


CONNECTED, ACCESSIBLE AND VIBRANT

2036 PLACES AND SPACES STRATEGY





We would like to acknowledge this land is the Traditional Lands for the Kurna people and that we respect their spiritual relationship with their country.

We also acknowledge the Kurna people as the Traditional Custodians of the Adelaide region and that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still as important to the living Kurna people today.

Ngadlurlu tampintheta,
ngadlu Kurna yartangka
inparrintheta. Ngadlurlu
parnuku tuwila yartangka
tampintheta.

Ngadlurlu Kurna Miyurna
yaitya yarta mathanya
Wama Tarntanyaku
tampintheta.

Parnuku yailtya, parnuku
tapa purruna yalarra
puru purruna.

*Kurna Translation provided by
Kurna Warra Karrpantheta

INTRODUCTION



This Places and Spaces Strategy outlines the City of Unley’s commitments over the next 10 years to support a community that is connected, accessible and vibrant – a well-planned City with great places and spaces.

Council is proud of the proactive steps it has already taken in recent years towards this aim, including:

- Upgrading key parks, ovals and open spaces - delivering major improvements at Unley Oval and North Unley Park and progressing the Ridge Park Master Plan to expand year-round recreation and community use.
- Improved walking, cycling and street connectivity - delivering staged upgrades to shared paths, streetscapes and lighting.
- Expanded greener, cooler public spaces, increasing tree planting, verge greening and climate-responsive design across main streets, community facilities, local parks and local streets.
- Enhanced community and civic facilities, upgrading centres, libraries and cultural spaces, and making public spaces easier to access through improved booking and management systems.

In preparing the Places and Spaces Strategy, we have considered the changes and challenges we can expect in our City as 2036 approaches, how we can leverage the strengths of our community, and what we will need to do differently to meet our City’s long-term goals.

The commitments we make in this Places and Spaces Strategy reflect what we have heard from our community – everyone who shares a connection with our City – about what is important to them. These community priorities were gathered from the broad engagement processes undertaken to develop our Community Plan.

It is important to our community that we design, build, maintain and activate our City to be safe, accessible and convenient. That means ensuring our footpaths, streets, public spaces and buildings are kept in good condition. We heard that our community cherishes open spaces and the heritage and character of our City and want us to advocate for sustainable and sensitive development to facilitate well-planned growth.

We cannot create great places and spaces alone. Real progress will come through strong collaboration with our community – including residents, local businesses, visitors, property owners, schools, industry, and all levels of government. By working together, we can create a connected, accessible and vibrant City for all.

On the following pages you will find our 10-year commitments to progressing the Places and Spaces goal and objectives in our Community Plan.

This is one of Council’s four lead strategies that will guide the decisions we make, the services and facilities we deliver, and how we allocate resources to respond to the needs of our diverse and growing community. Together, these strategies provide a clear roadmap for how we will deliver and measure our vision of **a connected, progressive, and resilient City.**



CITY OF UNLEY

Located on the traditional lands of the Kaurna people just 3kms south of Adelaide's CBD, the City of Unley is an inner-urban community known for its cosmopolitan character and atmosphere.

Our neighbourhoods are characterised by well-laid out leafy green streets, which connect a network of local parks, sporting facilities, linear trails and main streets.

Unley's four village-style main streets - King William Road, Goodwood Road, Fullarton Road, and Unley Road – and a growing number of emerging business precincts provide an exciting mix of retail, hospitality, and services.

Our civic hubs, including our libraries, museum and community centres, offer spaces for connection, culture and learning. Unley's public spaces and streetscapes are designed to be welcoming and accessible for all.

The natural beauty and historic character of our City, along with our strong and flourishing community life make Unley a desirable place to work, visit or call home.





