ovals, tennis courts, bowls greens, skate Park,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>BMX track, Shire administration centre.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Tonkin Recreation Ground</td>
<td>R50760</td>
<td>2.46ha</td>
<td>Parks &amp; Recreation/Shire of AMR/C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tonkin Boulevard - New district POS area for east side of Highway in conjunction with new primary school.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Parks &amp; Recreation/Shire of AMR/C - new district POS area for east side of Highway in conjunction with new primary school.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Parks &amp; Recreation/Shire of AMR/C - new district POS area for east side of Highway in conjunction with new primary school.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Parks &amp; Recreation/Shire of AMR/C - new district POS area for east side of Highway in conjunction with new primary school.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Parks &amp; Recreation/Shire of AMR/C - new district POS area for east side of Highway in conjunction with new primary school.</td>
</tr>
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<td>Parks &amp; Recreation/Shire of AMR/C - new district POS area for east side of Highway in conjunction with new primary school.</td>
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<td>Parks &amp; Recreation/Shire of AMR/C - new district POS area for east side of Highway in conjunction with new primary school.</td>
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<td>Parks &amp; Recreation/Shire of AMR/C - new district POS area for east side of Highway in conjunction with new primary school.</td>
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<td>Parks &amp; Recreation/Shire of AMR/C - new district POS area for east side of Highway in conjunction with new primary school.</td>
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Public Open Space Strategy
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Size (ha)</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Village Green</td>
<td>R46737</td>
<td>0.308</td>
<td>Public Recreation/AMR/C</td>
<td>Village Green. Open green space, some trees.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Brookfield Park</td>
<td>R45820</td>
<td>0.912</td>
<td>Public Recreation &amp; Drainage/AMR/C</td>
<td>Brookfield Avenue. Playground, open green space, paths.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Wisteria Park</td>
<td>R48830</td>
<td>2.370</td>
<td>Public Recreation/AMR/C</td>
<td>Park in Wisteria Cr./Sandalwood Dr. Playground, seating, paths and part natural vegetation in Brookfield Ave.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Abelia Park</td>
<td>R49466</td>
<td>0.350</td>
<td>Public Recreation/AMR/C</td>
<td>Abelia Ave. Formal park with playground and shelter.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Local POS B**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Size (ha)</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Lot 262</td>
<td>R44693</td>
<td>0.0692</td>
<td>Memorial Site/AMR/C</td>
<td>Bussell Highway/Wallcliffe Road.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Sandpit Road</td>
<td>R18838</td>
<td>68.3</td>
<td>Recreation/AMR/C</td>
<td>Wallcliffe Road – pony club, speedway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Cabernet Park</td>
<td>R36009</td>
<td>0.295</td>
<td>Public Recreation/AMR/C</td>
<td>Cabernet Pl. Green space, trees, swing set.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>R49003</td>
<td>0.0384</td>
<td>Public Recreation/AMR/C</td>
<td>Ironbark Ave. Pedestrian access way.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Tyrone Reserve</td>
<td>R49701</td>
<td>0.263</td>
<td>Public Recreation/AMR/C</td>
<td>Tyrone Loop. Native trees, small green space, drainage basin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Churchill</td>
<td>R28445</td>
<td>0.099</td>
<td>Park &amp; Parking/AMR/C</td>
<td>Churchill Ave. Vacant with some trees.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>R36747</td>
<td>39.05</td>
<td>Public Recreation/AMR/C</td>
<td>Wallcliffe Rd. Landscape buffer/stream foreshore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>R12646</td>
<td>10.14</td>
<td>Recreation/AMR/C</td>
<td>Wallcliffe Rd. Natural vegetation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>R49014</td>
<td>0.0434</td>
<td>Public Recreation/AMR/C</td>
<td>Ironbark Ave. Pedestrian access way.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>R48888</td>
<td>0.0249</td>
<td>Public Recreation/AMR/C</td>
<td>Tingle Ave. Small vacant areas adjacent to road reserve.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>R48889</td>
<td>0.0215</td>
<td>Public Recreation/AMR/C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>R35363</td>
<td>0.343</td>
<td>Public Recreation/AMR/C</td>
<td>McLeod Pl/Shaw Pl. Parkland cleared/undeveloped.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>R34658</td>
<td>0.1065</td>
<td>Park/AMR/C</td>
<td>Forrest Rd/Town View Tce. Car park.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>Elva Street</td>
<td>R31296</td>
<td>0.162</td>
<td>Public Recreation/AMR/C</td>
<td>Elva St. Eucalypt trees, cleared understory.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conservation POS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Size (ha)</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>Margaret River foreshore</td>
<td>R38650</td>
<td>50.8</td>
<td>Recreation/AMR/C</td>
<td>Riverslea Park/The Boulevard/Bankside Retreat. Open green spaces, paths, boardwalks over stream, natural vegetation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>R18720</td>
<td>17.68</td>
<td>Park &amp; Recreation/AMR/A</td>
<td>Bussell Highway. Natural vegetation and foreshore.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>R45095</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>Public Recreation/AMR/C</td>
<td>Waters Edge. Natural vegetation and foreshore.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Public Open Space Strategy*
## Shire of Augusta Margaret River

### Public Open Space Strategy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Reserve/Lot No.</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>Landscape buffers</td>
<td>R44510</td>
<td>0.549ha</td>
<td>Public Recreation/Shire of AMR/C Wallcliffe Road.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td></td>
<td>R40289</td>
<td>2.935ha</td>
<td>Public Recreation/Shire of AMR/C Wallcliffe Road.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td></td>
<td>R49450</td>
<td>0.2945ha</td>
<td>Public Recreation/Shire of AMR/C Busell Highway.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td></td>
<td>R38118</td>
<td>1.678ha</td>
<td>Parkland/Shire of AMR/C Boodjidup Road.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td></td>
<td>R48316</td>
<td>0.7476ha</td>
<td>Public Recreation/Shire of AMR/C Rosa Brook Road.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47</td>
<td></td>
<td>R36008</td>
<td>0.374ha</td>
<td>Public Recreation/Shire of AMR/C Ryans Road/Wallcliffe Road.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>Rails to Trails</td>
<td>R39689</td>
<td>27.3ha</td>
<td>Parks and Recreation/Shire of AMR/Former rail reserve.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Augusta

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Reserve/Lot No.</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Civic Park</td>
<td>R20761</td>
<td>26.47ha</td>
<td>Community Centre and Recreation/Shire of AMR/C Lot 3000 Allnutt Tce – Augusta Civic Centre, library, sports ground, golf course, croquet club, parking.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>R37795</td>
<td>5.02ha</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>R30498</td>
<td>0.873ha</td>
<td>Public Recreation/Shire of AMR/C Dawson Tce. Natural foreshore.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>R22251</td>
<td>0.315ha</td>
<td>Recreation/Shire of AMR/C Hardy St. Foreshore parkland.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>R25152</td>
<td>0.775ha</td>
<td>Public Recreation/Shire of AMR/C Dawson Park, Dawson Tce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>R30536</td>
<td>0.164ha</td>
<td>Public Recreation/Shire of AMR/C Hardy St. Foreshore park.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>R37811</td>
<td>1.49ha</td>
<td>Recreation &amp; Parklands/Shire of AMR/A Victoria Pde. Natural foreshore vegetation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>R27861</td>
<td>4.3ha</td>
<td>Recreation/Shire of AMR/A Victoria Pde (north). Natural foreshore vegetation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>R32211</td>
<td>0.113ha</td>
<td>Public Recreation/Shire of AMR/C Cassidy St. Vegetated reserve adjacent to foreshore.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>R41117</td>
<td>0.756ha</td>
<td>Park and Recreation/Shire of AMR/Parkland adjacent to Colourpatch to north.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>R37957</td>
<td>0.952ha</td>
<td>Parking and Public Facilities/Shire of AMR/C Park, car park and vegetation adjacent to Colourpatch (south).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>R27643</td>
<td>0.173ha</td>
<td>Recreation/Shire of AMR/C Ellis St jetty precinct, Victoria Pde. Car park and access.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>R41047</td>
<td>0.26ha</td>
<td>Jetty and Harbour Purposes/Minister for Transport/C. Fisherman’s Reserve. Davies Road, Flinders Bay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>R48013</td>
<td>0.568ha</td>
<td>Public Recreation/Shire of AMR/C Victoria Pde (north). Car park and foreshore vegetation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Neighbourhood POS

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Augusta Yacht Club</td>
<td>R45955</td>
<td>0.51ha</td>
<td>Recreation/Shire of AMR/C West Bay Rd. Yacht Club. vegetation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Comments</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Flinders Bay Foreshore</td>
<td>R24653, R24654</td>
<td>6.227ha</td>
<td>Recreation and Camping/Shire of AMR/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.298ha</td>
<td>Recreation/Shire of AMR/C. Davies Road. Foreshore park/camping ground.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Local POS A**

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<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Matthew Flinders Park?</td>
<td>R24535</td>
<td>0.154ha</td>
<td>Recreation/Shire of AMR/C. Davies Rd. Park adjacent to foreshore.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Memorial Park</td>
<td>R20232</td>
<td>0.14ha</td>
<td>Soldiers memorial Site/Shire of AMR/C. Osnaburg Street/York Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Shervington Park</td>
<td>R34996</td>
<td>0.71ha</td>
<td>Public Recreation/Shire of AMR/C. Lily Street. Vegetated park.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Stephenson Park</td>
<td>R41705</td>
<td>0.307ha</td>
<td>Recreation/Shire of AMR/C. Stephenson Street. Park (in three parts) with a playground.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3.65ha</td>
<td>Park/Shire of AMR/C. Turner St/Albany Tce. Natural vegetation and foreshore area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Firestone park</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.05ha</td>
<td>Investigator Ave/Firestone Way.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Westbay Valley</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.75ha</td>
<td>Hillview Rd/Hart Rd. Landscape Buffer.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Local POS B**

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<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Hardy bush reserve</td>
<td>R9658, R40376</td>
<td>2.055ha</td>
<td>Camping and Caravan Park/Shire of AMR/C. Effluent Disposal Site/Shire of AMR/C. Hardy St/Allnut Tce. Natural bushland.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Allnut bush reserve</td>
<td>R27019</td>
<td>0.91ha</td>
<td>Parks and Gardens/Shire of AMR/C. Lot 339 Allnut Tce. Bushland.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Donovan Bush reserve</td>
<td>R43374</td>
<td>0.725ha</td>
<td>Tourist Bureau/Shire of AMR/C. Bussell Hwy/Donovan St. Bushland.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Osnaburg bush reserve</td>
<td>R39910</td>
<td>4.04ha</td>
<td>Parklands/Shire of AMR/A. Osnaburg St. Bushland.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Knight Place reserve</td>
<td>R34094</td>
<td>0.397ha</td>
<td>Parklands and Recreation/Shire of AMR/C. Knight Place. Natural vegetation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Turner St</td>
<td>R37335</td>
<td>0.49ha</td>
<td>Park and Gardens/Shire of AMR/C. Lot 3003 between Turner/York Sts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Resting Place</td>
<td>R24322</td>
<td>2.52ha</td>
<td>Stopping Place/Shire of AMR/A. Bussell Hwy. Bushland.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Foreshore south</td>
<td>R25141</td>
<td>41.9ha</td>
<td>Recreation/Shire of AMR/A. Leeuwin Rd. Foreshore area/fishing spots.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td></td>
<td>R34229</td>
<td>5.3ha</td>
<td>Public Recreation/Shire of AMR/C. Lot 4638 Jane Rd. Bushland.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Eatt Place</td>
<td>R43428</td>
<td>0.106ha</td>
<td>Public Recreation/Shire of AMR/C. Lot 875 Eatt Pl. Largely cleared and vacant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td></td>
<td>R28016</td>
<td>0.087ha</td>
<td>Public Recreation/Shire of AMR/C. Lot 472 Stirling St. Vacant.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Cowaramup**

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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Cowaramup Oval</td>
<td>R19416</td>
<td>6.08ha</td>
<td>Recreation and Community Centre/Shire of AMR/C. Hall Rd. District POS – playing fields, tennis courts, playground, basketball court, community hall.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Neighbourhood POS**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Pioneer Park</td>
<td>R22636</td>
<td>1.26ha</td>
<td>Recreation and Community Purposes/Shire of AMR/C. Bussell Highway. Seating, shelter, barbeques, art work, paths, passive green space.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Parkwater Reserve</td>
<td>R49308</td>
<td>6.4ha</td>
<td>Recreation/Shire of AMR/C. Currawong St. Playground, seating, shelter, active space.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Local POS A**

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<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Foreshore</td>
<td>R45185</td>
<td>0.972ha</td>
<td>Public Recreation &amp; Drainage/Shire of AMR/C. Duggan Drive. Foreshore area and rural buffer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Code</td>
<td>Area</td>
<td>Owner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Cowarra Heights Park</td>
<td>R47991</td>
<td>0.806ha</td>
<td>Public Recreation/Shire of AMR/C. Duggan Dr. Park, playground, bushland and pedestrian link.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Local park</td>
<td>R50457</td>
<td>2.14ha</td>
<td>Public Recreation &amp; Drainage/Shire of AMR/C. Roy Earl Dr. Vacant parkland.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Local park</td>
<td>R49007</td>
<td>0.59ha</td>
<td>Public Recreation/Shire of AMR/C. Sanctuary Circuit. Remnant vegetation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Local POS B**

