



ACT
Government

Urban Open Space Land Management Plan



Transport Canberra and City Services
Directorate

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We acknowledge the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region.



Urban Open Space Land Management Plan

Acknowledgement of Country

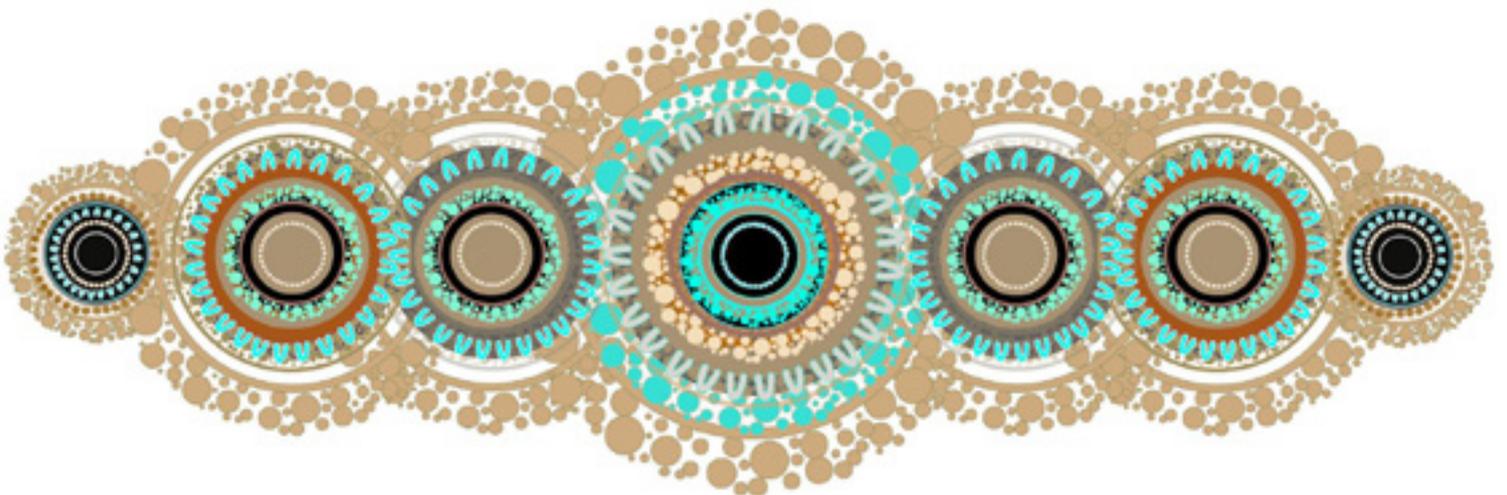
The Australian Capital Territory (ACT) is Ngunnawal country. The ACT Government acknowledges the Ngunnawal people as the traditional custodians of the Canberra region and recognises any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region.

The region is a significant meeting place to the Ngunnawal people and other people and families who have gathered here for thousands of years.

Transport Canberra and City Services acknowledges and respects the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region, and their historic and ongoing connection to our lands, waters, and sacred sites.

We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

Prior to the displacement of Ngunnawal people from their land, they were a thriving people whose life and culture was connected unequivocally to this land in a way that only they understand and know and is core to their physical and spiritual being. The segregation of the Ngunnawal people from Culture and Country has had long-lasting, profound, and ongoing health and well-being effects on their life, cultural practices, families, and continuation of their law/lore. We acknowledge the historic interruption of the Ngunnawal people of Canberra and their surrounding regions. We recognise the significant contribution the Ngunnawal people have played in caring for Country. For time immemorial they have maintained a tangible and intangible cultural, social, environmental, spiritual, and economic connection to these lands and waters.



"You may leave your footprints here" by Ngunnawal, Wiradjuri, Kamilaroi and Barkindji artists
Lynnice Church and Leilani Keen-Church.



Electric mower trial at Kambah

Contents

Acknowledgement of Country	ii
Executive Summary	v
PART A: Context and development	1
The Vision	1
Introduction	2
PART B: Framework	9
Scope	9
Activating urban open spaces	20
Policy framework	23
PART C: Management of land	31
Urban open space typologies	31
Core values	32
Land Management Principles, Objectives and Strategies	58
Land Management – Key Commitments	68
Glossary of abbreviations and terms	69
Other relevant policies	71
Appendix A	75
Endnotes	83



Executive Summary

The Urban Open Space Land Management Plan (the Plan) was prepared in consultation with the community, Ngunnawal traditional custodians, land managers from Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate (TCCS) and other relevant Government agencies.

Part A of the Plan sets out the principles and vision for sustainable urban open spaces to enrich the lives of our community, improve the amenity of Canberra's urban environment and protect and enhance their cultural, social, and environmental values.

The benefits of urban open spaces include:

- improving the amenity and liveability of our city and neighbourhoods
- enabling the protection of natural features, ecological systems and cultural heritage
- encouraging more inclusive, active and healthy lifestyles
- contributing to the economic viability of Canberra
- providing environmental services that enhance the liveability of urban areas

Part B provides the framework and scope of the Plan, which covers urban public unleased land that is under the custodianship of TCCS, excluding Canberra's lakes and ponds which are covered in Canberra's Urban Lakes and Ponds Land Management Plan.

Managers of urban open space are faced with many challenges including: the expansion of the urban open space network; the increasing demands on facilities and services as Canberra's population grows; the finite resources available; the impacts of urban development and densification and climate change; and finding a balance between the environmental, social (including cultural and heritage) and economic considerations.

As the ACT's population grows and there is an increase in urban densification there will be a growing demand for quality public urban open space, particularly in medium/high density development areas where access to private open space is limited. It is important that high quality public spaces are provided that are accessible, safe and meet the changing needs of the community. Maintenance and management practices will need to be responsive to climate change.

This Plan provides a shared vision for our urban open space network and sets out how we will achieve it. It identifies the challenges and opportunities, roles and responsibilities, the level and provision of services and facilities and types of activities anticipated within each of the land typologies.

Canberra is fortunate to retain a wide variety of urban open space. The urban open space hierarchy or typology reflects characteristics including size of space, level of amenity, and types of usage, from formal town parks and sporting grounds to informal natural and local neighbourhood open spaces, urban open spaces form a comprehensive network of civic spaces, green corridors, play spaces and community space.

Part C of the Plan sets out core values, how they apply to each type of Urban Open Space, and the resourcing commitments to deliver management services for our network of Urban Open Space.

TCCS is committed to constantly reviewing its mowing, weed control, fertilizer, biosecurity and illegal dumping operational programs to meet the needs of the community and minimise impacts on urban and natural environments.

The contribution of volunteer groups is highly valued and will continue to be supported to connect community wellbeing with the conservation, presentation and maintenance of our urban open spaces.



PART A: Context and development

The Vision

Sustainable urban open spaces that: enrich the lives of our community; improve the amenity of the ACT's urban environment; and protect and enhance their cultural, social, and environmental values.

Achieving the Vision

This Plan is underpinned by the following key **Principles**. These Principles are in turn supported by a number of **Objectives** and **Strategies** (refer to page 58) which together will help achieve this Plan's Vision.

Principles

- 🌱 Community-centric
- 🌱 Accessible, inclusive and equitable
- 🌱 Open and transparent
- 🌱 Collaborative and responsive
- 🌱 Shared stewardship
- 🌱 Valued
- 🌱 Safe
- 🌱 Quality and value for money
- 🌱 Sustainable
- 🌱 Continuous improvement
- 🌱 Compliant
- 🌱 Accountability



Introduction

The ACT Government’s Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate (TCCS) is responsible for the planning, management and maintenance of over 6,800 hectares of Canberra’s public urban open space and associated assets. Our public urban open spaces support a range of facilities and uses, and deliver many social, cultural, environmental and economic benefits.

Public urban open space, which incorporates parks, sportsgrounds and public cemeteries, provides a broad range of amenities to meet the needs of a

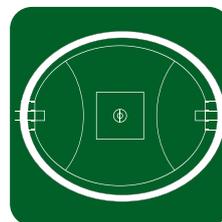
diverse and growing community and enhance the lives of Canberrans and visitors alike. These include: active travel facilities; sporting facilities; play spaces; skateparks; exercise equipment; street and park furniture; shade infrastructure; barbecues; signage; paths¹ and green infrastructure (i.e. trees, shrubs and grasses) and habitat corridors. All of these facilities, ranging from the smallest, such as bins and bollards, to the largest, such as dog parks, play spaces and sportsgrounds, contribute to peoples’ enjoyment of ACT’s public spaces. They include:



432 urban parks



120 hectares of irrigated grassland



884 individual sportsgrounds



523 play spaces



3 public cemeteries



117 barbecues



7 dog parks



4,087 seats



635 tables



1,231 bins



2,534,210 managed shrub beds



Over **820,000** trees



86,316 linear metres of fencing

¹ Hard infrastructure such as paths, roads, public carparks and stormwater infrastructure are not covered by this Plan. These assets are managed in accordance with Roads ACT’s Strategic Asset Management Plan.

The benefits of urban open spaces include:

Improving the amenity and liveability of our city and neighbourhoods

Urban open spaces:

- improve the visual amenity of urban environments through the provision of natural landscape elements
- enable people to move within and between our neighbourhoods by providing connections to key destinations
- provide meaningful connections between people and their local environment
- Support opportunities to learn about our natural environment
- improve community wellbeing and safety
- enhance community cohesion and create a local identity, and sense of belonging.

Enabling the protection of natural features, ecological systems and cultural heritage

Urban open spaces:

- improve ecological and biodiversity outcomes through the preservation of remnant trees, native vegetation, habitat connectivity and wildlife corridors
- enable the protection and acknowledgement of cultural heritage and values on lands and waters while encouraging involvement of Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander people and culture and
- provide opportunities for engagement and collaboration with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to incorporate cultural and natural elements into the design, preservation and use of public land.

Encouraging more inclusive, active and healthy lifestyles

Urban open spaces:

- provide opportunities for formal and informal sport and recreation and inclusive spaces for social interaction, improving the physical, mental and emotional health and wellbeing of Canberrans
- provide opportunities for members of the public to participate in volunteer activities
- support children's life-long learning and development
- support healthy ageing for older adults
- encourage active living through the provision of spaces and facilities for sport, active and passive recreation and outdoor activities, such as cycling and pedestrian paths, play spaces, picnic areas, fitness equipment and equestrian trails
- support active travel.

Contributing to the economic viability of Canberra

Urban open spaces:

- encourage tourism by making the city a more attractive place to visit and providing spaces for events, attractions, sporting activities and local activations, ranging from small private functions such as weddings to large events such as multicultural festivals
- provide opportunities for physical activity and social interaction, which lead to better community physical and mental health outcomes and reduced health care costs
- create employment opportunities associated with the management, maintenance and use of urban open spaces



Commitment (1): TCCS will support the Active Travel Plan with land management practices to ensure **safe active travel** through urban open spaces and **limiting vehicular access** into urban open spaces.

Yarralumla Neighbourhood Oval

- support local businesses and services by providing pedestrian and cyclist links to key destinations such as shops, schools, public transport routes and places of employment.

Providing environmental services that enhance the liveability of urban areas

Urban open spaces:

- provide ecosystem services including microclimate modification, improved air quality through filtering air pollutants, carbon sequestration and noise attenuation
- improve stormwater quality and management through increased permeable surfaces, provision of drainage channels and opportunities for water sensitive urban design (WSUD) to mitigate the impacts of stormwater run-off. Vegetated open spaces can absorb runoff and nutrients and help to slow down and reduce the delivery of pollutants to lakes, ponds and, ultimately, the Murrumbidgee River
- mitigate climate change impacts and reduce urban heat island effects.

Purpose of the Plan

This Plan has been developed to meet the statutory requirements of a Land Management Plan under the [Planning and Development Act 2007](#)ⁱ (P&D Act) which was in force during public consultation and is

compatible with the same requirements under the [Planning Act 2023](#)ⁱⁱ.

This Plan guides the management of ACT Government’s public urban open space network, including ACT Government sportsgrounds and cemeteries. This Plan is one policy in a hierarchy of policies – legislative, strategic and operational – that together guide the provision and management of the ACT’s urban open space network (see **Figure 1**).

This Plan provides information about: how the ACT Government manages urban open space on the community’s behalf; the land types and their values; the range of facilities available in each land type; the range of activities anticipated for each land type; and the role each of us can play in shaping our public open space.

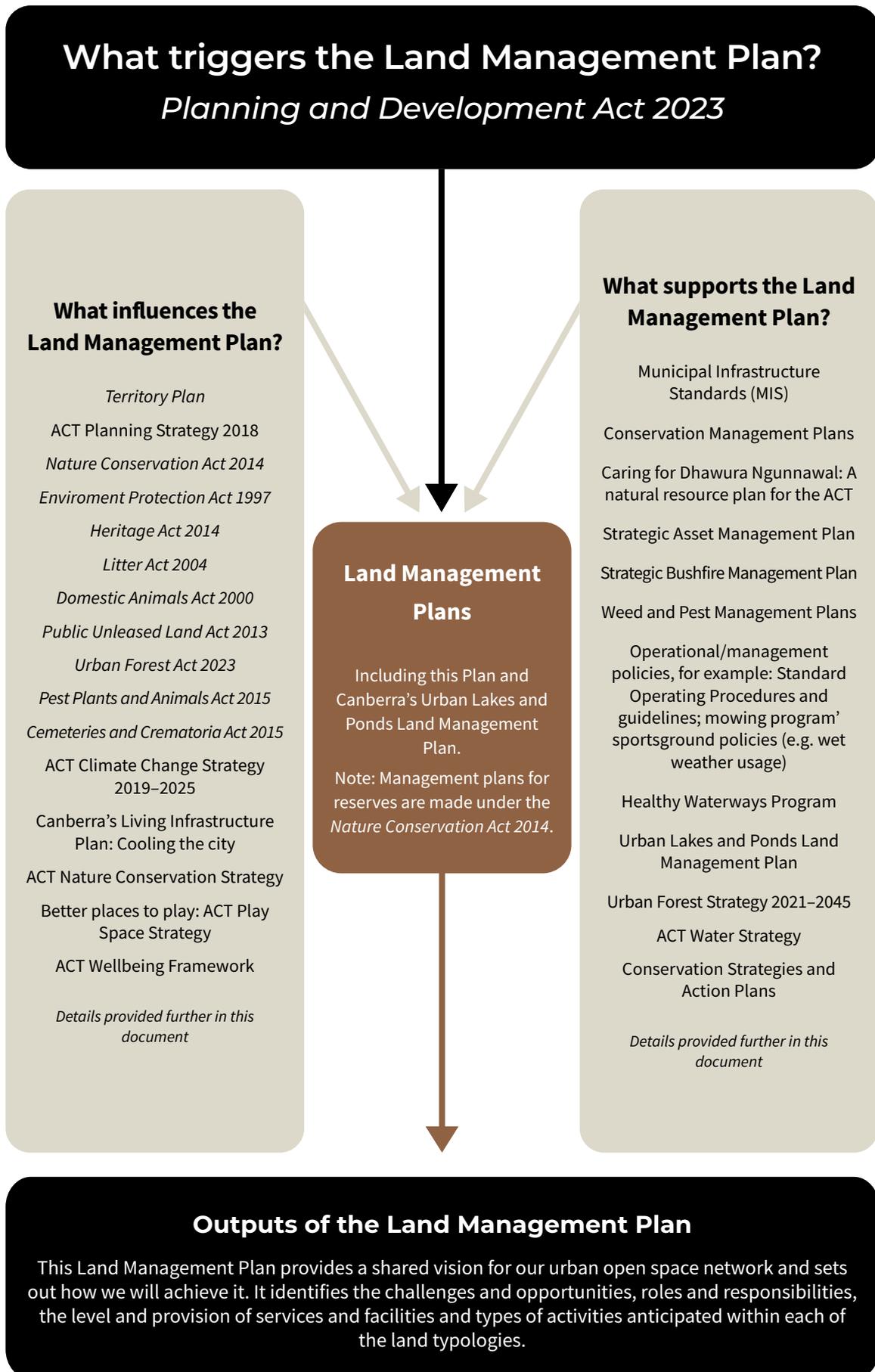
This Plan provides a shared vision for our urban open spaces and recognises the importance of these public places to the amenity, liveability, functionality and urban form of our city, and the benefits they provide to the community and the natural environment.

The strategies and investments indicated in this Plan may be subject to consideration of bids in future budget processes and, as such, the strategies and investments are indicative and may be revised in future. For example, the continuation of grants is not guaranteed and indicative investments in different types of amenities may vary from what is presented, subject to the future priorities and decisions of the ACT Government.



Orana Bay dog swimming area, Yarralumla

Figure 1: Relationship between this Land Management Plan and key legislation and policies.



Roles and responsibilities

The ACT Government adopts an open government approach that is committed to:

- **transparency** in process and information
- **participation** by citizens in the governing process
- public **collaboration** in finding solutions to problems and participation in the improved wellbeing of the community.

The TCCS Directorate, as the custodian of the subject land, is responsible for preparing, implementing and reviewing this Plan. The ACT Government recognises that we **all** have a role to play in the planning, management and maintenance of our public spaces. This Plan provides the framework for government and non-government organisations and the community to work together and to share resources, knowledge and expertise, to ensure that our public places reflect the values and needs of our community and enhance the lives of all Canberrans.

Services provided by TCCS in relation to urban open space include:

- management and maintenance of soft and hard assets such as grasses, garden beds, trees, toilets, sportsground pavilions, play spaces, barbecues and park furniture²

- water management³ (e.g. monitoring water quality of our lakes and ponds, managing activities)
- waste management (i.e. illegal dumping, littering, sharps)
- fire hazard control (i.e. fuel reduction)
- graffiti management (i.e. removal of illegal graffiti and management of legal graffiti sites)
- pest and weed control
- domestic animal management delivered by Domestic Animal Services (DAS)
- delivery of community programs including volunteer programs
- regulating land use
- engaging with, responding to, and informing the community
- maintaining sites that have been identified as having significant cultural, environmental or heritage value.

Management responsibilities

While most management responsibility for urban open space rests with City Presentation, a branch within TCCS, other TCCS and external ACT Government agencies also have a role. **Table 1** outlines the responsibilities for asset provision, maintenance and service delivery that rest with other agencies.

2 Hard infrastructure such as paths, roads, public car parks and stormwater infrastructure are not covered by this Plan. These assets are managed in accordance with Roads ACT's Strategic Asset Management Plan.

3 See Canberra's Urban Lakes and Ponds Land Management Plan

Commitment: (2) Living assets in urban green spaces will be protected by sustainable land management practices such as **pest and weed control** and horticultural crews.



City Hill Park, Canberra City

Table 1: Management responsibilities

Service or asset	Agency responsible	Notes
Provision of upgraded or new infrastructure in Urban Open Space (UOS)	Suburban Land Agency (SLA) or private developers (i.e. new infrastructure in greenfields) TCCS Infrastructure Delivery (i.e. upgraded or new infrastructure in existing urban areas)	Developments in UOS need to consider the Biodiversity Sensitive Urban Design (BSUD) Guide
Maintenance of footpaths, shared paths, paving, water access (i.e. jetties)	Roads ACT TCCS	Collaboration provided for via a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)
Lakes and ponds	Various	Refer to Canberra Urban Lakes and Ponds Land Management Plan
Environmental offsets	The ACT Parks and Conservation Service Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) is the primary land manager of offset sites within the ACT, managing over 1,850 hectares of these offsets on behalf of the ACT Government. Most of these sites are zoned as nature reserves and protected under the <i>Nature Conservation Act 2014</i> .	
Horse paddocks	ACT Parks and Conservation Service (EPSDD)	Yarralumla Equestrian Park is on land managed by City Presentation (Sport and Recreation). This facility operates under licence to the ACT Equestrian Association Inc.
ACT Public Cemeteries	ACT Public Cemeteries Authority (TCCS)	
Domestic animal management	DAS (TCCS)	
Bushfire and emergency management	Emergency Services Agency (ESA)	Land management requirements for UOS are set by ESA and implemented by the land custodian (i.e. TCCS City Presentation) The ESA also provides input in relation to features that may impact fire brigade interventions. Specifically, items that may reduce or limit access to buildings and fire safety systems.
Biosecurity	EPSDD	Biosecurity policy and responsibility rests with EPSDD with supporting role in implementation by TCCS City Presentation
Additional cleaning, maintenance and public facilities in Civic	City Renewal Authority (CRA)	

How this plan was prepared

This Plan has been prepared in consultation with TCCS land managers and other relevant ACT Government agencies.

The *Planning Act 2023* requires the land custodian to consult the:

- Conservator of Flora and Fauna
- Territory Planning Authority; and
- Environment Protection Authority.

The Act also requires the land custodian to undertake public consultation, and following a period of consultation, consider all submissions received during the consultation period and revise the Plan as appropriate.

Public consultation on this Plan occurred in May to August 2023. Consultation was also available for the National Capital Authority, key non-government stakeholder groups, the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians and any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region, and the broader Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community⁴.

Background

This Plan provides a framework for the management of ACT's public urban open space network and replaces the following land management plans, which were prepared under the *Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991*ⁱⁱⁱ:

- Woden and Weston Creek's Urban Parks and Sportsgrounds^v
- Belconnen's Urban Parks, Sportsgrounds and Lake Ginninderra^v
- Inner Canberra's Urban Parks and Sportsgrounds^{vi}
- Tuggeranong's Urban Parks and Sportsgrounds^{vii}
- Urban Open Space and Public Access Sportsgrounds in the Gungahlin Region.^{viii}

The *Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991* was repealed and the above plans of management were subsequently recognised as land management plans under the *Planning Act 2023*.