157,000
visitors annually

5,308
additional people
projected to call Unley
home by 2041

40,327
Residents

6,200
active local
businesses

22,927
Jobs



170km
of local streets and
laneways

19,399
rateable properties

30
hectares of public
open space

37
local parks and
open spaces

307km
of pathways



OUR STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

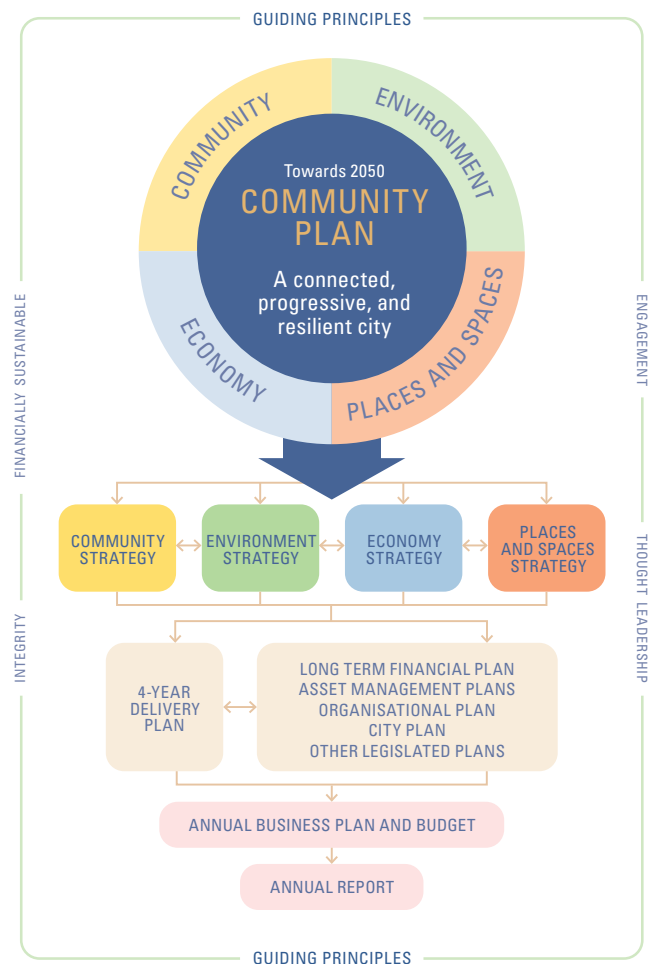
Our Strategic Planning Framework reflects how our organisational strategies and plans support the delivery of our Community Plan 'Towards 2050'.

Our Community Plan sets our strategic direction for the next 25 years, outlining key goals and objectives. It serves as the foundational structure for guiding our detailed strategies and plans.

Our four lead strategies define our strategic priorities for the next 10 years, identifying key opportunities and addressing potential challenges for our City. By providing a clear and cohesive direction, these strategies guide decision-making, resource allocation, and program development, ensuring that our efforts are effectively aligned with the long-term vision and aspirations of our community.

Our 4-Year Delivery Plan translates the Community Plan vision and lead strategies into action, outlining the steps we will take to achieve our objectives in the short to medium term.

Our Strategic Management Framework is supported by a number of theme-based plans that have been developed over the years to provide additional guidance about how we will achieve our goals. These plans will be progressively reviewed, updated or retired throughout the life of this lead strategy.



We will deliver our strategies and plans through prudent financial management, guided by our Long-Term Financial Plan, which will ensure resources are allocated effectively and efficiently. Our Annual Business Plan and Budget will set priorities, activities, and budgets each year to demonstrate how your rates support community services, programs and infrastructure, whilst also being innovative to deliver best community outcomes.

Regular monitoring and reporting against our outcome indicators will be undertaken to keep us accountable, ensuring we meet our commitments and demonstrate the value we deliver to our community.



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PLACES AND SPACES STRATEGY

Connected, Accessible and Vibrant

GOAL

Our City is well-planned and has great places and spaces that are designed, built, maintained, and activated to create a connected and vibrant community.



