







Recreation strategy| 2024



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We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands, which now comprises the Rural City of Wangaratta municipality. This area spans the ancestral lands of the Bpangerang, Gunaikurnai, Taungurung and Yorta Yorta peoples.



The Rural City of Wangaratta acknowledges the support of Sport and Recreation Victoria in the development of this Recreation Strategy



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Defining key terms

For ease of reference, key terms and their definition have been provided below as these terms may be new, uncommon or specialised to the reader, as they relate to open space, recreation and sport strategic planning.

Table 01: Key terms

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Active recreation	Recreation activities that require physical exertion but are unstructured, that is not part of a competition
Amenity	A desirable feature of a place and the positive visual impact on the surrounding area
CPTED	Crime prevention through environmental design outlines how physical environments can be designed to lessen the opportunity for crime
Embellishment	Services, facilities and infrastructure that allow a recreation or sport park to be used for its intended purpose e.g. turf irrigation, goal posts, shelters, picnic table and chairs, playgrounds, change rooms
Master Plan	A planning outcome providing a vision for a site, identifying what it should look like and how it should function into the future. It establishes a strong and consistent direction, providing a framework for ongoing improvement
Mitigation	The action of reducing the severity of something (such as a flood event)
Open space	Open space is the over-arching term for sports parks and recreation parks. Land and water bodies that are broadly available for public recreation, pedestrian and cycle movement, sport or for nature conservation purposes
Outdoor recreation	Range of unstructured activities undertaken in more natural settings that are not reliant on built infrastructure
Passive recreation	Range of unstructured activities and social interactions undertaken for enjoyment, relaxation, and mental health, with limited physical exertion
Rail Trail	Rail trails are shared use paths for walking, cycling and horse riding, created on railway corridors that are no longer used for rail transport.
Rationalise	Re-purposing as an alternate use, 'planting out' with trees to reduce maintenance, sale of the land or returning the land to the State (where State-owned)
Recreation park	Settings for informal recreation and social activities that enhance physical and mental health through activity that provides relaxation, amusement or stimulation such as play
Recreation node	A small area within an open space or park that provides recreation opportunity such as play elements or for rest and relaxation
Reserves	Crown land (typically owned by the State Government) managed as open space. May include sports parks, recreation parks and showgrounds
Sport	A range of structured activities capable of achieving a result requiring physical exertion and/or skill, that is competitive or training for competition
Sport park	Designed to primarily support a range of formal structured sport activities such as competitions, physical skill development and training. These parks are designed to accommodate the playing surface and infrastructure requirements of specific sports
Universal Design	The design and composition of an environment so that it can be accessed, understood and used to the greatest extent possible by all people regardless of their age, size, ability or disability

Project limitations

The Strategy focuses on the provision and distribution of recreational open spaces across the Rural City of Wangaratta.

The core outcome of this work was to develop an action plan for Council to follow in relation to upgrading parkland that it manages.

Park audit information contained within this document was accurate as at May 2023 when the site inspections occurred. Any park developments or data updates since the time of inspection will not have been taken into account in this Strategy.

Land identified as, or potentially for, open space was determined using existing Council mapping, database information and/or officer knowledge.







Vision

Everyone has the opportunity to be active and connected through sport and recreation.

Mission

To plan and manage our recreation open spaces and facilities to enhance community use, enjoyment and well-

The vision and mission is underpinned by the adjoining principles:

Partnerships

Working in partnership and collaboratively with organisations and community

- Community groups
- · Sporting clubs
- · Land management authorities
- · Government departments



Promotion

Promotion of new and existing opportunities in sport and recreation

- · Activate existing spaces with innovative programs
- · Encourage (and where applicable fund) low cost physical activity programs
- Support developing sports and community clubs to grow

Equity and Inclusion

Support gender equity and inclusion of under represented groups

- · Proximity to open space and recreation opportunities
- Accessibility of facilities and programs for all ages/genders/cultural backgrounds/abilities/socio -economic needs
- Following relevant policies, strategies and guidelines with respect to inclusion



Sustainability

Ensure sustainability in planning, design, delivery and maintenance

- · Financial is the program or facility financially viable for whole of life
- · Community are the community engaged in the facility or program, do the trends show this is a desired recreation activity
- · Environmental does this cater for climate change considerations, is this sound from a biodiversity perspective

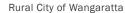
Evidence based community need

Using evidence and community need to guide decisions

- · Strategic documents
- Current trends
- · Community make-up
- · Community desire
- Experiences available and sought
- Standards (facility guidelines, safety regulations)
- Land uses and development types
- Proximity of other facilities
- Cultural considerations, particularly where new infrastructure is being considered







Benefits of recreational open space

Recreational open space plays a vital role in sustaining the social and environmental qualities of the local and visiting community. Appropriately planned, developed and managed recreational open space provides numerous opportunities to improve the health and well-being of individuals and the community, as well as bringing people together to develop social networks and friendships. Recreational open space has the potential to boost the local economy by attracting tourists, investment and supporting local businesses by the means of sporting activities and community events.

Benefits to personal health

- improved health is available to individuals through participation in sport and recreation. Research has shown that quality access to public open space (specifically parks, sporting fields and their connectivity) increases physical activity frequency
- opportunities to develop physical, social and decision-making skills through participation in sport and recreation
- access to public open space including natural areas can significantly improve the mental and physical well-being of the community and results in a higher satisfaction amongst the community.

Benefits to communities

- public open space provision is essential for strengthening and maintaining a healthy community.
 Public open space can provide a focal point for community gathering, promote interaction and combat social isolation. This became particularly apparent as people used parks to escape mandatory social isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic
- participation in sport and recreation can improve social cohesion, build cultural tolerance and support for seniors and people with a disability
- public open space areas can be used to record and retain history through place names, commemorative buildings and memorials and preserved areas of cultural significance
- public open space can provide connectivity.
 Recreation paths along open space corridors can link residential areas with key community facilities and open spaces.

Benefits to the environment

- public open space can help to maintain a sustainable environment by reducing water run-off and flooding-related problems, offsetting carbon emissions and filtering pollutants (trees)
- where public open space provides for quality active transport opportunities (e.g. cycleways and walking paths/trails) and walking and cycling replace car trips, additional environmental benefits include reduced traffic congestion and reduced greenhouse emissions, noise and air pollution
- daytime temperatures have been found to be up to 3°C cooler in large urban parks than the surrounding streets as a result of moisture released from trees
- public open spaces provide habitats that support ecosystems. Even highly maintained urban open spaces can be host to a range of mammals, insects, birds and aquatic plant life
- public open space can have high environmental values as it can support species and ecosystems not reserved in national parks or other conservation reserves and may act as corridor linkages between larger areas of environmental value.

Benefits to the economy

- quality public open space can increase the value of nearby properties
- participation can reduce obesity and health care costs. Improved physical health and the building of stronger families and communities helps lower these costs
- quality public open space and leisure services can attract businesses, employees and tourists. In fact, research has shown that recreation, parks and open space are some of the most important factors when new business locations are considered
- many events are hosted in public open space areasfrom small local community-based events, through to those of national and international importance.





Strategic context

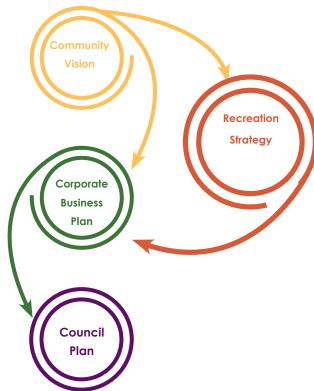
Understanding the makeup, needs and characteristics of the local community, projected population change, trends in recreational open space planning and the local legislative context are all important factors that influence recreational open space usage, planning and design.

Strategic context

Policies, plans and strategies reflect community aspirations and expectations representing an important context to recreational open space planning. Therefore, the development of the Strategy needs to fit within their framework.

A review of a number of relevant Council documents has been undertaken to ensure an understanding of the overall context for the Strategy. Documents considered include:

- RCoW Community Vision 2033
- Council Plan 2021 2025
- Wangaratta Planning Scheme 2023
- Planning Practice Note 70 Open Space Strategies
- Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2021
- Urban Tree Plan 2022
- Open Space Community Insights Report 2021
- Community Access and Inclusion Plan 2019-2022
- Play Space Strategy 2017 2027
- Merriwa Park Landscape Master Plan 2022
- Walking and Cycling Strategy 2020
- Parklands Master Plan 2020
- Wareena Park Master Plan 2020
- Wangaratta South Growth Area Structure Plan 2018
- Wangaratta North West Growth Area Structure Plan 2018
- Open Space and Recreation Strategy 2012
- Rural Place Making Projects 2018
- Gateway Health Active Living Mapping Project 2019
- Economic Development Strategy 2018.



RCoW Community Vision 2033

Council's role in the delivery of public open space is that it contributes to building healthy, liveable, attractive, sustainable and connected communities.

Council's vision is:

"We are an inclusive, courageous and compassionate community, that has built our future on a respectful balance between the urban and the rural. We are known for our natural beauty, access to opportunities and innovation, our resilience, and our community strength. We have a mature and healthy landscape that supports our wellbeing and forms a strong part of our identity. We are the place where everyone has the ability to engage, to prosper, to be supported, and to grow."

Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan

Council's Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP) Identifies 'building active communities' as one of the key directions for improving public health and wellbeing. Relevant to this Strategy, the Plan identifies:

- 55% percent of Rural City of Wangaratta adults do not meet the physical activity guidelines
- Above average members of a sporting group (34.2% compared to state average of 26.5%)
- 94.4% of people who rated their community as an active community which is higher than the state average of 81.1%.

Relevant targets have been set in the MPHWP in order to improve upon or maintain these statistics:

- Increase in number of people meeting Australia's Physical Activity and Sedentary Behaviour Guidelines
- Increased number of children participating in local sporting and passive recreation activities
- Increased distance of walking and cycling tracks throughout the municipality.

Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2021-2026

The Environmental Sustainability Strategy (ESS) is a plan for a healthy, resilient, and sustainable future for our municipality. Through the strategy Council acknowledges that our municipality is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and that a healthy natural environment is vital to all species and essential to the health and well-being of current and future generations. With increased adverse weather events such as floods, droughts and bushfires, it is acknowledged that it will have a negative impact on the quality of our open spaces, the cost of maintenance and upon the people that use it.

The ESS has many relevant actions for the Recreation Strategy in terms of maintaining and improving native habitat, improving connectivity in our green spaces, recognising traditional indigenous Natural Resource Management knowledge, increasing tree canopy cover, incorporating environmentally sustainable design into developments, using alternative sources of water (e.g storm water or recycled) to maintain green spaces and using water wise landscaping where applicable.



Open Space Community Insights Report 2021

Council commissioned the report in order to gain liveability insights regarding open space for the LGA. Relevant to this Strategy, the report identified the following:

- The Quality of public space has been identified as a priority area for intervention. It is both highly valued by the community and currently under performing
- The General condition of public open space is the highest valued primary open space metric and is one of the most important contributors to local liveability
- 30% of open space community ideas from respondents aged under 25 were requesting a variety of free open spaces for sporting and recreation
- A variety of spaces suitable for play (from toddler to teens) is among the poorest performing primary open space metrics
- Respondents over 64 would like to see more seating within open spaces and parks
- Strengthening the presence and identity of the river will help to enhance the natural environment. 23% of
 environment related community ideas highlighted the need to improve water quality to enrich it as a place for
 recreation.

Urban Tree Plan 2022

Council's Urban Tree Plan is focussed on trees within open space and streets. The Plan highlights the importance of urban forests, with urban trees offering many environmental, social and economic benefits to the community. Relevant to the Recreation Strategy, the Plan sets the following relevant target:

By 2030 the Rural City of Wangaratta will Increase our Urban Forest Canopy to 25%.

The Plan is focussed on some nature strips, parks and open spaces, recreation reserves, and Council managed sites including sports grounds.

Opportunities exist within this Strategy to implement outcomes of the Urban Tree Plan, for example, removal of playground equipment is recommended for a number of local recreation parks, with opportunities to increase plantings at these sites and maintain them for visual amenity and environmental purposes.

Gateway Health - Active Living Mapping Project for Wangaratta and Surrounds

The aim of the project was to identify the barriers and enablers for physical activity, with a specific focus on older people and people with specific needs which for this project is classified as particular vulnerable groups.

The project found that the biggest barriers to being physically active were lack of time, lack of or poor quality footpaths, cost, weather, health problems, decreasing cognitive ability, lack of motivation and perceived lack of options.

The most common suggestions for increasing physical activity were more/improved footpaths and more free or affordable activity options. These findings have been incorporated within this Strategy.

Community profile

The way in which a community uses the surrounding recreational open space and participates in recreation activities is largely influenced by age and demographic considerations. Understanding the spatial and demographic variations in communities, such as concentrations of older residents or youth, is fundamental to responding to, and planning for, the future provision of recreational open space. Key demographic information is provided here as an input to further analysis of participation in recreation and sport activities by individuals, as well as groups of people with similar demographic characteristics in the community.



Population

- The population of the RCoW local government area is 29,808.
- 51.7% are female and 48.3% are male.
- 1.9% of the population is Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.



Median age

The median age of the Shire is 45 years. This is seven years higher than the Victorian median of 38 years.



SEIFA Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage

988.4 is the SEIFA Index for the RCoW, with Wangaratta South the only individual small area scoring below 990 (875.1)



Income

Overall in RCoW, 14.0% of households earned a high income (more than \$3,000 per week), and 21.7% earned a low income (less than \$650 per week). The median weekly household income is \$1,326.



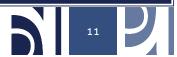
Victorian Population Health Survey 2020 for RCoW

Approximately 56.9% of residents are overweight or obese. For mental health and wellbeing, 75.3% self reported good, excellent or very good. For life satisfaction, 80.5% reported high or very high.

KEY IMPLICATIONS

In terms of impacts for the preparation of the Recreation Strategy, what these demographic considerations and key health indicators suggest, as well as the relevant principle from this Strategy are:

- current recreational open space allocations and growth area planning are sufficient for the needs of the municipality [Evidence based]
- expectations of higher quality recreational open spaces (and infrastructure) [Equity and inclusion]
- demand will continue for facilities (and opportunities) that are attractive across all ages with an increasing focus on facilities targeted at older residents [Equity and inclusion]
- Wangaratta and Wangaratta South may require specific recreational open space outcomes to help counteract their level of disadvantage when compared to the rest of the LGA. Accessibility to open space is important, as well as connectivity to walk/cycle networks [Equity and inclusion]
- the creation and promotion of physical activity opportunities and programs is important when considering the high proportion of the community who are overweight or obese [Equity and inclusion] [Promotion]
- similarly, the low SEIFA Index highlights the importance of extending the existing community garden program through community-led garden beds in open spaces [Partnerships]



Major trends in open space and recreation

Participation patterns in recreation are changing at a community level. Factors such as a move toward nonorganised or social sport, increased outdoor nature-based recreation and increased use of technology have all had a significant impact on how people recreate and use recreational open space. Understanding these trends (and their impacts) is important as Council looks to develop strategies, programs and facilities to encourage people to engage in activities in recreational open spaces.

Social media

- Provides new ways for people to engage with parks and share experiences on social media platforms
- The process of sharing and promoting locations can increase visitation
- Open space users are seeking 'brag-worthy' experiences to share on social media.

Technology

- Shift from outdoor to indoor, and increase in sedentary activity among children and adults
- Rising social media and app use guiding exercise, activity and destination choices
- Opportunity to 'gamify' or connect outdoor parks and activities, create brag-worthy experiences
- Expectation of interfaces wifi in key parks, charging hubs, digital information on signs.

Increasing 'screen time' during leisure time

- More of our leisure time is being spent looking at screens, at the cost of active leisure activities
- Excessive screen time has been associated with negative health outcomes as people have less time available to
 participate in active pursuits such as play and physical activity.

Motivation and participation

- Preference for unstructured physical activity alone
- Appreciation of the physical, mental and social benefits
- Cycling rising, but organised cycling and formal club membership is low
- Children's participation in formal sport is growing, whilst adult's is decreasing
- Adventure and imaginative play is important provision of challenging experiences
- Wheeled activities from scooters to BMX riding on the rise.

Health and environmental awareness

- Increasing concern about health with obesity and stress-related illness on the rise
- Residents with easy access to quality natural areas report a higher quality of life
- Growing awareness of the environment has led to growth in visitation to natural areas.

Girls in open space - ParkWatch Report¹

Given the introduction of Victoria's Gender Equality Act 2020 and the requirement for Local Government to undertake Gender Impact Assessments, recent research relating to use of parks and public places that was released by UK based Make Space for Girls, is relevant and worth considering.

During May 2023, Make Space for Girls asked people count the number of teenagers using local park facilities, and their gender, to collect data for a citizen science project.

Youth parks or facilities designed for teenagers often include skateparks, BMX tracks or multi-use games areas (MUGA's) such as basketball half-courts or similar modified sport facilities. These types of facilities are anecdotally known to be primarily used by boys, however this project sought to collect data. The results are enlightening:

"Our research reveals that overall 88% of the teenagers using these facilities were boys, and for MUGA's, the most common facilities, this was 92%".

Some additional findings:

- Where different types of facilities were provided, including shelters, swings, tennis courts and play areas designed for older children, girls were more than three times more likely to use them
- Facilities dominated by boys, can also be the dominant facility provided, effectively 'designing girls out' of public parks and places
- The impact on girls is that they don't feel that parks are for them, potentially causing them to miss out on the mental and physical health benefits of park use.

Recommendations from the report include:

- When new facilities for teenagers are being provided, councils and developers should consider a far wider range of facilities than skate parks, BMX tracks and MUGAs
- Councils should evaluate what they currently provide for teenagers and whether it meets the needs of girls
- Councils and other bodies should also examine all their policies to ensure that these do not result in the same limited provision
- Every piece of current and future provision should be subject to an Equality Impact Assessment using data or observation
- Most importantly of all, we need better engagement. Teenage girls need to be at the centre of the decision making process, in order to create parks and other spaces which really meet their needs.

The full report, including the methodology provides insights into relatively simple processes that Council may be able to apply to gather data specific to park and facility use across the RCoW to support development of gender impact assessments.



Recreational open space design trends

A successful park (the primary version of 'open space') is one which is well-regarded and heavily used by the community. Key qualities in creating quality parks and the relevant principle for this Strategy include:

Open space design trends	Relevant principle
creating a sense of safety and security	 Equity and
 parks that are located so that they can be seen from nearby houses, stores or activity areas 	inclusion
 parks, their facilities and embellishments are open and visible 	
creating an accessible and connected destination	 Equity and
 parks that are accessible to and from other parks, and within the parks themselves, giving maximised opportunities for walking and cycling 	inclusion
 footpaths that provide linkages to other open spaces, schools, commercial and residential areas 	
 footpath treatments that are safe (for example at road crossings) and are accessible for prams, wheelchairs, scooters and bikes 	
creating an attractive destination	Evidence based
 parks that are well designed with landscaped open spaces 	community need
 embellishments that complement the natural environment, such as grassy mounds instead of bench seats 	
 parks that have well shaded areas (naturally and artificially), especially over nodes and activity areas (playgrounds, benches) 	
 infrastructure that is attractive and well maintained 	
 creating sustainable spaces 	 Sustainability
 parks that protect, enhance and connect landscapes and increase the quality of the natural habitat 	
 parks that integrate environmental sustainable design and water sensitive urban design features that acknowledge and respond to a changing climate 	
• parks that utilise local, recycled, natural and sustainable materials where applicable	
providing adequate facilities and range of activities	 Evidence based
 parks that provide embellishments for comfort and recreation 	community need
 parks that have a range of infrastructure that allows participation for all ages and considers the needs of different groups (including all ages and abilities) 	Equity and inclusion
 parks that encourage children to use their imaginations, learn social skills, build their self-confidence and test their physical skills through adventure and exploration 	
 parks that introduce risk back into play (such as high tree house structures, sky walks and natural elements), enabling children to develop an awareness of limits and boundaries 	
 developing a sense of community 	Partnerships
 parks that provide spaces for events, gatherings of family and friends, and meetings 	Promotion
 parks that have a sense of identity that create community awareness 	
 parks that the community feel is theirs and that they can be proud of. 	

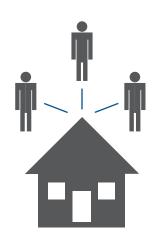
KEY IMPLICATIONS

Considered together, these trends suggest:

- technological advances will continue to influence how we interact with the physical environment (and how much time people have available for recreation pursuits) [Evidence based]
- participation in unstructured physical activity is increasing, compared with declining participation in sport. Sport remains important particularly for children [Evidence based]
- people are increasingly aware of living well into older age [Evidence based]
- careful park planning is required to ensure opportunities that are inclusive to all residents and visitors [Equity and inclusion]



Community engagement



In developing the Strategy, consultation was held with a broad cross-section of the community. The findings from community engagement have been used in conjunction with other primary sources of data, background research and trends to create the report recommendations. A snapshot of key findings is detailed below.

Community survey

Key results of the survey are summarised here and provide an overview of residents' thoughts and motivations relating to open space and recreation provision and opportunities.

"Open spaces are very important for community wellbeing and health"

"Living in a remote community, this really is where you get to connect with others. Also living on a steep property with a dam, I am always wanting safer places to play and exercise"

"I like going outside with my kids and their scooters. Having a day out watching my kids have their own space to be creative, make new friends and learn how things work".



