

DISTRICT COUNCIL OF STREAKY BAY



OPEN SPACE CATEGORY AND HIERARCHY GUIDE



Background

The Streaky Bay District Management Plan recommends that open space should be managed in accordance with hierarchy levels. For example, open space that has a regional or district value could have a greater level of development and be managed to a higher standard compared to other open space. The District Management Plan also recognises that there are various types of open space within the Streaky Bay District and this can influence the approach to development and management.

The purpose of this Guideline is to explain the different types (categories) of open space and hierarchy levels and recommend approaches to development and management. The Guideline relates to open space that is owned or managed by the District Council of Streaky Bay and links to the Community Land Inventory provided in Appendix 6 of the District Management Plan Appendices Report.

The Guideline includes:

- Definitions for open space categories
- Management considerations for open space categories
- Hierarchy definitions
- Potential standards linked to hierarchy
- Guidelines for open space development linked to hierarchy
- Guidelines for open space maintenance linked to hierarchy

The Open Space Category and Hierarchy Guide builds on previous guidelines developed by Suter Planners with Wax Design, including for the City of Tea Tree Gully, City of Rockdale, City of Campbelltown, City of Victor Harbor, City of Charles Sturt and City of Port Adelaide Enfield. However it has been specifically tailored for the District of Streaky Bay.

Open Space Category

Suggested categories of open space and related definitions and management approaches are provided below. The categories aim to reflect the character of open space in the District of Streaky Bay and consider approaches used in other Local Government Areas.

Category Definitions and Management Considerations

Category	Category Definitions	Management Considerations
Coastal	The land is relatively natural and linked to the coast (not in a town).	Coastal open space generally has minimal development given the emphasis of the District's coast is on its natural features. However, there is a need to provide some amenities at key locations providing they are sensitive to the environment.
Community	The land is predominantly used for community buildings such as a hall or museum. This category also includes cemeteries.	Community open space is generally developed with buildings, structures and car parking. However, there is potential to connect the open space to surrounds through landscaping, pathways and integrated spaces.
Drainage	The main function of the land is stormwater drainage or detention.	Whilst some drainage areas are undeveloped, there is potential to integrate natural features including wetlands and native vegetation in drainage areas.
Foreshore	The land is located along the coast, but is relatively developed, publically accessible and linked to a town.	Foreshore areas should aim to connect a town with the ocean and provide an appealing setting for recreation. Foreshore areas can be developed or relatively natural although there should be some amenities and features that support activity and connect people to the environment.
Landscape	The land primarily has a landscape value such as a streetscape or verge.	Landscapes should reflect and enhance the character of a place and be adaptable to the environment and climate.
Natural Area	The land is dominated by natural landscapes and habitats with an emphasis on protecting the natural environment and supporting biodiversity.	Natural areas require protection and management and should give consideration to biodiversity, fire management and managed access as appropriate.

Category Definitions and Management Considerations (continued)

Category	Category Definitions	Management Considerations
Operational	The land has an operational focus such as a depot or waste management site.	Operational areas should be managed in accordance with the function of the facility. Operational areas are not required to be designated as community land.
Park	The land primarily caters for informal recreation activity through grassed areas, play spaces, seating, pathways, picnic facilities and activity areas.	The role of a park could be to provide activity opportunities or enhance the character of a place. A hierarchy approach is required as it is not feasible to develop all parks to the same level.
Sport	The land primarily caters for sport and organised activities through playing fields and other structures, e.g. football oval, cricket pitch, outdoor courts.	Sportsgrounds and facilities require a commitment to quality and facility provision in accordance with size, use and hierarchy.
Tourism	The land primarily caters for visitor overnight stays such as a caravan or camping site.	Tourism open space should provide quality infrastructure and settings that support and encourage visitors.
Undeveloped	The land is undeveloped with no formal landscape, pathways or infrastructure.	Undeveloped land will require a level of management to minimise the risks of fires and inappropriate use.

The Community Land Inventory provided as Appendix A includes a suggested category for each parcel of Council owned or managed open space based on an analysis of supply and site visits.

Open Space Hierarchy

Open space hierarchy considers the size, character, quality and potential use of open space and is also linked geographical catchments. Suggested definitions that are relevant to all categories of open space are provided below.