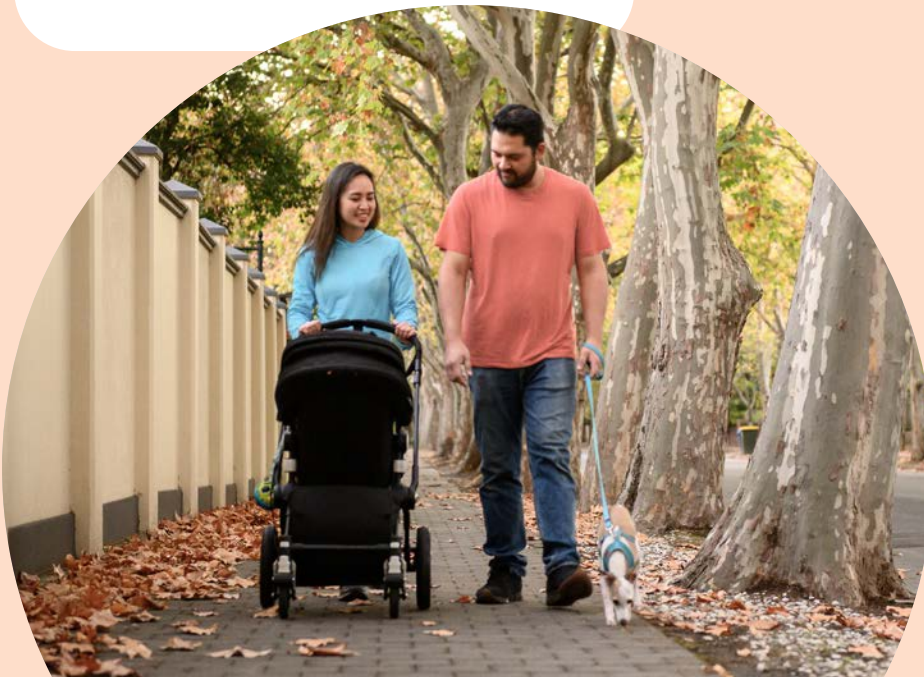


OBJECTIVES

- 1 We invest in, revitalise, and expand our open spaces, recreation facilities and infrastructure to meet the needs of current and future communities and climates.
- 2 We create and activate welcoming public spaces for all people to deliver memorable experiences that inspire connection, foster a strong sense of place, and strengthen our City's identity whilst enhancing its unique brand.
- 3 We design our streets with people in mind to increase accessibility, active transport, and multi-modal transport options.
- 4 We plan for future population growth with a City Masterplan that guides innovative and well-designed development in the right places.
- 5 We amplify the voice of our community by advocating for policies, partnerships, and funding that will enhance, future proof and attract investment in our places and spaces.

Highlights of our ten-year strategy include our commitments to:

- Growing a connected network of high-quality open spaces and recreation facilities that support everyday use, wellbeing and suited to a changing climate.
- Upgrading parks, streets and civic spaces to improve accessibility, inclusivity, comfort, safety and year-round use across the City.
- Welcoming mains streets and public spaces that bring people together and reflect Unley's unique character and identity.
- Renewing local streets to create a safer, calmer and more connected walking and cycling network across Unley, for people of all ages and abilities to move with confidence.
- Planning for longer term growth that respects local neighbourhood character so new development adds to the diversity, accessibility and appeal of our local neighbourhoods.
- Securing funding, partnerships and policies that support well-planned growth and continued investment in Unley's places and spaces.



CURRENT AND EMERGING TRENDS AND CHALLENGES



Over the next decade, Unley’s neighbourhoods will be shaped by population change, housing pressures, climate impacts and shifting community expectations. Growth will increase expectations towards the quality of our places and spaces.

As more people live in higher-density housing with limited private outdoor space, the quality, accessibility and connectivity of public spaces will be critical to living locally. Managing growth and change to our places and spaces will need a proactive, place-based approach.

The following insights have informed the commitments we have made through this strategy about how we will achieve our long-term Places and Spaces goals and objectives.

Population And Housing

State Government population and housing targets will drive a shift toward medium and higher-density living in Unley over the next decade, with development concentrated in key corridors and centres.

Population growth will require streets, parks and activity centres to better support everyday living, active travel and increased social interaction. Upgrades or replacement of ageing infrastructure will need to be planned to accommodate future growth and delivered in anticipation of or alongside housing development.

Different housing types will be needed to address housing affordability and supply to support local housing options that accommodate for greater diversity of residents and different lifestyle needs.

Changing Recreation Needs

Demographic change, population growth and higher-density living will increase demand for recreational needs of the community in Unley.