Participation in recreation activities (not organised sport)

Respondents overwhelmingly indicated that *walking* was the most popular form of recreation for residents. With *bushwalking* the second most popular – clearly this form of recreation (and exercise) needs to be a key focus for Council.

Respondents identified that their preferred place to recreate is footpaths (69%).



Participation in organised sport

More than 72% of community survey respondents rate the provision of sporting opportunities as *important* or *very important*.

The top sports for respondents in RCoW are Netball (29%), AFL (21%), Soccer (19%), Hockey (16%) and Tennis (12%).

Almost a quarter of survey respondents travel more than 50km to participate in their preferred sport.



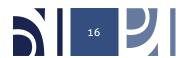
Visiting parks and sport facilities

92% of respondents visit open space and recreation facilities at least weekly.

Limited barriers to participation were identified by respondents – with only *lack of toilets* (35%) and *lack of seating* (30%) reported by respondents.

Favourite parkland in the area

Apex Park was nominated as the favourite open space/park within the LGA. Merriwa Park, Ovens River and King George Gardens were also popular open spaces.



Open space values

The natural setting (70%) and interaction with nature (63%) were the most valued elements of open space within RCoW. These were closely followed by 'they allow me to spend quality time with my family' (57%), 'access to water' (54%) and 'they encourage social interaction' (53%).

Top three open space priorities

Residents nominated the top three priorities for open space over the next 10 years:

- 1. New/upgraded playgrounds (30%)
- 2. Improved access to lakes/rivers/creeks (28%)
- 3. New/upgraded paths (26%).

The provision of additional dog off-leash areas (preferably fenced) was highlighted as a further priority.

Young people

For boys, participation in AFL, football (soccer), cricket, basketball and swimming (for primary students) were popular. Netball, gymnastics, dance and tennis were popular sports for girls.

Primary-aged students identified Apex Park and WSAC as preferred locations for play and recreation. In contrast, secondary-aged students preferred 'hanging' with friends at rivers. Older students noted that Apex Park was not attractive to them (and that the parkour facility in particular was not popular).

Primary students indicated desire for more spinning and moving elements in playgrounds, additional bike and scooter facilities (like pathways (in rural townships) and pump tracks) and more outdoor active recreation facilities such as half courts and rebound walls.

Older students are seeking greater access to rivers (and river-side facilities such as picnic shelters and water bubblers); indoor activity spaces such as rock climbing and trampolining; and concerts and events targeted at youth.

Additional response directions

Respondents provided comments on additional aspects of open space, recreation and sport provision, resulting in more than 1,300 responses. Analysis of these responses highlighted a number of key themes:

- The regular flooding of Apex Park detracts from the site and reduces the Park's potential as the LGA's 'feature' park
- Ongoing development of Merriwa Park may require a review with a number of existing embellishments identified as needing removal, replacement and/or upgrade
- King George Gardens is popular and has been noted as a site requiring additional planning and infrastructure
- Riverside tracks, paths and beaches are highly regarded by the community. Respondents indicated that
 resource allocation for maintenance and infrastructure upgrades and development at these facilities needs
 to be increased (with a notion that resource allocation for formal sport was high in comparison to Riverside
 locations that are open to all sections of the community)
- Demand for additional fenced dog off-leash areas (particularly on the western side of Wangaratta) and need for greater enforcement of dog owner responsibilities such as dogs being on-leash on paths
- Suggestion that access to the aquatic centre is difficult both from a public transport perspective and from entry fees being beyond the means of some respondents
- Demand for mountain bike facilities in the LGA
- Demand for additional support at the existing community garden in Wangaratta and demand for additional community gardens (plantings) in existing open spaces.

Sporting clubs

77% of sporting clubs expect membership increases over the next three years. More than half of the respondents also highlight being somewhat concerned or very concerned about falling memberships.

National and state formal sport participation trends indicate junior participation increasing slightly (or steady), while senior participation continues to decline. Individual club surveys and interviews suggest that junior AFL, football (soccer), junior swimming, baseball, basketball, hockey and pickleball appear to be the sports growing well locally.

Sports facilities

More than half of the clubs surveyed indicated that their facilities were *not suitable* (did not currently meet club needs – yet more than 63% indicate that their facility meets the requirements of their sporting code).

Almost 80% of clubs suggested that the condition of their playing facilities was suitable or exceeded their needs. The main concerns for clubs were ancillary facilities (and not the need for additional fields/courts/ovals) such as:

- change facilities (particularly gender appropriate facilities)
- shade and seating
- playing facility lighting
- storage areas.

Current and future desired facility improvements were also themed around ancillary facilities. Upgrades and/or new infrastructure requests included:

- better quality change rooms and toilets
- lighting (both at playing facilities and general facility surrounds)
- storage facilities
- shaded spectator areas
- canteen/kiosk upgrades
- clubhouse upgrades.

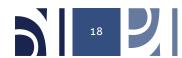
Government agencies

A number of relevant government organisations and agencies have been consulted in the development of the Strategy, with input from specialist agencies including Sport and Recreation Victoria, Gateway Health, Sport North East, Tourism North East and Parks Victoria.

Gateway Health - RESPOND Workshops

Council, Gateway Health and Northeast Health Wangaratta recently engaged the local community through a series of community workshops regarding children's health and wellbeing. A number of ideas that came up in the workshop are relevant for this Strategy, these are listed below:

- The development of community-led garden beds
- The development of a series of up-to date community directories to promote what activities and programs exist within the community
- The creation of regular 'come and try' days or expos for the community to experience new activities that they
 didn't know existed or hadn't thought about previously.







The Rural City of Wangaratta is well provided for in recreational open space across its urban and rural areas.

It is proposed that locally appropriate guidelines, instead of firm standards (i.e. hectares per 1,000 people), be the preferred planning tool for the provision of recreational open space in RCoW. Three key considerations will direct future planning and provision:

- a range of quality recreation opportunities will be available across RCoW
- the majority of residents living within urban areas of Wangaratta will live within walking distance (400m) of a recreation park
- (most importantly) the recreational open space network will be sustainable, ensuring Council can appropriately resource maintenance and upgrade requirements.

Classification framework

Understanding what constitutes different types of open space and how they are used is a key consideration in order to develop well designed, community-focused recreational open spaces. Various recreational open spaces possess different values, functions and settings. As such, recreational open space is usually classified according to its existing function (classification) and its role (hierarchy) within that function.

The framework applied to RCoW's recreational open space network consists of two central categories - classification and hierarchy:

- Classification (primary use and expected activities)
 - recreation parks
 - sports parks
 - natural areas (not covered in this Strategy)
- Hierarchy (service catchment, size and embellishments)
 - local
 - district
 - citywide
 - rural township.

A recreational open space classification framework for RCoW has been provided in the following table.

Recreational open space classification framework

Classification	cation Hierarchy Description		Examples	
Recreation park	Citywide	City recreation parks have unique values that differentiate them from other types of recreation parks. They are usually associated with attractive natural landscapes that make them very popular with residents and visitors. Typically the park will offer high order play experiences for toddlers through to youth. The park should also contain a sufficient number of picnic facilities such as barbecues and shelters, and clean, contemporary public amenities to keep visitors entertained and comfortable for several hours. Depending on location, these parks may also include walking paths and water access.	Located within the urban areas of Wangaratta only - Apex Park - Mitchell Avenue Reserve	
	Local	Local recreation parks are generally smaller land parcels that service the recreation needs of the immediate residential population. They offer residents a supplementary open space to complement their backyards, attract users from a small catchment and cater for short visits by small groups. These parks provide a green buffer and possible amenity mitigation against development. They should be planted with trees and have a lower level of maintenance than a regional park. A local park is likely to have only basic embellishments such as a simple shaded play node supported by seating, tables and bins. Additional infrastructure may include robust elements such as a rebound wall, internal path circuit and path links to the wider pedestrian network.	Located within the urban areas of Wangaratta only - Brien Crescent Park - Baltimore Park	
	Amenity	Open space generally dedicated for their attractiveness and to add to or protect the character/history of the area. Often highly landscaped parks such as entrance statements, monuments, memorials and lookouts.	Amenity parks to be developed from recreation parks where play equipment is rationalised in the future (as per strategy recommendations)	
	Township	Township recreation parks are similar to the local recreation park however often form the focal point of a township. They can be stand-along parks or co-located with a community hall and/or recreation reserve. They contain more infrastructure than a local park, often with a toilet, barbecue and additional play elements. They can contain community gathering places such as a stage, amphitheatre or space for a market. Community gardens or planting beds can also form part of parks. They can act as a rest stop or trail head and provide important infrastructure including water, shade and seating.	Located within the rural areas and villages of the LGA - John McAleese Community Park - Moyhu Lions Park	
Sports parks	District	Open space that is designed to primarily support a variety of formal sporting activities through the provision of a range of training and competition infrastructure. These include facilities for undertaking competitive organised activities and training and ancillary infrastructure to support these activities. Free, unrestricted access to the community is provided at times when formal sporting activities are not being conducted.	Located across the LGA South Wangaratta Recreation Reserve Whorouly Recreation Reserve Milawa Recreation Reserve	
Natural areas	N/a	Council owned and/or managed bushland reserves with ecological significance. The reserves vary in size and are home to native plants and animals, and can provide the last remaining refuges for threatened and endangered species.	One Mile Creek corridor	



Needs-based approach

A needs-based approach to open space provision considers the social, demographic, cultural and environmental characteristics of a local area and the type of embellishments required in open space. The needs-based approach assesses the demands for activity at a park rather than having standards for amount of land to be allocated in the open space network.

Further, a needs-based approach is based on the experiences gained by the user, rather than fixed facilities within standard spaces for set population sizes. Typically, implementation of a needs-based approach is undertaken at a neighbourhood-level in which to determine the needs of both the neighbourhood network and individual open spaces.

Elements of a needs-based approach

In regards to implementing a needs-based approach to open space planning, there is a need to understand a range of base information about the existing and future community and land-uses of an area. A local planning process is undertaken in conjunction with the community of a defined neighbourhood. The information below provides an example of the type of information required to undertake the local planning process.

Experiences - What already exists? What does the community want?

Examples include:

- play
- competition
- nature
- escape, break-out and relaxation
- adventure and challenge
- exercise
- socialisation
- activity and hobby
- connectivity
- amenity and views
- events, programs and community building

Who are the local community?

- demographics
- family type
- density
- number of vehicles
- access to transport
- SEIFA Index
- school enrolments
- active community organisations
- levels of physical activity

Land uses and development type

- greenfield development
- infill development
- new housing estate
- established housing area
- new park
- upgrade of existing park
- renewal of park assets
- physical barriers to connectivity within the local area
- proximity to schools
- proximity to aged care and disability providers

Open space in new subdivisions

In addition to the needs-based approach, Council's Planning Scheme outlines the required open space land to be provided for within new subdivisions. Standard C13 of Clause 56.02 which states:

- Local parks within 400 metres safe walking distance of at least 95 percent of all dwellings. Where not designed
 to include active open space, local parks should be generally 1 hectare in area and suitably dimensioned and
 designed to provide for their intended use and to allow easy adaptation in response to changing community
 preferences
- Additional small local parks or public squares in activity centres and higher density residential areas
- Active open space of a least 8 hectares in area within 1 kilometre of 95 percent of all dwellings.



Provision of diverse experiences

Preferably, each planning district will contain a range of activities. These may include (some/or all of):

- play opportunities and differing play experiences for people of all ages, including:
 - toddlers
 - small children
 - · older children
 - youth
 - adults
 - · older adults
- nature-based play
- natural spaces for enjoyment and relaxation
- adventure play
- active and passive recreation areas
- picnicking facilities for small, medium and large groups
- footpaths and connections
- public toilets
- shaded areas
- car parking (maybe adjacent to park or shared with neighbouring land uses)
- bins, seats and water bubblers
- signage
- landscaping
- dog off-leash areas (fenced and unfenced)
- walking tracks and circuits (using parkland and waterway corridors where appropriate)
- areas suitable to host community events
- public art
- areas suitable to host private events (weddings, birthday parties)
- programs and activities in parks and community halls/ venues (commercial and community based), these could consider:
 - tai chi
 - yoga
 - boot camps
 - running
 - · school holiday activities.









Current provision - Recreation and physical activity

Informal recreation and physical activity

Walking

Across the LGA, participation in informal recreation activities is increasing. In line with national and state sporting trends, walking is the most popular activity for residents. Council has, and is being proactive at providing, quality infrastructure to support this growing trend:

- Review the Walking and Cycling Strategy
- Include complementing infrastructure, such as bench seats, water bubblers, bike racks and wayfinding/directional signage. These facilities will also promote areas of recreation, scenic and/or cultural importance.

Play

Despite the abundance of natural play opportunities around the LGA, the area lacks diversity in playgrounds. Children at school visits expressed that the existing play was 'boring' and only catered for younger children and toddlers. Many wanted to see larger, more risky play activities such as flying foxes, climbing nets and giant slides:

- Review the Playspace Strategy in line with this Strategy
- Look to upgrade some local parks with challenging equipment to become destination parks for the area
- Investigate play elements for older adults such as outdoor table tennis and chess
- Develop multi-generational play and exercise space at Wareena Park.

Youth activities

A lack of activities for youth within the RCoW is a concern. Wheeled Action Sport Precincts (WASPs) are considered quality facilities to develop for youth as they not only provide an activity space for users but also an area for youth to socialise (when suitable ancillary facilities such as covered seating, bubblers and power are provided). A number of other opportunities have been identified including soccer goal, re-bound walls and climbing structures:

 Look to diversify a number of local parks with elements for older children/youth including Wangaratta Skatepark, Burke Reserve, Baltimore Park, Baroona Court Playground, Brien Crescent Park, Dalton Reserve, Kendall and Orange Court Reserve.

Dogs in open space

A number of existing dog-off leash areas exist across the urban areas of Wangaratta. Dogs are permitted in designated off-leash areas only, and are not permitted on sporting grounds.

Future dog off-leash areas should only be considered where the health of waterways, biodiversity and safety of community is not impacted.

Existing sites include:

- Northern Beaches
- Willow Park Reserve
- Collyn-Dale Drive Parkland
- South Wangaratta Sporting Reserve*
- Creek View End Reserve
- Mitchell Avenue Reserve Dog Park
- Targoora Park*.

There is strong community demand for additional fenced dog-off leash areas within Wangaratta.

Fig. 02 Existing dog off-leash areas in Wangaratta



Legend

Open space

Dog off leash areas



^{*}Excludes use of sporting grounds, fields and courts.

Programming

Community gardens

Gardening was identified as the third most popular recreation activity undertaken by residents within the LGA. There is currently just the one community garden in Wangaratta.

It was identified through community engagement that there are limited programs or activities for youth. Community gardens are a great way to educate people of all ages about sustainable gardening and healthy eating. Additionally, they can encourage intergenerational relationships that can provide social and mental benefits to both youth and older adults.

Council, Gateway Health and Northeast Health Wangaratta recently engaged the community through a series of workshop regarding children's health and wellbeing. A key outcome was the desire for garden beds in public open spaces and near playgrounds in order to increase knowledge and skills in growing fruit and vegetables. Improving nutrition, food security and inter-generational connection is a key outcome sought.

Physical activity programs

There is a lack of physical activity programs within the LGA that allows residents to participate in low cost and/or free physical activities to support a healthy lifestyle.

Programs can be a great incentive to get people active. The range of activities available should accommodate all ages and also target specific demographics. For example, programs specifically aimed at new mothers can not only provide physical benefits, but mental and social benefits. They are also a way of sharing advice on parenting, nutrition and health. Similarly, programs for older adults can improve physical activity as well as reduce social isolation and loneliness.

Council is undertaking steps to counteract this with its Active Wangaratta Grants Program 2023 in which Council will provide financial support to local community groups in developing programs, activities and projects for those who are vulnerable to being disengaged in sport and physical activity.

Wangaratta's Sports and Aquatic Centre (WSAC) currently runs groups fitness classes. This venue may provide an opportunity to run further low cost or free physical activity programs in the future.

Examples of successful physical activity programs run by RCoW and other local governments include:

- Group fitness classes
 - bootcamps and circuit classes
 - gentle exercise and low-impact
 - muay thai, zumba and dance classes
- Wellbeing activities
 - yoga, meditation, pilates and tai chi
- Kids
 - Kids fitness
 - Kids nature play
- Youth connect activities
 - skateboarding workshops
 - · pool parties and movie nights
- Social sport
 - · croquet, soccer and tennis
 - social sports program for disability participants
- Running, walking and cycling
 - walking groups
 - parkrun
 - running group fitness
 - beginners group rides
 - social bike rides
- Getting outdoors
 - eco-gym (bushland conservation activities)
 - outdoor gym classes
- Food and healthy eating
 - nutrition courses
 - · community gardening program.

Performing arts/events in open space

RCoW's residents enjoy being outdoors and are enthusiastic supporters of community events.

Council recognises the importance of open space as an event space and supports the delivery of a range of events at spaces including John McAleese Community Park and Milawa Public Hall, Merriwa Park and Showgrounds.

There is opportunity to further activate a number of popular recreation parks by informally embracing the performing arts. Council has designated busking locations, however King George V Gardens is currently the only open space listed.



Recreation and cultural trails

Council is responsible for the management of a large network of linear corridors and bushland reserves. Fronting popular creeks and rivers many of Council's bushland reserves also support low-impact naturebased recreation in the form of recreation trails and shared paths.

The natural setting of the RCoW's open space network and the opportunities it provides for interaction with the natural environment is highly valued by the majority of residents that completed the community survey. With 70% of respondents listing the *natural setting* as what they valued the most about open space within RCoW. This was closely followed by *interaction with nature* at 63%.

Wangaratta is the hub where the majority of the City's trails start or traverse. Noting there are a number of trails, some of the higher order trails include:

- Three Mile Creek Trail
- One Mile Creek Trail
- Bullawah Cultural Trail
- Murray to Mountains Rail Trail.

There is a need to continue to expand on the LGA's network of recreational and cultural trails and paths as well as provide supporting infrastructure including signage, seating, access to water and bike racks.

Waterside recreation

Riverside open spaces including pathways and beaches are highly regarded by the community. Respondents indicated that resource allocation for maintenance and infrastructure upgrades and development at these facilities needs to be increased (with a notion that resource allocation for formal sport was high in comparison to riverside locations that are open to all sections of the community).

The LGA has a significant network of riverside natural areas that offer a range of water-based and nature-based recreation opportunities.

Within Wangaratta these areas feature heavily along the One Mile and Three Mile Creeks, as well as the Ovens and King Rivers.

Important sites include:

- Northern Beaches Platypus Beach and Kingfisher Beach
- Sydney Beach
- Frank Garth Reserve
- Mullinmur Billabongs
- Merriwa Park.

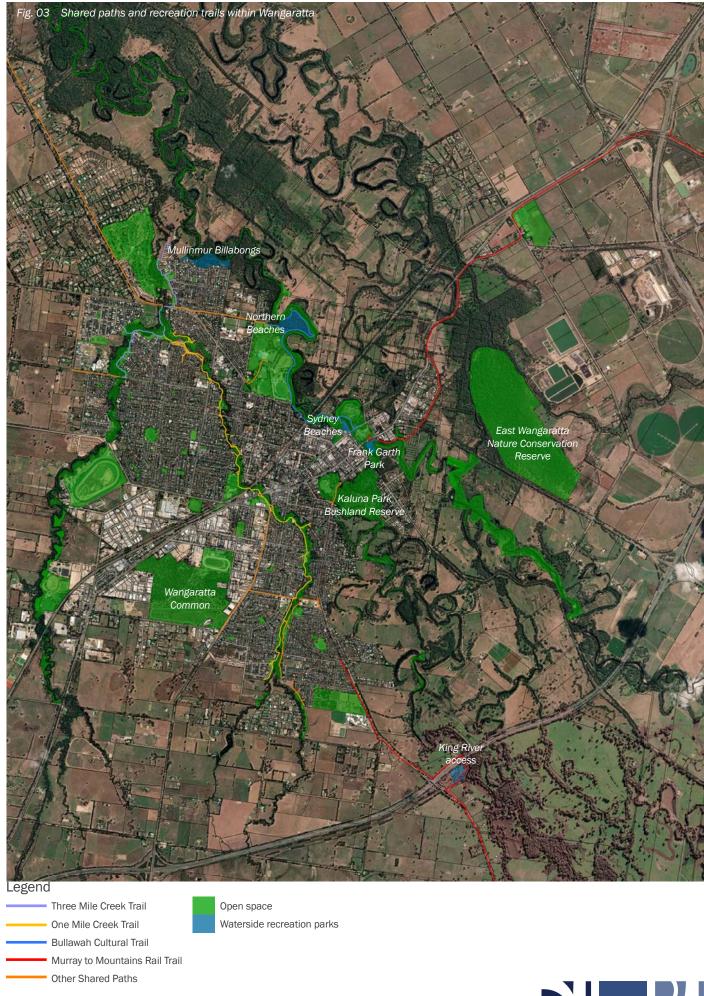
Additionally, Wangaratta is home to a number of other important natural areas (not all are council owned or managed):

- Wangaratta Common
- Kaluna Park Bushland Reserve
- East Wangaratta Nature Conservation Reserve.
 Outside of urban Wangaratta, the RCoW community have access to a number of waterside recreation opportunities including:
- Pioneer Bridges Rest Area (Ovens River, Everton) for swimming, fishing and paddling
- North Boorhaman Recreation Reserve for fishing and paddling
- Fosters Lake (Glenrowan) a stocked fishing lake
- Lake William Hovell (Cheshunt) for paddling, boating and fishing
- Lake Cobbler (Wabonga) for boating, paddling and fishing
- Top Cut Lake (Eldorado) for paddling
- River Road Reserve (Tarrawingee) for fishing, paddling and swimming
- The King River for paddling and fishing
- The Ovens River for swimming, paddling, camping and fishing
- Edi Cutting Reserve (Edi) for fishing and swimming
- Frosts Reserve (Killawarra) for swimming, fishing and paddling.