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<th>Name</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Landscape buffer</td>
<td>R49199</td>
<td>0.49ha</td>
<td>Public Recreation/Shire of AMR/C. Sunset Drive. Linear landscape buffer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Pedestrian access</td>
<td>R49881</td>
<td>0.107ha</td>
<td>Pedestrian Access Way/Shire of AMR/C. Tinglewood Ct/Timber Ct/Holly Pl. Three PAWs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Pedestrian access</td>
<td>R49755</td>
<td>0.149ha</td>
<td>Pedestrian Access Way/Shire of AMR/C. Daisy Rise/Goodwine Way/Smokebush Ct. Four PAWs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conservation POS**

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Name</th>
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<th>Area</th>
<th>Owner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Conservation</td>
<td>Lot 155</td>
<td>8.9ha</td>
<td>Lot 155 Sunset Drive - MoU to the National Trust.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Conservation</td>
<td>Lot 550</td>
<td>4.47ha</td>
<td>Lot 550 Sunset Drive - MoU to the National Trust.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Conservation</td>
<td>Lot 551</td>
<td>14.3ha</td>
<td>Lot 551 Sunset Drive - MoU to the National Trust.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Conservation area</td>
<td>R44339</td>
<td>1.12ha</td>
<td>Recreation/Shire of AMR/C. Bottrill St. Vegetation/bushland south of oval.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Gracetown**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Owner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Gracetown Oval</td>
<td>R37456</td>
<td>12.7ha</td>
<td>Recreation and Hall Site/Shire of AMR/C. Salter Street – Gracetown Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Melaleuca Beach Park</td>
<td>R27618</td>
<td>32.8ha</td>
<td>Recreation/Shire of AMR/A. Bayview Drive/Salter Street – Foreshore.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Prevelly/Gnarabup**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Owner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Rifle Butt Reserve</td>
<td>R26228</td>
<td>48.9ha</td>
<td>Public Recreation/Shire of AMR/C. Papadakis Avenue/Mitchell Drive.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Surfers Point and foreshore</td>
<td>R41545</td>
<td>116.6ha</td>
<td>Recreation/Shire of AMR/A. Surfers Point Road.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Mitchell Drive reserve</td>
<td>R33793</td>
<td>4.05ha</td>
<td>Recreation/Shire of AMR/C. Mitchell Drive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Gnarabup reserve</td>
<td>R46732</td>
<td>7.5ha</td>
<td>Recreation and Emergency Services/Shire of AMR/AC. Wallcliffe Road.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>reserve</td>
<td>R37224</td>
<td>30.6ha</td>
<td>Public Recreation/Shire of AMR/C. Wallcliffe Road.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>foreshore</td>
<td>R50757</td>
<td>1.25ha</td>
<td>Recreation and Drainage/Shire of AMR/C. Wallcliffe Road.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>foreshore</td>
<td>R46749</td>
<td>2.66ha</td>
<td>Recreation and Drainage/Shire of AMR/C. Wallcliffe Road.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Witchcliffe**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Owner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Town park</td>
<td>R28074</td>
<td>0.03ha</td>
<td>Municipal Purposes/Shire of AMR/C. Bussell Hwy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>reserve</td>
<td>R22471</td>
<td>0.78ha</td>
<td>Recreation/Shire of AMR/C. Redgate Road. Bush area south of tennis court.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>reserve</td>
<td>R47731</td>
<td>0.2ha</td>
<td>Community Centre/Shire of AMR/C. Redgate Rd. Tennis club. Former CWA rooms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>reserve</td>
<td>R35113</td>
<td>3.68ha</td>
<td>Parklands/Shire of AMR/C. Redgate Rd/Mammoth St. Bushland.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Rails to Trails</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>ha</td>
<td>Redgate Road.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Public Open Space Strategy**
Park Check Management Measures

Park Check comprises a comparison of Australian local governments in relation to the provision and management of green space. It assists with the review of financial performance, estimating cost and unit rates, and identifying best industry practices on reporting.

The results are indicators only, not absolutes and no assumptions on efficiency can be made.

Key Outcomes for Shire of AMR

- High level of green space provision (ha/person) - similar to findings in the draft Strategy.
- Above median operating budget - $/1,000 persons.
- Very high expenditure on sporting field maintenance per 1,000 persons.
- High capital expenditure/1,000 persons.

Implications

- High level of provision and limited funds, so there is a low level of expenditure/service per ha.
- Percentage of organisational budget is at a reasonable level.
- High expenditure per ha on sporting fields.
- Improve reporting on playground expenditure.
- KPIs low - Overall, Operations, Asset Management, Planning.

Strategies to address identified issues

- Rationalise provision (ha) or reduce expenditure (per ha and per person) to address increased cost, compliance and growth.
- Reduce all services or vary the level of service for hierarchy of parks.
- Review the current mix of service levels.

Key considerations for improvement

- Document and review service levels for provision and maintenance.
- Development standards for park infrastructure provision.
- Park Infrastructure Management Plan.
- Asset Register, condition information.
- Operable renewal plan.
- Ten year plan for provision (expansion and rationalisation).

Links with POS Strategy

- Provides a strategy on level of service for provision of POS to be consistent with state policy.
- Recognises development standards to include provision of certain assets at various types of parks.
- Lists strategies currently identified as part of operations of parks.
- Lists strategies to improve planning and management of parks.
5.0 POS Strategy

The urban areas of the Shire include large areas of parkland, reserves and other POS including a number of conservation reserves. Each town contains a district POS facility e.g. Gloucester Park, Augusta Civic Park and Cowaramup Oval. The Shire also provides a wide range of community facilities throughout the area including community halls, libraries, recreation facilities, public amenities such as toilets, and foreshore infrastructure such as boat ramps and jetties.

The provision of POS in the Shire is considered generally adequate at this time, subject to the provision of additional facilities in key parks and reserves and additional POS being provided in the developing urban areas.

POS can generate activity and provide a focal point for the community. The size of POS areas is not as important as the quality and location of the spaces. Good quality and well-located POS will lead to better amenity for users and encourage higher levels of use and social interaction.

Easy accessibility to POS is critical for enabling use of the POS network and casual surveillance provided to parks from adjoining roads/dwellings is also important in generating enhanced use and participation.

The Shire has opportunities for people of all ages to participate in sport and recreation and strategies are being formulated to ensure that facilities are available to service the growing population. Sporting activities in the Shire are centred on popular ball sports and informal recreation such as bush walking, fishing, surfing and swimming at the beach. There are a number of formal recreation areas in the Shire including Gloucester Park and the Recreation and Aquatic Centre in Margaret River.

The provision of additional recreation and sporting infrastructure and facilities in developing areas will need to be addressed by a number of methods including via planning initiatives such as this Strategy and by the structure planning of urban development precincts (including development contribution plans).

Key Parks and Reserves

Margaret River - Gloucester Park, Memorial Park, Rotary Park, Reuther Park, Farmhouse Park, Marri Park, Wisteria Park, Chardonnay Park.

Augusta - Civic Park, Flinders Bay foreshore, Blackwood River foreshore (including Ellis St Jetty precinct and Colourpatch).

Cowaramup - Cowaramup Oval, Pioneer Park, Parkwater Reserve, Cowara Heights Park.

Gracetown - Melaleuca Beach Park, Gracetown Oval.

Prevelly/Gnarabup - Rifle Butt Reserve, Surfers Point foreshore.

Public Open Space Strategy
5.1 **Objectives for POS**

5.1.1 **Planning Principles for POS**

Guiding principles are useful in achieving the vision of the Strategy and in defining key strategic outcomes. For the purpose of this Strategy the fundamental guiding principles when planning for the provision of POS and recreation facilities should relate to access, quality, safety, health and sustainability.

**Access and equity**

The distribution of POS should ensure equitable availability to all sectors of the community in terms of the level of provision and facility development, as well as ease of access. A strategic approach to the planning and provision of POS should consider the needs of different age groups and users, and ensure that the quality of POS and healthy, natural environments are adequate for future generations.

A range of parks with different sizes and functions should be accessible to all sectors of the community, including residents and visitors (particularly those with mobility aids). Ready access to POS via pedestrian paths, bicycle paths, private vehicles and public transport are key considerations in land use and transport planning in urban areas.

**Quality space**

The provision of quality community spaces for the enjoyment of residents and visitors is both a strategic and operational objective. The principle of quality and enjoyment should be used as a reference point in the planning and development of POS to ensure the provision of good quality, and safe parks and reserves that people will enjoy using over strategic time frames.

**Sustainability**

The fundamental principle of sustainability requires a balance between the current and future needs of the community, the environment and funding in establishing and maintaining POS and recreation facilities. The design and development of POS in terms of reducing water use, improving species selection, limiting the use of turf where possible, increasing the level of native (endemic) landscaping, and minimising ongoing maintenance needs will assist in improving sustainability outcomes in the longer term.

The achievement of sustainable outcomes in relation to POS will ensure the best distribution and use of parks and reserves, the appropriate use of resources, and the protection of remnant vegetation, landscapes and natural habitat.

**Culture**

The history and cultural heritage of an area needs to be identified and recognised when considering the provision and development of POS. Aboriginal heritage in particular provides opportunities for cultural recognition of indigenous Australians, native flora and fauna, bush foods, medicinal plants, trails and other important references. Early European settlement can also provide themes for recognition of cultural heritage in relation to pioneers, early settlers and agriculture.
Community health

POS enhances health and recreation outcomes for the community via organised sport, exercise and children’s play. The provision of public areas which people enjoy meeting and interacting in can play an important role in encouraging human contact and well-being, including positive mental health outcomes.

The Strategy recognises the significant benefits that POS provides in relation to positive community health, social connectivity and building community capacity.

Diversity and flexibility

It is important to ensure the provision of a diverse range of opportunities in POS and recreation facilities across the Shire. A hierarchy of parks of varying sizes must be combined with a diversity of spaces. This requires that people have access to a choice of spaces of different appearance as well as function.

This is particularly important in terms of environmental habitat, as vegetated and natural areas are just as necessary as cleared sites for sporting grounds and picnic areas. Different natural habitats can be conserved and enhanced so that spaces respond to local character, instead of uniformity across the Shire.

POS should be responsive to the community’s needs, changing priorities, and to regional and local issues. The Strategy needs to evolve via periodic review to accommodate unforeseen issues and changes over time in relation to demographic change and recreation trends. A degree of flexibility must be incorporated into outcomes, actions and implementation strategies.

Financial management

The Shire is ultimately responsible for the use of public funds and assets. The Strategy addresses in general terms the provision, development and maintenance of POS in a responsible, equitable and sustainable manner. Investment in POS must be justified in terms of the efficient use of resources, while funds obtained from development contributions must be used appropriately to achieve the objectives of the community.

Partnerships

Partnerships will be increasingly important in assisting the achievement of the objectives and the need for others to recognise and support the Shire in the provision of multiple-use spaces and opportunities. Shared provision and management of ovals with schools is a clear opportunity in that regard.

Safety and risk

The Shire seeks to ensure that parks and reserves are developed and maintained to ensure safe use by the community. The provision and maintenance of recreation infrastructure must ensure the ongoing use of facilities is safe for all users without unnecessary financial expenditure. In some circumstances, the formulation of reserve or asset management plans will be required to guide best practice in that regard.

In particular, vegetated reserves should be adequately managed in terms of fire risk and emergency response arrangements. The risk to life, property and habitat from potential
fire events should be assessed in accordance with best practice and mechanisms established to ensure appropriate management outcomes.

**Ongoing management**

The most effective and efficient management of parks and reserves within the Shire needs to be pursued along with an ethos of continuous improvement in internal partnerships, process and land use planning.

The management of natural and community resources in a sustainable and efficient manner and the integration of best practice principles such as sustainable water management are necessary principles in sustainable management over strategic time frames.

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**5.1.2 Planning for Parks and Recreation**

**5.1.2.1 Catchment and Character**

A ‘catchment’ refers to the area that a particular classification of POS is intended to service e.g. preferred distance or walking time to a park. This identifies that a certain area of POS is servicing the needs of people living or working within a specific area, and seeks to ensure optimal accessibility for all sectors of the community.

Identifying catchments also establishes the distribution of POS so that parks are close enough to be accessible by the catchment population and to be well-used, but not so close that an oversupply arises and parks become underutilised.

Neighbourhood catchments are generally defined as having a radius of 400 metres within which there should be adequate provision for parks, playgrounds and other community facilities. In an urban setting with an average density of 20 dwellings per hectare, as many as 600-800 dwellings can enjoy walkable access to local recreation facilities.

It is also important that residents, particularly small children and seniors are able to readily access POS via safe pathways or residential streets without the need to cross busy or dangerous roads or other barriers.

