

CITY OF PORT LINCOLN



# OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

2021 – 2026

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the Barnjarla People, the Traditional Owners of the land on which the City of Port Lincoln rests and their continuing connection to land, sea, culture and community. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging, and we extend that respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in our community.

Adopted by Council - 20 September 2021  
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This document was created over several years by the City of Port Lincoln with significant help from URPS and WAX Design

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Open Space Strategy has been developed to ensure that the public open space network is developed and managed in a coordinated and sustainable way matched to the needs of the community and the financial resources of Council.

This includes parks, reserves, playgrounds, sports fields and creek corridors on public land.

The overarching considerations that guide the development and management of public open space are:

- Quality and Diversity of Open Space Areas
- Equity of Distribution and Access
- Flexibility to Respond to Changing Needs
- Efficient and Effective Resource Management

The Open Space Strategy examines the existing supply of public open space (what it is like now) and also considers the demand for public open space (what it should be to match community needs).

Supply considers aspects such as the amount, type, function and amenity. It also considers the hierarchy of open space. The consideration of supply reveals that Port Lincoln has an oversupply of public open space when measured against common quantitative standards.

There is also a good spread of the various types of public open space across Port Lincoln e.g. parks, dryland reserves, sportsgrounds, drainage reserves, bush reserves.

The spread of local, neighbourhood, district and regional level open space is also generally good. At the same time, there are opportunities for improvement in the function and amenity of some public open space.

Demographics indicate that open space facilities catering for children, older people and people with disabilities should be important areas of focus. Additionally, specific consideration should be given to the needs of the significant proportion of

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Port Lincoln in the design and function of open space.

This highlights the overlap and connection of this strategy with other strategies such as the Disability Access & Inclusion Plan, the Reconciliation Action Plan and strategies that Council will shortly commence developing such as the Sport & Recreation Strategy.

This strategy was drafted after considerable review of Council's Open Spaces from 2015 through to 2020 which involved community consultation on previous drafts of this strategy. Since that time, several major open space planning exercises have been completed including the Foreshore Project and the Puckridge Park Concept Plan. This strategy will build upon these and other open space projects already included in the 2021/2022 Annual Business Plan and Budget and set out the priorities and key projects for the following 5 years for additional open space projects.

It is important that Council is realistic about its capacity to allocate funding in future years to open space projects, and along with making appropriate annual budget allocations, that Council seeks to leverage this against external funding from both federal and state governments.

Further to this, it is also important that Council considers growing an open space reserve fund from the proceeds of disposing of surplus open space without the need to put further pressure on the community through rates revenue increases.

# KEY GOAL AREAS 2021 - 2026

These are the 6 key goal areas and actions that we look to achieve over the next 5 years. A list of reserve planning priorities is included at the end of this strategy which will focus our master planning efforts during this time.

1

## GOAL 1

### Develop a Sustainable Funding Model for Open Space Developments, Upgrades and Renewal

- Action** Develop a Sustainable Funding Model for Open Space Developments, Upgrades, Renewal and Maintenance
- Action** Dispose of existing surplus land
- Action** Identify & dispose of surplus land during reserve planning processes where appropriate after consultation with the community
- Action** Leverage external funding sources for projects

2

## GOAL 2

### Deliver Priority Open Space Projects

- Action** Deliver the Port Lincoln Foreshore Project as per Endorsed Concept
- Action** Deliver scaled upgrades to Puckridge Park as per Endorsed Concept
- Action** Deliver other reserve projects once planning completed
- Action** Deliver capital renewal of fixed infrastructure (as per asset renewal lists)

3

### GOAL 3

Increase the range of functions available in Open Spaces

- Action Create a Dog Park (eg Nelson Square)
- Action Potentially create a Community Garden after evaluation of demand
- Action Enhance access and facilities to large unstructured recreation spaces (eg Murray's Point)
- Action Leverage opportunities to enhance linkages and connections to Open Space

4

### GOAL 4

Maintain Open Space in accordance with Open Space Principles

- Action Continue to maintain reserves, while incorporating the Open Space Principles where practical
- Action Review and refine resource allocations for Open Space maintenance and renewal
- Action Work with other agencies to ensure biodiversity and weed control is managed appropriately

5

### GOAL 5

Enhance Asset Information and Infrastructure Renewal

- Action Review and upgrade irrigation infrastructure at key reserves
- Action Review purple pipe (water re-use) network and extent
- Action Review playground condition and remaining useful life
- Action Remove unused infrastructure, buildings and facilities which are not being used or maintained

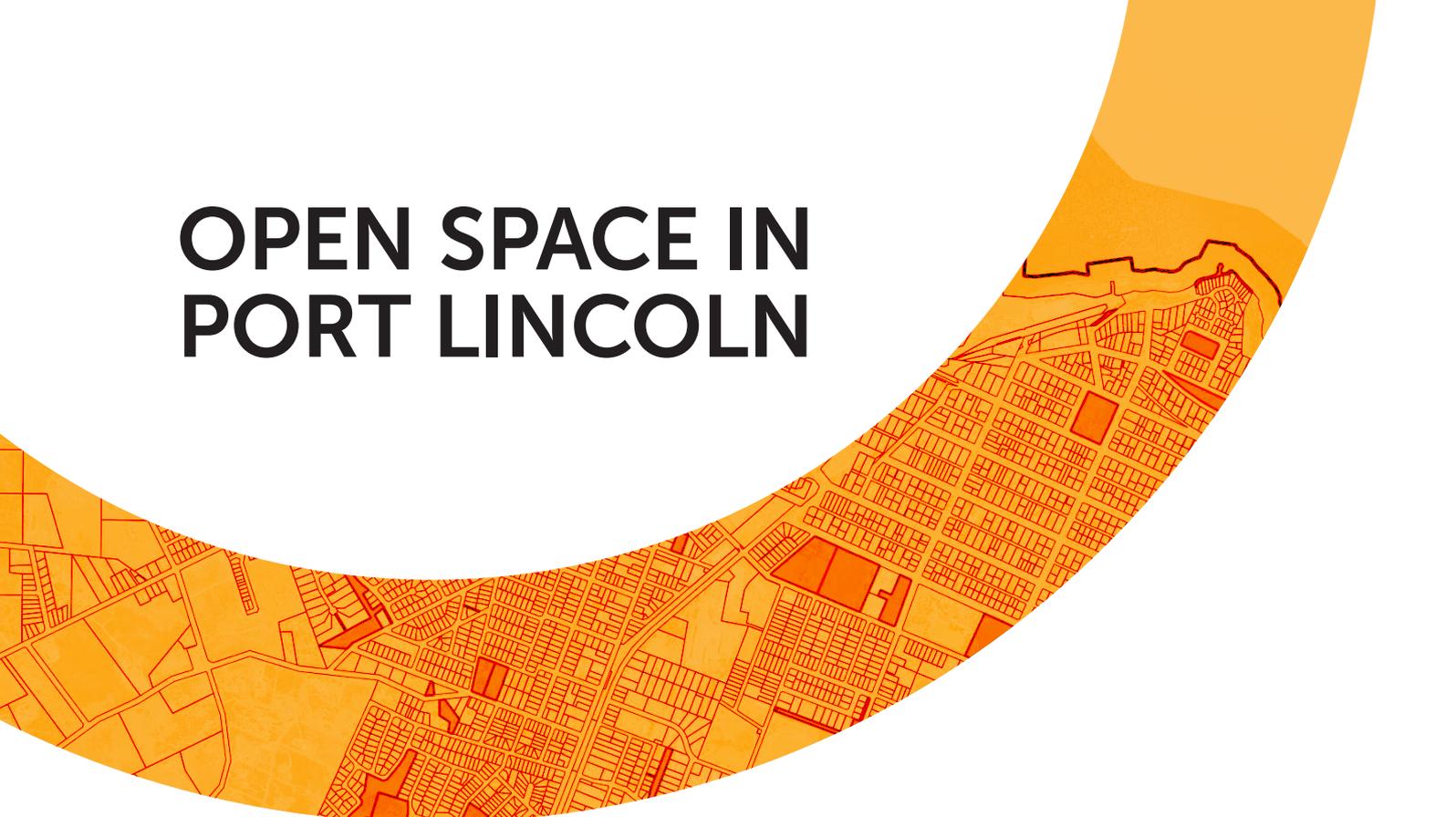
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### GOAL 6

Facilitate better planning for new Open Spaces in Land Divisions

- Action Review requirement for new open space vs developer contributions
- Action Facilitate the development and transition of Lincoln Cove East and Lincoln Heights development open spaces

# OPEN SPACE IN PORT LINCOLN



The City of Port Lincoln currently owns and manages a diverse range of public parks and reserves. These areas of public open space contribute to the City's amenity and environmental quality, as well as significantly enhance the well-being and enjoyment of residents and visitors to Port Lincoln.

This Open Space Strategy has been prepared to ensure that the public open space network is managed and developed in a coordinated and sustainable way. This strategy will be an important planning and management tool that will also tie together other existing Council strategies and plans that relate to different aspects of the open space network.

The objective of the Open Space Strategy will be to define the key goal areas, specific actions and projects for the next 5 years for improvements to public open spaces in Port Lincoln.

