



Open Space Strategy

2022 - 2032





Acknowledgement of Country

The municipal area of Campaspe lies within the traditional lands of the Yorta Yorta, Dja Dja Wurrung and Taungurung peoples.

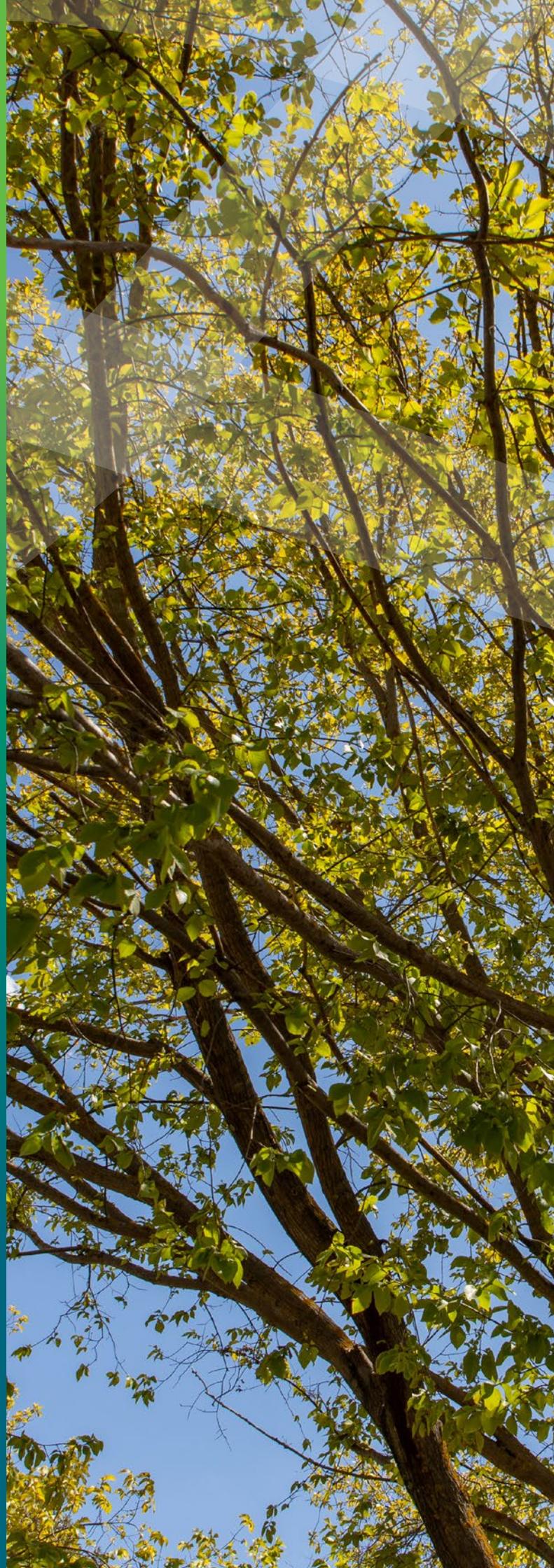
Council acknowledges their unique cultural heritage, and pay our respects to their ancestors, descendants, and emerging leaders as the Traditional Owners of this Country.

We acknowledge their living culture and unique role in the life of this region.

The strategy direction aims to celebrate our cultural heritage in open spaces across the shire and to recognise the Traditional Owners of this Country and reflect that in open space planning, design and development.

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Executive Summary

Open space is an important part of making our towns liveable and an integral part of the environment.

Open space provides social connections for people, a place for people to be physically active and have connection to nature.

The 2022–2032 strategy will provide a framework to achieve the overall direction of **an open space network that is of high quality, connected and provides access for all**.

The Open Space Strategy guides the decision making process when planning, designing, and maintaining Campaspe's open space network. This strategy builds on the 2014 strategy and recognises the work that has been completed in open space and highlights how Council can move forward.

Background paper

As part of the development of the strategy, a review of the open spaces within Campaspe Shire was conducted to gain an understanding of the provision of open space, its distribution throughout the townships, its diversity and accessibility.

The background paper included an analysis of contemporary practice and trends, state and local strategic framework, demographic profile and engagement. This allowed for the development of, principles, hierarchy and classification, and shire wide and specific township recommendations.

Previous community engagement (including the Council Community Vision) highlighted the importance of:

- being healthy and physically active.
- having places for play and organise sport.
- improving townships landscapes.
- having places for walking and cycling.
- supporting a sense of place and local character.
- developing partnerships with the community.

The Active Living Census, a survey to understand people's wellbeing, activity levels and preferences, found that the most popular activity for Campaspe residents was walking (76.9 per cent) and over 84 per cent use open spaces, with over 50 per cent of residents using open spaces weekly. Again, highlighting the value the community place on open space and in particular walking.

Principles of open space

The principles are the key values for decision making and planning to help achieve the direction for open space. They are:

- Health and community benefit.
- Adaptable.
- Accessible and connected.
- Sustainable spaces.
- Partnerships.
- Protection and conservation.
- Adequately resourced.

