

Recreational Open Space Hierarchy into City Planned Framework: A Review

Puja Verma

Babu Banarasi Das University, Faizabad Road, Lucknow 227105, India

Abstract - The Open Space provides a framework to guide the planning, design, development, and management of open space in the City. To deliver a connected network of quality and diverse open spaces now and into the future to improve the liveability of the City for residents and visitors. Many benefits that a quality open space network has for the health and livability of the City's residents and as such has a strong commitment to ensuring that a diverse range of quality connected open spaces is provided within the City. To enhance the planning of open space to connected network of quality open spaces that meet the needs of the community.

Index Terms - Open Space Strategy, Green city, city planned framework, open space network

INTRODUCTION

Climate change and impacts such as sea level rises, particularly in the coastal townships. Continued urban development impacting on the perception of available open space and the urban heat island effect on the City. Challenges in providing appropriate natural environments for habitat particularly within the growth areas. Challenges in meeting biodiversity objectives such as tree canopy coverage across the City to mitigate the heat island effect. Urban Development. Growth and development of population impacting on the demand for open space and specific interests. Urbanization of the City and shrinking of private household space raising the importance of public spaces for improved health and live ability (ie. incidental exercise, social gathering, relaxation, and exercising pets). Increasing residential densities and less access to nature placing greater emphasis on the importance of open space. Increasing residential densities in the growth areas which are not being matched with commensurate increases in open space. The preference of many property developers to provide smaller sized open space parcels within the

residential development area rather than large parcels. Larger parks are considered to provide more functional benefit to local communities and can accommodate a broader range of infrastructure which promotes longer usage periods.

There is considerable research demonstrating the social, mental, physical, Environmental, and economic benefits that open space can provide, including:

- Providing children with an opportunity to play and learn.
- Providing opportunities for physical exercise.
- Providing affordable places for social gatherings.
- Conserving biodiversity.
- Connecting us with the natural world.
- Offering restorative qualities and thereby reduce stress and improve a sense of wellbeing.
- Providing pleasant places to be outdoors.
- Enhancing neighbourhood character.
- Contributing significantly to a sense of civic pride in a place.
- Offering economic benefits (e.g. increased property values, employment opportunities, tourism development and the support of major industries such as sport, personal fitness, and landscape products and services).
- Urbanisation of the City and an increasing population places pressure on individual open space parcels to accommodate higher numbers of users.
- The rise in land values which impacts on the costs to set aside land for open space.
- The increasing residential densities resulting in shrinking private spaces impacts on people's need to access public open space for incidental exercise, social gathering, and relaxation (especially if they own pets).

- The ability to provide for a diverse range of sports across the City as land for many sports is not provided for within new developments.
- The increase in community expectations for what open space can and should provide.
- Desire for spaces for families of all ages to recreate.
- Global warming.
- Vehicle for transportation.
- Planned City



Fig1: people gathering environment surrounding city

Green City

Creating a beautiful green City will be achieved by enhancing biodiversity, amenity and environmental quality in parks, promoting contact with nature and community pride, responding to climate change and generating greater environmental and health benefits.

City of Trails

Facilitating physical activity and a sense of escape through the delivery of a strong regional and local trail network. This network will provide exercise opportunities whilst also connecting people with local destination places such as parks, recreation reserves, shops and public transport.

Active City

Creating parks and open spaces for the entire community and encouraging physical activity within these spaces. The creation of an active City will encourage residents to participate in outdoor recreation and contribute to their health and wellbeing. The development of multifunctional social / family recreation parks that cater for all ages, abilities and cultural backgrounds is a key outcome of this pillar. Outcomes Successful implementation of the Strategy is anticipated to result in the following key outcomes:

1. A connected network of quality and diverse open spaces within new development areas to cater for community demands.
2. Implementation of core service level standards to ensure open spaces across the City are engaging and fit for purpose.
3. Development of strong connections with the City's heritage and natural features through the protection of built and natural assets.
4. Improved partnerships with statutory authorities and Government to secure opportunities for an expanded open space network to meet the service needs of the City's large population.
5. Protection of significant environmental areas to support local habitat.
6. Establishment of diverse landscape settings across the open space network to connect people with nature.
7. Development of a regional trail network to promote extended forms of physical activity and sense of escape, supported by a local trail network to connect people to destination places and reduce reliance on vehicle transport.
8. Development of new open spaces for sport to meet the needs of a growing community across a range of sports.
9. Advocacy for new regional open spaces for sport and informal recreation use to complement the existing open space network and provide broader opportunities for the community.
10. Development of social / family recreation spaces that provide a range of facilities and engage a broader range of ages, abilities and cultural backgrounds and act as community hubs



Fig:2: Active city with green open space pocket division

Open Space Benefits

- Providing children with an opportunity to play and learn.
- Providing opportunities for physical exercise.
- Social • providing affordable places for social gatherings.
- Environmental • Conserving biodiversity.
- Connecting us with the natural world.
- Enhancing neighbourhood character.
- Contributing significantly to a sense of civic pride in a place.
- Mental • Offering restorative qualities and thereby reduce stress and improve a sense of wellbeing.
- Providing pleasant places to be outdoors.
- Economic • Offering economic benefits (eg increased property values, employment opportunities, tourism development and the support of major industries such as sport, personal fitness, and landscape products and services).

Open Space Challenges Environmental

Open Space Strategy to Public Open Space Provision
 Increasing cost of land to set aside for parks and sporting reserves. The continued increase in demand for community sport and physical activity driving demand for additional sports facilities to be provided. Significant challenges in providing a diversity of sporting facilities for the community as land provided through the growth area development process is limited to a small number of sports. The increasing demand for a broader range of community services and activities (ie. Men's Sheds, scout halls, community gardens, community facilities etc.) And the desire to locate these on open space land. Increasing value placed on open space by residents contributing numerous social, economic and environmental benefits to the City. Planning the contested environment that is in place for the planning of open space in new growth areas. A need for strategic direction on the appropriate infrastructure provision within various open space types. Need for a fair and equitable distribution of open space through the City to service all residents.



Fig: 3: Open Space Challenges Environmental

Planned City

Planning Framework that provides key considerations for practitioners seeking to a connected and diverse open space network. Open Space Strategy and City Creating a beautiful green City will be achieved by enhancing biodiversity, amenity and environmental quality in parks, promoting contact with nature and community pride, responding to climate change and generating greater environmental and health benefits. City of Trails Facilitating physical activity and a sense of escape through the delivery of a strong regional and local trail network. This network will provide exercise opportunities whilst also connecting people with local destination places such as parks, recreation reserves, shops and public transport. Active City Creating parks and open spaces for the entire community and encourage physical activity within these spaces. The creation of an active City will encourage residents to participate in outdoor recreation and contribute to their health and wellbeing. The development of multifunctional social / family recreation parks that cater for all ages, abilities and cultural backgrounds will be a key outcome of this pillar.



Fig: 4: Planned City

Open Space Hierarchy Classifications

Local open space

Predominantly provided to serve an immediate local catchment is relatively small in size, servicing daily and weekly neighbourhood, generally accessed by bicycle or foot from the surrounding catchment.

District open space

Generally larger areas of a greater complexity (perhaps with support facilities) that serve a group of suburbs or a precinct, with significance for the precinct as a whole or a substantial part of it (due to the size, function or diversity in the space), where there may

also be local significance (conservation, cultural value, or for large social gatherings) and where residents might be expected to drive for access.