**Public Open Space Strategy**
Catchment standards can identify where walkability is a priority or where other modes of transport may be needed. It establishes that there should be at least one local park generally within five minutes walking distance of all residents, yet it is acceptable that other forms of transport may be necessary to access district and regional open spaces.

Liveable Neighbourhoods establishes that local parks (up to 3,000m² in area) are essential to provide accessibility to young families and should be provided within walkable local catchments (within 150-300 metres of houses). Neighbourhood parks (3,000-5,000m²) should be provided within 400 metres of all dwellings, servicing 600-800 dwellings.

It is important that POS outcomes reflect to some degree the broad characteristics of the local area or planning precinct in which the POS is to be located. Local character needs to be considered and used to influence POS outcomes in terms of function and design. When reviewing existing parks or planning for additional POS during structure planning, it is recommended that the character of the catchment area and the locality is considered in order to assist the planning and review process.

The population, age profile, other demographic characteristics, pet ownership, residential density, type of housing, topography, natural characteristics and proximity to other POS can all be influences on the type, form, function and design of POS. Community dynamics and identity, the factors influencing the types of POS the community may desire and the presence of community groups can also provide indicators in that regard.

The appropriate naming of reserves and parks can contribute to, and reflect, local character. While some parks are already named, others are currently unnamed and would benefit from appropriate, signed names.

Strategies:

1. The planning of POS in structure plans, and the development of existing and proposed POS considers the character of the local area in terms of:
   - catchment size
   - topography, vegetation, water courses, natural features
   - population and demography
   - residential density
   - proximity to schools, local centres, other POS
   - any local cultural significance
   - popular sporting activities in the district.

2. Existing and future parks and reserves to be provided with a suitable name and appropriate signage that reflects Shire standards and the requirements of the Geographic Names Committee “Principles, Guidelines and Procedures”.

5.1.2.2 Facilities Provision

Liveable Neighbourhoods clearly requires the development of parks by the subdivider to a minimum standard to enhance residential amenity. Issues relating to quality, useability and functionality of POS require attention so that opportunities for innovation, creativity and sustainability are not overlooked.

The provision of local and neighbourhood POS needs to be addressed during the structure planning process to ensure equitable distribution of passive and informal active recreation spaces. Accessible district recreation grounds need to be identified as a focus for active recreation including for more formal sporting activities.

Public Open Space Strategy
It is preferred that active recreation areas are provided in conjunction with school sites or other community focal points. This provides opportunities for shared maintenance arrangements between schools/other agencies and the Shire.

As new urban areas are developed, the provision of additional playgrounds and other local facilities will need to be addressed during structure planning to ensure adequate provision in the future, particularly where the proportion of families with children increases over time.

Structure planning and subdivision should therefore provide for the provision of POS and the development of parks by the subdivider to a minimum standard to enhance residential amenity and access to recreation opportunities for all sectors of the community. Matters that need to be considered in relation to the provision of specific facilities in POS include:

- adequate seating and shelter e.g. trees and shade/rain structures;
- pathways and dual use paths including connections to the existing network;
- sustainable and attractive landscaping;
- playgrounds with safe play equipment (safety fencing where necessary);
- BBQ facilities in appropriate locations;
- adequate sealed car parking where necessary;
- toilets/amenities and change rooms at sports grounds;
- adequate lighting of ovals;
- suitable access for children, the aged, and people with mobility aids;
- opportunities for walking and cycling for recreation/exercise (dual use paths); and
- facilities to encourage social interaction e.g. shelter, seating, informal exercise opportunities, multi-purpose facilities, adequate lighting, safe dog exercise areas.

Recommendation:

3. That the Shire adopt minimum standards in relation to the provision of POS and recreation facilities in the Shire including the following:

### Guidelines for facility provision in POS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local Park</th>
<th>Neighbourhood Park</th>
<th>District Recreation Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>playground (1.5 play equipment sets with shade structure &amp; safe fall area/1,000 persons)</td>
<td>playground (1.5 play equipment sets with shade structure &amp; safe fall area/1,000 persons)</td>
<td>1 active green space/3,500 persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>seating</td>
<td>seating</td>
<td>hard court facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shade trees or structures</td>
<td>shade trees or structures</td>
<td>play equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>litter bins</td>
<td>litter bins</td>
<td>change rooms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>appropriate safety fencing</td>
<td>appropriate safety fencing</td>
<td>toilets and amenities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pathways</td>
<td>sealed car parking</td>
<td>seating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sustainable landscaping</td>
<td>public toilets</td>
<td>litter bins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>pathways</td>
<td>adequate lighting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>sealed car parking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>appropriate fencing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>paths &amp; dual use paths</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>sustainable landscaping</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5.1.2.3 Footpaths and Dual Use Paths

Walking for exercise is the recreation activity with the highest participation rates in Australia. It is also the most frequently undertaken physical activity as it is inexpensive. Walking appeals to a wide range of people as it can be undertaken while exercising a dog or pushing a pram, individually or in groups.

The provision of on and off road bicycle facilities is required to provide better connectivity from new subdivisions to town centres and community facilities. The enhancement of pedestrian/cycle links between residential areas, schools, parks and town centres will ensure adequate connectivity for residents and visitors as additional development occurs.

The Local Planning Strategy 2011 indicates that the Shire will investigate the implementation of an integrated multi-use pathway network and develop bicycle parking in major activity areas in accordance with Margaret River Townsite Strategy. This infrastructure should be incorporated into a town-wide development contributions policy to fund the initiatives, and to incorporate the recommended pathway network into a review of the current Margaret River path plan. All new developments within the town centre will be required to consider and provide for alternative methods of transport including cycle and pedestrian.

The Shire’s Path Plan was prepared in 2004 and is due to be reviewed in 2013/14. The original plan considered Margaret River and Augusta however the review will include trails and paths in Cowaramup, Gracetown and Gnarabup/Prevelly.

Strategy:

4. Formulate/review path strategies to determine gaps in the pedestrian and dual use path network that can be addressed by a programme of staged path construction and improvement to ensure that an adequate level of connectivity is available between parks and other community focal nodes.

5.1.2.4 Children and Youth

The Shire has higher proportions of children/youth in comparison to Australia. In 2011 it is estimated that there were approximately 3,240 people aged 0-19 (26.5%) in the Shire compared to 25.8% in Australia. The proportion of children is expected to further increase over time as more families with children settle in the developing urban areas.

Younger people in the community, and particularly teenagers, often have a greater range of leisure needs than other age cohorts. They need more constructive and challenging play activities, and opportunities to socialise daily. They can be noisy and boisterous, and can be mischievous if bored. Accordingly, it is important that the Shire builds on the existing facilities such as skate parks to ensure that young people are adequately engaged in
recreation, recognising that the youth demographic is likely to increase as the proportion of families with children increases in the town.

Facilities to be provided for teenagers should be designed and located in a manner which balances the competing needs of teenagers and other users of POS and recreation facilities. It is sometimes advisable to provide teenagers with separate recreation spaces, while not isolating them or impairing opportunities for multiple use POS.

**Strategy:**

5. That the location, function and design of POS, and the provision of recreation facilities, be required to balance the competing needs of children and teenagers with other users in order to engage young people and reduce conflict.

### 5.1.2.5 Ageing Population

Census data indicates that the proportion of older people in the Shire was slightly greater than the proportion in Australia. In 2011 there were approximately 4,045 people aged 50 or more in the Shire (33.1% of all residents) compared to 32.3% in Australia.

While an ageing population is occurring in the Shire and in Australia generally, the future demographic of the Shire could include an increasing proportion of younger families which may counteract to some degree the national trend. Accordingly, the ageing population of the Shire may slow to some extent as growth occurs over the next twenty years.

The focus for older people in relation to POS is likely to be on more passive recreation and on safe, direct access to parks and other community focal nodes. The provision of shelter structures in POS is important in terms of providing relief from sun, wind and rain. Well located seating and shelter provides people with places to meet, socialise, and observe activity in streets and parks. The issue of access for the elderly and disabled persons needs to be addressed in a strategic manner via the footpath network, adequate provision of disabled parking and safe street-crossing points.

**Strategy:**

6. The provision of additional shelter and seating in parks should be considered; and the standards of footpaths and street crossings improved where necessary to ensure safe and easy access to town centres and parks for older members of the community and those with mobility aids.

### 5.1.2.6 Healthy spaces

Research published by the Planning Institute of Australia shows that the built environment can have a significant impact on a person’s level of physical activity. Good design and people friendly open spaces can promote active lifestyles by encouraging walking, cycling and active recreation. *Healthy Spaces and Places* is a national guide to designing places for healthy living. It identifies the following key design principles:

- Active transport – walking and cycling
- Aesthetics – attractive places and parks invite use and enjoyment
- Connectivity – ease with which people can walk/cycle between spaces
- Environments for all – spaces that are safe and designed with facilities to be available to all regardless of age, ability, culture or income
- Mixed density – range of housing types/sizes promoting diversity
Shire of Augusta Margaret River

- Mixed land use – promoting activity and shared resources
- Parks and open space – diversity of open space
- Safety and surveillance – design that seeks to reduce crime
- Social inclusion – opportunities for all members of the community
- Supporting infrastructure – facilities that encourage and support regular and safe physical activity (paths, shelter, seating, lighting).

Additional research by the University of WA in relation to ‘companion animals’ resonates with these ideas by showing that pet ownership gets people active in their environment and community; and therefore healthier physically and mentally. Pet ownership leads to activities and actions that help people develop healthy and inclusive communities.

Good quality built environments, including open space, play a critical role in facilitating healthy spaces and interaction with pets in the public domain.

**Strategies:**

7. The planning and design of public open spaces and recreation facilities is to consider the principles of the Planning Institute of Australia’s ‘healthy spaces and places’ guide to designing places for healthy living.

8. The needs of pets and safe pet-owner recreation activities are to be considered in the planning and design of public open space.

### 5.1.2.7 Sustainability

The subdivision design of new urban areas should provide well distributed parkland that provides for a range of uses/activities, is cost effective to maintain and addresses local and regional sustainability imperatives.

It is important that the design of POS and ongoing maintenance programmes enhance the use and benefit of POS to the community. The Shire has an opportunity to develop sustainable practices in the way that it manages and maintains its parks and reserves. The adoption of sustainable practices will not only benefit recreation outcomes generally, but will also be more cost effective in the longer term. In addition, it will make a meaningful contribution to environmental sustainability while modelling sustainable practices for the community.

POS design should reflect the principles of water sensitive urban design and integrated water cycle management pursuant to the Better Urban Water Management manual prepared by the Department of Water and others. This includes the use of water wise gardens, hydro-zoning and bio-retention areas as well as sustainable water sources and the re-use of water where appropriate.

With increased pressure on groundwater allocations, there is now more interest in alternatives for irrigation of POS such as non-drinking water and scheme water sources. The Water Corporation’s Policy for POS released in January 2013 states that applicants are required to demonstrate that water efficiency principles, along with alternate supply has been considered, before provision of a service can occur.

The objectives of the Policy include:

- promotion of water efficiency and alternative water sources;
- supply of scheme water as a last resort;
option to extend scheme water supply on a temporary, interruptible or differentiated service basis; and
movement to more cost-reflective pricing principles.

Strategy:

9. A programme for the introduction of best practice sustainable development and management of POS and recreation assets is to be developed and monitored, and is to include:

   a. water sensitive urban design and integrated water cycle management e.g. water wise gardens, hydro-zoning and bio-retention;
   b. renewable water sources e.g. use of treated effluent or other sustainable water sources in accordance with the Water Corporation’s Policy for POS;
   c. energy efficient equipment e.g. energy efficient lighting;
   d. low water dependency plants, including native vegetation and climate-appropriate grasses on ovals;
   e. use of durable, longer lasting materials;
   f. use of re-cycled materials where appropriate;
   g. use of standard fittings where appropriate;
   h. adherence to the Shire’s Revegetation/Landscaping Guidelines; and
   i. formulation of maintenance programmes that ensure POS and recreation assets are maintained in a sustainable manner.

5.1.2.8 Management Plans

The future of bushland and wetland areas within Shire reserves will benefit from more specific guidance via reserve management plans and targeted maintenance. The aim of more detailed management plans for high use reserves, conservation reserves and other reserves which contain remnant vegetation or wetlands is to ensure more comprehensive planning, sustainable management and understanding of these reserves.

Ultimately it is considered best practice to prepare reserve or asset management plans for all reserves in the Shire. In some cases this will not be necessary e.g. where small local parks have been developed and are being managed and maintained sustainably with minimal resource input.

Some priority should be given to preparing management plans for conservation areas as well as district POS e.g. recreation/sporting grounds.
Management plans need to address the fundamental issues of function and sustainability. Providing for the needs of the community must be considered in the context of available water resources; maintenance costs of infrastructure and landscaping; and risk management.

In addition it should be noted that the management of Aboriginal heritage pursuant to the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 needs to be addressed in the use and development of POS where sites or potential sites are identified.