A decision making framework, acquisition and rationalisation criteria and open space development standards also assist in determining investment in existing and future open space.

Shire wide practice guidelines

A series of guidelines are made with shire wide relevance. These focus on:

- Sustainable practices.
- Shovel ready projects.
- Accessibility and diverse play opportunities.
- Transition of spaces.
- Footpath connections and linkages.
- Cultural heritage and traditional landowners.

Township recommendations

Issues and opportunities for each town have been addressed through the town priority action plan. These are outlined on page 40.

From the shire wide recommendations and township recommendations, an overall implementation plan has been developed. The plan prioritises projects for funding that achieve the direction for high quality open spaces that the community value and use.

Introduction

Campaspe Shire Council has developed the Open Space Strategy to guide the planning and maintenance of open space to best meet the needs of the community, now and in the future. The document will ensure that communities have access to open space that is suited to or meets their needs, is connected and accessible and provide places to be healthy and active.

The development of this document included:

- Literature and research review to determine contemporary practice and trends. This included guidance from the Victoria Planning Authority Practice Note 70: Open Space Strategies (2015).
- A review of current open space, including provision and distribution.
- Background paper summarising the review and research, key opportunities, and open space provision.
- Establishing an open space classification system which includes hierarchy, typology, and principles to ensure appropriate provision and distribution of spaces.

What is open space?

Open space can vary based on the location, the surrounds and the type of open space. The Victorian Planning Authority define open space as "land that provides outdoor recreation, leisure and/or environmental benefits and/or visual amenity".

Open space that is used by the community is often owned or managed by Council, community and/or other government agencies. They provide places for activity, protection and conservation, utility (such as drainage), or for visual amenity.

Campaspe's direction for open space

The overall direction has been adapted from the Campaspe Tomorrow and Council Plan 2021-2025 open space objectives. Focusing on how open space can help improve the liveability for people in Campaspe's communities with readily available, well-maintained and accessible open spaces.

An open space network that is of high quality, connected and provides access for all.



Benefits of open space

Open space provides many benefits to local communities with different ways it can be used by the community. It is an essential part of our natural environment and plays a key role in the health and wellbeing of Campaspe's residents. Open spaces provide value to the community through:

- Opportunities for outdoor recreation and sport.
- Social connections and relaxation.
- Health benefits.
- Environmental benefits.
- Economic benefits.
- Visual amenity/ attractiveness.

Open space in Campaspe

The Campaspe open space network covers a range of assets and features including parks and formal gardens, playgrounds, sporting and recreation reserves, linear paths and trails, and significant water assets on rivers and waterways. Council owns or manages more than 150 of these spaces which offer a range of informal and formal recreational activities. The majority of the towns in Campaspe have access to a sporting recreation reserve that are utilised by various local sporting clubs. There are also playgrounds, parks and formal gardens for more informal activities and community connection points.

The focus of this strategy is on Council owned and/or managed land. However, consideration has been given to land managed by other organisations, government and communities as these spaces are also used by the public.