This Plan builds on the previous plans with an increased focus on our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge and culture, community, sustainability and climate change.

A separate land management plan for the ACT's urban waterbodies, the Canberra's Urban Lakes and Ponds Land Management Plan^{ix}, was finalised in 2022 and provides the framework for the management of Canberra's urban lakes, ponds and wetlands that fall within the responsibilities of the ACT Government.

Evaluation, reviewing and reporting

Section 400 of the *Planning Act 2023* requires TCCS, as the custodian of the land subject to this Plan, to report on the implementation of the plan at least every 5 years. TCCS is also required to review this Plan every 10 years from commencement or as requested by the responsible Minister. The Minister may extend the time for conducting a review.

In addition to formal reviews, and to achieve the vision and objectives set out in this land management plan, implementation of the Plan will be assessed and managed through various ongoing business activities, including:

- ongoing reviewing and assessment of progress towards meeting the land management plan's strategies
- monitoring the ACT Wellbeing Indicators to understand the impact of land management activities on whole of Territory wellbeing, such as connection to nature and levels of volunteering
- measuring customer satisfaction via community surveys
- using community feedback received through consultation and engagement processes, (e.g. YourSay at www.yoursay.act.gov.au), Access Canberra correspondence, Fix My Street requests and written correspondence, to help inform management activities, priorities and planning
- assessing achievements against TCCS responsibilities outlined in other policies and strategies
- measuring maintenance performance within the auditing of individual contracts to assess the delivery of maintenance operations against the standards detailed within each contract
- assessing achievements against performance indicators
- reporting via the TCCS Annual Report.

⁴ Traditional Custodian Engagement – Feedback and Recommendations of City Presentation activities 2022 informed drafting of the Urban Open Space Land Management Plan

PART B: Framework

Scope

This Plan covers urban public unleased land that is under the custodianship of TCCS⁵, excluding Canberra's lakes and ponds which are covered in Canberra's Urban Lakes and Ponds Land Management Plan.

This Plan applies to the following land types:

- town parks
- district parks
- neighbourhood parks
- micro parks
- community recreation parks
- sportsgrounds (i.e. district playing fields and neighbourhood ovals)
- informal use ovals (i.e. dryland ovals)
- pedestrian parklands
- laneways
- semi-natural open space
- heritage parks
- verges, nature strips and medians
- special purpose areas
- broad-scale open space
- landscaped areas around shopping centres
- public cemeteries.

For land type location details see maps at **Appendix A** or visit the ACTmapi website at <https://www.actmapi.act.gov.au/>⁶.

This Plan does not apply to National Land. Land planning and management in the ACT is the responsibility of both the Commonwealth and ACT governments. Prior to self-government in 1989, the Commonwealth managed all land in the ACT. The ACT Government now manages all land in the Territory except those areas gazetted as National Land. The division of responsibilities is determined by the *Australian Capital Territory (Planning and Land Management) Act 1988 (Cth)*^{7x}, which provides for two categories of land in the ACT:

1. **National Land** used by or on behalf of the Commonwealth and managed by the Commonwealth, including some centrally located parkland. In particular, the 'symbolic' open spaces associated with the Parliamentary Zone/War Memorial are National Land and, as such, are outside the scope of this Plan. Under the *Australian Capital Territory (Planning and Land Management) Act 1988 (Cth)* the Australian Government can identify land in the ACT which it deems to be required for Commonwealth purposes as National Land. National Land areas are administered by several Commonwealth Government agencies, including the Department of Finance, the Department of Defence, the CSIRO and the National Capital Authority (NCA).

5 This Plan does not apply to urban open space held under a lease, or Roads ACT assets which are managed in accordance with Roads ACT's Strategic Asset Management Plan. For details of land custodianship refer to the ACTmapi custodian map at <https://www.actmapi.act.gov.au/>

6 The maps at Appendix A were correct at the time they were created and are indicative only. They may include areas under a lease and are therefore not covered by this Plan. ACTmapi provides the most up-to-date data.

7 When the ACT was granted self-government, this Act established the NCA to manage the interests of the Commonwealth in Canberra, with particular focus on the planning and management of major Commonwealth assets in nationally important areas.

2. **Territory land** is all the remaining land of the ACT (i.e. land that is not declared National Land); it is managed by the ACT Government.

The NCA, which is established under the *Australian Capital Territory (Planning and Land Management) Act 1988 (Cth)*, is responsible for preparing and administering the National Capital Plan^{xi} (NCP). The purpose of the NCP is to ensure that Canberra and the Territory are planned and developed in accordance with their national significance. The NCP sets out the broad planning principles and policies for the entire ACT, and detailed conditions of planning, design and development for areas that have been identified as ‘Designated Areas’ because of their particular importance to the special character of the national capital.

Designated Areas comprise:

- Lake Burley Griffin and its foreshores
- the National Triangle and adjacent sites
- the balance of the Central National Area adjoining the lake and the Triangle, and extending from the foot of Black Mountain to the airport
- sites set aside solely for diplomatic use
- the inner hills which form the setting of the Central National Area; and
- the main avenues and approach routes between the ACT border and the Central National Area.

While the ACT Government may manage and maintain some of the public open spaces within Designated Areas, the NCA is responsible for works approval for any proposed developments in Designated Areas. There are some areas in ACT outside of the Designated Areas that are important to the National Capital but not to the extent of Designated Areas.

These areas are subject to Special Requirements which are additional to the requirements of the ACT’s Territory Plan (see section on ‘**Key legislation and policies**’ details). These may be in the form of Principles and Policies found in the NCP or in site specific Development Control Plans.

For further information about National Land, the NCA and the NCP, visit the NCA website at www.nca.gov.au and/or the ACTmapi website at www.actmapi.act.gov.au.

Areas zoned PRZ2 (Restricted Access) under the Territory Plan are not covered by this Plan, for example, Manuka Oval and Canberra Stadium (GIO Stadium Canberra), both of which have restricted access and are managed by Venues Canberra.

School grounds may include ovals and play spaces that are excluded from this Plan. These fall under the responsibility of the Education Directorate or, in the case of private schools, the administrators of the individual school. Noting that there are instances where schools utilise TCCS managed sportsgrounds under an arrangement with TCCS, and this trend is set to continue as we optimise the use of our sportsgrounds.

This Plan does not apply to non-urban public land areas. These areas are generally covered by their own plans of management prepared under the *Nature Conservation Act 2014*^{xii} by the land custodian, the EPSDD.

This Plan does not include the development phase of greenfields areas that are managed according to an approved Estate Development Plan by the SLA or private developers.

This Plan does apply to urban open space assets in completed developments once custodianship and management has been handed over to TCCS.



Challenges and opportunities

This Plan recognises the challenges and opportunities associated with the ongoing planning, management and maintenance of public open spaces.

Managers of urban open space are faced with many challenges including: the expansion of the urban open space network; the increasing demands on facilities and services as the ACT's population grows;

the finite resources available; the impacts of urban development and densification and climate change; and finding a balance between the environmental, social (including cultural and heritage) and economic considerations.

With challenges come opportunities, such as, new scientific evidence, greater community participation and the emergence of new technologies, which can lead to more efficient and effective land management tools, for example, electric mowers.



Electric mower trial at Kambah

Urban growth and changing demographics

As Canberra's population grows and there is an increase in urban densification there will be a growing demand for quality public urban open space, particularly in medium/high density development areas where access to private open space is limited. It is important that high quality public spaces are provided that are accessible, safe and meet the changing needs of the community.

Urban intensification will put a focus on the use of our green parks and spaces as we move to denser, walkable neighbourhoods. It will be important to protect existing parks, the open space network, and provide pedestrian connectivity through our neighbourhoods and to our natural reserves.

Urban development also has a significant impact on environmental processes. Human activities such as land clearing and construction can result in habitat loss and fragmentation.

Our urban forest also comes under pressure from development as trees are removed to allow for development and smaller block sizes lead to less room for trees. This, coupled with an ageing urban forest in which many of our urban trees are reaching the end of their useful life expectancy, has led to an ambitious planting program to ensure our tree canopy reaches the goal of 30 per cent canopy cover by 2045.

Partnering with non-government organisations and volunteer community groups (e.g. Landcare, Catchment and 'Friends of' groups) to deliver maintenance services not only assists in maintaining our open spaces but also provides a number of social and health benefits (See section on 'Management services' for details).



Staff from the ACT Government plant trees at the Yarralumla Dog Park

Climate change

Climate change modelling for the ACT region indicates that the ACT's future climate is likely to be characterised by warmer temperatures and changes in rainfall patterns. This will lead to a hotter, drier environment with more frequent intense storms, and more severe heatwave, drought and bushfire events^{xiii}.

Climate change will likely lead to long-term effects in Canberra's urban open spaces, such as changes in ecosystem function and the viability of flora and fauna species they support. It will also pose challenges to establishing young trees in a hotter, drier climate and the ongoing management of mature trees with more frequent and intense heatwaves and storms resulting in tree damage and/or loss. Changing conditions are likely to favour the emergence of new weed and pest species and be less favourable for some existing plant and animal species.

Maintenance and management practices will need to be responsive to the changing conditions. For instance:

- minimising the risk of bushfires – TCCS manages fuel loads through activities such as, mowing and the appropriate selection of tree and plant species in bushfire prone zones, and monitoring activities during high-fire danger periods. Future management and maintenance of urban open spaces in bushfire prone areas will need to be reviewed and adjusted to address the impacts of changing climatic conditions that heighten the risk of bushfires. For example, increased fuel loads due to periods of higher rainfalls, and dryer and hotter conditions that lead to dry soils and fuels
- reviewing mowing practices – periods of higher rainfall have resulted in fast-growing grasses in some areas and conditions that restrict mowing activities, placing increasing pressure on the mowing program
- selecting resilient plant species that can withstand periods of drought and heat
- identifying and addressing emerging weed and pest species

- planting trees and other vegetation to support biodiversity, provide shade, cool the environment, reduce stormwater runoff, mitigate wind, and sequester carbon
- manage mature trees or those at end of life to mitigate safety risks while maintaining any ecological value, in accordance with the mature native tree action plan
- responding to the impacts of increased storm events (e.g. fallen trees)
- providing permeable surfaces to absorb stormwater and reduce runoff
- reviewing the government vehicle fleet and increasing the number of zero/low greenhouse emission vehicles
- reviewing irrigated areas to reduce reliability on potable water.

Potable water is currently the primary water source for irrigating the majority of the ACT Government sportsgrounds and some of our irrigated parks. The variability of volume, affected primarily by the weather, results in significant fluctuation in demand and usage each year. Periods of drought place a greater reliance on potable water to irrigate whereas periods of increased rainfall mean less potable water is used.

Permanent water conservation measures are in place in the ACT however, further water restrictions are applied during periods of drought to help conserve the water in our dams. The ACT Government has continued to pursue and invest in a range of water efficiency measures that are aimed at reducing the required consumption of water – in particular potable water for irrigation. For example:

- sourcing non-potable water
- using drought tolerant grasses and plants
- replacing old inefficient irrigation infrastructure
- installing synthetic sports surfaces that require no water⁸ (noting that synthetic surfaces are not suitable for all sporting activities)
- trialing of a range of soil amendment products that either hold water in the soil profile for longer or minimise the need for water.

Commitment (3): TCCS will increase the proportion of electric fleet vehicles that service urban open spaces to **reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support net zero emissions by 2045.**

Commitment (4): TCCS will trial options to expand irrigation of sportsgrounds with non-potable water to **reduce reliance on treated drinking water.**

⁸ Noting that some synthetic fields need water for play and for cleaning.



Staff from the ACT Government clean up after a storm in Belconnen

Operating in an environmentally sensitive way

This Plan recognises that finding a balance between environmental, social and economic considerations can be challenging. However, TCCS is committed to constantly reviewing its management and maintenance practices to meet the needs of the community and to minimise any negative impacts they may have on the urban and natural environments.

Organic matter (e.g. grass clippings and leaf litter), chemicals (e.g. fertilisers and herbicides) and hazardous materials can have significant negative impacts on our health and wellbeing, as well as the health of our natural environment, if not appropriately managed.

Mowing

TCCS is responsible for mowing approximately 4,907 hectares of public land which includes open spaces, native grasslands, sporting fields and areas alongside arterial roads.

Maintaining grass on nature strips (also known as verges) in residential areas is the responsibility of the resident or lessee of the adjoining leased land. Further information about the types of activities that can be undertaken on nature strips and the roles and responsibilities of government and the community are outlined in the Nature Strip

Guidelines available on the City Services website at www.cityservices.act.gov.au/plan-and-build/building-works/nature-strips.

TCCS mowing practices are reviewed in response to government policy, community needs and to minimise any impacts on the environment.

Mowing provides a range of community and environmental benefits (see ‘[Management services](#)’ for details) however, grass clippings need to be managed appropriately to prevent them from entering our waterways where they contribute to higher nutrient levels which can result in algal blooms. Algal blooms not only impact on people’s enjoyment of these areas but they also reduce the water’s oxygen levels thereby impacting on the health of aquatic plants and animals.

The Canberra’s Lakes and Ponds Land Management Plan provides the following actions to mitigate the negative impacts of grass clippings on our waterways:

- cut vegetation to be removed from guttering before leaving site. No cut vegetation is to be swept or blown down a stormwater sump
- mowing will not occur within 5 metres of the high-water mark of a water body other than in specified (marked) access zones or recreation areas

Commitment: (5) Mowing programs will be informed by the Lakes and Ponds Management Plan and the Healthy Waterways program to **improve the ACT’s water quality outcomes.**

- **Isabella Ponds Monash Grassland** – mowing upslope of the bike path at this site is to be one mower width or in line with the streetlights and the down slope side of the bike path should only be mowed one mower width to enable the creation of thicker grass which can filter runoff before it enters the pond
- **Lake Ginninderra Foreshore** – mowing along the bike path to be one mower width on either side of the path to protect significant vegetation and rare plants on the east side of the path and to encourage thickening of the grass to filter runoff before it enters the lake
- **Lake Ginninderra Foreshore, Lake Tuggeranong District Park (south) grassland and Isabella Ponds Grassland** – annual mowing operation plans to be referred to the Conservator of Flora and Fauna for advice.

TCCS supports the above actions and has introduced the following additional initiatives to prevent grass clippings from entering our stormwater system and ultimately our waterways:

- explore options for improved coordination between our mowing program and the street sweeping program, noting that this can be challenging as wet weather conditions and growth rates can impact on the delivery of the mowing program
- more frequent use of blowers to blow grass clippings back onto grassed areas. Staff safety is a primary consideration when undertaking this activity as it requires staff to work from the roadside; and
- staff training to ensure that proper procedures are followed.

TCCS will continue to work with EPSDD's Healthy Waterways Program staff to improve the water quality of our lakes, ponds, streams and rivers and support Water Sensitive Urban Design principles where practicable. The Healthy Waterways Program (the Program) is an ACT Government initiative which was established to protect and improve long-term water quality in the ACT and further downstream in the Murrumbidgee River system. The Program is responsible for delivering a range of infrastructure projects (e.g. pollutant traps, wetlands, rain gardens and swales) and research projects that will contribute to improved water quality. Further information about the Program can be found at www.environment.act.gov.au.

Further information about the mowing program is published on the City Services website at www.cityservices.act.gov.au/public-land/maintenance/grass-mowing

Weed (pest plant) control

Weed control is an essential maintenance activity required to provide a safe, well-presented and sustainable city.

Broadly, weeds are plants that grow in sites where they are not wanted and include everything from amenity weeds to invasive plants. Invasive plants are introduced plants that can establish on many sites, grow quickly and spread to the point of disrupting native plant communities or ecosystems, and include pest plant species that have been declared pest plants under the *Pest Plants and Animals Act 2005* (see section on 'Key legislation and policies' for details). Under this Act, control measures must be undertaken for declared pest plant species. For a full list of declared pest plants go to the ACT Legislation website at www.legislation.act.gov.au/a/2005-21/.

Weed control is generally conducted along laneways, in urban parks and open spaces, along kerbs and gutters, in stormwater channels, along fence lines and bollards, on gravel medians, and in and around car parks and shopping centres. All activities are undertaken in accordance with TCCS' policies and procedures to ensure the safety of staff and the community, and to protect the environment.

Preventive measures such as mulching, sanitation and landscape design, and the use of pre-emergent herbicides are undertaken to suppress weed growth. A combination of weed control practices, including physical and mechanical controls, are also used. These include hand-weeding, particularly in sensitive areas such as waterways, and brush cutting. However, glyphosate-based herbicides remain the most efficient and effective way to control unwanted vegetation where other methods, such as manual removal, are not feasible or cost effective (e.g. large areas).

Glyphosate-based products are widely regarded as the most effective and safe herbicide currently available. The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA), which is the federal regulator and approver of all such chemical products, has advised that glyphosate is safe for use when used in accordance with the label instructions. TCCS continues to seek advice and guidance on the use of glyphosate from the APVMA and appropriate authorities and agencies.

Commitment: (6) Mowing and weeding programs will be referred to the Conservator of Flora and Fauna for comment to **maximise biodiversity and habitat** outcomes.

The use of herbicides near sensitive areas needs to be managed carefully to avoid any environmental damage. When spraying near wetlands and waterways including drains, only a wetland friendly glyphosate is used.

The following principles apply to the use of herbicides:

- used only where there are no other feasible options for treatment
- all herbicide use must be in accordance with the product label and workplace operating procedures
- the minimum required amount of product should be used to achieve the required results
- where relevant, work crews look to reduce the amount of glyphosate by utilising a lower rate of application than specified by the manufacturer, in keeping with an off-label permit, reducing the amount of chemical needed by up to 20 %
- the herbicide must be applied and be seen to be applied in a safe and considerate manner.

To date, tests with alternative methods for controlling weeds have proven to be relatively ineffective when compared to the use of glyphosate-based products, meaning any change to the existing approach would require a significant increase in additional resources to achieve the same outcome. However, TCCS will continue to explore alternatives to glyphosate-based products.

Further information about glyphosate can be found on the City Services website at www.cityservices.act.gov.au/trees-and-nature/weed-control.

Fertilisers

Fertilisers are used to maintain the health and amenity of planted areas and to ensure they are fit for purpose. However, if not applied appropriately, fertilisers can be washed into waterways and contribute to increased nutrient levels and poor water quality.

TCCS uses fertilisers on irrigated parks and sportsgrounds, at the time of planting trees and shrubs, and on Floriade's floral display beds.

Fertilisers are used infrequently on irrigated parks but are applied regularly on sportsgrounds to maintain a standard required for formal sporting activities.

Soil chemistry has advanced across the turf and agriculture industries enabling more specific fertilisers to be used to target particular

soil characteristics. Annual soil sampling of sportsgrounds helps to identify missing elements. Fertiliser can then be applied in a targeted way to replace missing elements and balance soil chemistry. Ensuring the right soil chemistry is important to maximise the uptake of nutrients and prevent wastage of fertilisers which would otherwise become bound up in the soil profile or be leached out.

Illegal dumping

Illegal dumping is an issue that can have a range of negative environmental, social and financial impacts. For example, dumped items can:

- Pollute our lakes, rivers and waterways through the stormwater system
- Result in wasted resources – many dumped items can be recycled or reused
- Contain hazardous waste (e.g. discarded needles, syringes, asbestos, chemicals)
- Be a traffic hazard by causing line of sight issues
- Attract vermin such as rats and cockroaches
- Negatively impact on Canberra's amenity
- Be a financial burden – removing and appropriately disposing of dumped materials costs the ACT Government and the ratepayer over \$3 million/per annum.

Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras are used to deter and detect illegal dumping and fines apply.

The community is encouraged to report illegal dumping via the ACT Government's Fix My Street website at www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au/s/fix-my-street.

Biodiversity

Our urban open spaces offer potential habitat that contributes to the rich biodiversity of the city. These spaces can have lower biodiversity value due to homogenous plantings that often consist of a single canopy species with no – or little – understorey or shrub layer, thereby limiting its habitat value.

Loss of biodiversity can also be attributed to habitat loss and fragmentation caused by human activity (e.g. urban development and introduction of pest species) as well as the impacts of climate change, for example, more frequent and intense bushfires, and changes in climatic conditions.

Commitment: (7) TCCS will identify suitable urban open space locations for **rewilding** with native species to increase biodiversity.

Rewilding (Ecological Restoration)

In the urban context ‘rewilding’ refers to the reclaiming of an area (in this instance urban open space) to undertake ecology restoration. In the broadest sense, this involves regenerating areas for the purposes of creating habitat. This includes the (re)introduction of suitable plant species (preferably Indigenous) and materials, such as rocks, logs and leaf litter, which attract and support a variety of native wildlife by providing access to food, water, shelter and space. Given the right conditions, the living and non-living components interact to form an ecosystem.

Habitat loss and fragmentation have a significant impact on our biodiversity. Unnatural fragmentation of habitats has been identified as a key threatening process to biodiversity in the ACT. Fragmented habitat often does not provide sufficient resources (i.e. shelter, water, food) or space to support the survival of a species or community. In addition, the lack of connectivity between habitats creates barriers that can isolate species and limit their movement within our urban environment, often resulting in a loss of biodiversity.

The ACT State of the Environment Report 2023^{xiv} identified 8 critically endangered species, 21 endangered species, 28 vulnerable species and 3 endangered ecological communities. These statistics highlight the need for a greater focus on revegetation programs that support our biodiversity by improving the extent and connectivity of habitats.