There is a need to formalise some of these sites in order to enhance the recreation opportunities available in line with the high level of community use and desire for supporting infrastructure. The cultural and ecological significance of sites needs to be recognised and protected.







Recreation and physical activity - access to experiences

The RCoW's open space network offers a large variety of experiences and activities for residents and visitors. Creating supportive environments for these activities and experiences is also an important ingredient to facilitating increased use and value of the open space network.

The table below summarises the experiences provided across the LGA. Note: A high provision of activity/ experience does not mean that there is an over-supply.

Existing provision of experiences across the Rural City of Wangaratta

Activity/ Experience	Supporting embellishments/ facilities	High provision	Moderate provision	Lacking in provision
Water-based	Boat ramps			•
recreation	Canoe/kayak launching point/facility		•	
Access to nature	Undeveloped green space		•	
	Natural areas	•		
	Waterways	•		
Escape,	Lookouts		•	
break- out and	Shaded seating areas		•	
recreation areas	Formal/structured gardens			•
Comfort	Public toilets		•	
	Changing place			•
Dog-friendly	Off-leash			•
areas	On-leash		•	
Economic	Equipment/activity hire			•
opportunities	Café's		•	
Indoor recreation/ community meetings	Indoor courts and sports spaces		•	
Outdoor	Bushwalking trails		•	
recreation	Mountain biking			•
	Fishing facilities			

Activity/ Experience	Supporting embellishments/ facilities	High provision	Moderate provision	Lacking in provision
Picnics	Covered gazebos to cater for large groups			•
	Table, seats and shade		•	
	BBQ facilities (gas)		•	
Playgrounds	Toddler	•		
	Young children			
	Youth			•
Sport	Fields/ovals (Council)			
	Fields/ovals (schools)		•	
Activities	Community garden			
	Skate park		•	
	BMX track			
	Outdoor fitness equipment		•	
Walking and	Footpaths	•		
cycling	Shared paths/cycleways	•		
	Bicycle parking			•
Cultural/	Open space for events		•	
community events	Amphitheatre/gazebo/ stage		•	
Art and	Public art			•
culture	Interpretive information and signage			•

Findings for recreation and physical activity



Youth and young people

With the exception of Apex Park, the Mitchell Avenue Reserve and Wangaratta Skate Park, there are little opportunities for youth to participate in active recreation.

 Continue to develop (and to upgrade) youth appropriate recreation opportunities across the LGA to provide continued challenge and stimulation for regular users; outdoor basketball, rebound walls, ninja warrior style equipment, pump tracks, climbing equipment and legitimate places to socialise.



Older adults

There is a need to provide additional recreation opportunities for older adults across the RCoW, including the recommendations from the Wareena Park Master Plan which identifies the need for an intergenerational exercise and play area.

 Additional shaded seating along formed paths and trails, access to public toilets, and opportunities for gentle exercise and social connection - community garden beds, outdoor table tennis and chess tables.



Dog off-leash ares

While a number of dog off-leash areas exist, there is a need to map and promote the existing off-leash spaces, and to provide additional fenced off-leash areas.



Access to water

Access to waterside open space for recreation is highly desired by the community. There is a need to formalise key spaces including Northern Beaches, Sydney Beach, Frank Garth Reserve and Pioneer Bridges in line with usage and demand.

- This includes signage, seating, picnic tables and designated car parking areas where appropriate. Any improvements need to consider the conservation and cultural heritage values of the sites and ensure the Bangerang elders and other relevant stakeholders are included in any planning
- Public toilets conveniently located to the area would also enhance users experience.



Physical activity programs

There is a need to facilitate and promote physical activity programs, community programs, events and performing arts within the open space network. This will require ongoing close liaison between Council departments to ensure an approach that balances activation with sustainable use.



Community gardens

In addition to the existing community garden in Wangaratta, a trial for the installation of community garden beds in some parks to support the need for improved knowledge and skills in growing fruit and vegetables. Improving nutrition, food security and inter-generational connection is a key outcome sought. Trial areas could include Wareena Park, as well as other urban parks and playgrounds where an interested community group exists. These sites would need to be over-seen by an interested community group or organisation to ensure viability and ongoing maintenance.



Formal sport considerations

Council currently manages 14 sports parks (approximately 100ha) that provide a variety of traditional and non-traditional sporting opportunities to the region's residents (and visitors). These sites also host event opportunities such as caravan and camping shows and circuses.

This section of the Strategy provides an overall analysis of formal sporting opportunities at a Council-wide level. More detailed consideration of individual key sports requiring further consideration follows this over-arching summary.

Master plans

Master plans are important tools to guide facility decision-making. They are particularly important for sports facilities where changes in club officials can alter former preferred directions.

Council has overseen development of a number of master plans for sports facilities over the years. However, there is a perception from the sporting clubs, that these master plans rarely result in suitable budget allocations. Council needs to better communicate during the master planning process around the budgetary implications for the actions, and the need for Local Government to rely on state and federal contributions to develop the works.

Future direction of sport

The following section provides recommendations for key sports, which is supported by site specific recommendations within each of the planning districts. The following guiding principles have been developed to guide the future provision and management of sport within the RCoW:

- 1. Ensure maximisation of facilities (formal and informal activities)
- 2. Base decision-making on sound data, demand and sustainable delivery
- 3. Master planning of all major sports parks to ensure there is a demonstrated need for infrastructure upgrades (and to direct future budget preparation)
- 4. Continue to provide communication and networking opportunities to sporting clubs
- 5. Ensure ancillary facilities reflect the needs of participants, officials and spectators.

Additional land for sport

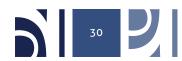
As outlined in this Strategy, the current and projected demand for sports land can be accommodated within the existing open space network with the exception of soccer and hockey. In order to accommodate the needs of these sports, a new site will be required. At a minimum, the site will need to provide 2-4 soccer fields, one synthetic hockey pitch as well as a future hockey training area, a central shared clubhouse, spectator facilities and suitable car parking. As per Council's Planning Scheme, a minimum of 8ha (preferably 10ha) of unencumbered land would be required.

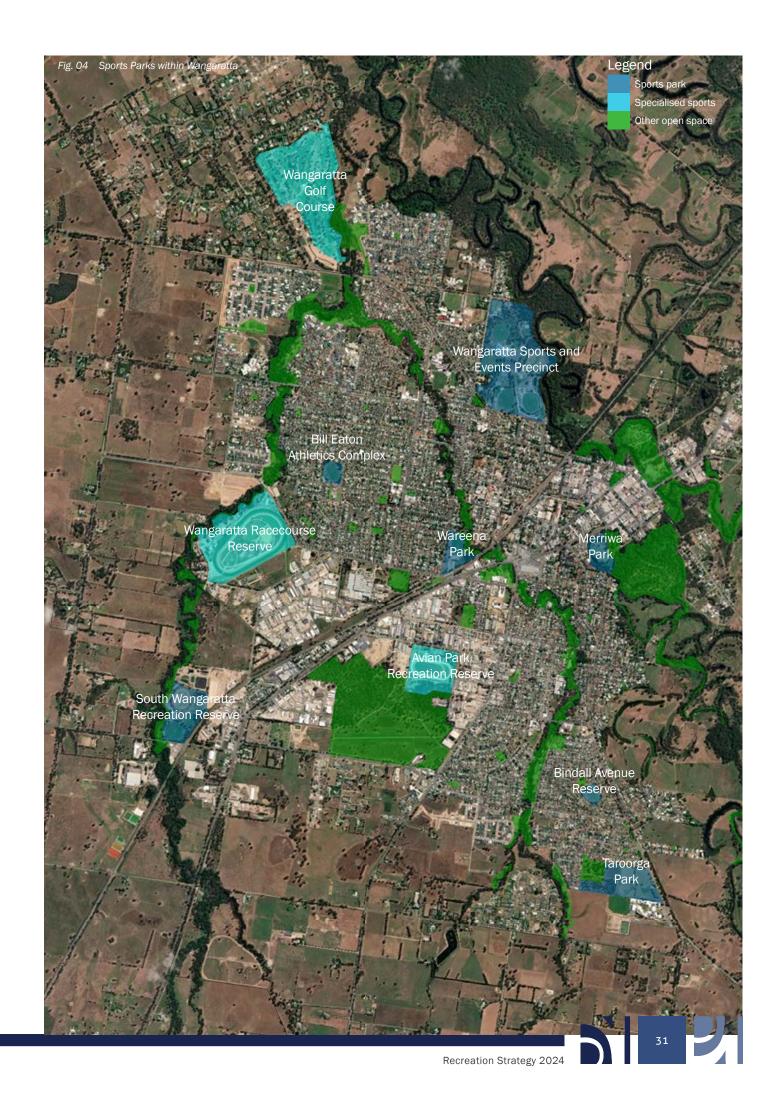
It was hoped that the North West Growth Area would cater for this need, however, the 4ha site that has been proposed for active open space in this area is insufficient due to its size and inclusion of encumbered land onsite as part of the active open space contribution.

Sport parks within Wangaratta

Whilst the rural townships play a large role in the provision of sport within the LGA, Wangaratta is the home of sport given its the population base for the City. The adjoining map shows the existing Council owned and controlled sports park network within Wangaratta. Whilst not shown on the adjoining map, Council also manages North Wangaratta Recreation Reserve.

In addition to these Council owned and managed sports facilities, a number of private facilities exist across the LGA, including schools.





Key sport analysis

An analysis of a number of sports has been undertaken in order to inform future provision and facility development (and guide club and Council decision-making). The sports chosen reflect those with existing (or projected future) infrastructure requirements of key significance. For each sport, a range of elements have been considered:

- existing facilities and the number of courts/fields/ovals
- registered player numbers
- pattern of participation
- carrying capacity of the site(s)
- future direction of the sport
- relevant actions from current master plans and sport strategic plans (including peak body expectations)
- key issues for clubs and the sport
- legislative directions, such as the Fair Access Policy at a State, Local Government and club level.

The information provided on the following pages has been taken directly from club and organisation surveys and follow-up interviews (including with relevant peak bodies). The future directions are informed by club and peak body preferences and by the consultants' analysis of each sport's local participation profile in relation to State and National trends.

Council is currently in the process of implementing master plans for sport and recreation, notably the Parklands Masterplan and Wareena Park Masterplan. These are key planning documents and their recommendations have been reviewed and embedded into this Strategy (where appropriate). The nature of planning for the community requires a level of flexibility. It is acknowledged that community priorities change i.e. Wareena Park Master Plan was developed with the retention of the bowls club in mind. Since the master plan was written, the situation of the bowls club has changed which has lead to this land now being identified in this Strategy for the potential development of an AFL training area (not field). The remainder of the master plan's recommendations remain unchanged.

It is recognised that there are many additional sports being undertaken across the RCoW area. Requests from these sports (representative clubs) should be reviewed by Council on a case-by-case basis and include consideration of existing planning, peak body preferences and potential impacts on the wider sporting network

Archery

Wangaratta Archers provide a year-round archery program from their facility at South Wangaratta Reserve. With weekly training and (at least) monthly competition, the small club is vibrant and maintains a quality facility with both outdoor and indoor ranges. The club is seeking surety of tenure at the facility to allow for future development.

Future Directions

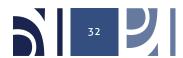
As part of a South Wangaratta Master Plan process, development of a small amenities building (with access to power and water) near to the outdoor range would greatly assist the Wangaratta Archers.

Athletics

The Wangaratta Little Athletics Centre is a thriving Club operating out of Bill Eaton Athletics Complex. The Complex is also used extensively by schools for both carnivals and regular practice, by the Wangaratta Runners, as well as for over-flow training (running and drills) for soccer and rugby league.

Future Directions

There is a need to replace and widen the long jump run up to allow for a 100m synthetic sprint/warm-up surface. The shot put and discus pits require repair/upgrade. In order to improve the training opportunities for other sports, the interior grass surface is in need of improvement, as well as the inclusion of portable soccer goals. A master plan is recommended in order to ensure best outcomes for all groups.



Australian Rules Football (AFL)

AFL is delivered across the RCoW through four community leagues and through three Auskick centres. Together, these opportunities represent more than 1,700 registered AFL participants.

While participation at senior level is steady at national, state and local levels; participation in junior AFL continues to increase (with the local Auskick programs growing by a combined 20% since 2020).

Future Directions

While the availability of grounds across the LGA is appropriate for competition purposes and for meeting the needs of most individual clubs, overuse and capacity issues are beginning to cause difficulties within Wangaratta. Access to additional grounds is required for training purposes within Wangaratta and close surrounds:

- investigate facility upgrades (and shared use arrangements) to accommodate AFL training at the former Rodeo ground at the Wangaratta Events and Sports Precinct, Avian Park and development of a training area at Wareena Park (once bowls is relocated)
- installation of lighting and amenity improvements at Bindall Avenue Reserve to assist with an additional junior training ground
- council to assist AFL North East Border access suitable training arrangements at local schools
- develop a pavilion at Barr Oval 2 to provide suitable ancillary facilities for the sports based at the facility
 the south-west corner of the site (near to the cricket practice nets) would be the most appropriate location
- the discovery of the golden sun moth and the need for a pavilion at Barr Oval 2 is a good opportunity to revisit the Parklands master plan
- development of female friendly change facilities are required at WJ Findlay Oval, Wareena Park and North Wangaratta as a priority.













Wangaratta Baseball-Softball Club provide baseball opportunities in the winter sporting season and softball in the summer sporting season. Baseball is strong and growing with six teams, while softball will host two teams in the 2023/24 season.

Future Directions

Targoora Park meets the needs of both sports well. With access to four diamonds, it is fast-becoming a preferred site for baseball carnivals. Improvements are needed to continue to support these sports:

- drainage works are required across all diamonds
- base cut outs
- lighting on Diamond 1 needs to be upgraded to meet training standard.



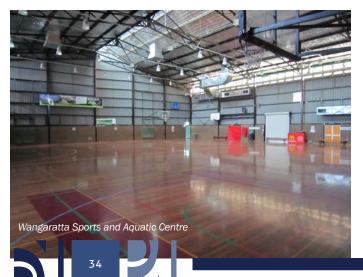
Basketball

The Wangaratta North East Bushrangers Basketball Club has grown well in recent years (almost doubling since inception in 2018). The Club is based at the Wangaratta Sports and Aquatic Centre (WSAC) where training is undertaken two times each week. However, with demand for court space at WSAC high, the Club also uses Wangaratta High School and Cathedral College regularly.

Future Directions

The development of two additional courts at WSAC will ease capacity and booking issues at WSAC. However, with Wangaratta Basketball also running its fixtures and representative programs from the venue, expectation is that the sport of basketball could quickly outgrow the venue (once again).

 council to consider ongoing discussions with formal indoor sport clubs based in Wangaratta. If capacity issues appear evident at WSAC, formalise arrangements with local schools that have appropriate indoor courts to achieve suitable access for community clubs.



Bowls

There are currently two Bowls clubs based within Wangaratta and a further two in the rural areas of Milawa and Moyhu. Those clubs based in rural townships play important roles as community hubs for social interaction and should continue to be supported in growing their membership and as a social connector.

The two Wangaratta-based clubs are currently facing mixed fortunes:

- Wareena Park Bowling Club has one synthetic green and has a dwindling membership base (of less than 30) – indeed the Club is seriously concerned about its ongoing operation and is currently only providing social bowls opportunities
- Wangaratta Bowls and Sports Club is a vibrant club with strong membership (100 bowlers), regular use and four grass greens.



It would appear that Wangaratta can no longer support two bowls clubs. Council needs to work with the two clubs to investigate relocation and amalgamation with the Wangaratta Bowls and Sports club - where facilities can accommodate potential growth in the sport.

A range of facility upgrades have been proposed for the Wangaratta Bowls and Sports Club to meet the Club's needs and provide further impetus for this to become the home for bowls in Wangaratta:

- cover the south-west green to provide an all-weather venue
- open up one of the greens for sports requiring similar facilities (likely croquet)
- light at least two of the greens
- provide a covered spectator viewing area overlooking the covered green
- undertake amenities upgrades
- formalise parking.

Amalgamation of the Wareena Park Bowls Club to the bowls facility at the Wangaratta Events and Sports Precinct would trigger an opportunity to re-visit the Wareena Park Master Plan and Parklands Master Plan.

The synthetic green at the Moyhu Bowls Club is beyond its useful life and requires replacement to support this active club.







Cricket

Cricket is one of the 'traditional' summer season sports played across the region. Within Wangaratta, the Association has access to four turf wicket public ovals at the Wangaratta Sports and Events Precinct and four synthetic wicket public ovals at North Wangaratta Recreation Reserve, South Wangaratta Recreation Reserve, Bindall Avenue Reserve (not used in winter and restricted by oval size and lack of facilities) and Wareena Park. However, all of these facilities are also used for winter season sports – impacting access for pre-season training and turf wicket preparation. A number of the local schools also have ovals with synthetic wickets.



Future Directions

From a trends perspective, cricket is showing a slight declining membership in both senior and junior ranks (despite significant increase in female participation). Locally, participation appears to be steady - although strong numbers in the Blasters (beginner's) program indicates that the junior numbers should increase in coming seasons. Demand for additional ovals with synthetic wickets is projected in the short-term.

With such high demand for field space during the winter sporting season, access for off-season cricket practice is very limited.

- council to work with the District Cricket Association and local schools to formalise arrangements for community use
- convert Barr 1 to synthetic wicket to cater for the predicted increase in junior participation
- develop a pavilion at Barr Oval 2 to provide suitable ancillary facilities for the sports based at the facility
 the south-west corner of the site (near to the cricket practice nets) would be the most appropriate location
- there is a need to re-visit the Parklands master plan
- the development of an indoor cricket training facility (shared with other sports) would address the gap in the network. The Wangaratta Sports and Events Precinct previously had an indoor training facility (before it was condemned) and this Park has again been identified as the preferred site within Wangaratta
- Rovers United Bruck Cricket Club have confirmed the need for female friendly change facilities, and access to storage at WJ Findlay Oval.







Croquet

The Wangaratta Croquet Club is a small club of approximately 40 members, based at two locations; Merriwa Park and Ryan Avenue. They have a steady membership however their clubrooms are ageing.

Future Directions

Monitor the need for upgrade of the ageing clubrooms.

Cycling and Mountain Biking

Wangaratta has a proud history in various cycling and mountain bike disciplines. The Wangaratta Cycling Club previously hosted regular training and racing at the velodrome at the Wangaratta Sports and Events Precinct. However, this track is in poor condition and is no longer suitable for regular training or competition. Monthly road races (and weekly training rides) have also previously been hosted by the Club.

Future Directions

A small group of cycling enthusiasts are keen to reignite the sport within Wangaratta and have made a number of proposals to Council. AusCycling having a clear preference for indoor velodromes:

- the velodrome at the Wangaratta Sports and Events
 Precinct should be removed (as per the Master Plan)
- council to work closely with the Cycling Club to determine preferred routes for road racing and criterium events and assist with gaining suitable regular access
- complete an analysis of cycling infrastructure across the LGA, including feasibility for development of a precinct
- mountain biking continues to grow as both a recreation and formal sport across the country.
 Wangaratta is well-placed to accommodate these activities if Council can continue to advocate for the sport with relevant land managers to achieve suitable community access
- King Valley may be an appropriate area for further investigation given the potential opportunities to build upon the tourism activities
- investigate opportunities for mountain biking in close proximity to urban Wangaratta through discussions with Parks Victoria to determine the suitability of their existing trails in key locations such as the Warby-Ovens National Park.







Equestrian

Oxley Recreation Reserve is one of two 'homes' for equestrian sports for the region. The site includes a sports oval and multiple sand arenas. The facility is used daily for training and hosts monthly competitions.

The Wangaratta Pony Club and Adult Riding Club are based at a Council-owned facility in South Wangaratta. Combined membership of the two clubs is 35 - with participation steady in recent years. The facility includes two dressage arenas and showjumping arena (all lit), fenced grass arena and cross country training course. These facilities are supported by 20 day yards, two amenities buildings, two storage sheds and canteen. The facility attracts between 20 and 25 days use each year for various rallies and clinics.



Future Directions

Oxley Recreation Reserve:

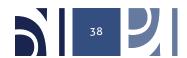
- the facility requires a watering system to suppress dust from the sand arenas
- development of lighting across the sand arenas would allow for greater hours of use during the cooler months and for evening use (when it is cooler) during the hotter months
- if the user groups and enthusiasm for equestrian activities was to continue to grow, Council could investigate the development of a cover over the large sand arena to create an all-weather facility.

Wangaratta Pony Club & Adult Riding Club:

- construct an additional 20 day yards to meet demand for clinics and rallies
- construct a 60m x 20m sand arena to allow for warm-up activities
- investigate potential opportunities for the facility to be activated as a camping area.













