



ALICE SPRINGS
TOWN COUNCIL

Alice Springs Parks & Playgrounds

Implementation Plan

2023-2028



Mparntwe tantyipe Council-arenye
mapele itele-areme, apmere nhenhe
Arrernte-kenhe, itne ampereke-
artweye arrwekelenye uthene mape
itele-aretyeke.

*Alice Springs Town Council acknowledges
the Central Arrernte people who are the
traditional owners and custodians of
Mparntwe/Alice Springs.*

Translation provided by the Alice Springs Language Centre

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Mayor's Foreword

It is my great pleasure to introduce the Alice Springs Town Council Parks Implementation Plan. This strategic document represents a significant milestone in our journey towards creating more liveable, vibrant, and sustainable Alice Springs. Our parks and green spaces are essential not only for their environmental benefits but also for the health, well-being, and enjoyment of our residents.

In Alice Springs, we are blessed with a range of unique and wonderful parks that offer a variety of different uses. Overall, we have more than 60 parks for families to enjoy, whether that be smaller recreation parks, amenity parks or our vast and expansive sporting ovals.

This Implementation Plan is the result of extensive consultation and collaboration with various stakeholders, and will chart the path forward in regards to our parks.

It outlines a comprehensive strategy moving forward, detailing our commitments to enhancing existing parks, exploring innovative solutions to maintaining our parks and improving liveability for all residents. We aim to provide innovative, inclusive, and sustainable parks that cater to the diverse needs of our community, from children and families to our senior residents and visitors.

Implementing this plan will require the continued support and engagement of our community. We encourage you to get involved, whether through active participation in future consultation sessions, providing feedback on park designs, or simply enjoying the parks with your family and friends.



I extend my deepest gratitude to everyone who has contributed to the development of this Parks Implementation Plan. Your passion and dedication to our town's future are what make Alice Springs a wonderful place to live, work, and visit. Let us move forward with a shared commitment to nurturing our green spaces, enhancing our quality of life, and making Alice Springs an even more attractive and sustainable town for all.



Mayor Matt Paterson



Our Town, Our History

Apmere Mparntwe (Alice Springs) has a history which was born in the Altyerre (dreamtime). Athereyurre (Telegraph Station) was where the Central Arrernte people survived for 1000s of years because of the source of water reliability. Athereyurre provided this necessity to the Central Arrernte people.

The people of the Central Arrernte tribe lived in this area because of the availability of water and all types of foods this particular area offered, including amerne (vegetables) and akure (meat).

Landmarks such as Ntaripe (Heavitree Gap), Akeyelerre (Billy Goat Hill), Untyeyetwelye (Anzac Hill), Athereyurre (Telegraph Station) and surrounding hill lines all have an Aboriginal presence when looking through Central Arrernte eyes.

They are hidden but not invisible and are very present in the moment about a past history that was created from the Altyerre (dreamtime) of beetles, caterpillars and dogs fighting

all travelling in all directions leaving these monumental landmarks in the wake for all to view.

The Original town of Stuart, which is also known as the Telegraph Station, was the original location of Alice Springs. The location for the Overland Telegraph Station was perfect when making a Telegraph Line through the centre of Australia that connected the South to North to “get a message!”

The township started under the name of Stuart; between 1871 and 1933 Alice Springs was simply the name of a waterhole adjacent to the Telegraph Station. It was named after Alice Todd, the wife of Sir Charles Todd, who was the driving force for constructing the Overland Telegraph Line.

The purpose of the telegraph was to assist communication from the north to the south of Australia. Without it, messages could only be delivered by the Afghan cameleers and would take months to be received.

As the town became more connected, fossicking miners looking for gold, mica and tungsten, as well as pastoralists, were drawn to the vast land

and great opportunity that was available.

With the harsh and arid environment at the time, the journey from Alice Springs to Arltunga was accessible only by camel. Afghan cameleers forged a vital place in the town's history, driving their camel trains through the unforgiving desert climate. Their legacy is proudly evident in the town today with many local families being direct descendants of those early pioneers.

In 1933 the town took on the name of Alice Springs, and less than ten years later, during World War II, it became a very active base for military personnel. It's estimated around 8,000 soldiers were stationed here and about 200,000 visited.

During the 1960s Alice Springs again became an important defence location with the development of the US/Australian Pine Gap joint defence satellite monitoring base, home to about 700 workers from both countries.

In more modern times, life in Alice Springs has boomed with an increase in tourism and the introduction of large events such as the Camel Cup, the Henley on Todd, the Desert Song Festival, Red CentreNATS, Desert Mob and Parrtjima.

Today, Alice Springs is a home to people from many countries and cultures, with an Aboriginal population of 17.6% and almost 19% of residents speaking a language other than English at home.

This plan for Alice Springs was developed for the benefit of all residents, to ensure a better future for everyone in our town.



Our Town

(Statistical Dimensions)

Population (Estimated Resident Population) 2021:

29,213



University Qualification: **22%**

Trade Qualification: **19.5%**

Median weekly household income: **\$1,877**

20.6%
Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) population

26.2%
Population born overseas

24.5%
Language at home other than English

34
Median Age

The below is data from 2021

Alice Springs Gross Regional Product:

\$1.88 billion

Local Businesses:

2,050

Employed Residents:

15,666

Local Jobs:

13,506

Industry Sector of Employment (top three):

Public Administration and Safety:	A decorative wavy line graphic in a light orange color, spanning the width of the text '18%'.	18%
Health Care and Social Assistance:	A decorative wavy line graphic in a light orange color, spanning the width of the text '19.3%'.	19.3%
Construction:	A decorative wavy line graphic in a light orange color, spanning the width of the text '12.6%'.	12.6%

Land Area:

328.3 km²**156 hectares**
of open spaces**6 hectares***per 1000 residents*

Temperatures varying from:

 Mean minimum temperature (since 1941) ————— **13.2°C**

 Mean maximum temperature (since 1941) ————— **28.9°C**

Our Technical Services manage:

221km

Stormwater:

120km

Footpaths:

220km

Verges:

400km

Council manages

Playgrounds:

Sporting Facilities:

Public Toilets:

Water Bubbler:

Amenity Parks:

53**8****10****50+****17**

Alice Springs Town Council owns 68 parks including

**12**

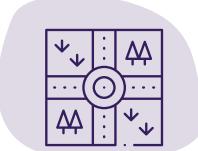
Amenity parks

**43**

Local recreation parks

**7**

Town recreation parks

**1**Regional Park
(in development)**6**

Sporting facilities

Vision, Mission & Values

Vision Statement

Our vision is of a brighter future, a prosperous and cohesive community. We aspire to be modern, inclusive and innovative, bridging divides and forging new paths. We want to bring our community together, to celebrate this unique place of gathering where the world meets the oldest living culture on Earth.

Our Mission

We will be a smart and efficient Council. We will deliver our services to the Community whilst constantly improving our practices and procedures to achieve our vision. We will always be accountable to the Community whom we serve.