For the purposes of this Strategy, public open space includes spaces for formal (leased/organised) and informal recreation. This includes parks, reserves, playgrounds, sports fields and creek corridors on public land.

Open space plays an important role in meeting the recreational needs of the community, both structured and unstructured. It is, in turn, an important determinant of people's quality of life,

providing opportunities for relaxation, community interaction, health and fitness, children's play and social development. Open space also plays more than just a recreation function, providing opportunities for:

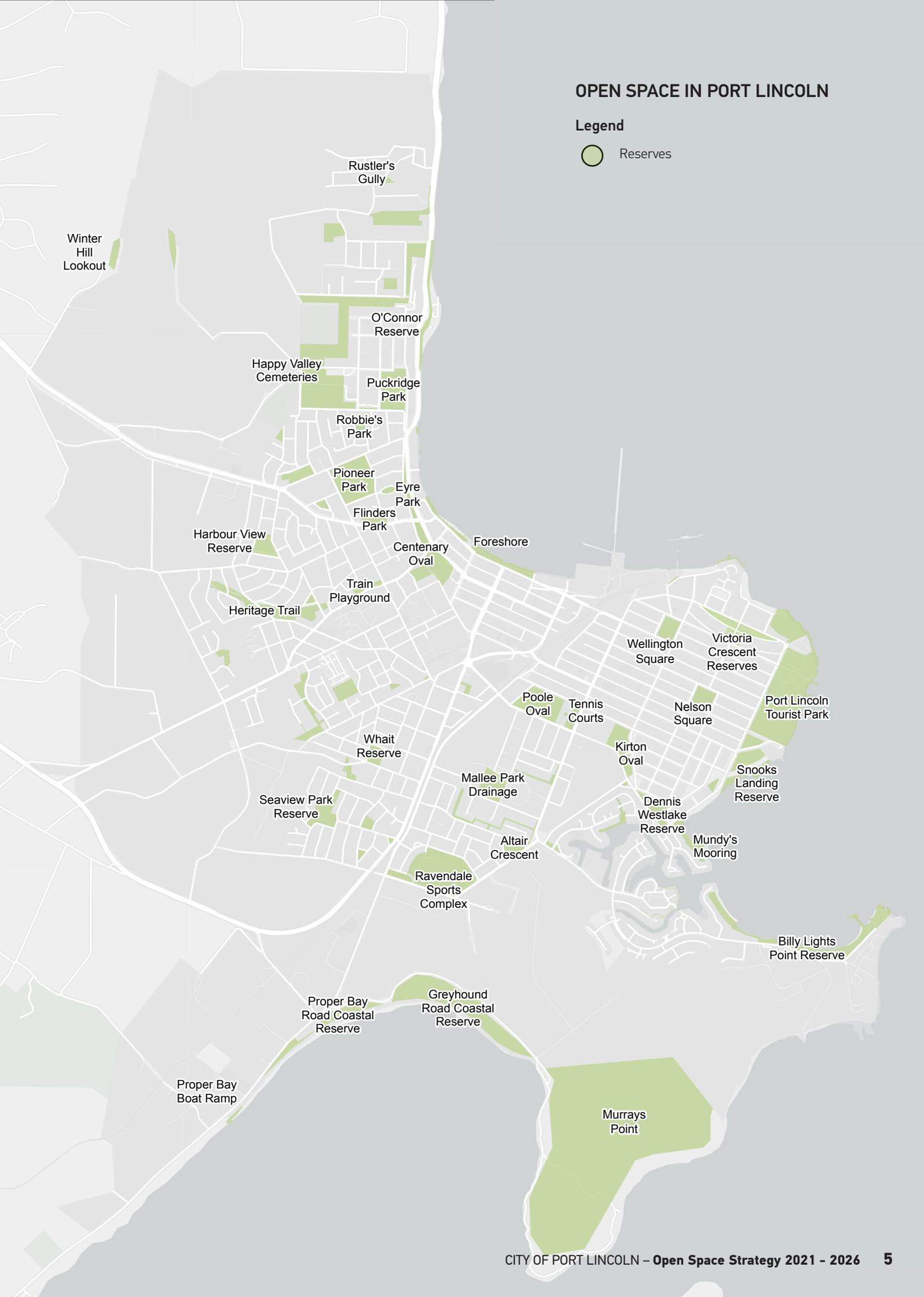
- **Conservation and biodiversity** - protection of natural features and cultural sites, and development of natural habitats;
- **Amenity** - greening the urban environment and providing increased aesthetic;
- **Utility** - stormwater management;
- **Transport and Access** - pedestrian and cycle linkages and networks; and
- **Tourism** - tourist destinations/attractions and off-road routes/linkages between attractions.

The quality and useability of open space are becoming important planning considerations, and there is an increasing recognition of the need to provide a range and mix of recreational opportunities, settings and experiences to cater for a variety of community needs.

# OPEN SPACE IN PORT LINCOLN

## Legend

 Reserves



# TYPE AND AMOUNT OF OPEN SPACE

The City of Port Lincoln currently has an inventory of Open Space as shown on the map on page 5 of approximately 185 hectares. The City has a total land area in the neighbourhood type zones (residential) of 1,283 hectares.

The table on right details the amount of public open space available in the City of Port Lincoln and compares this to the planning standards.

The table indicates that, when applying the quantitative planning standards, the City of Port Lincoln has an oversupply of public open space. In percentage terms, it is slightly more than the 12.5% referred to in Section 198 of the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act. In proportion to the population, however, there is approximately 4 times the amount of open space referred to in the planning standard identified above.

Overall, the City of Port Lincoln has a sufficient amount of open space for its current population and should consider whether in future land divisions it would be more beneficial to accept a developer contribution in lieu of physical land allocation.

A council area should ideally contain a range and balance of different types of open space.



Recognising the various types of open space, i.e. the different intended uses or functions of each parcel of open space, helps us to plan and optimise the role that different open spaces play, now and in the future.

The map on page 9 identifies all of the different types of public open space in the City of Port Lincoln as follows.

- Park
- Sportsground
- Natural/creek
- Bush reserve
- Dryland reserve
- Drainage
- Other



Port Lincoln Foreshore

### Available Public Open Space

	Existing Population in 2016	Anticipated Population 2026	Amount of Open Space in Port Lincoln - Existing	Amount of Open Space as a % of the Residential area in Port Lincoln in 2016	Amount of Open Space Necessary in Port Lincoln to provide 3ha per 1,000 people in 2016	Amount of Open Space Necessary in Port Lincoln to provide 3ha per 1,000 people in 2026
<b>City of Port Lincoln</b>	14,064	16,200	185ha*	Approx. 15%	44.2ha	48.6ha

\*Murray's Point Reserve (119ha), Grantham Island Reserve (50ha) and two-thirds of the Caravan Park Reserve have been excluded from the calculation of total public open space given that they are substantial areas of open space that are not readily accessible/usable to most residents/visitors (i.e. accessible only by boat or fenced).



Pioneer Park



## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Pursue appropriate opportunities for the revocation and disposal of some public open space assets, while always ensuring appropriate access to public open space facilities throughout Port Lincoln based on anticipated community needs.
- Reinvest the proceeds of any open space disposal into priority open space improvements.
- Maintain the existing range of public open space throughout Port Lincoln.
- Ensure in future planning that any one area of the town has ready access to different types of open space.



Nelson Square

## RESERVE TYPES

### Legend

- Bush Reserves
- Creek
- Drainage
- Dryland Reserve
- Other
- Park
- Sport



# HIERARCHY OF OPEN SPACE

The Planning and Design Code is the planning tool used to assess development applications, including applications for new land divisions. It replaced the Port Lincoln Development Plan as the key development assessment tool.

The Code establishes an open space hierarchy of state, regional, district, neighbourhood and local open spaces. While not included in the Code, the former Port Lincoln Development Plan recommended that:

- **District level parks** should be of at least 3 hectares in size located within 2 kilometres of all households they serve.
- **Neighbourhood level parks** should be of at least 0.5 hectares in size and located within 500 metres of all households they serve.
- **Local level parks** should be of at least 0.2 hectares in size and located within 300 metres of all households they serve.

In the Port Lincoln context, it is considered that district level open space also typically performs a regional function. There is no State level public open space in the City of Port Lincoln.

Examples of the different levels within the hierarchy of public open space in Port Lincoln are as follows:

- **Local Open Space** – Robbies Park (Shannon Avenue) and Danny Thorpe Reserve (Baillie Drive).
- **Neighbourhood Open Space** – Pioneer Park (Normandy Place) and Dennis Westlake Reserve (Lipson Place).
- **Regional Open Space** – Centenary Oval, Ravendale Sports Complex and the Foreshore.

The identification of the hierarchy of open space does not strictly follow the definitions in the former Port Lincoln Development Plan. For example, park size is often not a key determinant of hierarchy as much as key function and associated level of recreational equipment/maintenance may be.



Robbie's Park

Some parcels of open space are also unclassified in the hierarchy, particularly where they are relatively inaccessible to the public.

The map on page 13 identifies the hierarchy of open space in Port Lincoln. This mapping shows that the residential areas of the City of Port Lincoln has a comprehensive coverage of local level open space. While there appears to be a large number of neighbourhood level reserves in total (approximately 30), there are some gaps in the provision of neighbourhood level open space e.g. at Kirton Point. However, these gap areas are typically covered by regional level open space that also performs a neighbourhood level function e.g. Puckridge Park.