Policy context

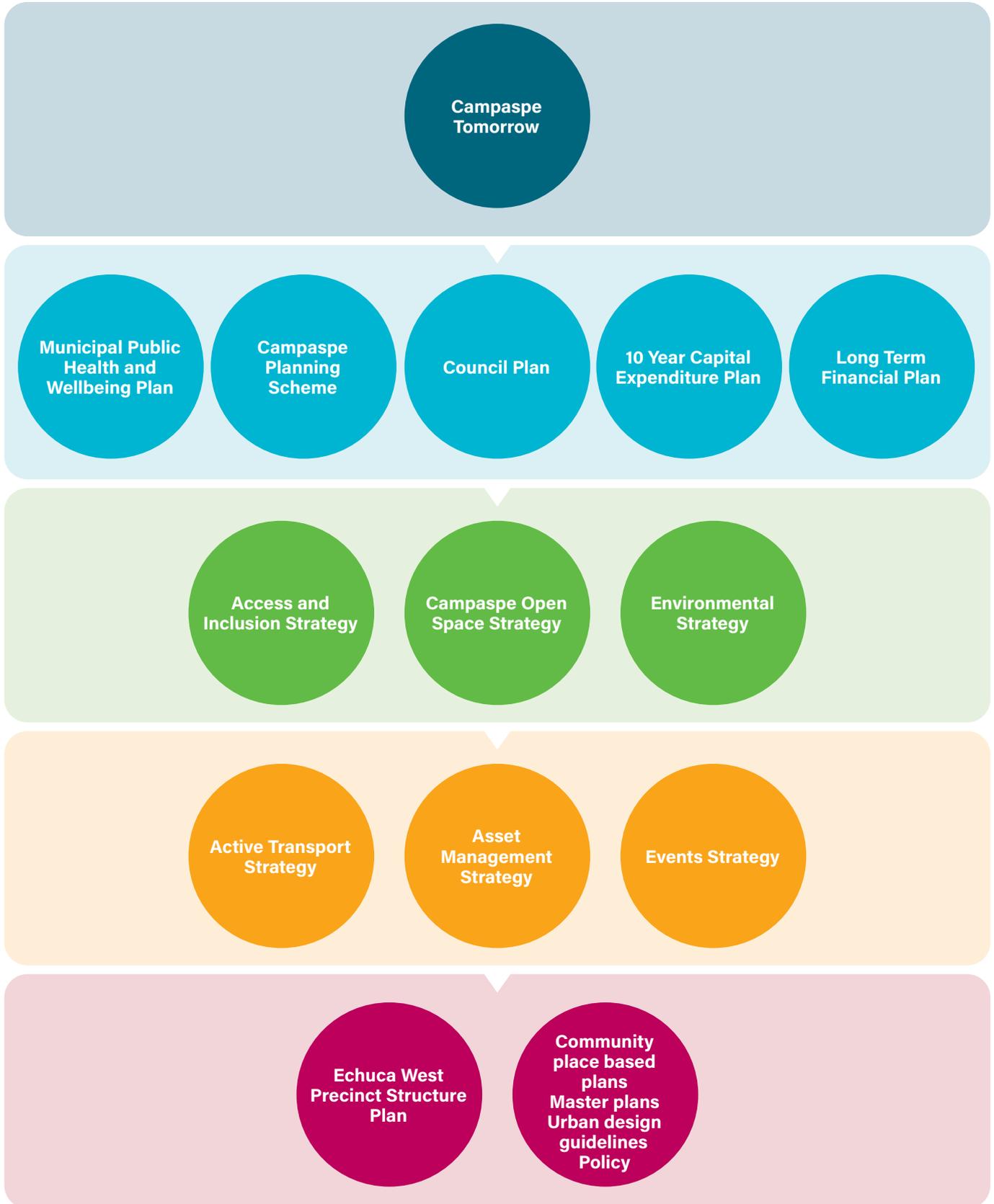
The Open Space Strategy sits within a strategic framework that includes state and local government policy and strategies. These provide the context to inform and influence the strategic vision and direction for Campaspe's open space network.

A selection of the strategies and the way in which they interact with the Open Space Strategy are shown in Figure 1. An extensive review of these strategies (and others) was undertaken and used to guide the development of this document, ensuring a level of integration and the achievement of common objectives.

This strategy replaces two existing strategies, the 2014 Open Space Strategy and the Playground Strategy (2006) and Review (2012). The Play Spaces Development policy supports the Open Space Strategy and the asset provision within them.



Council document hierarchy





Key Influences And Trends

It is important to understand the key issues and opportunities impacting regional Victoria and local government when it comes to open space.

It helps to establish community need and the demand for open space now and into the future. The importance and value of open space is likely to increase over time due to pressures of population growth, demographic change, health and wellbeing and climate change. Understanding these trends assist in the correct planning and investment in delivering spaces that encourage people to be more active and be connected to their community.



Public open space trends

Connectivity

An open space network is not just about the green spaces, but also the network of shared paths and footpaths that connect and allow people to access these spaces. Addressing these gaps in the network provides a much more connected community and encourages the use of the open spaces.

Environment and climate

Extreme weather events caused by climate change, such as floods, extreme heat, drought and bushfire events will increasingly have a negative impact on the quality of open space, the way people use it and the cost of maintenance.

This makes it important to increase biodiversity and ensure landscapes assist with making spaces cooler, as well as including measures that support efficient usage of rainwater and the amount of water absorbed into the ground.

Campaspe is also well placed to use recycled and raw water on our open spaces due to its proximity to rivers and irrigation systems. This reduces the amount of potable water used reducing costs and increasing water security.

Importance of play

Playgrounds in Campaspe are a vital part of the open space network and play a fundamental part of childhood development. Spaces that provide play for all ages and abilities, that are engaging and diverse contribute to positive health and wellbeing outcomes through encouraging physical health and providing places for social connection. Play spaces should feature adventure and nature play, cater for a variety of ages, be accessible and offer inclusive play experiences.



Public open space trends

Health and wellbeing

Open space is an important part of living for communities. It provides access to green spaces, connecting to nature, improves liveability, provides places to connect with others and places to be physically active.

The Active Living Census, a survey conducted in 2019 to understand people's wellbeing, activity levels and preferences, indicated 42 per cent of Campaspe residents reported being in very good or excellent health, compared to 44 per cent of Victorians. As a community people felt they were time poor (48 per cent) and travelling via car as opposed to walking to use open space was more common.

A high percentage of people reported being overweight or obese (69 per cent, compared to 49 per cent Victorian average).

There is strong evidence linking access to quality public open space and improved health outcomes, including physical and mental wellbeing.¹

¹Parks Victoria, Health Parks Healthy People Framework, 2020

Quantity versus the quality of open space

Campaspe has an abundance of open space spread across the municipality. Many of these spaces are of poor quality and receive only basic maintenance, diverting scarce resources from those spaces that meet the principles of open space planning. Those spaces which don't meet open space planning principles include:

- Pocket parks/ playgrounds that have limited play experience and insufficient space.
- Poor design that fails to consider safety (ie. crime prevention through design).
- Spaces that are difficult to access or not inclusive.