Our Values

Leadership – our culture, values and accountability are present throughout the organisation

Collaboration – we work in partnership and are better together

Trust – nothing is more important than the trust between the community and ourselves

Respect – we respect people and genuinely care

Authenticity – what we do rings true and we do what we say

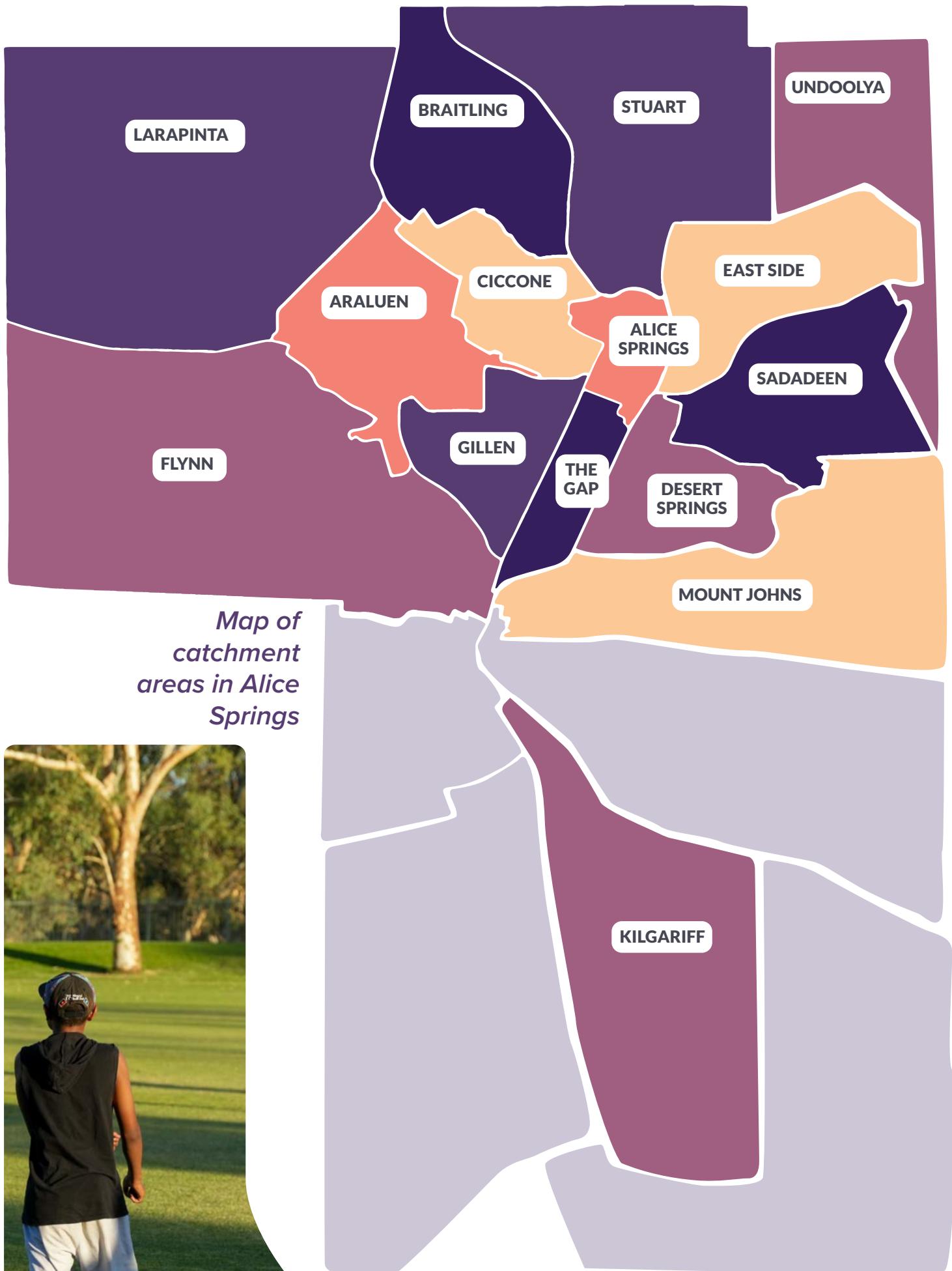
Inclusion – we value all people to create a more equal world

Commitment – we consistently strive towards our mission

Determination – we endeavour to continuously improve



Alice Springs Public Library crafts stall at Christmas Carnival.



Implementation Plan Overview

Purpose of the Implementation Plan



The provision of this Parks and Playground Five-Year Implementation Plan has been identified as high priority to ensure Council provides current and future residents with a sustainable and equitable public open space network that promotes health, wellbeing and lifestyle diversity. This document will guide Council in bringing its recreation parks networks up to a standard that encourages greater levels of use and community pride. Alice Springs Town Council is committed to ensuring that there are sufficient and suitable spaces and facilities for children to play freely and opportunities for the community to engage socially.

What is covered in this plan?

Alice Springs boasts over 156 hectares of public open spaces, offering approximately 6 hectares per 1,000 residents, well above the accepted Australian standards of 2 to 4 hectares per 1,000 people. While these standards serve as a general reference in our efforts to establish a sustainable and high-quality network of open spaces, it's crucial to recognise the unique needs of rural and remote areas like Alice Springs.

Our future planning will focus on four key aspects:

1

Offering diverse and high-quality recreational opportunities across Alice Springs.

2

Ensuring that a significant majority of residents within the town's boundaries live within walking distance of a recreational park.

3

Maintaining a sustainable open space network, enabling the Council to adequately allocate resources for maintenance and upgrades.

4

Repurposing or divesting underutilised parks to optimise the open space network, allowing resources to be redirected toward developing new parks in areas with greater community demand.

Furthermore, the Council acknowledges the current demand for additional land for housing development. In cases where an 'over-provision' of recreational parks is identified, we will consider their potential suitability for rationalisation to accommodate housing development.

Currently Alice Springs Town Council manages

69 parks
including:



12

Amenity parks



43

Local recreation parks



7

Town recreation parks



1

Regional Park
(In development)



6

Sporting facilities

Parks Classification and Distribution

Parks Inventory

The current inventory of Alice Springs municipality consists of a total of 68 parks, all owned and managed by Council. Many of these parks are equipped with playground facilities, while others present opportunities for enhancement and transformation.

This Implementation Plan is centred on the revitalisation of public parks in the nine suburbs of Alice Springs. Alice Springs Town Council has given significant importance to classifying each park, facilitating the project team in their efforts to prioritise the planning and execution of park improvements.



Parks Distribution	Number of Parks
Parks owned and maintained by Alice Springs Town Council	69
Parks Owned by the Northern Territory Government	10

Park Classification

Public parks are vital to our community as these foster community connections and social interactions, enhancing the quality of life in our town. Parks stimulates natural curiosity especially to children it also helps town to promote local culture by hosting community events and allowing artists to contribute to the design of the parks.

Parks can potentially boost local economies by attracting tourists and increasing property values. In essence, public parks play a central role in creating healthier, happier, and more vibrant communities.





