



CITY OF BALLARAT
**Recreation Infrastructure
Plan 2024-2039**
Summary Report





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The City of Ballarat acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land we live and work on, the Wadawurrung and Dja Dja Wurrung People, and recognises their continuing connection to the land and waterways.

We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging and extend this to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.

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1. The Project

The Recreation Infrastructure Plan 2024-2039 provides an overarching recreation infrastructure planning framework for the City of Ballarat (Council).

This Plan will support the long-term financial planning of the Council and be an important advocacy tool in attracting external funding to deliver the necessary recreation infrastructure.

Active open space refers to land set aside for the specific purpose of formal outdoor sports by the community.

The Recreation Infrastructure Plan will provide a road map to **optimising the use** and **increasing the capacity** of existing recreation infrastructure across the City of Ballarat, whilst **planning for new** recreation infrastructure in the new growth areas. The Plan will focus on Active Open Space provision and planning for municipal assets on Council owned and/or managed land.

The Plan’s strategic directions and road map aim to deliver on the vision:

Ballarat recreation infrastructure will equitably support everyone in the community to participate in sport and recreation today and into the future.

The 15-year Recreation Infrastructure Plan aligns with the Community Infrastructure Plan 2022-2037. It will define the strategic investment decisions to meet the needs of the growing Ballarat community over the next 15 years by ‘investing in the right locations, at the right time, to the right standard’ based on a sound evidence base.

The Recreation Infrastructure Plan will:

- Deliver municipal assets to maximise residents’ participation in sport and recreation and be part of a physically active and healthy community.
- Develop a well-structured and evidence-based plan that provides fair and equitable access to recreation facilities across all community sections, services sports equitably, and is based on existing and future demands.
- Allow consolidation of the Recreation Services capital program, inform planning and the financial resourcing required to deliver on the priority projects identified.
- Outline the pipeline of recreation capital projects to be delivered to meet our growing community’s needs and future demands for the next 15 years.
- Be consistent in approach to the adopted Community Infrastructure Plan.
- Provide facility provision standards relevant to recreation facilities across the city to guide future investment.
- Ensure industry best practice standards and benchmarking are applied to the next 15 years of recreation infrastructure planning.



> Planning Process

The following planning process was undertaken for the project:



This **Summary Report** is supported by a Background Report and Engagement Findings Report.

> Why do we need a Sports Facilities Strategic Plan?

The City of Ballarat has invested significantly in sports and recreation facilities over the past ten years. These upgrades and improvements have focused on delivering good quality and fit-for-purpose sports facilities. This includes making female-friendly and inclusive sporting facilities, increasing the capacity, and improving playing surfaces that have resulted in delivering higher participation outcomes and new major sports

infrastructure, including Ballarat Sports Events Centre and Mars Stadium.

The population growth in the City of Ballarat will drive higher demand and participation in sport and recreation in Ballarat over the next 15 years. The City of Ballarat population of 113,471 (2021) will grow to 142,627 by 2036, and 170,000 by 2041. This demand will place pressure on a current recreation infrastructure network that is reaching capacity.

A roadmap is needed to inform the development of new sport and recreation facilities to meet this future demand, whilst planning for the renewal of existing facilities and addressing critical facility provision gaps to maintain the current social and economic benefits.



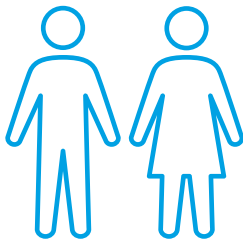
In 2018, Sport Australia partnered with KPMG and La Trobe University to investigate the value of community sport infrastructure to Australia. The study quantified the value of community sport infrastructure across Australia to be at least \$16.2 billion with \$6.3 billion worth of economic benefit, \$4.9 billion worth of health benefit and \$5.1 billion worth of social benefit.

This Recreation Infrastructure Plan 2024-2039 builds upon the previous work and the recently adopted Community Infrastructure Plan 2022-2037 to clearly define the future investment priorities in sports and recreation infrastructure to meet the needs and future demands of the Ballarat community over the next 15 years. Both strategies align and share the same evidence-based decision-making to ensure an equitable and transparent approach is considered.

The Plan's objectives are aligned with strategic commitments made by the Council in the Community Infrastructure Plan 2022-2037 for Council owned or managed land and assets.

The Recreation Infrastructure Plan clearly defines recreation facility provision standards that will guide the types of facilities and level of investment required across the network of Council sporting and active recreation reserves. These standards will aim to provide equity in facility provision so that all residents can enjoy access to high-quality sport and recreation-based assets.

Key Drivers



Growing population leading to increased participation demand



Current facilities are at capacity and/or not fit for purpose



Increase the overall use and financial viability of facilities, programs and services





2. Strategic Context

There is strategic support for providing recreation infrastructure to increase active living that will help improve community health and wellbeing

Providing a healthy, connected and inclusive community and increasing active living is a strategic objective of the City of Ballarat Council Plan 2021-2025 and Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2031.



**Sport Strategies
Feasibility Studies
Master Plans**

The City of Ballarat must ensure future planning of recreation infrastructure is adaptable to the changing local environment to ensure it is able to adequately cater for community expectation and provide opportunity for physical activity that enables community to live healthy lifestyles.

Delivering accessible “green spaces” is critical to our health and wellbeing. World Health Organisation (WHO) Global Recommendations on Physical Activity for Health (2010) highlight that physical inactivity is now the fourth leading risk factor for global mortality. This challenge is further evidenced by Sport 2030: Sport Australia (2018) report which incorporates a mission to reduce physical inactivity amongst Australians by 15% by 2030.

The WHO suggests a multifaceted approach to supporting increased physical activity levels and differentiates the targeted duration and intensity of physical activity goals by age, as follows:

- Aged 5 – 17 years - Accumulate at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous-intensity physical activity daily.

- Aged 18 – 64 years - At least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic physical activity throughout the week, or at least 75 minutes of vigorous-intensity aerobic physical activity throughout the week, or an equivalent combination of moderate- and vigorous-intensity activity.
- Aged 65+ years - At least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic physical activity throughout the week, or at least 75 minutes of vigorous-intensity aerobic physical activity throughout the week, or an equivalent combination of moderate- and vigorous-intensity activity

Whilst Australia’s Physical Activity and Sedentary Behaviour Guidelines differ slightly from the above goals, the overall objectives remain the same. That is, to increase physical activity levels by Australians across all age cohorts. Recreation infrastructure plays a critical role in achieving this through maximising opportunities for people to be physically active and facilitating a connection to nature. With limited resources available to local governments to support these outcomes, strategies must be realistic and focus on maximising participation and environmental outcomes.

> Local Government must provide equitable access to recreation infrastructure and services

Local Government is legally obliged to provide equitable access to recreation infrastructure under State and Federal Government legislation:

- Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (Vic).
- Equal Opportunity Act 2010 (Vic).
- Gender Equality Act 2020 (Vic).
- Sex Discrimination Act 1984 (Commonwealth).

The Fair Access Policy Roadmap has guided the development of the City of Ballarat’s Fair Access Policy. This policy follows the development of the City of Ballarat Active Women and Girls Strategy 2018.

> The Council has delivered significant projects identified in master plans and feasibility studies

City of Ballarat has improved the recreation infrastructure over the last 10 years. This includes upgraded sports fields, courts, lighting and pavilions. The Council has also invested in major sports precincts including Mars Stadium and the Ballarat Sports Events Centre.

A program of reserve master plans has been implemented over the last 10 years that has improved the function, capacity and quality of facilities. Continued investment in the implementation of master plans will ensure contemporary facilities that meet user needs and experiences.

The tables following report on the projects completed by the City of Ballarat between 2010 and 2024.



Table 1: Completed Projects

Site	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Lake Wendouree (LW)	LW Dredging	LW Reinstatement of Rowing Course													
Ballarat Regional Soccer Facility (BRSF)	BRSF Synthetic No.1 BRSF Dog Club Pavilion	BRSF Pavilion Stage 1	BRSF 1st Synthetic Pitch & Street Soccer	BRSF Grandstand BRSF Pavilion Stage 2 BRSF Main Pitch & 2nd Synthetic Pitch											
Buninyong Recreation Park	Buninyong Tennis Centre - Courts	Buninyong Tennis Centre - Pavilion												Buninyong Tennis Centre Courts Resurfacing	
Alfredton Recreation Reserve (ARR)	ARR No.2 Oval	ARR No.2 Pavilion	ARR Netball Courts				ARR No.1 Oval Redevelopment & Lighting	ARR No.2 Oval Shelter				ARR Synthetic Bowls Green ARR Cricket Nets ARR Village Green Oval Upgrade ARR Pump Track ARR Netball Changerooms	ARR Pavilion Extension ARR Electronic Scoreboard	ARR Netball Courts & Lighting (x2) ARR No.1 Oval Resurfacing	ARR 3rd Netball Court
Prince of Wales Park (POWP)		POWP Car Park POWP Baseball Diamond & Lighting	POWP Hockey Pitch Replacement POWP Ballarat Lawn Tennis			POWP Hockey/Tennis Clubrooms				POWP Hockey Pitch Lighting					POWP Hockey Pitch Renewal
Len T Fraser Reserve		Len T Fraser Skate Park Stage 2													
Ballarat Aquatic and Lifestyle Centre (BALC)				BALC 50m Pool											
Buninyong Bowls Club					Buninyong Bowls Club Rooms										
Russell Square					RS North Drainage & Irrigation	RS Soccer Change Rooms RS Netball Court & Lighting	RS South Oval Lighting				RS Community Pavilion Refurbishment	RS North Oval Lighting Russell Square South Oval & Netball Changerooms	RS Cricket Nets	RS Outdoor Gym Equipment	RS Netball Court Resurfacing
St Georges Reserve					SGR Change Rooms					SGR Soccer Pitches & Lighting					
Mars Stadium					Mars Stadium Oval & Lighting Mars Stadium Stage 1				Mars Stadium Stage 2	Mars Stadium Oval Resurface			North Ballarat Netball Courts & Lighting (x2)	North Ballarat Netball Changerooms	
CE Brown Reserve					North No.2 Oval & Lighting	CEBR - No.1 Oval Redevelopment & Lighting CEBR Netball Courts & Lighting x2	CEBR Football/Netball Change Rooms		CEBR Cricket Nets				CEBR No.1 Oval Resurfacing		
Midlands Reserve (MR)					MR Splash Park										

Site	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Mt Clear Recreation Reserve (MCRR)					MCRR Netball Court & Lighting		MCRR Change Rooms MCRR No.1 Oval Lighting			MCRR No.1 Oval Works MCRR Pavilion Stage 1 (Downstairs)	MCRR Pavilion Stage 2 (Upstairs)			MCRR Cricket Nets MCRR Electronic Scoreboard	
Sebastopol Splash Park						Sebastopol Splash Park									
Eureka Pool						Eureka Pool Splash Park									
City Oval (CO)							CO Bowls Green		CO Oval Redevelopment & Lighting			CO Netball Court & Lighting			CO Synthetic Bowls Green
Eastern Oval (EO)							EO Netball Court, Cricket Nets (Turf & Synthetic), Bowling Green			EO Lighting Upgrade (500 lux)				EO Netball Court Resurfacing	
Marty Busch Reserve (MBR)							MBR 2nd Netball Court & Lighting	MBR No.1 Oval & Lighting	MBR CFA Training Facility Repairs			MBR BMX Track Lighting MBR No.1 Oval Changerooms Refurbishment MBR Netball Changerooms	MBR BMX Starting Gates		MBR No.2 Oval Redevelopment & Lighting
Black Hill Mountain Bike Park								Black Hill Mountain Bike Tracks							
Buninyong Reserve								Buninyong Oval Drainage & Irrigation							
Western Oval (WO)								WO Drainage & Irrigation WO Netball Court & Lighting	WO Lighting		WO Changerooms				WO Netball Court Resurfacing
Warrenheip Tennis Club									Warrenheip TC Outdoor Courts						
White Flat Reserve (WFR)									WFR Change Rooms Refurbishment WFR Oval Lighting						
Doug Dean Reserve (DDR)									DDR Oval Lighting				DDR Cricket Nets	DDR Outdoor Gym Equipment	
Ballarat Sports and Events Centre (BSEC)									BSEC Stage 1		BSEC Stage 2				
Albert H Graham Reserve										Albert H Graham Reserve - 3x3 Courts					
Victoria Bowls Club										Victoria Bowls Club Surface					
Royal Park (RP)											RP Soccer Pitches & Lighting	RP Changerooms			
MR Power Park (MRPP)											MRPP Playspace			MRPP Skate Park	
Pleasant Street Reserve (PSR)											PSR Oval Lighting	PSR Changerooms		PSR Pitches Redevelopment	
Trekardo Park (TP)											TP Oval Lighting	TP Changerooms Refurbishment			

Site	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Learmonth Bowls Club												Learmonth Bowls Green			
Ballarat Badminton Centre												Badminton Centre Change Rooms Refurbishment	Badminton Centre - Roof Replacement		
Victoria Park (VP)												VP Ovals & Lighting		VP Cricket Nets VP Pavilion	
Ballarat Regional Tennis Centre (BRTC)													BRTC LED Courts Lighting	BRTC Hot Shots Courts	BRTC Clay Courts Resurfacing
Learmonth Recreation Reserve (LRR)													LRR Changerooms Refurbishment	LRR Electronic Scoreboard LRR - Netball Courts & Lighting (x2)	
Wendouree West Recreation Reserve (WWRR)													WWRR Pitches & Lighting Wendouree WWRR Pump Track	WWRR Sports Pavilion Wendouree WWRR Street Soccer Pitch	
Burrumbeet Recreation Reserve														Burrumbeet Cricket Nets Refurbishment	
Llanberris Athletics Track														Llanberris Athletics Track Repairs	
Brown Hill Recreation Reserve (BHRR)															BHRR Splash Park (in progress)
Invermay Recreation Reserve															Invermay Tennis Courts Resurfacing

> A road map for new recreation infrastructure is needed to service the new growth areas of Ballarat

A key aim of the Recreation Infrastructure Plan is to clearly define the facility provision standards that will guide the types of facilities and level of investment required across the network of Council sporting and active recreation reserves. These standards will aim to provide equity in facility provision so that all residents can enjoy access to high-quality sport and recreation-based assets, including new growth areas. The demand modelling will help inform the type of recreation facilities and playing fields needed to meet future demand at both existing recreation reserves and in new growth areas.

The City of Ballarat Growth Area Framework Plan for the western and north-western growth areas together with the Ballarat West PSP and Ballarat North PSP (in development) has identified community infrastructure requirements. The review found:

- It is expected that the growth areas densities will be 15 to 20 dwellings per hectare, Council estimates that the PSPs will accommodate approximately 20,102 to 26,803 dwellings and be home to approximately 54,275 to 72,368 residents in the growth areas.
- There is a projected shortfall in active open space identified as part of the Ballarat West PSP Review process. The overall supply of active open space in the PSP will reduce from 57ha to 32.8ha. It is recommended that Council investigate the feasibility of establishing a 30ha regional active open space reserve within the western or north-western growth areas.