In 2022, the ACT Government initiated the ‘Connecting Nature Connecting People’ Project being led by the EPSDD, in partnership with TCCS and other government and community

partners. This project will deliver on a range of key government commitments across biodiversity, climate adaptation and wellbeing. The key deliverables include:

- undertaking urban habitat connectivity mapping to identify important biodiversity corridors within the urban environment – to date potential connectivity and habitat sites have been mapped (see **Figure 2**) and these will inform the selection of restoration sites
- the production of Biodiversity Sensitive Urban Design Guidelines to inform urban built form and development
- an expanded and improved community citizen science platform Canberra Nature Map to provide accurate data to build biodiversity and landscape knowledge of the ACT
- initially, the restoration of 20 identified priority urban sites that will deliver urban cooling, improved habitat connection and community amenity.

All site restoration will include co-design and incorporation of Nggunawal and any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region knowledge, community infrastructure and engagement.

Community volunteer groups will play a critical role in identifying sites, providing important data on species and threats and, in some locations, offer ongoing community stewardship and management of sites.

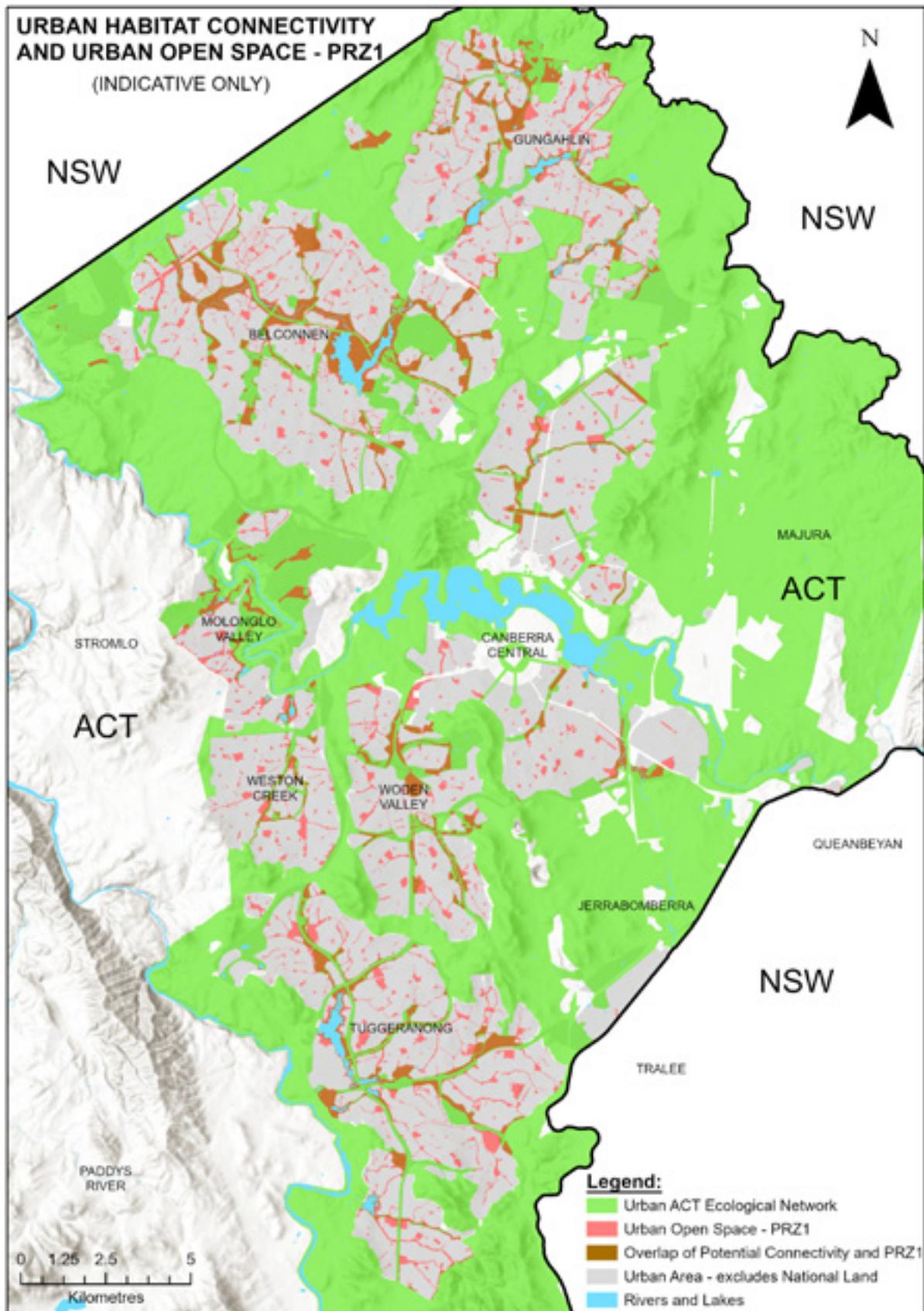
This project will also provide social benefits by improving the amenity of our urban environment and providing opportunities for people to connect with nature and each other.



Commitment: (8) TCCS will actively seek out opportunities to enhance connectivity with Green and Blue Spaces and with Canberra Nature Park.

A walking track on Black Mountain

Figure 2: Map indicates how potential connectivity and habitat sites intersect with urban open space



Investing in ecological restoration projects – a collaborative approach

ACT Government agencies as well as many of our community volunteers work on a range of habitat restoration projects within the urban area.

Greater collaboration and engagement with all stakeholders – staff within the TCCS directorate, other government agencies, volunteers and the broader community – will not only help identify and protect these sensitive areas but also help raise public awareness of the important role these areas play in supporting our native flora and fauna. Steps we can take include:

- reviewing and updating mowing policies to ensure these areas are identified and protected
- *in situ* identification, for example signage to ensure the community understands that the site is being rewilded and therefore not mown
- liaising with volunteer groups to ensure ongoing maintenance of the area (for example weed control) is undertaken
- identifying media opportunities to raise community awareness.

Circular economy

The circular economy model focuses on resource efficiency and recirculation and aims to reduce the consumption of virgin resources by extending the useful life of materials and reducing energy and water consumption^{xv}.

Land managers can contribute to the circular economy by reducing the amount of waste going to landfill, recycling/upcycling material and sourcing products made from recycled materials. For example, by:

- providing bins for recyclable materials in public spaces
- composting green waste
- upcycling tree material such as mulch and logs. Mulch can be used as landscaping material and soft fall, and tree logs can be used in nature play spaces, to provide habitats or can be made available for wood working projects (e.g. making furniture). Noting that Action 4.3.1 of the Urban Forest Strategy commits to: ‘Develop an urban wood reuse plan for trees removed from public land’.
- using bollards and outdoor furniture made from recycled plastics
- using softfall made from recycled material such as rubber



Nature play at Yerrabi Pond District Park, Gungahlin

Activating urban open spaces

In order to activate an urban open space it must have some inherent attractors (reasons to go there), for example it provides access to services, and some retainers (reasons to stay there), such as, sporting

activities, experiencing nature, markets, play spaces and civic facilities, that will keep people active, entertained and involved^{xvi}.



Canberra Show 2022

Commitment: (9) Activation of urban open spaces will be encouraged by creating socially connected opportunities and transforming visually unappealing spaces.



Kids riding around the lake at Bowen Park

Place-making

Place-making — a process, underpinned by collaboration, where local communities, businesses and other stakeholders work together to deliver rejuvenated public spaces that people love to visit, live or do business in — contributes to the activation of urban open spaces by creating places that are:

- accessible and well connected, attract people and are enjoyable to be in
- sustain local businesses and generate a sense of attachment and community.

An important part of the place-making process is to understand the place attractors and build upon existing strengths to grow a balance of attractor and retainer opportunities.

Built form, infrastructure, urban design, events, activation, arts and cultural interpretation are among the many important components of place-making, but it is people who are central to place making as people give life to a place.

Volunteering and community participation

Activating open spaces through volunteering and community-led projects, strengthens custodianship, community cohesion and the capacity of local communities to care for our urban open spaces.

Volunteering not only supports the preservation and maintenance of Canberra’s urban open spaces, but it also helps to foster a sense of belonging and ownership, brings people together, and encourages physical activity, all of which contribute to better health and wellbeing.

The Urban Parks and Places **Volunteer Program** is a partnership between ACT Government and the local community, allowing the community to get involved in contributing to the conservation, presentation, and maintenance of Canberra’s many public spaces.

There are currently around 87 Urban Parks and Places volunteer groups that make improvements to urban open spaces through the following activities:

- weed control and removal programs
- horticultural maintenance
- litter collection
- monitoring and reporting issues
- park restoration
- minor tree maintenance activities
- habitat restoration
- planting and maintaining plants
- community education and social events
- citizen science
- training and workshops
- conservation projects.

Commitment: (10) TCCS is committed to **recognising and supporting** the valuable contributions of **volunteer groups** which connects **community wellbeing** with the conservation, presentation and maintenance of our urban open spaces.



Volunteers working in City Walk, Canberra City

The **Adopt-a-Park Community Grants Program** provides opportunities for local communities to enhance the amenity and use of neighbourhood parks and places through projects such as weed control, tree planting, installing social infrastructure (e.g. street libraries, nature play elements), educational workshops and community events.

Community gardens are gaining popularity as average block sizes are becoming smaller and more people are opting to live in apartments, leaving little or no space in which to grow plants. The **Community Gardens Grants Program**, which is open to people and groups in the ACT, seeks to support a variety of garden types, not just traditional food gardens. Previous projects have included Indigenous food style gardens, micro-forests and urban gardens to improve amenity and generate community attraction. Grants can be used to fund:

- materials to build a new community garden
- materials to enhance a current garden
- equipment hire
- tools
- contractor hire.

The ACT Government's **Street art and graffiti program** supports around 30 legal graffiti sites across Canberra. For locations visit the City Services website at www.cityservices.act.gov.au/public-land/public-spaces-and-facilities/graffiti. These sites provide alternatives to unauthorised graffiti and allow artists to practice their art. The ACT Government also commissions murals, street art and legal graffiti to bring colour, tell stories and inspire the community. These initiatives can provide a number of social benefits, such as:

- help to create a vibrant, creative, and socially inclusive city
- help create unique public spaces and local identity
- cultivate a sense of belonging
- attract visitors and boost local businesses.

The community can get involved by applying for grants when available or nominating a wall to be painted. Artists can register their interest to be on the ACT Government's street art and graffiti artist list.

For more information about the volunteering, Adopt-a-Park, community gardens or graffiti programs visit www.act.gov.au.



Policy framework

The management of urban open space is governed by a range of legislative, strategic and operational policies and standards.

Statutory requirement

This Plan has been developed to meet the statutory requirements of a Land Management Plan under the Planning Act 2023 .

TCCS as the land custodian meets the statutory requirements by preparing this Plan, by identifying the area to be managed and by describing how the management objectives for the area are to be implemented or promoted (see Section C and Appendix A).

Table 2 outlines the management objectives for land typologies relevant to this Plan.

Section C expands upon the management objectives by providing further strategies to deliver the Plan.

Table 2: Schedule 3 of the *Planning Act 2023* provides the following management objectives for the land typologies that are covered in this Plan:

Land typology	Management objectives
Urban open space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide for public and community use of the area To develop the area for public and community use
Special purpose reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide for public and community use of the area for recreation and education
Sport and recreation reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide for public and community use of the area for sport and recreation
Cemetery or burial ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide for the interment or cremation of human remains and the interment of the ashes of human remains
Heritage area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To conserve natural and cultural heritage places and objects, including Aboriginal places and objects To provide for public use of the area for recreation, education and research as appropriate, and having proper regard to natural and cultural values

Key legislation and policies

The following describes the key legislation and policies that provide the framework for this Plan. For a full list and description of each policy see section ‘Other relevant policies’.

Planning Act 2023

A planning system review was completed in 2023. The new Planning Act 2023 commenced on 27 November 2023 and replaced the P&D Act.

The Planning Act 2023 is outcomes focussed – it provides a planning system that looks beyond the built form to promote wellbeing, health, recreation, employment, housing, environment and transport.

The objectives of the Planning Act 2023 are to support and enhance the ACT’s liveability and prosperity, protect its natural environment and promote the wellbeing of residents by creating an effective, efficient accessible and enabling planning system that is:

- Outcomes focused
- Promotes and facilitates the achievement of ecologically sustainable development and
- Provides a scheme for public participation.

The following matters are integral to achieving the objectives of the Planning Act 2023, including

- ACT biodiversity values
- Outcomes that contribute to the distinctive characteristics of the local area and sense of place
- the knowledge, culture and tradition of, and cultural and spiritual connections held by, the traditional custodians of the land
- planning for population growth while protecting aspects that make ACT an attractive place to live

The Urban Open Space Land Management Plan is a living document that will need to be in harmony with

and responsive to the District Strategies arising from the Planning Act 2023 and transforming Canberra for a growing population.

Globally and in the ACT, biodiversity has declined rapidly over recent decades. Key to this Plan and the district strategies is establishing and enhancing a Green and Blue Space network of ecological connectivity, as set out in the Planning Act 2023 District Plans, that will support ecological connectivity and resilience and enable wildlife movement across the landscape, including in response to climate change.

The Plan is aligned with District Strategies to plan and design with Country to plan with Ngunnawal Traditional Custodians of Country and to restore, protect and expand the Green and Blue Spaces. Although this LMP combines the previous district level LMPs into a single LMP, the activities and opportunities to improve operational land management practices will be informed by the identified Green and Blue Space network initiatives of the (currently) 9 District Strategies of the Planning Act 2023.

The ACT Planning Strategy 2018

A planning system review and reform was implemented with the introduction of the Planning Act 2023 and led to the introduction of District Strategies to complement the ACT Planning Strategy (the Strategy)^{xvii}. District Strategies are a new level of strategic planning that are being introduced to the planning system. The ACT District Strategies capture and protect the valued character and attributes of each of Canberra's nine main districts. They will focus the planning priorities from the ACT-wide Planning Strategy into more specific and targeted directions for each district, and they will guide the strategic

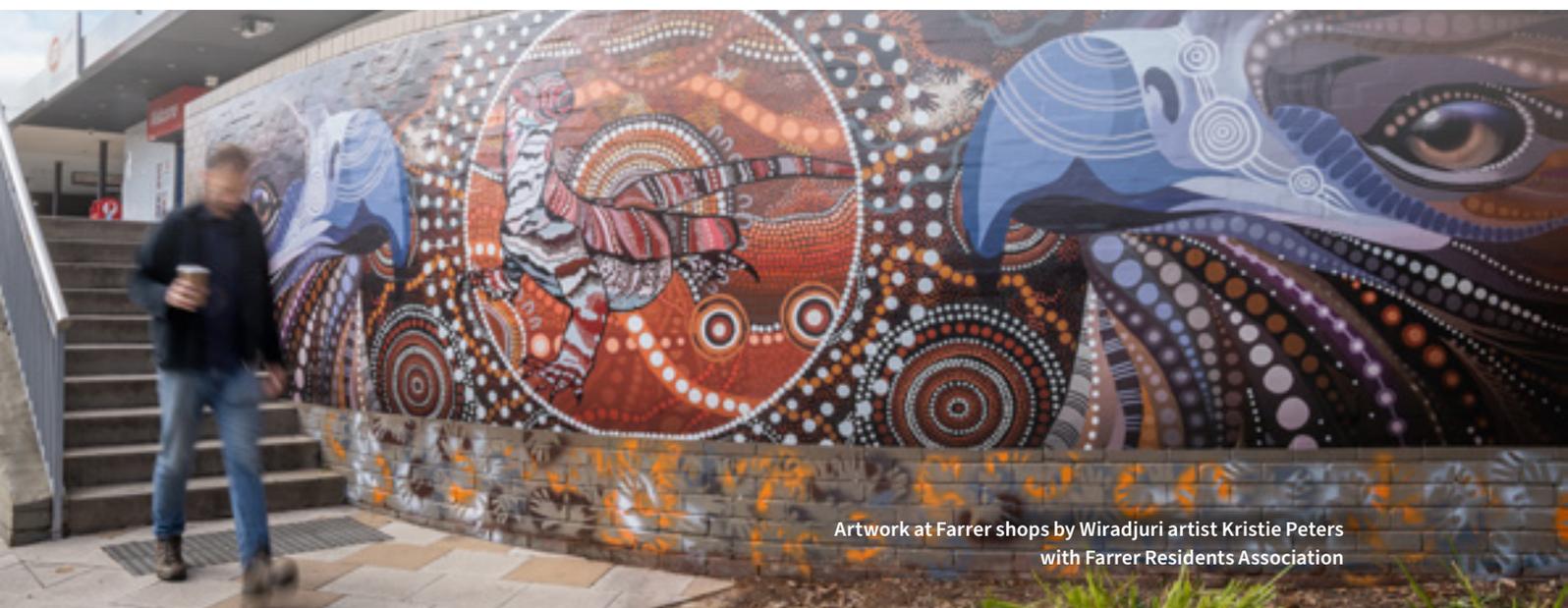
management of growth and change on a district scale in the context of green and blue spaces, good travel connections, housing, employment growth and the revitalisation of our shopping centres.

The Planning Strategy 2018 was prepared to:

‘Promote the orderly and sustainable development of the ACT, consistent with the social, environmental and economic aspirations of the people of the ACT in accordance with sound financial principles.’

The Strategy informs the future development of Canberra. It provides the broad direction and objectives for land use planning and development in the ACT that underpins the economic, social and environmental fabric of Canberra.

The Strategy outlines a strategic vision for planning in the ACT and provides the framework for a range of actions that will allow the city to respond to changes locally, regionally and globally. One of the key challenges facing our city is the impact of a growing population on our urban footprint. As Canberra's population increases so does our demand for housing, facilities, and services, putting greater pressure on our region's land supply. To address this, the Strategy promotes a compact and efficient city, to be achieved through urban densification in key locations that provide high accessibility to facilities and services. The Strategy also recognises the social, cultural, and environmental benefits of an open space network, and the need to provide accessible and quality public open space that provides for a range of activities and experiences. Particularly as more people are choosing to live in medium and higher density dwellings with



Artwork at Farrer shops by Wiradjuri artist Kristie Peters with Farrer Residents Association

limited access to private open space. Urban intensification will put a focus on the use of our green parks and spaces as we move to denser, walkable neighbourhoods. It will be important to protect existing parks, the open space network, and provide pedestrian connectivity through our neighbourhoods and to our natural reserves.

Territory Plan

The ACT's Territory Plan^{xviii} is a statutory document prepared under the *Planning Act 2023*. The objectives of the Territory Plan are:

to provide a planning and land system that, contributes to the orderly and sustainable development of the ACT, is consistent with the social, environmental, and economic aspirations of the people of the ACT, and is financially sound.

The Territory Plan must not be inconsistent with the National Capital Plan.

The Territory Plan is used to:

- manage development in the ACT, particularly how land is used and what can be built
- assess development applications
- the development of new estates and the management of public land.

The Territory Plan provides Design Guides for development proponents to achieve a positive effect on the environment. The Biodiversity Sensitive Urban Design Guide applies to future urban areas, in non-urban zones and in Urban Open Space.

The Territory Plan provides the following objectives for (PRZ1 zone) urban open space:

- provide an appropriate quality, quantity and distribution of parks and open spaces that will contribute to the recreational and social needs of the community
- establish a variety of settings that will support a range of recreational and leisure activities as well as protect flora and fauna habitats and corridors, natural and cultural features and landscape character
- allow for stormwater drainage and the protection of water quality, stream flows and stream environs in a sustainable, environmentally responsible manner and which provides opportunities for the community to interact with and interpret the natural environment

- allow for ancillary uses that support the care, management and enjoyment of these open spaces including park maintenance depots, small-scale community activity centres
- ensure that development does not unacceptably affect the landscape or scenic quality of the area, adequacy of open space for other purposes, or users, access to open space, or amenity of adjoining residents
- provide for integrated land and water planning and management
- provide safe pedestrian and cycling access to urban open space to promote active living.

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth)^{xix}

The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) is the Commonwealth Government's central piece of environmental legislation. The EPBC Act provides a legal framework to protect and manage matters of national environmental significance, which includes nationally and internationally important flora, fauna, ecological communities and heritage places. The EPBC Act helps protect threatened species and habitat through compensation for developmental impacts, including environmental offsets. Environmental offsets in the ACT establish protected areas, compensate for unavoidable significant impacts on Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) from development, support research and monitoring projects, and conserve other natural and cultural values.

Some of Canberra's urban open spaces provide for vulnerable, endangered and protected species or habitat that is of national significance identified for biodiversity conservation through the EPBC Act. (see ACTmapi at www.actmapi.act.gov.au for details)

Public Unleased Land Act 2013

The Public Unleased Land Act 2013^{xxix} (PULA) facilitates and guides the use of public unleased land within the ACT, public unleased land being unleased Territory land available for community use.

The PULA aims to protect the amenity and natural value of public unleased land. For urban open space, PULA provides a framework for the use of public space by the community, including the application of land use permits for community activities.

Nature Conservation Act 2014 and the Nature Conservation Strategy

The *Nature Conservation Act 2014*^{xxi} aims to protect, conserve and enhance the biodiversity of the ACT, including native plants and animals, their habitats and landscapes of natural significance. This Act also provides for the identification of threatened species and ecological communities, management of national parks and nature reserves, and the involvement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the conservation of the ACT's natural resources.

The Nature Conservation Strategy^{xxii} provides for a coordinated and integrated approach to nature conservation. The Strategy will help guide future management of the ACT's open spaces, rural areas, urban areas, riverine corridors and nature reserves, and guide investment of funding and resources.

Its objective for the urban landscape is to enhance a range of ecosystems that are compatible with urban development, which provide specific environmental services such as connectivity, habitat and amenity in parks, open space and streetscapes.