Newland Park
Redevelopment Detail Design

Regional Park



- Large-scale green spaces serving broader areas beyond immediate neighbourhoods.
- Designed for various activities, gatherings, and community events.
- Equipped for large groups with amenities like multiple play areas, extensive picnic spots, dog exercising zones, and social gathering areas.
- Offer diverse amenities and recreational opportunities for residents from different parts of Alice Springs and nearby areas.
- Are of sufficient high-quality to be an attraction for the whole Central Australian region.



Large-scale green spaces



Activities



Community Events



Equipped for large groups



Multiple play areas



Extensive picnic spots



Dog exercising zones



Social gathering areas



Diverse amenities & recreation



Town Recreation Park



Moderate-sized suburban green spaces



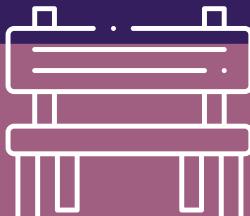
Local recreation



Amenities for local use



Play areas



Seating



Outdoor activities

- Moderate-sized green spaces within specific suburbs of Alice Springs.
- Serve the recreational needs of residents in the surrounding neighbourhoods.
- Offer a range of amenities and activities for local community use.
- Typically feature play areas, seating, and space for outdoor activities.
- Shade structures are commonly installed over playgrounds, seating areas, and picnic spots, providing essential sun protection during hot days and making the park more comfortable for extended outdoor use.



Forrest Park, Gillen

Local Recreation Park



- Compact spaces catering primarily to nearby residential communities' recreational needs.
- Functions as a supplement to private backyards, drawing users from limited surrounding areas.
- Provides basic amenities like shaded play areas, seating, and waste receptacles, with lower maintenance requirements.
- Includes simple features such as a rebound wall, internal pathways, and connections to pedestrian networks.



Compact spaces for local use



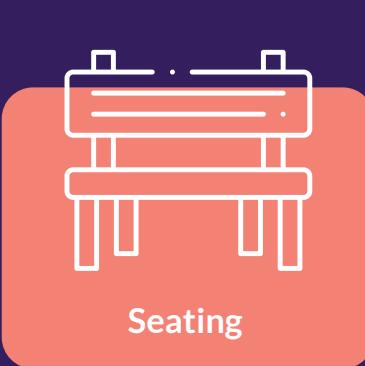
Supplement private backyards



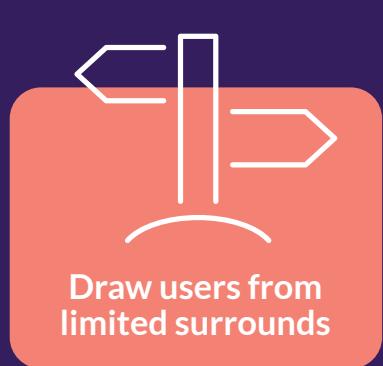
Basic amenities



Pathways & connections to pedestrian networks



Seating



Draw users from limited surrounds



Play areas



Amenity Park



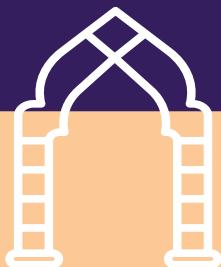
- Focuses on aesthetic qualities, preserving the area's character and historical significance.
- Incorporates entrance statements, monuments, memorials, and observation points to enhance visual appeal and cultural heritage preservation.



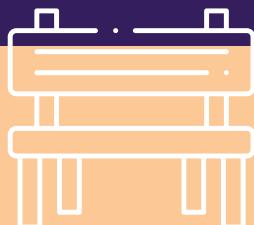
Focus on aesthetic qualities



Preservation of local character or historical significance



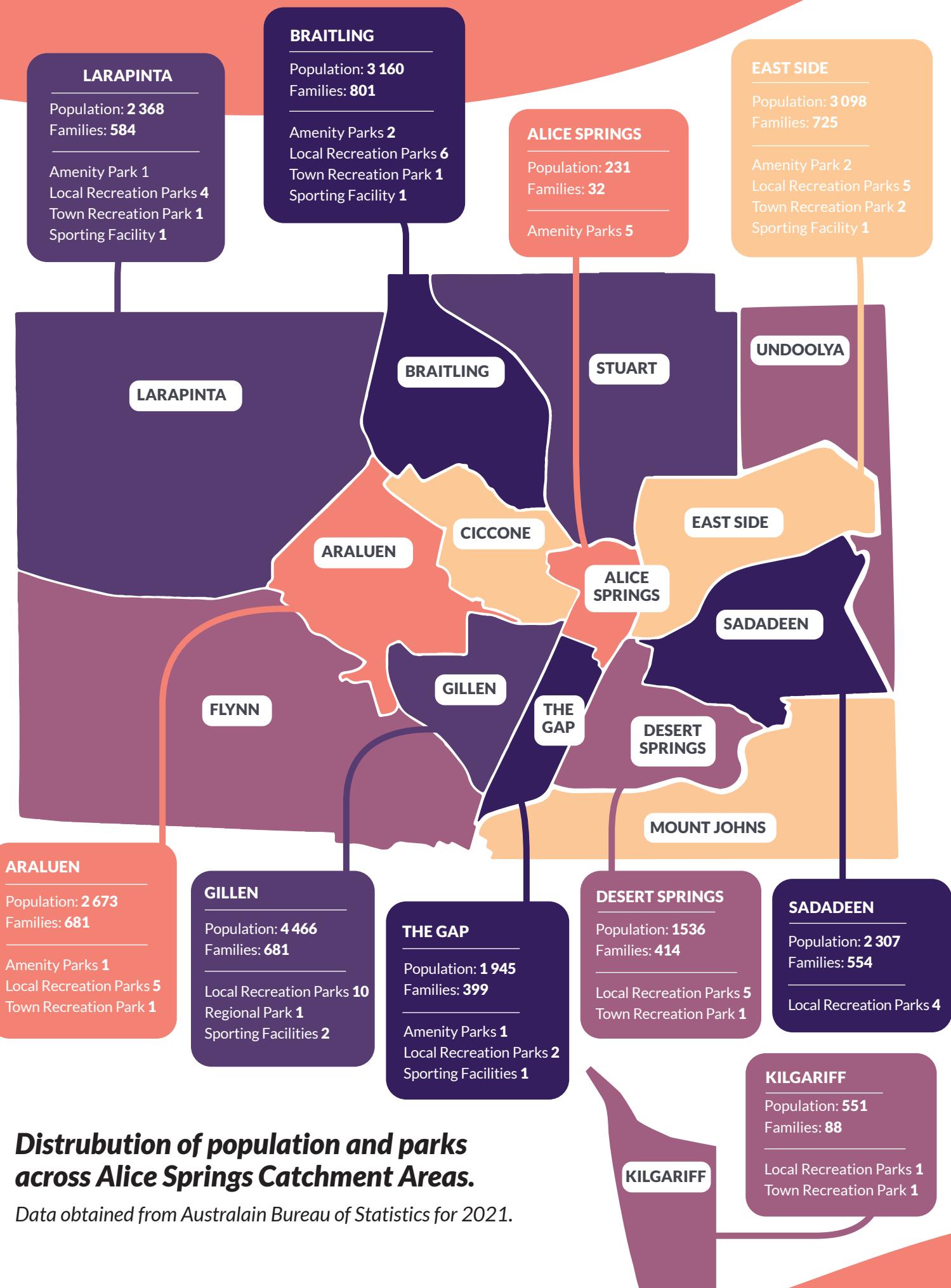
Monuments or memorials



Seating



Basic amenities

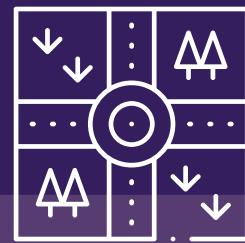


Prioritisation of Park Elements and Features

Assessing and determining priority ratings for park elements, features, and furniture in the implementation plan is crucial for efficient resource allocation, strategic decision-making, and alignment with community needs. These ratings ensure that budgets and resources are allocated to the most impactful components, enabling phased implementation and alignment with broader strategic objectives. Furthermore, prioritization enhances transparency, accountability, and consistency with long-term planning goals, ultimately contributing to the park project's overall success and sustainability.