On this basis, it is recommended that there is generally no need to adjust the facilities/size/

maintenance of open space reserves within a particular area of Port Lincoln to fill any gaps in the hierarchy. The exception to this is the proposed upgrade of Nelson Square and Whit Reserve where master planning and associated upgrade is warranted to change these from local level reserves to at least neighbourhood level reserves.

It is also important to note that the hierarchy of open space does not designate a particular service/maintenance level. This is dictated to a greater extent by the type, function and desired amenity of each parcel of open space. In some instances, a local level reserve with a playground and sporting facilities will require a higher level of maintenance than a regional level bush reserve.



Pioneer Park



## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Maintain, renew and enhance open space facilities on the basis that the current open space network provides a hierarchy of local, neighbourhood and regional spaces that meet the community's needs (with the exception of Nelson Square at Kirton Point and What Reserve which should be developed and managed as at least a neighbourhood level reserve).
- Determine and provide service/maintenance levels based on the type, function and desired amenity of each parcel of open space.

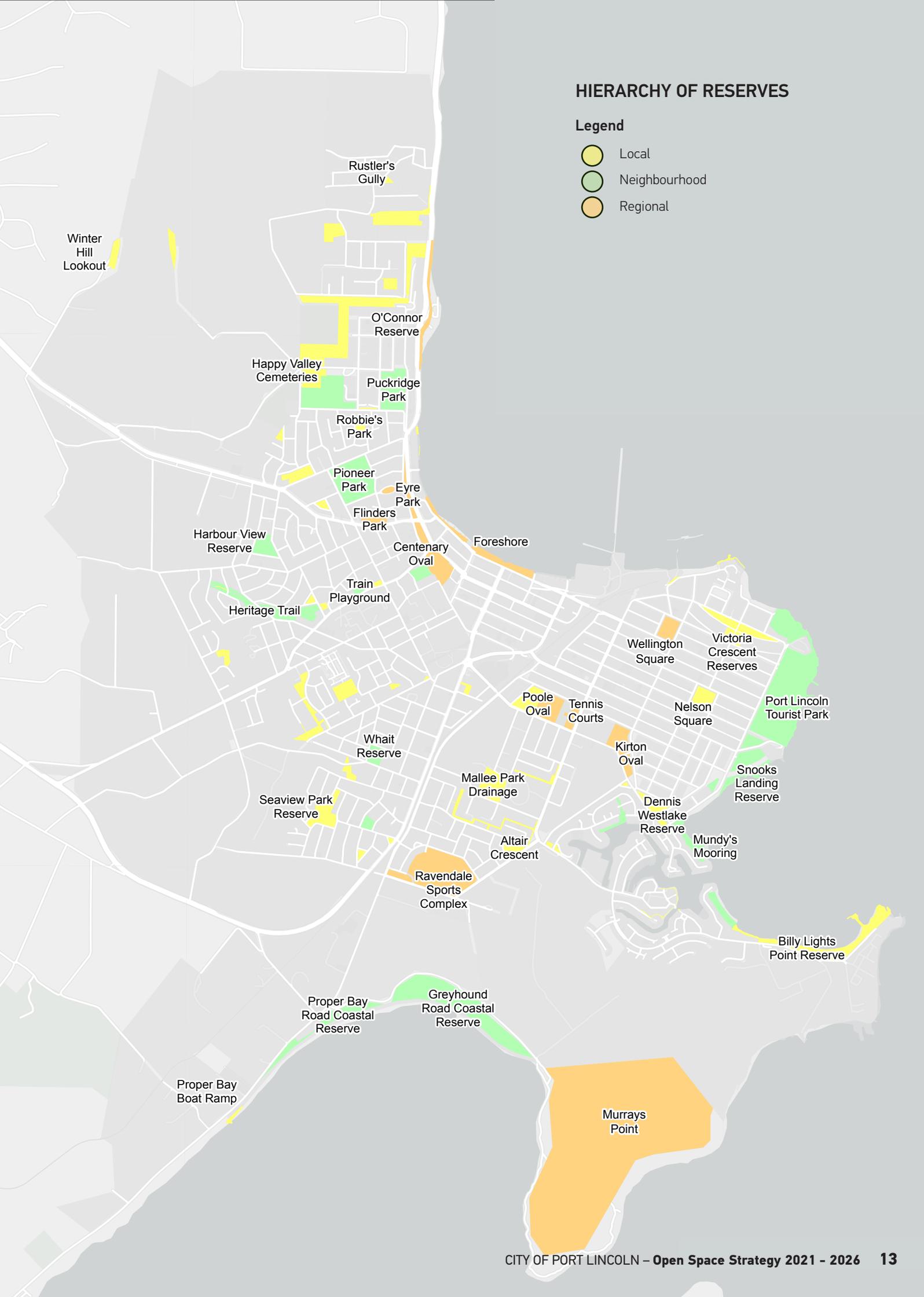


Danny Thorpe Reserve

## HIERARCHY OF RESERVES

### Legend

- Local
- Neighbourhood
- Regional



# FUNCTION & AMENITY OF OPEN SPACE

A review of the Open Space inventory to record/score the function and amenity of the various parcels of open space existing in Port Lincoln, focused on the following elements:

- Access;
- Maintenance;
- Design and appearance;
- Play and recreation; and
- Nature and environment.

The maps on the following pages identify the scores for each reserve in terms of these various elements. Some key observations from this are as follows:

## Access

- Access to parks and sportsgrounds is typically good or very good (e.g. 88% of parks scored 6 out of 10 or above and 86% of sportsgrounds scored 8 out of 10 or above).
- Perhaps not surprisingly, access to bush reserves is typically poorer than for other types of public open space (83% of bush reserves scored a 5 out of 10 or below).
- Other types of public open space vary in terms of their access scores.

## Maintenance

- The maintenance of most bush reserves and drainage reserves was scored low at 5 out of 10 or below. However, it may be that this level of maintenance is fit-for-purpose i.e. limited maintenance is necessary beyond weed control.
- The parks and sportsgrounds score best for maintenance (e.g. 44% of parks score 8 out of 10), but even so 40% of them score 4 or 5 out of 10, suggesting there may be opportunity for improvement.

## Design and Amenity

- The design and general amenity of most bush reserves was scored low (72% at 5 out of 10 or below), as did drainage reserves (75% scored 3-4 out of 10).





Puckridge Park

- Dryland reserves all scored 5 out of 10 or below in terms of design and amenity.
- The design and amenity of parks varies, with 32% scoring 5 out of 10 or below and, at the other end of the scale, 44% scoring 8 or above.
- The design and amenity of sportsgrounds is generally high with 75% scoring 8 out of 10 or above.
- Dryland reserves all scored 6 out of 10 or below in terms of nature and environment, with 80% scoring 4 or below.
- Parks received a mix of scores in terms of nature and environment – 20% scored 8 out of 10 or above and 56% scored 5 or below.
- Natural creeklines scored either 9 or 10 out of 10.

### **Nature and Environment**

- 44% of bush reserves scored 8 out of 10 or above for nature and environmental, while 40% of bush reserves scored 5 or below.



## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Typically provide on-site parking only where open space reserves have limited street frontage for parking or where peak parking demand is expected to be significant.
- Improve public access to bush reserves without unreasonably compromising the quality of habitat e.g. making the most of bushfire service.
- Maintain all open space reserves to a fit-for-purpose standard to ensure efficient allocation of Council resources. For bush reserves, for example, this will typically mean minimising weeds, revegetating where necessary and managing bushfire risk.
- Focus higher standards of design and amenity at Neighbourhood and Regional level open space reserves, while targeting design and amenity within local reserves closely to their intended function e.g. the play facilities in a Regional park will be of a higher standard of design and amenity than in a Local park.
- Manage bush reserves with protection of native vegetation and biodiversity as a priority.
- Enhance dryland reserves and parks with native vegetation and environmental features wherever possible.

