



# Open space policy

<b>Classification</b>	Policy
<b>Strategic reference</b>	Goal 4 Organisational : Effective governance and organisational efficiencies
<b>Relevant legislation</b>	Local Government Act 1999
<b>Relevant documents</b>	Service range policy
<b>Responsible officer</b>	Manager Infrastructure Services
<b>Date adopted</b>	December 2020
<b>Next review date</b>	December 2023

## Introduction

This is a service level policy.

Southern Mallee District Council provides public open space land and facilities, which provide a range of both passive and active recreational, lifestyle and environmental opportunities that are safe, promote physical and mental health and social interaction.

In determining service levels for its open space services, Council has taken into account targets established for its financial performance and other competing demands for Council's financial resources.

## Legislative context

The Local Government Act 1999 introduced the concept of community land. Subject to exclusion from classification and revocation, Section 193 of the Act defines community land as "All local government land (except roads) that is owned by a council or under the council's care control and management". Much of the public open space located within Southern Mallee is classified as community land.

Public open space is community land that is set aside and/or used for public recreation and/or possesses significant conservation value.

## Policy objectives

Council will provide open space services to meet the environmental and recreational needs of the community with a range of nature, leisure, recreation and sporting facilities for people of all ages and abilities.

Council's open space services will aim to:

- enhance landscape and environmental amenity of open space areas
- protect and enhance the natural and built open space network
- provide sustainable, engaging, healthy and functional community public spaces and streetscapes
- provide quality sport and recreational opportunities and facilities that foster healthy lifestyles
- ensure fit for purpose and cost effective services that meets community needs
- ensure public open space areas are accessible to all members of the community.

## **Means of delivery of the service**

Southern Mallee District Council will deliver its open space services through the labour of directly employed staff in the Infrastructure Services team and through collaborating with sporting and community groups who provide additional open space services.

## **How the service is funded**

Council's open space services are funded by general revenue.

Sporting and community groups provide additional open space services to the community.

## **Service levels**

The primary focus of Council's open space services will be the established open space areas in Pinnaroo and Lameroo. These areas include the commercial centres of Pinnaroo and Lameroo, where open space services will ensure all open space areas are maintained to the highest standard and include irrigation of green spaces, regular mowing and garden and tree maintenance and attention to street furniture and community facilities such as paths, hard surfaces, parking areas and signage.

Other key passive recreation and environmental spaces in Pinnaroo and Lameroo will be maintained to an appropriate standard. These areas include Pinnaroo's southern parklands (including Parr's Scrub, Lions Park, animal park, croquet club site and recreational vehicle site), the Pinnaroo Wetlands, Pinnaroo Village Green (north of the rail line) and Lameroo's central medians, Lake Roberts and the Lameroo Caravan Park.

New playgrounds in the main streets in Pinnaroo and Lameroo will be the focus for playground services.

Council will work collaboratively with community groups to support the provision of key recreational open space services including the golf courses and the Pinnaroo Show and recreation reserve and Lameroo recreation reserve. This support will include, but not be limited to, continuation of peppercorn leases (where the land is Council owned or controlled) and water subsidies.

There will be limited open space services provided to Parilla and Geranium. The focus in these localities will be on the Parilla roadside rest area and the Geranium recreational vehicle site and former recreation reserve.

Open space service are not provided to the rural areas outside of Pinnaroo, Lameroo, Parilla and Geranium.

## **Policy statements**

Council recognises that open space is held for the benefit of the community and not as an asset for disposal. Accordingly, the community should be involved in any decisions regarding open space acquisition and disposal.

Council will retain and develop existing public open space to:

- protect and enhance areas that are highly regarded and of great importance to the community
- protect and enhance areas of high environmental conservation value.

- improve diversity and quality of public open space
- improve equity of access.

The service levels expressed in this policy:

- are based on community consultation;
- recognise the importance of Council's long term financial sustainability;
- take into account the limited resources available to Council;
- provide the direction for other relevant plans developed by Council; and
- are subject to review as circumstances change.

Council's performance in meeting the specified levels will be reported on an annual basis.

### **Policy review**

The effectiveness of this policy will be reviewed every three years or as necessary.

### **Further information**

This document is available on Council's website [www.southernmallee.sa.gov.au](http://www.southernmallee.sa.gov.au) and at the principal office of the Southern Mallee District Council at Day Street, Pinnaroo SA 5304.

A copy of this document may be purchased from Council.