Regional Park



Park Element	Rating	Park Element	Rating
Access			
Network Footpath	★★★	Seatings	★★★
Access path connection to car park	★★★	Picnic tables	★★★
Car park	★★★	BBQ nodes	★★★
Bike rack(s)	★★★	Drinking Bubblers	★★★
Cycling paths	★★★	Rubbish Bins	★★★
Lighting & Security			
Fencing/gates/ bollards	★★★	Signages	★★★
Maintenance Access	★★★	Shade structure	★★★
Facilities and pedestrian lightings	★★★		
CCTV	★★		
Priority Rating			
★★★		High	
★★★		Medium	
★		Minimum/ Low	

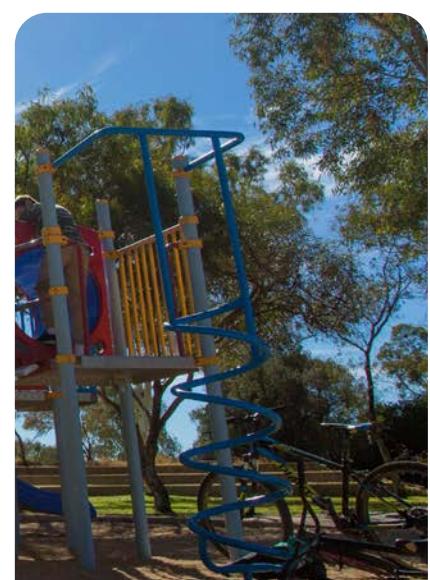
Park Element	Park Element
Play space / Activities	Facilities
All Abilities Playground equipment	Nature based – softscape area
All abilities play node for younger kids	Fitness facility
Dynamic play activity equipment (sensory play, Trampoline, climbing sets, swings sets, etc)	Open space/ kickabouts
Soft fall and kerbing	Multi-purpose gathering space
Landscape	Multi-Purpose Half Courts
Irrigation service	Off leash area for dogs
Grass	Water play
Appropriate shrubs and trees for additional shading	Skate track
	Pump track/ skill trail
	Toilet Block
	Storage unit/ facility

Town Recreation Park



<i>Park Element</i>	<i>Rating</i>	<i>Park Element</i>	<i>Rating</i>						
Access									
Network Footpath	★★★	BBQ nodes	★						
Bike rack(s)	★	Drinking Bubblers	★★						
Cycling paths	★★	Rubbish Bins	★★★						
Lighting & Security									
Fencing/gates/ bollards	★★★	Signages	★★★						
Maintenance Access	★★★	Shade structure	★★★						
Facilities and pedestrian lightings	★★★	Play space / Activities							
Furniture									
Seatings	★★★	All Abilities Playground equipment	★★★						
Picnic tables	★★	All abilities play node for younger kids	★★★						
<div style="background-color: #ff9966; border-radius: 10px; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>Priority Rating</p> <table> <tr> <td>★★★</td> <td>High</td> </tr> <tr> <td>★★</td> <td>Medium</td> </tr> <tr> <td>★</td> <td>Minimum/ Low</td> </tr> </table> </div>				★★★	High	★★	Medium	★	Minimum/ Low
★★★	High								
★★	Medium								
★	Minimum/ Low								

Park Element	Rating
Dynamic play activity equipment (sensory play, Trampoline, climbing sets, swings sets, etc)	★★★
Soft fall and kerbing	★★
Landscape	
Irrigation service	★★★
Grass	★★★
Appropriate shrubs and trees for additional shading	★★★
Park Element	Rating
Facilities	
Nature based – softscape area	★★
Fitness facility	★★
Open space/ kickabouts	★★
Multi-purpose gathering space	★★
Multi-Purpose Half Courts	★★
Off leash area for dogs	★★
Pump track/ skill trail	★★



Local Recreation Park



Park Element	Rating	Park Element	Rating	
Access				
Network Footpath	★★★	Drinking Bubblers	★	
Cycling paths	★★★	Rubbish Bins	★★★★	
Lighting & Security				
Fencing/gates/ bollards	★★★★	Signage	★★★★	
Maintenance Access	★★★★	Shade structure	★★★★	
Facilities and pedestrian lightings	★★★	Play space / Activities		
CCTV	★	All Abilities Playground equipment	★★★★	
Furniture				
Seating	★★★★	Priority Rating		
Picnic tables	★★★	★★★★	High	
		★★★	Medium	
		★	Minimum/ Low	

Park Element	Rating
All abilities play node for younger kids	★★★
Dynamic play activity equipment (sensory play, Trampoline, climbing sets, swings sets, etc)	★
Soft fall and kerbing	★★
Landscape	
Irrigation service	★★★
Grass	★★★
Appropriate shrubs and trees for additional shading	★★★
Facilities	
Nature based - softscape area	★★
Multi-purpose gathering space	★★





Amenity Park

<i>Park Element</i>	<i>Rating</i>	<i>Park Element</i>	<i>Rating</i>	
Access				
Network Footpath	★★★	Seating	★★★	
Car park	★★	Picnic tables	★★★	
Bike rack(s)	★★★	Bbq nodes	★★	
Cycling paths	★★★	Drinking Bubblers	★★★	
Lighting & Security				
Fencing/gates/ bollards	★★★	Rubbish Bins	★★★	
Maintenance Access	★★★	Signage	★★★	
Facilities and pedestrian lightings	★★★	Shade structure	★★★	
CCTV	★	Play space / Activities		
		All Abilities Playground equipment	★	
		Soft fall and kerbing	★★	