- The assessment indicates a potential combined need of 56ha of unencumbered passive open space. However, there may need to be a trade-off for active open space.
- It is recommended a hierarchy of open spaces in the PSP are identified in line with Ballarat Open Space Strategy.
- It is projected that four Active Open Space reserves within the Ballarat West PSP will be planned for, designed, and delivered within the next 15 years.
- Indicatively, the western growth area should include 52ha of active open space. A regional active open space (30ha) is proposed.
- Indicatively, the north-western growth area should include 29ha of active open space.
- Indicatively, the Ballarat North PSP proposes approximately 20ha of active open space areas. It is anticipated that one Active Open Space reserve within the Ballarat North PSP will be planned for, designed and delivered within the next 15 years.
- Although some indoor recreation needs of the western growth area are likely to be catered for by the proposed 8 court indoor recreation facility earmarked for Community Hub 3 in the Ballarat West PSP, it is recommended that 1 additional indoor recreation centre be established to service both western and north-western growth areas.
- No additional aquatic leisure centre provision is recommended due to reasonable proximity to Ballarat Aquatic and Lifestyle Centre. However, it is recommended Council identify what, if any, facility expansion/ redevelopment needs might be required to cater for future demand generated by growth areas.

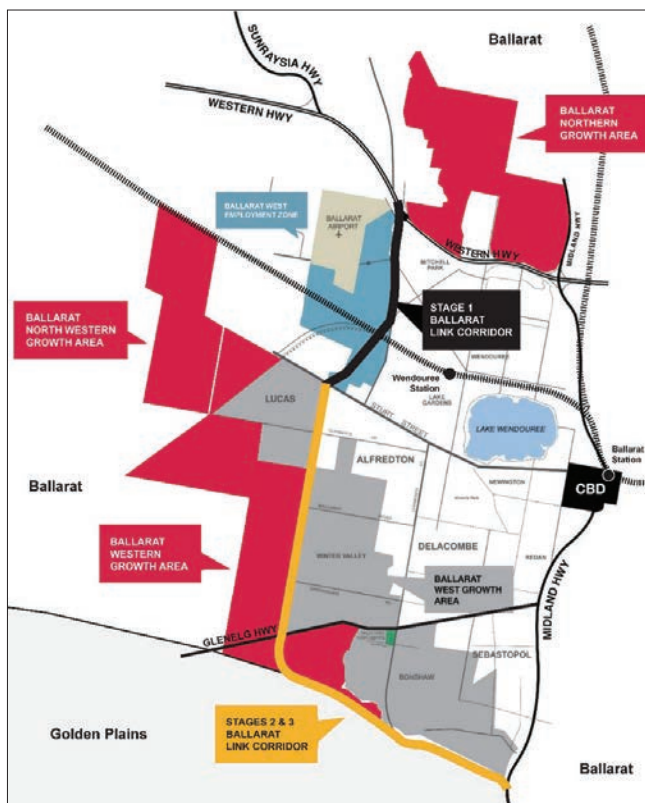


Figure 1: City of Ballarat Growth Areas (Source: City of Ballarat, 2021)

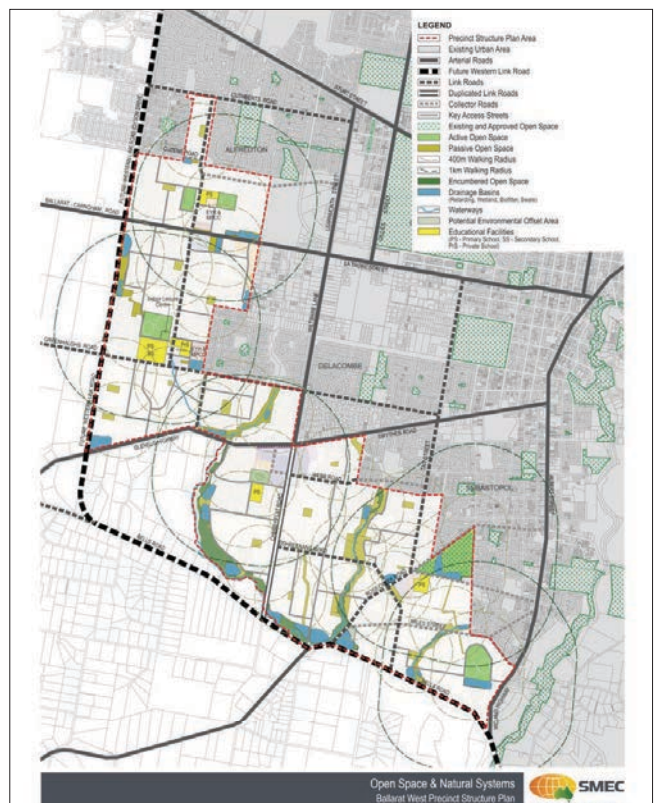


Figure 2: Ballarat West PSP Proposed Active Open Spaces Map (Source: City of Ballarat, 2024)

3. Planning Framework

> Recreation Infrastructure Planning Framework

A planning framework with facility provision standards has been designed that includes a Recreation Infrastructure Network Hierarchy. This hierarchy is applied to current and future recreation facilities. This hierarchy is supported by design standards (**Appendix 1**).

The design standards are scaled for local to district to regional to State/National level participation and competition standards. The preferred facility design guidelines from sports have helped inform the design standards. Contemporary sports facility design standards complement the design standards including design guidelines for making spaces for girls and women, transgender and gender diverse people, and universally accessible places.

The hierarchy and design standards have informed the development of a detailed inventory and growth area provision requirements. The full inventory is provided in the Background Report and includes a detailed description of users, detailed condition assessment outcomes of sports fields, how field capacity levels and asset condition and fit-for-purpose ratings are applied.

Indicative sports facility layouts for local, district and regional sports facilities have been prepared to support the hierarchy and design standards. These layouts will assist with growth area planning.



Recreation Infrastructure Network Hierarchy



International: International facilities are the highest-level facilities, capable of hosting international events and competitions and national competition games. These facilities promote elite sport competitions and games and provides entertainment. Example of this facility is Mars Stadium.

International facilities have very specific requirements which vary depending on the sport they service, the spectator seating and amenity required for the capacity of the venue, including corporate suites to public seating areas. They are venues that include a high level of technology including large electronic scoreboards, lighting and sound systems for entertainment purposes. They are normally provided for by State and Federal Governments, national sporting organisations and professional sporting clubs.



State/National: A facility with the ability to host state/national competitions and events or to serve as a state/national performance training hub for one or more sports codes. They are destinations for sport and recreation and events and deliver social and economic benefits to the wider regional/country region. An example of this type of facility is Ballarat Sports Events Centre.



Regional: A facility with the ability to provide for regional or municipal catchment. They can host regional competitions, serve as a regional high-performance training hub for one or more sports codes or provide community participation opportunities for a high number of people across municipal boundaries. Regional spaces and places are often the primary centre of co-located, multi-sport and active recreation facilities within a regional catchment. Generally, 15ha+ in size or provides a specialist elite sports facility. An example of this facility is Ballarat Regional Soccer Facility and Ballarat Aquatic and Lifestyle Centre.



District: A facility with the ability to provide for organised community sport participation opportunities for a catchment of one to three suburbs. They provide multiple fields and opportunities for a number of teams/competitors/participants within a district to participate. This community facility is 5ha to 15ha in size. An example of this facility is Marty Busch Reserve.

A district **active recreation hub** would have three to five active recreation facilities such as skate park, informal hard court, climbing wall, outdoor gym stations and fitness track.



Local: A facility that provides for organised community sport participation opportunities for a local neighbourhood or community catchment. This community facility is 1ha to 5ha in size and provides for local community or junior-sized sports fields of play. They are overflow venues for various outdoor sports on natural grass fields. An example of this facility is White Flat Reserve Oval.

A local active recreation hub would have up to two active recreation facilities.



30 30

GLADSTONE 2006

HEALTH GAMES
CGF
NATION

4. Supply Analysis

> Ballarat has a good distribution and access to a diverse mix of recreation infrastructure

The City of Ballarat has a diverse network of local, district and regional recreation facilities that are well distributed across the municipality.

These facilities support athlete pathways from grass-root community sport to elite level competition. They are great places to be active and present an opportunity to improve community health and wellbeing whilst also delivering economic/tourism benefits.

There are:

- More than 100 recreation and sporting facilities (stadiums, fields, pitches, greens and courts).
- 59 outdoor sporting grounds.
- 41 competition standard tennis courts.
- There are 14 bowls clubs and 29 lawn bowls greens (private and public clubs)
- 13 indoor netball and basketball courts and an additional 19 outdoor netball courts (plus two additional courts funded and in delivery in Year 1 and 2).

- National/State level sports facilities including Mars Stadium, Ballarat Soccer Stadium, Eastern Oval, Lake Wendouree Rowing Course and Ballarat Sports Events Centre.
- Regional sports facilities including for equestrian, tennis, badminton, table tennis, hockey, baseball, athletics, squash and racquetball.
- One regional indoor aquatic and leisure centre, two splash parks (soon to be three) and three outdoor aquatic facilities. The Brown Hill Outdoor Pool is being replaced by a new splash park.
- BMX track, velodrome, criterium track and mountain bike park destination.
- Skate parks, pump tracks and skateboard facilities.
- Contemporary active recreation hubs across the City of Ballarat have been developed, including MR Power Park, Wendouree West Recreation Reserve, and Mount Pleasant Reserve.
- There are four Golf courses (18 holes, member and public access), one driving range, three minigolf courses and indoor golf simulators.

The map has applied the planning framework across the existing recreation facilities network.

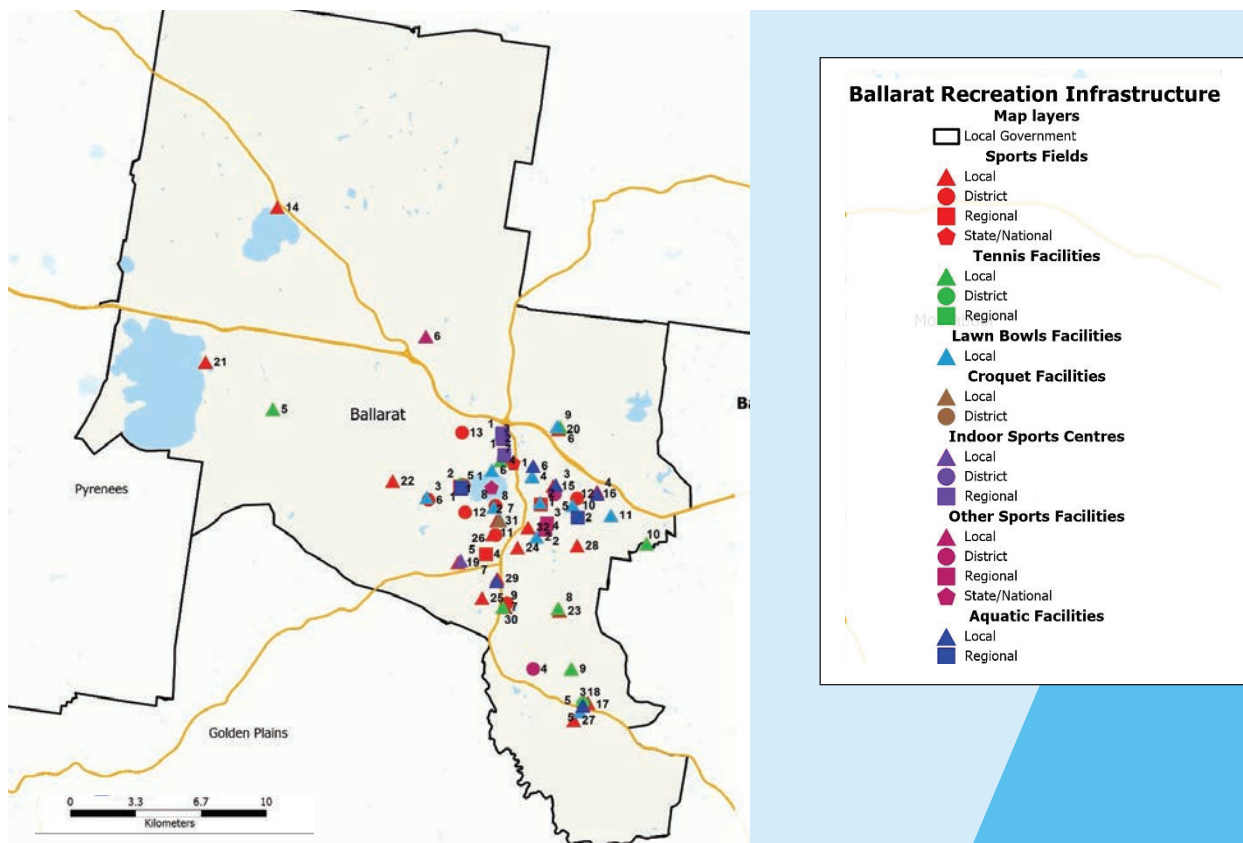


Figure 3: Map of Sports Facilities in Ballarat (Source: Metro Maps, 2023)

The supply analysis shows:

- There is a good distribution of local, district and regional sports facilities across the City of Ballarat. These facilities service the current residential areas and are reaching capacity. This means additional sports facilities will be required to service the new growth areas proposed for Ballarat.
- Each township area has access to a local or district sports facility that supports the local football, netball and cricket clubs. These sports facilities are supported by secondary (overflow) fields that provide for junior and low-level senior teams.
- Soccer competition is primarily serviced by the Ballarat Regional Soccer Facility and complemented by district soccer facilities in Buninyong (south), Wendouree West (north), Trekardo Park/Pleasant Reserve (central), Russell Square (east) and St George's Reserve (south). All these venues have been upgraded and are in good condition.
- Most outdoor sports fields, lighting and pavilions are of high quality, in good condition and fit for purpose. This is due to the City of Ballarat's investment to improve the capacity of fields of play and deliver gender-friendly and universal accessible sports facilities.
- Regional sports facilities for indoor sports (Ballarat Sports Events Centre), AFL (Mars Stadium), soccer (Ballarat Regional Soccer Facility), athletics (Llanberis Athletics Centre), badminton (Ballarat Badminton Centre), table tennis (Ballarat Table Tennis Centre), tennis (Ballarat Regional Tennis Centre), squash (Ballarat Squash & Racquetball Centre), rowing (Lake Wendouree Rowing Course), touch football (Russell Square), equestrian (Victoria Park), hockey (Prince of Wales Park Hockey Centre) and baseball (Prince of Wales Park Baseball Centre) provide for both local domestic competition and also attract regional, State and National events to the City of Ballarat. In most cases, these regional facilities are in good condition and a plan for renewal to maintain the social and economic benefit the deliver the City is required.
- The Ballarat Sports Events Centre primarily services the indoor sports competitions for basketball, netball and volleyball and Ballarat Aquatic and Lifestyle Centre for gymnastics. This facility is supported by Llanberris Netball Centre and Doug Dean Stadium (social basketball and roller sports). The support facilities are in reasonable condition but a plan for renewal is required. There are also private and school based indoor facilities servicing indoor sports including the Minerdome and two private gymnastics clubs and a regional indoor bowls facility (Sebastapol).
- Tennis competition is provided across six venues. The Ballarat Regional Tennis Centre, Warrenheip Tennis Centre, Buninyong Tennis Centre, Buninyong Recreation Reserve Tennis Courts, Ballarat Lawn Tennis Centre and Mt Helen Tennis Courts. These courts are generally in good condition. The other tennis courts operate as public use courts and are in average condition.
- There are 14 bowls clubs and 29 lawn bowling greens in the City of Ballarat provided on Council Land (7), Crown Land (1) and private clubs (6). Eighteen of these greens are grass and eleven are synthetic. Most bowls facilities have

access to two greens with a mix of grass and synthetic greens to facilitate year-round use. There is one indoor bowls facility at Sebastopol Bowls Club (private club).

