

# Open Space Lighting Policy (2023)

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## Purpose

This Policy provides direction on the installation of lighting within Open Spaces including shared paths, thoroughfares and open space destinations.

Wyndham City is committed to providing lighting, where it will encourage safe movement and active travel around the city, increase the usage of Open Spaces at appropriate times, and minimise environmental impacts.

This Policy is based on the following three key objectives:

1. Provide lighting that supports safe movement through Open Spaces.
2. Provide lighting that activates Open Spaces at appropriate times.
3. Locate and design lighting to minimise impacts on native flora and fauna.

## Scope

This Policy applies to all Council owned or managed Open Spaces.

This Policy recognises that not all parks and open spaces will be lit, and that 'Dark Parks' are an appropriate outcome where lighting will create an amenity, safety or environmental issue.

This Policy excludes street lighting, pavilion lighting, sports field lighting and car park lighting which are determined via Australian Standards.

The following strategies and legislations apply to this Policy:

### Relevant Strategies:

- Wyndham Open Space Strategy;
- Wyndham Landscape Development Levels of Service; and
- Department of Environment and Energy - National light Pollution Guidelines for Wildlife (2020).

### Relevant Legislation

- Environmental protection and Biodiversity Conservation ACT 1999;
- AS/NZS 4282. Control of the obstructive effects of outdoor lighting; and
- AS/NZS 1158. Lighting for roads and public spaces.



## Terminology

**Open Space** – A publicly accessible space used by people to relax, exercise, play and enjoy the natural environment.

**Open Space Destination** – A node of activity within an open space. This may include playgrounds, BBQ areas, hard courts, exercise stations, skate spaces or enclosed dog off-leash areas.

**Key Destinations** – Destinations accessed via Active Travel through open spaces will include train stations, community centres, schools and universities, and shopping centres.

**District Level Park** – Parks that provide a higher level of infrastructure and play than local level parks. These spaces are designed for longer stays and attract visitors from adjacent neighbourhoods.

**Shared Path Network (Active Transport)** – A main shared path that connects people by foot, cycle, or other non-motorised vehicle to major destinations, such as, neighbouring Municipalities, Shopping Precincts or Train Stations/Bus Stops.

**Path Network (Thoroughfare)** – A path that is open on both ends and forms a way between two main points such as a bus stop or train station through to a local street.

**Hard Court Sport** – Informal sport played on a concrete base, including, basketball/netball, tennis or multi-purpose

## Policy Objectives:

### 1. Provide lighting that supports safe movement through Open Spaces:

Lighting of the Shared Path Network and Thoroughfares is important to ensure safe movement around the city, including connecting adjacent neighbourhoods and connecting people to key destinations.

Public lighting of a connection through open space will be supported when:

- It connects people to destinations, including, neighboring municipalities, shopping precincts and/or transport centers; and
- the surrounding street network does not provide an adequate alternate route that is already lit; and
- it will create a continuously lit path of travel between already lit destinations.

In many instances, spill lighting from the street network will provide adequate lighting of connections through Open Space activities to allow for their use throughout the night.

Lighting of secluded and/or meandering pathways without direct lines of sight to surrounding well-lit streets will not be supported as this lighting would create a false sense of security.

Lighting for safe movement will require paths to be lit from dusk to dawn every day. The use of smart lighting technology, for dimming, will minimize lighting costs and impacts.

Council will use temporary lighting to light Open Spaces where there are consistent anti-social behavioral concerns, and where this is supported by Victoria Police. In these instances, the provision of temporary lighting will be reviewed every 3 months.



## **2. Provide lighting that activates Open Spaces within appropriate times:**

Lighting Open Space destinations extends the hours during which they can be used by the community. This will benefit members of the community who may not be able to access the activity during regular daylight hours and will be of most benefit over the winter months, where there are fewer daylight hours.

Open space destinations may be lit:

- where they are not already lit by spill lighting from the street network;
- when their use at dawn or dusk will not impact on the amenity of surrounding residents;
- where they will be connected via continuous public lighting from the street network, along direct pathways with clear visibility from surrounding streets; and
- where their lighting will not create an unreasonable impact on native flora and fauna.

In many instances, spill lighting from the street network will provide adequate lighting to Open Space activities to allow for their use at dawn and dusk.

Where a request for lighting within Open Space is approved, activities will be lit from dusk to 9:00pm with timed lighting.

Lighting Open Spaces without passive surveillance is dangerous and may attract anti-social behavior. For this reason, secluded areas without any passive surveillance will not be considered for lighting.