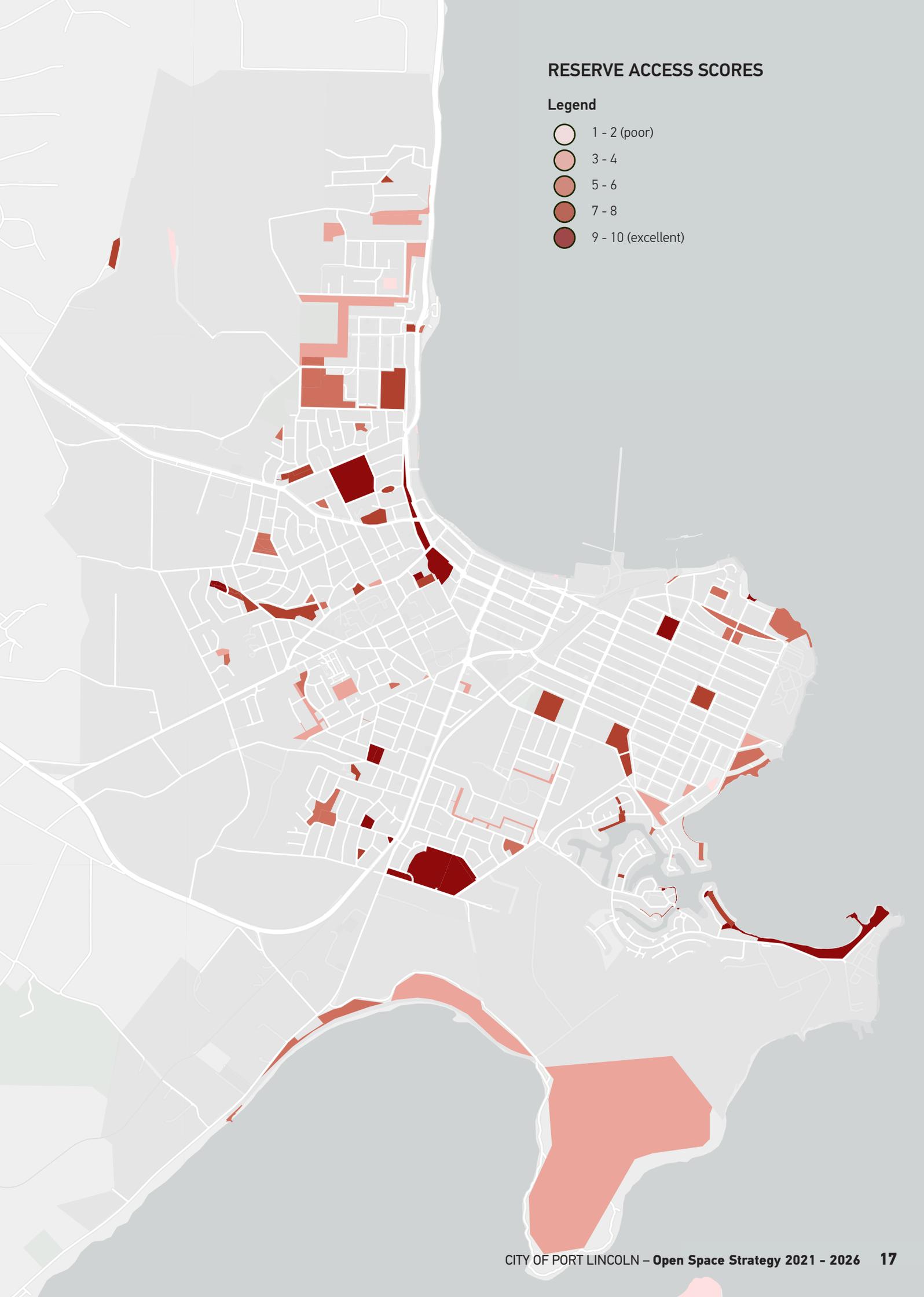


Pioneer Park

## RESERVE ACCESS SCORES

### Legend

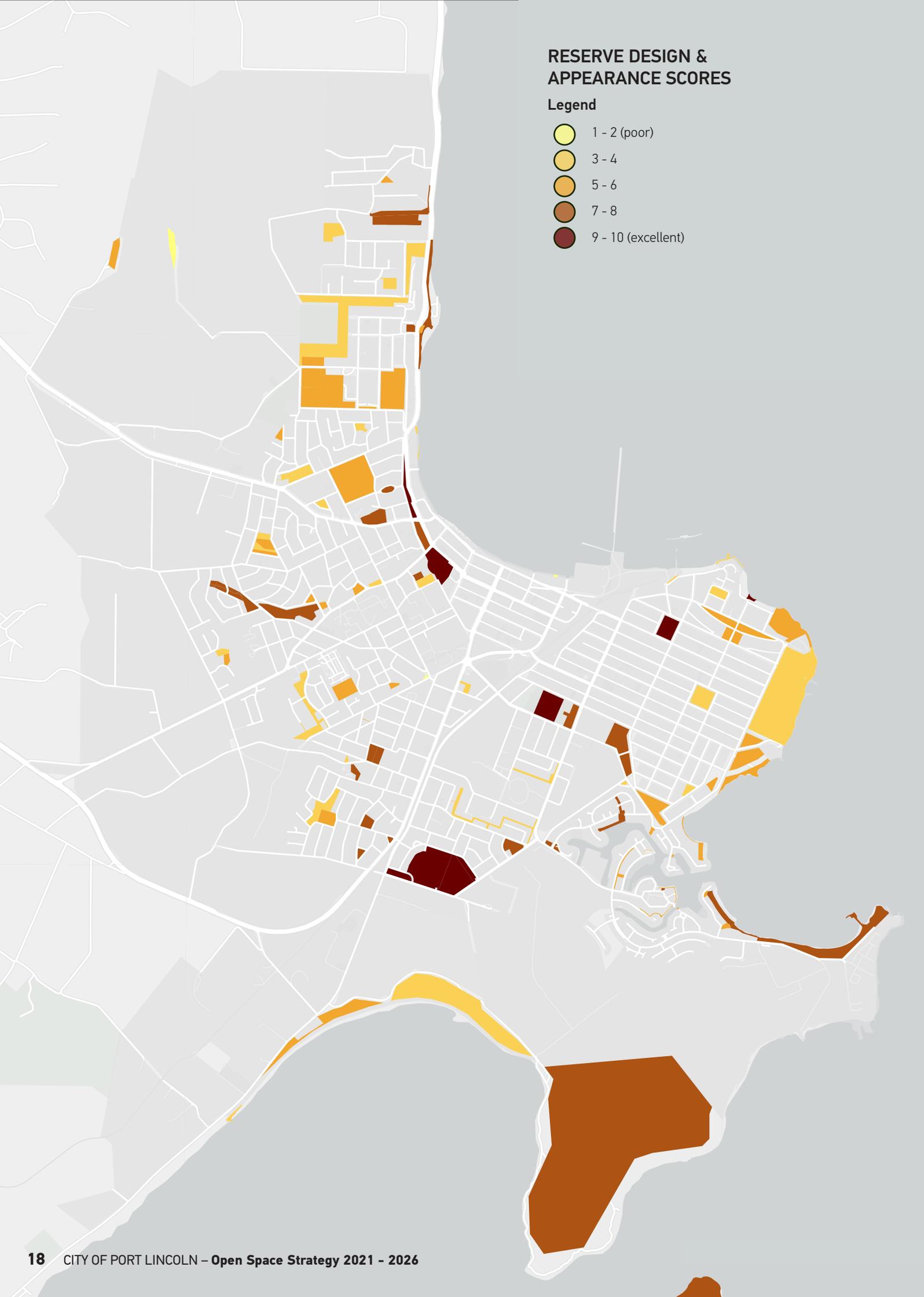
- 1 - 2 (poor)
- 3 - 4
- 5 - 6
- 7 - 8
- 9 - 10 (excellent)



## RESERVE DESIGN & APPEARANCE SCORES

### Legend

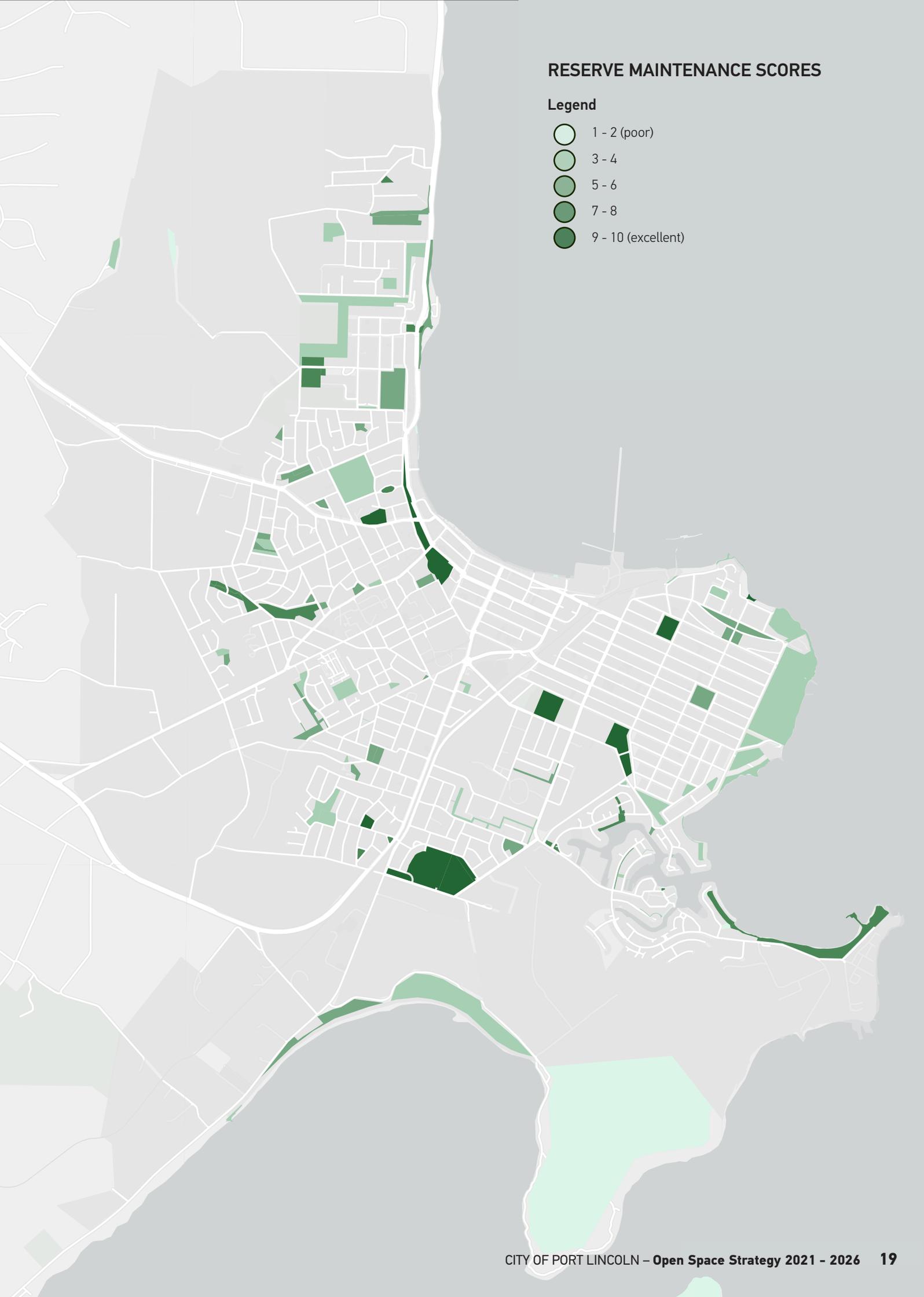
- 1 - 2 (poor)
- 3 - 4
- 5 - 6
- 7 - 8
- 9 - 10 (excellent)