- There are bike sports facilities that support all cycling disciplines, including BMX, mountain biking, road cycling, track (velodrome), cyclocross and criterium racing.
- Contemporary active recreation hubs across the City of Ballarat have been developed, including MR Power Park, Wendouree West Recreation Reserve, and Mount Pleasant Reserve.
- There are other providers of recreation infrastructure in the City of Ballarat that complement the sports facilities provided on public land. Golf is located on private and crown land. Golf courses offer green fee play as well as member use. Driving ranges and mini golf are also available. The private and public schools, including Federation University, provide indoor and outdoor sports facilities often used for training and school-based competition.

Ballarat recreation infrastructure is maintained to a high standard and are generally well used, but some facilities require renewal or are not fit for purpose and attract low use.

A detailed site assessment shows recreation infrastructure has been developed to address key asset condition and fit for purpose issues, whilst improving the capacity and quality of infrastructure, so it meets the needs of user groups. These improvements have been identified in master plans and asset renewal programs. The Council will continue to invest in the delivery of these master plans and design process. These processes will consider the replacement (not adding to) of ageing assets that have reached the end of life with fit for purpose facilities that meet current standards i.e. old cricket nets will be removed when new cricket nets are constructed.

Funding is proposed for delivering several projects in the short term. These have been identified in year one and two of the Road Map.

The planning framework with design standards will help inform these master plans and the future development of sports facilities.

Recurrent programs of infrastructure improvements and minor capital works will be required to maintain an appropriate level of community sporting facility provision in line with the Planning Framework and are included in the roadmap. Regular monitoring, reviewing and updating the Asset Management Plan and asset renewal programs will ensure an appropriate level of investment is provided to manage asset lifecycle improvements and in return maximise community benefit. These programs include items such as hard courts and surface renewals on a cyclical basis.

5. Demand Analysis

> Population growth is fuelling participation in indoor and outdoor sports.

To gain an insight into the participation levels across sports in the City of Ballarat, a review of the following participation data was undertaken:

- The AusPlay Participation Survey (Australia’s largest and most comprehensive participation survey) Victorian participation rates for sports were applied to the 2021, 2026 and 2036 population forecasts.
- The Physical Activity and Sport Insights (PASI) Participation Research 2021 identifies sports in the Central Highlands and Grampians Pyrenees Region with a higher participation rate than PASI Participation Research for Victoria.
- State Sporting Associations were approached to provide registered participation/member data.

Population growth is fuelling participation in organised indoor and outdoor sports in Ballarat. The City of Ballarat population of 113,471 (2021) will grow to 142,627 by 2036 and 170,000 by 2041. Ballarat also has a high proportion (58%) of the community within the most active age groups between 5 and 49 years that is driving participation demand in organised sports. The active age group will grow from 65,809 in 2021 to 80,911 by 2036.

There are an estimated 55,971 participants across 20 major participation sports assessed within the City of Ballarat, which will grow to 70,259 by 2036. An additional 14,288 sport participants are projected in the next 15 years across these sports. If current participation rates are maintained, additional sports facilities will be needed to cater for the projected major sport participation growth. Sports club participants / members can be estimated and are included in the table on the next page, however casual social use of sports facilities cannot be estimated as currently there is no formal reporting mechanism.



Table 2: Participation Projections 2021-2026-2036

Sports	2021 Total Participation – Model Participation Rate	2026 Total Participation – Model Participation Rate	2036 Total Participation – Model Participation Rate
Outdoor Field Sports			
Australian Football	6,091	6,558	7,645
Baseball	325	351	409
Cricket	3,424	3,695	4,301
Football (Soccer)	5,405	5,824	6,786
Golf	4,796	5,208	6,034
Hockey	1,053	1,134	1,322
Touch	1,463	1,580	1,838
Outdoor Sports Courts and Greens			
Netball	4,385	4,729	5,507
Tennis	5,602	6,050	7,038
Bowls	1,106	1,202	1,392
Indoor Sports			
Basketball	6,813	7,330	8,550
Badminton	5,201	5,568	6,517
Table Tennis	2,714	2,890	3,396
Volleyball	753	816	947
Gymnastics	3,323	3,540	4,158
Other Sports			
Equestrian	700	755	879
Rowing	386	418	486
BMX	166	177	208
Cycling	1,632	1,766	2,052
Mountain Biking	631	684	794
Total	55,971	60,277	70,259

* Rugby participation cannot be estimated because there are no Victorian participation rates available. The national participation rate is not representative of the local or Victorian participation rate for adult (15+ years) or child (0 to 14 years). We can however assume the touch football national participation rate is reflective of both touch football and rugby participation.

** Athletics and Swimming cannot be estimated because it doesn't capture social jogging in organised groups i.e. Parkrun or learn to swim classes participation.



State Sporting Association registered participation trends have shown an increase or stable participation level across major participation sports. The registered participation data provided by State Sporting Associations affirm this trend in the City of Ballarat.

The table below summarises the current number of sports clubs and associations and their current use of existing sports facilities and registered participation rates.

Table 3: City of Ballarat Club/Association Profile 2024

Sport	Number of Clubs/Associations	Facilities Used	State Sporting Association Registered Participation in City of Ballarat 2023
Athletics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Associations • 7 Clubs (including 3 which cater for Little Athletics) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 338 members
Australian Rules Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Football Associations (inc. Umpires, BFL – seniors’ men and women and juniors’ boys and girls, CHFL) • 17 Football Clubs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17 ovals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership Not provided • 47% increase since 2019
Badminton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Association 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17 courts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership Not provided
Baseball/Softball	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 clubs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 diamonds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 240 members
Basketball	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Association 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 courts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4,860 members
Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Cricket Associations (including umpires) • 15 Cricket Clubs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 ovals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estimate of 2013 members
Croquet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Association • 2 Croquet Clubs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 courts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 107 members
Cycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Cycling Clubs • 1 BMX Club • 1 MTB Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 BMX track • 1 Criterium track • 1 Mountain bike park • 1 velodrome 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership Not provided
Equestrian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Pony Club / Equestrian • 1 Polocrosse Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not provided
Football (Soccer)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Soccer Association • 9 Soccer Clubs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23 pitches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2,416 members
Golf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 Golf Clubs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 Member/Public Access Courses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership Not provided
Gymnastics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Clubs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,625 members
Hockey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Association 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 pitch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 581 members (491 registered players)





Sport	Number of Clubs/Associations	Facilities Used	State Sporting Association Registered Participation in City of Ballarat 2023
Lawn Bowls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Association • 15 Lawn Bowls Clubs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 Council • 17 Private 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership Not provided
Netball	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 Associations (2 indoor and 2 outdoor) • 10 Netball Clubs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19 outdoor courts (plus 2 new courts funded and to be delivered in Year 1 and 2) • 12 indoor courts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2,455 members
Rowing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 Rowing Clubs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 course 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estimate 1,400 members
Rugby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Rugby union club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 field 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership Not provided
Swimming/Water Polo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 swimming clubs (including water polo) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 pools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership Not provided
Squash/Racquet Ball	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Association 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 courts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not provided
Touch Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Touch football association 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 fields 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership Not provided
Table Tennis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Association 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 27 tables 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 195 members
Target Sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 Clubs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not provided
Tennis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Associations • 7 Tennis Clubs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 41 competition courts • 18 community courts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership Not provided • Average of 1,784 visits per venue

The Physical Activity and Sport Insights (PASI) conducted sports participation research in 2021 into the sports participation rates in Central Highlands and Grampians Pyrenees and Victoria wide.

The research found that the City of Ballarat participation rate is higher than the Victorian participation rate for Australian Rules football, basketball, gymnastics, hockey, netball, football (soccer) and swimming; the same for cricket; and lower for sailing and tennis.

> If there is no change, there will be a shortfall in playing fields to meet 2036 participation demand

The shortfalls of sport fields facilities will be addressed through the provision of new facilities in the growth area, additional facilities on existing reserves or upgrading existing facilities. Specifically:

- One regional, six district and three local sports facilities in growth areas. These fields and courts are designed to support multi-sport use
- 1 regional multi-sports stadium in growth area
- Consider expansion of Ballarat Sports Events Centre
- Consider increasing the capacity of secondary fields at Victoria Park
- Consider increasing the capacity through oval upgrades and/or adding oval lighting to secondary or overflow reserves/ spaces including at MR Power Park, Lucas Central Park and Invermay Recreation Reserve.
- Maintaining 3 baseball diamonds at Prince of Wales Park
- Providing 3 hockey fields at Prince of Wales Park
- Renewing and consider increasing the capacity of sports fields at Morshead Park
- Consider 1 district sports field and relocation of archery to Ring Road Reserve.

A facility demand model has been developed to inform the current and future field requirements to meet sports participation demand in the short term, medium term and long term.

The Otium Analytics **Demand Analysis Model** determines the estimated participants, required hours of access, number of facilities, playing space and total space for sports. The model considers shared use of facilities. The infographic below shows the key inputs and outputs of the model.

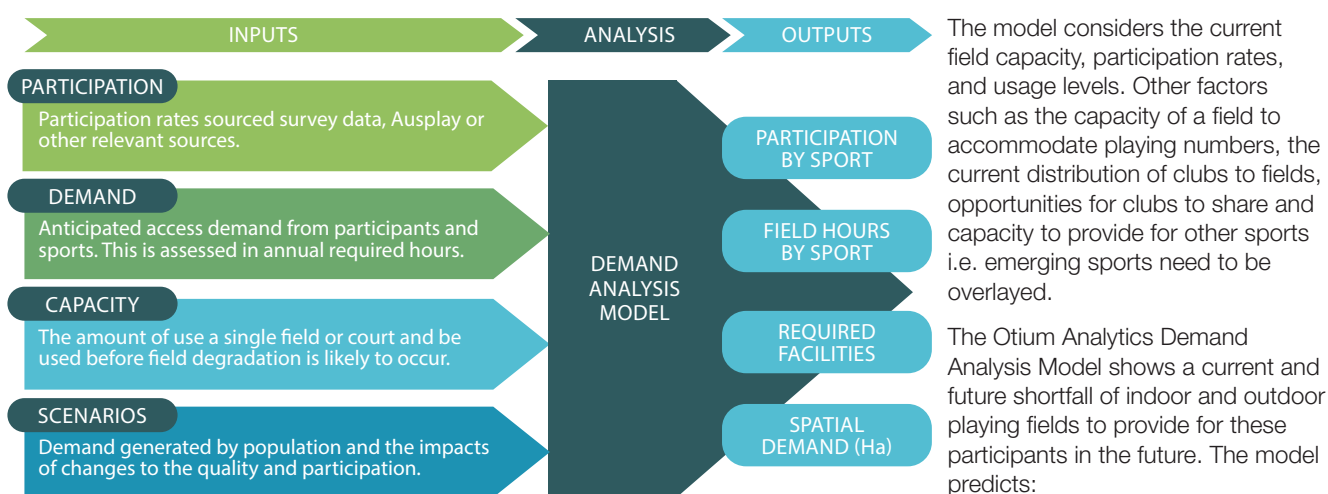


Table 4: Facility Requirements 2022 – 2036

Sport	Current Field Access	Current Surplus / Deficit of Field Access	Future Surplus / Deficit of Field Access
Australian Rules Football	17 fields	-7 fields	-13 fields
Baseball	3 field	+1 field	0 fields
Basketball	14 courts	-6 courts	-12 courts
Bowls	30 greens	+18 greens	+15 greens
Cricket	24 fields	-5 fields	-13 fields
Football-Soccer	23 fields	-13 fields	-23 fields
Hockey	1 field	-1 fields	-2 fields
Netball	21 courts	+2 courts	-1 courts
Tennis	59 courts	+1 court	-14 courts

* The current field capacity does not include school or private facilities, except for basketball that includes the Minerdome indoor courts for basketball.

The number of playing fields required can be reduced by increasing capacity on the existing sports field network by introducing synthetic surfaces, upgrading sports fields of low quality, installing lights on fields and joint use of school fields and courts for training and competition. However, local factors like distribution and accessibility, programming of competitions, capacity for clubs to share, local participation rates of other sports not modelled i.e. emerging sports, need to be taken into account.

The model confirms the requirement of new additional playing fields in the new growth areas of Ballarat. The new growth areas will need to provide for active open spaces that include:

- Multi-sports fields for AFL, cricket, football-soccer, rectangular sports, emerging sports and netball courts.
- A regional indoor recreation facility with indoor courts to support basketball and other indoor sports is required.
- Provide two district tennis facilities and upgrade regional tennis facility.
- The model supports retaining three baseball fields (currently provided at Prince of Wales Park) and an additional two hockey fields proposed in the Ballarat Hockey Feasibility Study.

- Other emerging sports. These sports were not modelled because the participation data is not statistically valid. However, providing multi-sport playing fields and flexible multipurpose facilities means these sports are provided for within the plan to ensure the opportunity for these sports to establish in a sustainable manner that provides facility provision for current and future demand. Future active open spaces should be designed with expansion areas to support additional sports facilities for other sports when demand is realised.

Beyond the demand analysis for major participation sports (above), a detailed analysis of the current inventory, participation and usage levels by all sports, the condition of council recreation assets and stakeholder engagement to understand priorities has informed the recommendations to ensure key facility provision gaps for all sports were identified and addressed through future infrastructure investment. We will consider future development of facilities for all sports every two years when reviewing the strategy and the response to facility provision will consider the current supply and demand and additional information that becomes available.



First Nations



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
Census population of the City of Ballarat in 2021.
(1,080 were males and 1,080 were females).

Supporting culturally safe sport and active
recreation participation opportunities will
be important to encouraging participation for
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Cultural and Linguistically Diverse



living in the City of Ballarat in 2021.

Providing a diversity in sport and active recreation
participation opportunities will be important to
encouraging cultural and linguistically diverse
people to participation.

LGBTIQA+



Almost 10% of City of Ballarat residents identify
as LGBTIQA+ compared to about 5.7% of Victorians.
This equates to over 10,000 residents.

Supporting initiatives like Pride Cup that breaks
down the barriers to participation by LGBTIQA+
people will encourage greater participation.

Disability



with a need for assistance living in the
City of Ballarat, with the largest age group being
85 and over year olds in 2021.

Providing universal access to sport and active
recreation facilities and supporting adaptive sports
competitions and programs will encourage greater
participation.

> Culturally sensitive participation opportunities will encourage Aboriginal and CALD community

The presence of Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, and diverse overseas-born populations in the City of Ballarat highlights the need for an inclusive and culturally sensitive strategy. Tailored programs, cultural competency, and accessibility for all residents, regardless of their cultural background, should be prioritised.

> Affordable participation opportunities are important to encourage healthy and active lifestyles

The low median income and SEIFA Index of Disadvantage for townships like Wendouree (SEIFA 855.9 – 5%), Sebastopol (SEIFA 882.2 – 7%), Ballarat East-Eureka-Warrenheip (SEIFA 948.6 – 19%), Golden Point-Mount Pleasant-Canadian (SEIFA 974.7 – 29%) and Delacombe (SEIFA 979.7 – 31%) emphasise the need for an inclusive and affordable strategy. Prioritising affordability, community outreach, and programs addressing specific challenges disadvantaged populations face is crucial to promote well-being and reduce barriers to participation.

