Time for a Fundamental Shift in Parks Planning

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The Planner’s Drama Statement

“We need to plan for immense new areas of open space as part of expected population growth”

“We have a considerable deficiency of open space when compared to other Australian cities”
The Academic Drama Statement

“There is a lack of research on what is the right mix of parkland, especially for contemporary societies – we have no idea!”
Local Government’s Drama Statements

“There is a legacy of shocking park spaces from the old 10% subdivision rule creating parks located on the worst land imaginable “

“Developers still want to offload the dodgy land as parkland”

“The cost of acquisition of new park land in established residential areas to meet community expectations is prohibitive”

“There is insufficient budget to undertake quality maintenance”
Developer’s Drama Statements

“insufficient credit for large areas of open space being dedicated”

“Councils are using restrictive Desired Standards of Service (DSS) to force maximum contributions from developers as fund raising mechanism”

“The overall problem is driving up land prices and decreasing affordability”

“Council stipulate reduction of embellishment in parks planned by developers to reduce their ongoing maintenance costs and this is contrary to marketing strategies and park activation”
Public Demands: Drama Statement

“People expect the park to be a theme park full of magic embellishments for them to be titillated” (and with fantastic maintenance to be undertaken of course)
Health Professionals Drama Statement

“We need open space to encourage activity by people to prevent obesity”
Advocacate’s Drama Statement

“No one is doing anything at high level to drive sound and quality open space planning and quality outcomes. Who is advocating???”
The Way Forward

Generally there is a lack of debate, thought and planning about parks planning and design in Queensland. We are putting lots of efforts into infrastructure, but a dearth of effort into our open spaces planning and hence the quality and attractiveness of the plan in which we live.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Things That Need to Happen to Achieve Quality Parks in Queensland</th>
<th>Encouraging Signs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic</td>
<td>Better research and data about contemporary park expectations and standards</td>
<td>Recent papers and focus by Dr Jason Byrne from Griffith University on park and open space planning.</td>
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<td>State Government</td>
<td>Major ramp up of the Greenspace Strategy and its influence into Planning Schemes and by setting a benchmark through the ULDA.</td>
<td>Greenspace is very quiet. ULDA recently ran an Parks Forum to assist in its development of the ULD Guideline N012 Park Planning and Design.</td>
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<td>Local Government</td>
<td>Rethink of design standards – focus on quality and quantity</td>
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<td>Streamline of land disposal provision of unwanted</td>
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<td>Developers</td>
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<td>Public Demands</td>
<td>Better encouragement of park stewardship and ownership</td>
<td>Good initiatives by Brisbane City Council following the floods. Be good to follow it up with permanent program</td>
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<td>Health Professionals</td>
<td>Better inclusion of health professionals in open space planning forums by planning and landscape architects</td>
<td>Any health professionals here?</td>
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<td>Advocacy</td>
<td>A major thrust in advocacy by planning, landscape and health professionals in better park planning and design and allocation of sufficient budgets</td>
<td>Recent Formation of the <strong>Better Parks Alliance in Queensland</strong> as an advocacy group for better parks and planning</td>
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better parks alliance

a network of professionals focused on better urban parks in Queensland
References

“Community Greenspace Planning – A Regional Approach” by Growth Management Queensland, Queensland Department of Local Government and Planning, undated


“Green around the gills? The challenge of density for urban greenspace planning in SEQ” in Australian Planner, 47: 3, 162 — 17, by Byrne, Jason, Sipe, Neil and Searle, Glen, 2010