Strategy:

10. Reserve Management Plans prepared for conservation areas and other POS are to include:

- plans showing the location, extent and quality of remnant vegetation, wetlands or other natural features;
- a schedule of infrastructure assets;
- location of any existing or proposed works or facilities e.g. landscaping, access, trails, fences, signs, vehicle parking;
- details of any proposed interpretative facilities and signs;
- details of works for habitat conservation and rehabilitation;
- details of fire risk management;
- specification of categories of conservation works including protection of remnant vegetation, revegetation with native species, management weeds and fire risk, and vermin control;
- costs of habitat conservation works, revegetation, landscaping and other works;
- recommendations for sustainable use of resources related to mowing, watering, weed control etc; and
- accurate identification of foreshore protection and management areas via biophysical assessment.

5.1.2.9 Security and Risk Management

Park users need to feel safe and secure at all times when using the Shire’s parks and recreation facilities. The function of POS can be considered in conjunction with various mechanisms to create more useable parks and recreation spaces. Security can be enhanced through:

- the location and design of POS to address safety and security,
- adjacent urban/residential design for passive surveillance,
- boundary definition of POS,
- use of suitable construction techniques and materials,
- adequate maintenance regimes,
- adequate lighting of parks, and by
- encouraging greater use of parks and attracting a variety of users to parks.

Risk management needs to be an important element of design, construction and ongoing management in relation to POS and recreation assets. The consideration of the implications of design and construction on intended and unintended users is therefore important. In an environment of ageing POS infrastructure such as paths, park furniture and sporting infrastructure, and an increasingly litigious society, the Shire will need to ensure that the condition of infrastructure does not provide potential hazards for users.

Graffiti, vandalism and anti-social behaviour are becoming worrying aspects of POS management in some areas. Damage to facilities and vegetation is expensive and time-consuming.
The issue of cause can also be addressed by firstly ensuring offenders are not bored. Providing interesting outlets for youthful energy should be considered before, or in conjunction with, policing methods which can be expensive. The provision of facilities for youth activities must be considered a high priority in terms of the youth demographic.

Common security measures can include:

- Promoting Police presence.
- Informing Police of vandalism/graffiti offenses.
- Promoting the Neighbourhood Watch Programme.
- Video surveillance of key facilities.
- Designing for natural surveillance and well-lit public spaces.
- Defining boundaries between POS and non-public land.
- Control of access to high risk areas.
- Appropriate signage of POS areas and relevant information.

Recommendations:

11. Risk management is to be undertaken when designing and constructing new facilities in POS; in the maintenance of existing infrastructure; and in the preparation of relevant licences and leases.

12. Mechanisms to improve risk management outcomes in POS are to be investigated in order to promote security in public areas and reduce anti-social behaviour.

5.1.2.10 Fire Risk

Many reserves in the Shire’s urban and peri-urban areas are characterised by remnant vegetation which may pose a significant fire risk to development on adjacent land. The acknowledgement of this risk in land use planning and urban design has resulted in the Shire being designated a Bush Fire Prone Area pursuant to the Local Planning Scheme in 2012. This means that the Australian Standard for Building in bush fire prone areas (AS3959 2009) is now applied to the building of new residential and tourist accommodation buildings.

Where existing vegetated reserves are already located in close proximity to residential development, any fire risk needs to be assessed and managed in an ongoing manner. This may require the preparation of reserve management plans which address fire risk management and/or the formulation of detailed fire management plans for specific reserves/parks where a significant risk has been identified. A broad assessment of risk is currently being undertaken through the preparation of a Bushfire Risk Management Plan for the Shire. This includes funding allocated in 2013/14 for preparation of a bushfire risk management strategy for Shire reserves. Appropriate responses will be detailed through this process.

Strategy:

13. Vegetated reserves/parks in the urban or peri-urban areas of Margaret River, Augusta and Cowaramup are to be assessed for potential risk from bush fire and appropriate responses to those risks detailed through the Shire's Bushfire Risk Management Plan.
5.2 Margaret River

5.2.1 Current POS Provision

The urban area of Margaret River has significant areas of POS of different types including the centrally located Gloucester Park (district POS). There are a range of parks that allow residents and visitors to make the most of the town’s scenic locations. Many parks feature car parking areas and other facilities including memorials, playground equipment, barbecues, chairs, tables and shaded areas.

The Liveable Neighbourhoods policy requirements for POS include:

- at least one neighbourhood park per neighbourhood.
- larger neighbourhood (and district) parks to be located on the edge of ‘walkable’ neighbourhoods which comprise an area with a radius of approximately 400 metres.
- two to three local parks per neighbourhood (depending on density).

The distribution of POS within 400m ‘walkable’ catchments in Margaret River is shown on Figure 7 which indicates outcomes that meet Liveable Neighbourhoods requirements.

The area to the east of Bussell Highway is characterised by conventional residential development and a number of local and neighbourhood parks, as well as significant conservation/foreshore reserves adjacent to Margaret River.

The higher residential densities in this area are located within six existing neighbourhoods which have a generally well distributed pattern of POS as well as adequate provision of local and neighbourhood parks and recreation facilities. There are ten playgrounds provided to the east of Bussell Highway, six north of John Archibald Drive (including a playground on the Margaret River Primary School site) and four in Brookfield and Rapids Landing estates. There appear to be some gaps in the distribution of playgrounds between Tingle Avenue and Bussell Highway and this could be addressed by providing an additional playground, possibly on Reserve 35489 or 35475.

The area generally to the west of Bussell Highway is characterised by larger residential lots and rural residential development. POS in this area generally comprises conservation areas and foreshore/drainage reserves although a number of local parks have been provided where more conventional densities are achieved. This area has relatively fewer local and neighbourhood parks and only two playgrounds (in Reserve 43339 Chardonnay Avenue and Gloucester Park). However, this is balanced to some extent by the proximity of Gloucester Park and its many facilities and that these areas are characterised by a much lower density of development that doesn’t necessarily require significant areas of POS.

There could be considered a shortage of informal active POS to the north of Wallcliffe Road in particular, with only Reserve 43339 at the intersection of Hermitage Grove and Chardonnay Avenue providing an adequate area of open green space for informal active recreation. Notwithstanding this, the larger residential lots in this area accommodate substantial private open space and opportunities for recreation, and therefore many residents may rely less on POS in that regard. There are also other areas of lineal POS that can be used for walking/running, bike riding and dog walking.

A number of additional neighbourhoods will be developed in the future as the urban development front grows toward the south and east in accordance with the Local Planning Strategy. These emerging areas will generate a requirement for more district open space and provision needs to be made for this outcome to the south east (on Reserve 50760).
Some of the more significant parks, reserves and areas of POS in Margaret River are summarised below:

**Gloucester Park** is a district park located on Wallcliffe Road, adjacent to the Shire’s Administration Centre and the Recreation Centre, and is a focus for outdoor sports with three ovals, cricket pitch and hockey field. The football, tennis and bowls clubs, and other facilities are located in Gloucester Park along with the following facilities:

- three active recreation ovals
- main oval with football club pavilion
- western oval with pavilion and facilities for football (soccer)
- cricket pitches, cricket shed, cricket nets
- Agricultural Society sheds
- BMX track and facilities
- skate park
- children’s playground
- two bowls greens
- tennis courts and pavilion
- HACC hall

Gloucester Park is home to the following sporting and community groups:

- Margaret River Agricultural Society
- Margaret River Tennis Club
- Margaret River Football Club
- Margaret River Little Athletics Club
- Margaret River Bowls Club
- Margaret River BMX Club
- Margaret River Cricket Club
- Margaret River Karate Club
- Football Margaret River
- Margaret River Dog Obedience School

Figure 6

**Gloucester Park Master Plan**
The Gloucester Park Master Plan currently recommends that the following improvements be investigated:

- fencing of main oval to AFL standard
- improved spectator area with deck and shading
- mains supply servicing of entire precinct
- new hockey pitches and pavilion and change facilities
- additional basketball courts
- playground upgrade
- lighting upgrades to west oval
- cricket club nets to be extended
- disability and inclusion plan to be implemented across precinct
- expansion of second storey of football pavilion
- upgrade of skate park and its environs (skate plaza project).

**Margaret River Skate Park** is located on Wallcliffe Road in Gloucester Park and has a half pipe with extension, a bowl, wave ramp, ¼ pipe, fun box and numerous roll-ins and hips. The park also has lighting that is available several nights each week. The existing skate park and its environs are proposed to be significantly upgraded and improved to ensure ongoing relevance and useability.

**Margaret River Recreation and Aquatic Centre** in Wallcliffe Road includes an indoor 25 metre pool, a lagoon pool, air conditioned gym, multi-purpose courts, squash courts, child care and a kiosk.

**Strategies:**

14. Rationalise Gloucester Park lot/reserve boundaries to reflect land use and development outcomes.

15. Continue to manage Gloucester Park in accordance with the Master Plan and relevant management plan/s.

Public Open Space Strategy
Memorial Park is a neighbourhood park located in the centre of Margaret River and is a popular rest area. The Park is the site of the town’s war memorial and venue for the Anzac Day, Vietnam Veteran’s Day and Remembrance Day services. The Park has play equipment and public toilets, and a large oak tree planted to commemorate the crowning of Queen Elizabeth in 1953.

Strategy:

16. Install a new playground and soft-fall in Memorial Park.

Rotary Park (Reserve 18451) is classified as a neighbourhood park which also functions as a destination park. It is situated in a natural area adjacent to the Margaret River at the northern end of the town. It has excellent picnic and barbecue facilities, areas shaded by karri and peppermint trees, playground equipment, toilet facilities, car park and an information board. A number of heritage trails begin here. The attractions and facilities available, in conjunction with its location and accessibility, ensure that it functions as an important destination park for residents and visitors. Rotary Park is managed in conjunction with the Margaret River foreshore which is a significant conservation area.

Strategy:

17. Implement recommendations of Margaret River Foreshore Master Plan and upgrade internal footpaths and install new barbeques at Rotary Park.

Public Open Space Strategy
Reuther Park (Reserve 40107) is a local park situated at the southern end of the main street of Margaret River at the intersection of Walcliffe Road and provides a shady respite from the walk up the hill along the main street.

Strategy:

18. Investigate the provision of public toilets at Reuther Park and upgrade garden beds and edging.

Farmhouse Park (Reserve 45397) is a 0.7ha neighbourhood park in Willmott Avenue with a shaded playground and a gazebo. Although the park is well located with good connectivity to surrounding residences, it would benefit from some more formal parking arrangements as visitors currently drive over the kerb onto the park to avoid parking on the street which is not perceived to be wide enough for vehicle parking.

Strategy:

19. Remodel garden beds, upgrade garden edging, remove post-mature trees and succession plant with new theme, and provide formal on or off street car parking spaces in or adjacent to The Boulevard.

Hillier Park (Reserve 35489) is a large (5ha) reserve in Hillier Drive/Tingle Avenue that is partly cleared and partly vegetated with a drainage/stream line and a vegetated walk link to Bovell Avenue adjacent to Larch Loop.

Strategy:

20. Formalise Hillier Park as dog exercise area, provide fencing, agility equipment, picnic settings, signage and water outlet.
**Butterfly Park** (Reserve 49004) is a local park in Halcyon Crescent. It has a fenced playground, pathways and seating and connects to Rosewood Ramble.

**Strategy:**

21. Provide new shade sail and additional trees including fruit species at Butterfly Park (Reserve 49004) Rosewood Ramble, Margaret River.

**Marri Park** (Reserve 50413) in Tonkin Boulevard/Crellin Place to the south of town is a neighbourhood park with shaded playground, car park, seating, paths, landscaped green spaces and includes part of a natural stream line.

**Wisteria Park** (portion Reserve 48830) in Sandalwood Drive north of Rosa Brook Road is a local park on the corner of Brookfield Avenue/Wisteria Crescent with shaded playground, basketball hoop, seating and landscaped green space.
Brookfield Park (Reserves 45820 and 49002) adjacent to Brookfield Avenue are situated along a stream line and comprise neighbourhood open space with play equipment, paths and informal green spaces.

Chardonnay Park (Reserve 43339) in Chardonnay Avenue provides a neighbourhood recreation focus for residents to the north west of town where larger lots are common and the demand for local open space is somewhat less than in higher density residential areas. This park is largely vegetated with remnant forest and has play equipment and seating.

Strategy:

22. That the portion of Reserve 43339 currently zoned ‘Residential’ be rezoned to ‘Parks and Recreation’ reserve and that the various land parcels be amalgamated.
Reserve 31296 in Elva Street is a vacant reserve with some trees but no understorey vegetation in the residential area east of the town centre. It has a single street frontage and is close to the Margaret River foreshore. Parts of the reserve appear to be used by adjoining residents for the storage of materials and vehicle access.

The Reserve is not considered adequately compliant with State government policy for the design of POS in terms of the requirements for accessibility and passive surveillance. Liveable Neighbourhoods requires that parks should have streets on all sides and be visible from adjacent development i.e. have clear sightlines from paths, roads and buildings for surveillance.

Notwithstanding this, and following comprehensive community consultation, Reserve 31296 will be retained as POS and this is also reflected in the Shire’s Land Asset Management Plan.