Hierarchy Definitions

Hierarchy	Hierarchy Definitions
Regional	Regional open space is generally unique, large in size, very high quality (including environmental quality), in a high profile location, linked to major destinations or caters for high level activities (State or regional level). Regional open space has the capacity to attract or benefit people from across and beyond the District of Streaky Bay including visitors.
District	District open space is generally large in size, good quality and well located with a link to townships or destinations. District open space could attract or benefit people from across the District of Streaky Bay, including visitors. The difference between regional and district open space will be the level of quality, profile or destination (with regional open space generally being higher profile or higher quality).
Local	Local open space could be smaller in size, appealing or safe quality and lower profile in its location. Local open space will primarily cater for or benefit a local community in a township and will generally not attract visitors.

'Neighbourhood' is generally also included in a hierarchy listing. However, due to the relatively small size of townships it is believed that a 'neighbourhood' hierarchy is not required. Any open space that is not district or regional is likely to primarily have a local value.

The Open Space Inventory in Appendix A includes a suggested hierarchy for each parcel of community land based on an analysis of supply and site visits.

Open Space Standards

A suggested guide for the standard of the main developed open space, i.e. foreshore, park, sport and tourism is provided below taking category and hierarchy into consideration. This 'standard guide' should be used to influence development and maintenance. The standards are described on the following page.

Standard Linked to Category and Hierarchy

Category	Hierarchy	Standard Levels		
		High Quality	Good Quality	Minimum Standard
Foreshore	Regional Foreshore	✓		
	District Foreshore		✓	
Park	Regional Park	✓		
	District Park		✓	
	Local Park			✓
Sport	Regional Sport	✓		
	District Sport		✓	
Tourism	Regional Tourism	✓		
	District Tourism		✓	

LOCAL Foreshore, Sport and Tourism open space is not provided in the District due to the high profile and catchment of these types of open space.

Description of Standards

High Quality

The open space and related facilities are very good quality and provide a high level of service to users. Some examples could be:

- High quality buildings and structures, e.g. new building with robust materials
- Very good provision of amenities, e.g. shelter, shade, toilets
- Unique facilities or features, e.g. innovative play space, distinctive interpretation
- High quality landscape, e.g. mature and maintained trees and gardens

In addition, the settings and facilities would be safe and have a high level of appeal. The term appeal can be defined as 'attraction, interest, enjoyment'.

Good Quality

The open space and related facilities are of a good quality and provide an appropriate level of service. Some examples could be:

- Well maintained clubroom and amenities
- Quality pathways and facilities to support recreation
- Good sized playground with connected seating and shade
- Regularly mown grassed areas and maintained garden beds

In addition, the settings and facilities would be safe and appealing.

Minimum Standard

The open space and related facilities are of sound quality and safe to use. In particular the open space and facilities should:

- Meet base quality standards (turf and surface standards, Australian standards etc).
- Meet 'Occupational Health and Safety' and public safety standards.
- Include infrastructure that is structurally sound and in a safe condition.
- Have appeal from a visual and user perspective, i.e. people will appreciate and use facilities.

Potential Development and Maintenance of Open Space Hierarchy

A guide for developing and maintaining the foreshore, park and sports open space is provided on the following pages for related hierarchies. Whilst the Tourism category is also developed open space this is addressed in the Caravan and Camping Guide.

The guide lists facilities that could be considered for the main developed categories of open space in the District of Streaky Bay and provides a guide for maintenance. Not all facilities would need to be provided and other facilities could be considered if there is demand and justification.

The 'Description of Standards' on the previous page is relevant to maintenance as well as development.

The suggested maintenance guide will result in regional and district open space being maintained to a higher standard than local open space. However, all open space will be maintained to a safe and appealing standard as a minimum.

Foreshores

Open Space Type	Potential Development*	Maintenance Guide
Regional Foreshore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Picnic areas (including barbecue facilities) ▪ Shelters ▪ Seating and tables ▪ Public toilet facilities (or located nearby) ▪ Shared-use pathways (walking, cycle) ▪ Irrigated grassed areas (ideally linked to water capture and re-use) ▪ Native vegetation (to reduce irrigated areas) ▪ Trees and landscaping (including gardens and shade trees) ▪ High standard and innovative play space (including for children with a disability) ▪ Civic and event spaces (paved areas, boardwalks) ▪ Link to jetty, pontoons, swimming areas, boat ramps ▪ Lighting (including security and pathway lighting) ▪ Signage and interpretation ▪ Drinking fountains ▪ Community art and cultural spaces ▪ Nearby car parking (including disability car parking) ▪ Pathways to the foreshore area (nearby streets) ▪ Connections to cafés or restaurants (strategically located and designed to enhance the recreation value of the site and minimise impacts) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Irrigated areas to be mown on a regular basis and to a high standard (regularity to depend on growth conditions). ▪ Garden beds and native vegetation to be maintained to a good standard. ▪ Jetties, pontoons, boating and swimming structures to be maintained to a high standard. ▪ Any other structures or amenities, such as toilet facilities, picnic and barbecue areas, play spaces, seating, shelters, lighting, art work and pathways to be maintained to a high standard and in accordance with Australian Standards.