Regional open space

Areas that serve regional catchments (whole of, or broader than, the municipality) that may host significant sites, including of flora and fauna species, or, by virtue of their size, that offer diversity of opportunities or levels of development that would not necessarily be available for all primary functions and in every municipality, and that may attract high numbers of people, including tourists

LOCAL PARKS / SOCIAL - FAMILY RECREATION

Local parks service the local catchment and will be distributed throughout the City to provide all residents with access to quality open space. These parks are smaller in their size and have fewer facilities than the social - family recreation sites. Social - family recreation sites service a district and regional catchment and are destination places in their own right. These sites provide opportunities for a range of age groups typically catering for play, picnics, casual ball games, trail activities and environmental qualities. Social - family recreation sites will replace single purpose play function parks over time.

Description

Local parks are provided within walking distance of residents to encourage physical activity and socialization for all ages. Local parks will be smaller in size and have lower levels of infrastructure compared to the social / family recreation sites which will service a district and/or regional catchment. Local parks will include areas for play, kick-about-space, paths, seating, and landscaping and may also be provided in the form of hard plaza spaces at neighborhood activity centers as well as in commercial and industrial zones.

To provide higher level multi-functional parks within each local neighborhood. These spaces will be community focal points or destination places along trails that include a wider range of facilities and infrastructure for all ages and abilities to encourage longer usage periods by the community. District level SFR parks will include play areas, open-kick about

spaces, seating, paths, dog-off leash areas, considerable vegetation and may include other infrastructure such as toilets, barbecues, and car parking. District SFR parks may also be provided in the form of hard plaza space at higher order activity centres as well as in higher order commercial precincts.

To provide multiple social and recreation functionality as a part of regional parks and open spaces. These spaces will draw from a wider catchment and will include infrastructure and facilities such as barbecues, toilets, shelter, and car parking to encourage longer term stays from users. Sites include Casey Fields Regional Play space and Wilson Botanic Park. Regional SFR parks may also be provided in the form of hard plaza space at higher order activity centres (such as the Casey Cultural Precinct). Whilst commercial facilities such as cafes may be considered within these spaces, affordable or free community access should remain a focus.

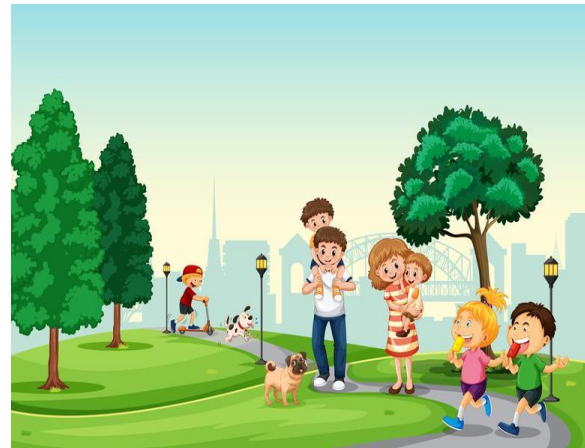


Fig: 5: local parks / social - family recreation

TRAILS AND WATERWAYS

Land which is set aside or has a secondary function to accommodate trail linkages or open space corridors / walkways. These include walkways between streets and neighborhoods, open space corridors, waterways, tree reserves, wetland areas and gas and transmission line easements which accommodate service infrastructure. Water acknowledges that it is committed to supporting multiple use of its waterways to contribute to livability outcomes. However, restrictions may be in place to allow for flooding, drainage and transfer of water supply and sewerage.

Description

To provide and/or utilize land for local trail circuits and walkways through each local neighborhood to connect to local destinations such as recreation reserves, parks, shops, schools and the like as well as perimeter circuits within parks and reserves. This will include utilizing a combination of unencumbered and encumbered land such as wetlands and utility easement to create path connections. Local trails will encourage local communities to be involved in physical activity including walking, running, cycling and skating. Local community equestrian riding will also be provided for through equestrian trail loops and connections to destinations such as equestrian clubs.

To provide and/or utilize land that connects adjoining neighborhoods to facilitate opportunities to participate in physical activity (ie. walking, cycling, skate, equestrian). These connections will lead to key destination spaces with ancillary facilities such as seating, drinking fountains and potentially toilets, barbeques and car parking that facilitate socialization, rest and reprieve. These destination spaces may also act as start and finish points for trail users.