Demand for formal and informal recreation will require careful management of different needs between organised sport - which requires dedicated facilities - and broader community use of open, accessible spaces. An ageing population and more diverse lifestyles will also shape expectations for engaging, inclusive and socially connected settings.

Planning for more adaptable, multi-use spaces and enabling shared access through considered design outcomes will strive to balance the formal recreation requirements with everyday community needs.

Open Space Needs

Unley's historic urban character significantly constrains opportunities to deliver new open spaces. Unley has one of the lowest rates of public open space provision per capita in metropolitan Adelaide, increasing the importance of maximising the quality and function of existing open spaces.

Future success will depend on upgrading the quality of existing parks and civic areas, connected through a walkable network of greener streets.

As well as opportunities to activate open spaces, demand is rising for informal, flexible activities such as walking, contemplating nature, socialising and casual exercise.

Opportunity will be sought to expand existing parks through strategic land purchases, as well as incorporating new quality public open spaces within significant developments, to support the open space needs of a growing population.

Climate Resilience

Climate change is already influencing Unley's places and spaces. More frequent heatwaves, higher average temperatures and more intense rainfall events will continue to affect how streets, parks and public spaces are designed, maintained and used.

Local streets and public spaces will play an increasingly important role in urban cooling as well as managing stormwater more effectively.

Climate resilience will influence planting choices, materials and long-term maintenance costs - reinforcing the need for integrated and forward-looking design standards.

Heritage and Identity

Unley's village character, heritage homes and established neighbourhood character are central to community pride and sense of place.

Balancing urban renewal targets with protection of character will remain a key challenge for Unley, particularly in emerging precincts.

Well-designed development that contributes to quality public spaces and streetscapes will play an important role in reinforcing identity, supporting existing cultural expression and celebrating the City's growing diversity.

Everyday Travel

Shifts toward walking, cycling, public transport and working from home are changing how streets and public spaces are used. There are growing community expectations for safer, more connected active transport networks, calmer local streets and reduced car dominance in high-amenity areas.

Local shifts align with Council's Integrated Transport Strategy and Walking and Cycling Plan, but regional change will be influenced by state transport priorities, funding availability and broader travel alternatives.



State-Led Infill Planning

The Greater Adelaide Regional Plan identifies parts of Unley as suitable for strategic infill and redevelopment to help meet metropolitan housing targets. This includes development precincts in Keswick and Wayville and urban corridors such as Unley and Goodwood Roads. These state-led directions will influence where and how growth occurs, often accelerating change in specific corridors, centres and precincts.

For Unley, this reinforces the importance of a clear City Plan, strong advocacy and high-quality place-led design to ensure state-led infill delivers positive outcomes – enhancing liveability, reinforcing local identity and ensuring infrastructure and green open spaces keep pace with growth.

Funding and Reform

Influencing external funding and reform decisions will play a critical role in shaping how Unley delivers high-quality places and spaces over the next decade.

The South Australian planning system, including the Planning and Design Code and Greater Adelaide Regional Plan, will continue to guide development outcomes, with Council's influence largely focused on advocacy for stronger design quality, greener development and better integration of public space. Opportunity to engage with Council-led Design Review processes can increase Council's influence in design quality and shaping lasting outcomes. Ongoing state-level reform will require Council to remain proactive, informed and collaborative to effectively influence outcomes.

At the same time, delivery is increasingly dependent on external funding, with state and federal grants shaping the timing, scope and ambition of key projects. As competition for funding intensifies, success will rely on strong project readiness, strategic partnerships and clear alignment with government priorities, reinforcing the need for a coordinated and forward-looking approach to investment and advocacy.

Digital Tools and AI

Rapid advances in digital technology, data analytics and artificial intelligence are changing how cities plan, design and manage places.

Digital planning tools, scenario modelling, spatial analysis and real-time data can improve decision-making, community engagement and the performance of public spaces.

For Unley, these tools present opportunities to better understand how places are used, test design options, manage assets more efficiently and support more transparent planning processes.

As these technologies evolve, Council will need to build capability and governance frameworks to ensure they are used ethically, effectively and in ways that improve outcomes for the community.



FOCUS AREAS



The following chapters outline the five key focus areas that will guide the City of Unley towards its long-term Places and Spaces goal.