Caring for Dhawura Ngunnawal: A natural resource plan for the ACT

Natural Resource Management (NRM) is the integrated management of the natural resources that make up Australia's landscapes, such as land, water, soil, plants and animals. That is, the land, water and biodiversity and cultural assets. NRM takes account of human activities and natural processes to ensure they are balanced and carefully managed to deliver the best outcomes for today's needs and for future generations. NRM also considers the varied benefits provided to humans by the natural environment.

The purpose of the Caring for Dhawura Ngunnawal Plan is to provide a framework for ongoing coordination and collaboration towards a common natural resource management vision of a city where nature is valued and treated as an essential element of a prosperous and healthy society, where people are connected to and value all aspects of nature that provide critical ecosystem services essential for wellbeing.

The Caring for Dhawura Ngunnawal Plan is a non-statutory, aspirational document that creates a shared set of visions, targets, and actions that community and government can come together and work towards. Looking after our natural resources is a shared responsibility of the ACT Government, research institutions, private enterprise, non-government organisations and the community.

Implementation is underpinned by Australian Government investment through the National Landcare Program and other Commonwealth grants, ACT Government funding programs, business commitments towards sustainable management and the continued in-kind support of community volunteers.

This Land Management Plan is consistent with the desired outcomes of the Caring for Dhawura Ngunnawal Plan.

Climate Change Strategy 2019–2025

The ACT Climate Strategy outlines the steps that the community, business and government will need to take to reduce emissions by 50–60% (below 1990 levels) by 2025. The Strategy establishes a pathway for achieving net zero emissions by 2045, to increase Canberra's resilience to climate change, for example through:

- increasing community wellbeing and resilience to climate change
- introducing landscape planning requirements for multi-dwelling, mixed use and commercial developments
- supporting community efforts to incorporate climate-wise landscaping principles and sustainability outcomes in urban open spaces.

Pest Plant and Animals Act 2005

The objectives of the *Pest Plants and Animals Act 2005*^{xxiii} are to protect the ACT's land and aquatic resources from threats from pest plants and pest animals (including fish and invertebrates) and to promote a strategic approach to pest management. This Act provides for the declaration of various classes of pest plants and animals of concern. Land managers also have certain responsibilities under this Act, including the preparation of pest and weed management plans.

Plant Diseases Act 2002

The *Plant Diseases Act 2002*^{xxiv} provides measures for the control of diseases and pests in the ACT and enables the Minister to prohibit the introduction of any plant, insect, disease or pest into the ACT.

Invasive Plants Operations Plan 2020-2025

The Invasive Plants Operations Plan 2020-2025^{xxv} aims to reduce the impact of weeds on the environment, the economy, human health and amenity. It uses adaptive management and integrated invasive plant management to meet its goals and recognises that weed management is an integral component of sustainable management of the environment and natural resources.

ACT Biosecurity Strategy 2016–2026

The ACT Biosecurity Strategy 2016–2026^{xxvi} aims to manage pest and disease risks within the ACT by preventing their entry, quickly finding, containing and eradicating new entries, and effectively minimising any impacts from pests and diseases where they are unable to be eradicated.

Urban Forest Act 2023

Our urban forest is valued not only for the contribution it makes to the liveability and amenity of our city, but also for the environmental benefits it provides. Some trees are also recognised for cultural or heritage significance. For example, scarred trees exhibit scars caused by the removal of bark used as survey marks or the manufacture of shields, canoes, containers or shelters. The scars are of high cultural value as they provide a physical link to the cultural history of the area.

The ACT Legislative Assembly passed the Urban Forest Act 2023 (replacing the former Tree Protection Act 2015) to further strengthen and improve how we manage trees ^{xxvii}.

The Urban Forest Act seeks to improve tree protection on both public and private land and encourage shared care of trees by the ACT Government, industry and the community.

The key changes introduced by this Act include:

- introducing new requirements to ensure when trees are approved for removal, they are replaced through new planting. Where new planting is not possible, a financial contribution will be required which will go towards funding to support tree planting, maintenance and renewal activities.

- introduces a tree bond system to ensure trees are protected during construction work as our city continues to grow.
- expanding the ACT Tree Register which celebrates and protects our most significant trees. Trees with Aboriginal cultural heritage will be automatically nominated for assessment, and the public will be able to nominate trees for their ecological significance, in addition to their landscape, aesthetic, cultural, and scientific value; and
- improving the compliance provisions including introduction of penalties for people caught damaging a tree or breaching a tree protection plan or direction.

Urban Forest Strategy 2021–2045

The Urban Forest Strategy 2021–2045^{xxviii} recognises the many benefits trees provide including shading in summer, improved air quality, reduced water runoff, habitat for wildlife, urban amenity, and increased property values. It sets out the ACT Government’s vision for a resilient and sustainable urban forest that supports a liveable city and the natural environment. This Strategy contributes to the wellbeing of the community in a changing climate and helps to ensure that our trees and the bush capital character of Canberra are preserved into the future. It sets out the vision for a resilient and sustainable urban forest and provides actions to achieve a target of 30 per cent canopy cover across the ACT by 2045.

The strategy sets out six key objectives:

1. protect the urban forest
2. grow a resilient forest
3. balance and diversify the urban forest

Commitment: (11) TCCS remains committed to **climate change strategies** with a goal of **30% tree canopy cover by 2045** to reduce impacts of heat and improve amenity for the community in hotter drier climatic conditions.



Umbagog District Park, Belconnen

4. take an ecological approach and support biodiversity
5. develop infrastructure to support the urban forest and liveability
6. partner with the community.

ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement 2019–2028

The ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement (2019–2028)^{xxix} outlines action plans to ensure that local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples contribute where possible to all ACT Government initiatives.

TCCS’s vision for reconciliation is to acknowledge our nation’s shared histories and embraces the living cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. TCCS fosters equality in the workplace and uniting with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, businesses and organisations in all services we deliver, strengthening us all as a nation.

To contribute to the aspirations of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community within the ACT, we must endeavour to aim towards the core

and significant areas outlined in the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement in order to deliver equitable outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and nations.

For example, by listening to the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the design of ACT Government policy.

ACT Wellbeing Framework

The ACT Government is committed to making Canberra an even more liveable city where our entire community can thrive. The Wellbeing Framework^{xxx} is helping the ACT Government and community work in partnership to lift the quality of life for all Canberrans. This framework captures what is important to the ACT community regarding wellbeing and quality of life, so that this can be incorporated into government’s future decision making and policy development.

By using indicators of wellbeing and social progress alongside economic indicators, the government can form a clearer picture of the broader effects that policies such as the land management plans have on our people, businesses, places and systems.

Commitment: (12) TCCS is committed to the **reconciliation journey** with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and will consult traditional owners on Urban Open Space strategic operational plans in the spirit of **collaborative land management** outcomes.



Gubur Dhaura Heritage Park, Franklin

The indicators are informed by measures that use both subjective interpretations of quality of life based on individual preferences, needs and experiences, and external statistical data sources such as the Australian Bureau of Statistics. There are 56 indicators across 12 domains that reflect the key factors of wellbeing and quality of life. Some of these are directly relevant to the management of public urban open spaces, such as:

- **Access and connectivity:** getting around to places we value and accessing services we need
- **Environment and climate:** supporting sustainable living now and into the future
- **Governance and institutions:** having a say, being heard and working together for better outcomes
- **Identity and belonging:** creating a sense of belonging and enabling expression of identity and participation in society
- **Safety:** ensuring people feel safe and are safe
- **Social connection:** being able to interact and connect with family, friends and community.

Measuring wellbeing indicators against land management outcomes will help to evaluate the progress of the land management plan.

Better places to play: The ACT Play Space Strategy^{xxxi}

There are more than 500 publicly accessible play spaces across Canberra that are owned and managed by the ACT Government. These local, central and district play spaces provide a variety of play opportunities that enable the multiple benefits of play.

Canberra has significantly more play spaces than the national average, at 6.7 play spaces per 1,000 children under 15 compared with the Australian average of only 5.2. Most residences in Canberra are within 400 metres of a local play space.

The ACT Government recognises the critical role and value of play in enriching the lives of Canberrans and creating a healthy, connected, vibrant and sustainable Canberra. The ACT Play Space Strategy sets the direction for the future of play spaces in the ACT and provides a strategic approach to investment across the play space network. It will guide the forward planning, delivery and management of play spaces, ensuring an equitable, inclusive, diverse, safe and engaging mix of play opportunities for all ages and abilities across Canberra.

Commitment: (13) TCCS will monitor the condition of play spaces to ensure they continue to provide relevant and safe play opportunities for the community.



Tuggeranong Town Park, Lake Tuggeranong



PART C: Management of land

Urban open space typologies

Canberra is fortunate to retain a wide variety of urban open space. The urban open space hierarchy or typology reflects characteristics including size of space, level of amenity, and types of usage, from formal town parks and sporting grounds to informal natural and local neighbourhood open spaces, urban open spaces form a comprehensive network of civic spaces, green corridors, play spaces and community space.

The mix of open space typologies and the amenity provided within them changes the way the community interacts with and uses each space; however, they all contribute to meeting the recreation, sporting, play and social needs of the community.

Typical activities within urban open space include:

- adventure play
- community events
- commercial events
- markets
- festivals
- picnics and barbecues
- community gardens
- social gatherings
- recreational walking and cycling
- weddings
- formal sporting activities
- skateboarding
- nature study
- exercise at a fitness station
- equestrian activities
- dog exercise at a dog park or off leash area
- legal graffiti at a practice graffiti site.

Public land use

Where the use or activity may impact on the amenity of other users – such as weddings, markets, community events, festivals, food and beverage vendors – a land use permit, licence or hawkers permit may be required.

A **land use permit** is issued under the *Public Unleased Land Act 2013* (PULA) and allows the permit holder to use public unleased land for a permitted activity and time. Land use permits may only be issued for a period of up to three years but may be renewed subject to approval.

Licences for the use of public unleased land are granted under the *Planning Act 2023*. Licences are issued by the Territory Planning Authority with the approval of the land custodian and the Conservator of Flora and Fauna. The term of a licence for the use of unleased land can vary depending on the types of development allowed in the relevant zone under the Territory Plan.

Hawker permits are also granted under the PULA and may be issued to anyone that sells, or offers to sell, goods carried on their person or in a vehicle. A person must hold a hawker permit if trading in a location for longer than 30 minutes. Under a hawker permit a person is only permitted to trade during the day and during the hours indicated on the permit. The permit holder must remove all goods and equipment at the end of each day and if trading on multiple days must set up again the next day.

Access Canberra is responsible for issuing hawkers permits. More information about hawker permits and how to apply can be found on the Access Canberra website at www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au/s/article/hawkers-permits-tab-overview.

Further information on land use approvals is available on the City Services website at www.cityservices.act.gov.au/public-land/use.

Core values

Values relate to the measurements of quality, importance or significance. In this Plan the core values serve as the foundation of what the ACT Government aims to preserve, and in some instances, enhance. The core urban open space values are outlined in **Table 3**.

Table 3: Core Urban Open Space Values

Icon	Core value	Values associated with
	Ecological / environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting biodiversity, habitat and resources for wildlife Native plants and animals
	Visual / landscape amenity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visual amenity and aspects related to a visually appealing landscape or area
	Cultural / heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of traditional land custodians Past and present culturally significant sites Acknowledgement and preservation of areas of cultural significance
	Historic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of past European occupation or use Cultural heritage Memorials
	Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A wide range of formal and informal recreation activities which people enjoy in urban open space (e.g. sporting activities, free play, picnicking) Supporting social interaction, physical and mental health, and engagement in public life
	Sport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A wide range of formal and/or competitive outdoor facilities catering for a broad range of sporting activities
	Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Features which attract a high proportion of interstate and international visitors
	Special uses / commercial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Services that may be available to urban open space visitors for a charge and/or subject to permit
	Water management (See Canberra's Urban Lakes and Ponds Land Management Plan for further details)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waterways designed to manage urban run-off during storm events (sometimes used for recreational purposes).

Town parks

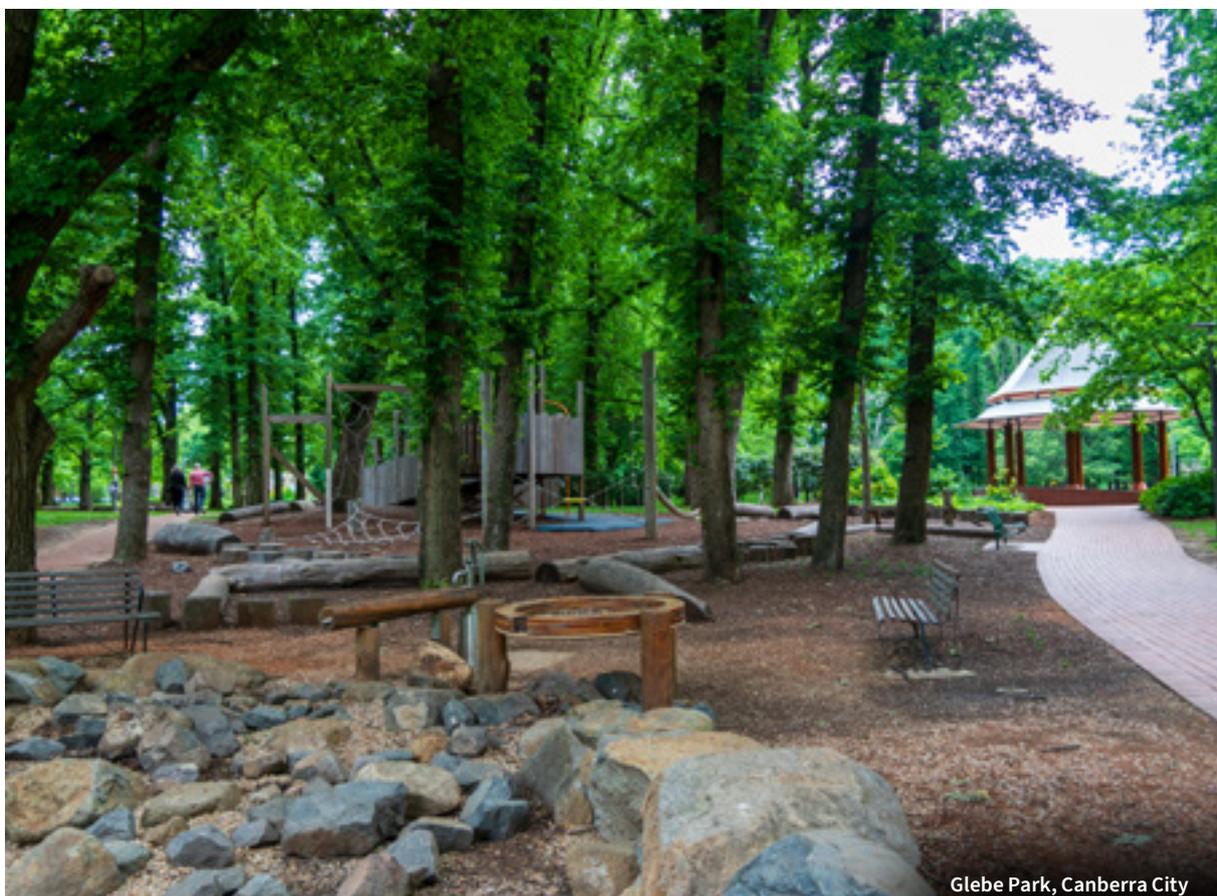
Town parks are formal parks adjacent to and serving the main town centres, primarily managed for recreation. Due to their high amenity, town parks attract visitors from the entire city and beyond and are subject to intensive use. Typically, they include trees, street furniture, irrigated grass, paving, lighting, artworks, planting beds and are regularly mowed.

Town parks may also contain amenities such as toilets, play spaces, picnic tables, pedestrian/cycle paths and wheelchair access, and can cater for special events such as concerts and festivals. These areas are managed to a high standard.

Examples of town parks include Glebe Park, Tuggeranong Town Park, Margaret Timpson Town Park and Gungahlin Linear Park.

Typical values associated with town parks are:

Icon	Value	Status
	Ecological / environmental	Low / not usually catered for
	Visual / landscape amenity	High / usually catered for
	Cultural / heritage	Low / not usually catered for
	Historic	Low / not usually catered for
	Recreation	High / usually catered for
	Sport	Low / not usually catered for
	Tourism	Moderate / sometimes catered for
	Special uses / commercial	Moderate / sometimes catered for
	Water management	Low / not usually catered for



District parks

District parks are extensive informal parks ranging in size from 4 to 10 hectares, primarily managed for recreation. They include irrigated and non-irrigated grass, amenities such as car parking and may contain toilets and lighting. A diverse range of recreation and sporting opportunities may be provided depending on the main purpose of the area. This includes facilities such as picnic areas with tables, seating, barbecues and shelters, play spaces, fitness equipment and water features allowing for swimming and other water sports.

Skate parks or other sport facilities (e.g. courts, BMX tracks) may also be available. District parks may be near water features, active travel facilities, pedestrian parkland and district sportsgrounds.

Examples of district parks include Black Mountain Peninsula, Haig Park, Telopea Park, John Knight Memorial Park, Point Hut District Park, Lennox Gardens, Weston Park, Fadden Pines District Park, Yerrabi Pond District Park and Eddison Park.

Typical values associated with district parks are:

Icon	Value	Status
	Ecological / environmental	Moderate / sometimes catered for
	Visual / landscape amenity	High / usually catered for
	Cultural / heritage	Low / not usually catered for
	Historic	Low / not usually catered for
	Recreation	High / usually catered for
	Sport	Low / not usually catered for
	Tourism	Moderate / sometimes catered for
	Special uses / commercial	Moderate / sometimes catered for
	Water management	Moderate / sometimes catered for



Telopea Park, Kingston

Neighbourhood parks (central and local)

Neighbourhood parks are small, usually 0.25 to 2 hectares in area, and reflect the character of the local landscape and neighbourhood. These parks are primarily managed for recreation and include irrigated and non-irrigated grass and play spaces. They form the primary recreational space of the surrounding neighbourhoods and suburbs. Neighbourhood parks are linked to surrounding areas by active travel routes through the street network, pedestrian parkland and laneways.

A hierarchy of neighbourhood parks exists in Canberra reflecting the varying sizes of neighbourhood parks.

- Central neighbourhood parks (usually 0.5 to 2 hectares) may be located adjacent to or surrounding a neighbourhood sportsground, informal use oval, school or shops. These parks contain an accessible area of flat space and an area for informal recreation such as ball games.
- Local neighbourhood parks (usually 0.25 to 1 hectares) provide a site for safe play by children under the supervision of adults and are an integral part of the residential neighbourhood.

These parks are typically formed during the estate planning phase to retain and protect an existing natural element on the site such as trees or geological features.

Examples of neighbourhood parks include Corroboree Park, Remembrance Park and Captain Cook Park.

The typical values for neighbourhood parks are:

Icon	Value	Status
	Ecological / environmental	Moderate / sometimes catered for
	Visual / landscape amenity	Moderate / sometimes catered for
	Cultural / heritage	Low / not usually catered for
	Historic	Low / not usually catered for
	Recreation	High / usually catered for
	Sport	Low / not usually catered for
	Tourism	Low / not usually catered for
	Special uses / commercial	Low / not usually catered for
	Water management	Low / not usually catered for

Micro parks

Micro parks are small, human-scale, intimate places of high amenity that can be permanent or temporary in nature. They are designed to create usable public space, often in urban locations such as town or local centres that have been identified as underutilised, under-realised and/or provide limited recreational opportunities. Their prime management purpose is for passive recreation and, as such, contain physical elements to support activities such as reading, eating, sitting and socialising. Micro parks are designed to provide

visual cues regarding their intended use and reflect the uniqueness of the subject site.

Key facilities include feature seating, shade and high-quality landscaping. Additional components may include interactive elements, access to Wi-Fi and power, and lighting.

An example of a micro park is the Garema Place portable micro park which was a temporary installation following a community design competition in 2017, called ‘Grounds of Garema’.

The typical values for micro parks are:

Icon	Value	Status
	Ecological / environmental	Low / not usually catered for
	Visual / landscape amenity	High / usually catered for
	Cultural / heritage	Low / not usually catered for
	Historic	Low / not usually catered for
	Recreation	High / usually catered for
	Sport	Low / not usually catered for
	Tourism	Low / not usually catered for
	Special uses / commercial	Low / not usually catered for
	Water management	Low / not usually catered for



Micro Park, Garema Place, Canberra City

Community Recreation Parks (CRPs)

CRPs are parklands with a concentrated grouping of recreational facilities that provide for a wide range of ages. Generally, CRPs include a sports space, play space and various active sports facilities such as a whole or half basketball or netball court, tennis hit-up wall, mini-skate park or cricket pitch.

Other amenities such as barbecues, table settings, seating, shelters and toilets may be located close to the sport and recreation facilities. The prime management purpose of CRPs is for recreation.

Examples of CRPs include the Crace, Franklin and Moncrieff CRPs.

The typical values for CRPs are:

Icon	Value	Status
	Ecological / environmental	Low / not usually catered for
	Visual / landscape amenity	Moderate / sometimes catered for
	Cultural / heritage	Low / not usually catered for
	Historic	Low / not usually catered for
	Recreation	High / usually catered for
	Sport	High / usually catered for
	Tourism	Low / not usually catered for
	Special uses / commercial	Low / not usually catered for
	Water management	Low / not usually catered for



Sportsgrounds

TCCS is responsible for approximately 444 hectares of sportsgrounds throughout Canberra, one of the largest portfolios of sportsgrounds that is managed by any single municipal authority in Australia. The locations of sportsgrounds are provided in a map at **Appendix A** and on the City Services website at www.cityservices.act.gov.au/public-land/public-spaces-and-facilities/sportsgrounds.