It is therefore recommended that the Reserve be managed for its passive recreation values and improved over time. This should include the prevention of vehicle access into the reserve, the removal of materials illegally stored or dumped on the Reserve, the improvement of passive surveillance outcomes, and the provision of facilities such as seating and pathways.

Strategy:

23. Manage and improve Reserve 31296 Elva Street for its passive recreation values - including the prevention of vehicle access into the reserve, the removal of materials illegally stored or dumped on the Reserve, the improvement of passive surveillance outcomes, and the provision of facilities such as seating and pathways where considered appropriate.
5.2.2 Future POS – Margaret River

5.2.2.1 Local Planning Strategy 2011

Increasing population growth specifically within the principal centres of Margaret River and Augusta will impact significantly on the provision of community facilities in the longer term. It is important that new development is levied on a fair and equitable basis for the upgrade of existing facilities and/or the provision of new facilities required as a direct result of the demand generated by those new developments and the associated increase in population.

The 2011 LPS identifies the need for new facilities over the short term until 2016, including:

- subdistrict level playing fields;
- child care/after school care; and
- local community centres.

Other facility issues that were identified by the community included:

- consideration of the long term future of Gloucester Park and the Cultural Centre;
- expansion of the Margaret River Library;
- provision of a Surf Club;
- more intimate performance (theatre) space;
- extension of walkways;
- additional public amenities; and
- establishment of a cultural and civic precinct.

5.2.2.2 Urban Development Precincts

The LPS identifies ‘future development’ and ‘development investigation’ areas that are anticipated to accommodate future residential development and population growth.

Future Development Areas

The LPS estimates that approximately 1,500 residential lots were appropriately zoned and approved, being constructed or could be approved in the immediate future in Margaret River. This currently represents approximately 10 years of residential lot supply.

Development Investigation Areas

Development Investigation Areas (DIAs) have been identified to provide strategic guidance as to the possible future major ‘greenfield’ development areas within the Shire. DIAs will be subject to detailed investigation prior to any rezoning to ensure suitability for the land use, the need for that land use and the appropriate staged release of land (particularly where part of a broader townsit expansion area) to ensure the Shire's planning objectives are achieved.

The majority of future residential development will take place in East Margaret River. Structure planning for this area indicates approximately 2,600 residential lots of which the majority have already been developed.

In addition to the currently planned development areas, a number of DIAs have been identified around Margaret River to provide for longer term growth. This has been done to

Public Open Space Strategy

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ensure competition in the market place, diversity, and adequate provision of residential land to cater for a higher population growth scenario.

Approximately 500ha of land is identified within DIA’s for residential development in Margaret River which could yield approximately 3,000 additional lots (around 20 years of residential lot supply). In addition to ‘greenfield’ development areas, some infill development may occur in the medium density areas associated with the Margaret River town centre – as many as 500 residential lots are estimated in the Margaret River Townsite Strategy although the ultimate yield may be less than this.

Table 18  
Future Development Areas – Margaret River

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref.</th>
<th>Staging Priority</th>
<th>Comment</th>
<th>Lot Yield (approx.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Future Development Areas</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>South-east of Riverslea.</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M2a</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Rapids Landing.</td>
<td>528</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M2b</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Rapids Landing - subject to structure planning.</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M3a</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Brookfield - stages 5 &amp; 6.</td>
<td>435</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M3b</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Suitable for eco-village at R10 - 1.5ha.</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M3c</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Average of 3,000sqm.</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>West of Bussell Highway - subject to structure planning.</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1,410</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Development Investigation Areas** | | | |
| M1   | 2                | Hamlet’ style residential neighbourhood. | 192 |
| M2   | 2                | Hamlet’ style residential neighbourhood. | 618 |
| M3   | 2                | Hamlet’ style residential neighbourhood. | 270 |
| M4   | 3                | Hamlet’ style residential neighbourhood. | 420 |
| M5   | 3                | Rural small holdings - 1 lot per 10ha. | 11 |
| M6   | 3                | Future light industry - 65ha. | - |
| M7   | 4                | ‘Hamlet’ style residential neighbourhood. | 378 |
| M8   | 4                | ‘Hamlet’ style residential neighbourhood. | 450 |
| M9   | 3                | Rural residential - 1 lot per ha. | 70 |
| M10  | 2                | Clustered rural residential/large residential lots. | ? |
| M11  | 5                | Speedway site – clustered rural residential/residential. | ? |
| M12  | 3                | Rural residential. | ? |
| M13  | 2                | Urban infill – increase density subject to structure planning. | 500 |
| **Total** | | | 2,900 |

**Strategies:**

24. Review dog exercise areas to ensure adequate provision in appropriate locations.

**Public Open Space Strategy**
25. Provide open space that is designed as a linked network incorporating sporting fields, neighbourhood parks, drainage reserves and landscaped streets.

26. Create parks that are bordered by public streets to increase informal surveillance and contribute to the value and outlook of the surrounding properties.

27. Use street tree planting to reinforce links between open spaces to enhance connectivity and provide a coordinated landscape setting.

28. Incorporate appropriate sustainable urban design, balancing turf areas with garden beds and native landscaping areas - water sensitive urban design and integrated water cycle management need to be addressed at the structure planning stage as well as at the more detailed design stage.

29. Use bio-retention areas, hydro-zoning and water-wise species in water cycle management and avoid the need to extensively irrigate open space.

5.2.2.3 West Margaret River

The natural landscape structure should be used to define the subdivision pattern of large residential lots. Pedestrian, cycle and vehicle linkages between POS areas should be strengthened to guarantee the use and ease of access to these areas.

The objectives are to enhance existing POS that affords natural amenity, and to retain the existing vegetation and significant views to areas of high visual and natural amenity (to promote local character and identity) as follows:

Strategies:

30. Develop and enhance the natural settings of passive and active POS in Margaret River to the west of Bussell Highway i.e. retain and enhance natural vegetation and landscapes to reflect the less conventional residential character of the area.

31. Use street tree planting and enhance pathways in Margaret River to reinforce links between open spaces and the town centre to enhance connectivity and provide a coordinated landscape setting.

32. Incorporate environmentally sensitive areas into the open space network (to promote local character and identity) and provide appropriate protection and management.

5.2.2.4 East Margaret River

The natural landscape structure should be used to define the residential character. Passive and active open spaces are key elements that should be unique and complimentary to the desired hamlet-like nature of future development. Pedestrian, cycle and vehicle linkages providing efficient access to open spaces from residential areas should be strengthened to ensure the success of these spaces. The objectives for POS include to:

- build upon existing local networks and create a system of accessible, safe and well located parks;
- provide POS that accommodates a range of uses and activities within the neighbourhood which respond to the anticipated needs of the community;
- establish POS that illustrates an interconnected network of conservation areas, parks (local and regional) and streets;

Public Open Space Strategy
- ensure that the location of POS promotes equality of access and opportunity.

**Strategies:**

33. Investigate the provision of an additional playground in a park to the east of Bussell Highway between Forrest Road and John Archibald Drive, possibly on Reserve 35489 or 35475.

34. Provide a new district recreation reserve east of Bussell Highway on Reserve 50760 Tonkin Boulevard in conjunction with the adjacent school site to reflect anticipated growth in this area.

35. Ensure parks are equally accessible by both visitors/tourists and residents.

**5.2.2.5 Residential Infill**

The existing residential areas close to the town centres have been identified for higher density development. While this will not be achieved in all circumstances it is anticipated that the density of development in certain areas will increase over time and that this will be achieved both via green title subdivision and grouped dwelling development, including strata subdivision.

In relation to infill development of single residential lots, it is assumed that the 10% POS requirement has been met at the time the land was originally subdivided. In addition, the incremental increase in density is not anticipated to place undue demands on existing POS provision in view of the adequate current provision of POS. In relation to the development of larger lots for infill purposes the provision of POS is anticipated and additional facilities will be required to service the increase in population.

It is recommended that where infill development occurs in these circumstances, the Shire will require cash-in-lieu of the provision of POS with funds received used to provide additional facilities in existing parks. This is addressed via a Strategy at section 5.6.1 (Urban Infill - Cash-in lieu of POS).
Insert Figure 7 – A3
Figure 7: Margaret River Public Open Space Strategy
5.3 Augusta

5.3.1 Current POS

Augusta has significant areas of POS of different types including district recreation facilities at Civic Park in Allnut Terrace. There are a significant number of parks and other areas of POS in and around Augusta.

The distribution of POS is indicated on Figure 9 along with a depiction of walkable neighbourhood catchments. This indicates that the currently developed areas are well provided with POS and recreation opportunities within walking distance of most dwellings. In particular, the central town area generally comprises two walkable neighbourhoods with a number of parks which are readily accessible e.g. Civic Park and the foreshore. The lineal urban form of Augusta does not provide for the most efficient distribution of POS however the creation of many parks and other green spaces over the years ensures that POS is readily accessible by the majority of dwellings.

There are five playgrounds in Augusta including one in Turner Caravan Park. While these are not within walking distance of all dwellings due to the elongated urban form, the relatively small population within each catchment along with the older median age of residents indicates that the provision of playgrounds is generally adequate although a playground is likely to be required in the Hillview estate as development proceeds.

The rationalisation of POS and the identification of parks where enhanced facilities will benefit the most residents is recommended as a preferred outcome of the Strategy.

Some of the significant parks and POS areas in Augusta are summarised below:

**Augusta Civic Park** (Reserve 20671) features ovals, croquet, bowling, tennis courts and a par three golf course. The Rural Transaction Centre, Civic Centre, hydrotherapy pool and library are also located on this site. The precinct includes the following facilities:

- Rural Transaction Centre
- Civic Centre and small function room
- Gym and Owen Jones hydrotherapy pool
- Multi-purpose court and squash court
- Augusta Par 3 Golf Course
- Augusta Tennis Club
- Augusta Croquet Club
- Augusta Junior Football Club

**Public Open Space Strategy**

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- Alexandra Bridge Basketball Club
- Augusta Cricket Club

Augusta Skate Park is located behind the Civic Park oval - a compact facility, the park includes a half pipe, several rails, a bowl and roll-in. Renovated recently, the park now has a shelter, toilets, a drink fountain and a limestone retaining wall that can be used for seating.

A project has been initiated to investigate development of a retirement village in the southern portion of the reserve and is proposed to be undertaken during 2013/14.

**Strategy:**

36. Undertake master planning of Augusta Civic Park (Reserve 20761) to determine preferred future use and development options, including for community uses such as aged persons accommodation, and improve the community and recreation facilities, particularly for the aging population while ensuring that children and youth are adequately catered for. This should include an investigation of the need for additional basketball courts and a playground, and sourcing of a secure water supply.

**Blackwood River foreshore** (including Colourpatch, Dawson Park, Ellis St Jetty Precinct, Fisherman's Reserve) comprises a number of reserves adjacent to Victoria Parade, Dawson Terrace and Albany Terrace. The reserves are characterised by significant areas of dense vegetation and low trees along with grassed parkland at intervals and intermittent views to the River. The informal nature of the foreshore is valued and should be retained while ensuring that access is enhanced via the improvement of path connectivity.
Access to the River is available in a number of locations, including to public jetties at Ellis Street and ‘Colourpatch’. Colourpatch is a popular park on the foreshore at the southern portion of the Blackwood River and is popular with walkers and picnickers.

The Ellis Street Jetty Precinct (Reserve 27643) includes Dawson Park (Reserve 25152) and is a community focal point experiencing pressure from increased use. Development concepts for improvement of the precinct have been prepared and the following projects are being considered over the next four years:

- Refurbish Ellis Street public toilets
- Improve Ellis street reserve
- Upgrade Ellis Street boat ramp and finger jetty
- Replace or refurbish foreshore walls along the foreshore including Turner, Colourpatch and Ellis Street.

Figure 8
Ellis Street Jetty Precinct - Development Concept

Strategy:

37. Finalise and implement a development plan/master plan for the Ellis Street jetty precinct and improve dual use path connectivity along foreshore and to Civic Park.

Public Open Space Strategy
Flinders Bay foreshore comprises a number of reserves adjacent to Albany Terrace and Davies Road. Toward the south of Flinders Bay a small residential settlement is featured with a camping area, beach, swim jetty, boat jetty, foreshore park, playground and toilets.

Strategy:

38. Renew and replace infrastructure as required, and design and construct a foreshore recreation trail from Flinders Bay to Cape Leeuwin.

Ben Hillier Park (Reserve 22541) includes the Augusta Bowls Club in Eatt Place.

Strategy:

39. Undertake succession tree planting, install small nature gardens and consider parking for large vehicles.

Public Open Space Strategy
Memorial Park (Reserve 20232) includes the war memorial and an Aleppo pine tree grown from a seed of the Lone Pine in Gallipoli.

**Strategy:**

40. Continue to manage for passive recreation and war memorial purposes.

Shervington Park (Reserve 34996) in Lily Street is parkland cleared with play equipment and should continue to be managed for recreation purposes.

Firestone Park (Reserve ?) Lot 32 in Investigator Avenue is a large (1ha) open space which requires some development e.g. play equipment.