Each focus area directly aligns with the Places and Spaces objectives of the Towards 2050: Community Plan:

- 1 Open Space & Recreation
- 2 Activated Spaces
- 3 Local Streets
- 4 Planning for Growth
- 5 Advocacy

Each of the focus areas is closely interconnected, and delivering on our other lead strategies – Community, Environment, Economy - will also play a key role in progressing our Places and Spaces objectives. The strategic connections between each focus area have been highlighted.

While we have grouped our 10-year commitments into key focus areas to make the information easier to navigate, they will not be delivered in isolation. Our Strategic Management Framework is planned, implemented, monitored, and reported on as one cohesive and connected set of strategies - reflecting the way our community, services, and priorities are linked in everyday life.



FOCUS AREA 1: OPEN SPACE & RECREATION

Open spaces and recreation facilities are essential to Unley’s liveability, health and neighbourhood character, particularly as the demand on these facilities increase as the City grows and the climate changes.

With limited land and increasing demand, the quality, accessibility and performance of existing parks, reserves and recreation infrastructure are as important as their quantity. This focus area sets a long-term direction for how Council will plan, invest in and renew its open spaces to ensure at both an individual and network level, our open spaces are well connected, resilient and responsive to the needs of our community.

Our 2050 Objective	We invest in, revitalise, and expand our open spaces, recreation facilities and infrastructure to meet the needs of current and future communities and climates.
Our 2036 Commitments	<p>We will:</p> <p>1.1 Plan and grow a connected network of open spaces and recreation facilities (both indoor and outdoor) that collectively meet the needs of a growing and changing community and a warmer climate.</p> <p>1.2 Renew parks, reserves and recreation facilities to improve the quality, accessibility, climate resilience, and suitability to support year-round use.</p> <p>1.3 Manage community land and buildings to allow more people to benefit from a variety of settings and facilities.</p>
What Success Looks Like in 2036	<p>People in Unley have improved access to increased open spaces to enjoy active, healthy lives.</p> <p>Residents feel their upgraded open spaces and recreation facilities meet the needs of different ages, abilities and lifestyles throughout the year.</p> <p>Shared community spaces help bring more people together for a variety of organised and passive recreation activities.</p>
Related Plans	Community Land Management Plans (2024), Asset Management Plans (2023), The Living City – Open Space Strategy (2011)

Strategic Connections

COMMUNITY

- Safe & Welcoming
- History & Identity
- Active & Connected
- Creativity, Culture & Learning
- Civic Participation

ECONOMY

- Thriving Precincts
- Local Advantage
- Strategic Investment

ENVIRONMENT

- Urban Forest & Biodiversity
- Climate Resilient
- Sustainable Natural Resources

PLACES AND SPACES

- **Open Space & Recreation**
- Activated Spaces
- Local Streets
- Planning for Growth
- Advocacy

FOCUS AREA 2: ACTIVATED SPACES

Unley’s main streets, plazas, civic spaces and local parks play an important role in shaping everyday experiences, supporting economic development, and reinforcing the City’s identity.

This focus area sets a long-term direction for creating activation-ready public spaces that are flexible, welcoming and responsive to how people use places over time. By strengthening the performance of key public spaces and supporting a range of uses, Council will help create memorable experiences, foster connection and enhance Unley’s distinct sense of place.

Our 2050 Objective	We create and activate welcoming public spaces for all people to deliver memorable experiences that inspire connection, foster a strong sense of place, and strengthen our City’s identity whilst enhancing its unique brand.
Our 2036 Commitments	<p>We will:</p> <p>2.1 Design public spaces that are flexible, adaptable and with necessary infrastructure to support a wide range of everyday uses, temporary activations and events throughout the year.</p> <p>2.2 Work with community or precinct partners to try new ways to activate public spaces in ways that reflect local identity and respond to how people will use places differently over time.</p> <p>2.3 Strengthen key public spaces as civic, cultural and social gathering places for all the community to come together in ways that reflect Unley’s character, identity and sense of place.</p>
What Success Looks Like in 2036	<p>Council has delivered planned renewal and upgrades to Unley’s key public spaces, which feel lively and welcoming with activation programs running throughout the year.</p> <p>Our Grants program has supported community and precinct partners to deliver impactful events and experiences in public places and spaces.</p> <p>People experience Unley’s community buildings and public spaces as safe and welcoming places to gather, connect and participate in civic and cultural life.</p>
Related Plans	Community Land Management Plans (2025), Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (2026), Community Infrastructure Plan (2026)