*Could include a number of the items, but not necessarily all items

Foreshores

Open Space Type	Potential Development*	Maintenance Guide
District Foreshore	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Picnic areas▪ Shelters▪ Seating▪ Link to public toilet facilities (may not be on the foreshore)▪ Possible link to jetty, pontoons, swimming areas, boat ramps▪ Pathways (walking, cycle)▪ Some irrigated grassed or landscaped areas (linked to water capture and re-use)▪ Native vegetation areas (instead of irrigated areas)▪ Trees and landscaping (including shady trees)▪ Play space link▪ Lighting (including security and pathway lighting)▪ Signage and interpretation▪ Community art and cultural spaces▪ Nearby car parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Garden beds and native vegetation to be maintained to a good standard.▪ Where there are irrigated areas, they should be mown on a regular basis and to a good standard (regularity to depend on growth conditions).▪ Jetties, pontoons, boating and swimming structures to be maintained to a good standard.▪ Any other structures or amenities to be maintained to a good standard and in accordance with Australian Standards.

*Could include a number of the items, but not necessarily all items

Parks

Due to the foreshore and sports focus in the District there are no suggested regional parks. Consideration of potential development and maintenance is therefore only provided for district and local parks.

Open Space Type	Potential Development*	Maintenance Guide
District Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Trees and landscaping▪ Irrigated grassed areas▪ Picnic areas▪ Seating▪ Shelters▪ Link to public toilet facilities (not necessarily within the park)▪ Pathways (walking, bikes)▪ Play space▪ Outdoor courts (for active areas)▪ Youth activity areas (e.g. skate, BMX)▪ Lighting (including security)▪ Signage and interpretation▪ Nearby car parking (including disability car parking)▪ Links to other community facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Irrigated areas to be mown on a regular basis and to a good standard (regularity to depend on growth conditions).▪ Garden beds to be maintained to a good standard.▪ Non-irrigated areas (e.g. native vegetation) to be maintained to a safe and appealing standard.▪ Any structures or amenities to be maintained to a good standard and in accordance with Australian Standards.
Local Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Trees and landscaping▪ Seating▪ Pathways to the park	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Irrigated areas to be mown to a safe and appealing standard (regularity to depend on growth conditions).▪ Non-irrigated areas to be maintained to a safe and appealing standard.▪ Any structures or amenities to be maintained to a safe and appealing standard and in accordance with Australian Standards.

*Could include a number of the items, but not necessarily all items

Sports

Open Space Type	Potential Development*	Maintenance Guide
Regional Sportsground or Facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quality ovals/fields (mown regularly and quality surface) ▪ Irrigation and drainage ▪ Specialised sports facilities, e.g. outdoor courts, lawn bowls, equestrian ▪ Quality club room (ideally shared use and linked to broader community activities) ▪ Change rooms and toilets ▪ Support structures relating to the sport, eg cricket nets or training fields ▪ Quality field lighting (generally for training) ▪ Security lighting ▪ Landscaping and shade ▪ Pathways to and around the ground ▪ Seating ▪ Signage ▪ On-site car parking (including parking with good disability access) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ovals and fields mown on a regular basis to a good standard (regularity to depend on growth conditions and user requirements). ▪ Surfaces of courts and other dedicated facilities to be maintained to a high standard. ▪ Buildings and amenities maintained to a high standard. ▪ Building surrounds and landscaping maintained to a good standard. ▪ Other structures to be maintained to a good standard and in accordance with Australian Standards.

*Could include a number of the items, but not necessarily all items

Sports

Open Space Type	Potential Development*	Maintenance Guide
District Sportsground or Facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ovals/fields are good quality and meet the requirements of the sport (e.g. level and well maintained) ▪ Specialised sports facilities, e.g. outdoor courts ▪ Good clubroom (that provides a focus for users and communities) ▪ Toilet and change room facilities ▪ Landscaping, shade, seating, signage ▪ Off street car parking for safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ovals and fields mown to a good standard (regularity to depend on growth conditions) as required for the sports. ▪ Buildings and amenities maintained to a good standard. ▪ Building surrounds and landscaping maintained to a safe and appealing standard. ▪ Other structures to be maintained to a safe and appealing standard and in accordance with Australian Standards.

*Could include a number of the items, but not necessarily all items

APPENDIX A

Council Owned and Managed Open Space
with Hierarchy and Type