Football (soccer)

Football is one of the stronger formal sports in Wangaratta. The Wangaratta City Football Club has grown significantly in recent years – with more than 450 players in the 2023 season (and an increase of 80 in the miniroos program alone in the last year). The Club provides formal football opportunities for males and females of all ages.

South Wangaratta Recreation Reserve is the home of football for the RCoW. The venue includes three full-size fields (two that are lit). With such a large playing base and only two lit fields, training is spread across five nights each week. Matches are played one evening mid-week and on Sundays. Given these high loads, it is not surprising that the two lit fields are used well above capacity and are in poor condition. This is exacerbated by poor drainage at the site. Additionally, the ageing clubhouse does not meet the needs of the Club – with inadequate changerooms, little storage, dated amenities and canteen and no club function area. Finally, the site has limited car parking for the large numbers it attracts.

Wangaratta is also home to a growing all-abilities team. Their demands should be included in the master plan considerations for South Wangaratta Recreation Reserve and/or the future greenfield site.

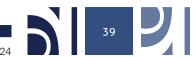
Future Directions

With a projected membership in excess of 500 in 2024, immediate upgrades are essential at South Wangaratta Recreation Reserve to meet current demand for football. Based on the high club membership and continued trends in the sport, it is anticipated that a second site will be required to meet soccer's needs in the near future.

The second site will need to be large enough to accommodate a large central clubhouse, at least two lit fields, spectator facilities and suitable car parking. A master plan will need to be developed for this site (focussed on football) as soon as a land parcel is determined by Council.

Short-term upgrades required at South Wangaratta Recreation Reserve include:

- field upgrades to the two southern fields (irrigation upgrades, drainage upgrades and surface upgrades)
- lighting the main field.



Hockey

Wangaratta Hockey Club is based at the synthetic pitch at Cathedral College. The Club has enjoyed recent growth and currently has in excess of 110 players. With a strong culture and quality programs, this growth is projected to continue moving forward. However, the existing facilities will potentially hamstring this growth. The synthetic pitch is not lit and is dual marked for hockey and mini tennis, as well as there being no amenities or change facilities in close proximity to the pitch. Not having a lit field means that senior training as well as the teams involved in the junior Friday night competition have to play all of their games away. Additionally, being based at a private facility significantly limits opportunities for the Club to attract grants.

Future Directions

In the short-term, Council should lead conversations with Cathedral College and the Club to investigate:

- opportunities for a temporary building (with amenities and changerooms) to be placed near to the pitch
- temporary lighting towers to be installed to allow night training.

In the long term:

- a purpose-built synthetic pitch to be investigated for inclusion at the new greenfield sport site being developed in the north-west growth area
- the site needs to include a central clubhouse, a lit synthetic pitch, spectator facilities and suitable car parking
- a master plan needs to be developed for this site as soon as a land parcel is determined by Council
- future stages of the master plan development should consider a second training pitch for hockey in line with participation and demand.

Motorsports

Wangaratta Motor Sports Club provides a range of speedway class activities at South Wangaratta Recreation Reserve. The facility is used on a monthly basis. Despite having to hire in temporary lighting for race meets, the Club and the races it conducts are growing well (with races regularly attracting in excess of 100 vehicles).

Future Directions

The Club has outlined a number of facility upgrades required to retain Speedway Australia Track accreditation:

- lighting upgrade
- concrete wall and fencing upgrade
- power supply upgrade
- canteen upgrade.





Netball

The sport of netball is delivered from a number of fronts across the region with a good supply of courts to meet demand. Football netball clubs each have their own courts and deliver netball through the various leagues. These clubs report steady membership bases. Additionally, the Wangaratta Netball Association conducts a junior netball program throughout the winter sporting season based at the 15-court facility at the Wangaratta Sports and Events Precinct. In recent seasons, the Association has struggled somewhat with a decreasing membership base.

Future Directions

The facility at the Wangaratta Netball Association will be re-developed by Council as a lit 12-court facility. The existing pavilion will be removed with these functions to be absorbed within the WSAC upgrade. These changes will see the Association needs being met for the foreseeable future.

The Parklands Master Plan includes development of new netball facilities for the Wangaratta Rovers Football Netball Club and the Wangaratta Magpies Football Netball Club.

There is a need to undertake an asset condition and demand audit for all hard courts across the LGA.

Pickleball

Pickleball is recognised as the fastest growing sport globally. This trend is well in-train in Australia. Locally, pickleball is played year-round and has established a four-court base on the hard courts at Merriwa Park and is expanding uses at the Wangaratta Hardcourt Association courts.

There is a need to undertake an asset condition and demand audit for all hard courts across the LGA.

Future Directions

Wangaratta Pickleball will outgrow the Merriwa Park facility quickly. The Wangaratta Hardcourt Association currently has access to 12 hard courts and one shared netball-tennis hardcourt at their facility at the Wangaratta Sports and Events Precinct.

- opportunity exists for the redevelopment of a number of these tennis hardcourts (that receive limited use) as at least 8 pickleball courts
- this Strategy has recommended the development of an indoor sport facility centrally within the Wangaratta Events and Sports Precinct. This facility would be designed to cater for non-traditional sports such as pickleball, table tennis, roller sports and outdoor cricket training
- there is a need to re-visit the Parklands Master Plan.





Roller Sports

Anecdotally, participation in roller sports is increasing. Sports such as inline hockey and roller derby are attracting a clear following within Wangaratta. A local inline hockey club has been established attracting participants from across the Region. The club hosts regular fixtures at the Albury PCYC and participate in representative tournaments.

Future Directions

While demand for standalone facilities is unlikely to be established within the life of this Strategy, opportunity to develop a multi-use indoor facility for non-traditional activities is supported. There is a need to re-visit the Parklands Master Plan in line with the need for a multi-use indoor facility.

Rugby League

There are two rugby league clubs based within the RCoW – Wangaratta Knights Rugby League Club based at Glenrowan Recreation Reserve and Wolfpack Rugby League Club based at Centennial Park (Eldorado) but training between Bindall Avenue Oval and Bill Eaton Athletics Oval. Bill Eaton provides lighting.

Knights are growing well and have established a strong membership base and quality facility. In fact, the Glenrowan Recreation Reserve has become a preferred venue for hosting Association finals. The Club is looking to establish a junior team in 2024.

Wolfpack has grown in 2023 to include two senior men's teams and a female team. Like Knights, the Club is looking to establish at least one junior team in 2024.

Future Directions

- upgrade the lighting at Glenrowan Recreation Reserve to allow night fixtures and install reserves benches
- if the Wolfpack Club continues to grow, investigate the potential development of changeroom facilities at Centennial Park. Consider opportunities to use a relocatable building in the short-term
- additional storage and a minor canteen upgrade are also required at Centennial Park.

Sailing

The North East Windsport Club operates from a 5ha site at Springhurst Recreation Reserve hosting weekly club events. Additionally, the 2019 State Blokart Titles were held at the site. The facility meets current (and expected future) Club demands.

Shooting disciplines

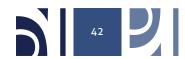
There are three shooting clubs within RCoW. The Wangaratta Small Bore Rifle Club operates out of the Wangaratta Sports and Events Precinct with less than 50 members. The Wangaratta Rifle Club operate out of the Glenrowan Rifle Range with approximately 40-50 members. The Wangaratta Clay Target Club operate out of the North Wangaratta Recreation Reserve.

Future Directions

Continue to work with the three clubs in providing shooting sports for the community.







Swimming

The Wangaratta Amateur Swimming Club bases its swimming and strength and conditioning activities at WSAC. The Club continues to show strong growth (with a membership of almost 100) but reports being limited by available lane space for its daily training activities. The Wangaratta Stingrays Swim Club also undertake regular training and competition at WSAC. It is acknowledged that there is currently no active waterpolo club or competition that operate at WSAC.

Future Directions

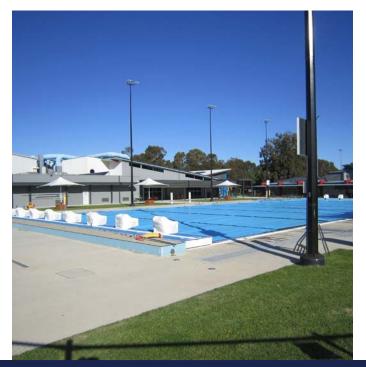
- continue to work closely with the tenant groups using pool space at WSAC to ensure equitable access that reflects user demands
- there is a need to activate the purpose-built waterpolo pool through actively supporting the development of a local competition at WSAC
- look to provide storage for the Stingrays and Swim Club at WSAC as well as access to facilities for meetings on site or at nearby HP Barr Community Centre.

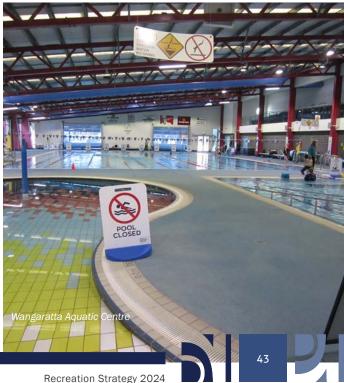
Table Tennis

The Wangaratta Table Tennis Association conducts year-round competition for juniors, seniors and keen-agers (active older adults) at the Association facility at the Wangaratta Events and Sports Precinct. The facility is now too small for the Association and is nearing (or past) the end of its useful life. Fixtures are played one night each week with social keen-ager play conducted two mornings mid-week.

Future Directions

This Strategy has recommended the development of an indoor sport facility centrally within the Wangaratta Sports and Events Precinct. This facility would be designed to cater for non-traditional sports such as pickleball, table tennis, in-line hockey and indoor nets for cricket training. Opportunity would exist within this building for available space for 10 table tennis tables and suitable spectator areas (with additional space for temporary tables to be erected for larger tournaments). There is a need to re-visit the Parklands Master Plan in line with the need for a multi-use indoor facility.





Tennis

Tennis facilities are spread across the LGA. A number of the facilities in rural townships are under-utilised or no longer in use, while larger multi-court facilities such as the lawn tennis facility at Merriwa Park and hard court facility at the Wangaratta Sports and Events Precinct rarely have all courts in use.

Tennis continues to show slight increases in participation for adults while participation for children remains steady (at both national and state levels). However, this has not been the case in RCoW. In addition to the many under-utilised and disused courts located outside Wangaratta, the two primary providers of tennis in Wangaratta are also seeing decreasing use. In fact, the Wangaratta Hardcourt Association are currently only providing tennis activities 3 days each week and have a number of courts not in use (resulting in pickleball continuing to grow from this venue). Similarly, while the Wangaratta Lawn Tennis Club conducts coaching, fixtures and social play across five days each week, they have excess court capacity such that the facility is now also used for pickleball (two times each week) and croquet (three times each week).

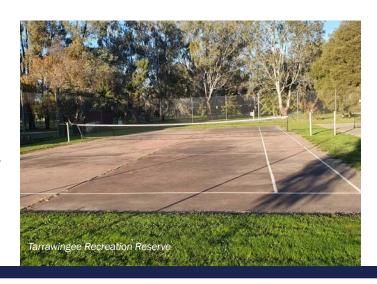


A rationalisation approach to tennis provision is required across RCoW. While tennis was once a thriving year-round sport – this is no longer the case. Where courts are left disused for many years and reach a point of disrepair they should be removed. Also, where opportunity exists to have under-utilised tennis courts re-purposed for alternate uses (such as croquet and pickleball) this should be highly encouraged. Finally, where practical, opportunities to provide free public access courts should also be pursued (e.g. the Tarrawingee Recreation Reserve tennis courts).

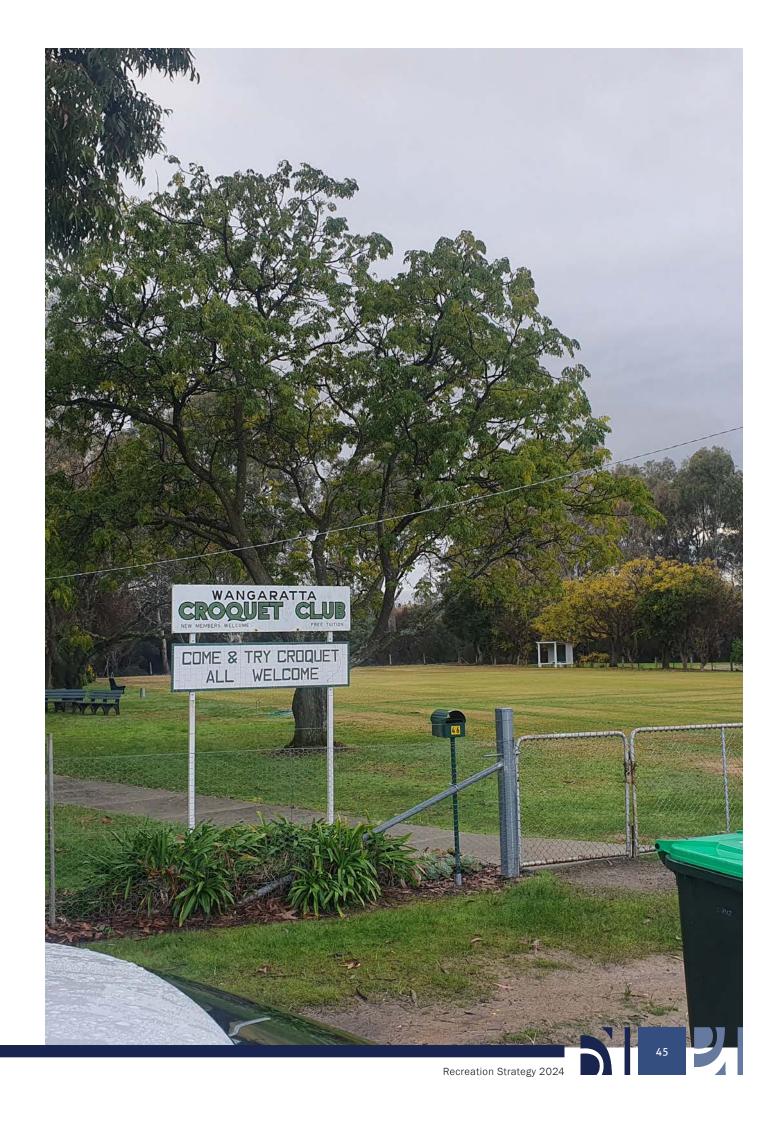
- undertake an asset condition and demand audit for all hard courts across the LGA
- opportunity exists for the redevelopment of a number of the under-utilised tennis hardcourts at the Wangaratta Sports and Events Precinct as 8 pickleball courts
- key facility upgrades requiring attention at the tennis facility at Merriwa Park include replacement of the court fencing (preferably with black plastic-coated fencing); provision of all-abilities access to the clubhouse and upgrade to amenities to support allabilities access; and car park re-surfacing.









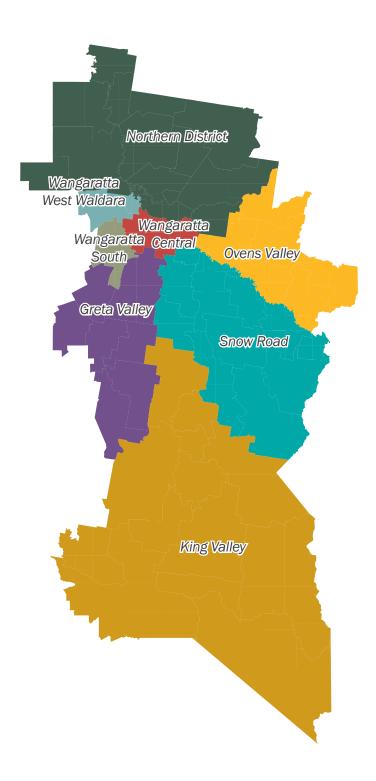




Demand analysis

Recreational open space by planning district

In order to assess (and plan) the RCoW recreational open space network, the LGA has been divided into urban and rural planning districts.



	Planning district	Localities	
Rural districts	Greta Valley District	Greta Greta South Greta West Hansonville	Laceby Glenrowan Glenrowan West
	King Valley District	Whitlands Whitfield Myrrhee King Valley Cheshunt Cheshunt South Wabonga	Edi Upper Edi Rose River Archerton Moyhu
	Northern District	Boorhaman Boorhaman East Boorhaman North Boralma Boweya Bowser North Wangaratta	Springhurst Longdrigan Byawatha Dockers Plains Killawarra Peechelba Peechelba East
	Ovens Valley District	Tarrawingee Bowmans Forest Everton	Everton Upper Eldorado Murmungee
	Snow Road District	Carboor Docker Whorouly Whorouly South Whorouly East	Bobinawarrah Markwood Meadow Creek Oxley Flats Oxley Milawa
Urban districts	Wangaratta - Central East	East Wangaratta Wangaratta	
	Wangaratta South	Wangaratta South	
	Wangaratta West - Waldara	Waldara Wangandary	

Recreation needs and demand considerations

With the formal sport considerations discussed in the previous section at an LGA level, an assessment of the recreation needs of the rural and urban communities have been undertaken by planning district.

The following section includes an assessment of open spaces within each planning district including recreation parks, sports parks (including recreation reserves) and provides commentary on connectivity, access to experiences and priority actions.

A number of existing Council Plans were reviewed and referenced as part of the review including:

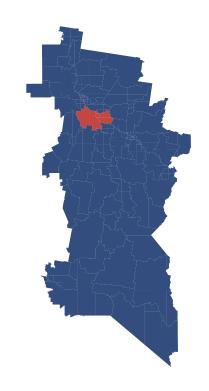
- Open Space and Recreation Strategy 2012
- Rural Place Making Projects 2018
 - Greta Valley District Plan
 - King Valley District Plan
 - Northern District Plan
 - Ovens Valley District Plan
 - Snow Road District Plan
- Township Development Plans
 - Glenrowan Township Development Plan 2015
 - Oxley Township Development Plan 2015
 - Milawa Township Development Plan 2015
 - Moyhu Township Development Plan (under development).

Urban planning districts

Wangaratta Central East District

The Wangaratta Central East Planning District is the population centre of the LGA providing the majority of RCoW's open space network.

The planning district provides the higher order open spaces for the LGA, including the only Citywide Recreation Parks. It also contains a number of significant natural area (both council owned and controlled as well as areas under private control and controlled by other agencies. These important sites include Kaluna Park Bushland Reserve and Wangaratta Common.



Demographic profile

Township	Population as at 2022	Median age
East Wangaratta	66	51
Wangaratta	19,712	44

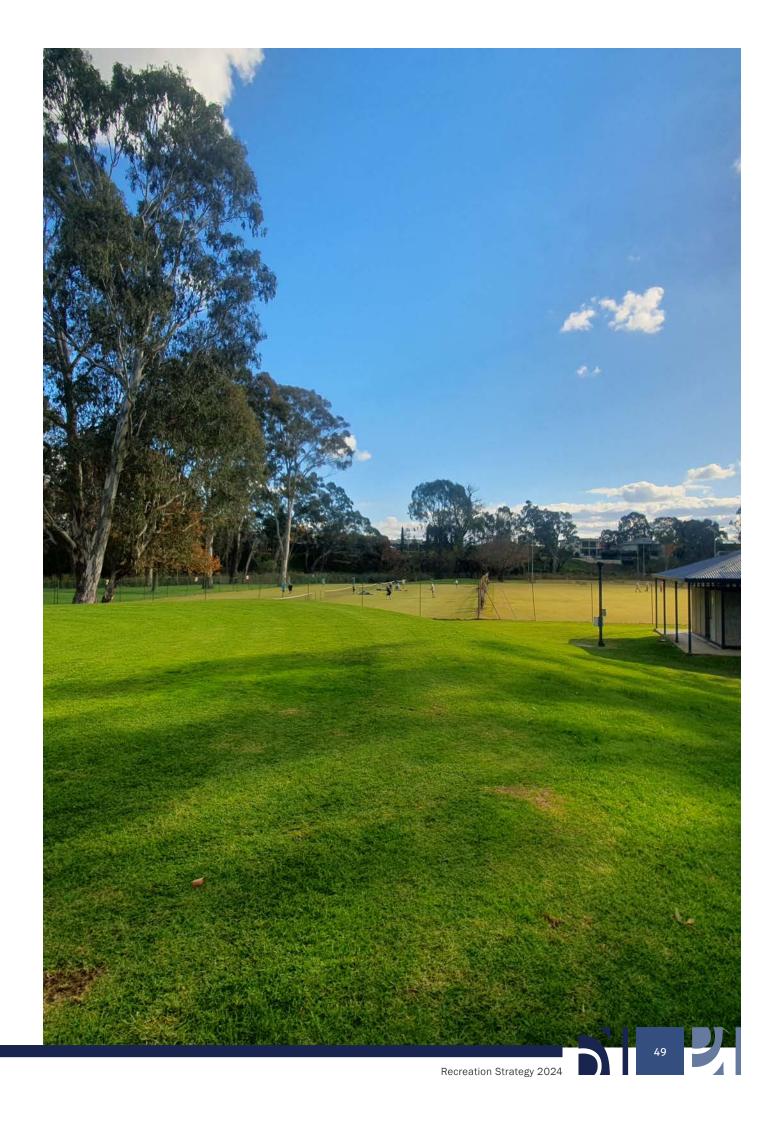
Council's current planning

Relevant to the Strategy, the following projects have been identified within Council's current planning:

- Parklands Master Plan
- Merriwa Park Master Plan
- Wareena Park Master Plan
- WSAC expansion
- Parklands netball court upgrades.