Affordability and financial sustainability

Maintaining multiple open spaces that are similar in purpose and use can cause strain on Council resources. In some instances, open spaces have been inherited by Council without forward planning to resource them. Through efficient use, management, acquisition and disposal of open space, Council will provide a sustainable long term open space network. Further to this township asset plans will consider open space priorities and ensure financial sustainability across the municipality for Council owned and managed open spaces.

Traditional Owners of the land

The municipal area of Campaspe lies within the traditional lands of Yorta Yorta, Dja Dja Wurrung and Taungurung Peoples. Campaspe has multiple open spaces that have significant cultural heritage. There is opportunity to celebrate the Traditional Owners and cultural heritage through design and planning of open spaces.

Economic activity

Public open spaces are often used for events, markets and overnight stays (where permitted). A balance of these activities can generate tourism, increase economic activity and support recreational pursuits.

Our community

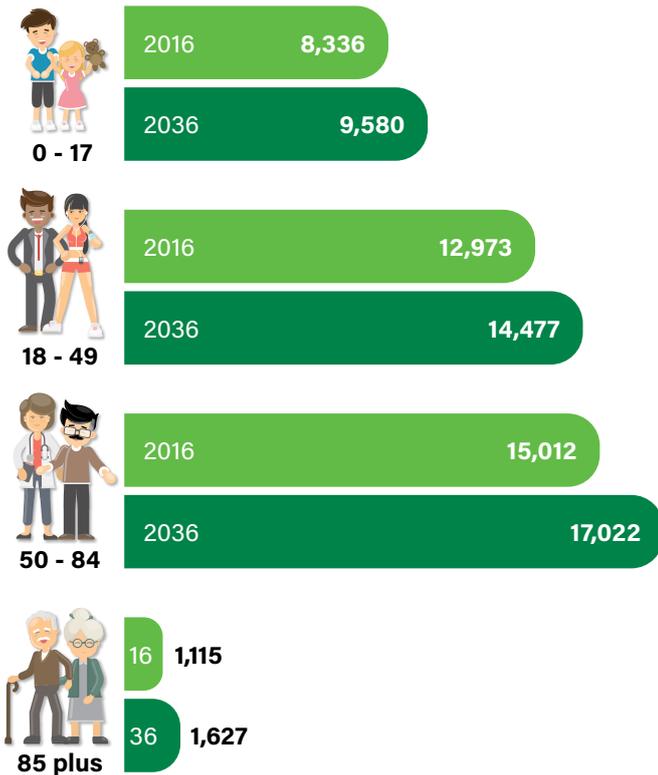
Campaspe Shire Council is one of the state's largest (geographically) municipalities (over 4,500 square kilometres), with 8 townships and 46 rural localities across a wide and diverse geography. Population growth has been slow but steady over time. The current population is 37,000 and is expected to grow to 42,000 by 2036.³

Population and demographic data can provide guidance in the planning of future open space developments and improvements.

The following section outlines the changes in the demographic data that may impact on open space requirements.



Population age forecast



Changes and challenges

The biggest change for Campaspe is not necessarily in population growth but the ageing population and the need for open spaces and associated infrastructure that caters for the needs of older people. This highlights the importance of creating spaces that are accessible and inclusive of all ages and abilities.

Other challenges for Campaspe residents are youth disengagement, with more than 1 in 10 youths (aged 15 to 24 years) disengaged from both work and education, which can exceed 25 per cent in some places⁴. Physical or (perceived) disconnection can contribute to this, placing an importance on creating linkages and connections to town centres, shops and open spaces.

Growth areas and housing supply

Both Echuca and Kyabram have significant amounts of residential land supply with the bulk of future housing and population growth anticipated to be concentrated in these two towns. Echuca (west) is where Campaspe is going to see the most growth and housing development. It is expected from 2016 to 2036 there will be a 57.3 per cent increase in residential development in Echuca West.

³ Campaspe Shire Council, .id Consulting, <https://forecast.id.com.au> (and associated pages), accessed June 2021

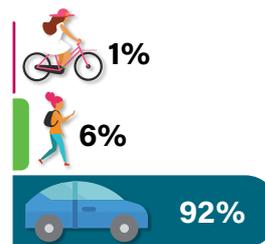
⁴ Campaspe Shire Council, Active Transport Strategy, 2019.



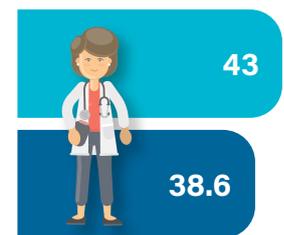
7% of residents need assistance with care tasks



2.4% of Campaspe residents identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander



92% travel by car to work while only 6% walk and 1% travelling by bike



Average age in Campaspe is 43. The Victorian average is 38.6

What the community values

The Campaspe community values open space and the benefits that it provides. There is a level of expectation that spaces are maintained, and the community has access to a diverse range of spaces to cater for their needs.