Of the 440 hectares, over 280 hectares are irrigated sportsgrounds, comprising of approximately 884 individual hireable sporting fields, 66 of which have sportsground lighting. The remainder are informal use sportsgrounds (see below). A map of irrigated sportsgrounds, which provides information about the types of activities supported at each sportsground and the facilities available, and also provides a booking option, can be viewed on the Sport and Recreation website at <https://actsportsgrounds.act.gov.au/sportsgrounds/view-map>.

This large asset base provides the Canberra community with convenient access to quality playing fields that contributes to the ACT having the highest levels of participation in sport and physical activity in the country. The sportsground facilities can accommodate a wide selection of activities and standards, ranging from internationally recognised events to recreational or social bookings.

Sportsgrounds also contribute to the amenity of ACT's urban areas, providing open space and green infrastructure.

Sportsgrounds contain fields that accommodate organised sports, such as rugby, football, hockey, athletics and cricket. Typically, they comprise irrigated playing surfaces with surrounds that may not be irrigated. Field layout and sporting options depend on markings and the size of the sportsgrounds, based on Basic Sport Units (BSU). The prime management purpose for these areas is for sport.



Line marking at Southwell Park, Lyneham

There are two categories of sportsgrounds, 'open' and 'enclosed'. Open sportsgrounds include **neighbourhood ovals, district playing fields** and **informal (dryland) use ovals**.

- **Neighbourhood ovals** provide a focus for activity in the neighbourhood. They are used for a variety of formal sporting activities and informal community activities. Facilities include toilets.

Examples of neighbourhood ovals include Watson, Hackett and Hughes.

- **District playing fields** service several suburbs and comprise of a number of playing fields (three or more BSUs), with at least one pavilion providing toilets, change rooms and seating. District playing fields can be used concurrently for senior and junior competition matches and training. Lighting is provided which allows for extended playing and training times throughout the year.

Examples of district playing fields include Harrison and Waramanga District Playing Fields.

Typical values associated with neighbourhood ovals and district playing fields are:

Icon	Value	Status
	Ecological / environmental	Low / not usually catered for
	Visual / landscape amenity	Moderate / sometimes catered for
	Cultural / heritage	Low / not usually catered for
	Historic	Low / not usually catered for
	Recreation	High/ usually catered for
	Sport	High/ usually catered for
	Tourism	Moderate / sometimes catered for (e.g. regional/ state /national / international / sporting events such as Kanga Cup)
	Special uses / commercial	Low / not usually catered for
	Water management	Low / not usually catered for



- **Informal (dryland) use ovals** are large flat areas of non-irrigated open dryland grass used for informal sports and recreation, which forms their prime management purpose. There are currently 32 informal use ovals and their categories are outlined in **Table 4**.

Current examples of informal use ovals include Chifley and Macquarie.

During the drought in the 1990s, a number of irrigated ovals were converted to dryland (non-irrigated) ovals to reduce the amount of water required to maintain sports fields.

The appearance of informal use ovals is dependent on rainfall. Like other non-irrigated open space areas, they will appear green when rainfall is sufficient but will brown off in dry times. Informal use ovals are mown on the same cycle as other suburban mowing, that is around six times per year depending on the season. The surface is also inspected periodically to ensure it is in a safe condition.

Unlike irrigated sportsgrounds, these informal ovals are not suitable for organised, formal sporting use. They don't have facilities such as pavilions, toilets, change rooms, canteen facilities or match play lighting, however they are great spaces for informal recreation and play for the local community.

Some of these ovals may act as land bank for future reinstatement as irrigated ovals to meet

an increase in demand for formal ovals to accommodate organised sporting activities. A review of these ovals will determine potential future recreational uses of these ovals, noting that any proposed changes should be consistent with the management objectives outlined in **Table 2** and that the community should be consulted on any proposed changes to the recreational use/s of an informal use oval.

Other potential uses of informal use ovals include community-led activities through grants programs such as Adopt-a-Park, which supports community groups to undertake activities such as weed and woody weed control, shrub and tree plantings; community events (e.g. fetes, markets); and nature play spaces. These ovals may also be candidate sites (entirely or in part) for re wilding initiatives, community gardens or micro forest initiatives.

The following factors need to be considered when contemplating other uses for these ovals:

- Viability of the oval as an irrigated sportsgrounds in the future
- Long-term maintenance responsibilities
- Other potential users
- Alternative uses
- Adjacent land uses; and
- Community needs.

Table 4: Informal use (dryland) ovals may be categorised as follows:

Category	Description	Considerations
Category 1	Retain suitable informal use (dryland) ovals for possible reinstatement as irrigated sportsgrounds that can accommodate formal sporting activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meets the future demand of a growing population • Oval meets a minimum size requirement, ideally 2 hectares, which would allow for a full BSU⁹ to be provided • Existing amenities (i.e. car parking, toilets, change rooms) • Opportunities for the future provision of additional facilities
Category 2	Forms part of an ACT Government School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School expresses a need • Must be adjacent to an existing school • School does not have a dedicated oval that meets the school community needs
Category 3	To be retained as an informal use (dryland) oval for other recreational uses, which may be identified through volunteer groups or members of the community or proposed by the ACT Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The factors listed on page 41 need to be considered when assessing proposals • Community consultation should form part of the decision-making process

⁹ BSU consists of a full-sized AFL/cricket oval or two full-sized combination football fields (rectangular shaped fields).

Typical values associated with informal use ovals are:

Icon	Value	Status ¹⁰
	Ecological / environmental	Low / not usually catered for
	Visual / landscape amenity	Low / not usually catered for
	Cultural / heritage	Low / not usually catered for
	Historic	Low / not usually catered for
	Recreation	High / usually catered for
	Sport	Low / not usually catered for
	Tourism	Low / not usually catered for
	Special uses / commercial	Low / not usually catered for
	Water management	Low / not usually catered for

Commitment: (14) TCCS will develop a Draft Strategy for Category 3 Informal Use (Dryland) Ovals for public consultation. The Strategy will propose a site-by-site analysis of acceptable future land use options.



Holt dryland oval, Belconnen

¹⁰ Status may change subject to redevelopment of these sites for other recreational uses (see previous text). For example, 'ecological/environmental' and 'visual/landscape amenity' may rate 'moderate' or 'high' as a result of improvements to these spaces.

Enclosed sportsgrounds are zoned PR2 -Restricted Access Recreation under the Territory Plan and are utilised only for matchplay. They are fully fenced for security and generally have a higher level of amenity including pavilions with up to four change rooms, a level of seating provision, matchplay floodlighting and canteen.

Boomanulla Oval



Boomanulla Oval is an enclosed oval located in Kyeema Street, Narrabundah. It is named after Indigenous advocate Mervin John “Boominulla” Williams and is of cultural significance to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.



The playing surface of the Oval was restored in early 2019. The venue is used by Rugby League in the winter season and is the home to the Boomanulla Raiders.



The venue has a covered grandstand that seats approximately 100 people, a toilet block, a pavilion with change rooms and a canteen. There is also a covered outdoor area that overlooks the playing surface.

Boomanulla Oval is currently managed by the ACT Government, however, the government is working with the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body to determine a model for the future management of the oval.



Typical values associated with enclosed sportsgrounds are:

Icon	Value	Status
	Ecological / environmental	Low / not usually catered for
	Visual / landscape amenity	Moderate / sometimes catered for
	Cultural / heritage	Low / not usually catered for
	Historic	Low / not usually catered for
	Recreation	Moderate / sometimes catered for
	Sport	High / usually catered for
	Tourism	Moderate / sometimes catered for
	Special uses / commercial	Low / not usually catered for
	Water management	Low / not usually catered for



Phillip Oval, Woden

All ACT Government natural turf sportsgrounds are closed for the last 14 days of each season to carry out programmed maintenance. These closures are fixed for the same 14-day periods each year (i.e. 18–31 March and 17–30 September) with some exceptions (i.e. Woden Park, Greenway and Gungahlin), which have separate shutdown periods. Synthetic grass sportsgrounds are not affected by the aforementioned closures but are still subject to cyclical maintenance activities throughout the year.

Sportsgrounds are generally available for use between 7am and sunset. Usage is extended to 9pm on sportsgrounds that have artificial lighting.

Wet weather may impact on access to sportsgrounds. During wet weather ovals may be subject to closures to prevent damage to playing surfaces.

As soon as possible after the conclusion of winter sport competitions, sport and recreation facilities field staff and contractors, undertake a major renovation program on most sportsgrounds.

For more information on sportsgrounds use and maintenance, refer to the Sport and Recreation

website at <https://actsportsgrounds.act.gov.au/information/booking-and-information>.

Pedestrian parklands

Pedestrian parklands form active travel corridors of open space serving multiple purposes within and between suburbs. Typically, they include active travel routes to link destinations with peoples’ homes and are primarily managed for recreation. Active travel routes form part of the ACT-wide system of pathways, cycleways and transport routes catering for walkers, cyclists, equestrians and other active travellers of all ages and abilities.

Pedestrian parklands may serve dual purposes where they are in natural drainage lines to provide for urban overland flow, stormwater drainage and other services or as environmental links. Pedestrian parklands may contain facilities such as seating and fitness tracks/stations and link with play spaces or other open spaces.

Examples of pedestrian parklands include Jandura Park in O’Connor, within the Sullivan’s Creek Corridor.

Typical values associated with pedestrian parklands are:

Icon	Value	Status
	Ecological / environmental	Low / not usually catered for
	Visual / landscape amenity	Moderate / sometimes catered for
	Cultural / heritage	Low / not usually catered for
	Historic	Low / not usually catered for
	Recreation	High / usually catered for
	Sport	Low / not usually catered for
	Tourism	Low / not usually catered for
	Special uses / commercial	Low / not usually catered for
	Water management	Moderate / sometimes catered for

Laneways

Similar to pedestrian parklands, laneways are narrow active travel corridors between buildings and residential properties with a lower level of amenity. They typically include active travel routes to link destinations with peoples' homes and their

prime management purpose is for access. They may serve dual purposes when located in natural drainage lines to provide for urban overland flow, stormwater drainage and other services.

Typical values associated with laneways are:

Icon	Value	Status
	Ecological / environmental	Low / not usually catered for
	Visual / landscape amenity	Low / not usually catered for
	Cultural / heritage	Low / not usually catered for
	Historic	Low / not usually catered for
	Recreation	Moderate / sometimes catered for
	Sport	Low / not usually catered for
	Tourism	Low / not usually catered for
	Special uses / commercial	Low / not usually catered for
	Water management	Moderate / sometimes catered for



Tuggeranong Town Centre

Natural open space (grassland or woodland sites)

Natural open spaces comprise of remnant native grassland or woodland sites, which are important for nature conservation purposes and contribute to Canberra’s urban landscape and wildlife habitat. Sites may contain endangered species and may be subject to action plans for their conservation prepared under the *Nature Conservation Act 2014* and/or the EPBC Act. Natural open spaces have walking tracks that are primarily used for recreational activities such as bushwalking, cycling

and horse riding. The prime management purpose of these areas is for natural habitat enhancement.

Most natural open spaces are managed by the EPSDD under the Canberra Nature Park Reserve Management Plan 2021.

Examples of natural open spaces managed by TCCS are Reservoir Hill, Lawson; Griffith Woodland; and sections of Umbagog District Park.

Typical values associated with natural open space are:

Icon	Value	Status
	Ecological / environmental	High / usually catered for
	Visual / landscape amenity	Moderate / sometimes catered for
	Cultural / heritage	Low / not usually catered for
	Historic	Low / not usually catered for
	Recreation	High / usually catered for
	Sport	Low / not usually catered for
	Tourism	Low / not usually catered for
	Special uses / commercial	Low / not usually catered for
	Water management	Low / not usually catered for



Reservoir Hill, Lawson

provides for Canberra’s bushland setting, habitat for wildlife and helps maintain biological diversity. As with natural open spaces, the primary management purpose of these areas is for environmental protection/natural habitat enhancement. These areas also have walking tracks that are used for recreational activities such as bushwalking, cycling and horse riding. Semi-natural open spaces may

provide sites for community activity by urban landcare or bushland regeneration groups. Limited facilities are provided within these areas.

Examples of semi-natural open spaces include Mount Rogers, Fisher Parkland, Narrabundah Hill and Simpson Hill.

Typical values associated with semi-natural open space are:

Icon	Value	Status
	Ecological / environmental	High / usually catered for
	Visual / landscape amenity	Moderate / sometimes catered for
	Cultural / heritage	Low / not usually catered for
	Historic	Low / not usually catered for
	Recreation	High / usually catered for
	Sport	Low / not usually catered for
	Tourism	Low / not usually catered for
	Special uses / commercial	Low / not usually catered for
	Water management	Low / not usually catered for



Heritage parks

Heritage parks are managed to conserve, protect and enhance heritage including natural and cultural values. Heritage parks may be located in any category of open space, such as neighbourhood parks, town parks and broadacre open space where the authority responsible for the recognition, registration and conservation of heritage (ACT Heritage Council) identifies heritage significance, in accordance with the Heritage Act 2004. The design and development of these spaces is undertaken in consultation with the ACT

Heritage Council and Representative Aboriginal Organisations (as appropriate). Examples of heritage parks include Quist Place in Nicholls Neighbourhood Park, Umbagog District Park, Grinding Grooves in Latham, Gubur Dhaura Heritage Park in Franklin and Girrawah Park in Ngunnawal.

Note that Aboriginal places and objects may occur throughout urban open space, not just Heritage parks. All Aboriginal places and objects are afforded automatic protection under the Heritage Act 2004.

Typical values associated with heritage parks are:

Icon	Value	Status
	Ecological / environmental	Moderate / sometimes catered for
	Visual / landscape amenity	Moderate / sometimes catered for
	Cultural / heritage	High / usually catered for
	Historic	High / usually catered for
	Recreation	Low / not usually catered for
	Sport	Low / not usually catered for
	Tourism	Low / not usually catered for
	Special uses / commercial	Low / not usually catered for
	Water management	Low / not usually catered for



Verges and medians (nature strips)

Verges and medians are the most numerous, used and visible element of Canberra’s open space network. Verges and medians are valued spaces for establishing neighbourhood character, providing active travel routes and addressing sustainability. The prime management purpose of these areas is for access. Street trees are important in establishing rhythm, shade, aesthetic appeal and forming connection to place. Street trees within these areas play a vital role in climate change mitigation and adaptation. Streets and verges may be used to maintain patches of native vegetation providing wildlife corridors between larger areas where nature conservation values are to be protected.

The nature strip (also known as the roadside verge) is public land and therefore is not part of a resident’s

lease from the ACT Government. In Canberra it is accepted practice that maintenance of nature strips, including rain gardens, is undertaken by the resident or lessee of the adjoining leased land. Street trees on the nature strip are maintained by the ACT Government. Nature strips often contain essential services infrastructure such as sewer, water and gas pipes, and telephone and power lines. Therefore, approval may be required before undertaking an activity, such as planting or landscaping, on the nature strip. For more information on undertaking activities on nature strips and the type of work requiring approval see the Your Nature Strip – Guidelines for use of residential nature strips, refer to the City Services website at <https://www.cityservices.act.gov.au/public-land/use/nature-strips>.

The typical values associated with verges and medians are:

Icon	Value	Status
	Ecological / environmental	Moderate / sometimes catered for
	Visual / landscape amenity	Moderate / sometimes catered for
	Cultural / heritage	Low / not usually catered for
	Historic	Low / not usually catered for
	Recreation	Low / not usually catered for
	Sport	Low / not usually catered for
	Tourism	Low / not usually catered for
	Special uses / commercial	Low / not usually catered for
	Water management	Moderate / sometimes catered for



Special purpose areas

Special purpose areas are open spaces (including lakes) that are dedicated for a particular specialised recreation activity or sporting event. The prime management purpose for these areas is recreation. Examples include:

- **Skateparks:** generally located at a town park, district park or CRP, providing safe, dedicated areas for skateboard riders to practice their sport.
- **Exercise parks, fitness stations and exercise trails:** generally located at town parks, district parks, CRPs, or central neighbourhood parks. They provide active recreation facilities that encourage active living. Exercise trails may also be located within pedestrian parklands, laneways and connect through verges.
- **Dog parks:** fenced areas for socialising and exercising pet dogs under owner supervision.
- **Community gardens and urban orchards:** places where people come together to grow fresh produce. These spaces support social interactions within the community, the growing and sharing of local produce, and promote active living.
- **BMX tracks:** purpose-built facilities for off-road bicycles, including tracks for BMX racing, managed under a license. These facilities are suitable for all ages, skill levels and gender, and provide for family-based fun and fitness.
- **Learn to ride centres:** purpose-built centres for young children to learn essential cycling skills. The facilities mimic the look and feel of a real road and suburban environment and are a safe cycling spaces for young cyclists and families.
- **Equestrian areas:** areas for undertaking equestrian activities, such as the 48.9 hectares Equestrian Park in Yarralumla and various pony clubs across Canberra.
- **Water skiing areas:** areas provided for water skiing.
- **Showgrounds:** areas provided for shows, such as farming shows or horse-riding competitions (e.g. EPIC showgrounds).



Belconnen Skate Park

The typical values associated with special purpose areas are:

Icon	Value	Status
	Ecological / environmental	Low / not usually catered for
	Visual / landscape amenity	Moderate / sometimes catered for
	Cultural / heritage	Low / not usually catered for
	Historic	Low / not usually catered for
	Recreation	High / usually catered for
	Sport	Moderate / sometimes catered for
	Tourism	Moderate / sometimes catered for
	Special uses / commercial	Moderate / sometimes catered for
	Water management	Low / not usually catered for



Broadacre open space

Broadacre open space is open space on the periphery of urban areas that is used for a range of purposes, including semi-rural activities (e.g. ACT Government horse paddocks) and outdoor recreation (e.g. Bicentennial National Trail), education, research and defence establishments, municipal services, technological facilities, commercial, entertainment, recreation developments and community and tourist facilities. Broadacre open spaces can be used for recreational activities such as walking, horse riding and community gardens, however limited facilities are provided.

Broadacre open space helps to maintain a clear distinction between city and countryside, providing land for non-urban uses with a predominantly rural setting on the urban fringe. Broadacre areas may also provide a land bank for future urban development.

The management purpose of broadacre open space varies and depends on factors such as the location and environmental issues associated with the land.

The typical values associated with broadacre open space are:

Icon	Value	Status
	Ecological / environmental	Low / not usually catered for
	Visual / landscape amenity	Moderate / sometimes catered for
	Cultural / heritage	Moderate / sometimes catered for
	Historic	Moderate / sometimes catered for
	Recreation	Moderate / sometimes catered for
	Sport	Low / not usually catered for
	Tourism	Moderate / sometimes catered for
	Special uses / commercial	Moderate / sometimes catered for
	Water management	Low / not usually catered for



Shopping centres

Open space associated with district, town and local shopping centres provides high quality, accessible and maintainable public spaces that support the economic function of these areas. Facilities may

include lighting, play spaces, artwork, landscaping and garden beds, rubbish bins, toilets and street furniture. Their primary management purposes are for access and recreation.

The typical values associated with shopping centre open spaces are:

Icon	Value	Status
	Ecological / environmental	Low / not usually catered for
	Visual / landscape amenity	High / usually catered for
	Cultural / heritage	Low / not usually catered for
	Historic	Low / not usually catered for
	Recreation	Moderate / sometimes catered for
	Sport	Low / not usually catered for
	Tourism	Low / not usually catered for
	Special uses / commercial	Low / not usually catered for
	Water management	Low / not usually catered for



Hackett Shops

ACT's public cemeteries

Cemeteries are memorial parks located within open space that are managed to a high standard, typically with mown lawns or grass, landscaped gardens, formed roads, parking, paved areas, vaults, and headstones. These areas provide for the burial of human remains and the interment of ashes and cater for the whole Canberra community. The typical facilities provided for cemeteries include car parking, disabled access, walking paths, seating, shelter and toilets. The primary management purpose is to provide for human burial and the interment of ashes.

Canberra's public cemeteries are administered by the Cemeteries and Crematoria Authority (the Authority). The Authority is an independent, self-

funded statutory authority established under the *Cemeteries and Crematoria Act 2020*. The functions of the Authority as the appointed operator, are to effectively and efficiently develop, build and manage public cemeteries and crematoria. The Authority reports to the ACT Government through the relevant Minister.

Examples include the Woden Cemetery, Gungahlin Cemetery, Gungahlin Crematorium, Hall Cemetery and a proposed Southern Memorial Park.

Further information about the management of the ACT's cemeteries can be found at www.canberramemorialparks.com.au.

The typical values associated with cemeteries are:

Icon	Value	Status
	Ecological / environmental	Low / not usually catered for
	Visual / landscape amenity	High / usually catered for
	Cultural / heritage	Moderate / sometimes catered for
	Historic	High / usually catered for
	Recreation	Moderate / sometimes catered for
	Sport	Low / not usually catered for
	Tourism	Low / not usually catered for
	Special uses / commercial	Low / not usually catered for
	Water management	Low / not usually catered for



Gungahlin Cemetery

Management services

This section describes the management services provided within urban open space. The services undertaken within urban open space are categorised into three categories:

1. landscape and the environment
2. community; and
3. management of land and facilities.

The level of service differs across the various types of urban open space, this is influenced by aspects such as the values, level of amenity provided and funding available. For example, district parks have a higher level of service and amenity when compared to neighbourhood parks.

Landscape and the environment

Services that relate to landscape and the environment include the management of vegetation, provision and maintenance of the landscape setting, protection and enhancement of urban catchments, environmental control of serious pest problems, and fire hazard control and bushfire fuel management.