> City of Ballarat is facing a health crisis – We need creative ways to reverse this trend

The high rates of pre-obesity/obesity underline the importance of a strategy focusing on physical and mental well-being. Such a strategy can offer preventive and rehabilitative measures, reduce healthcare costs, and improve overall health.

The impact of COVID-19 pandemic has seen a decline in participation and an impact on social connectedness, physical health and mental wellbeing as residents endured isolation from family, friends and community. Addressing these concerns and exploring ways to encourage a return to participation in sport and active recreation will be important to improving levels of community health and well-being in local communities.

Time constraints, poor health or disability, and cost are identified as common barriers to meeting daily physical activity guidelines. The strategy should address these barriers and provide solutions to make physical activity more accessible.

To address this challenge, we need to adapt and design recreation infrastructure for the City of Ballarat communities in a way that responds to participation trends, leisure patterns and community expectations.

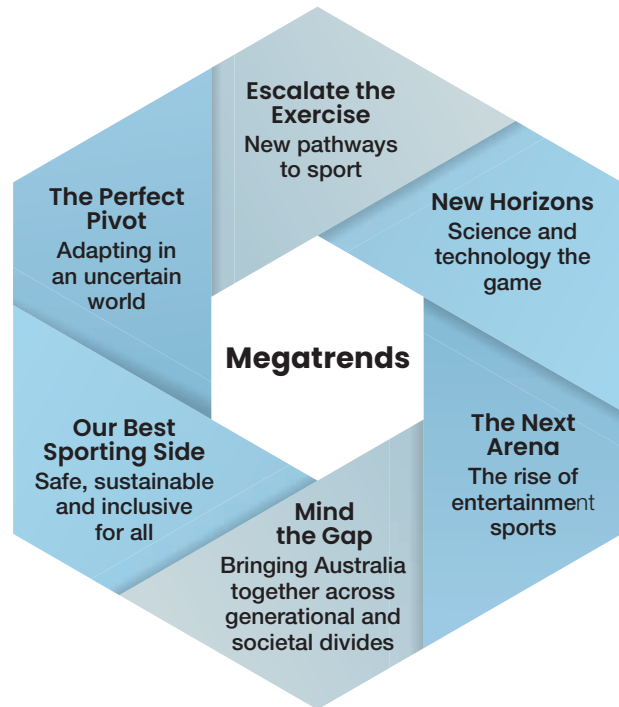
6. Trends Analysis

> Diverse and accessible network of sports facilities are needed to deliver the full range of activities and benefits

The key trends influencing the provision and design of sport and recreation facilities and services are:

- There is a trend for new or improved sport and recreation facilities to be designed as multi-use and multi-functional. This is partly due to sports facility investment being used smarter to avoid putting unnecessary financial pressure on Council by duplicating facilities with available capacity.
- Insights from the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of local open spaces and the growing expectations from the community around the quality of their open spaces. The community is increasing their informal active recreation use of sports precincts which is resulting in conflict with formal sport programming and facility capacity issues.
- The large growth in female participation within traditionally male-oriented sports is increasing pressures on playing facilities and increasing the need to diversify amenities to be universally accessible.
- Whilst the nature and intensity of participation in sport may change over time, the need for suitable and adaptable spaces to accommodate demand will remain. Future facility provision and design needs to ensure spaces are adaptable to accommodate changing participation trends.
- The location of sports precincts needs to be accessible to most of the community in order to maximise use. They should be well connected by active transport links and public transport.
- Over the coming decade, we will see more sporting organisations and products compete for a share of national and global audiences. As a result, both established sporting codes and sports new to these markets will consider how to engage contemporary consumers and adjust their view of spectators to take advantage of the increasingly dynamic and diverse global media landscape.
- Sports, including BMX, skateboarding and sport climbing have become increasingly mainstream and part of the Olympic Games program. These sports may no longer be considered extreme, but the lifestyle elements are especially important to many participants, and the degree of organisation is still developing.

Figure 4: Sport Megatrends (Source: Sports Australia, 2023)



Recent benchmarking of councils shows that they are responding to these changing trends in several ways. Key strategies for consideration are:

- Master planning of sport and recreation facilities and open spaces is becoming increasingly important to ensure well-planned, flexible, multi-use spaces that can adapt to community needs into the future.
- Contemporary planning seeks to create ‘community sport and recreation hubs’ that can meet a broader range of needs and facilitate higher utilisation and viability.
- Awareness of the importance of ‘risk management’ and the need for a ‘whole-of-life’ approach to facility development and asset management.
- A network of sport and recreation precincts that provide a well-designed mix of community, commercial and service facilities for a range of activities.
- Facility designs need to ensure specific needs of key users can be met, including universal design and female-friendly principles.

Peak sporting bodies are using Sport Australia’s megatrends research – The Future of Australian Sport, conducted by CSIRO in 2013 and again in 2022 to design new participation programs to attract a broader audience or improve the

retention rates of players. The 2022 megatrends are patterns of social, economic, or environmental change that will shape the Australian sports sector over the next decade and beyond.



> Recreation facilities in the future will need to respond to emerging sports and new formats

The sporting landscape can rapidly change. The graphic below shows the most recent AusPlay Survey 2021 results for the most popular sport and physical activities across age groups. The graphic shows a wide range of sports and physical activities are now being played, outside traditional

sports. This is particularly the case for adult participation where unstructured sports that can be played at flexible times and support a person’s lifestyle, health and wellbeing are now preferred.

0–4 years old



5–14 years old



15–17 years old



18–34 years old



35–54 years old



55+ years old



While a high proportion of children are active in organised sport out-of-school hours, as people age the focus of physical activity shifts more and more from organised sport to

recreational non-sport physical activities. This is reflected in the most popular physical activities at each life stage, as show here above.

We have seen traditional sports introduce new formats that are gaining in popularity and growing participation. These new formats of traditional sports have broadened the audience of participants to sports. Examples include:

- New formats that are derivatives of traditional sports. Examples include pickleball and padel are derivatives of tennis now being played in indoor courts and outdoor tennis court venues; footgolf and disc golf are derivatives of golf, football and ultimate frisbee.
- Social fast-paced competition formats that are played on smaller fields take less time to play and are more accessible. Examples include AFL9's, Netball Fast 5, Cricket T20, and Rugby Sevens.

The recent AusPlay Survey 2021 also shows several new emerging sports and trends in Australia. These include:

- Female sports: Women and girls sports have been the fastest growing participation across traditional and emerging sports.
- eSports (Exergaming): eSports or competitive gaming has been gaining popularity not just in Australia but worldwide. There are now several eSports leagues and tournaments.
- Virtual training and racing: Zwift is an example of an online platform that allows cycling to connect their indoor trainers or stationary bikes to a virtual environment through a computer or smart phone. Zwift features include gamification elements, allows for multiplayer and social cycling, and now host racing events and challenges.

- Adventure racing: Trail based events that are hosted in nature and include extreme sports like mountain biking and trail running. These sports are growing in popularity.
- Adaptive and inclusive sports: Adaptive sports for people with disabilities are gaining recognition and support. These sports promote inclusivity and support people with a wide range of abilities. There is a growing number of adaptive sport competitions offered from local community to elite level. These include blind cricket and wheelchair sports for Australian Rules Football, rugby, basketball, golf and tennis.
- Combat sports: Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) is an example of a combat sport in Australia growing participation with more gyms and competitions emerging and greater visibility of the sport through the global popularity of Ultimate Fighting Championships (UFC).
- Climbing and bouldering: Indoor and outdoor climbing and bouldering facilities have become more popular.

The Recreation Infrastructure Plan will include principles and actions that ensures all new and upgraded sport and recreation infrastructure supports inclusion and is multi-use and sustainable.

The following design principles have been developed to help inform the future design of the recreation infrastructure. It will be used to guide the future prioritisation framework.



Accessible and Inclusive

Facilities and spaces will be universally designed and inclusive, fostering participation in physical activity by all our community, across all life stages, genders and cultures.



Diverse and Equitable

Facilities and spaces will offer a diverse mix of facilities, programs and experiences. Council will provide an equitable distribution across the municipality.



Safe and Welcoming

Facilities and spaces and programs are designed to be visible, open and welcoming to the community, creating a safe place for girls and women to participate.



Multi-Use

Facilities and spaces will be multi-use, offering several activities, programs and experiences for users.



Connected

Facilities and spaces connection across our communities and our unique natural environment.



Sustainable

Sport and active recreation facilities will be designed to combat climate change and influence a sustainable and regenerative future, while ensuring that they operate efficiently and are well managed and maintained.



7. Stakeholder Engagement

> State Sporting Associations support demand for additional playing fields

There were nineteen State Sporting Associations that contributed participation data and advice on key issues and demands impacting their sport in the City of Ballarat.

Most State Sporting Associations confirm registered participation has increased from 2018 to 2023 across all age groups and genders. The data shows a particular increase in junior and female teams. There has been an introduction of modified playing formats and competitions to encourage and support more people playing sport.

Current facilities have been upgraded to increase capacity and address fit for purpose issues such as female friendly design and accessibility. These improvements are welcomed by State Sporting Associations. For major participation sports,

including Australian Rules football, basketball, cricket, football (soccer) and hockey, these facilities are nearing capacity.

State Sporting Associations identify a need to plan for additional playing fields to support the proposed growth areas of the City of Ballarat.

> Local Sports Clubs and Associations are satisfied with recreation infrastructure and advocate for additional and improved facilities to meet the growing interest in alternate formats and increase participation

A total of 66 clubs and associations responded to the survey. The full list of clubs and associations that completed the survey is in the following table.

Table 5: List of clubs and associations

Clubs and Associations		
Alfredton Baseball Club	Ballarat Royals Baseball Club	Invermay Bowling Club
Ballarat Alexandra Croquet Club	Ballarat Sebastopol Cycling Club	Lake Wendouree Football Netball Club
Ballarat Badminton Association	Ballarat Swimming Club	Learmonth Football Netball Club
Ballarat Basketball	Ballarat Table Tennis Association	Lucas Little Athletics Club
Ballarat Bowling Club	Ballarat Triathlon Club	Midlands Bowls & Golf Club Inc
Ballarat Bulldogs All Abilities Football Netball Club	Ballarat Ultimate Inc	Mount Clear Junior Football Netball Club
Ballarat Cricket Association	Ballarat Walking Football	Mt Helen Tennis Club
Ballarat Show Dog Club	Ballarat Waterpolo Association	Mt Xavier Golf and Bowls Club
Ballarat Football Netball Club	Ballarat Western Croquet Club	Napoleons Sebastopol Cricket Club
Ballarat Football Netball League	Brown Hill Netball Club	North Ballarat Cricket Club
Ballarat Football Umpires Association	Buninyong & District Tennis Association	Prince of Wales parkrun
Ballarat GCO Swimming Club	Buninyong Bowling Club	Redan Football Netball Club
Ballarat Gold Swimming Club	Buninyong Little Athletics	Russell Square Community Sports Centre
Ballarat Greyhound Racing Club	Club Mud	Sebastopol Vikings Soccer Club
Ballarat Harriers Athletic Club	Creswick Imperials Cricket Club	Swordcraft Ballarat
Ballarat Highlands Bowls Region	Dragons Abreast Ballarat	Victoria Bowling Club Inc
Ballarat Lawn Tennis Club	East Point Football Netball Club	Vic Country Futsal - Futsal Ballarat
Ballarat Memorial Sports Bowling Club	Forest Rangers Soccer Club	Volleyball Ballarat
Ballarat Netball Association	Golden Dragons Ballarat Boating Club	Warrenheip Tennis Club
Ballarat Petanque Club	Golden Point Cricket Club	Webbcona Bowls Club
Ballarat Pony Club	Goldfields and District Lacrosse League	
Ballarat Redan Cricket Club	Greater Western Rebels Victoria	
Ballarat Regional Tennis Centre	Hockey Ballarat	

The following key themes were raised.

High satisfaction with playing areas but concerns with clubroom facilities

- Venues like Buninyong Royal Park, Eastern Oval, C E Brown Reserve, and Northern Oval were rated highly for their well-maintained playing surfaces.
- However, there were reports of dissatisfaction regarding the condition of clubrooms and changing facilities. Specifically concerns about inaccessible changing areas, outdated clubrooms, safety hazards, and failure to meet standard guidelines.

Growing interest in alternate formats that are more flexible and social

- For example, there is growing interest in alternative hockey formats like Indoor Hockey and Hockey 5s.
- Shift towards casual participation, allowing individuals to engage when it suits them rather than committing to regular competition.

Increase in participation across many sports. Additional facilities required to meet future demand

- Volleyball seeks greater access to indoor courts that is challenging with the growth of basketball participation, programming and management control of Ballarat Sports Events Centre. Securing access for volleyball in new indoor sports stadium projects should be considered.
- Increasing membership and participation. However, there was a concern about declining youth participation.
- Examples include Ballarat Hockey Centre experienced growth over six years, except for 2020 and 2021 and Futsal Ballarat saw a 204% increase in registered players since 2019.

- Growth in swimming, basketball, golf and disc golf was observed, attributed to post-COVID enthusiasm and targeted efforts.
- Increasing capacity of existing facilities and providing additional facilities as the community grows is important to facilitate future participation across all sports.

Growing girls and women participation in sport. Providing equitable provision of recreation infrastructure is important

- Most clubs indicated growing participation of girls and women, with some clubs and sports performing better than other, such as netball, parkrun and the pony club. Equitable provision of recreation infrastructure is important to support participation growth.
- Challenges remain in increasing female representation in coaching, officiating, and leadership roles, highlighting ongoing efforts for gender inclusivity in sports.

Maximising existing facilities through changes in operations

- Utilising facilities more effectively and implementing programming changes.
- Expanding sports offerings and maintaining infrastructure.
- Adjusting scheduling and enhancing community engagement efforts.
- A key challenge for clubs and associations is recruiting volunteers and the increasing administrative and governance expectations of peak body.

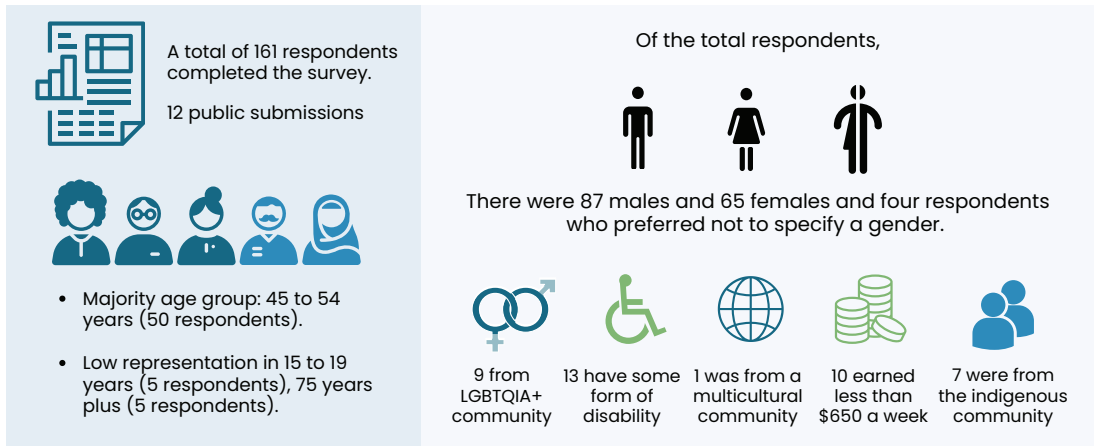
A detailed summary of the consultation findings is available in the Engagement Findings Report.