## RESERVE MAINTENANCE SCORES

### Legend

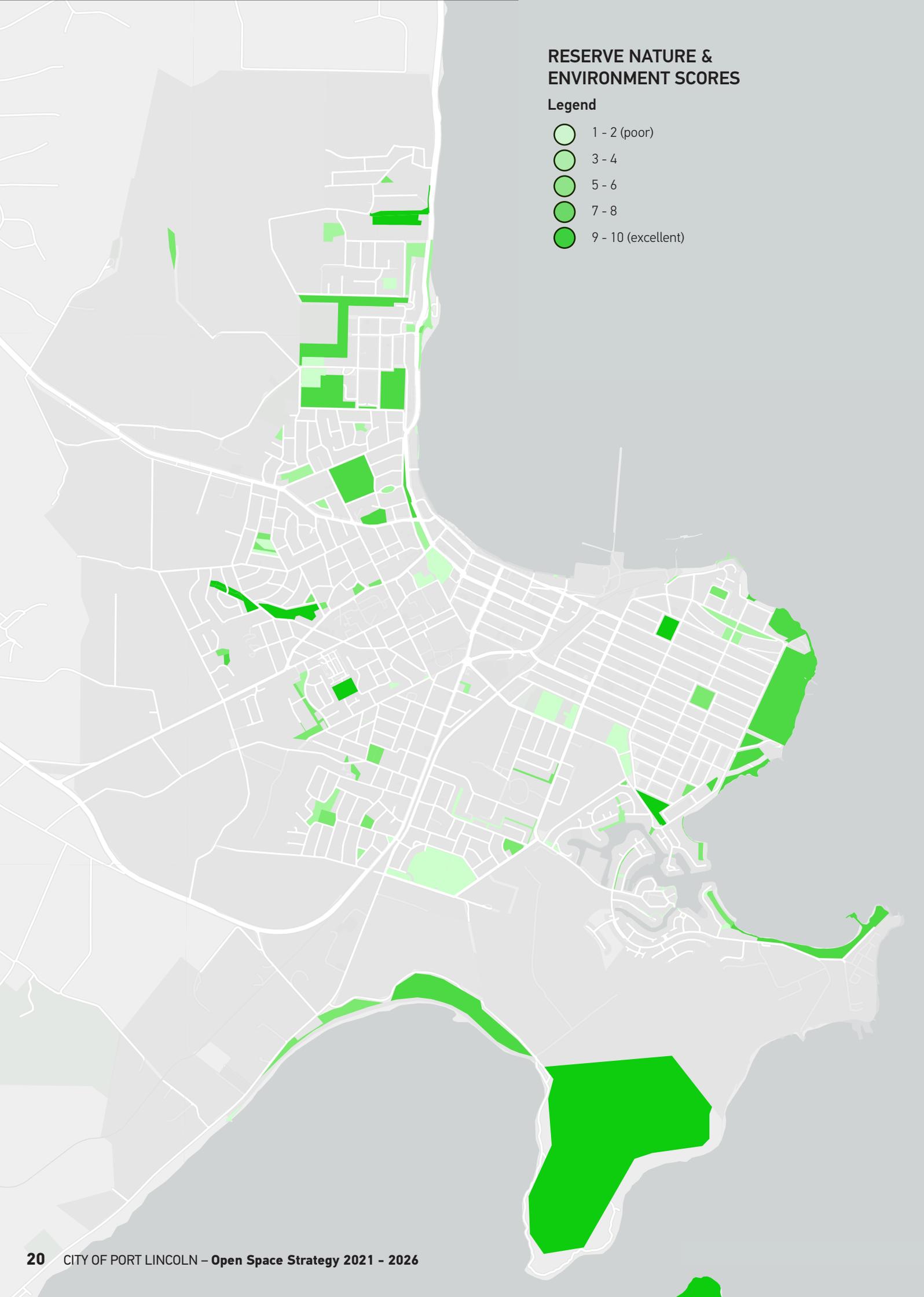
- 1 - 2 (poor)
- 3 - 4
- 5 - 6
- 7 - 8
- 9 - 10 (excellent)



## RESERVE NATURE & ENVIRONMENT SCORES

### Legend

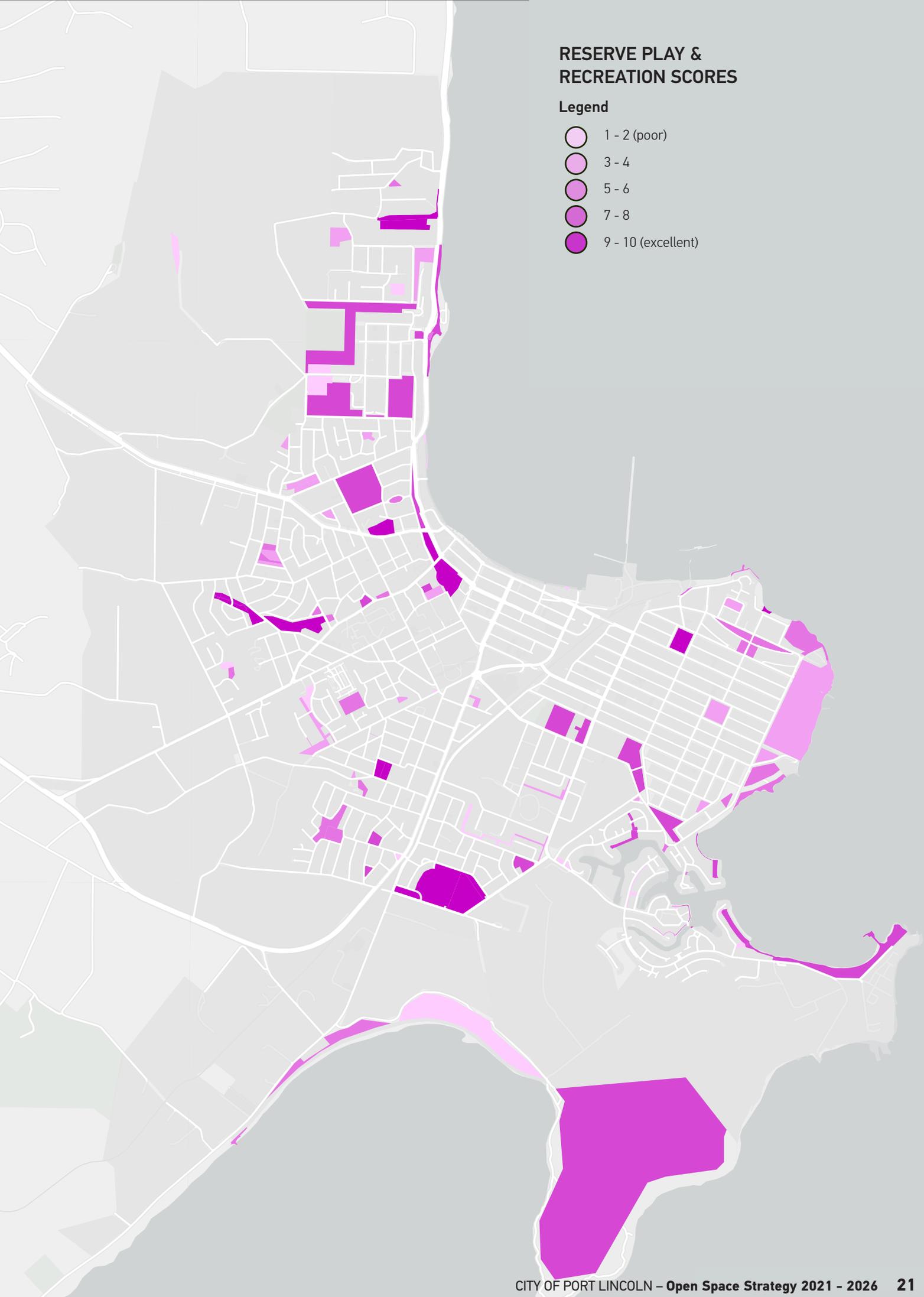
- 1 - 2 (poor)
- 3 - 4
- 5 - 6
- 7 - 8
- 9 - 10 (excellent)



## RESERVE PLAY & RECREATION SCORES

### Legend

- 1 - 2 (poor)
- 3 - 4
- 5 - 6
- 7 - 8
- 9 - 10 (excellent)



# SPORTING FACILITIES

People may be involved in organised sport and physical activity as players, participants or competitors, or in non-playing roles (i.e. coach, instructor, referee, umpire, committee member, administrator, scorer, timekeeper; medical support).