**Strategy:**

41. Investigate the provision of shade trees/structures, seating and a playground and soft-fall.

Knight reserve (Reserve 34094) is a vegetated reserve adjacent to the foreshore in Albany Terrace which is recommended to remain undeveloped/unimproved at this time.

Public Open Space Strategy
5.3.2 LAMP Outcomes

The Land Asset Management Plan (LAMP) provides an assessment of Shire land assets with a view to improving the use and management of assets and identifying a strategy to convert assets that are considered surplus to requirements where this could realise funds to assist with the upgrade and improvement of better located, designed and utilised POS.

LAMP was reviewed in conjunction with the draft POS Strategy and now reflects the Strategy with respect to the relevant areas of POS.

There are a significant number of POS reserves in Augusta, and following assessment it is evident that some of these areas could be considered surplus to requirements in terms of the availability of POS in the locality and the suitability of the reserves for development as parks. In some cases therefore, these reserves could be acquired by the Shire and sold and/or developed for residential or other purposes to raise funds for the development and improvement of other key parks and reserves in Augusta.

**Reserve 41705** (0.307ha) is a lineal area of POS in Stephenson Street comprising three separate parts separated by roads and is developed with some playground equipment.

The Land Asset Management Plan identifies this Reserve as being surplus to requirements in part. Additional investigation and community consultation confirms that the Reserve is not considered suitable for disposal as a whole given portion of it provides a local POS function to the surrounding community, including a playground.

Accordingly, the western and central portions of Reserve 41705 are to be retained as POS and these portions should be reserved for ‘Recreation’ in the Local Planning Scheme. The eastern portion (between Allnut Terrace and Chamberlain Place) is considered surplus to requirements and may be used to raise funds for the improvement of key POS in Augusta.
Reserve 43428 (0.106ha) is a lineal area of POS adjacent to Peters Place and the Augusta Bowls Club. This is not considered a necessary component of the POS network as it is adjacent to Reserve 22541, close to Augusta Civic Park and is within 300 metres of the Blackwood River foreshore POS. Council has determined that Reserve 43428 be offered for sale to the adjoining Lots 39 and 42.

Reserve 28016 (872m²) is a single lot on the corner of Stirling Street and Blackwood Avenue. It is considered surplus to needs in view of its proximity to Augusta Civic Park and the Blackwood River foreshore POS, and in view of the limited role it could play in relation to providing passive or active recreation outcomes that are not already available in the locality. Accordingly, it may be converted to a residential lot and used to raise funds for the improvement of other key reserves in Augusta.

Reserve 27019 (0.908ha) Allnut Terrace is a vegetated reserve surrounded by conventional residential development. It does not benefit from substantial road frontage to comply with Liveable Neighbourhoods requirements for surveillance. However, following community consultation and further investigation, it should be retained as POS for its conservation, passive open space and amenity/landscape values.
Reserve 37335 (0.288ha) Turner Street is a vegetated reserve which has no constructed road frontage and is completely surrounded by conventional residential development (accessed by an unconstructed road reserve only). It is not considered suitable for development as a park as it does not comply with State government policy in terms of the requirements for accessibility and passive surveillance (Liveable Neighbourhoods requires that parks should have streets on all sides and be visible from adjacent development i.e. have clear sightlines from paths, roads and buildings for surveillance).

The reserve should be offered for sale to the adjoining landowners and the remaining portion amalgamated with the adjacent unmade road reserve for future conversion to freehold and subsequent residential development.

Strategy:

42. 
   a. Retain the western and central portions of Reserve 41705 Stephenson Street as POS and include them in the ‘Recreation’ reserve pursuant to the Local Planning Scheme; with the eastern portion (between Allnut Terrace and Chamberlain Place) considered surplus to requirements and used to raise funds for the improvement of other key reserves in Augusta.
   b. Offer Reserve 43428 Eatt Street for sale to the adjoining Lots 39 and 42 and the sale used to raise funds for the improvement of other key reserves in Augusta.
   c. Offer Reserve 28016 Stirling Street for sale for the purpose of affordable housing or other appropriate use, with funds generated to be used for the improvement of POS in Augusta only.
   d. Retain Reserve 27019 Allnut Terrace as POS for its conservation values and assess the Reserve for any potential fire risk.
   e. Offer Reserve 37335 Turner Street for sale to the adjoining landowners and amalgamate the remaining portion with the adjacent unmade road reserve for future conversion to freehold.
5.3.3 Future POS - Augusta

The Augusta Townsite Strategy includes a number of outcomes relating to POS which should be considered. In particular, the provision of open space should respond to the needs of the local community to guarantee the provision of facilities and the creation of a landscape that fosters a sense of ownership and appreciation.

Safe and enjoyable built and natural environments can be addressed through enhancement of the town’s open space network. High quality open spaces can be achieved by minimising adverse impacts created by urban waste while providing areas that retain the natural uniqueness of Augusta. The unique qualities and amenity afforded by the Blackwood River and other areas of scenic importance can be enhanced to further reflect the character and perception of the town.

It is considered that the current provision and distribution of POS in Augusta is adequate to address future population growth generally however POS in some areas requires improvement and upgrading to better address community needs. Accordingly the Shire should encourage the provision of cash-in-lieu of POS where future subdivision is approved, except where the subdivision is more than 500 metres from existing POS and a local park is required to service that subdivision. Funds raised from cash-in-lieu payments would be used to improve existing POS and recreation facilities in Augusta.

Table 19
Future Development Areas - Augusta

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref.</th>
<th>Staging Priority</th>
<th>Comment</th>
<th>Lot Yield (approx.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Approved Hillview ODP.</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Approved Two Oceans ODP.</td>
<td>1,200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Development Investigation Areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref.</th>
<th>Staging Priority</th>
<th>Comment</th>
<th>Lot Yield (approx.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Small scale eco-tourist facility.</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Low impact residential, aged persons or tourist development.</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Boat harbor and associated low impact uses.</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A4</td>
<td>beyond LPS time frame</td>
<td>Long term hamlet/residential development.</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Strategies:

43. Promote equality of access for all residents and visitors in the provision and development of POS, including those with mobility aids.

44. Incorporate appropriate sustainable urban design in POS, balancing turf areas with garden beds and native landscaping areas - water sensitive urban design and integrated water cycle management need to be addressed at the structure planning stage as well as at the more detailed design stage.

45. Use bio-retention areas, hydro-zoning and water-wise species in water cycle management.
insert Figure 9 Augusta POS Strategy – A3
5.4 Cowaramup

5.4.1 Current POS Provision

There is more than 23ha of POS in Cowaramup including district open space at Cowaramup Oval. Bowls greens are located at the ‘District Club’ site in Memorial Drive which is not POS. In addition, the Rails-to-Trails reservation provides a strategic recreation trail link to areas north and south of the town.

Current recreation and community activity is focused on Pioneer Park and Cowaramup Oval while a number of local parks have been provided more recently in conjunction with residential subdivision. While significant POS is identified to the west of Bussell Highway, this comprises more passive conservation areas to protect remnant vegetation and streams. Parkwater Reserve is an active green space which has been developed adjacent to Sunset Drive and Currawong Street (Reserve 49308).

There is a good variety of POS types including a district POS area adjacent to the town centre and primary school; two neighbourhood parks (Pioneer Park and Parkwater reserve); as well as a number of local parks and conservation areas.

The distribution of POS is also considered to be adequate at this time with active and passive areas to the east and west of Bussell Highway and within reasonably close proximity to most dwellings as indicated on Figure 11 which shows 400m radius ‘walkable’ catchments. There are only two playgrounds at this time (east of the Highway) and an additional playground is already planned for Parkwater Reserve to the west. A playground should also be provided in Bretonneux Park in Roy Earl Drive. This level of provision is considered adequate in terms of the current population and catchments.

In particular, the older town area adjacent to Bussell Highway generally comprises a single walkable neighbourhood with a number of parks which are readily accessible. Additional residential activity south of Bottrill Street will also be required to provide additional POS and recreation facilities to ensure that the objectives of local and State policy are achieved.

To the west of town, development comprises reasonably unconventional lower density residential outcomes that do not necessarily require significant areas of POS but still need some active opportunities in the form of a neighbourhood park. In terms of population density, it is considered that the current provision of POS is more than adequate and that Parkwater Reserve will require additional facilities.
Cowaramup Oval accommodates junior and senior football and cricket, and has a community hall, BMX track, tennis courts, basketball court, children’s playground and skatepark. The community park precinct includes the Cowaramup Primary School to the south-east and areas of remnant vegetation to the south.

**Strategy:**

46. Prepare a reserve master plan for Cowaramup Oval, review the MoU, and continue to manage Cowaramup Oval for active recreation purposes.

Pioneer Park in Cowaramup is an attractive neighbourhood park adjacent to the town centre, and is the home of a major public art project depicting thirty years of the dairy and viticulture industries on the stage in the amphitheatre.

**Strategy:**

47. Prepare a reserve management plan for Pioneer Park to address future development and maintenance e.g. parking, public toilets.

Public Open Space Strategy
Parkwater Reserve (Reserve 49308) on Sunrise Drive/Currawong Street in West Cowaramup is a large green space with sheltered seating providing informal active recreation for the western part of Cowaramup.

A Master Plan has been prepared for Reserve 49308 and income from the West Cowaramup Affordable Housing Fund will be used to implement improvements including:

- top dressing and additional landscaping
- installation of a reticulation system
- provision of playground equipment
- provision of pathways, ramps and steps
- installation of picnic shelter, picnic tables, barbecue, seating and rubbish bins
- provision of a basketball half-court and cricket nets.

By June 2013 the Shire had installed a playground, shelter, seating, barbeque, a connecting path and an irrigated oval. Implementation of the remaining projects is subject to sufficient funds being received from the Affordable Housing Fund. The Master Plan also identifies other long term capital improvements which are subject to assessment of need and the availability of other Shire funds. All projects are to be implemented by the Shire and may need to be delivered in several stages depending on timing of receipt of Funds. The Shire and the developers may elect to contribute funding in advance of receipt of Affordable Housing Funds and recover these funds when contributions are received subsequently.

Strategy:

48. Continue to implement the Master Plan for Parkwater Reserve (Reserve 49308) Currawong Street.
Honeytree Reserve (Reserve 49001) between Pioneer Road and Honeytree Green is a generally cleared reserve with a drainage basin that functions as a dog exercise area.

**Strategy:**

49. Maintain Reserve 49001 Pioneer Road as a dog exercise area and implement a turf maintenance programme to target water conservation.

Cowarra Heights Park (Reserve 47991) Duggan Drive provides a link to Cowaramup Oval and Birdwood Lane from Duggan Drive and includes a playground.

**Strategy:**

50. Undertake staged upgrades of garden beds and lawns in Reserve 47991.

Bretonneux Park (Reserve 50457) in Roy Earl Drive/Bretonneux Turn is a new park associated with recent subdivision south of Bottrill Street. It requires landscaping and facilities including seating, shade, shelter and a playground.

**Strategy:**

51. Provide a playground, seating, shade, shelter and landscaping in Reserve 50457 – provided or funded by the developer.
5.4.2 Future POS - Cowaramup

Significant additional areas of POS and a future Cultural Activities Precinct are identified in the Cowaramup Village Strategy to the west of the town and adjacent to Sunset Drive.

The existing facilities in conjunction with the potential for an additional two ovals are considered to meet the anticipated demand for ongoing recreation activity in the town. It is also likely that further facilities such as soccer fields will be required to provide for growth and diversity. It is understood that an additional oval is planned by the Cowaramup Halls and Reserves Association on the existing Cowaramup Oval recreation area.

At the neighbourhood level, local parks should be provided with relevant facilities within walking distance of nearby residents to provide a more accessible community focus.

The Rails-to-Trails reserve provides a strategic recreation trail link to other areas for residents and visitors as well as a linear vegetated park and habitat corridor. Existing remnants of indigenous vegetation within the area are to be protected by the appropriate location of POS and/or conservation reserves.

The development of these POS areas could create a considerable demand for water use. It is recommended that this demand be minimised by the use of appropriate design, balancing turf areas with garden beds and native landscaping areas, and the use of bio-retention areas, hydro-zoning and water-wise species to avoid the need to extensively reticulate open space. Water sensitive urban design and integrated water cycle management need to be addressed at the structure planning stage as well as at the more detailed design stage.

Table 20
Future Development Areas - Cowaramup

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref.</th>
<th>Staging Priority</th>
<th>Comment</th>
<th>Lot Yield (approx.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Future Development Areas</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>R15-R30 density and a 'Lifestyle village'.</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Mixed use - R10-R30 density.</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development Investigation Areas</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>41ha subject to structure planning.</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>11ha industry site.</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>40ha subject to structure planning – rural res. and large residential lots.</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C4</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>7.8ha subject to structure planning.</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>15ha rural residential subject to structure planning.</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Strategy:

52. Incorporate appropriate, sustainable and water sensitive urban design in POS, balancing turf areas with garden beds and native landscaping areas.
It should be noted that Cowaramup has a significant number of vacant lots (267 in May 2014) in addition to those areas yet to be subdivided as indicated in Table 20. This indicates that all areas of POS in Cowaramup will be required to service greater populations in the medium term as development progresses and vacant lots are developed with housing. This has implications for capital expenditure budgets as the need for additional infrastructure and facilities are identified.