The extensive community engagement for the 2014 strategy highlighted a number of issues, challenges and expectations from the community. This was reconfirmed during consultation for Campaspe's vision which occurred in early 2021 where these issues were still predominant for the community. From the data a summary of values have been determined.

Landscapes that improve township amenity



Places for health and physical activity



Environments for walking and cycling



Places for children to play



Places that provide a sense of local character



Places for organised sport



Places that encourage Council and community partnerships



Classification Framework

The Campaspe open space network covers a diverse range of assets and features, that offer something different to the community and often provide a primary and secondary purpose.

To ensure the community has a broad range of types of open spaces a classification framework can be used. This also assists to determine service level, how it's maintained and what assets or features are provided in the space.

A classification framework can assist in determining the need and purpose of open space within an area. A review of the current provision of space and possible future open spaces, and industry standard was used to determine a typology and hierarchy classification. Mapping of open spaces can be found from page 27.



Overall direction of open space

An open space network that is of high quality, connected and provides access to all.

Principles

- **Health and community benefit:** Our spaces are for people, to improve health and wellbeing outcomes, and give everyone a chance to participate in physical activity and be socially connected.
- **Adaptable:** Council will plan for spaces to be flexible and offer diversity, to meet changing community's needs.
- **Accessible and connected:** Spaces provide access to all and are well connected through footpath and road networks.
- **Sustainable spaces:** Responding to climate change and incorporating sustainable environmental design best practice.
- **Partnerships:** Council will work with others to plan, develop and maintain spaces.
- **Protection and conservation:** Design and planning of open spaces will respect, protect, and conserve our natural and cultural heritage.
- **Adequately resourced:** Open space planning will be strategic, effective and equitable, aligning with Council and community capacity to deliver.



Typologies

A typology of a space will define the function or character of the space and the different types of open space. It will also assist in setting the standard level of space and how it is maintained.



Parks and formal garden

These types of open spaces have facilities that encourage informal recreation, such as play, kick to kick, ball games and picnics. They usually include elements such as BBQs, picnic tables, playgrounds, toilets and/ or other supporting amenities.

Examples: Edis Park, Kyabram
Alton Reserve, Echuca



Sport and recreation

Sports reserves are open space that provide various sporting facilities and infrastructure mainly used for formal organised and club-based sports. Many users will drive to these locations and are used heavily on weekends. Sports may include: cricket, netball, tennis, football, and soccer. There are also sport specific reserves including equestrian facilities, solo tennis facilities and racecourse facilities.

Example: Lockington Recreation Reserve
Kyabram Recreation Reserve
Wyuna Recreation Reserve (Sport specific)



Conservation and heritage

These areas are set aside for conservation and protection. For Campaspe they are often associated with a waterway. These reserves are most used for passive activities (walking etc) and for providing amenity. These spaces may also have a secondary purpose such as linear corridors and walking tracks along waterways.

Examples: Campaspe Reserve, Echuca
Growlers Sanctuary, Rushworth

Typologies



Linear, trail or corridor

Linear open spaces include green or surfaced pathways and trails that the public can access. They can link to other open spaces or places of activity such as shops and schools.

Examples: Railway Reserve, Rushworth
Lockington Channel Complex



Drainage or wetland

A space that is set aside primarily for the purpose of drainage or flooding. These spaces are often adaptable and can be used for other uses such as linear pathways and amenity purposes.

Example: Blind Creek Reserve, Echuca



Urban space

These spaces include a park or area that is part of the urban environment and is used for aesthetic, event or pedestrian purposes. They are sometimes attached to community facilities such as halls or civic centres.

Example: Heygarth Street Gardens at Civic Centre, Echuca



Passive open space

These spaces provide unstructured recreation opportunities, and may include inactive recreation reserves and other open spaces that do not fall into one of the above typologies.

Examples: Welton Recreation Reserve
Apex Park, Stanhope

Hierarchy

The hierarchy is generally based on the catchment of users, the size of the space and the actual facilities provided.



Regional

Open spaces that provide the entire municipality and beyond with benefit and values and contains assets and/or attractions that are of the highest level in the municipality.

A travel destination for some, access usually by car.

Examples: Rochester Recreation Reserve
Echuca South Recreation Reserve



District

A district space provides assets, opportunities, and activities for the whole of town and sometimes beyond. The spaces accommodate a range of activities and interests.

These spaces generally attract users from the town and surrounding district. Patrons may visit by car, bike or foot.

Examples: Apex Park, Echuca
John Pilley, Kyabram



Local

Open spaces that are intended primarily for the local area used by residents within walking distance. Exceptions though for recreation reserves deemed local level.

Usually accessible for foot or by bike, with majority of residents in high density areas having access to an open space within 400m of their house.