ABS data indicates that in 2013-14, some 28% of people over the age of 15 nation-wide were involved in organised sport and physical activity, including within indoor facilities (which are not the subject of this project). This involvement generally decreases with age. People aged 15-24 years had the highest rate of involvement in a playing role (43%) and the highest rate of involvement overall (44%). In comparison, people aged 55-64 and 65 years and over had the lowest rate of involvement in a playing role (18% and 17% respectively) and the lowest involvement overall (19% and 18% respectively).

Councils are increasingly being pressed by clubs and their governing bodies to provide high quality sporting facilities. The provision of high quality sporting facilities can sometimes be best addressed at a regional level given the cost implications.

At the same time, there is evidence to suggest that an increasing number of people choose to participate in sporting activities where they can “pay, play and go” rather than necessarily join a club. Therefore, the data suggests that Council could give consideration to sporting facilities which accommodate non-club based activities (eg. free tennis courts).

After Council develops a Sport & Recreation Strategy, master plans ought to be developed for the two key regional sporting facilities, Centenary Oval and Ravensdale Sports Complex.



## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

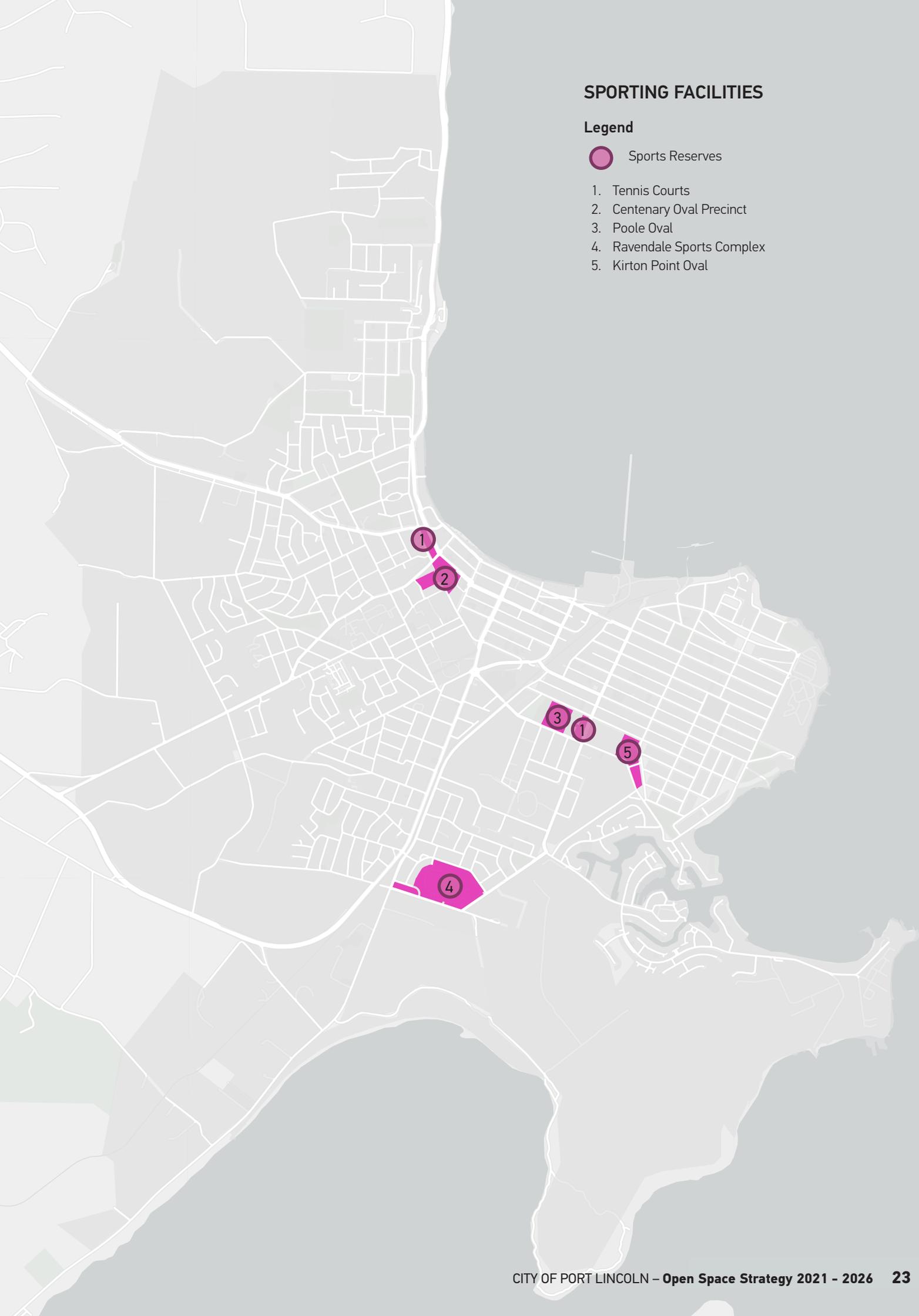
- Tailor infrastructure and maintenance of sporting facilities in public open space to the significance/popularity of use of the asset.
- Share sporting facilities as much as possible between different activities/users to maximise return on infrastructure investment.

## SPORTING FACILITIES

### Legend

 Sports Reserves

1. Tennis Courts
2. Centenary Oval Precinct
3. Poole Oval
4. Ravensdale Sports Complex
5. Kirton Point Oval



# PLAYGROUNDS



The Council undertook a comprehensive review of all its playgrounds in 2006. This review established a hierarchy of playgrounds as follows:

- **Local playgrounds** – small scale playground aimed at a younger age group serving the immediate area within 300m - 500m (10 minute walk).
- **Neighbourhood playgrounds** – slightly larger than local playgrounds and located in larger reserve areas with a catchment of approximately 1km.
- **Regional playgrounds** – usually combined with other recreational activities and located on larger reserve areas serving a catchment of 2-3km.

Of the playgrounds in the City of Port Lincoln in 2006, the Foreshore Reserve and Flinders Park were considered to be regional playgrounds, with the other playgrounds performing a neighbourhood or local function. Since then, the Wellington Square playground has also been upgraded to regional status.

Some gaps in the local playground network were identified (e.g. the Marina, the residential area above the Hospital and Valley View Road).

The neighbourhood playgrounds were identified as providing a reasonable coverage of the current residential areas of Port Lincoln, except the Marina area. Therefore, the playground focus for these reserves is on maintenance and ensuring that playground facilities satisfy contemporary demand.

In the past, playing outside in nature was a part of everyday childhood experience. Today, South Australian children are spending less time outside in nature than at any other time in the past. There has been a dramatic shift in childhood activity from outdoors to indoors driven by a number of factors including the advent of screen-based technology and the emergence of a risk-averse culture.

Research supports the view that unstructured outdoor play and immersion in nature is essential to the health and wellbeing of children. There are many beautiful reserves in the City of Port Lincoln, including natural bushland reserves, developed parks, reserves and playgrounds, and linear parks along natural creek lines which are suitable for using as nature play spaces.



Flinders Park



## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Develop a regional level adventure playground given Port Lincoln's status as a regional centre.
- Supplement the play experiences offered by commercial play infrastructure with more 'nature play' facilities and consider facilities targeted to different age groups.
- Continue to upgrade existing playgrounds according to Council's Infrastructure and Asset Management Plan.
- Ensure that urban areas are appropriately serviced with adequate access to playground facilities at Neighbourhood and Regional Level playgrounds.
- Commence planning for possible future development of playground facilities in areas where there are existing gaps in provision (eg Northern and Western suburban areas).



Wellington Square



Whait Reserve

## PLAYGROUNDS

### Legend

 Reserves with Playgrounds

1. Rustler's Gully
2. Puckridge Park
3. Mena Street Reserve
4. Harbour View Reserve
5. Flinders Park
6. Foreshore
7. Train Playground
8. Whait Reserve
9. Seaview Reserve
10. Dickens Park
11. Altair Crescent
12. Mundy's Mooring
13. Nelson Square
14. Wellington Square



# UNSTRUCTURED RECREATION

Many people, but particularly young people in the 14-25 age bracket, are increasingly undertaking non-organised or unstructured recreation independent of clubs or other organisations (Trends in recreation and sport, SA Office of Recreation and Sport, 2011). Associated with this trend is often concern regarding the perceived (not necessarily actual) levels of safety related to young people 'hanging out' in public open space areas. This emphasises the importance of design and location of recreation facilities such as skate/BMX parks. While the focus has traditionally been on young men, it is also important to cater for the needs of young women in public open space in terms of unstructured recreation.