High community support for Draft Recreation Infrastructure Plan, but some concerns with timing of recommendations

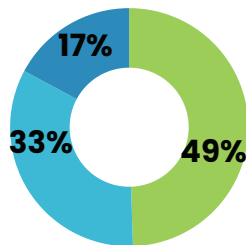
The Draft Recreation Infrastructure Plan was released for a 3.5 week public consultation period between Thursday 27 June 2024 to Sunday 21 July 2024. There were 161 survey responses and 11 public submissions received.

The infographic below shows the response to the community survey.

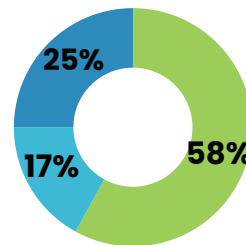


SURVEY RESULTS

Agree Disagree Neutral

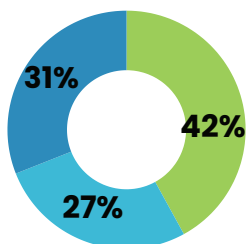


Agreement with Council's Vision for the Recreation Infrastructure Plan

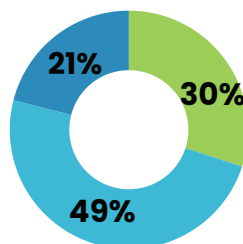


Agreement with the five strategic objectives

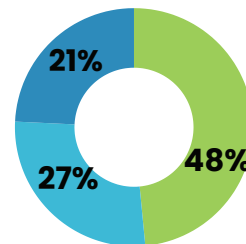
Most respondents who disagreed were concerned about the delivery timeframes but agreed with the recommendations.



Agreement with the proposed Recreation Infrastructure Network Hierarchy



Agreement with the 15-year roadmap



Agreement with the proposed Design Standards

A separate Engagement Findings Report summarises the feedback received and the Council's response to key themes.

Strategic Directions

> Vision

Based on the above key issues and opportunities, the following strategic vision is recommended to guide the Recreation Infrastructure Plan 2024-2039.

>

Vision

Ballarat recreation infrastructure will equitably support everyone in the community to participate in sport and recreation today and into the future.

> Objectives

The following five strategic objectives and approaches inform the roadmap by responding to key issues and opportunities and achieving the vision. They will be applied to the recreation infrastructure network in Ballarat and will guide discussions with project partners.



Planning	Review sports facilities in a well-planned and sustainable way
Infrastructure	Deliver diverse and multi-use sports facilities that respond to community needs
Utilisation	Optimise use and provide equitable access to sports facilities
Partnerships	Work together to plan, invest in and use sports facilities
Advocacy	Advocate for projects that support community sport

Planning – Review sports facilities in a well-planned and sustainable way

Proposed strategic approach:

- Adopt Facility Provision Standards with a hierarchy of recreation infrastructure and design standards and apply these to growth area planning and use them to guide improvements on existing sites.
- Conduct functional and condition asset audits of key asset categories of sports facilities, including lighting and pavilions, and include them in the Asset Management Plan. The audits should include a Gender Impact Assessment as well as review usage and demand, condition, and whether the facility is fit for purpose against contemporary sports facility design standards.
- Continue to deliver a program of master plans for recreation reserves, including proposed active open spaces in new growth areas.
- Develop guidelines for the Council to consider proposals from sports clubs on private land that service community sport. These proposals will be considered in the two-year review process.
- The Council will conduct further research into the potential of covering bowling greens, which will be considered in the two-year review process.

Infrastructure – Deliver diverse and multi-use sports facilities that respond to community needs

Proposed strategic approach:

- Invest in the actions proposed in the Road Map
- Continue to invest in the renewal of recreation facilities.
- Increasing the capacity of recreation infrastructure through reconfiguring/redesigning and upgrading fields of play.
- Introducing synthetic surfaces in strategic locations and identifying locations for all-year-round access for field sports.
- Improve climate resilience in the future development of sports facilities through environmentally sustainable design, including decreasing water and energy consumption and reducing waste.
- Prioritise multi-sport and flexible use of spaces for organised sport and community use where appropriate.

Utilisation – Optimise use and provide equitable access to sports facilities

Proposed strategic approach:

- Redistribute sporting club allocation including increasing shared use of recreation infrastructure in partnership with peak sporting bodies.
- Adopt the Fair Access Policy principles in planning, designing and allocating recreation infrastructure. This should consider a ground rotation policy across all teams to ensure equitable access to the different standards of facilities.
- Expand the conditions for lease, license and hire agreements to capture usage data/intensity of use information for individual fields and courts.

- Review the Council's conditions of use and hire to ensure it supports the ability to introduce new user groups to a sports facility.
- Undertake a strategic approach to help establish long term home venues for identified existing clubs, and new and emerging sports within the sporting reserve network over time

Partnerships – Work together to plan, invest in and use sports facilities

Proposed strategic approach:

- School facilities will only be viewed as support facilities to the provision for City of Ballarat recreation infrastructure, not for primary (competitive) purposes.
- Consult with interest groups including women and girls, transgender and gender diverse people, cultural and linguistically diverse and First Nations people to understand their recreation infrastructure and programming needs.
- Collaborate with State Sporting Associations and local sports clubs and associations to ensure recreation infrastructure is provided to interest groups and that the standard of infrastructure provided is at the appropriate level of competition.
- Collaborate with local sports associations and leagues in the establishment of new clubs and/or strategic re-location of existing clubs, in the planning and development of new active open space reserves in the city's growth areas.
- The Council will work with clubs/associations to managing the displacement of activities where possible during project delivery to ensure operational continuity for sports clubs/associations.

Advocacy – Advocate for projects that support community sport

Proposed strategic approach:

- Advocate for State and National funding towards priority projects.
- Explore private investment into priority projects, where appropriate.

> Road Map

The Recreation Infrastructure Plan provides direction and guidance for priority projects in the pipeline to deliver high-level sporting participation outcomes across the community. The City of Ballarat will now consider funding in Councils Capital Works Program. The Plan is intentional and deliberate and will inform Council's advocacy and advice to other levels of government on priority projects that are eligible under existing funding grants and streams and inclusive of advocacy during election periods.

This is especially important because the Council will need other funding contributions to deliver. The funding strategy requires a partnership approach that includes State and Federal Government funding grants and commitments, National and State Sporting Association funding, developer contributions (particularly important for delivery of recreation infrastructure in proposed growth area active open spaces) and local club contributions. Some projects are expensive and will not and cannot be delivered without government support.

The Road Map identifies an indicative timeframe and priority level for site-specific recommendations (actions) to help inform the Council's long-term financial planning. The prioritisation of improvements responds to whether a project is already funded, the demand assessment, asset condition and whether the facility is fit for purpose. The site-specific recommendations

(actions) are prioritised short-term (0 to 4 years), medium-term (5 to 9 years) or long-term (10 to 15 years). The Road Map identifies project delivery sequencing per Enterprise Project Management Office (EPMO) process through planning (orange), concept development (pink), detailed design development (purple) and construction (jade). This process provides a methodical and planned approach to project delivery.

A quantity surveyor should be engaged to prepare a cost plan as part of the detailed design process to determine project costs. Benchmark cost estimates are provided as a guide only and final design outcomes and timing of delivery will be subject to available funding.

The road map will be reviewed every two years. This review process will consider the outcomes of planning and funding processes and ensure that any emerging community and industry trends/demands, as well as external funding opportunities and Council funding capacity, are assessed and priority projects remain relevant throughout its 15-year timeline.

The Council will continue to work with sports clubs on the development of proposals that can be considered at this review point. The plan excludes facilities on private land and public land managed by other authorities. The Council will continue to partner with these organisations to investigate community use of these spaces.



Table 6: Road map

Sports	Actions	Priority	Year 1 2024/25	Year 2 2025/26	Year 3 2026/27	Year 4 2027/28	Year 5 2028/29	Year 6 2029/30	Year 7 2030/31	Year 8 2031/32	Year 9 2032/33	Year 10 2033/34	Year 11 2034/35	Year 12 2035/36	Year 13 2036/37	Year 14 2037/38	Year 15 2038/39+
Sports Fields																	
Alfredton Recreation Reserve	Social space extension	Short (0-4 years)	Construct social space expansion	Construct social space expansion													
Binney Reserve	Prepare a master plan (Consider upgrading sports field and basic change rooms to support local sports facility provision)	Short (0-4 years)	Prepare master plan														
Brown Hill Recreation Reserve	Implement master plan including new splash park (project partially funded by State Government election commitment), upgrading sports field and pavilion and new footbridge across creek. Provide a temporary shelter at start and finish line in short term until new footbridge is constructed.	Short (0-4 years) to Medium (5-10 years) to Long (10-15 years)	Construct new splash park and public toilets	Construct temporary shelter at Wallaby Track parkrun assembly area	Design oval upgrade	Construct oval upgrade		Design pavilion upgrade and expansion	Construct pavilion upgrade and expansion	Car parking improvements following sports pavilion extension and demolition of existing band hall and public toilets						Design new footbridge	Construct new footbridge
Burrumbeet Recreation Reserve (Lake Burrumbeet Park)	Social space extension	Short (0-4 years)	Construct modular pavilion														
Buninyong Community Reserve (Buninyong Oval)	New netball courts and cricket nets; Consider expansion of social space and additional change room and new kitchen in long term	Short (0-4 years)	Construct new netball courts with lighting and cricket nets			Concept development for amenities improvement at existing pavilion											
Buninyong Recreation Park	Upgrade BMX track (Funded in Year 1)	Short (0-4 years)	Construct BMX track upgrade														
CE Brown Reserve	Upgrade Tom Goldsworthy Oval (Wendouree No.2) with lighting, and deliver new sports pavilion at Frank Bourke Oval (North No.2 Oval) using State Government Council Support Package funding; Repurpose tennis courts as public multi-sport courts	Short (0-4 years) to Long (10-15 years)	Design Wendouree No.2 Oval Redevelopment & Lighting. Design North No.2 Oval new pavilion.	Construct Wendouree No.2 Oval Redevelopment & Lighting. Construct North No.2 Oval Pavilion.	Construct North No.2 Oval Pavilion.								Confirm future use and design multi-sport courts on current tennis courts site	Construct multi-sport courts on current tennis courts site			
City Oval	Implement master plan; Redevelop change rooms in grandstand; Provide new netball changerooms and umpires changerooms for City Oval; Exploring joint use of Saxon House between BFNL and BFUA	Short (0-4 years) to Medium (5-10 years)	Construct grandstand football change rooms	Construct grandstand football change rooms				Design new netball and umpires change rooms	Construct new netball and umpires change rooms								
Doug Dean Reserve	Implement master plan including new change rooms and minor upgrade sports field	Short (0-4 years)	Construct change rooms refurbishment Design oval redevelopment		Construct upgrade of oval												
Eastern Oval	Review master plan. Consider expanding netball change-rooms and add storage to social space.	Short (0-4 years) Medium (5-9 years)		Construct Eastern Oval Storage Facility	Update master plan			Design netball change rooms	Construct netball change rooms								

Sports	Actions	Priority	Year 1 2024/25	Year 2 2025/26	Year 3 2026/27	Year 4 2027/28	Year 5 2028/29	Year 6 2029/30	Year 7 2030/31	Year 8 2031/32	Year 9 2032/33	Year 10 2033/34	Year 11 2034/35	Year 12 2035/36	Year 13 2036/37	Year 14 2037/38	Year 15 2038/39+
Sports Fields																	
Eureka (Mars) Stadium / Ballarat Major Events Precinct	Implement Ballarat Major Events Precinct Master Plan including additional stadium seating (and change rooms) and new regional athletics centre funded through the State Government Regional Sports Infrastructure Program	Short (0-4 years)	Design grandstand seating including provision of additional changerooms under grandstand structure and regional athletics centre	Construct grandstand seating and regional athletics centre	Construct grandstand seating and regional athletics centre												
Hollio Park	Implement regional tennis centre master plan and upgrade regional badminton centre and regional table tennis centre - Refer to details below	Refer to below															
Invermay Recreation Reserve	Upgrade of sports field including turf wicket. Consider new training lights	Medium (5-9 years)					Design sports field upgrade & Lighting. Consider provision of basic changerooms facilities to support oval use dependent on level of programming and usage	Construct sports field upgrade and lighting subject to demand									
Learmonth Recreation Reserve (Alexander Park)	Upgrade sports field and lighting; and new skate park	Short (0-4 years)	Design sports field and lighting and upgrade	Construct sports field and lighting upgrade	Upgrade skate park												
Lucas Central Park	Upgrade sports field. Install lights and provide basic toilet and storage	Short (0-4 years)		Design oval surface enhancement, lighting and basic toilets and storage provision	Construct oval surface enhancement, consider lighting and basic toilets and storage provision												
Marty Busch Reserve	Implement master plan including new sports fields, court and pavilion upgrades and track improvements. Consider new cycling hub building. Project partly funded by State Government election commitment	Short (0-5 years) and Long (10-15 years)	Design - No.2 Oval Pavilion, Criterium Track & CFA Track Construct - New Cricket Nets, Netball Court Redevelopment and BMX Track Resurfacing	Design - Car Park improvements Construct - No.2 Oval Pavilion	Construct - Criterium Track, CFA Track and Car Parking Improvements							Design cycling hub building	Construct cycling hub building				

Sports	Actions	Priority	Year 1 2024/25	Year 2 2025/26	Year 3 2026/27	Year 4 2027/28	Year 5 2028/29	Year 6 2029/30	Year 7 2030/31	Year 8 2031/32	Year 9 2032/33	Year 10 2033/34	Year 11 2034/35	Year 12 2035/36	Year 13 2036/37	Year 14 2037/38	Year 15 2038/39+	
Sports Fields																		
Morshead Park	Implement master plan. Renew stadium field and synthetic fields; provide grandstand cover at Stadium Pitch and shelters at synthetic pitches; consider additional synthetic pitch	Short (0-4 years) to Long (10-15 years)	Planning for synthetic pitch renewals and shelters.	Design stadium grandstand roof	Construct Synthetic Pitch 2 Surface Renewal and shelters	Construct Synthetic Pitch 4 Surface Renewal and shelters	Construct Stadium Pitch Re-Surfacing and grandstand roof							Design new synthetic soccer pitch	Construct new synthetic soccer pitch			
Mount Clear Recreation Reserve	Upgrade drainage and irrigation on second field; Netball court redevelopment and line mark existing tennis courts with netball overlay for secondary overflow court (Funded in Year 1)	Short (0-4 years)	Construct netball court redevelopment and resurfacing of tennis courts for multisport use.	Construct Oval No.2 upgrade														
Mount Pleasant Reserve	Maintain	Ongoing																
MR Power Park	Implement master plan including new change rooms to support sports field and install lighting	Short (0-4 years) to Medium (5-10 years)		Design sports field and lighting and pavilion	Construct sports field	Construct small pavilion				Construct sports field lighting subject to demand								
Pleasant Street Reserve	Undertake business case that considers the need for additional amenities at Pleasant Street Reserve	Long (10-15 years)										Business case on Stage 2 pavilion expansion including assessment of multi-sport use at Pleasant Street Reserve & Trekardo Park						
Prince of Wales Park	Implement master plan including two new synthetic hockey fields, upgraded baseball diamonds, new sports pavilions and relocate archery	Short (0-4 years) to Medium (5-10 years) to Long (10-15 years)	Design of new/ refurbished female friendly change-rooms at existing hockey pitch.	Design second hockey field, lighting and pavilion and design new archery facility (Ring Road Reserve). Construction of new/ refurbished female friendly change-rooms at existing hockey pitch	Construct second hockey field, lighting and stage 1 hockey change rooms Maintain access to a third baseball diamond	Design new baseball diamond and lighting and construct archery facility (Ring Road Reserve)	Construct new baseball diamond and lighting on previous archery range site.	Construct tennis courts LED lighting and synthetic courts renewal			Design third hockey field, lighting and Stage 2 Hockey Pavilion	Construct third hockey field, lighting and Stage 2 Hockey Pavilion	Design new shared baseball pavilion including public toilets provision	Construct new shared baseball pavilion including public toilets provision				