To provide larger trail connections that link suburbs and may also extend beyond the municipal borders to connect with trails in other municipalities. These trails will include seating, drinking taps and signage to provide reprieve for users undertaking longer forms of exercise. Regional equestrian trails will encourage longer community equestrian trail riding and link with key destination places such as regional parks and pony clubs

OPEN SPACE PLANNING FRAMEWORK

To achieve the Strategy's goals an open space planning framework has been developed to guide the planning and design of open space. This framework will seek to achieve the following objectives:

1. Quality - providing open spaces that are fit for their intended purpose and are designed to meet their designated function.
2. Equity - providing a range of spaces across the City to service specific needs such as people with disabilities and the elderly.
3. Accessibility - providing the priority types of open space needed in different settlements within a specified distance of residences.

4. Diversity – varying the function, catchment, and landscape setting of the open space network to provide a diversity of experiences and settings.
5. Connectivity – providing linkages across the open space network to connect people with places and destinations.

The planning framework will be a key tool for Council staff to inform their planning of open space and to advise developers on Casey's requirements for its open spaces. It will also provide the State Government and the development community with greater direction and certainty on open space provision and design in the City of Casey.

The planning framework includes a four step process for practitioners that prompt consideration of the context in which the open space is being planned, the needs of the people that will be living and visiting the local area and the opportunities available to enhance the quality of the open space network. These considerations seek to ensure the open space is of a sufficient quantity and is fit for its intended purpose. Application of the framework will determine the quantum, size, layout, distribution and design of open spaces. This useful tool will apply to established and growth areas and can be applied to broader precinct structure planning processes or individual open space considerations.



Fig: 6: open space planning framework

OPEN SPACE NETWORK

Open space planning requires consideration of the City's overall network of open spaces, including linkages, gaps and the distribution of open space functions to ensure an equitable distribution. This broader network planning can then be used to inform localised open space network planning which may occur during structure plan and subdivision processes.

Considerations for local open space network planning include:

- The distribution of spaces within the development area.
- Proposed linkages in the network and how access can be facilitated / enhanced through the location or trails.
- Linkages to the broader open space network and the complementary elements / destination places.
- The size and catchment of open spaces as well as where particular functions of open space should be located.

The Strategy's core service level standards define a hierarchy of open spaces across each of the four functions. This hierarchy is based on the catchment of the spaces (ie. local, district or regional) and the appropriate infrastructure and maintenance levels for each catchment. The catchment is based on the sphere of influence of the open space as defined by where the users will originate from and how long they may utilise / stay at the open space. The size, scale and proximity of the open space to nearby populations will influence the catchment.

The Strategy proposes four functions for public open space in the City, including:

- Nature.
- Trails and Waterways.
- Social / Family Recreation.
- Sport.

The selection of functions for the Council owned individual open spaces will be determined by Council's Recreation Planning team.



Fig: 7: open space network

CONCLUSION

Recreational open space flowed many planned framework, infrastructure and maintenance service level standards, design considerations and various

project initiatives. A connected network of quality and diverse open spaces within new development areas to cater for community demands, Implementation of core service level standards to ensure open spaces across the City are engaging and fit for purpose. Development of strong connections with the City's heritage and natural features through the protection of built and natural assets and improved partnerships with statutory authorities and Government to secure opportunities for an expanded open space network to meet the service needs of the City's large population Protection of significant environmental areas to support local habitat. Establishment of diverse landscape settings across the open space network to connect people with nature with huge development of a regional trail network to promote extended forms of physical activity and sense of escape, supported by a local trail network to connect people to destination places and reduce reliance on vehicle transport. Development of new open spaces for sport to meet the needs of a growing community across a range of sports. Advocacy for new regional open spaces for sport and informal recreation use to complement the existing open space network and provide broader opportunities for the community. Development of social / family recreation spaces that provide a range of facilities and engage a broader range of ages, abilities and cultural backgrounds and act as community hubs.

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