There is also growing flexibility in the working arrangements of many people, including working on any of the seven days of the week. This means that public open space needs to be available at all times of the week (including evenings) for recreation and leisure. Associated with this are safety and maintenance issues, including adequate lighting and accessibility.

It should be noted that the ABS indicates that walking for exercise was the most popular physical recreational activity, with 19% of people aged 15 years and over walking for exercise. Females were

more likely to walk for exercise than males (25% and 14% respectively).

Somewhat unique to Port Lincoln is the popularity of the town jetty and swimming enclosure extending from the Foreshore Reserve. These are not 'traditional' open space, but perform a significant recreational function for fishing, swimming and walking.





BMX Track



## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Maximise the use of existing unstructured recreation facilities through carefully considered alterations and additions (e.g. develop a beginners' facility at the existing skate park to cater for a broader range of ages, remodel the existing BMX track so it is more accessible to a wider range of users on a casual basis).
- Develop new unstructured recreation facilities (e.g. additional half-court basketball) in key locations particularly with priority given to the central and northern parts of Port Lincoln.
- Focus the planting and irrigation of grassed areas in carefully selected reserves to ensure even accessibility of this type of unstructured recreation facility throughout Port Lincoln.



Laguna Beach Reserve



Skate Park

## UNSTRUCTURED RECREATION

### Legend

-  Recreation Facilities
-  Recreation Function of Reserves
-  Recreation at Sportsgrounds

1. Skate Facility
2. Seaview Reserve
3. BMX Facility & Dragon Boat Storage
4. Foreshore Reserve
5. Cemetery Reserve
6. Sarah Crescent to Lincoln Highway
7. Valley View Reserve
8. Winters Hill Lookout
9. Pioneer Park
10. Billy Lights Point
11. Murrays Point
12. Grantham Island
13. Centenary Oval
14. Ravensdale Sports Complex



# LINKAGES & CONNECTIONS



The City of Port Lincoln prepared a 10 year strategy for the Parnkalla Trail for 2008-2018. The Parnkalla Trail runs predominantly along the coast for the entire Council area and is a significant recreational and biodiversity conservation asset for the Port Lincoln community and tourists. It is important to note that in 2013/14 the City of Port Lincoln had 6,000 international visitors, 111,000 domestic overnight visitors and 81,000 domestic day visitors to the city (SA Tourism Commission and Regional Tourism Satellite Accounts produced by Tourism Research Australia).

The Parnkalla Trail Strategy identifies a priority for physical works to upgrade the Trail to a higher standard. Many of these works have been undertaken over the past 8 years, with the current focus being on the development of a shared use trail between the Port Lincoln Hotel and the Axel Stenross precinct.

The continued upgrade of the Parnkalla Trail should remain a key focus for Council as part of its open space planning.

Linkages and connections can be considered two different ways:

1. Linear open space that also provides links or connection between places; and
2. Links to open space reserves from surrounding areas.

People are increasingly looking to use alternative travel corridors away from roads, and preferably in 'green' and attractive surroundings. The construction of the Port Lincoln Heritage Trail in recent years provides an excellent example of linear open space that functions as a link between different parts of Port Lincoln and as a destination in itself. Finding ways to replicate this form of open space elsewhere in Port Lincoln is considered to be highly desirable.

The linkages and connections to open space reserves through the urban areas of Port Lincoln are also important. Signage, bicycle lanes, street tree plantings and street furniture can all be used to emphasise key routes to some of the more important/desirable open spaces reserves, as well as improving amenity for residents and visitors.

Although Linkages and Connections are considerations for the Open Space Strategy, Council during the course of 2021 - 2026 will develop a Trails and Wayfinding Strategy for the City which will encompass and build on plans for creation and expansion of trails including the Parnkalla Trail.



Heritage Trail



## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Develop an integrated footpath and bicycle lane priority strategy that identifies where pedestrian and key pedestrian/cyclists links need to be upgraded/developed. Ensure adequate provision of linkages in future subdivisions.
- Focus streetscape improvements (e.g. footpath improvements, tree plantings) along routes to key public open space reserves, particularly those identified as Regional and Neighbourhood level open space.
- Continue to develop Parnkalla Trail for shared use by pedestrians and cyclists, with the exception of Kirton Point which will be for pedestrians only in order to protect sensitive native vegetation in this area.
- To expand the regional function of the Parnkalla Trail, explore the development of a shared use pedestrian and cyclist path along the former rail line as part of a future off-road recreational link between Port Lincoln and Coffin Bay.



Heritage Trail



Laguna Beach Reserve

## LINKAGES AND CONNECTIONS

### Legend

-  Parnkalla Trail
-  Potential Open Space Linkages
-  Potential Upgrades/New Trail
-  Upgrade Linkages and Connections to/from and within Open Space

1. Potential Realignment of Parnkalla Trail
2. Heritage Trail
3. Foreshore Reserve
4. First Landing Reserve
5. Kirton Point Reserve
6. Winters Hill Lookout
7. Sarah Crescent to Lincoln Highway
8. Valley View Reserve
9. Cemetery Reserve
10. Murrays Point
11. Shelley Beach Reserve
12. Hawson Square
13. Flinders Park
14. Danny Thorpe Reserve
15. Whait Reserve



# NATIVE VEGETATION, BIODIVERSITY

In 2010 a Vegetation and Biodiversity Study for the City of Port Lincoln was prepared by EBS Ecology. This Study indicated that native vegetation covers approximately 845ha (26%) of the Council area, representing a low to moderate level of remnant native vegetation.

The Biodiversity Study split the Council area into five sectors. The following conclusions were included in the Study in relation to each of these sectors:

- **Northern sector** – large amount of already cleared area available, and the remaining vegetation is generally already degraded and exists as small and isolated patches. The remnant native vegetation should be retained and included in future open space.
- **Central sector** – contains a significant proportion of the overall remaining native vegetation in the City of Port Lincoln (i.e. 12%). Some of the vegetation patches are large and more connected, with links to large remnants outside the Council boundary. The native vegetation should be retained and incorporated into open space where possible, with priority given to large/intact vegetation blocks.
- **Southern sector** – not suitable for future residential development due to the intact nature of the vegetation and/or high habitat value for rare species.
- **South-Western sector** – avoid development of the large area of native vegetation adjacent to the Kathai Conservation Park as it has high habitat and ecological value.

From a biodiversity perspective, the Native Vegetation Council of SA promotes that it is typically much easier to upgrade areas of existing, contiguous native vegetation than to comprehensively revegetate highly degraded areas. However, there can often be a tension



Parnkalla Trail

between creating high quality habitat for flora and fauna and enjoyment by the community as a recreation asset. A careful balance needs to be struck.

There are a number of existing public open space reserves that contain native vegetation of varying standard/biodiversity value. Such areas of native vegetation should typically be maintained and enhanced, also providing recreational opportunities where possible e.g. bush walking.

In recent years, large areas of land within the northern and central parts of Port Lincoln have been rezoned to either Suburban Neighbourhood or Hills Neighbourhood Zones. There are a number

of provisions within the Public Open space section of the Planning and Design Code that will guide the development of new public open space as part of future land division in the northern and central parts of Port Lincoln, and so facilitate the provision of some of the native vegetation outcomes referred to in the Biodiversity Study.



## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Carefully manage the extensive areas of native vegetation to provide an appropriate balance of public access and native vegetation/habitat protection.
- Retain and carefully manage native vegetation along the Parnkalla Trail as an important feature of this key public open space asset.
- Identify future public open space locations and corridors in areas zoned for new urban development and protect native vegetation along those corridors, particularly in the central and northern parts of Port Lincoln.



Pioneer Park

## NATIVE VEGETATION

### Legend

① Native Vegetation Management

1. Cemetery Reserve
2. Pioneer Park
3. Puckridge Park
4. Valley View Reserve
5. Hawson Square
6. Kirton Point Coastal Reserve
7. Port Lincoln Tourist Park
8. Snooks Landing
9. Dennis Westlake Reserve
10. Murrays Point
11. Grantham Island



# CULTURAL HERITAGE

Today there are some 1200 Aboriginal people living in Port Lincoln, which represents almost 10% of the population. Recognition of their relationship to country is important. The design and management of public open space provides opportunity for this to occur.

The first settlers of European descent arrived in Port Lincoln in 1839. The Lincoln Hotel, the oldest on the Eyre Peninsula, was built in 1840 and the Port's first jetty was built in 1854.

The completion of rail links to large sections of the Eyre Peninsula between 1907 and 1926 ensured the town's continued survival/growth. It became a

vital port for the wheat trade from South Australia to Europe and the bulk wheat and grain silos were built at the port in 1959. The tuna fishing industry commenced in the 1950s.

With the main growth of the town occurring post 1950, there are relatively few old buildings in Port Lincoln. This makes the preservation of historic structures and monuments within areas of public open space an important link to the history of the area.



## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Involve first Australians in Port Lincoln in the design of key areas of public open space with feature/elements that acknowledge their history and relationship to country.
- Incorporate and manage historic structures and monuments into the design of public open space to optimise their conservation and interpretation.