Sports	Actions	Priority	Year 1 2024/25	Year 2 2025/26	Year 3 2026/27	Year 4 2027/28	Year 5 2028/29	Year 6 2029/30	Year 7 2030/31	Year 8 2031/32	Year 9 2032/33	Year 10 2033/34	Year 11 2034/35	Year 12 2035/36	Year 13 2036/37	Year 14 2037/38	Year 15 2038/39+
Sports Fields																	
Royal Park	Deliver Stage 2 Community Building that includes social room for soccer, as part of delivery of Community Infrastructure Plan; upgrades for multisport use	Short (0-5 years)		Facility upgrades for multisport use Design Stage 2 social space – Noting delivery is through Community Infrastructure Plan and social space for sporting clubs is a secondary use	Construct Stage 2 social space – Per note to the left												
Russell Square	Upgrade north sports fields Provide new reserve entry road off Stawell St and related car parking improvements and storage facilities	Short (0-4 years) to Long (10-15 years)	Design sports north field upgrade			Construct sports north field upgrade									Design new entry road, car parking and storage improvements	Construct new entry road, car parking and storage improvements	
Saint George Reserve	Maintain	Ongoing															
Sparrow Ground	Maintain	Ongoing															
Tom Brown Reserve	Implement master plan (part of Marty Busch Reserve Master Plan).	Short (0-4 years)			Construct criterium track												
Trekardo Park	Maintain	Ongoing															
Victoria Park	Upgrade secondary sports fields and install lighting; New dog obedience building (funding available for Year 1 delivery); Provision of public toilets to service disc golf course and south-eastern portion of Vic Park (per Public Toilets Strategy)	Short (0-4 years) to Medium (5-10 years) to Long (10-15 years)	Construct dog obedience building		Feasibility and design of public toilet servicing disc golf course and South-East section of Victoria Park	Construction of public toilet servicing disc golf course and South-East section of Victoria Park				Design Pony clubroom improvements	Construct Pony clubroom improvements					Design secondary sports fields and lighting	Construct secondary sports fields and lighting
Wendouree West Recreation Reserve	Maintain	Ongoing															
Western Oval	Implement master plan, minor upgrade of sports field and upgrade croquet club toilets; Consider new netball change-rooms at Western Oval in medium term	Short (0-4 years) to Medium (5-10 years)		Construct new shared use toilets to service Croquet and Bridge Club			Design new netball and umpires change rooms	Construct new netball and umpires change rooms		Design sports field upgrade	Construct sports field upgrade						
White Flat Oval	Upgrade drainage and irrigation on sports field	Medium (5-10 years)								Design sports field upgrade	Construct sports field upgrade						

Sports	Actions	Priority	Year 1 2024/25	Year 2 2025/26	Year 3 2026/27	Year 4 2027/28	Year 5 2028/29	Year 6 2029/30	Year 7 2030/31	Year 8 2031/32	Year 9 2032/33	Year 10 2033/34	Year 11 2034/35	Year 12 2035/36	Year 13 2036/37	Year 14 2037/38	Year 15 2038/39+
Tennis Facilities																	
Ballarat Lawn Tennis Courts	Renewal of court lighting to LED and tennis courts surface in line with master plan	Medium (5-9 years)					Design synthetic court renewal and LED lighting upgrade	Construct synthetic court renewal and LED lighting upgrade									
Ballarat Regional Tennis Centre	Provide new changerooms, canteen, toilets, access at time of regional tennis centre pavilion development. Replace structure at time of renewal.	Short (0-4 years) and Long (10-15 years)			Design regional sports pavilion and amenities												Renewal of tennis courts at end of life
Buninyong Tennis Centre	Maintain	Ongoing															
Cardigan Village Park Public Tennis Courts	Maintain and align with 2024 community consultation and upgrade of overall reserve	Ongoing															
CE Brown Public Tennis Courts	Consider repurposing as public multi-sport courts i.e pickleball, futsal, basketball	Long (10-15 years)											Confirm future use and design multi-sport courts on current tennis courts site	Construct multi-sport courts on current tennis courts site			
Invermay Tennis Courts	Maintain	Ongoing															
Marty Busch Reserve Public Tennis Courts	Implement master plan including repurposing as public multi-sport courts, community space and playspace	Long (10-15 years)										Construct multi-sport court					
Mt Blowhard Tennis Courts	Minor surface upgrades	Short (0-4 years)		Minor surface upgrades for community and school use													
Mount Clear Public Tennis Courts	Repurpose as netball courts but retain tennis court line marking for public use	Short (0-4 years)	Court resurfacing with multi-sport line marking														
Mt Helens Tennis Courts	Renew courts with synthetic grass	Short (0-4 years)			Design synthetic court conversion	Construct synthetic courts conversion											
Warrenheip Tennis Courts	Maintain	Ongoing															

Sports	Actions	Priority	Year 1 2024/25	Year 2 2025/26	Year 3 2026/27	Year 4 2027/28	Year 5 2028/29	Year 6 2029/30	Year 7 2030/31	Year 8 2031/32	Year 9 2032/33	Year 10 2033/34	Year 11 2034/35	Year 12 2035/36	Year 13 2036/37	Year 14 2037/38	Year 15 2038/39+
Bowls Facilities																	
Ballarat Bowling Club (Council)	Consider upgrade of social space in line with review of Eastern Oval Master Plan	Medium (5-10 years)							Concept design for social space refurbishment pending recommendations from master plan review	Detailed design social space refurbishment							
Ballarat East Bowling Club (DEECA)	Consider storage and cover for Petanque	Medium (5-10 years)							Develop business case for cover over petanque	Concept Design storage and cover for petanque							
Ballarat Memorial Sports Bowling Club (Council)	Maintain	Ongoing															
Ballarat North Bowling Club (Private)	Maintain (club responsibility)	Ongoing															
Buninyong Bowls Club (Council)	Renew synthetic green (Funded in Year 1)	Short (0-4 years)	Construct synthetic green upgrade														
Central Wendouree Bowling Club (Private)	Maintain (club responsibility)	Ongoing															
City Oval Bowling Club (Council)	Consider refurbishment of bowls social pavilion	Medium (5-10 years)							Concept Design social space refurbishment								
Invermay Bowls Club (Council)	Maintain	Ongoing															
Learmonth Bowls Club (Council)	Consider refurbishment of bowls social pavilion	Medium (5-10 years)						Concept Design social space refurbishment	Detail design Social Space refurbishment								
Midlands Golf/Bowls Club (Private)	Maintain (club responsibility)	Ongoing															
Mt Xavier Golf and Bowls Club (Council)	Continue to work with club, including review of master plan	Short (0-4 years)			Review master plan												
Sebastapol Bowling Club (Private)	Maintain (club responsibility)	Ongoing															
Victoria Bowling Club (Private)	Maintain (club responsibility)	Ongoing															
Webbcona Bowling Club (Private)	Maintain (club responsibility)	Ongoing															

Sports	Actions	Priority	Year 1 2024/25	Year 2 2025/26	Year 3 2026/27	Year 4 2027/28	Year 5 2028/29	Year 6 2029/30	Year 7 2030/31	Year 8 2031/32	Year 9 2032/33	Year 10 2033/34	Year 11 2034/35	Year 12 2035/36	Year 13 2036/37	Year 14 2037/38	Year 15 2038/39+
Croquet Facilities																	
Ballarat Alexandra Croquet Club	Maintain	Ongoing															
Ballarat Western Croquet Club	Maintain	Short (0-4 years)		Construct new shared use toilets to service Croquet and Bridge Club													
Indoor Sports Centres																	
Ballarat Badminton Centre	Replace structure at time of renewal. Renew courts and upgrade lighting	Short (0-4 years) to Medium (5-9 years)				Design resurface of courts and lighting upgrade	Resurface courts and lighting upgrade										
Ballarat Sports Events Centre	Deliver State Government funded Regional Sports Infrastructure Program upgrade works including roof works. Consider expansion opportunity to provide additional 4 indoor courts and 8-12 outdoor court regional netball centre. This expansion will provide for Northern Growth Zone	Short (0-4 years) Long (10-15 years)	Deliver RSIP upgrade works and roof works	Deliver RSIP upgrade works and roof works										Design stadium and outdoor courts expansion	Construct stadium and outdoor courts expansion		
Ballarat Squash and Racquetball Centre	Renewal of kitchen and office space	Long (10-15 years)										Renew kitchen and office space					
Ballarat Table Tennis Centre	Provide new changerooms, canteen, toilets, access at time of regional tennis centre pavilion development. Replace structure at time of renewal.	Short (0-4 years)			Prepare concept design for building improvements linked with Ballarat Regional Tennis Centre (BRTC) design	Detailed design for building improvements											
Doug Dean Stadium	Consider future use of stadium following planned new stadium (8 courts) in Ballarat West PSP.	Medium (5-10 years)							Review future use of stadium								
Llanberris Netball Centre	Consider future use at appropriate time	Long (10-15 years)															Review future use of netball centre

Sports	Actions	Priority	Year 1 2024/25	Year 2 2025/26	Year 3 2026/27	Year 4 2027/28	Year 5 2028/29	Year 6 2029/30	Year 7 2030/31	Year 8 2031/32	Year 9 2032/33	Year 10 2033/34	Year 11 2034/35	Year 12 2035/36	Year 13 2036/37	Year 14 2037/38	Year 15 2038/39+
Other Sports Facilities																	
Black Hill MTB Track	Provide a visitor node facility that includes changerooms, toilets, wash station, seating and shelter	Short (0-4 years)		Concept design and planning stage for visitor node	Design visitor node	Construct visitor node											
Lake Wendouree Rowing Course	Upgrade pontoon and partner with boating clubs and progress upgrade works to boating sheds in line with feasibility study and contemporary design standards i.e. disability access and gender neutral toilet / change improvements	Short (0-4 years) Medium (5-10 years)		Design starting pontoon upgrade	Construct starting pontoon upgrade			Design Ballarat City Rowing Club and Wendouree Ballarat Rowing Club female friendly change room improvements	Construct Ballarat City Rowing Club and Wendouree Ballarat Rowing Club female friendly change room improvements								
Len T Fraser Reserve	Upgrade and extend regional skate park in line with master plan (Funded in Year 1 and 2)	Short (0-4 years)	Construct skate park upgrade and expansion	Construct skate park upgrade and expansion													
Llanberris Athletics Centre	Maintain until new regional athletics centre is constructed at Ballarat Major Events Precinct. Consider future use once new facility is operational. Refer to Open Space Strategy	Short (0-4 years)		Review future use of athletics centre with pending construction of new regional athletics centre													
Miners Rest Park	Deliver Miners Rest Park from State Government Regional Sports Infrastructure Program funding. Consider BMX and skate park opportunities at new reserve. Consider opportunity for new sports field to support local sports facility provision (low level / junior competition oval for cricket and AFL)	Short (0-5 years)	Design New Reserve including oval, pavilion, hard court, car parking and supporting infrastructure	Construct New Reserve per funding agreement	Construct New Reserve per funding agreement												
Aquatic Facilities																	
Ballarat Aquatic and Lifestyle Centre	Implement Aquatic Facilities Strategy concept plan to provide a larger water play/leisure water/water slide and expansion of gymnastics and health and fitness club	Short (0-4 years) Medium (5-10 years) and Long (10-15 years)	Construct Changing Places and access upgrades	Construct Changing Places and access upgrades			Design water play/leisure water	Construct water play/leisure water	Construct water play/leisure water			Design gymnastics and health and fitness club expansion	Construct gymnastics and health and fitness club expansion	Construct gymnastics and health and fitness club expansion			
Ballarat West	As population continues to grow, consider provision of new splash park as part of active recreation hub to service Ballarat West	Long (10-15 years)													Feasibility Study for Splash Park	Design Splash Park	
Black Hill Outdoor Pool	Consider future improvements of pool as part of Black Hill Reserve Master Plan	Short (0-5 years)	Prepare master plan														
Brown Hill Outdoor Pool	Implement Aquatic Facilities Strategy and Master Plan including replacing pool with a Splash Park (Funded in Year 1)	Short (0-4 years)	Construct splash park														

Sports	Actions	Priority	Year 1 2024/25	Year 2 2025/26	Year 3 2026/27	Year 4 2027/28	Year 5 2028/29	Year 6 2029/30	Year 7 2030/31	Year 8 2031/32	Year 9 2032/33	Year 10 2033/34	Year 11 2034/35	Year 12 2035/36	Year 13 2036/37	Year 14 2037/38	Year 15 2038/39+
Aquatic Facilities																	
Buninyong Outdoor Pool	Implement Aquatic Facilities Strategy including adding water play and renewing plant	Long (10-15 years)											Design water play and plant renewal	Construct water play and plant renewal			
Eureka Aquatic Centre	Implement Aquatic Facilities Strategy concept plan to renew and expand the building as an integrated community hub	Short (0-4 years) Medium (5-9 years)			Design building expansion				Construct building expansion	Construct building expansion							
Midlands Splash Park	Maintain	Ongoing															
Sebastapol Splash Park	Maintain	Ongoing															
Future Sports Facility Proposals																	
Ballarat North PSP	Deliver district sports facility 1 for AFL, cricket and tennis and district sports facility 2 for soccer and cricket or other sport	Long (10-15 years)											Design district sports facility 1	Construct district sports facility 1	Construct district sports facility 1		Design district sports facility 2
Ballarat Western Growth Area	Deliver regional sports facility for AFL, cricket, soccer, tennis and netball; district sports facility 1 for AFL and cricket and district sports facility 2 for AFL and cricket or other sports	Long (10-15 years)												Active Open Space Reserves – Early Planning	Active Open Space Reserves – Early Planning	Active Open Space – Reserves Design	Active Open Space – Reserves Design
Ballarat West PSP	Deliver Winterfield AOS - regional multisport stadium and oval for basketball, AFL and cricket, MR Power Park AOS - local sports facility 1 for AFL and cricket, Altieri AOS - multisport courts, open space and pavilion, Delacombe TC AOS - local sports facility 3 for soccer and cricket or other sport	Short (0-4 years) to Medium (5-9 years)		Design MR Power Park Sports Field, Lighting and Pavilion	Construct MR Power Park Sports Field and Lighting Design Winterfield AOS	Construct MR Power Park Pavilion Construct Winterfield Ovals, Courts and Lighting Design DTC AOS	Construct Winterfield Pavilion Construct DTC Ovals & Lighting Design Altieri AOS	Construct DTC Pavilion Construct Altieri multisport courts and open space	Construct Altieri Pavilion		Design Winterfield Indoor Sports Stadium	Construct Winterfield Indoor Sports Stadium					
North-Western Growth Area	BSEC expansion (4 basketball courts + 8 outdoor netball courts)	Refer to BSEC															
North-Western Growth Area	Deliver district sports facility 1 for AFL, cricket, netball and tennis and district sports facility 2 for cricket and soccer	Long (10-15 years)															Active Open Space Reserves – Early Planning
Ring Road Reserve	Consider upgrade to provide training and low level / junior competition oval for cricket and AFL New archery facility	Short (0-4 years) and Long (10-15 years)		Design new archery facility		Construct new archery facility							Design new sports fields				

Appendix 1: Design Standards

A summary of the design standards is provided in the Table below. The design standards below are supported by each sport’s preferred facility design guidelines. The Council has the ability to determine a facility standard that is not necessarily to the specifications of the peak sporting body “guidelines”.