Amenity Park

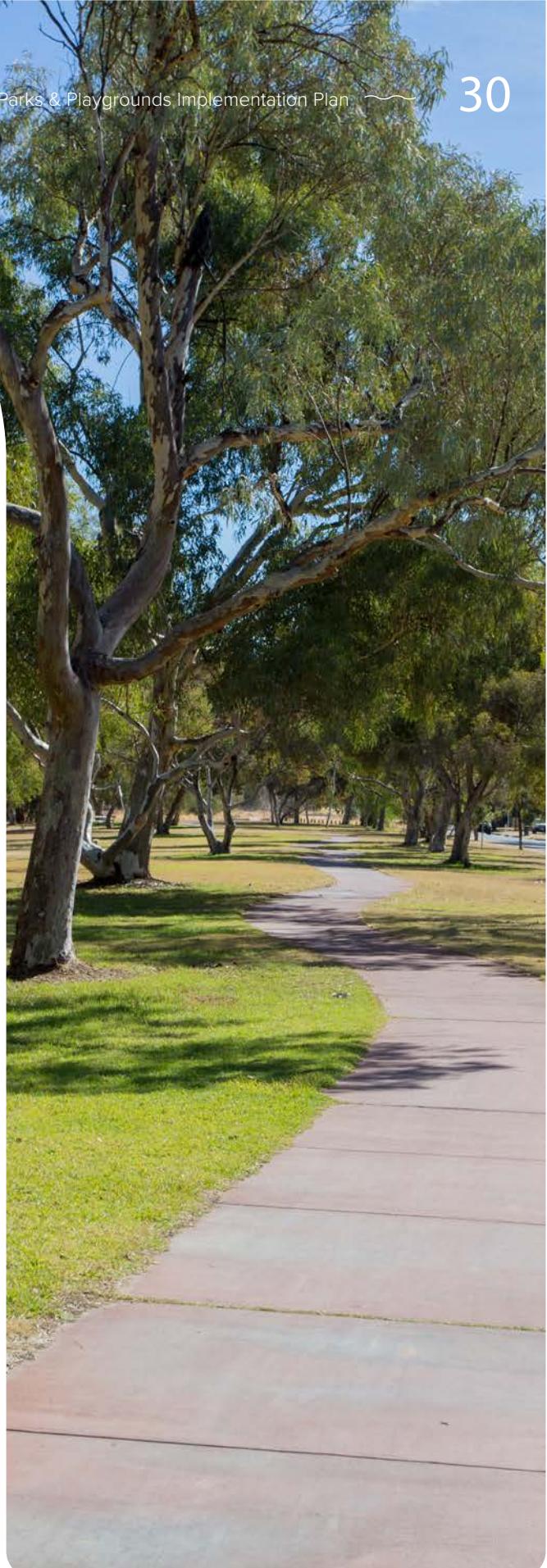
Park Element	Rating
--------------	--------

Landscape

Irrigation service	★★★
Grass	★★★
Appropriate shrubs and trees for additional shading	★★★

Facilities

Nature based – softscape area	★★★
Fitness facility	★★
Off leash area for dogs	★★★
Water play	★
Toilet Block	★★★
Storage unit/ facility	★★



Consultation & Planning Preparation





Consultation and Planning Preparation

Community Feedback

All future planning for the open space and parks network needs to reflect a balance between resource realities (available land, staffing and budgets) and community demand.

A community-wide survey was distributed through Council channels in late 2022 in order to obtain an understand of the community's views on the existing open space network and opportunities for change. A snapshot of key findings is detailed below.



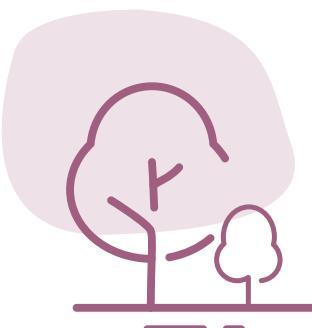
Residents care about open space

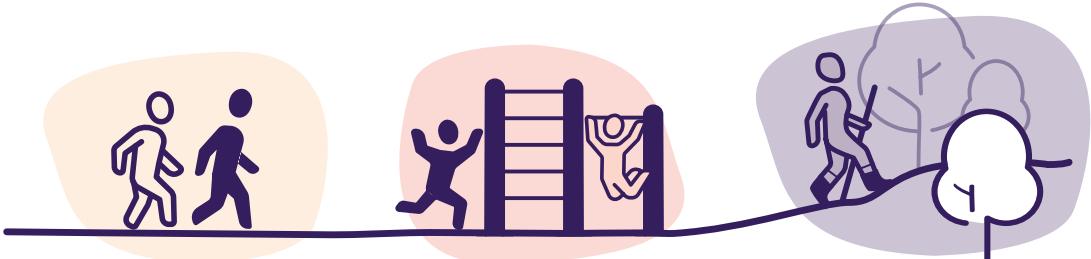


Wide range of residential areas



Wide coverage of respondent ages





78%
Walking

54%
Playing in the park

46%
Bushwalking

What are your favourite activities to undertake in the open space network?

Where do you recreate most often?



Residents enjoy walking on footpaths

How often do you recreate?

77%
At least twice each week



Residents are active

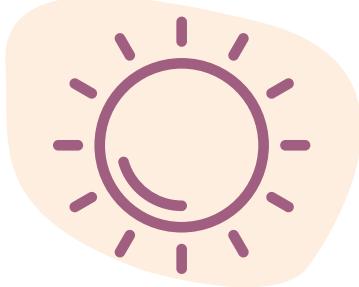
What are your favourite parks?

38%
Frank McEllister (Araluen) Park

33%
ANZAC Oval

27%
Gosse Park

Have you experienced any barriers to open space use?



68%

Lack of shade

61%

Poor maintenance

48%

Lack of toilets

40%

Not safe

38%

Lack of variety
(Boring)

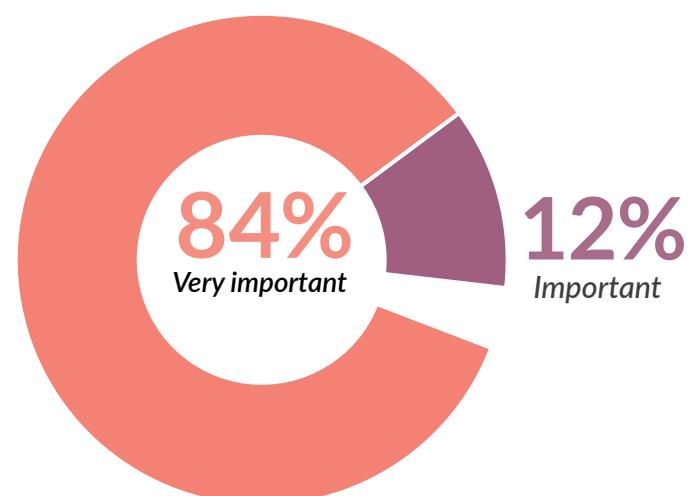


Residents enjoy shaded parks with a range of quality embellishments

Residents feel open space is very important...

...but are not impressed with current offerings

How important is open space to you and your family?



How would you rate the overall quality of open space?



very poor poor neutral good very good



76%

of respondents rated the quality of activities for youth as neutral, poor or very poor



Playgrounds

72%

of respondents rated the quality of playgrounds as neutral, poor or very poor



**Places to relax/
socialise**

67%

of respondents rated the quality of places to socialise or relax as neutral, poor or very poor

Would you support divestment of some open spaces to fund the development of others to a higher quality?