## CULTURAL HERITAGE

### Legend

① Recognise Cultural Heritage and Enhance Interpretation

1. Eyre Park
2. First Landing Reserve
3. Flinders Park
4. Happy Valley Cemeteries
5. Pioneer Park
6. Puckridge Park
7. Hawson Square
8. Murrays Point
9. Nelson Square
10. Port Lincoln Tourist Park
11. Snooks Landing
12. Old Mill Reserve - Dorset Place



# DOG PARKS



The popularity of parks for people to exercise their dogs increases the use of reserves, helping to make them less isolated and less threatening. This, in turn, makes these parks more popular as places for other forms of socialising. Therefore, dog exercise facilities need careful consideration in combination with issues of appropriate dog management within public reserves.

It should be noted that Council recently received a petition with 161 signatories requesting the provision of a designated dog park in Port Lincoln.

“Dog friendly parks” provide opportunity for owners to exercise their dogs unleashed at any time. The fenced parks are designed to provide interesting recreational environments for both dogs and owners, as well as opportunities for

rest and watering. Depending upon the number of dog parks in the Council area, car parking for dog owners may also be important.

The location of dog parks can potentially raise concerns for surrounding residents given the potential for increased patronage, noise from dogs and vehicles, conflicting/increased demand for car parking off/on streets and alienation of at least part of the reserve for this specific activity. While there appears to be demand for a dog park/s in Port Lincoln, the location for such facilities must be carefully balanced with amenity impacts for any nearby residents.

Some potential locations for designated dog parks in Port Lincoln include Nelson Square, Pioneer Park or Harbour View Reserve.



## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Given the relatively contained size of Port Lincoln and the population, a single dog park is appropriate in one of the larger reserves, subject to the provision of adequate parking.

## DOG PARKS

### Legend

**1** Potential Designated Dog Park

1. Nelson Square

2. Pioneer Park

3. Harbour View Reserve



# COMMUNITY GARDENS

A community garden is a piece of land gardened by a group of people, utilising either individual or shared plots typically for growing fresh products and plants. They are typically public in terms of ownership, access and management, and usually occur within public open space.

The benefits of community gardens include:

- contributing to a sense of community/ neighbourhood;
- connection to the environment;
- opportunity for satisfying labour and creating new skills;
- providing low cost fresh produce, providing food security and reducing obesity.



## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Only embark on the development/ location/design of a community garden in co-operation with community groups/ government agencies/organisations that will have an ongoing management responsibility.

## COMMUNITY GARDENS

### Legend

① Potential Community Garden

1. Nelson Square
2. Dickens Park
3. Trigg Street Reserve



# EXERCISE AND OPEN SPACE

The population of the City of Port Lincoln is ageing and “baby boomers” represent a demographic bubble that will want to retain health and fitness and continue being active. Based on current trends, it is likely that health and fitness will continue to be pursued increasingly informally outside of club structures.

The provision of exercise facilities within public open space, sometimes referred to as playgrounds for older people, can provide another option for the community to stay fit and healthy without the expense and time commitment of joining a club or commercial gymnasium. These facilities typically feature low-impact exercise equipment designed to promote flexibility, balance and coordination. There are a number of reserves across the Council area that could accommodate such exercise equipment e.g. Foreshore Reserve and North Point Reserve.

Personal fitness training is one of the strongest growth segments in the fitness industry. In a survey of personal trainers in Queensland by Fitness Australia in 2012, it was found that most personal trainers are self-employed, sole traders with no employees, who deliver one-on-one

training or in groups of up to 6 people. Most of these training sessions occur either in the morning, between 5am - 8am, or in the evening between 5pm - 8pm. The sessions mostly occur on public or council/government owned land.

Increasing numbers of commercial fitness groups, non-profit groups and personal trainers are using public reserves for their activities, which if left unmanaged, raises a number of potential issues including:

- **equity of access** – e.g. potential conflict with displaced users, management of demand, domination and monopolisation of areas and exploitation of public land by commercial operators;





Billy Lights Point

- **impact on community assets** – e.g. trainers (especially of large groups) causing wear-and-tear on recreational surfaces and facilities;
- **public liability concerns** – e.g. trainers with insufficient insurance in the event of injury to their customers/participants; and
- **Noise nuisance to nearby residents.**

The City of Port Lincoln has a policy regarding the use of public open space by fitness groups and personal trainers which requires business operators to obtain a permit for the use of public reserves (with associated fees).



## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Focus the provision of outdoor exercise equipment in association with existing sporting facilities to maximise use in Regional and Neighbourhood level open space.
- Continue to regulate the use of public open space for commercial activities (e.g. paying fitness groups and personal trainers).



Mundy's Mooring



Ravendale Sports Complex

## EXERCISE FACILITIES IN PUBLIC OPEN SPACE

### Legend



Key location for Provision of Exercise Equipment



Potential Provision or Upgrade of Exercise Equipment

1. Ravendale Sports Complex
2. Billy Lights Point
3. Foreshore Reserve
4. Harbour View Reserve
5. North Point Reserve



# A CHANGING CLIMATE

Port Lincoln has a semi-arid climate with mild to warm, dry summers and mild, wet winters. It has an average rainfall of approximately 500mm per annum (Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology).

Winter days are cool and cloudy, with frequent light drizzle and showers. Cold fronts cause periods of heavy rain and colder temperatures in winter. Approximately 140mm or 36% of the annual rainfall occurs in the three months of winter.

Summers are mild to warm with cool sea breezes keeping the temperatures generally below 30°C. On occasions northerly winds can cause several days of well over 40°C. Rainfall in summer is limited to very infrequent showers or thunderstorms. Approximately 50mm or 13% of the annual rainfall occurs in the summer months.

The Bureau of Meteorology's forecasts for the southern region of Australia include rises in average temperatures, increased heat waves, decreased amounts of rain, and a general rise in the variance and intensity of average climatic factors such as rain.

The City of Port Lincoln will need to consider adaptation strategies for its public open space to ensure that it continues to meet service

expectations. Some of the key issues relevant to open space provision and management include:

- Increased irrigation over the drier months of the year.
- Drought tolerant plant selection that can withstand extended periods of low rainfall.
- Shade for users of public open space during hotter weather.
- Stormwater management infrastructure, including water sensitive urban design WSUD, that can best handle more frequent/intense storm events. This includes vegetated water courses that serve an open space function as well.
- Predicted rise in sea level.





Mallee Park Drainage Reserve



## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Maximise the planting of local/endemic vegetation in public open space to minimise the need for irrigation.
- Plant trees in public open space and road reserves wherever possible to provide additional shade and enhance amenity.
- Retain the stormwater management function of key reserves and consider integrating water sensitive urban design into any significant upgrades of public open space reserves.
- Carefully manage fire tracks and vegetation within public open space where there is high bushfire risk.
- Minimise coastal erosion and sea level rise in the ongoing development and maintenance of public open space along the foreshore.



Gawler Terrace Stormwater Detention Basin



Dennis Westlake Reserve

# ADAPTING TO A CHANGING CLIMATE

## Legend

-  Bushfire Management and Prevention
-  Tidal Flood Management: Greyhound Road & Proper Bay Road Coastal Reserves

-  Jetty Protection
-  Stormwater Management

1. Casuarina & Bethany Court Drainage Reserves
2. Tennant Street & Grantala Road Drainage Reserves
3. Mena Place Reserve
4. Rustlers Gully Reserve
5. Sarah Crecent to Lincoln Highway
6. Smith Street Drainage Reserve
7. Dennis Westlake Reserve
8. Gawler Terrace Stormwater Detention Basin
9. Mallee Park Drainage Reserve
10. Poole Oval



# RESERVE PLANNING PRIORITIES FOR 2021 - 2026



Harbour View Reserve

## RESERVE PLANNING PRIORITIES FOR 2021 - 2026

	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26	Other Strategy / Plans
<b>Play &amp; Recreation Reserve</b>						
Whait Reserve	✓					
Nelson Square	✓					
Murray's Point (including Greyhound Road Coastal Reserve)		✓				
Rustler's Gully Reserve		✓				
Harbour View Reserve			✓			
Flinders Park				✓		
Seaview Park Reserve*					✓	
<b>Addressing Service Gaps</b>						
Dog Park	✓					
Western Suburbs (potential new reserve planning)			✓			
Community Garden (subject to need)				✓		
<b>Sport Reserve</b>						
Centenary Oval		✓				Sport & Recreation Strategy
Ravendale Sports Reserve		✓				Sport & Recreation Strategy
<b>Stormwater Reserve</b>						
Mallee Park Drainage Reserve	✓					Stormwater Management Plan
<b>Inherited Reserves</b>						
Lincoln Cove East Reserve	✓	✓				
Lincoln Heights Reserve	✓	✓				

\* Once upgrades have been completed to Whait Reserve, consideration as to the need to retain Seaview Park vs disposal will need to be considered as part of the future planning for that reserve.

Implementation of projects can be expected in the financial years following the completion of planning, subject to consideration of costs in the Long Term Financial Plan and Annual Business Plans.



Greyhound Road Coastal Reserve



City of  
**Port Lincoln**  
*Seafood Capital of Australia*

# CONTACT

For further information on the Open Space Strategy 2021 - 2026  
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