## **3. Locate and design lighting to minimise impacts on native Flora and Fauna:**

Lighting can cause significant disruption to flora and wildlife which require natural darkness to flourish. The effects of artificial light can result in behavioural and physiological changes in wildlife and has been shown to interrupt reproduction and breeding cycles.

Open Space Destinations and Shared Pathways that will require lighting should be planned and located to avoid impacting on waterways, wetlands, grasslands and conservation areas.

Where a link or destination requires lighting for community safety the lighting design must be compliant with the National Light Pollution Guidelines for wildlife.

## Decision Making Matrix

The below matrix provides a framework to determine which routes and open space destinations should be lit.

Open Space	Lighting Time			
Type	Dusk	Dusk and Dawn	Dusk to Dawn	Criteria
Lighting for safe movement				
Shared Path Network (active travel)	✗	✗	✓	Where the path connects to neighboring municipalities, shopping precincts or major transport hubs and there is adequate passive surveillance.
Thoroughfare	✗	✗	✓	If the surrounding street network does not offer an alternative lit route.
Pedestrian Bridge	✗	✗	✓	Where the connecting path network supports continuous lighting to and from the surrounding street network.
Lighting for activation				
Playground	✓	✗	✗	Where the path network supports continuous lighting to and from the street network and there is adequate passive surveillance.
BBQ Area	✓	✗	✗	Acceptable at higher order parks such as District level parks and there is adequate passive surveillance.
Hard Court Sports	✓	✗	✗	Acceptable at higher order parks such as District level parks, where there is a 40m set back from housing and there is adequate passive surveillance.
Skate Space	✓	✗	✗	Acceptable at higher order parks such as District level parks, where there is a 40m set back from housing and there is adequate passive surveillance.
Enclosed Dog Park	✗	✓	✗	Where the path network supports continuous lighting to and from the street network and there is adequate passive surveillance.
Exercise Stations	✗	✓	✗	Where the path network supports continuous lighting to and from the street network and there is adequate passive surveillance.
No lighting				
Gazebo's	✗	✗	✗	Gazebos are often hidden; it is not appropriate to light these.
Boardwalks	✗	✗	✗	Boardwalks cross habitat corridors.



## Lighting Types

This Policy supports the use of:

- smart lighting technology that can be dimmed and timed, programmed remotely, and respond to users via sensors.
- solar lighting where possible to limit the need for underground trenching of power cables and infrastructure connections.
- A standard set of lighting poles and luminaires.
- LED strip lighting embedded in bridge handrails.
- Baffling or bollard lighting where light spill into private property is an issue.

### Council lighting standards:

- In-line with Australian Standard for public safety (AS1158.3.1)
- Located, directed or shielded (baffled) to avoid lighting anything but the target object area
- Light solution to dim to P5 after 5 minutes of no activity via motion sensors
- The colour temperature will be a maximum of 3000 Kelvin warm light
- LED Solar with batterie for longevity and ease of maintenance
- Products to be made from heavy-duty, smash-resistant materials
- Products must be readily available within Australia
- Pole type to be galvanised or powder coated
- Lighting sensors that can turn on when darkness is detected
- Remote control technology to adjust operating times
- Batteries, controls, and solar panels to be stored in a secure and hard to reach location to prevent theft or damage
- Lighting around Flora and Fauna must be in-line with the National light Pollution Guidelines for Wildlife (2020)

## Policy Implementation

Approval of new and renewal of existing Open Space lighting will comply with this Policy.

All community Open Space lighting requests received will be assessed against the key objectives and decision-making matrix set out within this Policy.

If a request for public lighting is supported by the Policy, Council will include the lighting project for funding consideration within the following Financial Year's budget. In some instances, a community consultation process may be required prior to project approval.

An implementation plan will be developed to install lighting within active transport corridors and thoroughfares, that meet the above criteria and where there may be gaps within the Open Space network.

## Lighting for Safe Movement - Guideline



- 1 Shared Path Network (active travel)
- 2 Thoroughfare
- 3 Pedestrian Bridge
- 4 Spill lighting path network

Open Space	Lighting Time			Criteria
	Dusk	Dusk and Dawn	Dusk to Dawn	
Lighting for safe movement				
Shared Path Network (active travel)	✗	✗	✓	Where the path connects to neighboring municipalities, shopping precincts or major transport hubs and there is adequate passive surveillance.
Thoroughfare	✗	✗	✓	If the surrounding street network does not offer an alternative lit route.
Pedestrian Bridge	✗	✗	✓	Where the connecting path network supports continuous lighting to and from the surrounding street network.