

## City of Swan Public Open Space and Community Facilities Strategy

### What is the Public Open Space and Community Facilities Strategy?

The City of Swan engaged SGS Economics and Planning in August 2008 to begin work on a Strategy to guide the future location and development of public open space and community facilities in the City of Swan.

This Strategy will help to determine the best facilities and location to meet the population's needs now and into the future. This update provides information on the progress of the Strategy. Table 1 shows the indicative project timetable, with the current status highlighted in yellow.

#### What has been done so far?

- Community profile looking at age, gender, income and households in the City of Swan and local government areas surrounding the City of Swan.
- Consultation with relevant City of Swan staff about existing public open space and community facilities.
- Research into approaches for providing open space and community facilities.
- Research on the impact of climate change on facilities.
- Site visits to analyse the existing supply of facilities in the City of Swan and areas nearby.
- Establishment of principles to follow when deciding on what open space and community facilities to provide.
- Analysis of social trends influencing the use of public open space and community facilities.

#### Interesting findings on recreation trends as part of the social trends analysis include:

- A lack of time is often stated as a barrier to people's participation in physical activity.
- Health and fitness are the main reasons given by people for participating in physical activities.
- Perth residents participate in physical activities more than residents in other parts of Australia.
- In 2005, approximately 72% of Perth's residents over 15 years old participated in physical activities at least once compared to 67% of Australians, and 68% of Western Australians.
- Non-organised sport (such as walking, swimming and aerobics/fitness) has a higher participation rate than organised or club based sport.

#### Interesting findings on approaches for providing public open space and community facilities:

- Best practice is to locate public open space with community facilities, and/ or with similar uses such as schools and health facilities to create community hubs.
- Community hubs are best located near residential and employment areas, and other, education and health facilities.
- Providing trails and connections between public open spaces and community facilities provides greater access and use of existing parks.
- Community facilities can play a greater role in community development.

These findings will inform planning for future public open space and community facilities.



## Community consultation

Community consultation commenced in late January and will continue until the end of February 2009. The consultation will involve:

- Telephone interviews with key stakeholders;
- Focus group workshops with sporting and non-sporting community groups, industry and government representatives; and
- Telephone market research to survey a random selection of households in the City of Swan.

Some of the questions that will be discussed during the consultation include:

- What does the community like and value about its public open space and community facilities?
- What are the future public open space and community facility needs in the City of Swan?
- What current and potential gaps exist in provision?
- What could be done better when providing public open space and community facilities?
- What opportunities are there in the City of Swan for better public open space and community facility provision?



Guildford Library

## Indicative Project Timeline

Phase		Estimated Timing
1	Research on public open space and community facilities planning in Australia and overseas to establish best practice principles and standards.	October 2008
2	Analysis of existing public open space and community facilities.	End 2008
3	Analysis of demand for public open space and community facilities. Consultation with residents and stakeholders.	Early 2009
4 and 5	Identifying gaps in provision and preparation of a strategy and policy for public open space and community facilities.	Early 2009
6	Public exhibition and submissions on the draft strategy and policy. Final strategy and policy.	Mid 2009

## What's next?

Following consultation, the next stages of the study will:

- Develop draft standards and criteria for public open space and community provision in the City of Swan;
- Analyse where there are gaps in public open space and community facility provision;
- Develop the draft Public Open Space and Community Facility Strategy and Policies;
- Exhibit the draft Strategy and Policies, and seek comments; and
- Place the final Strategy and Policies to Council for approval.

## Electronic Update

If you would like to receive a regular email to keep you up to date with the project please email Brian on the email address below.

For further information contact:

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