Strategic Connections

COMMUNITY

- Safe & Welcoming
- History & Identity
- Active & Connected
- Creativity, Culture & Learning
- Civic Participation

ECONOMY

- Igniting Innovation
- Thriving Precincts
- Local Advantage
- Collaborative Growth
- Strategic Investment

ENVIRONMENT

- Urban Forest & Biodiversity
- Climate Resilient
- Sustainable Waste Management
- Sustainable Natural Resources

PLACES AND SPACES

- Open Space & Recreation
- **Activated Spaces**
- Local Streets
- Planning for Growth
- Advocacy

FOCUS AREA 3: LOCAL STREETS

Local streets are important public spaces that shape how people move, meet and experience their neighbourhoods every day. In Unley, streets play a vital role in supporting social connection, nature, local access and safe travel for all people - walking, wheeling, or driving.

This focus area sets a long-term direction for designing streets with people in mind, responding to community concerns about traffic and parking while making it safer and easier to move around. By rebalancing how local streets function, we will create calmer, more connected neighbourhoods that support everyday life.

Our 2050 Objective	We design our streets with people in mind to increase accessibility, active transport, and multi-modal transport options.
Our 2036 Commitments	<p>We will:</p> <p>3.1 Progressively renew local streets and implement infrastructure and urban greening and put people, safety and everyday movement first.</p> <p>3.2 Deliver a connected, easy-to-navigate and comfortable local walking and cycling network so people of all ages and abilities can move around the City safely and confidently.</p> <p>3.3 Manage parking in a fair and balanced way that supports the different access requirements of local precincts.</p>
What Success Looks Like in 2036	<p>Streetscape renewal and improvements reduce speed and congestion, and help local streets feel safer, calmer and more accessible for all.</p> <p>Walking and wheeling are easier, more comfortable and popular ways to get around Unley for everyday trips.</p> <p>Demand for private vehicle use is reduced across Unley.</p> <p>Asset renewal programs strategically and sustainably respond to increased demands and support local street improvements.</p>
Related Plans	Integrated Transport Strategy (2018), Unley Parking Management Plan (2023), Walking and Cycling Plan (2022), Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (2026)

Strategic Connections

COMMUNITY

- Safe & Welcoming
- Active & Connected

ECONOMY

- Igniting Innovation
- Thriving Precincts

ENVIRONMENT

- Urban Forest & Biodiversity
- Climate Resilient
- Sustainable Natural Resources

PLACES AND SPACES

- Open Space & Recreation
- Activated Spaces
- **Local Streets**
- Planning for Growth
- Advocacy

FOCUS AREA 4: PLANNING FOR GROWTH

Population growth will bring change to Unley, but how and where that change occurs matters. Council is taking a proactive approach by adopting a long-term plan to direct new housing and increased density to appropriate locations where existing services, infrastructure and public transport can support living locally and benefit from growth.

Through our City Plan, strong leadership on design quality and advocacy for better planning standards, Council will guide growth in a way that supports liveability, protects what people value, and delivers better outcomes for both current and future communities.

Our 2050 Objective	We plan for future population growth with a City Masterplan that guides innovative and well-designed development in the right places.
Our 2036 Commitments	<p>We will:</p> <p>4.1 Implement the growth priorities identified in the City Plan to influence how and where growth should occur.</p> <p>4.2 Champion quality and sustainable urban design and architecture through Council-led policy, projects, partnerships and community education.</p> <p>4.3 Develop digital city planning tools to support data-driven decision making and better anticipate the needs of future growth and integration of individual developments.</p>
What Success Looks Like in 2036	<p>Local planning and investment decisions are informed, transparent, and based on a clear long-term vision for the City.</p> <p>Council has initiated a series of Code Amendments to strategically guide the location of new and more diverse housing types, commercial developments and provision of new open spaces across the City.</p> <p>New developments in Unley are well integrated with established neighbourhoods and recognised for their design quality and sustainability.</p>
Related Plans	Planning for Growth (2026), City Plan 2050 (2026)