Council's Open Space Strategy 2012 identified a number of actions which have been considered within the assessment of community demand for this Strategy:

- Improve the bicycle network along the Ovens River to provide continuous linkages, including the shared path linkage between the Northern Beaches and central Wangaratta
- Enhance the trail network along One Mile Creek and better link urban areas to the CBD
- Explore the possible location of a neighbourhood park in the eastern part of Kaluna Park near Wilson Road
- Enhance Kaluna Park as natural area with minimum infrastructure and continue current rehabilitation
- Conserve the heritage values of King George V Gardens and encourage use by visitors to the central business area by enhancing pedestrian connections.

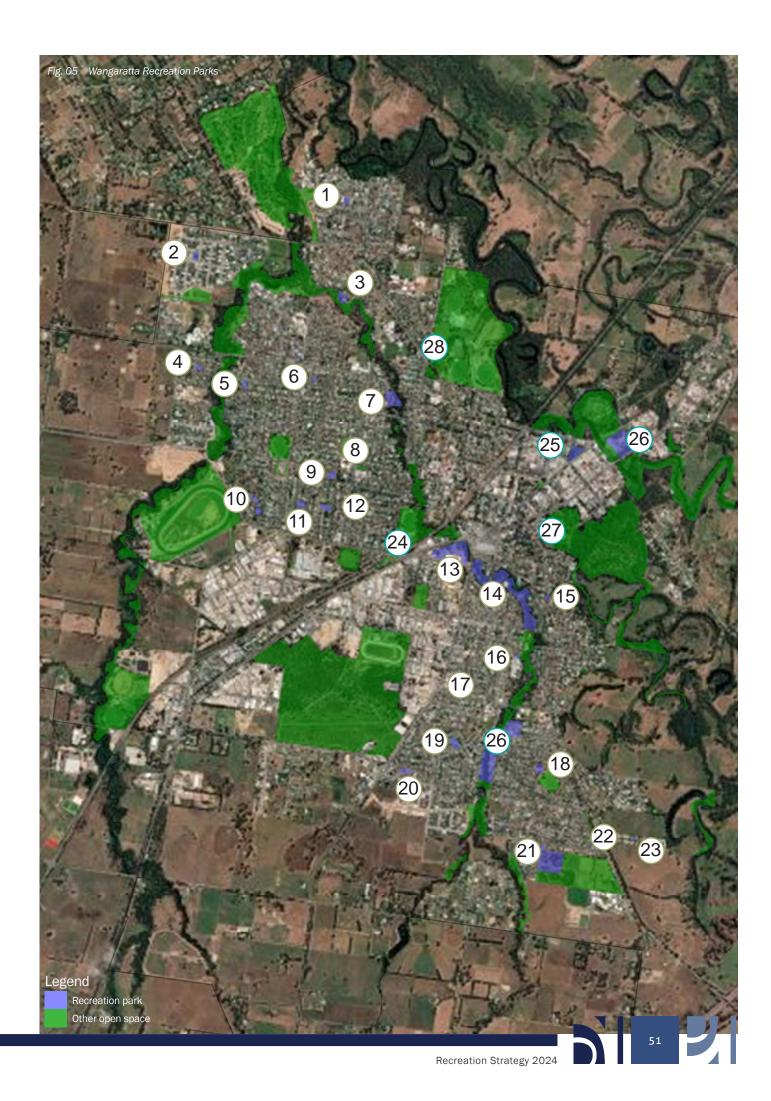


Local recreation parks

- 1. Swinburne Drive Playground
- 2. Baltimore Park
- 3. Dalton Reserve
- 4. Baroona Reserve
- 5. Jaycees Park
- 6. Evalyn Reserve
- 7. Sadler Reserve
- 8. Wonga Park
- 9. Brien Park
- 10. Rangeview Park
- 11. Dodsworth Reserve
- 12. Burns Reserve
- 13. Batchelors Green
- 14. Ryan Reserve
- 15. Dundas Reserve
- 16. Smith Reserve
- 17. Wangaratta Community Garden
- 18. Kiwanis Park
- 19. Burke Reserve
- 20. Kendall and Orange Court Reserve
- 21. Wenhams Lane Reserve
- 22. Murdoch Reserve
- 23. Pelican Court Place
- 24. Wareena Park

Citywide recreation parks

- 25. King George V Gardens
- 26. Apex Park
- 27. Mitchell Avenue Reserve
- 28. Merriwa Park
- 29. Wangaratta Skatepark



Local recreation parks

1. Swinburne Drive Playground

Swinburne Park has road frontage to Swinburne Drive and is connected to the local footpath network.

The park provides recreation opportunities for young children as well as shade, seating and water.

Recommendation - Continue to maintain the park as it is.



Baltimore Park has complete road frontage access and is connected to the local footpath network.

The newly developed park has basic play elements including a swing set and spring toy and provides a large grassed kick-about area for informal games.

Recommendation - opportunity to install a soccer goal or rebound ball wall to enhance opportunities for an older age range.

3. Dalton Reserve

Dalton Reserve is a recreation node within the One Mile Creek linear open space. The playground has access from Dalton Court as well as the One Mile Creek path network.

The park has natural shade and provides recreation opportunities for young children as well seating.

Recommendation - opportunity to diversify the age range of the play equipment.

4. Baroona Court Playground

Baroona Reserve is an irregular shaped park, hidden behind a number of houses. It has limited road frontage and surveillance, with access points from Baroona Court, Cooba Court and Barkoo Avenue.

This type of park is undesirable due to a lack of surveillance from the road and solid fences from adjoining neighbours.

The park has a basic playground with little shade or amenity,

Recommendation - install shade over the playground and seek to diversify the age range of the play equipment.











5. Jaycees Park

Jaycees Park has road frontage to Franklin and Esmond Streets and provides pedestrian access through the park via a local footpath.

The playground is shaded with seating and provides play opportunities for younger children. The park has a large grassed area providing opportunities for informal games and kick-about.

There are a number of local recreation parks in close proximity to this park.

Recommendation - Investigate diversification of play equipment.



Evalyn Reserve has limited road frontage, with access from Evalyn and Doreen Courts. It provides pedestrian access between the two streets.

The park has very basic play equipment including a slide, a spring toy and a swing. There is a picnic table, however, no shade over the playground.

Recommendation - Remove the play equipment at the end of its useful life and investigate opportunities to rationalise the park or maintain as amenity only i.e. more plantings.

7. Sadler Reserve/One Mile Creek Outdoor Gym

Sadler Reserve is a recreation node along One Mile Creek linear parkland providing outdoor exercise equipment. The recreation node is connected by the One Mile Creek Trail and local footpath network.

Recommendation - monitor usage of the exercise equipment and consider running 'how to use' sessions for the community. Provision of QR Codes linking people with how to use the equipment is also recommended.

8. Wonga Park

Wonga Park is a large fenced recreation park that has a cricket pitch and one set of AFL goal posts. The Park adjoins Wangaratta West Primary School and gets regular use by the school. The site has outdated irrigation.

This is an important site that offers informal active recreation opportunities for the community as well as an opportunity for irregular sport training.

Recommendation - retain Wonga Park and look for opportunities to improve drainage, or to further involve the school in the management of the space.









9. Brien Crescent Park

Brien Park has complete road frontage on all sides, with Brien Crescent, Donald and Oleary Streets. The park is connected to the local footpath network on Donald and Oleary Streets.

The playground provides local recreation opportunities for young children and is shaded. The park provides grassed areas for kick-about and informal games. The mature trees provide local amenity.

Recommendation - opportunity to diversify the age range of the play equipment by providing a climbing structure, monkey bars or similar activity for older children.

10. Rangeview Park

Rangeview park is an irregular shaped park with access from Rangeview Avenue, Ross, Lowe and Barrington Courts. The section on Rangeview Avenue and Tilson Grove has good road frontage, however, the remainder of the park runs behind houses and has limited surveillance. The park has a limited range of play equipment including a slide, swing set and a spring toy. The playground is not shaded, however, the park itself has a number of mature trees.

Recommendation - investigate opportunities to develop a fenced dogoff leash and rationalise area within the linear section of the park that runs behind the houses.



11. Dodsworth Reserve

Dodsworth Reserve has road frontage to Hinchley and Dodsworth Streets and is connected to the local footpath network. The park has a sheltered playground catering for younger children and has a large grassed area for informal games and kick-about. There are a number of local recreation parks in close proximity to this park.

Recommendation - Continue to maintain the park as it is.



12. Burns Reserve

Burns Reserve has road frontage to both Burns and Donald's Street and is connected to the local footpath network. The park provides basic recreation opportunities including a slide, swings and a spring toy. The playground in not shaded however the park itself has a number of mature trees.

There are a number of local recreation parks in close proximity to this park.

Recommendation - Investigate opportunities to rationalise play equipment and create a fenced off-leash dog park.





13. Batchelors Green - Wangaratta Lions Park

Batchelors Green has road frontage to three sides and is connected to the One Mile Creek Trail. While the park forms part of the One Mile Creek linear parkland it is severed by Tone Road.

The park is shaded and provides recreation opportunities for toddlers as well as a liberty swing for children in wheel chairs.

The park contains a number of picnic tables and shelters as well as barbecues.

Recommendation - Continue to maintain the park as it is.



The Road Safety School is a locked facility owned and managed by Apex. The facility is open for hire and private bookings only.

Recommendation - investigate the opportunity to open the facility for public use on a regular basis to increase public access and use.

15. Dundas Reserve

Dundas Reserve has good road frontage to half the park and is connected to the local footpath network. The park contains a slide and a seat.

There are a number of local recreation parks in close proximity to this park.

Recommendation - Investigate opportunities to preserve Dundas Reserve for passive recreation (including additional planting in line with the Urban Tree Plan at the end of asset useful life).

16. Smith Reserve

Smith Reserve has very little road frontage and poor surveillance. The park backs on to the One Mile Creek linear park and is connected to the One Mile Creek trail.

The playground equipment has been recently upgraded.

Recommendation - Continue to maintain the park as it is.









17. Kiwanis Park

Kiwanis Park has road frontage to Mather Street and adjoins Bindle Avenue Sports Reserve. The park is connected to the local footpath network.

The park contains a slide, a swing set and two spring toys. The park has no shade and provides little amenity or recreation opportunity in its current state.

There are a number of local recreation parks in close proximity to this park as well as the high quality Mitchell Avenue Reserve.

Recommendation - Investigate opportunities to rationalise the equipment from Kiwanis Park and improve amenity through plantings, seating and informal recreation opportunities. The addition of play equipment for older children should be installed at the adjoining Bindall Avenue Reserve.



The community garden is a fenced facility run by volunteers. The garden is connected to the local footpath network and provides plots and equipment for members to grow food and connect socially with other members.

Recommendation - Collaborate with the community garden committee to prioritise delivery of projects identified in the Community Garden Master Plan.

19. Burke Reserve

Burke Reserve has road frontage to Burke Street and Manley Crescent and is connected to the local footpath network.

The park provides a shaded playground for young children as well as a large grassed kick-about area and seating. There are a number of local recreation parks in close proximity to this park as well as the high quality Mitchell Avenue Reserve.

Recommendation - Investigate opportunities to diversify the recreation opportunities at Burke Reserve to cater for older children and youth.

20. Kendall and Orange Court Reserve

Kendall and Orange Court Reserve has limited road frontage with access from both Kendall and Orange Courts. The park is connected to the local footpath network. The park has an unshaded playground with little recreation experience; a swing, spring toy and slide. The park has a large grassed area for kick-about and has a number of mature trees.

Recommendation - Investigate opportunities to diversify the recreation opportunities at Kendall and Orange Court Reserve to cater for older children and youth.











21. Wenhams Lane Reserve

The park has road frontage to Wenhams Lane and adjoins Wenhams Lane Bushland Reserve and Tarooga Park. The playground caters for young children and toddlers with a shaded seating area. The playground itself is not shaded. The park is connected to the local footpath network, the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail and One Mile Creek Trail.

The park lacks shade and amenity.

Recommendation - Investigate opportunities to improve the amenity of the park and provide additional plantings for shade.

22. Murdoch Reserve

Murdoch Reserve has frontage to Wangaratta-Whitfield Road/Murdoch Road and is connected to the local footpath network and Murray to Mountains Rail Trail. The park forms part of the rail trail/road corridor easement.

The park has a swing set and spring toy that appears to be well past the end of their useful life.

The park's mature trees provide amenity to the local area.

Recommendation - Remove the swing set and spring toy and increase plantings. Maintain the park for local amenity.

23. Pelican Court Place

The park has road frontage to Pelican Court and is connected to the local footpath network.

The park has a swing set and a seat.

The park lacks amenity and recreation experience in its current state.

Recommendation - Install additional play equipment such as a climbing net and increase plantings.

24. Wareena Park

Wareena Park is predominately a Sports Park, providing an AFL and cricket oval, and a bowls club. There is a need to formalise a training area for AFL and potentially combine the bowls club with the Wangaratta Bowls and Sports Club. To enhance the parks appeal and available recreation opportunities, there is a need to develop formal play opportunities that cater for a number of age groups. Utilise the central location of the Park, as well as its existing connections it has to walk and cycle networks and transport.

Recommendation - develop an inter-generational play node and exercise space at Wareena Park.









Citywide recreation parks

25. King George V Gardens

King George V Gardens is an important park within the Wangaratta town centre for its role in providing amenity and recreation for the City's residents and visitors. The park is connected to the local footpath network and has road frontage to Ovens and Templeton Streets.

The park has a shaded playground catering for young children as well as picnic facilities including a covered gazebo.

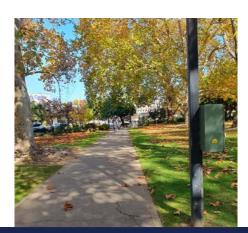
The internal pathway is surrounded by an avenue of trees providing both shade and amenity for park users.

King George V Gardens rated highly within the community consultation as a site requiring additional planning and infrastructure. Whilst the intent of the park as a formal garden and amenity park needs to be maintained, a master planning process would confirm the future direction as confirmed by the community.

Recommendation - undertake a master planning process with the local community to confirm its future direction, whilst maintaining the parks intent as a formal garden and amenity park.







26. Apex Park

Apex Park is one of RCoW's citywide recreation parks providing community and visitors with a wide range of recreation opportunities for toddlers, small children, older children and youth with a children's adventure playground and parkour park. It provides picnicking facilities and plenty of grassed areas for informal games and kick-about. The Park has toilets and barbecues with large shelters for groups. It is the start and finish for Wangaratta ParkRun.

The park experiences regular flooding given its riverside location.

The park is well connected to the local footpath network, as well as to higher order pathways including the Bullawah Cultural Trail and the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail. The Park contains the Marmungan Rock which is the starting point for the Bullawah Trail.

The park is one of the few in the LGA that caters for older children and youth.

Recommendation - Remove the CFA training track and open up the views from the park to the river, Replace the training track with interpretive signage about the historical use of the site.

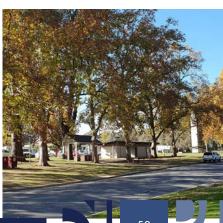












27. Mitchell Avenue Reserve

The Mitchell Avenue Reserve is a citywide recreation park that provides a number of high quality elements in a linear corridor. The park caters for all ages and abilities:

- Splash Park
- Converted tennis court model cars, basketball hoop
- Flying fox with accessible swing
- Barbecues
- Seating and shelters
- Toilets
- Shaded young children's playground
- Swings
- Outdoor fitness equipment
- Children's garden
- Skate park and pump track.

The park is well connected to the local footpath network and the One Mile Creek shared path.

Recommendation - investigate the provision of a public toilet and drinking water at the skate park. For the outdoor fitness equipment, consider running 'how to use' sessions for the community. Provision of QR Codes linking people with how to use the equipment is also recommended

















Rural City of Wangaratta

28. Merriwa Park

Merriwa Park is a citywide park for its function as a community and events space as well as recreation park and sports park. The recreation opportunities predominately cater for young children and toddlers.

Families are well provided for with barbecues, picnic tables, toilets, a fernery and plenty of grassed areas for informal games and kick-about.

The Park lacks recreation opportunities for older children/youth.

Recommendations:

- Investigate the removal of the sound shell. It is poorly located and does not adequately provide for events
- In line with the Merriwa Park Masterplan, upgrade the playground at the end of its useful life with more diverse play elements catering for toddlers, young children and youth. The Park's setting would be ideal for an adventure style nature playground, as well as for hosting adventure-style events including obstacle courses, colour-run and giant inflatable courses.

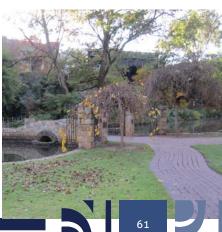












29. Wangaratta Skatepark

The Wangaratta Skatepark is suitably located in close proximity to two high schools, as well as on the periphery of the Wangaratta Sports and Events Precinct with good passive surveillance.

The skatepark is well used by the community.

Recommendation - add older youth recreation opportunities to the skatepark with additional wheeled sports elements to increase its functionality and appeal.





Recreation accessibility

When considering an ideal accessibility of most residences within 400m of a recreation park (within urban areas only), a number of access deficiencies exist. The adjoining map shows 400m buffers of existing recreation parks within Wangaratta, with an assessment below of the areas with an identified access deficiency.

Inset 1

There is a pocket of low density residential in the vicinity of Firbank Drive with an access shortfall to recreation parks. These are large residential lots with varying minimum lot sizes.

The Wangaratta North West Growth Area adjoins this area and has passive open space in the form of local recreation parks proposed. Given the large lot sizes and the proximity of the proposed local recreation parks, no further recreation parks are required.

Inset 2

The general residential zone in the vicinity of Pauline Terrace and Red Gum Way has an accessibility deficiency. This area is well connected to the local footpath network and Three Mile Creek pathway. While this area has an access deficiency to recreation parks, it has direct access to the Fifteen Mile Creek linear open space corridor. No additional recreation parks are required to meet the deficiency.

Inset 3

There is a small deficiency area zoned general residential in the vicinity of Mayfair Court and Berry Place. It is an isolated pocket of residents adjoining the Ovens River. This area has no footpath network and there is little opportunity to improve accessibility to recreation parks. It is recommended that Council seek to purchase private land along the Ovens River (where opportunities become available) to improve open space connectivity along the waterway.

Inset 4

An area of general residential zone along Park Crescent has an accessibility deficiency. Parts of the area are connected to the local footpath network, and residents have direct access to the Wangaratta Sports and Events Precinct for active and passive recreation needs. There is no need for an additional recreation park.

Inset 5

This area has an access deficiency, however, is highly walkable with a comprehensive local footpath network. It is zoned neighbourhood residential and has direct access to Wangaratta Sports and Events Precinct for active or passive recreation. There is no need for an additional recreation park.

Inset 6

There is a small pocket around Wilson Road with an access deficiency zoned general residential. This area has direct access to Kaluna Island. The Merriwa Park Master Plan recommends improved connectivity and access in this area.

Inset 7

This deficiency area is zoned industrial 1 and, therefore, will not require any additional provision of recreation parks.

Inset 8

This is a small pocket of deficiency that is zoned industrial 1 and commercial 2 zones. With no residential there is no additional need for the provision of a recreation park.

Inset 9

This deficiency area is zoned industrial 1 and, therefore, will not require any additional provision of recreation parks.

Inset 10

This deficiency area is zoned industrial 1 and, therefore, will not require any additional provision of recreation parks.

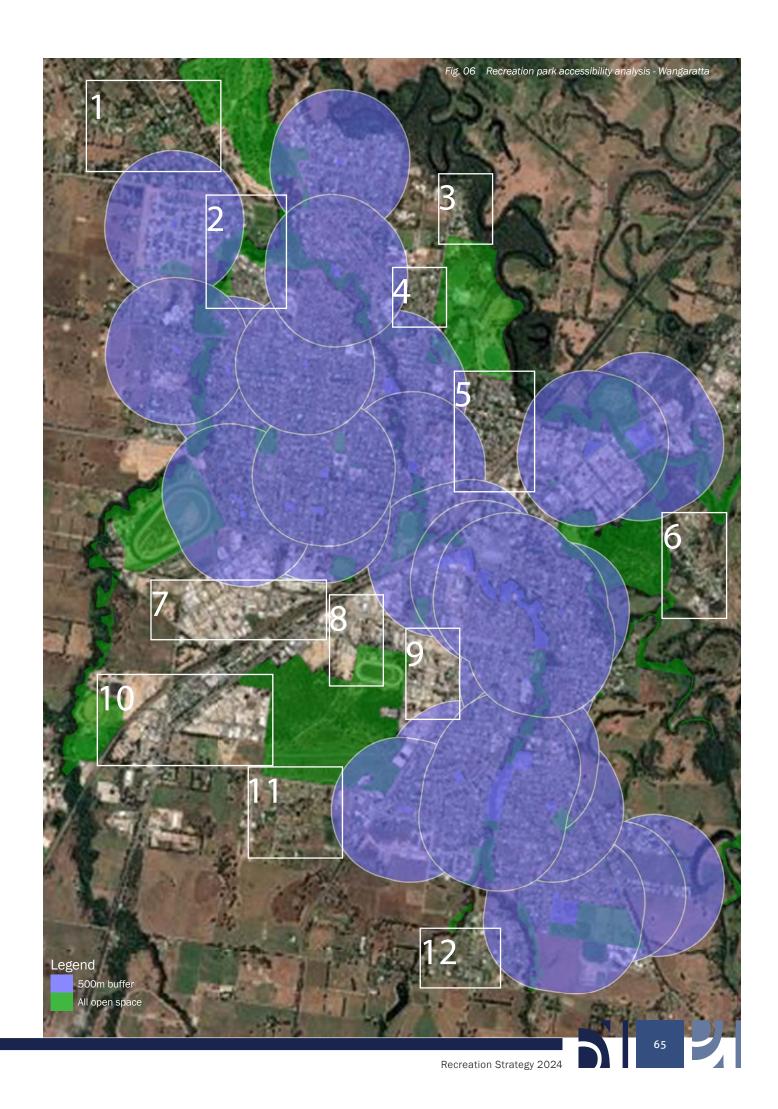
Inset 11

There is a small area of access deficiency in the vicinity of Tavern Terrace and Liddell Drive. The area is low density residential zone. The area has direct access to Wangaratta Common. The Wangaratta South Growth Area is in close proximity which proposes passive recreation in the form of local parks. These proposed local parks in conjunction with the close access to the Wangaratta Common negates the need for additional recreation parks in this area.