Examples: Northern Oval, Kyabram
Apex Park, Rochester



Specific purpose

A space where the sole purpose of the assets is to provide a single opportunity of recreation.

These spaces can cater for a whole of shire, district level or local.

Examples: Tennis courts
Equestrian arenas
Lawn bowls

Play And Open Space

The development of the Open Space Strategy has given Council the opportunity to integrate two strategies, the Open Space Strategy and the Playground Strategy.

The Playground Strategy, developed in 2006 and reviewed in 2012, has now reached the intended period. Play spaces throughout Campaspe are associated with our open spaces and provide opportunities for personal development at all stages of childhood, as well as provide places for social connection and integration for all ages of the community.



Play and open space

Industry trends and standards highlight the transition away from predominately traditional play equipment to more diverse range of play opportunities that appropriately challenge children and provide a safe place for fun and adventure. Urbanised communities, as well as a decrease in housing blocks and backyards places pressure on play spaces to be innovative and challenging, as well as providing connection to nature.

A play space policy to support this strategy will be developed to ensure a high priority is placed on the use of natural and landscaped designs and features that incorporate play elements, rather than a focus on the more traditional play equipment combination units. This will ensure a diverse range of play spaces for the community that are also creative and sustainable and maximise play opportunities.

A play space hierarchy has been developed to complement the open space classifications.

Local: a local level play space will primarily cater for people living and working within walking distance. These spaces are reasonably well developed with a small allocation of traditional play equipment and complemented with some forms of natural play.

District: a district level play space will be of a higher quality with a diversity of character in good locations that cater for one or more neighbourhoods. It is intended that smaller towns will be better serviced by a single district play space rather than by several local play spaces.

Principles of good play space planning and design

These principles were adopted in the 2012 strategy review and have been reviewed with some adjustment to meet current trends and practice.

Accessibility: Council will work towards creating spaces that provide access to all and promote inclusion.

Diversity: to provide a diverse range of age-appropriate play opportunities and landscaping at different play spaces throughout the Shire that encourage social interaction, imaginative play and the development of motor skills.

Connections: play spaces will be connected to the communities by different modes of transport and connections, including cycling and walking networks and pathways.

Quality: higher quality play spaces with a diverse range of play that caters for one or more neighbourhoods.

Safe: play spaces are designed and developed according to relevant safety standards and regulations, including crime prevention through environmental design principles.

Natural environment: integration of the natural environment into play and encourage the use of natural materials in play. This includes the use of natural shade where possible as opposed to shade sails.

Community: the community is engaged through the planning and design of new or upgraded play spaces to ensure the play reflects the community's vision. Particular focus on engaging with children and families that regularly use these spaces.

Providing quality play spaces that offer more to the community is key to play space development for Campaspe.

There are some open spaces with playgrounds that need to be considered for rationalisation or a new play space approach to ensure their value is realised. Rationalising play spaces and removing play equipment isn't always a popular decision and it's important that the community are involved in the decision making process to ensure the best outcomes are achieved. Recommendations on play space rationalisation should consider: observation of usage, demand for the play space, cost of maintenance and renewal and poor location. The important aspect of rationalisation is ensuring that any funds from sales are directed back into open space developments to meet the needs of the community.



Criteria Assessment For Supply And Demand

To assist in decision making for open space and investment in existing and future open space, Council should consider community needs, access to open space and desired levels of service.

This also includes using criteria to establish need, demand and supply. The following outlines the criteria for acquisition and rationalisation, development standards and decision making for planning and implementation of open space.



Acquisition and rationalisation decision criteria

Occasionally there will be spaces that no longer meet the criteria for open space, are surplus to the requirements or are substandard. The 2014 Open Space Strategy and 2012 Playground Strategy review found the need for rationalisation of certain pocket parks which did not meet the requirements for functional open space. The funds from sales should be then used to establish connections and pathways or consolidation of parks, into one district space.

The strategy will focus on the distribution and provision of spaces and identify local spaces to be rationalised and further identify potential district spaces that would service those areas. Acquisition and rationalisation criteria will be established, including the following.

- If the park is too small to be of recreation value and there is no opportunity to acquire additional land to establish a useable public open space.
- There are multiple other spaces in the same area (or catchment) of similar typology and hierarchy that offer the same experiences and recreation opportunities.
- Facilities are of low standard and have limited recreation opportunities, accessibility or don't cater for a variety of ages.
- There is an opportunity to develop key linkages and connections to other spaces that are of higher quality.
- Use of the space is low.
- The location is difficult to access or is not deemed safe.
- There is clear evidence that the land is not required now or in the future for open space use.



Decision making considerations

Decision making considerations will provide Council a means by which to inform planning, development and investment in existing and potential new space.

Ownership/ governance

- Who is responsible for the land and open space asset?
- What impact will it have on Council/Crown/Community?

Typology

- What type of open space is it?
- Is there something similar already provided?
- Is this a new open space or existing open space?

Hierarchy

- Is it a local, district or regional space?
- How does it meet this classification?