Strategic Connections

COMMUNITY

- Safe & Welcoming
- History & Identity
- Active & Connected

ECONOMY

- Thriving Precincts
- Local Advantage
- Collaborative Growth
- Strategic Investment

ENVIRONMENT

- Urban Forest & Biodiversity
- Climate Resilient
- Sustainable Waste Management
- Partner & Advocate

PLACES AND SPACES

- Open Space & Recreation
- Activated Spaces
- Local Streets
- **Planning for Growth**
- Advocacy

FOCUS AREA 5: ADVOCACY

Great places and spaces are shaped not only by local decisions, but also by the policies, funding and priorities set beyond Council’s control. This focus area recognises the importance of advocating in a clear and coordinated way so local priorities for Unley’s streets, spaces and neighbourhoods are reflected in state, regional and national decisions.

By listening carefully to our community, building strong partnerships and sharing practical ideas, Council will amplify local voices, attract investment and help deliver better outcomes for Unley while contributing positively to broader planning and place-making goals.

Our 2050 Objective	We amplify the voice of our community by advocating for policies, partnerships, and funding that will enhance, future proof and attract investment in our places and spaces.
Our 2036 Commitments	<p>We will:</p> <p>5.1 Actively seek out and listen to our community voices to understand what matters most about Unley’s streets, spaces and neighbourhoods.</p> <p>5.2 Build strong working relationships with governments and partners to help secure better policies, planning outcomes and funding for Unley’s public spaces.</p> <p>5.3 Position Unley as a leader in place-making by sharing ideas and practical solutions that show how better streets and public spaces can be delivered.</p>
What Success Looks Like in 2036	<p>People feel their views about Unley’s places and spaces are heard and understood in decisions that shape the City.</p> <p>New places and spaces are realised through stronger partnerships between Council and developers choosing to invest in Unley.</p> <p>Unley’s priorities for great places and spaces are recognised and supported in state and national decisions, funding and policies.</p>
Related Plans	Unley 360 - Communication and Engagement Strategy (2023)

Strategic Connections

COMMUNITY

- Civic Participation

ECONOMY

- Thriving Precincts
- Local Advantage
- Collaborative Growth
- Strategic Investment

ENVIRONMENT

- Urban Forest & Biodiversity
- Climate Resilient
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PLACES AND SPACES

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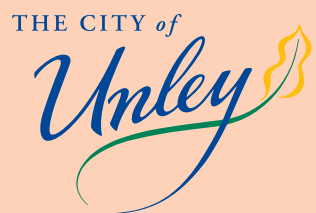
MONITORING OUR PERFORMANCE



To ensure we remain accountable and focused on the outcomes that matter most to our community, Council will monitor progress against this set of high-level outcome indicators over the life of this strategy.

Baseline data will be established, and progress will be reported regularly. These outcome indicators will be used to inform Council’s decision-making, priority setting and continuous improvement.

OUTCOME INDICATOR	BASELINE	2036 TARGET	PRIMARY DATA SOURCE	REPORTING FREQUENCY
Net increase in publicly accessible open space	Public Open Space Baseline (m ²) (2025)	Net increase in m ² of open space available for public use	Open space audits; GIS mapping; land and asset records	4 years
Community satisfaction with footpaths, local roads and cycling infrastructure	Community Survey Baseline (2025)	Maintain or increase satisfaction over baseline	Community Survey	Biennial
Community satisfaction with open spaces and recreation facilities	Community Survey Baseline (2025)	Maintain or increase satisfaction over baseline	Community Survey	Biennial
Housing supply delivered in accordance with Greater Adelaide Region Plan (GARP) targets	Housing Supply Baseline (2025)	GARP targets met	Plan SA	Annual
People walking or cycling for everyday trips	Active Travel Baseline (ABS Census / local survey)	Increase in proportion of people walking or cycling for everyday trips	ABS Census; Walking & Cycling Plan monitoring; community survey	4-5 years



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