Examples of how these services may be delivered within urban open space are:

- **Management of vegetation:** providing healthy and vigorous trees, shrubs, and appropriate ground cover (e.g. grass). Services may include pruning, mulching, mowing, irrigation and fertilising.
- **Provision and maintenance of landscape setting:** providing a clean, tidy, interesting and attractive landscape setting. Services may include litter removal, cleaning, line marking, replacement plantings and park improvements.
- **Protection and enhancement of wildlife habitat:** providing a diverse environment that encourages wildlife. Services may include weed control and monitoring, as well as sensitive species selection for replacement trees, shrubs and ground layer vegetation.
- **Protection and enhancement of urban catchments:** maintenance practices that minimise pollution of the stormwater system. Services that may be provided include monitoring pollution levels and chemical use, and the maintenance of vegetation to stabilise soil.
- **Environmental control of serious pest problems:** managing serious pest, disease and weed problems within urban open space. Services may include monitoring and control of pest animals such as rabbits or European wasps, spraying or physical removal.



- **Fire hazard control / bushfire fuel management:** controlling the fire hazard to the community and properties. Services may include monitoring and controlling vegetation in accordance with Bushfire Management Plans.
- **Mowing:** maintains the presentation of the city. Mowing also reduces the risk to suburbs if there is a bushfire by reducing fire fuel, maintains open spaces for access and recreation, increases safety by ensuring line of sight for motorists, and supports the environment by reducing weeds, creates habitat for some endangered species (e.g. Golden Sun Moth) and promotes regenerative growth of native grass species. There are instances where mowing may not be appropriate, for example in conservation areas or where and habitat restoration projects are underway, or in areas that are too steep, too rocky or the trees are too close together to allow access for the mowing fleet. Typically, an unmown buffer is left around water bodies to prevent erosion or runoff into the water.
- **Regulation of use:** focuses on avoiding the unauthorised use of urban open space (e.g. controlling vehicle access, illegal dumping, illegal graffiti and encroachments), facilitating the exclusive use of urban open space via a formal booking or approval, and monitoring/policing of urban open space by City Rangers.
- **Provision for access and movement:** ensuring easy pedestrian movements through and within urban open space, as well as providing access for fire management. Services may include mowing, pruning, cleaning paths and the maintenance of fire trails.
- **Volunteering:** providing the community with opportunities to participate in the management and maintenance of urban open space.
- **Memorials:** urban open space also provides locations for the community to acknowledge the contribution of individuals and significant events in the history and development of Canberra via memorials. Further information on memorials within urban open space and their contribution to celebrating people, events and cultural stories is detailed in the Roadside and Urban Open Space Memorial Policy available on the City Services website www.cityservices.act.gov.au/roads-and-paths/policies-reports/roadside_memorials_in_the_act.
- **Provision of opportunities for natural and cultural discovery:** providing access to urban open space for volunteer groups, acknowledgement of heritage, opportunities to study and enjoy plants and animals, and opportunities for memorial plantings and plaques. Services may include maintenance of interpretive signage and support for volunteers.
- **Provision of information:** focuses on informing the community about urban open space and activities within these spaces, for example information on permitted and prohibited activities, booking information, hire charges, and the location of assets within areas. Services may include information on the City Services website (www.cityservices.act.gov.au), via the Access Canberra helpline (13 22 81), the Sportsground Office and information provided and maintained on signage.

Community

Community services are those associated with community use of urban open space and the management activities that support it. This includes the provision of organised sporting opportunities, natural and cultural discovery, maintenance of informal recreation opportunities, regulating use of urban open space, providing for access and movement, volunteering, memorials and informing the community on aspects of urban open space.

Examples of how these services may be delivered are:

- **Provision of organised sport opportunities:** involves the provision of facilities and playing surfaces that are suitable and safe for use by designated sports. Services may include maintenance of goal posts, pavilion facilities, mowing and irrigation.
- **Provision and maintenance of informal recreation opportunities:** focuses on aspects that provide for informal recreation like walking, cycling, jogging and informal sports. Services may include mowing, path maintenance and maintenance of play equipment and seating.

Commitment: (15) TCCS will review urban open spaces in consultation with traditional owners to identify suitable locations to trial **cultural burns** to achieve beneficial **cultural and ecological outcomes**.

Management of land and facilities

The management of land and facilities covers services that support the management, planning and maintenance of urban open space. This includes management planning, customer and community involvement, asset management, litter management maintenance services and domestic animal management.

Examples of how these services may be delivered are:

- **Management planning:** includes all aspects of planning for the management of urban open space, such as this Plan and the management guidelines for specific sites, as well as facilities plans.
- **Customer and community involvement:** engaging the community in decisions related to managing urban open space and understanding customer satisfaction with the services delivered. Delivering this service involves tasks such as undertaking customer satisfaction surveys, supporting volunteers via grants and community engagement on urban open space planning, development and management matters.
- **Asset management:** focuses on delivering a system that ensures long term maintenance and protection of urban open space, and the assets within it. Delivering this service involves the preparation and implementation of asset management strategies/ plans and maintenance guidelines.
- **Litter management:** the removal of litter from urban open space areas, such as shopping centres, carparks and parks.
- **Maintenance services:** ensuring maintenance agreements and contracts provide value for money.
- **Animal management (dogs and other domestic animals):** delivered by the DAS and is informed by the *Domestic Animals Act 2000*, the ACT Cat Plan 2021–2031, the Canberra Dog Model, *Animal Welfare Act 1992* and the Animal Welfare and Management Strategy. This service includes identifying and managing the use of urban open space for recreation by domestic animals, such as dog exercise areas, dog on-leash and off-leash areas and dog prohibited areas, as well as identifying and enforcing cat containment areas to protect the local environment. Cat containment has been extended across the ACT for cats born on or after 1 July 2022. Cats born prior to 1 July 2022 are required to be contained if they live in one of the cat containment areas.

See ACTmapi (<https://www.actmapi.act.gov.au/>) for a detailed map of cat containment areas, dogs on/off leash areas and dogs prohibited areas.



Lake Tuggeranong

Land Management Principles, Objectives and Strategies

This Plan’s Principles are supported by the **Objectives** outlined in **Table 5**. The **Objectives** describe what we want to achieve, and the corresponding **Strategies** provide the framework for achieving the **Objectives**.

Table 5: Principles, Objectives and Strategies

Principles	Objectives	Strategies
Community-centric	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The community is at the centre of all decision-making processes. • Public places that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – respond to community needs – enhance the lives of residents and visitors – create a sense of community identity and belonging. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an understanding of community needs and wants through ongoing collaborative engagement. • Undertake decision-making processes that are based on community feedback. • Deliver infrastructure, services and programs that meet the needs of the community. • Create public spaces that promote people’s health and wellbeing. • Provide a responsive service to our community stakeholders, for example by improving our Information Communications Technology (ICT) systems to manage workflows and customer requests and feedback.
Accessible, inclusive and equitable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public spaces that are accessible, inclusive and equitable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide safe, equitable and convenient access within and between urban open spaces. • Provide opportunities for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds to participate in a variety of activities. • Explore opportunities to reduce regulatory barriers placed on businesses, community groups and citizens in the activation of places and the conduct of commercial and civic activity. • Manage the usage of sportsgrounds and related facilities in a manner that supports various sporting groups within the community and provides access at a reasonable cost. • Continue to support street and graffiti artists by providing legal graffiti practice sites and assisting artists to identify mural sites. • Provide cemetery facilities that meet the cultural and religious needs of the diverse Canberra community.
Open and transparent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment to transparency in process and information. • An engaged and informed community. • A government that is accountable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be open and honest in providing information to our community stakeholders. • Seek to establish positive relationships built upon mutual understanding of each other’s needs and constraints. • Provide up-to-date information to the community using a range of media, including the City Services website, to reach a broad audience. • Raise public awareness through education programs. • Develop a ACTmapi layer for open space typologies. • Explore options for providing a publicly accessible map of public amenities such as play spaces. • Provide input to annual reports. • Develop and maintain the ACT Government Sportsground Services Charter.

Principles	Objectives	Strategies
Collaborative and responsive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meaningful and genuine engagement with the community. • Responsive to all stakeholders. • All stakeholders have an opportunity to participate in decision-making processes. • The culture and knowledge of the Ngunnawal and any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region, is interwoven into the day-to-day land management activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify opportunities to engage and inform the community. • Acknowledge and support the role/s of all stakeholders – government agencies, industry, non-government organisations and the community – in the management and maintenance of our urban open spaces. • Explore alternative methods of engaging with and informing all sectors of the community. • Work collaboratively across all levels of government. • Continue to engage with all stakeholders, including the Minister, ACT Government staff, education institutions, NGOs and the community to deliver better outcomes. • Implement the TCCS Reconciliation Action Plan. • Work with the local traditional custodians, the Ngunnawal and any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region, and the wider Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to integrate traditional knowledge and land management practices into the management of our urban open spaces. • Acknowledge the contributions of the Ngunnawal and any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region, and the wider Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in our policies. • Develop a process or policy on how we recognise and acknowledge Indigenous culture within the urban landscape. • Investigate options for incorporating Ngunnawal and any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region’s language into our public spaces (i.e. interpretive signage) and policies. • Work with the local Indigenous community to determine a future management model for Boomanulla Oval. • Establish processes for assessing requests from the community for assets on public open space. This includes requests for privately funded or co-funded projects. • Consider a model/criteria for ongoing maintenance of privately funded or co-funded projects where they are not gifted assets.
Shared stewardship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognise that everyone has a role to play in the management of public spaces. • Community involvement is supported. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with volunteer groups and organisations (i.e. Landcare and Catchment Groups) to improve our urban open spaces. • Review TCCS mowing practices in consultation with TCCS staff, volunteers and EPSDD to ensure conservation areas, and areas where volunteers are undertaking planting activities, are protected (e.g. by ensuring appropriate policies and procedures are in place and providing signage or other identifying measures) while also addressing public and staff safety, infrastructure, culturally significant sites, environmental outcomes and amenity. • Provide a range of opportunities for the community to participate in volunteer programs. • Support our volunteers by providing resources and training. • Explore funding options for volunteer groups. For example, the ‘Adopt-a-Park’ community grants program.

Principles	Objectives	Strategies
Valued	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The community values public spaces and feels a sense of pride and ownership. Our public spaces are great places to visit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage greater community participation by creating destinations that promote a sense of place and belonging. Implement place-making initiatives.
Safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public spaces that are safe. Public spaces where people feel safe. The safety of our workforce is a priority. 	<p>Support safety within urban open spaces by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying and addressing hazards and threats. Installing and maintain lighting along access routes to improve visibility. Ensuring that public spaces and related facilities are maintained in a safe and fit for purpose condition. Complying with the Territory Plan's 'Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design General Code'. Ensuring staff participate in induction and Work Health and Safety (WHS) training. Ensuring Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are up-to-date. Ensuring role specific training has been undertaken and qualifications are up-to-date (e.g. chemical handling, chainsaw use, tree felling, working at heights). Preparing and implement Temporary Traffic Management Plans as required.
Quality and value for money	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban open space and associated facilities are appropriate to the level and type of use, are attractively designed and located, and comply with the applicable standards. Quality public spaces present value for money (balancing whole-of-life cost with durability and fit for purpose) for government and the community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake regular audits to ensure assets meet the required standards. Investigate water saving measures (e.g. more efficient irrigation systems, drought tolerant grasses and plants, non-potable water options). Explore opportunities for optimising capacity and usage of sportsgrounds to meet increasing demands. Undertake a review of Informal Use (Dryland) Ovals in consultation with the community to determine the most appropriate recreational uses of these spaces. Source materials, services and equipment that represent value for money. Explore options for cost recovery.

Principles	Objectives	Strategies
Sustainable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The design, management and use of urban open space is compatible with long term sustainability, to encourage biodiversity and amenity opportunity for future generations. Cultural, social, heritage and environmental values are protected and enhanced. Public spaces that are responsive to the impacts of climate change. Mitigate urban heat. Resources are used sustainably. Greenhouse gas emissions are reduced. Improved water quality in our lakes, ponds, streams and rivers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide and maintain public spaces to meet the future demands of a growing population and an expanding urban area that is undergoing densification. Ensure resources are used efficiently and effectively. Providing resilient urban open spaces that respond to the impacts of climate change (i.e. appropriate plant species selection, shade, stormwater management). Prepare and maintain management plans for areas of environmental significance (e.g. to support box gum woodland and derived native grassland). Prepare and maintain management plans for heritage listed places and objects. Identify and protect habitats and wildlife corridors. Raise community awareness by installing interpretative signage at key sites that hold significant environmental, cultural, social and/or heritage value. Work across ACT Government to identify locations within urban open spaces for biodiversity restoration projects (rewilding) as part of the ACT Government’s ‘Connecting Nature Connecting People’ initiative. Promote the sustainable use of public land by ensuring the type and level of activity is compatible and follows Biodiversity Sensitive Urban Desing. Review mowing practices to ensure that grass clippings are appropriately managed to prevent them from entering our waterways and contributing to poor water quality - consistent with the Canberra’s Lakes and Ponds Land Management Plan and EPSDD’s Healthy Waterways Program. Identify and manage pests and weeds to protect the natural environment. Minimise waste and investigate options for recycling and using recycled materials. Adopt a risk management approach to the development and management of public urban open space. Explore options for using zero/low emission vehicles. Encourage walking and cycling as an alternative to car use by creating urban open spaces that are accessible and connected. Reduce the negative impacts of chemicals and seek alternatives where feasible.
Continuous Improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strive for continuous improvement. A well-informed workforce. Decisions are evidence-based. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and deliver staff training needs. Review and evaluate current practices and procedures to ensure constant improvement and alignment with best practice and current policy. Harness opportunities to work with the scientific community. Foster citizen science. Explore and adopt new technologies, methodologies and ideologies that are evidence based. Review MIS, in particular MIS 16 Urban Open Space, to ensure consistency with this Plan and to remove repetition.

Principles	Objectives	Strategies
Compliant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance with relevant legislation and policies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness of roles and responsibilities (government and community) under relevant legislation. • Implement the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan to protect and preserve life, property and the environment. • Ensure mandatory training is undertaken and up-to-date. • Ensure SOPs and guidelines are up-to-date. • Ensure compliance with legislation. • Undertake enforcement activities to ensure public places are safe and accessible. • Ensure compliance with MIS.
Accountability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land managers are accountable and responsive. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a Strategic Asset Management Plan. • Deliver identified strategies under this Plan as well as the various ACT Government strategies, associated management plans. For example, the <i>Pest Plants and Animals Act 2005</i> and associated pest management plans and Bushfire Operational Plans (BOPs). • Maintain accurate records and improve ICT systems to collate and analyse data.

Table 6: Facilities typically found in urban open spaces

Note: In some areas of urban open space, typically those adjacent to higher density housing developments where residents’ access to private open space is limited, a higher level of amenity may be provided to meet local community needs. The locations of facilities such as dog exercise parks, skate parks, barbecues, play spaces, fitness stations, poster silos and notice boards, can be found on the City Services website at www.cityservices.act.gov.au.

Key: Level of facilities/provision

High/Always ● Moderate/Sometimes ■ Low/Rarely ▲
 Not applicable Left blank

Facility	Town park	District park	Neighbourhood park	Micro park	Community Recreation Park	Sportsground	Informal use oval	Pedestrian parklands	Laneways	Natural open space	Semi-natural open space	Heritage parks	Verges (nature strips) and medians	Special purpose area	Broad scale open space	Shopping centres	Cemeteries	
Architectural features and design elements	■	■	▲	●	■	▲		▲				■		Facilities included depend on purpose of the area		●		
Barbecues	▲	●			●	▲												
Drinking water stations	■	■	▲	■	●	■											●	
Dog exercise parks		■																
Community garden			▲													▲		
Events/ activities ¹¹	■	■	▲		▲	●	▲				▲					▲	■	
Fitness equipment	▲	■	▲		●		▲	▲										
Garden beds	●	▲	▲	●	●			▲					■ ¹²				●	●
Grassed areas – irrigated and mown for active or passive sport and recreation	●	●		■	●	●						▲						●

11 Some activities may require a permit or licence. See section on ‘Public land use’ for details..

12 See ‘Your nature strip - Guidelines for the use of residential nature strips’ (www.cityservices.act.gov.au/public-land/use/nature-strips)

Facility	Town park	District park	Neighbourhood park	Micro park	Community Recreation Park	Sportsground	Informal use oval	Pedestrian parklands	Laneways	Natural open space	Semi-natural open space	Heritage parks	Verges (nature strips) and medians	Special purpose area	Broad scale open space	Shopping centres	Cemeteries
Grassed areas – non-irrigated and unmown / mown for informal sport and recreation		●	●	■	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●		
Heritage sites	■	■	▲			▲	▲			■	■	●			■	■	■
Horse riding							▲	■	▲	■	■				■		
Lighting (includes flood lighting)	●	■	▲	■	●	●	▲	■	■	▲	▲	■	■			●	
Major sporting venue						●											
Pedestrian/ cycle paths for recreational/ community routes	●	●	■		●			●	■	■	■	■	▲		▲	●	●
Picnic tables	●	●	■	■	●			■				●				■	
Play spaces (including nature play spaces and bike trails)	■	●	●		●			▲				■			▲	▲	
Rubbish bins	●	●		■	●	■						●				●	
Seating	●	●	●	●	●	■	▲	■		▲	▲	●	■		■	●	●
Sculptures/ artwork	●	●	▲	■	■	■						■	▲			■	■
Shelters	●	●	■		●							■			■	■	
Skate park	▲	■	■		■												
Facilities included depend on purpose of the area																	

Facility	Town park	District park	Neighbourhood park	Micro park	Community Recreation Park	Sportsground	Informal use oval	Pedestrian parklands	Laneways	Natural open space	Semi-natural open space	Heritage parks	Verges (nature strips) and medians	Special purpose area	Broad scale open space	Shopping centres	Cemeteries	
Sport and recreation facilities e.g. oval, sports facility lighting, sportsground pavilion/change rooms, courts (tennis, basketball, netball), cricket pitch, disc golf, pétanque.	■	■	■		●	●	●					■		Facilities included depend on purpose of the area				
Stage	■																	
Toilets ¹³	■	▲			●	●												●
Walking tracks	■	▲						■	■	■	■					■		
Water feature e.g. fountain. For wetlands, lakes and ponds see 'Canberra Urban Lakes and Ponds Land Management Plan' at www.legislation.act.gov.au/di/2022-10/	■	■																■
Wheelchair access and/or facilities	■	▲		■	■	■										■	●	

13 Typically, the public toilets at sportsgrounds are only open for use by players/spectators associated with a sportsground booking.



Table 7: Recreation activities on public open space

A number of recreation activities are undertaken within public open space. The appropriateness of each activity varies across the different types of urban open space. The table below outlines the types of activities that are suited to each open space typology, some activities are not encouraged where there may be a conflict with other activities or a potential conflict with the management of park values.

Key: Activity level

Usually catered for ● Sometimes catered for ■ Not permitted X
 Not applicable Left blank Subject to permit 📄

Recreation activity	Town park	District park	Neighbourhood park	Micro park	Community Recreation Park	Sportsground	Informal use oval	Pedestrian parklands	Laneways	Natural open space	Semi-natural open space	Heritage parks	Verges (nature strips) and medians	Broad scale open space	Shopping centres	Cemeteries
Bootcamps/ personal training	📄	📄	📄		📄	📄	📄	📄		📄	📄	📄		📄		
Camping	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Car show	X	📄	X	X	X	X	📄	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	📄	
Children's play	■	■	■		●										■	
Circuses	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	
Community events	📄	📄	📄		📄	📄	📄			📄	📄	📄		📄	📄	~
Community gardens	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	📄	X	X	X	X	X	📄	X	
Drones (private use)	The regulation of drones in the ACT is generally the responsibility of the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA). There are a variety of rules about where drones can be used. For further information go to www.casa.gov.au or www.accessscanberra.act.gov.au . Permission from the ACT Government may be required for drone usage during approved events.															
Education/research	■	■	■					■		■	■	~		■	■	■
Exercising a dog (includes on leash/off leash exercise areas)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Filming/photoshoot	📄	📄	📄	📄	📄	📄	📄	📄	📄	📄	📄	📄	📄	📄	📄	
Horse rides/petting zoo	X	📄	📄	📄	📄	X	📄	📄	📄	📄	📄	📄	📄	📄	📄	
Ice skating rink															📄	
Jumping castles	📄	📄	📄	X	📄	X	📄	X	X	X	X	X	X	📄	X	

Recreation activity	Town park	District park	Neighbourhood park	Micro park	Community Recreation Park	Sportsground	Informal use oval	Pedestrian parklands	Laneways	Natural open space	Semi-natural open space	Heritage parks	Verges (nature strips) and medians	Broad scale open space	Shopping centres	Cemeteries
Legal graffiti	For information about locations of legal graffiti sites visit the City Services website at www.cityservices.act.gov.au/public-land/public-spaces-and-facilities/graffiti .															
Markets																
Nature study		●	●		●			●		●	●	●		■		
Outdoor dining ¹⁴																
Skateboarding	For locations of skateboarding facilities visit the City Services website at www.cityservices.act.gov.au/public-land/public-spaces-and-facilities/skateparks .															
Trail biking	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Triathlons/duathlon																
Weddings																

14 Unless prohibited under the Domestic Animals Act 2000. See ACTmap (https://www.actmap.act.gov.au/) for a detailed map of dogs on/off leash areas (including conditional) and dogs prohibited areas.