Function

- What will be the primary use of the space?
- Will the investment/initiative change the primary function of the space?
- Are there other users of the space?
- Is there a space that already provides this function and/or experience?

Need and demand

- What are the population and demographic profiles of the catchment?
- Is there any future growth planned for the area?

Funding

- How is the space going to be funded?
- What are the ongoing financial implications from the development and who will be responsible?

Usage

- What levels of use will the space attract?
- Will there be any growth that impacts on the use?

Planning

- Does the open space align to Council's planning scheme or Council strategic plans?
- Does the space respond to Council's key directions for open space?

Social, environmental, cultural, and economic

- How does the space add value to the local economy?
- Is the space responding to a social issue and addressing disadvantage?
- Is the space going to consider/improve/respond to cultural or environmental factors?

Open space development standards

Standards explore open space assets based upon the recommended typology and hierarchy. It provides Council with an indicative guide on the level of assets provided in spaces. The table below outlines the desired standard of service in generally terms. For more detail typology specific policies or service level standards are in place to determine asset provision.

Typology	Hierarchy	Provision
Parks and/ or formal garden *refer to the play space development policy for more details on play spaces.	Regional	This space would have access to toilets within reasonable walking distance, BBQ facilities and shelter. A play space or some form of play element might be part of the space, including space for informal recreation. Shade (preferably natural) and drinking water is available. Facilities to support events would be available or made available.
	District	District Park or formal garden would likely have toilets, BBQ facilities and shelter. Some of these spaces would have play elements, but not always depending on the primary use. A space for informal recreation may be available.
	Local	A local park would have minimal supporting amenities. Likely to have shade and some of these spaces would have play elements if that was the primary use of the space. Local parks that aren't play spaces may have an open space area for informal recreation. Toilets, drinking fountains and BBQs are generally not provided.
Sport and Recreation *Refer to the sporting grounds and facilities service level standards for more detail and policy 93	Regional	A regional level sporting facility is a higher end sporting facility and would be able to cater for multiple sporting clubs, codes or activities (e.g. football, cricket, netball, tennis and soccer). These venues would likely host big sporting events and be able to cater for large crowds. *Refer to sporting grounds and facilities service level standards for more detail and policy 93.
	District	NA *Campaspe does not have any district sport and recreation facilities, only regional and local.
	Local	Local facilities cater for the immediate community they are located in and are designed to cater for local level competition and general community sporting needs. They usually cater for football, cricket and netball. Competition is generally of a local level but the space can be adapted to support finals and smaller scale sporting events. *Refer to sporting ground and facilities service level standards for more detail and policy 93.
	Specific purpose	These facilities cater for specific sports and have facilities that are suitable for the sports on offer. These may include tennis, equestrian, lawn bowls, croquet, horse racing and shooting.

Open space development standards

Typology	Hierarchy	Provision
Conservation and heritage	Regional	Regional spaces are likely to be significant parks not owned or managed by Council and may even be classified as State parks. They may have walking tracks and signage but it's difficult to set a service level for these spaces as the purpose of these spaces is dictated by the land and terrain. In some locations there may be toilets and BBQ facilities.
	District	District and local level conservation and heritage spaces are unlikely to have toilets or BBQ facilities. They are often spaces along rivers or floodplains and can sometimes have a secondary purpose such as linear trails.
	Local	Local level conservation and heritage spaces are likely to have minimal amenities and while they are for conservation purposes, they may have a secondary purpose such as linear trails.
Linear, trail or corridor	Regional	A regional trail would be over 5km in length and would be a mix of hard surface and gravel. Bicycle racks and drinking fountain would be offered at some point of the trail. The trail would likely to be linked to a significant trail network i.e. Rail trail networks.
	District	A district linear space would be approximately 1-5km in length and would be shared pathway. Bicycle racks would be provided and drinking fountain may also be provided. Within townships a seat along the path would also be provided. They would be often linked to other open spaces, town centres or places of interest.
	Local	A local linear space would be between 500m and 1km in length and would serve as a connection to the open space networks. They are usually associated with other open spaces.
Drainage or wetland	Regional	NA
	District	NA
	Local	NA
Urban space	Regional	NA
	District	NA
	Local	A local level urban space would be a space that supports other facilities or venue like a grassed area in front of a civic centre, hall or community facility. It may have seating but often has minimal assets as the space is used only for short visits.
Open space	Regional	A regional open space would have toilets, seating and bins provided. A space for informal recreation would be available.
	District	A district open space would likely have basic amenities provided like seating or bins. A space for informal recreation would likely be available.
	Local	These spaces don't often have amenities and supporting infrastructure. A space for informal recreation would likely be available.
	Specific purpose	These spaces usually have a unique use. Examples of these are free camp spots such as Aysons Reserve or Lockington Common. While they don't offer many facilities, they are used by people outside of the local community.

Provision Of Open Space

In Campaspe, 'open space' covers a range of assets and features, including parks and formal gardens, playgrounds, sporting and recreation reserves, linear paths and significant water assets on rivers and other waterways.