Residents have clear priorities for change

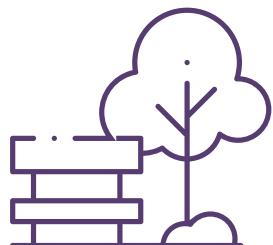
YES

NO

66%



What are your top three open space priorities?



54%
New/upgraded playgrounds

45%
Facilities for youth

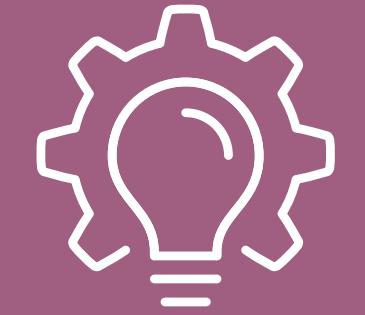
37%
Improved parks maintenance

Planning Preparation

The Parks and Playground Five-Year Implementation Plan has been structured into three primary phases, as detailed below:



Planning Framework

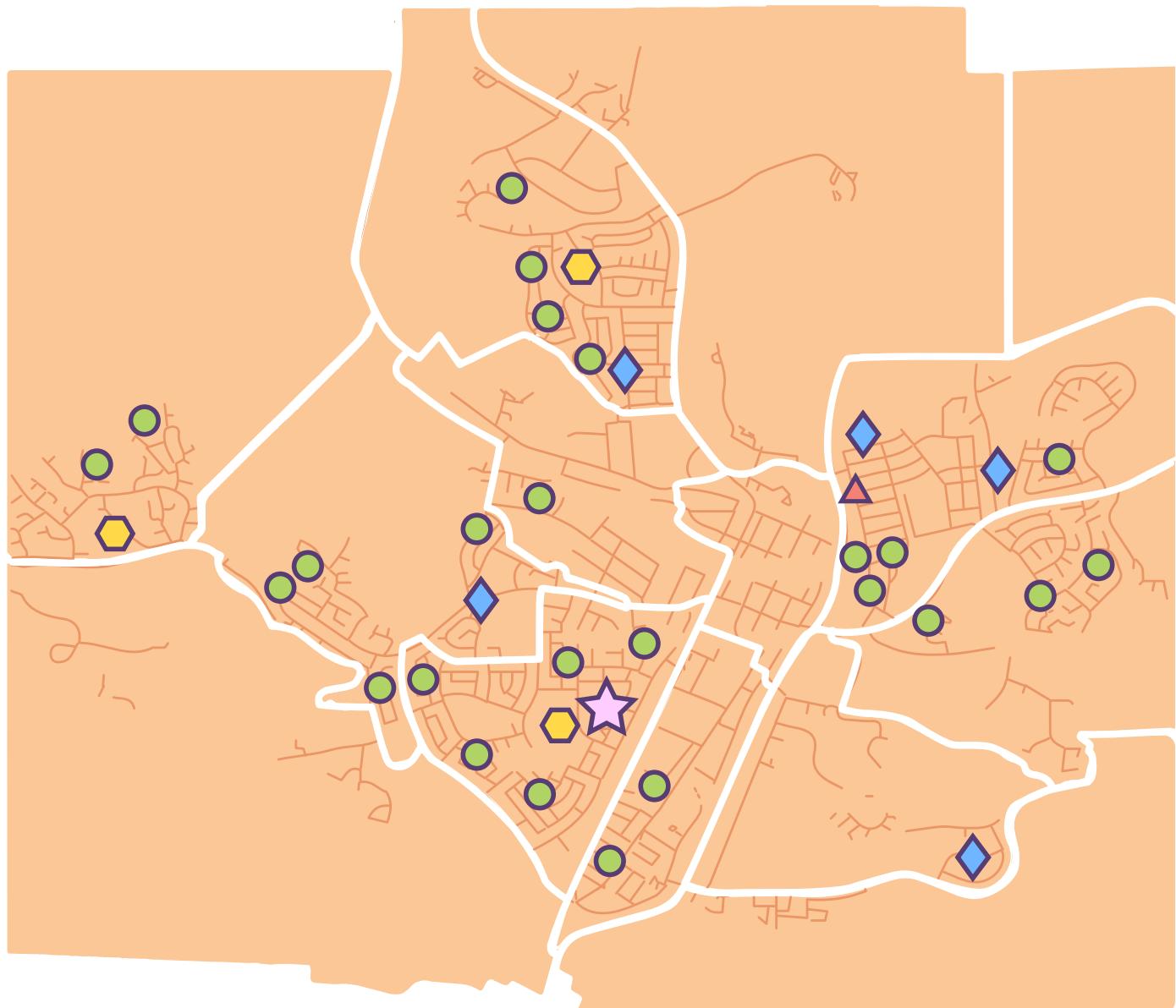
Design	Innovation	Quality
<p>While the majority of playgrounds demonstrate functional designs with well-established connections between equipment, certain play nodes are scattered across some parks, adversely affecting the connectivity between equipment due to their considerable distance from each other. Accessibility concerns include disjointed network paths, issues with passive surveillance, and instances of vandalism.</p> <p>For future park planning, it is advisable to prioritize the strategic allocation of playground equipment. This entails ensuring that the placement complements other park embellishments, incorporates easily visible connection paths for visitors, and does not impede potential upgrades to the park.</p> 	<p>While it is praiseworthy that upgraded parks throughout the town have considered the comprehensiveness of playground components and design, it is still valuable to contemplate diverse settings or themes for each park here in Alice Springs.</p> <p>The uniqueness of each park has the potential to attract a greater number of visitors in town.</p> 	<p>The Council is obligated to maintain a high quality standard across its playgrounds. Regular inspections of equipment, furniture, Softfall, and overall park conditions are imperative.</p> <p>Addressing residents' and visitors' primary concerns about the suboptimal upkeep of landscaping and park furniture, including rubbish bins, seating/picnic tables, and toilet blocks, should be a consistent priority.</p> <p>The comprehensive maintenance of playgrounds throughout the municipality must be prioritized through initiatives such as a well-structured maintenance program and community clean-up efforts.</p> 

Five-Year Road Map Schedule

Parks for Upgrade



Parks scheduled for upgrade



- Local Recreation Park
- ◆ Town Recreation Park
- ◆ Sporting Park
- ★ Regional Park
- ▲ Amenity Park

Summary of park and playspace provision for upgrades per catchment

Five-Year Road Map Schedule

The following pages give a broad roadmap of Alice Springs Town Council's park upgrade itinerary, with a list of the parks scheduled for upgrade each year as part of the Five-Year Schedule.