Land Management – Key Commitments

This Plan’s Principles (12), Objectives (31) and Strategies (85) are supported by the Key Commitments outlined in Table 8. The Key Commitments describe the key note implementation activities we want to achieve. These will be developed further together with the Strategies in an Implementation Plan that will guide monitoring and evaluation of the Plan.

Table 8: Key Commitments (as presented in order in the Plan)

Key Commitments
(1) TCCS will support the Active Travel Plan with land management practices to ensure safe active travel through urban open spaces and limiting vehicular access into urban open spaces.
(2) Living assets in urban green spaces will be protected by sustainable land management practices such as pest and weed control and horticultural crews.
(3) TCCS will increase the proportion of electric fleet vehicles that service urban open spaces to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support net zero emissions by 2045.
(4) TCCS will trial options to expand irrigation of sportsgrounds with non-potable water to reduce reliance on treated drinking water .
(5) Mowing programs will be informed by the Lakes and Ponds Management Plan and the Healthy Waterways program to improve the ACT’s water quality outcomes.
(6) Mowing and weeding programs will be referred to the Conservator of Flora and Fauna to maximise biodiversity and habitat outcomes.
(7) TCCS will review suitable Urban Open Space locations for rewilding with native species to increase biodiversity.
(8) TCCS will actively seek out opportunities to enhance connectivity with Green and Blue Spaces and the Canberra Nature Park.
(9) Activation of urban open spaces will be encouraged by creating socially connected opportunities and transforming visually unappealing spaces.
(10) TCCS is committed to recognising and supporting the valuable contributions of volunteer groups which connects community wellbeing with the conservation, presentation and maintenance of our urban open spaces.
(11): TCCS remains committed to climate change strategies with a goal of 30% tree canopy cover by 2045 to reduce impacts of heat and improve amenity for the community in hotter drier climate conditions.
(12): TCCS is committed to the reconciliation journey with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and will consult traditional owners on Urban Open Space strategic operational plans in the spirit of collaborative land management .
(13): TCCS will monitor the condition of play spaces to ensure the spaces continue to provide relevant and safe play opportunities for the community.
(14): TCCS will develop a Draft Strategy for Category 3 Informal Use (Dryland) Ovals for public consultation. The Strategy will propose a site-by-site analysis of acceptable future land use options.
(15): TCCS will review urban open spaces in consultation with traditional owners to identify suitable locations to trial cultural burns to achieve beneficial cultural and ecological outcomes .

Glossary of abbreviations and terms

Abbreviation	Term
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
Active living	Active living is a way of life that integrates physical activity into daily routines. (Source: <i>Territory Plan, Definitions</i>). For example, walking the dog, walking or riding a bike to school or work, and taking the stairs instead of using the lift.
Active travel	Active travel includes physical activity undertaken as a means of transport and not purely as a form of recreation. Active travel can include walking, cycling, skating, scootering, skateboarding and the use of mobility aids. Active travel also includes using any of these forms as incidental activity associated with the use of public transport. (Source: <i>ACT Planning Strategy 2018</i>)
Active travel routes	An ACT wide system of transport and recreational routes catering for walkers, cyclists and equestrians of all ages and abilities.
APVMA	Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority
Biodiversity	Biodiversity is the variety of life on Earth. This can include the diversity of genes within a species, the diversity of species within a landscape and the diversity of ecosystems across landscapes. It can also include the diversity of ecological processes, such as seed dispersal, pollination and nutrient cycling, that underpin the functioning of ecosystems ^{xxxii}
BOPs	Bushfire Operational Plans
BSU	Basic Sport Units
Carbon sequestration	Carbon sequestration is the process of removal and storage of carbon from the atmosphere in carbon sinks, for example, forests and woody plants. ^{xxxiii}
CASA	Civil Aviation Safety Authority
Cat containment	Cat containment means confining your cat to your premises 24 hours a day. This can include your house or apartment, an enclosed area in a backyard or courtyard, or a cat crate.
CCTV	Closed Circuit Television
Circular economy	A circular economy is one which aims to eliminate waste through the continual reuse of resources. ^{xxxiv}
CRA	City Renewal Authority
CRP	Community Recreation Park
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
DAS	Domestic Animal Services
Designated land	Designated Areas are those areas of the ACT that have been identified as having the special characteristics of the National Capital. Examples include Lake Burley Griffin and its foreshore, the Parliamentary Zone, the inner hills which form the landscape setting of the city Within Designated Areas the National Capital Authority has responsibility for determining detailed planning policy, and for works approval (otherwise known as development assessment).
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>
EPSDD	Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate
ESA	Emergency Services Agency
Habitat fragmentation	Occurs when one continuous habitat is reduced in area and divided into two or more fragments.
ICT	Information Communication Technologies

Abbreviation	Term
Liveability	This is a measure of city resident's quality of life and is used to benchmark cities around the world. It includes socioeconomic, environmental, transport and recreational measures. (Source: ACT Planning Strategy 2018)
Living infrastructure	Living infrastructure refers to all of the interconnected ecosystems within an urban catchment, including the 'green infrastructure' of trees, gardens, green walls and roofs, parks, reserves and open spaces, and the 'blue infrastructure' of our waterbodies including lakes, wetlands and waterways
MIS	Municipal Infrastructure Standards
MNES	Matters of National Environmental Significance
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NCA	National Capital Authority
NCP	National Capital Plan
P&D Act	<i>Planning and Development Act 2007</i>
Place-making	A multi-faceted approach to the planning, design and management of public spaces. Place-making encourages broad community and business involvement in the design, experience, place management and progressive enhancement of the public realm through engagement and participation. (Source: ACT Planning Strategy 2018)
Public unleased land	The <i>Public Unleased Land Act 2013</i> defines public unleased land as unleased territory land that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the public is entitled to use; or • is open to, or used by, the public.
PULA	<i>Public Unleased Land Act 2013</i>
RAP	Reconciliation Action Plan
Resilience	The capacity of individuals, communities, businesses and systems in a region to survive, adapt and thrive, no matter what chronic stresses and acute shocks they experience.
SLA	Suburban Land Agency
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
Sustainable	Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
Sustainable development	Development that is environmentally, socially, culturally and economically sustainable.
TCCS	Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate
Urban form	The physical characteristics that make up built-up areas, including the shape, size, density and configuration of settlements. It can be considered at different scales: from regional, to urban, neighbourhood, 'block' and street.
Urban heat island effect	The urban heat island effect is created by the built environment (such as buildings and paving) absorbing, trapping and then releasing heat. This leads to increased temperatures and prevents night-time cooling. An urban heat island is an area that heats up more than – and stays hotter than – its surrounding areas and has resulted from the introduction by humans of hard surfaces and urban development ^{xxxv} .
Urban open space	Unleased territory land within the urban area set aside for public use.
WHS	Workplace Health and Safety
WSUD	Water Sensitive Urban Design

Other relevant policies

ACT Legislation

The following can be viewed on the ACT Legislation website at www.legislation.act.gov.au

Title	Description
<i>Animal Welfare Act 1992</i>	Regulates offences such as animal cruelty. The Act has a range of enforcement powers to promote and monitor acceptable standards of care and protect domestic and wild animals from cruelty or welfare offences.
Cemeteries and Crematoria Act 2020	Outlines the management of cemeteries and crematoria within the ACT. The ACT Public Cemeteries Authority administer Canberra's public cemeteries and crematoria in accordance with the Act, providing for the diverse needs of the community.
<i>Domestic Animals Act 2000</i>	Provides for the management of domestic animals within the ACT. This includes the identification of dog exercise areas located within public open space and areas where domestic animals are prohibited.
<i>Environment Protection Act 1997</i>	The main objectives of this Act are to protect, restore and enhance the quality of the environment and prevent environmental degradation and risk to human health through preventing pollution and encouraging clean production technology, the reuse and recycling of materials and waste minimisation programs.
<i>Heritage Act 2004</i>	Guides the work of the ACT Heritage Council and ACT Heritage to recognise, protect, conserve and celebrate the unique heritage places and objects listed on the ACT Heritage Register. This includes Aboriginal, rural, historic and iconic Canberra places and objects.
<i>Litter Act 2004</i>	<p>The objectives of this Act are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and enhance the natural and built environment and amenity of the ACT, including the wellbeing of its people; and • Reduce the economic and health impact of littering and illegal dumping. <p>The Act aims to achieve these objectives by reducing and preventing littering and illegal dumping, regulating the depositing of litter, and facilitating the removal of litter from public spaces.</p>

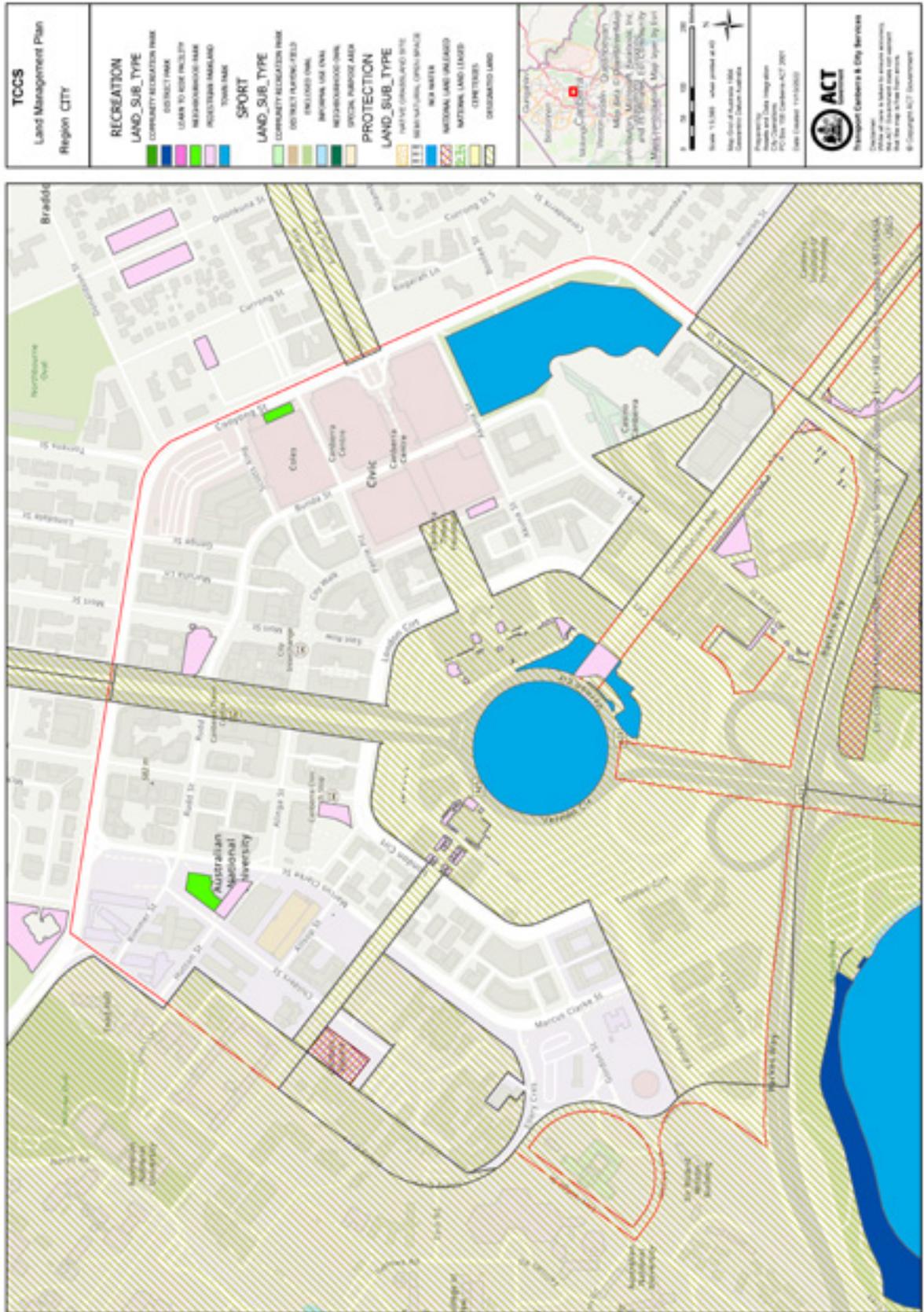
Strategic and guiding policies

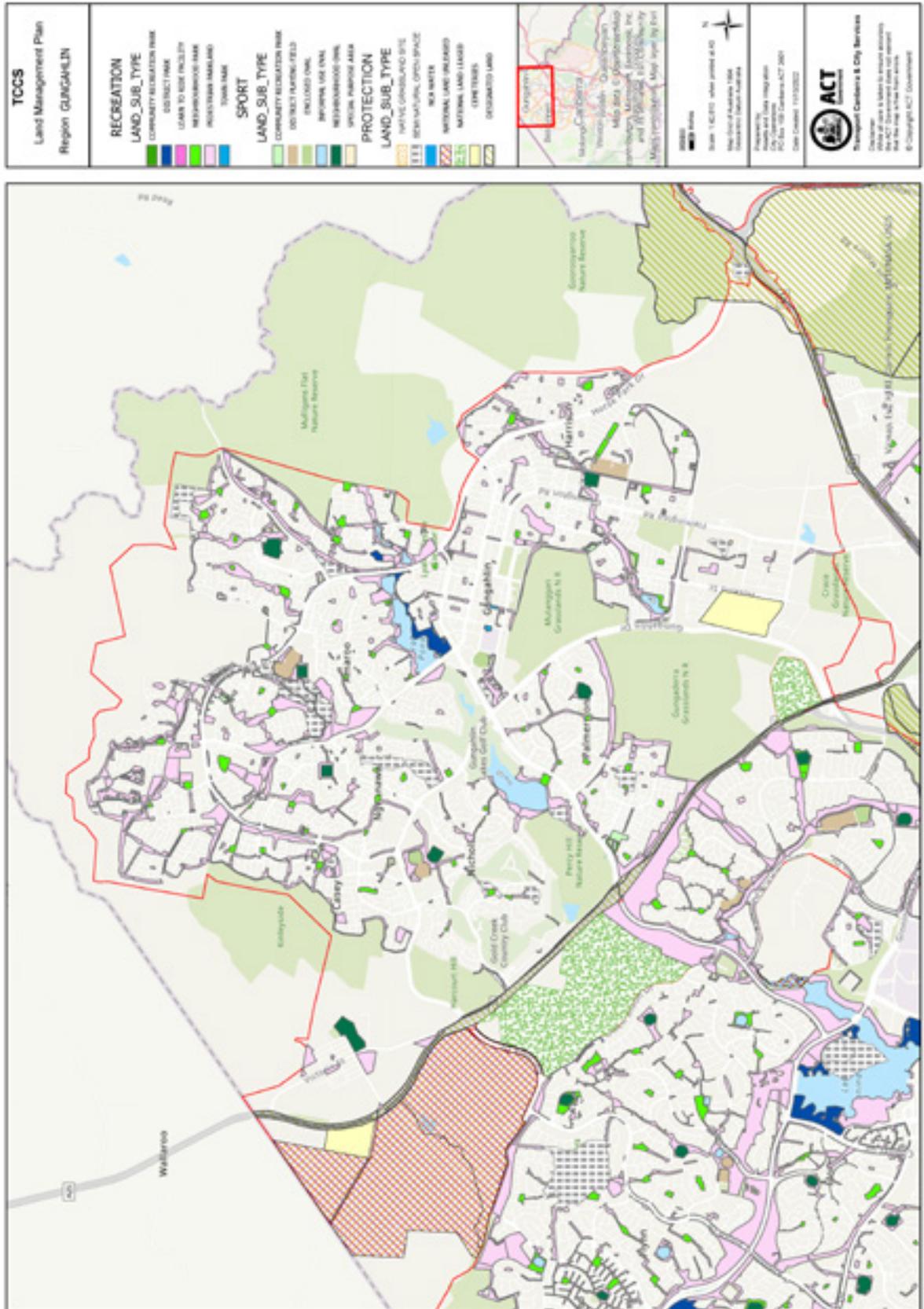
To view these ACT Government policies go to www.act.gov.au

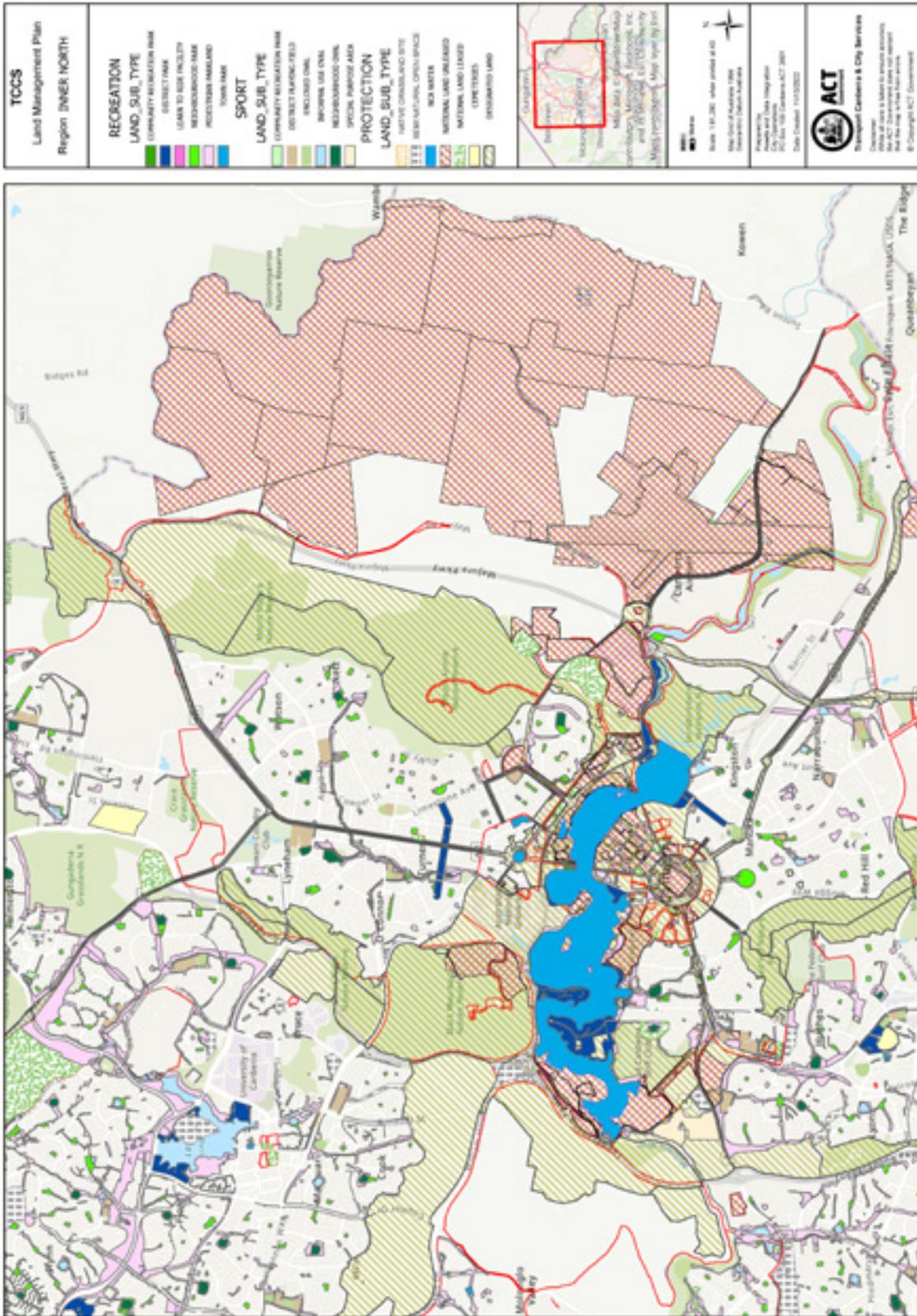
Title	Description
ACT Cat Plan 2021–2031	The purpose of the plan is to guide the management of cats – domestic and feral – in the ACT over the next decade to reduce the risk of harm to themselves and native wildlife, and address nuisance issues.
(Draft) ACT Circular Economy Strategy	<p>The ACT Government has developed a draft ACT Circular Economy Strategy that sets the vision, strategic objectives and focus areas to take the first steps to making our economy more circular.</p> <p>The circular economy is a different approach that aims to keep resources circulating in our economy for as long as possible. It aims to maximise the value of materials, creates jobs and stops waste from being produced in the first place.</p> <p>The three key principles of a circular economy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design out waste and pollution • Keep products and materials in use <p>Avoid negative impacts to the environment and regenerate natural systems.</p>
ACT Environmental Offsets Policy	<p>The ACT Environmental Offsets Policy is a requirement under the <i>Planning and Development Act 2007</i> that outlines the Government’s approach to the use of environmental offsets for Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) under the EPBC Act and for ACT protected matters (ACT listed threatened species).</p> <p>Offsets on public land have formed the majority of offsets within the ACT to date. Public land offsets have a range of governance mechanisms that ensure they are permanent, secure, subject to transparent management arrangements (through management plans) and are subject to scrutiny.</p>
Canberra’s Urban Lakes and Ponds Management Plan	<p>The plan sets the direction for managing for all urban lakes and ponds (except Lake Burley Griffin). It aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • present the framework guiding the management of Canberra’s urban waterbodies in a manner responsive to a range of environmental and community values • communicate management intentions associated with managing Canberra’s urban waterbodies • document the management vision, core values and services for Canberra’s urban waterbodies • complement other associated plans and strategies • provide performance indicators to monitor the implementation of the Plan.
CBR Next Move: Sport and Recreation Strategic Plan 2023-2028	CBR Next Move sets out the ACT Government’s vision, our strategic priorities and action areas over the next six years to ensure that all Canberrans can enjoy the benefits of moving more.
(Draft) Active Travel Plan	<p>The ACT Government developed a draft Active Travel Plan to enable more people to take up active travel. That means making it safer, more accessible, convenient and enjoyable to choose walking, cycling or micromobility – whether for commuting, exercising or socialising.</p> <p>Key priorities outlined in the plan include providing safer infrastructure, a more connected network, better end of trip facilities and diverse enabling programs to encourage people to use active travel and public transport more often.</p> <p>The plan also identifies practical actions to make active travel more visible and convenient, like delivering pop-up cycleways and walking improvements, protected bike lanes, an expansion of shared e-scooter and similar hire schemes, bike parking and repair stations.</p>