In addition, a hierarchy and design standards are provided for active recreation hubs.

> Design Principles

The following design principles have been developed to help inform the future design of sports facilities and active recreation hubs.

- **Accessible and Inclusive:** Sport and active recreation facilities will be universally designed and inclusive, fostering participation in sport and active recreation by all our community, across all life stages, genders and cultures.
- **Diverse and Equitable:** Sport and active recreation facilities will offer diverse mix of facilities, programs and experiences. Council will provide an equitable distribution

of sport and active recreation precincts across the municipality.

- **Safe and Welcoming:** Sport and active recreation facilities and programs are designed to be visible, open and welcoming to community, creating a safe place for girls and women to participate.
- **Multi-Use:** Sport and active recreation facilities will be multi-use, offering several activities, programs and experiences for users.
- **Connected:** Sport and active recreation facilities connection across our communities and our unique natural environment.
- **Sustainable:** Sport and active recreation facilities will be designed to combat climate change and influence a sustainable and regenerative future, while ensuring that they operate efficiently and are well managed and maintained.

The following reference documents are provided for guiding design principles:

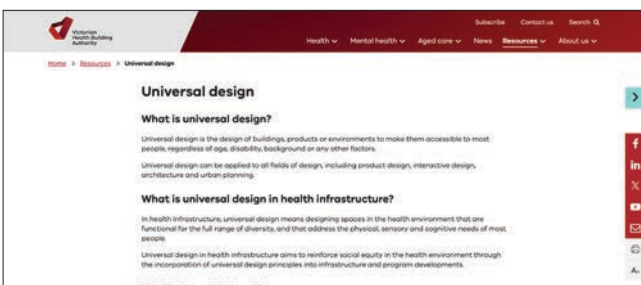
Creating Places for People



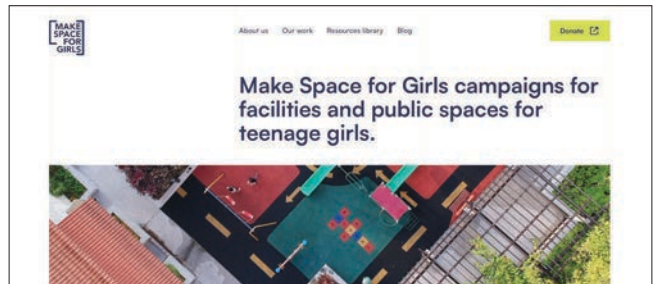
Healthy Active by Design



Universal Design Principles



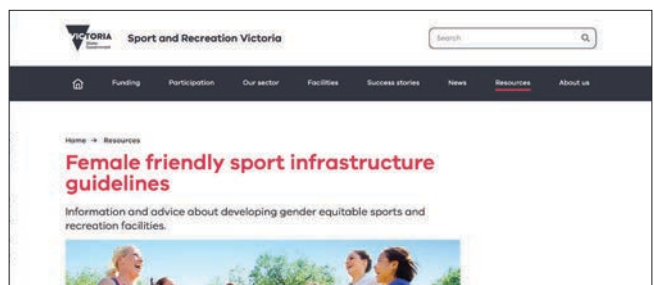
Making Places for Girls



Crime Prevention through Environmental Design



Female Friendly Sports Infrastructure Design Guidelines.



> Design Standards

The sports facilities hierarchy and design standards will guide the delivery of a network of **sports facilities** that is accessible to all people across the City of Ballarat and inform developments within the growth areas of the City of Ballarat.

Outdoor Sports Facilities

Table 7: Outdoor Sports Facilities Hierarchy and Design Standards

Planning Consideration	Level of participation/competition	Location, size and distribution provision	Quality and design standards
Local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local sport and recreation competition providing for junior to senior players. Supports one to two sports. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary catchment area is a 10-minute driving time and within 800m walking distance. Not to be provided on encumbered land. Generally, provide 1ha - 5ha providing for 2 senior rectangular fields/ 1 oval overlay with basic drainage and irrigation and one multi-sport court May also provide informal social recreation spaces such as kick about space, full-sized hard court for multiple uses, climbing walls, skate park, BMX/pump track. Local sport is centralised to the nearest suburb and not dispersed throughout the areas. Sports fields should, where possible, be located on public transport routes, adjacent to schools and/or serviced by shared trails. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only basic turf quality, drainage and irrigation, unless otherwise required by shared use. Soil based profile. Lighting to recommended Australian Standards for local training only. Basic amenities approx. 375sqm to 475sqm located in a highly visible and central location with universal design. Player and official change rooms, spectator toilets and storage areas. Site fencing to prohibit illegal vehicle access. Fencing to separate player and spectator areas where required and where it does not limit flexible use of spaces. Seated spectator areas. Car parking. Water taps where potable water services are available. Ancillary space offering pleasant landscape setting, seating and shade.
District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local to regional level sport and recreation competition providing for junior to senior players. Supports multiple sports. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary catchment area is a 20-minute driving time and within 1600m walking distance. Not to be provided on encumbered land. Generally, provide 5ha - 15ha providing sufficient land to accommodate a core range of competition sports in one major sports reserve (i.e., minimum two playing fields) in addition to support building/clubroom and car park and ancillary space offering pleasant landscape settings for non-sporting recreation opportunities e.g., perimeter path, seating, play opportunities, etc. Multiple playing fields for the one sports code, in addition to support building. Locate on prominent sites central (where possible) to suburb/township and served by an off-road trail and public transport. Co-locate new sporting facilities with new schools, where possible. May also provide informal social recreation spaces such as kick about space, full-sized hard court for multiple uses, climbing walls, skate park, BMX/pump track. Quantity and design considerations are to be fit for purpose for the desired activity. Two multi-use courts configured for netball. Four to six tennis courts with electronic booking system. Mix of outdoor grass and synthetic bowling greens to support year-round use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Playing fields are preferably at the same level and unfenced for flexibility. Irrigated and drained sports playing fields to ensure quality of turf. Minimal sand based profile. Support facilities determined by code and level of competition played. These may include onsite car park, training lights, shared clubroom, kiosk, toilets, shade, shelter and spectator facilities, seating, signage and rubbish collection system. Lighting to recommended Australian Standards for standard of competition. Generally, amenities will be 500+sqm located in a highly visible and central location that is fit for purpose with universal design. They will offer function rooms, player and official change-rooms, first aid room, spectator toilets, canteen and storage areas. Site fencing to prohibit illegal vehicle access. Fit for purpose fencing as required by the activity and level of competition. Larger seated spectator areas potentially covered in some areas. Increased consideration to spectator circulation. Car parking and bike racks. Ancillary space offering pleasant landscape setting, seating and shade, water fountains. Provision of score board, in line with City of Ballarat standards

Planning Consideration	Level of participation/competition	Location, size and distribution provision	Quality and design standards
Regional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local to elite (top tier) level sport and recreation competition and events. Provides an athlete development pathway. Hosts local finals. Supports single and multiple sports that attract participants, officials and spectators from across the region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary catchment area is a 30-minute travel time. As per district-level provision together with elite-level sports facility requirements. The codes/range of sports provided should be based on ABS participation data, local participation data, and local demand. At a suitable distance depending on the activity from houses, to limit impact from noise, car parking and lights. Prominent site served by public transport, where possible. Possibly provided in association with an indoor centre. Infrastructure generally provided in part by other stakeholders. Fields to meet requirements of district sport facilities and contain a higher level of fit-for-purpose embellishment. Quantity and standards of netball courts to be determined in collaboration with peak netball body, dependent on the regional event content being considered. A minimum of 8 netball courts for centralised competition venues. Consideration to a show court. Six to 12 tennis courts with electronic booking system. Consideration to a show court. Provision of one indoor bowls green for identified regional bowls facility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Higher quality support facilities, playing surfaces able to be enclosed to take a gate. Irrigated and drained sports playing fields to ensure quality of turf. Moderate sand based profile. May include a synthetic or specialised playing field such as hockey field, athletics track, soccer field, turf wickets, etc. Lighting to competition standard recommended Australian Standards for standard of competition. Generally, amenities provided as per district facilities with consideration to administration space, medical room/s and covered spectator seating. Site fencing to prohibit illegal vehicle access. Fit for purpose fencing as required by the activity and level of competition. Sealed car parking and bike racks. Scoreboards. Ancillary space offering pleasant landscape setting, seating and shade, water fountains. Electronic scoreboard, in line with City of Ballarat standards.
State/National	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elite level sport and recreation competition and high performance/specialist training and events for sport High-performance centres provide world-leading training and administration facilities to develop, attract and retain the best talent among athletes, coaches and support staff across multiple sports. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Facilities provision that is embellished to support high performance State and national level training programs, competitions and events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional facilities quality and design standard that is embellished with specialised facilities to support high-performance State and National level teams and events. Higher quality playing surfaces. Irrigated and drained sports playing fields to ensure quality of turf. High sand based profile. A high-performance centre includes elite-level training facilities, administration centre and education and training rooms for codes and clubs. Access to high technology and connectivity infrastructure that supports entertainment, athlete learning and analysis. Lighting to TV broadcast level recommended Australian Standards for standard of competition. Generally, amenities provided as per regional facilities with consideration to media facilities (elevated platforms and powered spaces), covered grandstands with spectator circulation and elite training/testing facilities. Site fencing to prohibit illegal vehicle access. Fit for purpose fencing as required by the activity and level of competition. Sealed car parking and bike racks. Electronic scoreboard.

Indoor Sports Facilities

Table 8: Indoor Sports Facilities Hierarchy and Design Standards

Planning Consideration	Level of participation/competition	Location, size and distribution provision	Quality and design standards
Local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local sport and recreation competition providing for junior to senior players. Supports one to two sports. Year-round use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Services multiple suburbs such as a ward boundary. Approximately 15-minutes drive time. 40,000 – 70,000 catchment population Building footprint 4,000-6,000m² Site area (1ha) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 indoor courts No show court Courtside seating only Front of house with reception, foyer, first aid room and 2 change rooms, toilets Kiosk and small lounge Merchandise space Car parking Universal access for all community members with consideration to ramps and/ or chair lifts.
District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local to regional level sport and recreation competition providing for junior to senior players. Supports multiple sports. Year-round use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Services the entire local government area. Approximately 30-minutes drive time 70,000 – 100,000 catchment population Building footprint 8,000-10,000m² Site area 1-2ha 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3-4 indoor courts Show court with 500 seats that supports sports team events Courtside seating Front of house with administration, reception, foyer, first aid room/medical rooms and 2-4 change rooms, toilets Kiosk and small lounge Merchandise space Function room Car parking Universal access for all community members with consideration to ramps and/ or chair lifts. Provided in highly visible locations with good vehicular access. Shaded car parking areas and bus drop-off areas. Connected to public transport. Complements other (community/ private) community services/ programs. Provides room for facility expansion with population growth.

Planning Consideration	Level of participation/competition	Location, size and distribution provision	Quality and design standards
Regional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local to elite (top tier) level sport and recreation competition and events. Provides an athlete development pathway. Hosts local finals. Hosts Tier 1 and 2 level events including local and regional sports and community events and expos Year-round use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Services multiple local government areas Approximately one-hour drive time. 100,000 – 150,000 catchment population Building footprint 12,000m²+ Site area 2-3ha Located within the largest population catchment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5-8 indoor courts Show court on multipurpose courts with 1000+ seats that can support regional sport and entertainment events Courtside seating Front of house with administration, reception, large foyer, first aid room/ medical rooms and 4+ change rooms, toilets Café, bar and large lounge Merchandise space Function room Car parking Universal access for all community members with consideration to ramps and/ or chair lifts. Provided in highly visible locations with good vehicular access. Shaded car parking areas and bus drop-off areas. Connected to public transport. Complements other (community/ private) community services/ programs. Provides room for facility expansion with population growth. Considers co-location opportunities, especially with aquatic and leisure facility, district and regional outdoor sports precincts. Consider outdoor public access courts (eg 3 x 3 courts at BSEC) associated with indoor stadium
State/National	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elite level sport and recreation competition and high performance/specialist training and events for sport High-performance centres provide world-leading training and administration facilities to develop, attract and retain the best talent among athletes, coaches and support staff across multiple sports. Hosts Tier 1, 2 and 3 level events including local and regional sports and community events, expos and concerts for Australian and international artists Year-round use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Services multiple local government areas Approximately one-hour drive time. 100,000 - 150,000 catchment population 12,000-15,000m²+ Site area 3-4ha Located within the largest population catchment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8+ indoor courts Separate show court / concert arena with 5000+ seats that can support Tier 1 sport and entertainment events Surrounding courtside seating Front of house with administration, reception, large foyer, first aid room/ medical rooms and 4+ change rooms, toilets Café, bar and large lounge Merchandise space Function room Green room Car parking Universal access for all community members with consideration to ramps and/ or chair lifts. Provided in highly visible locations with good vehicular access. Shaded car parking areas and bus drop-off areas. Connected to public transport. Complements other (community/ private) community services/ programs. Provides room for facility expansion with population growth. Considers co-location opportunities, especially with aquatic and leisure facility, district and regional outdoor sports precincts. Considers commercial co-location opportunities.



Active Recreation Hub Design Standards

The active recreation hierarchy and design standards will guide the delivery of a network of active recreation hubs that is accessible to all people across the City of Ballarat and inform developments within the growth areas of the City of Ballarat.

Delivering active recreation hubs across the City of Ballarat is a shift from providing localised active recreation facilities. This shift is already happening showing recent active recreation hub developments at MR Power Park, Mount Pleasant Reserve and Wendouree West Reserve.

This approach will deliver local and district active recreation hubs comprising multiple active recreation facilities within a place that will encourage people to participate in various active recreation activities and intergenerational play and social engagement.

Outside of the active recreation hubs, the focus will be on providing local opportunities for physical activity such as walking and cycling. This might include the augmentation of popular walking routes with outdoor fitness equipment where appropriate. An example of this is provided at Lake Wendouree.