**Vacant Residential Lots**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Vacant lots (estimate)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Margaret River</td>
<td>244</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cowaramup</td>
<td>267</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Augusta/East Aug.</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gracetown</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gnarabup/Prevelly</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Witchcliffe</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL May 2014</td>
<td>763</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5.5 Gracetown, Prevelly, Gnarabup, Witchcliffe

The existing parks and reserves in these settlements are summarised in the following table. It is anticipated that these will be managed, maintained and developed in accordance with current asset management outcomes in the foreseeable future, and additional development needs will be investigated in more detail as part of Stage 2 of the POS Strategy.

Table 21
Schedule of POS - Gracetown, Prevelly/Gnarabup, Witchcliffe

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gracetown</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Gracetown Oval</td>
<td>R37456</td>
<td>12.7ha</td>
<td>Recreation and Hall Site/C class.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Salter Street – Gracetown Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Melaleuca</td>
<td>R27618</td>
<td>32.8ha</td>
<td>Recreation/A class.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Beach Park/</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bayview Drive/Salter Street –</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Brook Reserve</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Foreshore.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prevelly/Gnarabup</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Rifle Butt Reserve</td>
<td>R26228 (Pt R41545)</td>
<td>48.9ha</td>
<td>Public Recreation/C class.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Papadakis Avenue/Mitchell Drive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Surfers Point</td>
<td>R41545</td>
<td>116.6ha</td>
<td>Recreation/A class.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>and foreshore</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Surfers Point Road.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Mitchell Drive</td>
<td>R33793</td>
<td>4.05ha</td>
<td>Recreation/C class.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>reserve</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mitchell Drive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Gnarabup</td>
<td>R46732</td>
<td>7.5ha</td>
<td>Recreation and Emergency Services/C class. Wallcliffe Road.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>reserve</td>
<td>R37224</td>
<td>30.6ha</td>
<td>Public Recreation/C class.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Wallcliffe Road.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>foreshore</td>
<td>R50757</td>
<td>1.25ha</td>
<td>Recreation and Drainage/C class.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Wallcliffe Road.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>foreshore</td>
<td>R46749</td>
<td>2.66ha</td>
<td>Recreation and Drainage/C class.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Wallcliffe Road.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Witchcliffe</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Town park</td>
<td>R28074</td>
<td>0.03ha</td>
<td>Municipal Purposes/C class.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bussell Hwy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>reserve</td>
<td>R22471</td>
<td>0.78ha</td>
<td>Recreation/C class.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Redgate Road. Bush area south of tennis court.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>reserve</td>
<td>R41200</td>
<td>4.7ha</td>
<td>Recreation/C class.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>reserve</td>
<td>R47731</td>
<td>0.2ha</td>
<td>Community Centre/C class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Redgate Rd. Tennis club.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Former CWA rooms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>reserve</td>
<td>R35113</td>
<td>3.68ha</td>
<td>Parklands/C class.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Redgate Rd/Mammoth St.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bushland.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Gracetown

The provision of additional POS in the future is linked to the Gracetown expansion project which identifies POS, recreation and national park proposals as indicated in Figure 12. Actual development of facilities will be resolved during the more detailed structure planning and subdivision processes which are anticipated to lead to the preparation of master plans and/or management plans for any new POS.

Figure 12
Gracetown Expansion Land Use Concept
Prevelly/Gnarabup

Prevelly and Gnarabup have substantial areas of foreshore reserve which extend inland along drainage lines and other features as indicated in the photo below. Future development and landscaping of additional POS is anticipated to be guided by the POS Strategy and reserve management plans.

Witchcliffe

Witchcliffe currently has a small town park adjacent to Bussell Highway with a hall and public toilets. Tennis courts are located adjacent to Redgate Road. The remaining POS is generally natural bushland including the adjacent rails-to-trails reserve.

The provision of POS generally has already been addressed by Council’s adoption of the Witchcliffe Village Strategy which identifies significant residential expansion areas, potentially increasing the population to over 2,000. This Strategy and the associated structure plans identify large areas of POS which will be created and developed at the time of subdivision. While the location and amount of POS has been largely determined, the development and landscaping of additional POS is anticipated to be guided by the POS Strategy.
5.6 Planning for additional POS

5.6.1 Urban Infill - cash in lieu of POS

Section 20C of the Planning and Development Act contains provisions under which a cash payment can be made by the subdivider in lieu of providing land for POS at subdivision.

The WAPC recognises that in certain circumstances the use of these provisions should be encouraged including where the land area is such that a ten percent contribution would be too small to be of practical use; and where there may be sufficient public open space already in the locality.

Expenditure of cash-in-lieu funds must be directly related to the use or development of land for public open space purposes. The land must be vested or administered for recreation purposes with unrestricted public access. The money should be applied:

a) for the purchase of land by the local government for parks, recreation grounds or open spaces generally, in the locality in which the land is situated;

b) in repaying any loans raised for the purchase of any such land; or

c) with the approval of the Minister for Planning, for the improvement or development of parks, recreation grounds or open spaces generally.

Acceptable expenditure for cash-in-lieu funds includes seating, earthworks, spectator cover, turf planting, toilets, landscaping, change rooms, reticulation, lighting, play equipment, pathways, fencing, walk trails, car parking and signs relating to recreational pursuits. The trigger for the application of these provisions will relate to residential subdivision where a ten percent contribution is considered too small to be of practical use and/or where there may be sufficient public open space already in the locality.

The existing residential areas close to the town centres have been identified for higher density development. In Margaret River this includes the R20-R40 coded areas between Bussell Highway and Elva Street, and the R30/40 coded areas north of Bovell Avenue. In Augusta there are R20 and R40 coded areas immediately adjacent to the north and south of the Augusta town centre.

The provision of POS adjacent to the town centres is generally considered adequate at this time, and the provision of additional POS from small infill developments would likely be in small, fragmented parcels, therefore the Shire could seek cash-in-lieu of the provision of POS in these circumstances and use the funds to improve recreation and community facilities in existing parks and reserves.

Accordingly, it is recommended that these provisions be applied to infill development where adequate POS is already available and improvements to local POS would be of greater benefit to the community than the provision of small, fragmented areas of POS.

Strategy:

53. In view of the currently adequate provision of POS generally adjacent to the town centres, the Shire should seek cash-in-lieu of the provision of future POS where appropriate in urban infill areas, and use these funds for acceptable expenditure to improve recreation and community facilities in existing parks and reserves.
5.6.2 Urban Structure Planning

Development proponents, the Shire and other agencies work together to develop detailed structure plans which guide the development of new urban areas. This requires collaboration between landowners, urban designers and planners, the community and other stakeholders in a consultative process of planning and design to develop an appropriate structure plan for each area.

The principles behind the Liveable Neighbourhoods policy are a significant consideration in establishing vibrant towns within rural and natural settings. The ability for future residents to have easy access to local services and facilities without reliance on motor vehicles; to foster a sense of community, strong local identity and sense of place; to provide a variety of lot sizes and housing types to cater for diverse housing needs and housing affordability; to avoid key environmental areas; incorporate significant cultural and environmental features; and to provide a more integrated approach to the design of open space and urban water management, are all important considerations in relation to structure planning.

In relation to the planning and design of POS structure planning should be required to ensure incorporation of sustainability outcomes and the ongoing protection and enhancement of biodiversity values. This needs to include water sensitive urban design features; water wise gardens; and fire risk management; as well as sustainable maintenance practices, water sources, water use and species selection.

Subdividers are required to provide recreation facilities and contribute to the provision of community facilities in the locality and the district pursuant to a development contribution plan or other appropriate mechanism. Community purpose sites are to be ceded free of cost to the Shire as ‘public purpose’ reserves and the subdivider/s shall provide utility services to community sites.

Structure Planning for POS

POS is now expected to contribute to a range of community and environmental functions. Apart from providing spaces for sport and physical activity, children’s play, relaxation and social interaction, POS is tasked with assisting with urban water management, improving environmental quality, conserving natural areas, providing habitat corridors and enhancing the visual amenity of the urban landscape.

It is also expected that POS will play a role in engendering a sense of place and community connection, influencing feelings of community safety, contributing to the economic value of neighbourhoods, providing spaces for community facilities, cultural festivals or art events and significantly enhancing the quality of life of residents.

The structure planning process provides the Shire and the community with an opportunity to influence the planning and development of urban growth precincts, including the location, design and function of POS and recreation assets. Early and ongoing community engagement in this process will ensure that the immediate and longer term needs of the community are addressed.

The Liveable Neighbourhoods operational policy requires that structure planning provide for well-distributed parkland that contributes to the legibility and character of the area, provides for a range of uses and activities, and assists with urban water management. It is further acknowledged in Liveable Neighbourhoods that:

- Parks should have streets on all sides and be visible from adjacent development i.e. have clear sightlines from paths, roads and buildings for surveillance;
Shire of Augusta Margaret River

- At least one community (neighbourhood) park and two local parks should be provided per neighbourhood;
- Most dwellings should be located within 400 metres of a park;
- Local parks up to 3,000 square metres should be provided within 150 to 300 metres of dwellings;
- Community/neighbourhood parks of around 3,000-5,000 square metres should be provided to service 600-800 dwellings and should be located towards the edge of neighbourhoods;
- District recreation grounds should be provided to notionally service three neighbourhoods and be around 1,000m from most dwellings;
- District parks must be an adequate size and shape to accommodate turf areas for both informal games and organised sport;
- Larger district and community/neighbourhood parks should be located at the edge of (between) neighbourhoods;
- Major lineal, district or regional open space should be located to define boundaries of neighbourhoods rather than dissect them;
- All parks/public open space should be developed and landscaped to an appropriate standard by the subdivider;
- POS should be designed to include minimum areas of land which are usable in terms of function and facility provision; and
- POS should respond to best practice sustainability initiatives and be cost effective to maintain.

Land for regional sport and recreation facilities, wetlands, important habitat or other conservation areas should be accommodated in addition to the minimum ten percent POS allocation. The ultimate vesting and management of conservation areas containing regionally significant habitat, wetland or landscapes needs to be resolved at the structure planning level to ensure that the Shire is not responsible for the management of areas that it has no ongoing capacity to manage adequately.

Strategy:

54. The following criteria should be used in structure planning and subdivision design to ensure the provision of functional and accessible POS which responds to the current policy and best practice frameworks (in conjunction with LN).

Criteria for the planning and design of POS

1. The planning and design of POS is to be considered at all levels of the planning process. Structure planning and subdivision design is required to:

   a. include provision of minimum areas of POS i.e. 10% of gross subdivisible area - land for drainage management, regional sporting facilities, conservation areas or other similar areas should not be accommodated within the minimum 10% allocation.
   b. provide details of the function, use and development of POS e.g. playgrounds, public toilets, informal active green spaces, gardens and other landscaping, lighting, dual use path connections, conservation of flora and fauna, drainage areas and other relevant outcomes.
   c. be site responsive i.e. take advantage of topographic features, attractive settings, existing vegetation and streams, and cleared areas for informal active recreation.
   d. avoid constrained, poorly drained or inaccessible areas.
   e. ensure the ongoing protection and enhancement of biodiversity and the natural environment including significant landscapes, vegetation, streams, wetlands.
   f. consider fire hazards and other risks.
   g. be conveniently located to enable easy access for residents including children and the aged i.e. accessible via footpaths and shared use paths.
h. have streets on all boundaries and be visible from adjacent development i.e. have clear sightlines from paths, roads and buildings for surveillance and security.

i. ensure safety for users e.g. adequate lighting and signage of facilities.

j. provide facilities and amenities suited to the function of the POS including playgronds and shelter from sun and rain.

k. discount drainage areas and other non-recreation areas included in POS e.g. conservation areas, foreshore and other buffers.

l. provide for both active and passive recreation needs.

m. provide a balance between conservation of bushland, and active and passive recreational uses in local and district open space.

n. provide for a range of functions in POS including ecological, cultural, visual and recreational.

o. investigate shared use and maintenance of POS e.g. with schools.

p. provide for water sensitive urban design and integrated water cycle management including water wise gardens/hydro-zoning and bio-retention areas (with reference to the Better Urban Water Management manual 2008 prepared by the Department of Water and others).

q. ensure sustainable landscape design and maintenance arrangements, including sustainable water sources (water re-use and harvesting).

r. ensure adequate fire risk management and weed management.

s. permit precinct character to influence POS location, design and function.

t. consider sites of Aboriginal or European heritage or cultural significance.

u. establish areas of natural vegetation as part of linked trail networks.

v. reflect the Shire’s Revegetation/Landscaping Guidelines, the Liveable Neighbourhoods Policy and other relevant policy initiatives.