The schedule follows financial years from 2023-2028 as follows:

- Year 1: July 2023-July 2024**
- Year 2: July 2024-July 2025**
- Year 3: July 2025-July 2026**
- Year 4: July 2026-July 2027**
- Year 5: July 2027-July 2028**



Year One

FY 23/24

Suburb / Catchment	Park Name	Classification
The Gap	Walmulla Park	COMPLETE Local Recreation Park
Larapinta	Willoby Park	COMPLETE Local Recreation Park
Eastside	Frances Smith Memorial Park	IN PROGRESS Town Recreation Park
Eastside	Oleander Park	COMPLETE Local Recreation Park
Gillen	Finlayson Park	COMPLETE Local Recreation Park
Larapinta	Grant Park	COMPLETE Local Recreation Park
Braitling	Campbell Park	COMPLETE Local Recreation Park
Gillen	Jim McConville Park	COMPLETE Sports Facility
Eastside	Ross Park	COMPLETE Sports Facility

FY 23/24

Year One

Completed projects as of October 2024



COMPLETE

Jim McConville Park

Installation of an outdoor gym.



COMPLETE

Walmulla Park

Shade Structure over play equipment; new play equipment; more play components.



COMPLETE

Willoby Park

Shade Structure over play equipment; installation of new play node for younger kids.



COMPLETE

Oleander Park

Installation of two new play areas: one designed for toddlers and another for older children.

**COMPLETE**

Ross Park Dog Park

Installation of a chain mesh fence to create a designated off-leash area for pets.

**COMPLETE**

Finlayson Park

Installation of shade sails over the newly installed larger play equipment, along with the addition of a flying fox as a new play feature.

**COMPLETE**

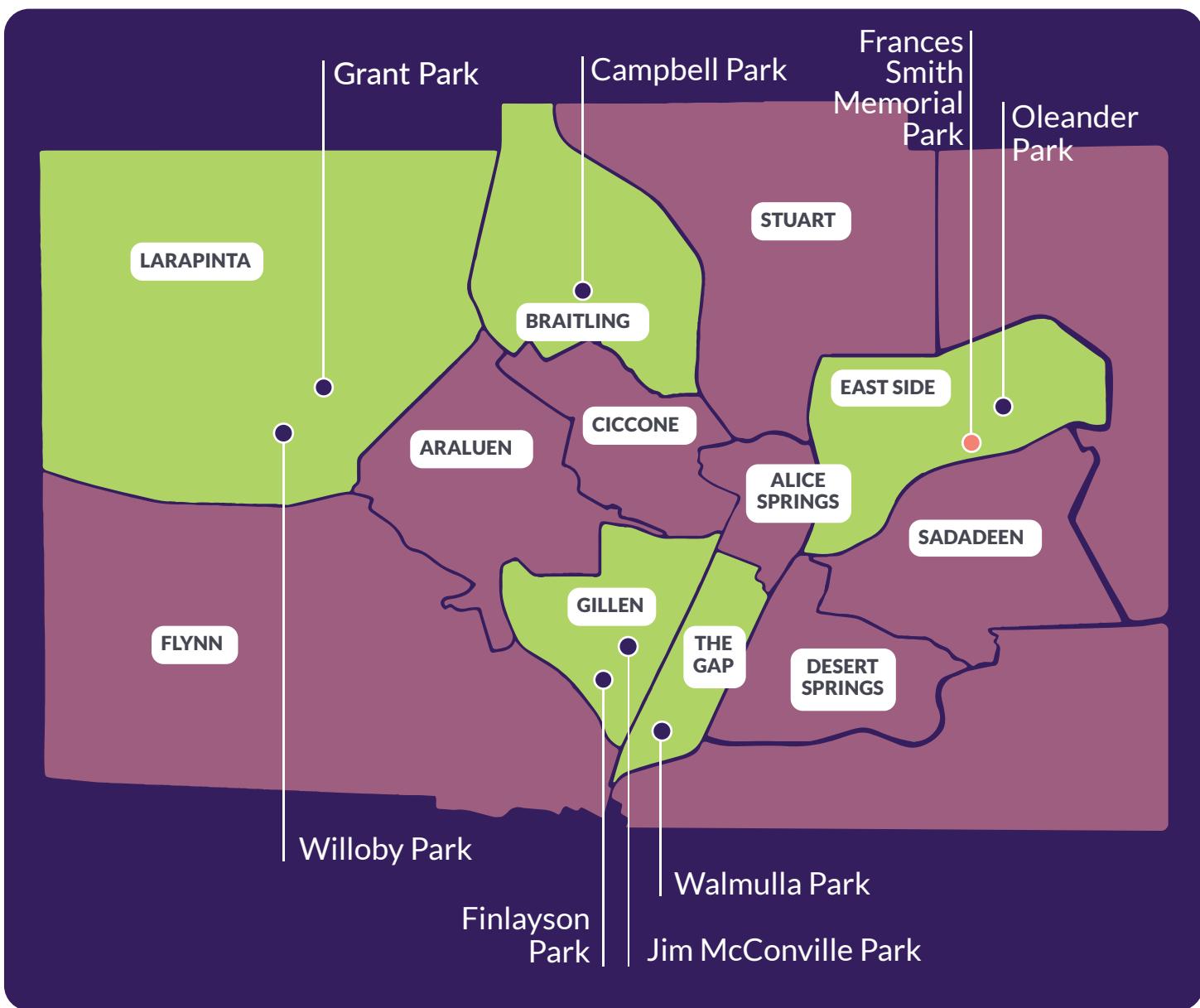
Campbell Park

Installation of shade sails over existing play equipment.

**COMPLETE**

Grant Park

Installation of shade sails over existing play equipment



Completed projects as of October 2024

COMPLETE

Jim McConville Park

COMPLETE

Walmulla Park

COMPLETE

Wilmoby Park

COMPLETE

Oleander Park

COMPLETE

Finlayson Park

COMPLETE

Grant Park

COMPLETE

Campbell Park

IN PROGRESS

Frances Smith Memorial Park

Students enjoying the new swing at Finlayson Park



Tech Services team at the official Oleander Park upgrades opening



Year Two

FY 24/25

Suburb / Catchment	Park Name	Classification
Gillen	Newland Park	Regional Park
Sadadeen	Mercorella Park	Local Recreation Park
Sadadeen	Spearwood Park	Local Recreation Park
Araluen	Bowman Park	Local Recreation Park
Araluen	Spicer Crescent Park	Local Recreation Park
Desert Springs	Lewis Gilbert Park	Town Recreation Park
Araluen	Battarbee Park	Local Recreation Park
Braitling	Kunoth Park	Local Recreation Park
Braitling	Tucker Park	Local Recreation Park

Year Three

FY 25/26

Suburb / Catchment	Park Name	Classification
Eastside	Gillen Park	Local Recreation Park
Araluen	Frank McEllister Park (Araluen Park)	Town Recreation Park
Gillen	Forrest Park	Local Recreation Park
Gillen	Robert's Park	Local Recreation Park
Braitling	Dixon Park	Local Recreation Park
Larapinta	Albrecht Oval	Sports Facility Park



Year Four

FY 26/27

Suburb / Catchment	Park Name	Classification
Alice Springs CBD	Trevor Reid Park	Amenity Park
Alice Springs CBD	Leichhardt Terrace Rest Area	Amenity Park
Alice Springs CBD	Todd River Parkland	Amenity Park
Sadadeen	Noonie Park	Local Recreation Park
Gillen	Ashwin Park	Local Recreation Park
Braitling	Grey park	Town Recreation Park





Year Five

FY 27/28

Suburb / Catchment	Park Name	Classification
The Gap	Clara Court	Local Recreation Park
Eastside	Pickle Park	Local Recreation Park
Araluen	Nelson Park	Local Recreation Park
Gillen	Plowman Park	Local Recreation Park
Braitling	Rhonda Diano Oval	Sporting Facility
Eastside	Gosse Park	Town Recreation Park

Purpose of Parks Divestment

Divestment: Potential to develop land that is no longer required for recreation purposes will allow sufficient funding for future park upgrades and will assist with the execution of this plan.