Inset 12

There is a small area of access deficiency in the vicinity of Tathra Place. The area is low density residential zone with varied minimum lot sizes. The area has direct access to One Mile Creek linear open space. The Wangaratta South Growth Area is in close proximity which proposes passive recreation in the form of local parks. These proposed local parks in conjunction with the close access to the One Mile Creek will relieve this deficiency.





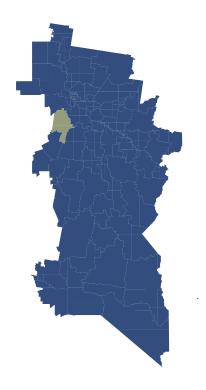
Wangaratta South District

This planning district contains no formal recreational open space, however contains significant public conservation and resource zone in the Warby-Ovens National Park.

The planning district is mostly comprised of rural loving zone and farming zone under Council's Planning Scheme.

Demographic profile

Township	Population as at 2022	Median age
Wangaratta South	550	49



Wangaratta West Waldara District

This planning district contains part of the Wangaratta North West Growth Area and currently contains no formal recreational open space, however, contains significant public conservation and resource zone in the Warby-Ovens National Park.

The planning district is comprised of low density residential rural living zone and farming zone under Council's Planning Scheme.

Demographic profile

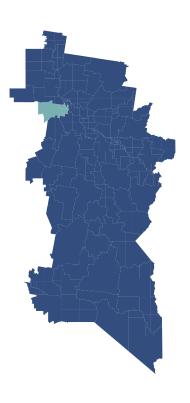
Township	Population as at 2022	Median age
Waldara	677	47
Wangandary	217	52



The Planning District is home to the Wangaratta and Jubilee Golf Clubs.

Shared path

The town of Waldara is well-connected into Wangaratta via a shared pathway.

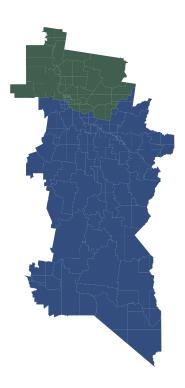


Rural planning districts Northern District

The Northern District has a small population base distributed over the main localities of Springhurst, North Wangaratta, Peechelba and Boorhaman.

Outside these towns, the planning district is predominately zoned farming followed by public conservation and resource.

The planning district is home to the Warby-Ovens and Chiltern- Mount Pilot National Parks



Demographic profile

Township and rural townships	Population as at 2022	Median age
North Wangaratta	282	48
Springhurst	349	47
Boorhaman	135	48
Peechelba	177	48



North Wangaratta

North Wangaratta Recreation Reserve

The North Wangaratta Recreation Reserve is a standalone reserve on the entrance to Wangaratta. The reserve is home to AFL and netball and has a shaded playground for young children. The Wangaratta Clay Target Club are also housed at the site.

The Reserve has competition standard lighting to the oval and has recently developed the second netball court. The Reserve has some aged infrastructure in need of removal, including a derelict toilet block.

There is an opportunity to investigate development of unused land within the Reserve for AFL training. The site is in need of female friendly change facilities and additional amenities. The development of a site concept plan would guide future infrastructure decision-making.

The Reserve is connected to the local footpath network.















Springhurst

Springhurst Recreation Reserve

Springhurst Recreation Reserve is a DEECA owned reserve, operated by a Committee of Management with limited Council input. It is home to the North East Windsport Club. The Reserve has an unused oval and derelict tennis courts. The Springhurst Community Hall and CFA are located on site.

If the current attempt to reinvigorate use proves unsuccessful, there is a need to remove the derelict tennis courts to improve amenity.

Springhurst Park Reserve

Springhurst Park Reserve is a DEECA owned reserve, operated by a Committee of Management with limited Council input. It has a shaded slide and swing set. The Park has public toilets and seating. With a sealed car park, the park acts as a rest stop for visitors.

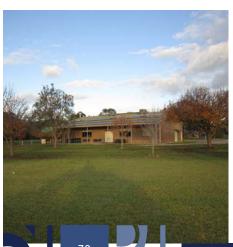
In addition to the Recreation Reserve and Springhurst Park, Springhurst is home to a number of other important community and open spaces as outlined in the adjoining table and map.



Map ref	Site
1	Springhurst Recreation Reserve
2	Springhurst Park Reserve
3	Springhurst Primary School
4	Springhurst Community Hall











Rural City of Wangaratta

Boorhaman

Boorhaman Recreation Reserve and Golf Club

The Recreation Reserve is a DEECA owned reserve and is home to golf, foot golf, tennis, a play node and the Boorhaman Community Hall. Some of the tennis courts were upgraded in 2017 and are lit.

A covered seating area needs to be installed near the barbecue and the play node requires a shade sail.

Boorhaman North

Boorhaman North Recreation Reserve

The Boorhaman North Recreation Reserve is a DEECA owned reserve, operated by a Committee of Management with limited Council input. It largely functions as a undeveloped riverside park. The former tennis courts are in disrepair and the amenities are beyond their useful life. The Reserve is currently being used for cattle agistment. The site requires a complete re-think if it is to be retained as public open space. The possibility of a boat ramp should be investigated with appropriate bodies.



Peechelba Bushland Reserve

The Peechelba Bushland Reserve is a DEECA owned reserve, operated by a Committee of Management with limited Council input. It is a heavily vegetated site that caters for passive recreation including bushwalking and birdwatching, The site has outdoor fitness equipment, a lit tennis court as well as a community hall with access to toilets, barbecue facilities and a playground.

Northern District planning area findings

The Northern District has a low population based and is characterised by dispersed communities.

The opportunity exists to enhance the capacity of the North Wangaratta Recreation Reserve through developing part of the unused land within the reserve for AFL training. Additionally, removal of the derelict toilet block to increase amenity of the site.

There is a need to remove the derelict tennis courts at the Springhurst Recreation Reserve to improve amenity. A cost-effective method of redeveloping one court should be investigated.

The Boorhaman Recreation Reserve requires a covered seating area near the barbecue and the play node requires a shade sail.

The possibility of a boat ramp should be investigated at the Boorhaman North Recreation Reserve with appropriate bodies.









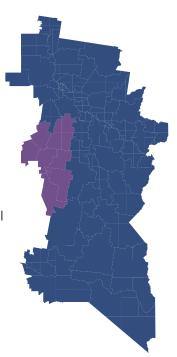
Greta Valley District

The Greta Valley planning district's main township is Glenrowan, with other minor localities including Greta, Laceby and Hansonville.

The planning district has the Warby Ranges to the north and the Warby-Ovens National Park to the west. Outside of Glenrowan, the planning district is almost completely zoned farming.

The planning district has a small population which is supported by a suitably-sized open space network.

The two sporting reserves in this area are owned by the Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action (DEECA) and operated by committees of management.



Demographic profile

Township and rural townships	Population as at 2022	Median age
Glenrowan	1,049	45
Greta	86	47
Laceby	304	42
Hansonville	155	43

Greta

Greta Recreation Reserve

The Greta Recreation Reserve is a DEECA owned reserve, operated by a committee of management with limited Council input. It is a stand-alone reserve that houses the Greta Hansonville Public Hall, football, netball and cricket. The Reserve has basic field lighting, a large pavilion, cricket nets and tennis courts in disrepair.

The Reserve is not supported by a township or residential population and the football club's training is conducted in both Greta and Wangaratta (given the vast majority of players come from Wangaratta).

The level of embellishment at this Reserve is appropriate for the population it supports and careful consideration should be taken prior to any facility upgrades.

The Committee is looking to add a playground at the Recreation Reserve.

There is a need to remove the old tennis courts as they are beyond repair.

Hansonville Recreation Reserve

Hansonville Recreation Reserve is a DEECA owned reserve, operated by a committee of management with limited Council input and is an undeveloped site that is heavily vegetated and home to a large population of kangaroos.













Recreation Strategy 2024

Glenrowan

Glenrowan Recreation Reserve

The Glenrowan Recreation Reserve is a DEECA owned reserve, operated by a committee of management with limited Council input. It is located within the township of Glenrowan and houses the Glenrowan and District Community Centre and rugby league. The Reserve has two netball courts (one that is new) and neither are currently in use.

The Reserve has a condemned scouts building, another netball court and cricket practice nets that are in disrepair.

There is a need to remove the old netball court and cricket nets from the Reserve in order to improve amenity.

Glenrowan Lions Park

This newly developed park provides residents and visitors with passive recreation opportunities including a playground for young children, pathways and picnic facilities. The park supports the Ned Kelly Museum and provides a rest stop for visitors in the heart of town.



Other open spaces and community places

In addition to the Recreation Reserve and Lions Park, Glenrowan is home to a number of other important community and open spaces:

Map ref	Site
1	Glenrowan Recreation Reserve
2	Glenrowan Lions Park
3	Glenrowan Rifle Range and Rifle Club
4	Glenrowan Kindergarten
5	Glenrowan Scout Hall
6	Fosters Lake picnic area
7	Spring Creek Reserve
8	Glenrowan Primary School

Glenrowan Recreation Reserve Dam is a popular spot for recreational fishing as the Victorian Fisheries Authority stock the lake regularly as part of their family fishing lakes program. It was identified during the community consultation for this Strategy that access to this dam is difficult for those with mobility issues.

Connectivity

A pathway runs along the Old Hume Highway from the Recreation Reserve at Glenrowan to Glenrowan North.









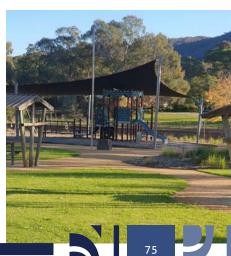












Greta Valley district planning area findings

There is a lack of active recreation opportunities for young people within the planning district. The sole playground at Glenrowan provides opportunities for young children and families. There is an opportunity to develop an appropriately sized pump track or other youth recreation facility within Glenrowan.

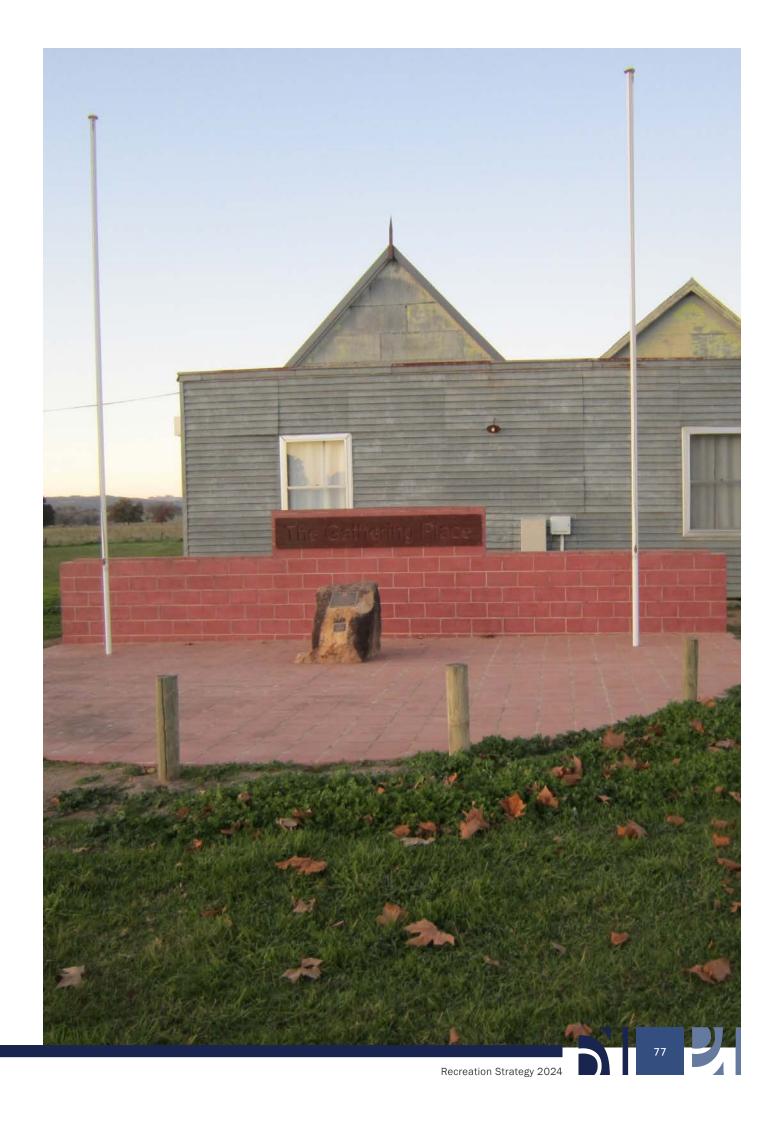
Opportunity exists to utilise the Glenrowan and District Community Centre and Scout Hall for physical activity programming.

Activation of the Glenrowan Recreation Reserve for additional community use outside of the formal sports that occur there.

Opportunity to rationalise/cap support of sporting infrastructure upgrades (such as large pavilions, function rooms and competition-level lighting) at Greta Recreation Reserve to prevent over-development in line with the residential population.

Priority recommendations for the Greta Valley include:

- Remove the old netball court and cricket practice nets from the Glenrowan Recreation Reserve
- Investigate the development of a small youth appropriate recreation opportunity within Glenrowan, such as a pump track or outdoor basketball court
- Investigate the feasibility of improving access to Fosters Lake for recreational fishers with mobility needs
- Support the removal of the tennis courts from Greta Recreation Reserve
- Support the Committee in their desire to add a playground to the Greta Recreation Reserve.



King Valley District

The King Valley planning district's main townships are Moyhu and Whitfield, with other localities including Cheshunt, Myrrhee and Edi Upper.

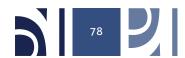
The planning district is home to the Alpine National Park with Mount Buffalo National Park and Mount Samaria State Park bordering the LGA.

Outside the towns of Moyhu, Whitfield, Cheshunt and Myrrhee the planning district is almost completely zoned public conservation and resource or farming.

The Moyhu and Myrrhee Recreation Reserves are owned by DEECA and operated by a Committee of Management.

Demographic profile

Township and rural townships	Population as at 2022	Median age
Moyhu	436	48
Whitfield	219	53
Cheshunt	212	50
Myrrhee	168	49



Whitfield

Whitfield Recreation Reserve

The Whitfield Recreation Reserve is Council owned and managed by a Committee of Management. It is located within Whitfield and is home to AFL and netball and has one functional tennis court that is lit.

The Reserve has an extensive pavilion as well as a disused tennis building.

The Reserve has a new netball court and shaded playground that adjoins a picnic shelter with seating and a barbecue.

There is a need to remove the former tennis courts with the potential for future development as netball courts if demand exists.

Other open spaces and community places

In addition to the Recreation Reserve, Whitfield is home to a number of other important community and open space including:

Map ref	Site
1	Whitfield Recreation Reserve
2	Rest stop park
3	Whitfield Golf Course
4	Whitfield District Primary School
5	King Valley Community Memorial Hall
6	Whitfield Community Child Care Centre



The rest stop park provides a new playground, public toilets, seating and shelter and is a trail head for the King Valley Gravel routes. The park contains signage for the trails and a bike repair station.

Connectivity

There are limited footpaths within the township of Whitfield, however, the town is the hub of King Valley Gravel riding routes and planning is underway to create further connections via a shared 'rail trail' style path.







Recreation Strategy 2024

Moyhu

Moyhu Recreation Reserve

The Moyhu Recreation Reserve is a DEECA owned reserve operated by a Committee of Management with limited Council input. It is located on the outskirts of Moyhu and houses AFL, netball, cricket, tennis/basketball and has a small toddler playground. The Reserve is also the home of gymnastics within the RCoW.

The playground is in need of an upgrade, including the addition of play elements for older children to broaden its appeal. The playground upgrade should include inclusive elements to cater for children with mobility needs.

The clubhouse is in need of an electrical capacity upgrade to allow field lighting and the clubhouse to operate at the same time.



Moyhu Lions Park

Moyhu Lions Park has a young children's playground, picnic tables, toilets, a memorial and historical elements including the Lions Federation Hall. The park hosts regular local markets and is a trail head for the King Valley Gravel routes. The park contains signage and a bike repair station.

The park is not well connected to the town due to the lack of local footpaths.

Other open spaces and community places

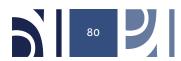
In addition to the Recreation Reserve and Lions Park, Moyhu is home to a number of other important community and open spaces including:

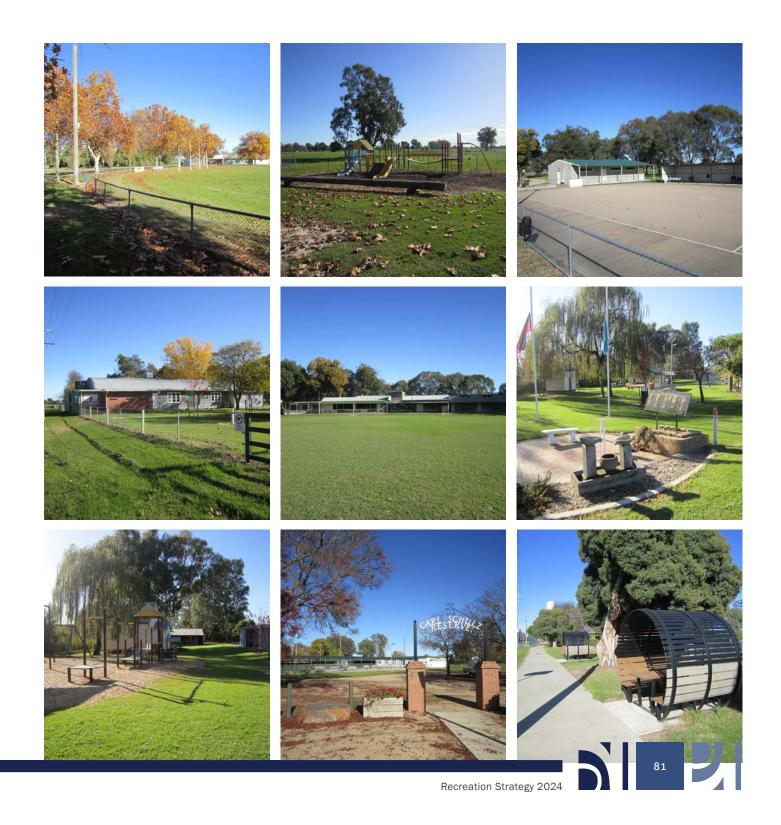
Map ref	Site
1	Moyhu Recreation Reserve
2	Moyhu Lions Park
3	Carl Schultz Reserve and the Moyhu Bowls Club
4	Moyhu Soliders Memorial Hall
5	Moyhu Primary School (outside of map)
6	Moyhu and District Preschool
7	King Valley Learning Exchange (outside of map)

The King Valley Learning Exchange is a key community resource within Moyhu and includes a Men's Shed, offers community development activities and physical activity programs. The facility also maintains an edible garden for the community.

Connectivity

Moyhu is in need of improved footpaths, with the only existing sections on Byrne Street. There is a need to connect town to the Recreation Reserve and school.





Myrrhee

Myrrhee Recreation Reserve

The Myrrhee Recreation Reserve is a DEECA owned reserve, operated by a committee of management with limited Council input. It has two recently developed lit tennis courts with small club building. The Reserve has a playground catering for young children and a sheltered barbecue area.

In addition to the Recreation Reserve, Myrrhee is home to a number of other important community and open spaces including:

- Myrrhee Soldiers Memorial hall
- Myrrhee Primary School.



Cheshunt

Cheshunt Hall and rest stop

Cheshunt Hall and rest stop are the sole open spaces within Cheshunt and both owned by DEECA. The rest stop provides a sheltered barbecue area with tables and seating.



Edi Upper Recreation Reserve and Tennis Courts

The Edi Upper Recreation Reserve has four tennis courts, two of which are lit, public hall and a playground.

The Edi Upper community is also supported by the Edi Upper Primary School.









Rural City of Wangaratta

King Valley district planning area findings

There is a lack of active recreation opportunities for young people within the planning district, and specifically the population centre of Moyhu. The two playgrounds within Moyhu provide opportunities for toddlers and young children only. There is an opportunity to develop an appropriately sized pump track or other youth recreation facility such as basketball half court, rebound wall or climbing structure within the Moyhu Recreation Reserve.

Develop a path to connect Moyhu town to the Recreation Reserve and school.

There is a need for Council to lead the planning of the Moyhu Lions Park to ensure a cohesive and planned approach to any future infrastructure including playground upgrades or additions.