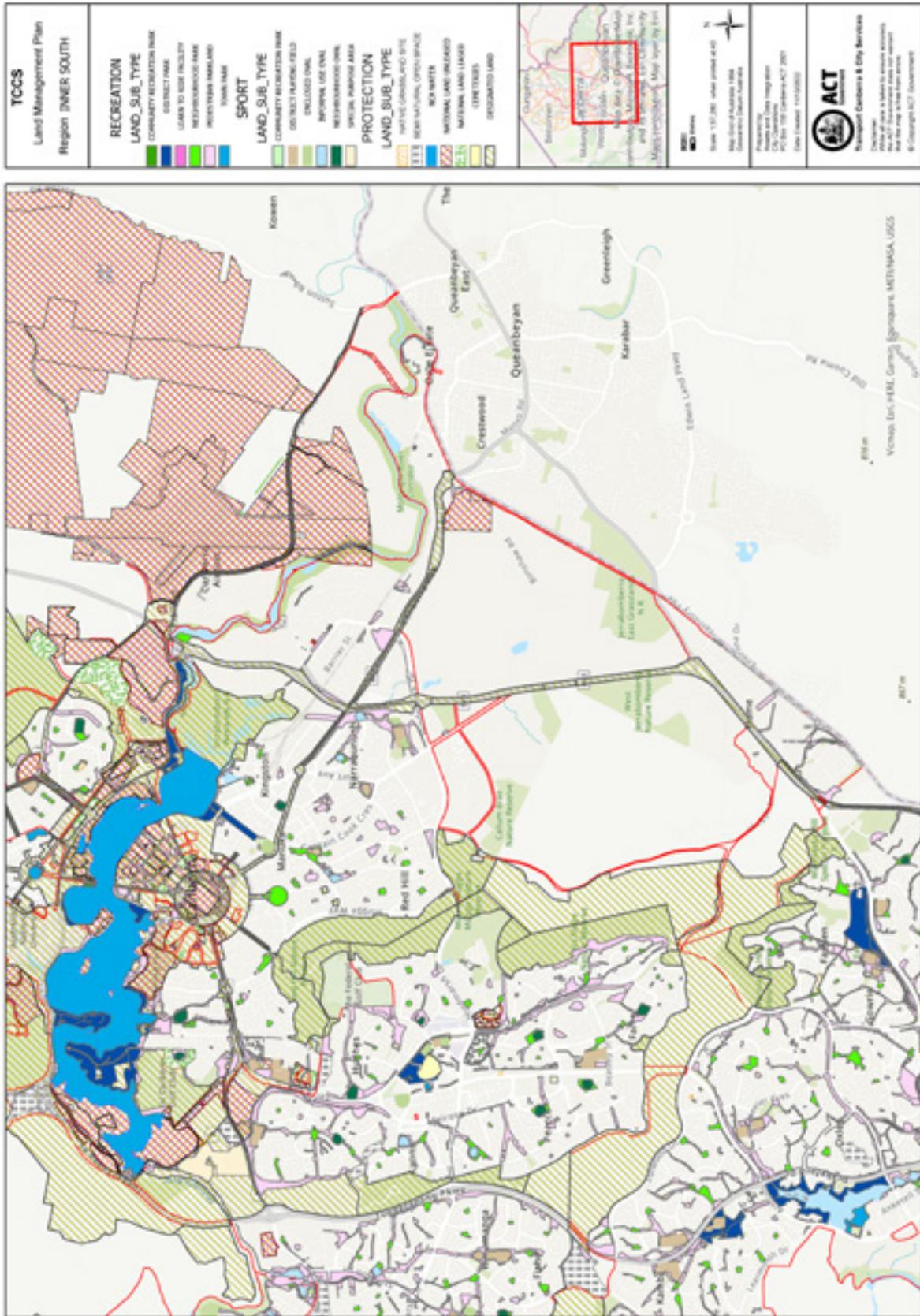
Title	Description
ACT Native Woodland Conservation Strategy and Action Plans	<p>The strategy guides the protection, restoration and adaptive management of Canberra’s woodlands over the next 10 years. Its objectives are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain and protect native woodlands • Reduce threats to native woodland biodiversity • Enhance the resilience, ecosystem function and connectivity of woodlands • Promote community participation in woodland conservation and support sustainable use of woodlands; and • Undertake effective monitoring of woodland condition, including research to fill knowledge gaps for conservation.
ACT Native Grassland Conservation Strategy	<p>The Strategy sets the framework and approach for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guiding protection, management and restoration of native grasslands, consistent with the ACT Nature Conservation Strategy. • Identifying areas of native grasslands and sites for protection and conservation management. • Providing management direction with eight action plans that target specific plants and animals dependent on native grasslands and threatened in the ACT.
ACT Pest Animal Management Strategy 2012–2022 ^{xxxvi}	<p>The Strategy sets the framework and approach for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preventing new pest animals from entering the ACT • Implementing effective measures to reduce pest animal damage • Managing native animals for damage reduction and conservation • Building public awareness and understanding of pest animal issues • Improving land managers’ capacity to undertake control programs.
ACT Transport Strategy 2020	<p>The ACT Government’s vision for transport is for a world class system that supports a compact, sustainable and vibrant city. The strategy sets out the government’s approach to achieving this vision and provides a framework for planning and investment in transport over the next 20 years. This will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convenient and connected public transport • High quality environments for walking and cycling; and • A road network that allows people to move safely and reliably around the city.
ACT Waste Management Strategy: Towards a Sustainable Canberra 2011–2025	<p>The Strategy sets a clear direction for the management of waste in the ACT towards 2025, to ensure that the ACT leads innovation to achieve full resource recovery and a carbon neutral waste sector. It encompasses wastes from household, commercial and industrial, construction and demolition sectors, as well as biomass from wood and garden waste.</p>
ACT Water Strategy 2024–2044	<p>Details the Government’s vision for water management in the ACT over the next 20 years. The strategy provides long-term strategic guidance to manage the ACT’s water resources.</p>
Animal Welfare and Management Strategy 2017–2022	<p>The Strategy seeks to take a preventative and proactive approach to animal welfare and management, including issues affecting domestic and wild animals, practising responsible pet ownership and avoiding impacts to native animals.</p>
Better Suburbs Statement 2030	<p>The Statement reflects the value the community places on the different city services provided by government. It sets a vision for Canberra in 2030 and recommends priorities for each of the 14 business areas of TCCS to work towards achieving the vision in partnership with the community. The statement acknowledges the need to balance community values and priorities with financial sustainability. The statement also provides recommendations for the role that community can play in engagement, supporting the delivery of services and improving our suburbs.</p>

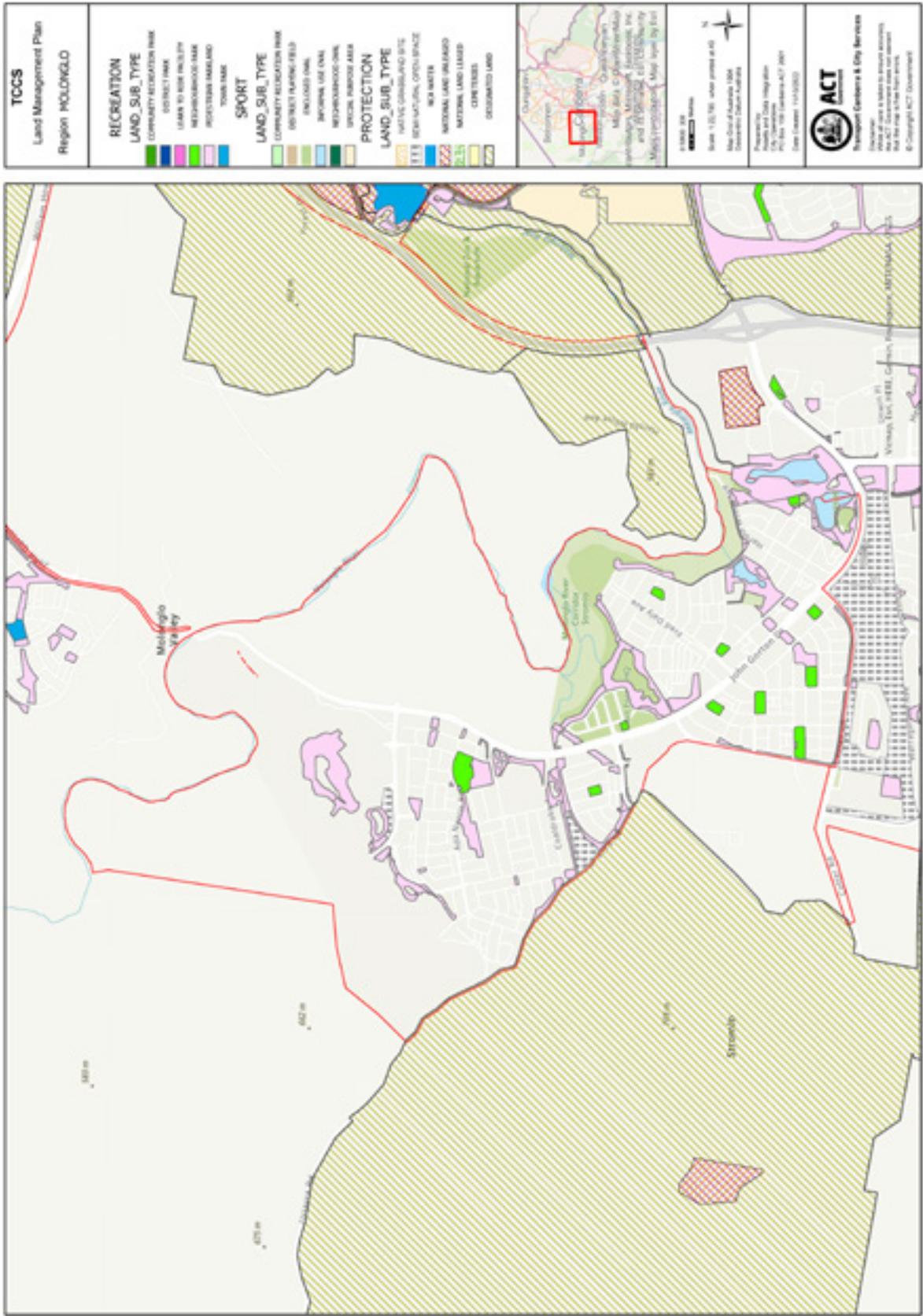
Title	Description
Canberra's Living Infrastructure Plan: Cooling the City	This Plan identifies challenges from climate change, urban growth and renewal, and the aging of the urban forest, and provides goals and actions to address these challenges, preserve living infrastructure and enhance Canberra's urban environment.
Canberra Dog Model	The Canberra Dog Model is underpinned by three key principles. These are a safe community, responsible dog ownership and animal welfare. The document provides a number of actions to support these principles.
Guide to Community Gardens in the ACT	The Guide provides the policy context for community gardens and outlines the approval process and the criteria that should be considered when assessing proposed sites for new community gardens. In most cases TCCS is responsible for issuing and managing licences for community gardens on public unleased land.
Invasive Plants Control Plan 2020–2025	This Plan is for invasive plant control on public land in the ACT. Many of the species are legally required to be controlled (pest plants). Planned control work on leased rural land is outlined in separate land management agreements, however major threats are tackled jointly.
MIS	All works undertaken on ACT Government land are owned and maintained by TCCS. The MIS documents span the broad scope of municipal infrastructure development and management in the ACT, providing guidance on design standards for urban infrastructure works based on current technologies and Australian best practice.
Roadside and Urban Open Space Memorial Policy	This policy provides guidance to TCCS staff and the community on the requirements for placing and managing memorials in urban open spaces and on roadsides in the ACT.
Strategic Bushfire Management Plan (SBMP)	<p>This Plan is prepared by ESA and recognises that both the government and the community have a role to play in the management of bushfires.</p> <p>The SBMP is a requirement of the <i>Emergencies Act 2004</i> and is the overarching document that directs all levels of bushfire planning in the ACT. Its purpose is to provide a strategic framework to protect the ACT community from bushfires and reduce resulting harm to the physical, social, cultural and economic environment of the Territory.</p> <p>Bushfire management and operational plans are made under the SBMP, these plans are the primary responsibility of Parks and Conservation Service, EPSDD.</p>
TCCS Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) 2019 –22	The RAP will result in real outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and includes a range of employment strategies, building partnerships with Indigenous businesses and continued to strengthen our relationship with genuine respect for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.
TCCS Volunteer Handbook	Provides information and guidance in relation to TCCS Volunteer Programs, in line with the Australian National Standards for Volunteering. The volunteer programs aim to ensure that ACT's urban parks, facilities and municipal services are appreciated, protected and championed by the community.
Your Nature Strip – guidelines for use of residential nature strips	This document provides information about the types of activities that can be undertaken on the nature strip (with or without approval) as well as those activities that are prohibited, and outlines roles and responsibilities.

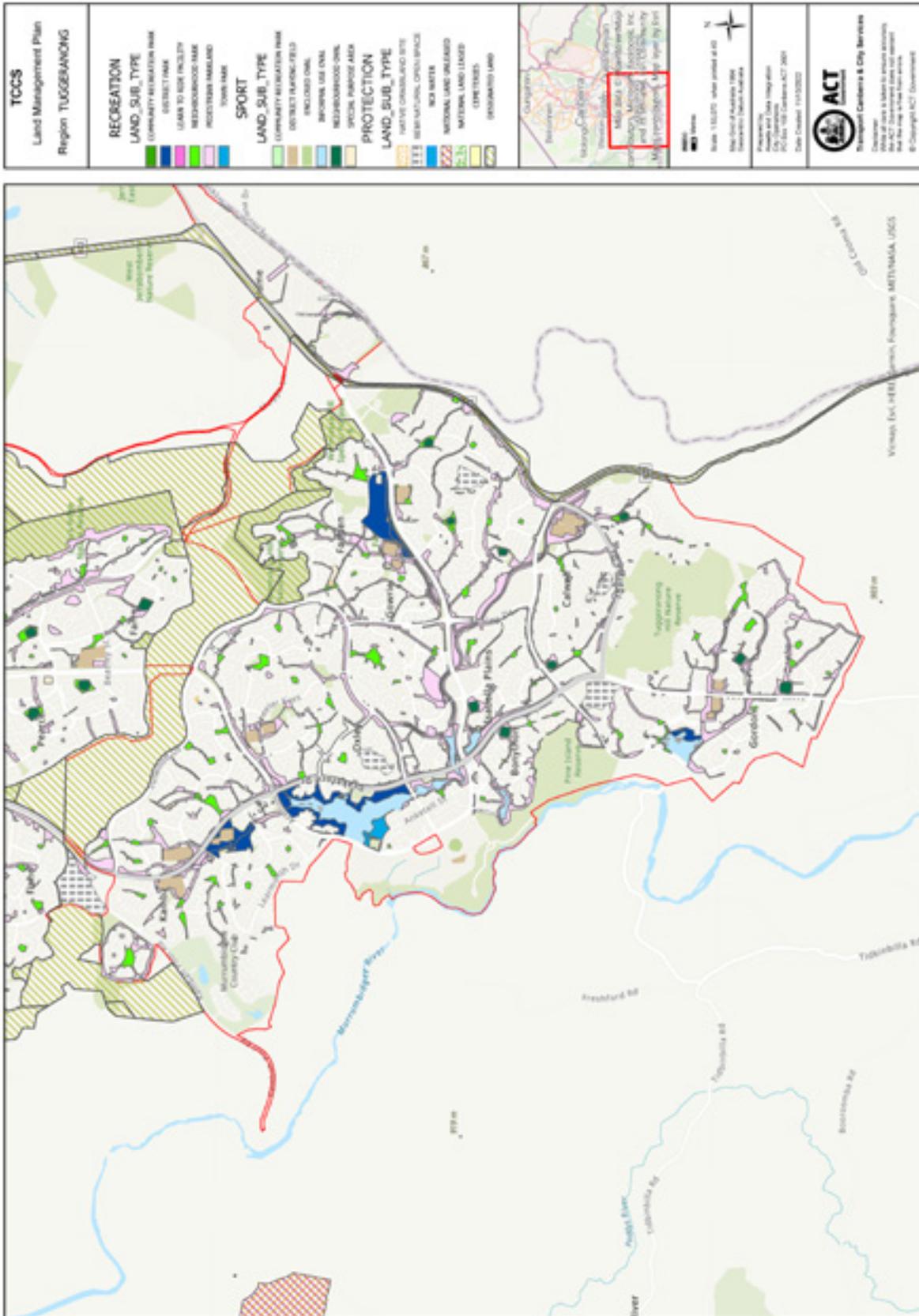


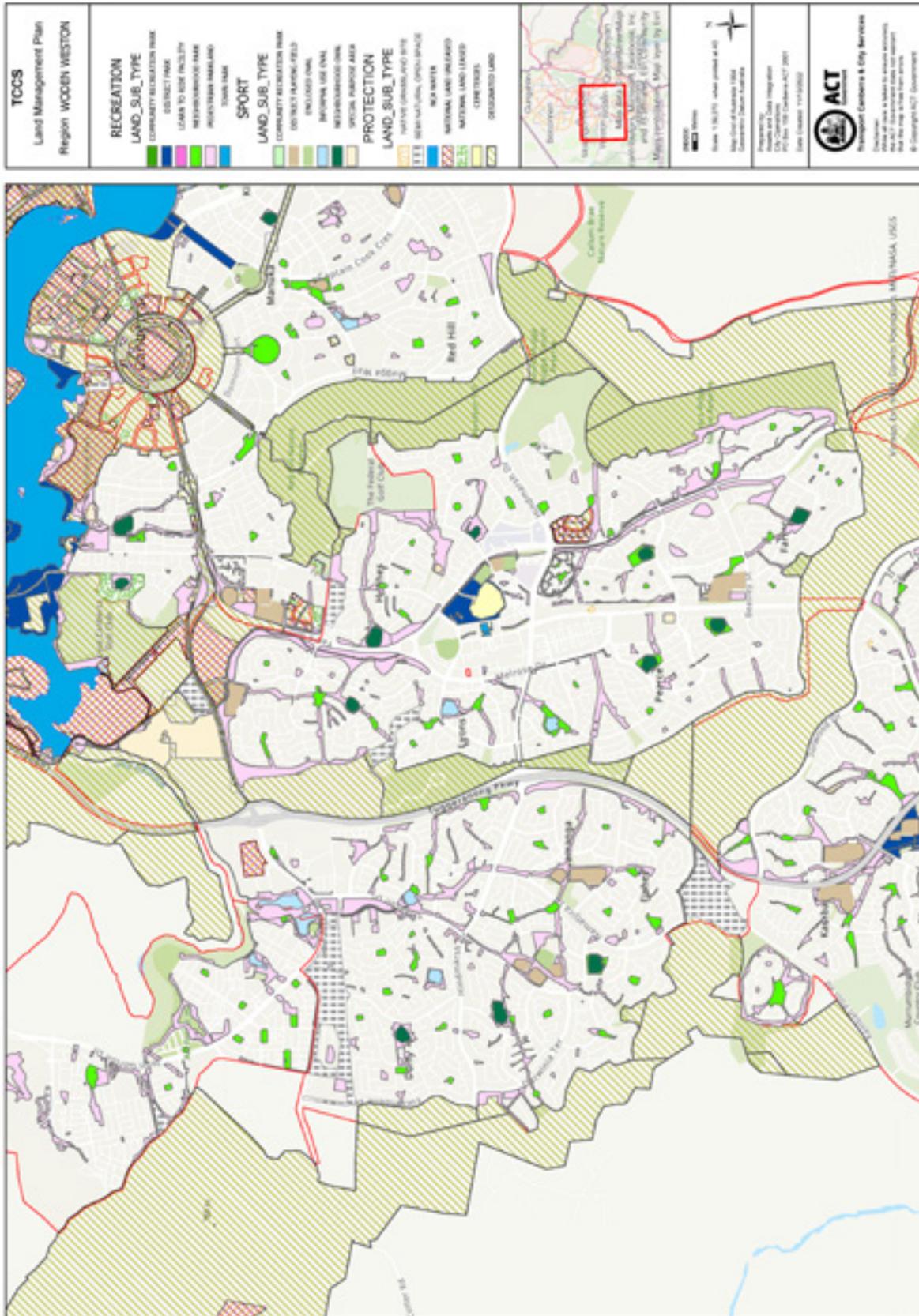












Endnotes

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- ii ACT Government (2023) Planning Act 2023 www.legislation.act.gov.au
- iii ACT Government (2008) Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991 (repealed) www.legislation.act.gov.au
- iv ACT Government (1998) *Woden and Weston Creek's Urban Parks and Sportsgrounds Plan of Management* www.legislation.act.gov.au
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- xxii ACT Government (2013) *Nature Conservation Strategy 2013-2023* www.environment.act.gov.au
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- xxxii Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment (2015), *ACT State of the Environment Report 2015* www.envcomm.act.gov.au
- xxxiii SA Government (2022) *Climate Smart South Australia – Carbon Sequestration*. www.environment.sa.gov.au
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