Alice Springs encompasses over 156 hectares of public open spaces, equating to approximately 6 hectares per 1,000 residents. This provision significantly exceeds the accepted Australian standards of 2 to 4 hectares per 1,000 people, highlighting the town's commitment to enhancing the quality of life through accessible recreational areas.

The Parks and Playground Five-Year Implementation Plan has been developed to ensure the effective management, development, and enhancement of these open spaces. The strategy demonstrates a commitment to aligning with local guidelines, prioritising the needs and preferences of the community, and ensuring the sustainable use of available resources.

The main goal of repurposing these nominated parks is to offer diverse and high quality of recreational options for residents, while ensuring the long-term sustainability of our open space network.

Recognising the current demand for housing development, we're actively exploring options to repurpose excess parkland for such purposes where appropriate. This balanced approach allows us to optimise land resources while still providing ample green space for the community's enjoyment.

Revenue generated from the divestment of selected parks will supplement the budget, facilitating the attainment of objectives outlined in the Parks and Playground Five-Year Implementation Plan. This funding will ensure the ongoing enhancement of facilities and amenities in the remaining parks.

In considering divestment options, several key factors require careful consideration:

Overhead Expenses

Maintaining parks involves administrative expenses, utilities, and operational costs. Selling certain parkland areas can reduce these overhead costs, freeing up funds for other essential services or investments in remaining parks.

Irrigation Expenses

Parks often require constant irrigation to maintain landscape, especially in dry regions like Alice Springs. Selling parkland with high irrigation needs can save water and reduce associated costs, supporting water conservation efforts and budgetary savings.

Maintenance Requirements

Maintaining parks includes mowing, landscaping, and repairing amenities. Selling parkland with high maintenance needs can ease the burden on council resources, allowing for more efficient use of available workforce and maintenance resources, resulting in better upkeep of remaining parks.

Low Park Utilization

Some parks are underused due to location or lack of popular activities. Selling these less-used parks provides opportunity for Council to focus resources on parks that are highly visited and popular to residents.

Parks Proposed for Divestment

Suburb / Catchment	Park Name
Braitling	Madigan Park
Braitling	Dixon Community Park
Braitling	Maynard Park
Braitling	McCoy Park
Eastside	Davidson Park
Sadadeen	Beefwood Park
Gillen	Day Park
Gillen	Chalmers Park
Gillen	Spencer Park
Gillen	Poeppel Gardens

The Divestment Plan entails a structured approach in which following roadmap will be adhered to.

Phase 1:

Getting Community Feedback through Community Consultation

- The Council will engage with residents, stakeholders, schools, community groups, and businesses to gather feedback on the proposed divestment strategy.
- Council will utilise different communication avenues and methods such as, community consultation, formal information session, surveys, and school/organisation visits as part of the engagement process.

Phase 2:

Council's Recommendation and Approval

- Following the consultation, the Alice Springs Technical Services Project team will compile all feedback and information into a detailed consultation summary report for review by the elected members.
- The Alice Springs Town Council Elected Members will then carefully assess the input received during the consultation process.
- Council will then make a decision based on the engagement summary report to either proceed with proposed divestment plan or consider other direction.
- Council's decision will be based on a thorough analysis of the divestment proposal, ensuring its feasibility, impact, and alignment with the Council's objectives.

Phase 3:

Divestment Process

- Once the divestment plan is approved, the Council's project team will commence planning application process.
- The divestment process may include collaboration with development consultants and the NT Government Planning department for regulatory assessments and approvals.



Council's Priorities & Initiatives





Council's Priorities and initiatives

Priorities and strategies were laid out to properly guide Alice Springs Town Council in implementing the Parks and Playground Five-Year Implementation Plan.

Priority:

Attractive and secure parks and open spaces

Initiatives:

Planning and Design

- Develop public parks that are not only visually appealing but also serve the needs and expectations of our community.
- Ensures that the parks offer a variety of amenities to accommodate diverse users, activities, and usage patterns.
- Prioritise designing parks that are well-suited to their intended purpose, incorporating site-specific functionality.
- Enhance compliance with Australian Standards for disability access in the redevelopment or establishment of parks

Park Lifecycle and Upkeep

- Develop programs to ensure amenities maintenance meets the safety standards of each parks and keeping it clean, attractive, and inviting.
- Conduct regular audits and inspections of existing equipment, furniture, and landscape of each parks to uphold its structural integrity





Priority:

Broad and Inclusive sense of community experiences

Initiatives:

Planning and Design

- Encourage designs that promote extended visits and facilitate social gatherings among groups.
- Ensure that a diverse range of amenities and facilities is accessible to all members of the community, fostering fairness and equity.
- Provide facilities that align with Council standards and cater to the needs of a multi-generational community.

Park Lifecycle and Upkeep

- Uphold principles of fairness and equity by providing access to a wide array of amenities and facilities for all community members.
- Ensure the provision of clear, concise, and accessible physical directional guidance and signage for the safety and convenience of park visitors.
- Continue to improve pedestrian access to local parks by creating sealed pathways that connect through adjacent reserves to the broader footpath network.
- Implement clear and accessible physical directional guidance and signage with a focus on safety and legibility.



Priority

Rich and conserved ecological setting

Initiatives:

Planning and Design

- Promote accessibility to local parks via active transportation methods like walking and cycling.
- Explore the use of sustainable, resilient, and long-lasting materials.
- Ensure that the planning and design of local parks align with the relevant Council policies, plans, and guidelines.
- Establish connections between local parks, nearby vegetation, parklands, and water bodies.

Park Lifecycle and Upkeep

- Enhance the attractiveness and sustainability of the landscape, focusing on shade provision and biodiversity.
- Employ water-efficient, robust, and diverse plant species.

Initiatives:

Planning and Design

- Enhance awareness, understanding, and stewardship of the local natural environment through park design, informative materials, educational initiatives, and collaborative community engagements.
- Involve and keep the community informed throughout the planning phases of local park projects.
- Champion the physical and mental health advantages of open spaces to the community.

Park Lifecycle and Upkeep

- Disseminate information to the community about the variety of accessible open spaces and how to utilize them.
- Promote public parks as welcoming and inclusive environments for all individuals by hosting community events and programs that will attract more people to visit parks often.

Priority

Community and social awareness



Reporting and Review

The key objectives associated with this strategy will be reported each year in the Alice Springs Town Council Annual Report.

The Parks and Playground Five-Year Implementation Plan will be reviewed at the conclusion of the five-year plan, due in 2029.





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