Opportunity exists to utilise the Myrrhee, Cheshunt, Edi Upper, Moyhu and King Valley community halls for physical activity programming.

The former tennis courts at the Whitfield Recreation Reserve should be removed and replaced with an additional netball court (if need can be demonstrated).

Support the King Valley Learning Exchange in their community garden in order to support the need for improved knowledge and skills in growing fruit and vegetables and inter-generational connection.

Ovens Valley District

The Ovens Valley district has a small population base distributed over the main localities of Tarrawingee, Eldorado, Everton, Everton Upper and Murmungee.

Outside these towns, the planning district is predominately zoned farming followed by public conservation and resource.

The planning district is home to the Chiltern- Mount Pilot National Park.

Demographic profile

Township and rural townships	Population as at 2022	Median age
Tarrawingee	416	46
Everton	193	52
Everton Upper	154	50
Eldorado	382	52
Murmungee	69	54



Tarrawingee

Tarrawingee Recreation Reserve

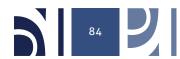
Tarrawingee Recreation Reserve is a DEECA owned reserve, operated by a Committee of Management with limited Council input. It houses AFL, netball, cricket, golf and tennis. The single oval facility has two netball courts and four tennis courts (in various conditions).

The Recreation Reserve is home to the North Eastern Car Club and the Tarrawingee Race Circuit, the Tarrawingee Golf Club and the Tarrawingee Hall Reserve and tennis courts. The former Tarrawingee Primary School adjoins the reserve.

The tennis courts are cracked and in poor condition. An opportunity exists to repair two of the courts and allow free community use to activate the space and encourage physical activity.

Tarrawingee also has the Tarrawingee Streamside Reserve as a natural open space for the community to enjoy.

Tarrawingee lacks recreation opportunities for youth.





Map ref	Site
1	Tarrawingee Recreation Reserve
2	Tarrawingee Hall Reserve

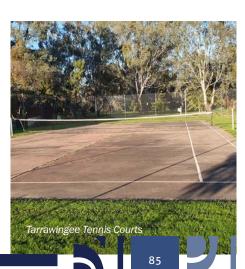












Eldorado

Centennial Park

Centennial Park is a single oval park which is home to rugby league and tennis. It is a DEECA owned reserve, operated by a Committee of Management with limited Council input. Tennis has two ageing courts that are lit. The oval is not lit and has a basic clubhouse and toilet block.

The Park appears to have little use and has large areas of under-utilised open space.

Gunhouse Park

Gunhouse Park has a shaded playground catering for young children as well as formal gardens, toilets, picnic areas and a barbecue. The local FoodShare operates out of this park.

Connectivity

Eldorado is well connected for pedestrians with a footpath running the length of Main Street from Centennial Park past Gunhouse Park.

Other open spaces and community places

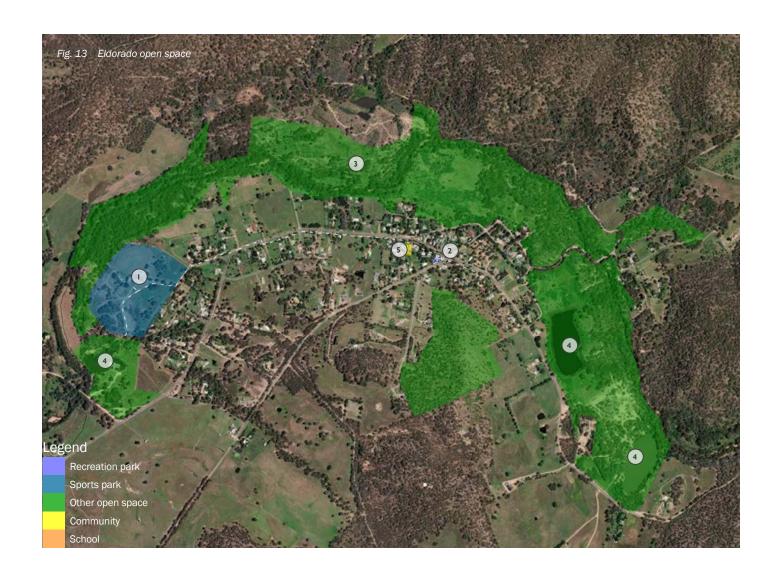
In addition to Centennial Park and Gunhouse Park, Eldorado has a number of important open space and community places:

Map ref	Site
1	Centennial Park
2	Gunhouse Park
3	Eldorado Dredge Historic Reserve - ParksVic including the historic swing bridge
4	Top Cut Lake, Slum Dam and Eldorado Dredge
5	Eldorado Community Hall











Everton

Everton Public Park Reserve

The Everton Public Park Reserve is a Council owned reserve. It is home to tennis with four lit courts. The Park also has a multi-use court for netball and basketball, a large shelter with a barbecue and picnic tables.

The Park has large grassed areas for kick-about and informal games. The Everton Public Hall and Primary School adjoin the site.

There are no playgrounds or passive recreation opportunities within the town of Everton.

Fig. 14 Everton open space Legend Recreation park Sports park Other open space Community School

Connectivity

Everton has no local footpath network. The Murray to Mountains Rail Trail runs to the east of Everton. An extension of this trail along Diffey Road would bring the trail into town.

Other open spaces and community places

In addition to the Everton Public Park Reserve, Pioneer Bridges Rest Area and Everton Upper has disused tennis courts.

Map ref	Site
1	Everton Public Park Reserve
2	Everton Public Hall
3	Everton Primary School







Murmungee

Murmungee Sports Ground Reserve

Murmungee Sports Ground is an isolated site used for equestrian. It is a locked site that appears to have infrequent use. Murmungee also has a community hall and tennis courts.



Ovens Valley planning area findings

The Tarrawingee tennis courts are cracked and in poor condition. An opportunity exists to repair two of the courts and allow free community use to activate the space and encourage physical activity.

Tarrawingee lacks recreation opportunities for youth. Consider use of the Old Tarrawingee school site for the development of a pump track/skate/bike area. It is acknowledged that this site is Crown Land and that Council will need to work in partnership with the State Government.

Opportunity to seek interest from local community groups to lead the trial of a community garden bed in a location such as the Tarrawingee Tennis courts/old school.

Develop a shared path to extend the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail along Diffey Road to provide a local connection and bring the trail into town.

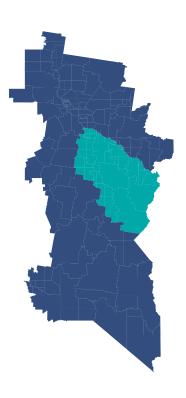
Snow Road District

The Snow Road district has a small population base distributed over the main localities of Milawa, Whorouly, Oxley and Carboor.

Outside these towns, the planning district is predominately zoned farming.

Demographic profile

Townships and rural townships	Population as at 2022	Median age
Milawa	588	47
Whorouly	383	48
Oxley	503	40
Carboor	97	47



Oxley

Oxley Memorial Park

Oxley Memorial Park is a fenced park with a shaded playground for toddlers and young children. The park has public toilets, shelters with picnic tables, a barbecue and a memorial. The Park acts as a trail head along the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail.

Oxley Recreation Reserve

The Recreation Reserve is a DEECA owned reserve, operated by a Committee of Management with limited Council input. It is predominately an equestrian facility with a full size cross country course, sand arenas and horse yards. The Reserve also has a cricket oval, tennis courts and a newly constructed playground.

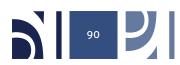
Connectivity

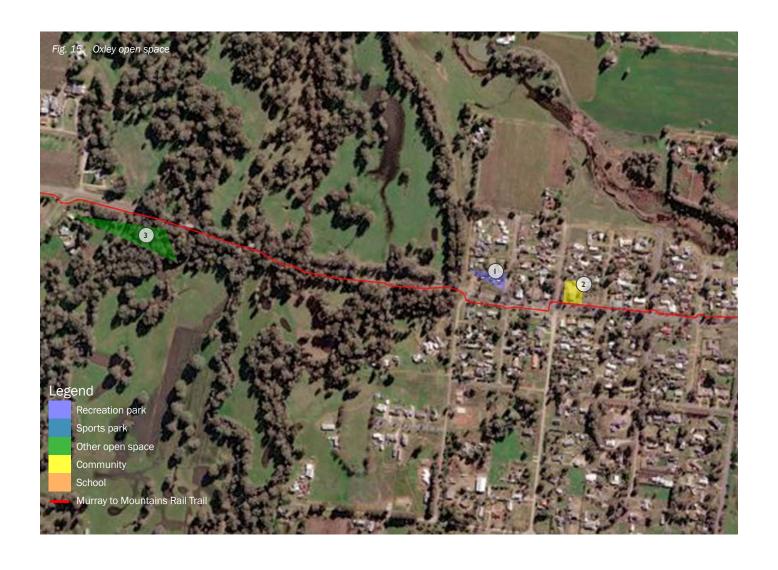
The Murray to Mountains Rail Trail passes through Oxley. The Oxley Memorial Park creates an ideal rest stop for trail users. The addition of bicycle parking racks would enhance the user experience for trail users.

Other open spaces and community places

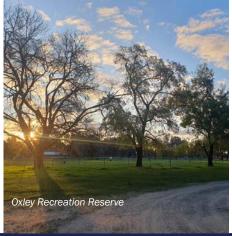
In addition to Oxley Memorial Hall and Recreation Reserve, Oxley has a number of other important open space and community places:

Map ref	Site
1	Oxley Memorial Park
2	Oxley Shire Hall
3	Laceby Streamside Reserve
4	Oxley Recreation Reserve (outside of map screen)
5	Oxley Primary School (outside of map screen)











Milawa

Milawa Recreation Reserve

The Milawa Recreation Reserve is a DEECA owned reserve, operated by a Committee of Management with limited Council input. It is home to AFL, netball, cricket and lawn bowls. One of the two netball courts has been newly developed and is lit.

The site has a disused tennis/netball court that is in need of removal.

John McAleese Community Park

The Park adjoins the Milawa Public Hall and forms a community hub in the centre of town. Many community events are hosted at the Hall and Park, with the sound shell providing a focal point.

The playground is shaded and provides recreation opportunities for toddlers and small children. The Park has a barbecue and a few bench seats. The Park does not provide any picnic tables for barbecue users.

Connectivity

The Murray to Mountains Rail Trail runs through part of Milawa ending at the Recreation Reserve.

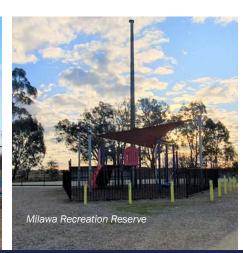
Other open spaces and community places

In addition to the Milawa Recreation Reserve and John McAleese Community Park, Milawa has a number of important open space and community places:

Map ref	Site
1	Milawa Recreation Reserve
2	John McAleese Community Park
3	Milawa Public Hall
4	Milawa Racquets Club
5	Milawa Primary School







Rural City of Wangaratta





Whorouly

Whorouly Recreation Reserve

Whorouly Recreation Reserve is a single oval facility that is home to AFL, netball, lawn tennis and cricket. The Reserve has a shaded, fenced playground catering for young children. The netball half court also has a basketball hoop for informal games and practice.

Some of the tennis courts are un-used and in disrepair. The Reserve has a large picnic shelter with barbecues, picnic tables and public toilets.

Development of a second netball court at the Reserve is underway, as well as the re-upgrade of the existing court.

Connectivity

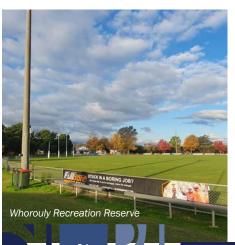
Whorouly has no local footpath network.

Other open spaces and community places

In addition to the Whorouly Recreation Reserve, Whorouly has the following important open space and community places:

Map ref	Site
1	Whorouly Recreation Reserve
2	Whorouly Public Library Hall
3	Whorouly Primary School
4	Whorouly and District Kindergarten









Carboor

Carboor Recreation Reserve

The Carboor Recreation Reserve has a large field area that appears to be un-used as well a number of derelict tennis courts.

Carboor Soldiers Memorial Hall and Playground

The Soldiers Memorial Hall adjoins the Recreation Reserve and provides a playground for young children. The Hall is well maintained and in good condition.

Connectivity

Carboor has no local footpath network.





Snow Road planning area findings

Install bike racks at the Oxley Memorial Park to enhance the user experience for trail users.

The Oxley Recreation Reserve is in need of improvements to support equestrian uses. These include installation of a watering system to suppress dust from the sand arenas and installation of lighting to allow for greater hours of use. Additionally, upgrades to the oval as well as consideration of a cover over the large sand arena to cater for all-weather use.

There is a need to develop a trail head for the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail in Milawa. This trail head could be located at the community hall and John McAleese Park. In conjunction with the high level of community events held at the park and the need for the trail head, stand-alone toilets outside of the hall need to be considered for community use.

Extension of the rail trail at Milawa along Kerrs Road, Oxley Flats Road and Sportsground Lane to create a local circuit.

John McAleese Community Park requires the installation of a picnic table for barbecue users.

Consider the removal of the derelict tennis courts at Carboor Recreation Reserve to improve amenity.



Future directions

Moving forward

The Rural City of Wangaratta community currently has access to a broad range of recreation, open space and sport opportunities.

The Strategy includes a range of recommendations to meet community demand. Additionally, to assist Council focus park development across a smaller number of parks (whilst maintaining suitable accessibility for residents) a number of parks have been identified for rationalisation.

This Strategy is an opportunity for Council to maintain and build upon the existing recreational open space network. There are recommendations throughout this Strategy that relate to specific parks and these are listed in this section, after 'over-arching recommendations'. Some of the recommendations will be more challenging than others. Implementation of the recommendations will require strong leadership, appropriate resources from Council and a commitment to making some difficult decisions.

There are a number of Crown land reserves within the RCoW's open space network. These reserves are managed by voluntary Committees of Management (CoM) with support from the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA). In addition, there are a number of Council reserves that are overseen by a CoM.

This Strategy is tenure blind in regards to Council land V crown land reserves and makes recommendations for both types of land based on identified demand. This is a collaborative Strategy with dual responsibility for actioning recommendations by Council, CoM's, clubs and community groups.

Importantly, many of the recommendations will require further consideration and refinement through Council's wider planning processes including community engagement.

Priorities are assigned for each action. A description of the priority timeframes is included in the table below. Indicative costs are provided for the total project cost. More detailed costing should be undertaken for each project as its nears commencement.

Priority	Preferred timing
HIGH	Undertaken as soon as resources allow
MEDIUM	Undertaken in the next 5-10 years
LOW	Undertaken in the next 10-15 years

While this Plan provides Council and the community with strategic direction for the provision of recreation and sport over the next 10 years, further information sharing, consultation and involvement of the community in decision making will be necessary.

Overarching recommendations



Partnerships - Working in partnership and collaboratively with organisations and community

Recommendation	Justification	Priority
Council to commit to engage with relevant organisational stakeholders on the delivery of this Strategy	To ensure broad input into Council decision making including concept planning and detailed design and achieve the best outcomes for each project	High
Ensure standard Council processes are followed in the implementation of this Strategy including consultation, concept planning and design	To ensure quality outcomes and community buy-in	High
Work closely with internal and external partners to ensure mitigation and adaptation to climate change, biodiversity and other environmental outcomes are considered in all facility planning, renewal and development processes	To ensure the relationship between recreation and climate change (climate impacts) is clearly considered	High
Formalise the maintenance of rail trails with relevant stakeholders and community partners	To ensure regular maintenance is carried out and that responsibility is clear	High
Ensure that the Community and Recreation team are included early in planning and development processes	To ensure sport and recreation development reflects a sustainable approach driven by evidence-based demand	High
Work in partnership with relevant stakeholders to ensure there is suitable access to formalised water-based recreation sites	To enhance the recreation opportunities available in line with the high level of community use and desire for supporting infrastructure. The cultural and ecological significance of sites needs to be recognised and protected	High
Determine interest from community groups to lead and maintain the trial of community garden beds. Trial locations could include Wareena Park	In order to increase knowledge and skills in growing fruit and vegetables. Improving nutrition, food security and intergenerational connection	Medium
Encourage physical activity through alternate uses of spaces such as walking sports. Partner with existing sporting clubs and community groups	To encourage participation by those who may not be interested in traditional sports, or where low-impact activities are required	Medium
Continue to support Committees of Management	In order to provide sport and recreation opportunities for the community	Ongoing



Equity - Support gender equity and the inclusion of under represented groups

Recommendation	Justification	Priority
Ensure an equity impact statement is undertaken on new projects as part of the preliminary planning process	To ensure that real and perceived barriers to participation are identified and the planning and design process seeks to overcome these	High
Support the implementation of the fair access policy, including club training and development	To provide clubs with the appropriate tools to support their members and the community	High
Support Inclusive Wangaratta recommendations around sport, physical activity and recreation	To ensure the whole community can access sport, physical activity and recreation opportunities	High



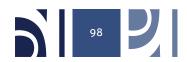
Promotion - Promotion of new and existing opportunities in sport and recreation

Recommendation	Justification	Priority
Develop and deliver an affordable physical activity program (using external providers and partnerships) in parks and community halls across the RCoW	Offering free or low cost activities will not only have physical health benefits but social/mental heath benefits for participants. This will also assist to activate parks	High
Promote accessibility to existing public toilets in proximity to key natural areas and river-side walking tracks	To ensure natural area and trail users have close access to amenities	High
Develop and promote a map of bike racks and public toilets	To assist the community in effectively utilising the open space network and pathways	Medium
Initiate the development of a series of up-to date community directories to promote existing spaces, activities and programs within the community. This could include sporting clubs and groups, social and activity groups as well as regular programs and events	To ensure the community are aware of what opportunities exist and improve participation in physical activity	Medium
Develop a map of designated dog off-leash areas and promote to the community	To ensure the community are aware of appropriate off-leash places	Medium



Sustainability - Ensure sustainability in planning, design, delivery and maintenance

Recommendation	Justification	Priority
Incorporate the recommendations into Council's capital and operational works plans	To ensure suitable budget allocations to achieve desired outcomes	High
Ensure sufficient resources are allocated in Council's operational budget for the maintenance of open space	The current allocation falls well-short of providing appropriate maintenance of Council's open space network	High
As more sport and recreation organisations are established and participation continues to grow, Council will require additional staffing	To ensure suitable resources in order to address burgeoining community demand	High
Ensure sports assets are included on Council's asset register for renewals	To ensure suitable funds are available to replace assets at the end of their useful life	High
Ensure climate change and environmental impacts are considered as part of all facility planning, renewal and development processes	To ensure the relationship between recreation and climate change (climate impacts) is clearly considered	High
Council to develop a formal tree planting program for parks and reserves	To provide clear direction on sites to be planted, preferred tree species, management and maintenance of new trees as well as identifying trees at the end of their useful life expectancy	High
In line with Council's Urban Tree Plan, ensure additional planting occurs within the open space network, especially those parks where playground equipment is recommended for removal	To enhance the urban forest canopy and encourage the environmental, social and economic benefits to the community	High
Investigate alternatives to reduce reliance on drinking water for irrigation of public open space	To preserve natural resources	High
Develop and implement a Council landscape document for developer contributed parks	To ensure Council receive appropriate park infrastructure including plant species at handover	Medium
Ensure careful planning of new infrastructure within parks and reserves including pathways and implement tree protection zones in order to protect existing trees	To ensure tree health is maintained both during and after construction	Ongoing
Review the outcomes of the Recreation Strategy every five years	A review ensures the document remains a current working document and meets the changing needs of the community	Ongoing
Actively seek external grants to fund the capital works	Council cannot rely on the parks budget and developer contributions to achieve the breadth of recommendations	Ongoing
Work with North East Catchment Authority and other relevant land managers/owners in the preservation of land along the Ovens River	To improve open space accessibility and connectivity along the waterway	Ongoing





Evidence based community need - Using evidence and community need to guide decisions

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Recommendation	Justification	Priority
Review outdoor council managed sports assets to create a plan for maintenance based on the principles of this strategy	To ensure sports courts and facilities are renewed and maintained based on evidence and community need	High
Undertake a review of Council's Playspace Strategy	To reflect the findings of this Strategy and ensure playspaces are diverse and equitable	High
Undertake a review of Council's Walking and Cycling Strategy	To adequately plan and develop necessary walk and cycle projects and their supporting infrastructure in line with demand	High
Continue to support the directions of key Council master plans including Parklands Master Plan, Wareena Park Master Plan and Merriwa Park Master Plan	To ensure key Council and community priorities are progressed	High
Undertake an investigation into suitable sites to house a second soccer facility (two to four fields) as well as a hockey pitch (one pitch and capacity for training area)	To accommodate the growing needs of soccer and provide a home for hockey	High
Undertake an asset condition and demand audit for all hard courts across the LGA	To assess current infrastructure conditions and ensure a sustainable approach to current and future provision	High
Investigate the provision of additional dog off-leash areas across the LGA (particularly Rangeview Park and Burns Reserve)	To ensure equitable provision of facilities	High
Complete an analysis of cycling infrastructure across the LGA	To determine the feasibility for cycling infrastructure including the development of a precinct	High