2. Structure planning and subdivision should provide for the development of parks by the subdivider to a minimum standard to enhance residential amenity. Facilities that need to be considered in relation to the provision of POS include:

- seating and litter bins;
- pathways and dual use path connections;
- landscaping, shade trees and shelter structures;
- play equipment in local and community parks and safety fencing as appropriate;
- BBQ facilities in community parks;
- adequate vehicle parking in district open space and sports grounds;
- toilets and amenities in neighbourhood and district parks;
- club house, toilets and change rooms in sports grounds;
- adequate lighting of ovals in sports grounds;
- suitable access for children, the aged, and people with mobility aids;
- opportunities for walking and cycling for recreation/exercise; facilities to encourage social interaction e.g. shelter, seating, garden beds, native landscaping, informal exercise opportunities, multi-purpose recreation facilities, adequate lighting;
- dog exercise areas (including mechanisms for the control of dogs); and
- sustainable water sources, including sources of irrigation water for POS.

3. Development contribution plans should address the provision and development of POS to ensure that parks and recreation facilities are provided to the required standard and that equitable contributions can be sought from development for neighbourhood and district recreation facilities.
6.0 Implementation

The Public Open Space Strategy comprises a planning framework that will guide the provision and development of POS within the urban areas of Margaret River, Augusta and Cowaramup for the next ten years. The Strategy will be incorporated as a town planning scheme policy and will be implemented accordingly.

Consultation with community and external agencies will be carried out in relation to the draft Strategy, and any required changes incorporated prior to final endorsement being obtained from Council.

Implementation of the Strategy relies on an ongoing commitment of resources, including annual capital works and operational budgets. A range of actions are identified in the schedule below. Where necessary, these actions should be included in business planning and budget deliberations. In some circumstances, actions may need to be modified, removed or expanded over time in response to changing needs. Any substantial changes which vary from the Strategies listed should only occur following review and assessment.

Schedule of Strategies

Priorities:
L Low (6 years +)
M Medium (3-6 years)
H High (within 3 years)
O Ongoing

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<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Strategy</th>
<th>Priority</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>The planning of POS in structure plans, and the development of existing and proposed POS is to consider the character of the local area in terms of: catchment size, topography, vegetation, water courses, natural features, population and demography, residential density, proximity to schools, local centres, other POS, any local cultural significance, popular sporting activities in the district.</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Existing and future parks and reserves are to be provided with a suitable name and appropriate signage that reflects Shire standards and the requirements of the Geographic Names Committee “Principles, Guidelines and Procedures”.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Minimum standards in relation to the provision of recreation facilities in the Shire are to be applied as indicated in the Guidelines for facility provision (Sec. 5.1.2.2).</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Formulate/review path strategies to determine gaps in the pedestrian and dual use path network that can be addressed by a programme of staged path construction and improvement to ensure that an adequate level of connectivity is available between parks and other community focal nodes.</td>
<td>M</td>
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</table>
The location, function and design of POS, and the provision of recreation facilities is required to balance the competing needs of children and teenagers with other users in order to engage young people and reduce conflict. 

The development/improvement of POS is to consider the provision of additional shelter and seating in parks; and the standards of footpaths and street crossings should be improved where necessary to ensure safe and easy access to town centres and parks for older members of the community and those with mobility aids. 

The planning and design of public open spaces and recreation facilities is to consider the principles of the Planning Institute of Australia’s ‘healthy spaces and places’ guide to designing places for healthy living. 

The needs of pets and safe pet-owner recreation activities are to be considered in the planning and design of public open space. 

A programme for the introduction of best practice sustainable development and management of POS and recreation assets is to be developed and monitored, and is to include:
- water sensitive urban design and integrated water cycle management e.g. water wise gardens, hydro-zoning and bio-retention;
- renewable water sources e.g. use of treated effluent or other sustainable water sources in accordance with the Water Corporation’s Policy for POS;
- energy efficient equipment e.g. energy efficient lighting;
- low water dependency plants, including native vegetation and climate-appropriate grasses on ovals;
- use of durable, longer lasting materials;
- use of re-cycled materials where appropriate;
- use of standard fittings where appropriate;
- adherence to the Shire’s Revegetation/Landscaping Guidelines; and
- formulation of maintenance programmes that ensure POS and recreation assets are maintained in a sustainable manner. 

Reserve Management Plans are to be prepared for conservation areas and other POS and are to include:
- plans showing the location, extent and quality of remnant vegetation, wetlands or other natural features;
- a schedule of infrastructure assets;
- location of any existing or proposed works or facilities e.g. landscaping, access, trails, fences, signs, vehicle parking;
- details of any proposed interpretative facilities and signs;
- details of works for habitat conservation and rehabilitation;
- details of fire risk management;
- specification of categories of conservation works including protection of remnant vegetation, revegetation with native species, management weeds and fire risk, and vermin control;
- costs of habitat conservation works, revegetation, landscaping and other works;
- recommendations for sustainable use of resources related to mowing, watering, weed control etc; and
- accurate identification of foreshore protection and management areas via biophysical assessment. 

Risk management is to be undertaken when designing and constructing new facilities in POS; in the maintenance of existing infrastructure; and in the preparation of relevant licences and leases. 

Mechanisms to improve risk management outcomes in POS are to be investigated in order to promote security in public areas and reduce anti-social behaviour. 

Vegetated reserves/parks in the urban or peri-urban areas of Margaret River, Augusta and Cowaramup are to be assessed for potential risk from bush fire and appropriate responses to those risks detailed through the Shire’s Bushfire Risk Management Plan. 

Margaret River POS

Rationalise lot/reserve boundaries of Gloucester Park to reflect land use and development outcomes. 

Continue to manage Gloucester Park in accordance with the Master Plan and relevant management plan/s.
16 Install a new playground and soft-fall in Memorial Park, Margaret River.

17 Implement recommendations of Margaret River Foreshore Master Plan and upgrade internal footpaths and install new barbeques at Rotary Park (Reserve 18451).

18 Investigate the provision of public toilets and upgrade garden beds and edging at Reuther Park (Reserve 40107).

19 Remodel garden beds, upgrade garden edging, remove post-mature trees and succession plant with new theme, and provide formal on or off street car parking spaces in or adjacent to The Boulevard at Farmhouse Park (Reserve 45397).

20 Formalise Hillier Park (Reserve 35489) as dog exercise area, provide fencing, agility equipment, picnic settings, signage and water outlet.

21 Provide new shade sail and additional trees including fruit species at Butterfly Park (Reserve 49004) Rosewood ramble, Margaret River.

22 That the portion of Chardonnay Park (Reserve 43339) currently zoned ‘Residential’ be rezoned to ‘Parks and Recreation’ reserve and that the various land parcels be amalgamated.

23 Manage and improve Reserve 31296 Elva Street for its passive recreation values - including the prevention of vehicle access into the reserve, the removal of materials illegally stored or dumped on the Reserve, the improvement of passive surveillance outcomes, and the provision of facilities such as seating and pathways where considered appropriate.

24 Review dog exercise areas to ensure adequate provision in appropriate locations.

25 Provide open space that is designed as a linked network incorporating sporting fields, neighbourhood parks, drainage reserves and landscaped streets.

26 Create parks that are bordered by public streets to increase informal surveillance and contribute to the value and outlook of the surrounding properties.

27 Use street tree planting to reinforce links between open spaces to enhance connectivity and provide a coordinated landscape setting.

28 Incorporate appropriate sustainable urban design, balancing turf areas with garden beds and native landscaping areas - water sensitive urban design and integrated water cycle management need to be addressed at the structure planning stage as well as at the more detailed design stage.

29 Use bio-retention areas, hydro-zoning and water-wise species in water cycle management and avoid the need to extensively irrigate open space.

30 Develop and enhance the natural settings of passive and active POS in Margaret River to the west of Bussell Highway i.e. retain and enhance natural vegetation and landscapes to reflect the less conventional residential character of the area.

31 Use street tree planting and enhance pathways in Margaret River to reinforce links between open spaces and the town centre to enhance connectivity and provide a coordinated landscape setting.

32 Incorporate environmentally sensitive areas into the open space network (to promote local character and identity) and provide appropriate protection and management.

33 Investigate the provision of an additional playground in a park to the east of Bussell Highway between Forrest Road and John Archibald Drive, possibly on Reserve 35489 or 35475.

34 Provide a new district recreation reserve east of Bussell Highway on Reserve 50760 Tonkin Boulevard in conjunction with the adjacent school site to reflect anticipated growth in this area.

35 Ensure parks are equally accessible by both visitors/tourists and residents.

### Augusta POS

36 Undertake master planning of Augusta Civic Park (Reserve 20761) to determine preferred future use and development options, including for community uses such as aged persons accommodation, and improve the community and recreation facilities, particularly for the aging population while ensuring that children and youth are adequately catered for. This should include an investigation of the need for additional basketball courts and a playground, and sourcing of a secure water supply.

37 Finalise and implement a development plan/master plan for the Ellis Street jetty precinct and improve Improve dual use path connectivity along foreshore and to Civic Park.

38 Renew and replace infrastructure as required at the Flinders Bay foreshore (Reserves 24653/24654) and design and construct a foreshore recreation trail from Flinders Bay to...
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<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>Undertake succession tree planting, install small nature gardens and consider parking for large vehicles at Bill Hillier Park (Reserve 22541) Bussell Highway, Augusta.</td>
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<td>40</td>
<td>Continue to manage Lions Park (Reserve 11533) Albany Terrace, Augusta for recreation purposes and prepare a management plan in the long term.</td>
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<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>Investigate the provision of shade trees/structures, seating and a playground and soft fall in Firestone Park, Investigator Avenue.</td>
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| 42 | a. Retain the western and central portions of Reserve 41705 Stephenson Street as POS and include them in the ‘Recreation’ reserve pursuant to the Local Planning Scheme; with the eastern portion (between Allnut Terrace and Chamberlain Place) considered surplus to requirements and used to raise funds for the improvement of other key reserves in Augusta.  
   b. Offer Reserve 43428 Eatt Street for sale to the adjoining Lots 39 and 42 and the sale used to raise funds for the improvement of other key reserves in Augusta.  
   c. Offer Reserve 28016 Stirling Street for sale for the purpose of affordable housing or other appropriate use, with funds generated to be used for the improvement of POS in Augusta only.  
   d. Retain Reserve 27019 Allnut Terrace as POS for its conservation values and assess the Reserve for any potential fire risk.  
   e. Offer Reserve 37335 Turner Street for sale to the adjoining landowners and amalgamate the remaining portion with the adjacent unmade road reserve for future conversion to freehold. |
| 43 | Promote equality of access for all residents and visitors in the provision and development of POS, including those with mobility aids. |
| 44 | Incorporate appropriate sustainable urban design in POS, balancing turf areas with garden beds and native landscaping areas - water sensitive urban design and integrated water cycle management need to be addressed at the structure planning stage as well as at the more detailed design stage. |
| 45 | Use bio-retention areas, hydro-zoning and water-wise species in water cycle management. |

**Cowaramup POS**

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<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>Prepare a reserve master plan for Cowaramup Oval, review the MoU, and continue to manage Cowaramup Oval for active recreation purposes.</td>
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<td>47</td>
<td>Prepare a reserve management plan for Pioneer Park (Reserve 22636) Cowaramup to address future development and maintenance e.g. parking, public toilets.</td>
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<td>48</td>
<td>Continue to implement the Master Plan for Parkwater Reserve (Reserve 49308) Currawong Street.</td>
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<td>49</td>
<td>Maintain Honeytree Reserve (Reserve 49001) Pioneer Road as a dog exercise area and implement a turf maintenance programme to target water conservation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>Undertake staged upgrades of garden beds and lawns in Cowarra Heights Park (Reserve 47991).</td>
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<tr>
<td>51</td>
<td>Provide a playground, seating, shade, shelter and landscaping in Reserve 50457 – provided or funded by the developer.</td>
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<tr>
<td>52</td>
<td>Incorporate appropriate, sustainable and water sensitive urban design in POS, balancing turf areas with garden beds and native landscaping areas.</td>
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**Other Strategies**

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<td>53</td>
<td>In view of the currently adequate provision of POS generally adjacent to the town centres, the Shire should seek cash-in-lieu of the provision of future POS where appropriate in urban infill areas, and use these funds for acceptable expenditure to improve recreation and community facilities in existing parks and reserves.</td>
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<td>54</td>
<td>Structure planning of new residential areas is to address the ‘Criteria for the planning, design and function of POS’ outlined in the POS Strategy (in conjunction with ‘Liveable Neighbourhoods’ and other relevant policies).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Public Open Space Strategy
References


Shire of Augusta Margaret River, 2012 and 2013. Shire of Augusta Margaret River Local Profile. Margaret River, Western Australia.

Acknowledgements

Shire of Augusta Margaret River

Iliya Hastings - Director, Sustainable Development Services
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Sonia Pienaar - Coordinator Asset Services

Australian Bureau of Statistics
www.abs.gov.au

Department of Planning
www.planning.wa.gov.au

South West Development Commission
www.swdc.wa.gov.au

Department of Sport and Recreation
www.dsr.wa.gov.au

Department of Water
www.water.wa.gov.au

plans prepared by Rachel Douglas

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