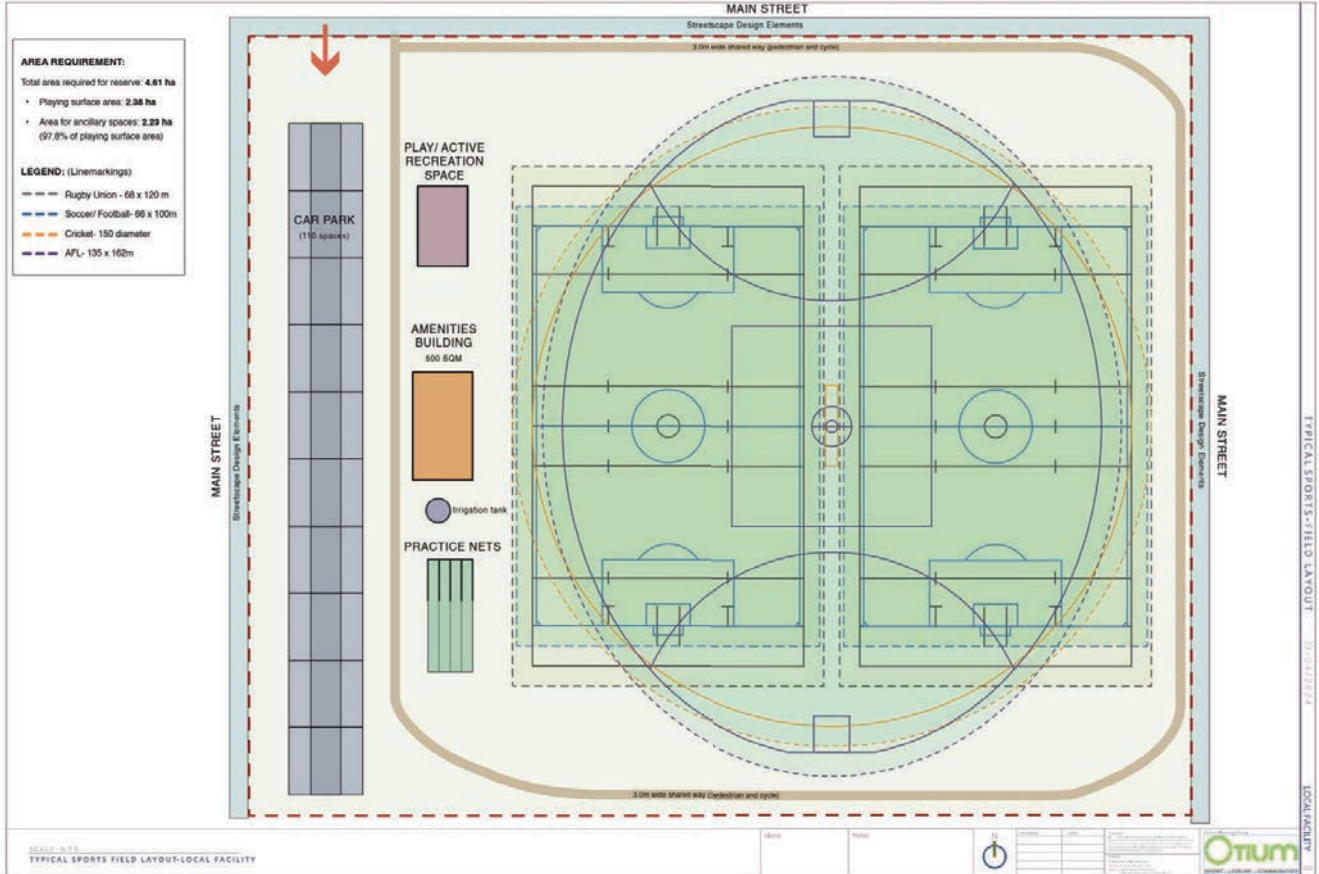
Table 9: Active Recreation Hubs Hierarchy and Design Standards

	District Hub	Local Hub
Catchment / Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15-minute travel time • Approx. 5-7km from most residents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10-minute travel time • Approx. 3-5km from most residents
Facility Components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four to five active recreation facility components including a key attractor. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two to three active recreation facility components • Or one key attractor (skate park)
Location and Settings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Parks • District Parks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Parks (where space permits) • Sportsgrounds
Provision Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attracts residents from across the planning catchment. • Scale and level of embellishment to consider population catchment. • Consideration to capacity of existing public open space and supporting infrastructure to support high visitation numbers and longer length of visitation. • Closely aligned to public and active transport links wherever possible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attract residents from multiple suburbs / within and across the planning catchment. • Scale and level of embellishment to consider population catchment. • Connected to local pathway network where possible. • Consider co-location opportunities with play and sport infrastructure to leverage supporting infrastructure such as amenities, lighting and parking. • Closely aligned to public and active transport links wherever possible.
Supporting Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shade and seating • Off-street parking • Drinking station • Toilets • Bike racks • Event support infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shade and seating • Off-street parking • Drinking station • Access to toilets • Bike racks

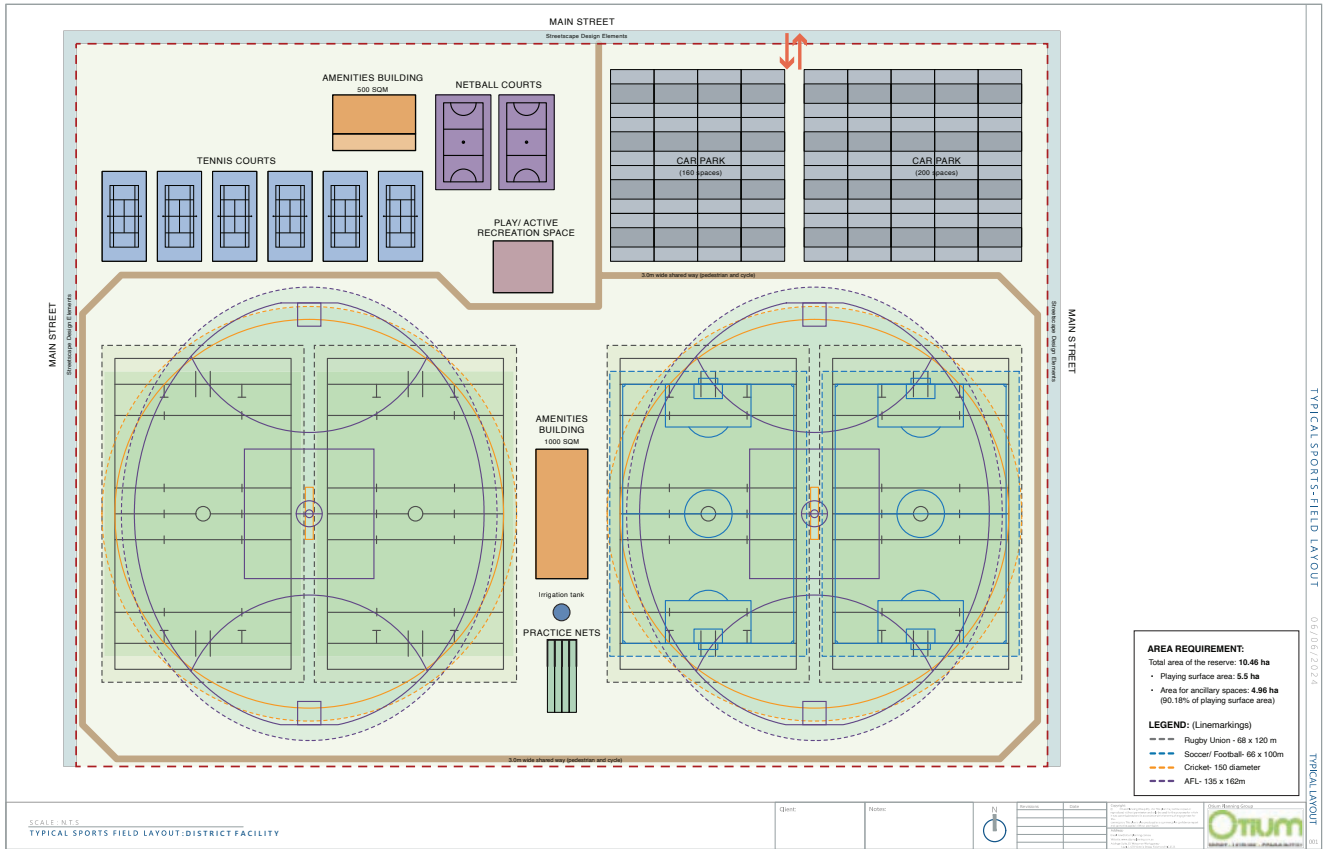
> Typical Sports Facility Layouts

The typical sports facility layouts will help inform provision and design requirements of new growth area active open spaces.

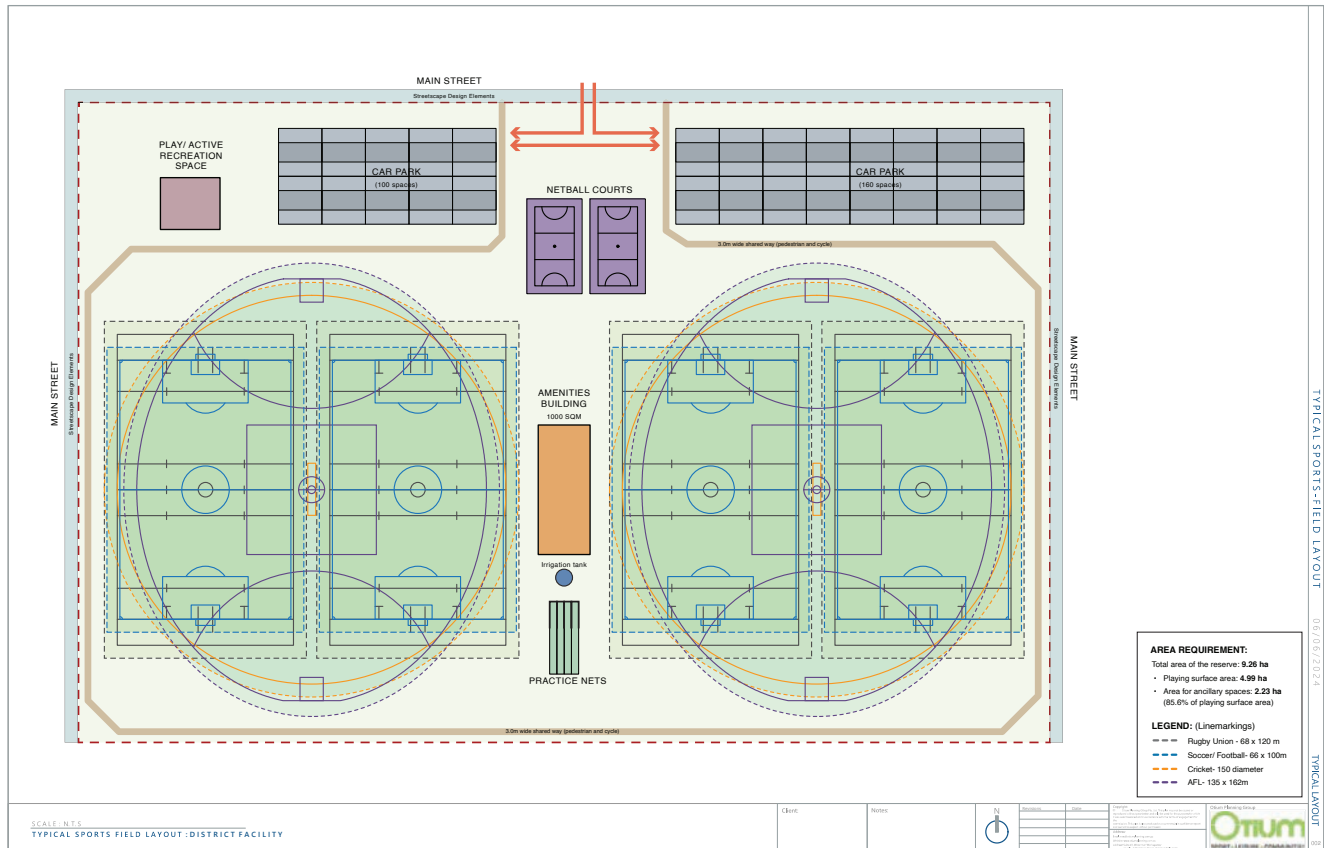
Local Typical Layout



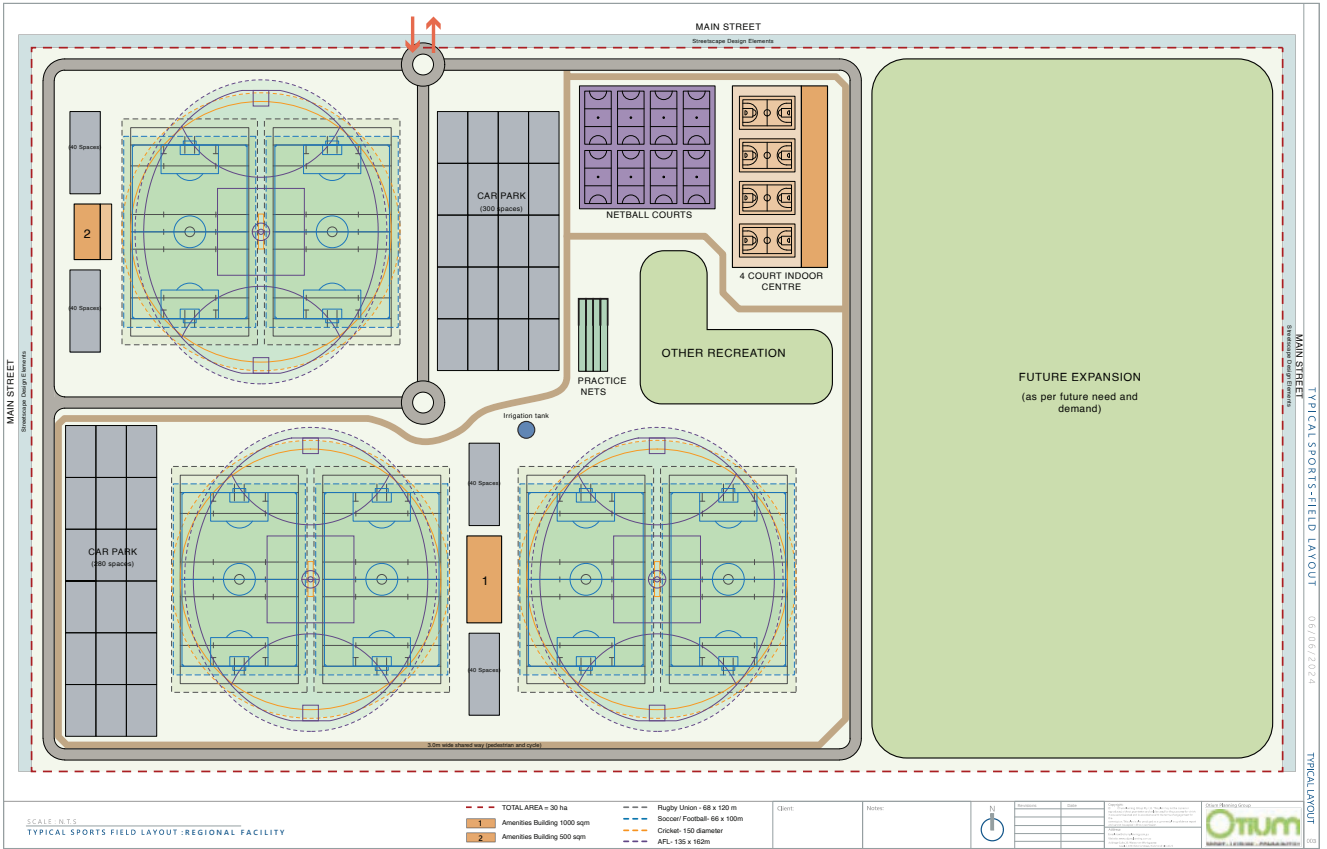
District Typical Layout A



District Typical Layout B



Regional Typical Layout





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