Venue specific recommendations

Ref	Park	Sport impacted	Tenure / management	Recommendation	Priority	Lead organisation	Support organisation	Indicative cost
Urban W	langaratta							
W1	Apex Park	Recreation	Council managed	Remove the CFA training area and replace with interpretive signage about the historical use of the site	Medium	Council		\$25,000
W2	Avian Park	AFL	Crown Land	Facility upgrades to accommodate AFL training - currently managed by a Committee of Management, could investigate coming under Council management	Medium	CoM and Council		\$100,000
W3	Baltimore Park	Recreation	Council managed	Install a soccer goal or re-bound wall to enhance recreation opportunities for an older age group	High	Council		\$5,000
W4	Baroona Court Playground	Recreation	Council managed	Install shade over the playground and seek to diversify the age range of the recreation experience by developing an element for older children/youth	High	Council		\$50,000
W5	Bill Eaton Reserve	Athletics and soccer	Council managed	Master Plan the site with the intent to replace and widen the long jump run up to allow for a 100m synthetic sprint/warm-up surface. The shot put and discus pits require repair/upgrade. Improve the interior grass surface and source portable soccer goals for training	Medium	Council	Club	\$30,000 (MP)
W6	Bindall Avenue Reserve	Recreation	Council managed	Upgrade the toilets and install an older children's playground in Bindall Avenue Reserve following the removal of equipment at the adjoining Kiwanis Park	High	Council		\$100,000
W7		AFL	Council managed	Lighting installation to allow for junior training in summer and winter	Medium	Council		\$250,000
W8	Brien Crescent Park	Recreation	Council managed	Seek to diversify the age range of the recreation experience by developing an element for older children/youth i.e. climbing structure, monkey bars etc	Medium	Council		\$50,000
W9	Bullawah Cultural Trail	Recreation	Council	Work with the Bangerang community to expand the Bullawah Trail with additional cultural elements including artwork, interpretive signage and AV elements in order to share stories	High	Council		\$25,000 (initial planning)
W10	Burke Reserve	Recreation	Council managed	Diversify the recreation opportunities at Burke Reserve to cater for older children and youth	Medium	Council		\$50,000
W11	Burns Reserve	Recreation	Council managed	Investigate opportunities to rationalise play equipment and create a fenced off-leash dog park	Medium	Council		\$25,000
W12	Cathedral College	Hockey	School land	Temporary lighting towers to be installed to allow night hockey training	High	Club and School		TBD
W13				Council to lead conversations with Cathedral College and the Club to investigate opportunities for a temporary building (with amenities and changerooms) to be placed near to the pitch	Medium	Club and Council		TBD
W14	Dalton Reserve	Recreation	Council managed	Seek to diversify the age range of the recreation experience by developing an element for older children/youth	Medium	Council		\$50,000
W15	Dundas Reserve	Recreation	Council managed	Investigate opportunities to preserve Dundas Reserve for passive recreation (including additional planting in line with the Urban Tree Plan at the end of asset useful life)	High	Council		\$10,000
W16	Evalyn Reserve	Recreation	Council managed	Remove the play equipment at the end of its useful life and investigate opportunities to rationalise the park or maintain as an amenity park i.e. additional plantings	High	Council		TBD
W17	Frank Garth Reserve	Outdoor recreation	Council managed	There is a need to formalise Frank Garth Reserve with signage, seating, picnic tables and designated car parking areas. This site also lends itself to the installation of a floating pontoon for canoe/kayak launching. It is recommended that a basic concept plan be undertaken to ensure the multiple values of the site are protected and that the space is best utilised	Medium	Council and Water Corporation		\$140,000 (Pontoon TBD)
W18	Jaycees Park	Recreation	Council managed	Diversify play opportunities at Jaycees Park	Low	Council		\$50,000
W19	Kendall and Orange Court Reserve	Recreation	Council managed	Diversify the recreation opportunities at Kendall and Orange Court Reserve to cater for older children and youth	Medium	Council		\$50,000

Ref	Park	Sport impacted	Tenure / management	Recommendation	Priority	Lead organisation	Support organisation	Indicative cost
W20	King George V Gardens	Recreation	Council managed	Undertake a master planning process with the local community to confirm the Park's future direction, whilst maintaining the parks intent as a formal garden and amenity park	Medium	Council		\$25,000
W21	Kiwanis Park	Recreation	Council managed	Investigate opportunities to rationalise the equipment from Kiwanis Park and improve amenity through plantings, seating and informal recreation opportunities. The addition of play equipment for older children should be installed at the adjoining Bindall Avenue Reserve	High	Council		\$15,000
W22	Merriwa Park	Tennis,	Council managed	Provision of all-abilities access to the clubhouse	High	Club	Council	\$20,000
W23		pickleball		Upgrade amenities to support all-abilities access	High	Club	Council	\$20,000
W24		and croquet		Replacement of court fencing with black plastic-coated fencing	Medium	Club	Council	\$120,000
W25				Car park resurfacing	Medium	Club	Council	\$140,000
W26		Recreation	Council managed	Investigate the removal of the sound shell	Medium	Council		TBD
W27		Recreation	Council managed	Upgrade the playground at the end of its useful life with more diverse play elements catering for toddlers, young children and youth	Medium	Council		\$250,000
W28	Mitchell Avenue Reserve	Active recreation	Council managed	Investigate the provision of a public toilet and drinking water at the skate park	Medium	Council		\$200,000
W29		Active recreation	Council managed	For the outdoor fitness equipment, consider running 'how to use' sessions for the community. Provision of QR Codes linking people with how to use the equipment is also recommended	Medium	Council		TBD operational
W30	Murdoch Reserve	Recreation	Council managed	Remove the swing set and spring toy from Murdoch Park and increase plantings for amenity	High	Council		\$10,000
W31	Northern Beaches	Outdoor recreation	Council managed	There is a need to formalise the recreation use of the Northern Beaches, with signage, seating, picnic tables. It is recommended that a basic concept plan be undertaken to ensure the multiple values of the site are protected and that the space is best utilised	Medium	Council		\$10,000 (concept plan) \$140,000
W32	North West Growth Area - greenfield site	Rectangular sports	Council managed	Master plan and develop the greenfield sports site to accommodate rectangular sports (preference for soccer and hockey) - soccer requires 2-4 fields, one lit synthetic hockey pitch, future area for hockey training, a central clubhouse, spectator facilities and suitable car parking	High	Council and club		\$30,000 (MP)
W33	Pelican Court Park	Recreation	Council managed	Install additional play equipment such as a climbing net and increase plantings	Low	Council		\$15,000
W34	Rangeview Park	Recreation	Council managed	Investigate opportunities to develop a fenced dog off leash and rationalise area within the linear section of the park that runs behind the houses	Medium	Council		\$25,000
W35	Ryan Reserve - Apex Road Safety School	Recreation	Lions Club	Investigate the opportunity to increase usage of the facility	High	Council and Lions		Nil
W36	Sadler Reserve/ One Mile Creek Outdoor Gym equipment	Recreation	Council managed	Monitor usage of outdoor gym equipment and consider running 'how to' sessions for the community. The addition of QR codes to connect users with instructional videos on the equipment is also recommended	High	Council		TBD operational

Ref	Park	Sport impacted	Tenure / management	Recommendation	Priority	Lead organisation	Support organisation	Indicative cost		
W37	South Wangaratta Recreation	All sports	Council managed	Undertake a master plan to ensure the site meets future demand and user needs (including consideration of a new clubhouse and junior synthetic practice pitch for soccer)	High	Council		\$25,000		
W38	Reserve	Soccer	Council managed	Undertake field upgrades to the two southern fields (irrigation upgrades, drainage upgrades and surface upgrades)	High	Council	Club	\$340,000		
W39				Install lighting to the main field	High	Council	Club	\$350,000		
W40		Archery	Club managed	Construct a small amenities building (with access to power and water)	High	Club	Council	\$200,000		
W41		Motorsports	Club managed	The Club has outlined a number of facility upgrades required to retain Speedway Australia Track accreditation	Medium	Club		TBD		
				Lighting upgrade						
				Concrete wall and fencing upgrade						
				Power supply upgrade						
				Canteen upgrade.						
W42	Sydney Beaches	Outdoor recreation	Council managed	There is a need to formalise Sydney Beaches for recreation use, with signage, seating and picnic tables. It is recommended that a basic concept plan be undertaken to ensure the multiple values of the site are protected and that the space is best utilised	Medium	Council		\$10,000 (concept plan) \$140,000		
W43	Targoora Park	Baseball and softball	Council managed	Undertake drainage works across all diamonds and base cut outs to ensure more resilient diamonds	High	Club	Council	\$120,000		
W44		Baseball and softball	Council managed	Upgrade lighting on Diamond 1 to meet training standards	High	Club	Council	\$180,000		
W45	Tennis across	Tennis	Various	Undertake a rationalisation process for tennis across the LGA	High	Council		Nil		
W46	RCoW		Various	Nominate under-utilised tennis courts and allow for free public access i.e. Tarrawingee Tennis Courts	High	Clubs/CoM	Council	Operational		
W47	Wangaratta Community Gardens	Recreation	Committee managed	Collaborate with the community garden committee to prioritise delivery of projects identified in the Community Gardens Master Plan	High	Committee	Council	Nil		
W48	Wangaratta Pony Club and Adult Riding Club facility	Equestrian	Council managed	Construct an additional 20 day yards to meet demand for clinics and rallies	High	Club	Council	\$80,000		
W49				Construct a 60m x 20m sand arena to allow for warm-up activities	Medium	Club	Council	\$85,000		
W50				Investigate potential opportunities for the facility to be activated as a camping area	Medium	Council	Club	TBD		

Ref	Park	Sport impacted	Tenure / management	Recommendation	Priority	Lead organisation	Support organisation	Indicative cost
W51	Wangaratta	Lawn Bowls	Club managed	Undertake amenities upgrades to increase capacity as well as compliant access	High	Club	Council	\$100,000
W52	Sports and			Cover the south-west green to provide an all-weather venue	Medium	Club	Council	\$900,000
W53	Events Precinct -			Open up one of the greens for sports requiring a similar surface i.e. croquet	Medium	Club	Council	Nil
W54	Wangaratta Bowls			Light at least two of the greens	Medium	Club	Council	\$150,000
W55	and Sports Club			Provide a spectator viewing area overlooking the covered green	Medium	Club	Council	\$65,000
W56				Formalise car parking	Medium	Club	Council	\$80,000
W57				Investigate the amalgamation of the Wareena Bowls Club with the Wangaratta Bowls and Sports Club	Medium	Council	Club	Nil
W58				Investigate shared amenities for multiple sports	Low	Council		\$300,000
W59	Wangaratta	Various	Council managed	Revisit the Parklands master plan in line with the recommendations of this Strategy	High	Council		\$40,000
W60	Sports and Events Precinct	AFL and cricket	Council managed	Develop a pavilion to provide suitable ancillary facilities	High	Council	Club	\$800,000
W61		Cricket and AFL	Council managed	Develop female friendly change facilities at WJ Findlay Oval	High	Club	Council	\$500,000
W62		AFL	Council managed	Investigate facility upgrades to accommodate AFL training at the former Rodeo Grounds	High	Club	Council	\$300,000
W63		Cycling	Council Managed	Remove the velodrome at the Wangaratta Sports and Events Precinct	High	Council		TBD
W64		Pickleball	Council Managed	Redevelop (re-surface) a number of under-utilised tennis courts into at least 8 pickleball courts	High	Clubs (tennis and pickleball)		\$120,000
W65		Table Tennis, Pickleball, Roller sports, Cricket	Council Managed	Develop an indoor sport facility to cater for non-traditional indoor sports including table tennis, pickleball and indoor cricket training (and considerations for other sports including in-line hockey, netball training, roller sports). Opportunity to house 10 table tennis tables and suitable spectator areas and cater for the demand of off-season cricket practice	High	Council	Club	\$40,000 (concept plan)
W66		Cricket	Council managed	Convert Barr 1 to synthetic wicket to cater for the predicted increase in junior participation	Medium	Council		\$10,000
W67		Netball	Council managed	Following the completion of the current upgrades to the Wangaratta Netball Association courts, investigate demand for further court upgrades	Medium	Council		TBD
W68	Active recreation	Active recreation	Council managed	Expand the Wangaratta Skatepark by adding older youth recreation opportunities with additional wheeled sport elements to increase its functionality and appeal	Low	Council		\$150,000
W69	Wangaratta Sports and Events	Swimming	Council Managed	Continue to work closely with tenant groups using pool space to ensure equitable access that reflects user demands	High	Council		Nil
W70	Precinct- WSAC	Waterpolo	Council managed	There is a need to activate the purpose-built waterpolo pool through actively supporting the development of a local competition at WSAC	High	Council	Clubs	Nil
W71		Basketball	Council managed	Investigate opportunities for partnerships with schools to cater for long-term demand for indoor courts	Medium	Council		Nil

Ref	Park	Sport impacted	Tenure / management	Recommendation	Priority	Lead organisation	Support organisation	Indicative cost
W72	Wareena Park	AFL	Council managed	Facility upgrades to accommodate AFL training including drainage upgrades and development of a second smaller field for training	High	Council		\$380,000
W73		Recreation	Council managed	Upgrade the Park to include intergenerational play and exercise space	High	Council		\$400,000
W74		AFL	Council managed	Develop female friendly change facilities	High	Council		\$500,000
W75		AFL	Council Managed	Should the Wareena Park Bowls Club amalgamate with the Wangaratta Bowls and Sports Club, revisit the Wareena Park Master Plan with the potential to utilise the site for AFL training or community garden	Medium	Council		TBD
W76	Wenhams Lane Reserve	Recreation	Council managed	Improve the amenity of the park and provide additional plantings for shade	High	Council		\$10,000
W77	Wonga Park	Recreation	Council managed	Retain Wonga Park and look for opportunities to improve drainage, or to further involve the school in the management of the space	Medium	Council		\$40,000 (drainage)
W78	Various	Cricket	Various	Council to work with the District Cricket Association and local schools to formalise arrangements for community use and provision of additional synthetic wickets	Medium	Council		Nil
W79	Various	Cycling	Various	Complete an analysis of cycling infrastructure across the LGA (including feasibility for development of a precinct) and/or suitable locations for an off-road criterium track	High	Club	Council	\$20,000
W80	Various	Mountain biking	Parks Victoria	There is a need to investigate opportunities for mountain biking in close proximity to urban Wangaratta. Discussions with Parks Victoria are encouraged to determine the suitability of their existing trails in key locations such as the Warby-Ovens National Park	High	Council	Club	Nil
W81	Various	Mountain biking	Various	Investigate the King Valley and Mt Pilot National Park as potential areas for further investigation for mountain bike facility given the potential opportunities to build upon the tourism activities being attracted to these locations	High	Club and Council	Council	Nil
W82	Various	AFL	Various	Investigate opportunities for AFL training grounds, including the old Rodeo Grounds	High	Council	Council	Nil
Norther	n Planning District							
N1	North Wangaratta	AFL	Council	Remove the derelict toilet block	High	Council		\$20,000
N2	Recreation		Council	Develop female friendly change facilities	High	Council	Club	\$500,000
N3	Reserve		Council	Prepare a site concept plan (that includes consideration of new amenities)	High	Council	Club	\$20,000
N4			Council	Investigate the development of the unused land at the back of the reserve for AFL training	Medium	Council	Club	Nil
N5	Springhurst Recreation Reserve	Tennis	Crown Land	Work with the community to determine a use for the under-utilised tennis courts to improve amenity. A cost-effective method of re-developing one court should be investigated	Medium	CoM		Nil
N6	Boorhaman Recreation Reserve	Various	Crown Land	Investigate the provision of a covered seating area near the barbecue and the play node requires a shade sail	Low	CoM		\$50,000
N7	Boorhaman North Recreation Reserve	Water activities	Crown Land	Investigate the possibility of a boat ramp at the Boorhaman North Recreation Reserve with appropriate bodies	Low	CoM		TBD

Ref	Park	Sport impacted	Tenure / management	Recommendation	Priority	Lead organisation	Support organisation	Indicative cost
Greta Va	alley Planning District							
GV1	Glenrowan Recreation	Netball and cricket	Crown Land	Work with the community to determine a use for the under-utilised netball court and cricket practice nets	High	CoM	Council	Nil
GV2	Reserve	Rugby	Crown Land	Upgrade the lighting to allow night fixtures	Medium	Club and CoM	Council	\$150,000
GV3		League		Install reserve benches	Medium	Club and CoM	Council	\$30,000
GV4		Outdoor recreation	Victorian Fisheries Authority	Work with Victorian Fisheries Authority to improve access to Glenrowan Recreation Reserve Dam for recreational fishers with special mobility needs	High	CoM	Council	Nil
GV5	Glenrowan town	Active recreation	Various	Identify a suitable site within Glenrowan to develop a small scale pump track or youth recreation facility	Medium	Council		TBD
	Greta Recreation	Tennis	Crown Land	Support the removal of the tennis courts from Greta Recreation Reserve	Medium	CoM		\$10,000
GV6	Reserve	Recreation	Crown Land	Support the Committee in their desire to add a playground to the Greta Recreation Reserve	Medium	CoM		\$50,000
King Va	lley Planning District							
KV1	Whitfield Recreation Reserve	Netball	Council managed	Remove the former tennis courts with the potential for development as netball courts if demand exists in the future	Medium	CoM and Council		TBD
KV2	.,	,	Crown Land	Upgrade the playground at the Moyhu Recreation Reserve including the addition of play elements for older children and inclusive play elements	High	CoM	Council	\$100,000
KV3		recreation		Upgrade the electrical capacity to allow for simultaneous field lighting and clubhouse use	High	Club and CoM	Council	\$80,000
KV4				Consider the development of a small-scale pump track at the Moyhu Recreation Reserve	Medium	CoM	Council	\$60,000
KV5		Tennis	Crown Land	Re-build the existing tennis courts	High	Council		\$110,000
KV6		Netball	Crown Land	Construct a second lit netball court	Medium	Club, CoM and Council		\$200,000
KV7				Resurface the original netball court at the end of its useful life	Low	Club, CoM and Council		\$10,000
KV8	Moyhu Bowls Club	Bowls	Council managed	Replace the synthetic green	High	Club	Council	\$400,000
KV9	Moyhu	Active recreation and transport	Various	Develop footpaths to connect town to the Recreation Reserve and to the school	High	Council		\$750,000
KV10	Community halls	Physical activity	Various	Opportunity to utilise Myrrhee, Cheshunt, Edi Upper, Moyhu and King Valley Community Halls for physical activity programming	Medium	CoM and Council		Nil

Ref	Park	Sport impacted	Tenure / management	Recommendation	Priority	Lead organisation	Support organisation	Indicative cost			
Ovens V	Ovens Valley Planning District										
OV1	Tarrawingee	Tennis	Crown Land	Repair two of the tennis courts and allow for free community use	High	CoM		\$40,000			
OV2	Tennis Courts			Investigate the use of un-used tennis courts for a wheeled sports precinct (skate, BMX, bikes)	Medium	CoM	Council	Nil			
OV3	Tarrawingee Recreation Reserve	AFL	Crown Land	Ensure the facility allows AFL for training		Club, CoM	Council	Nil			
OV4	Everton	Active recreation	into Fuerton		Medium	Council		Nil			
OV5	Pioneer Bridges Rest Area			There is a need to formalise Pioneer Bridges Rest Area for recreation use, with signage, seating and picnic tables. It is recommended that a basic concept plan be undertaken to ensure the multiple values of the site are protected and that the space is best utilised	Medium	Council		\$10,000 (concept plan) \$80,000			
OV6	Centennial Park	Rugby league	Crown Land	Monitor the growth of the Wolfpack and investigate the development of changeroom facilities. Consider a relocatable building in the short-term	High	Club and CoM	Council	TBD			
OV7				Additional storage and minor canteen upgrade	Medium	Club and CoM	Council	\$60,000			
Snow R	oad Planning District										
SR1	Milawa Recreation Reserve	Tennis and netball	Crown Land	Work with the community to determine a use for the under-utilised tennis/netball court	Medium	CoM, Club		Nil			
SR2	John McAleese Community Park	Recreation	Committee and Council managed	Relocate the existing barbecue within the park further away from the sound shell to create more free space for community events as well as the installation of a picnic table for barbecue users	High	CoM and Council		\$10,000			
SR3	Milawa Public Hall	Recreation Committee		Develop a trail head for the rail trail at Milawa including the development of a public toilet at the Milawa Public Hall		CoM and Council		\$180,000			
SR4	Rail Trail	Active recreation	Council managed	Build on the rail trail with an off-road shared path along Kerrs Road, Oxley Flats Road and Sportsground Lane to create a local circuit	Medium	Council		TBD			
SR5	Oxley Memorial Park	Active recreation	Council managed	Install bike racks at the Oxley Memorial Park to enhance the user experience for trail users	High	Council		\$3,000			
SR6	Oxley Recreation	Equestrian	Crown Land	Install a watering system to suppress dust from the sand arenas	Medium	CoM and Club	Council	\$12,000			
SR7	Reserve	sports		Development of lighting across the sand arenas to allow for greater hours of use during the cooler months and for evening use (when it is cooler) during the hotter months	Medium	CoM and Club	Council	\$85,000			
SR8				Consider upgrades to the oval to improve equestrian use	Medium	CoM and Club	Council	\$20,000			
SR9				Council could investigate the development of a cover over the large sand arena to create an all-weather facility	Low	CoM and Club	Council	TBD			
SR10	Carboor Recreation Reserve	Tennis	Council managed	Consider the removal of the derelict tennis courts at Carboor Recreation Reserve to improve amenity	Low	Council		\$10,000			