Council owns or manages more than 150 of these spaces which offer a range of informal and formal recreation activities.

To determine appropriate provision of open space throughout the municipality, the strategy uses the quantitative and qualitative parameters from the Campaspe Planning Scheme, as well as mapping, function, type, use and quality of open space. These factors help to ensure that the community have access to a network of quality, well-distributed, multi-functional and cost-effective open spaces.

Based on the analysis conducted throughout the strategy development, there are many areas in the municipality that are oversupplied with pocket parks of similar design and function. While rationalisation of spaces isn't always a popular decision, the strategy aims to create spaces that are more accessible and provide better opportunities for play and development. The focus of the strategy is to transition away from multiple pocket parks and use the funds to deliver spaces that are of high quality.



Statutory framework

The Planning Scheme outlines the quantitative and qualitative parameters for open space planning (Standard C13 – VPP – 56.05-2 Public Open Space Provision Objectives). They provide guidance to determine what is appropriate for a local government area. They are supported by benchmarking and current practice across the industry. It must be acknowledged however that these standards should be treated as a guide and other factors such as use, changes in leisure patterns and changing populations should be considered when assessing open space provision.

Public open space provision objectives are to:

- Provide a network of quality, well-distributed, multi-functional and cost effective public open space that includes local parks, active open space, linear parks and trails and links to regional open space.
- To provide a network of public open space that caters for a broad range of users.
- To encourage health and active communities.
- To provide adequate unencumbered land for public open space and integrate any encumbered land with the open space network.
- To ensure land provided for public open space can be managed in an environmentally sustainable way and contributes to the development of sustainable neighbourhoods.

The provision of public open space should consider:

- Local parks within 400 metres safe walking distance of at least 95 per cent of dwellings.
- Local parks generally 1 hectare in area.
- Active open space of at least 8 hectares in area within 1 kilometre of 95 per cent of all dwellings.
- Linear parks and trails within 1 kilometre of 95 per cent of all dwellings.

It is also common to use catchment areas for open space provision. It is one way to assist in determining supply, but it often doesn't work for our communities as we are often left with multiple local parks that have very little to offer in terms of appropriate play development for various ages and abilities and pocket parks the size of house blocks with one swing or one slide.

Based on the standard provision of open space, the following section analyses the open space undersupply and oversupply of Campaspe spaces and determines what would be appropriate based on a range of measures outlined in the provision standards, principles of open space and classification framework.



Township open space provision

Key areas of the municipality demonstrate some level of open space undersupply and oversupply. Based on mapping undertaken, as well as a review of function, type, and quality of open space the following has been identified. As mentioned above the catchment area of 400m does not always work for our smaller communities and does not factor in the variety of open spaces and access to other recreation opportunities.

Over supply

Girgarre

Girgarre has two sporting ovals that cater for single use sports (one cricket and one football). For a community of this size one oval would generally be enough. There is unlikely to be a significant increase in population therefore no increase in demand for open space – Council should consider selling or transferring ownership to the community.

Lockington

Lockington has a number of open spaces that serve different functions in the community. For a small town like Lockington the provision of two play spaces is deemed over supply and the rationalisation of Lucas Crescent is considered appropriate.

Kyabram

The residential distribution of Kyabram provides the majority of residents with easy access to open space. There are some areas where there are multiple pocket parks that do not fare well in quality or play experiences. In the north, Glass and Crow Court are within walking distance, both providing the same level of play. Crow Court has already been identified on the property disposal list and approved by Council. Appropriate connections and footpaths should be provided to ensure residents have safe access to other play spaces.

Prunus Court and Banyule Court in Kyabram are also within the same catchment and provide the same level of play. To better service those communities it is recommended to rationalise one of the play spaces and ensure appropriate footpaths are connecting residents to other play spaces.

Rochester

There is a concentration of open space in the centre of Rochester including Rotunda Park, Rotary Park, Lions Park, Opperman Reserve (Moore Street) and Market Reserve. While these spaces may provide different opportunities and activities it is recommended that rationalisation is considered of spaces that double up. The 2014 Open Space Strategy indicated Rotary Park to be sold as it served a similar function to the Lions Park, though, since this time the community has developed

plans to create a nature play space at Rotary Park. In June 2020 Council made a resolution to undertake a review of the remaining playgrounds and open spaces across Rochester to consolidate and decommission equipment. Given that Lions Park is located in close proximity to Rotary Park, not on Council owned land and (it is a road reserve) it should be considered for rationalisation as a play space.

Tongala

Tongala is adequately supplied with open space. There are a few key issues/opportunities with open space in Tongala. St James Park is a small corner of open space that has no primary function and is not useable for recreational purposes, it is owned by Crown and managed by Council. Brose Recreation Reserve is a second reserve in Tongala that is not required as one sporting oval in Tongala is adequate for the community.

Stanhope

There is a concentration of open space in the centre of Stanhope, including McEwan Place, Lions Park and the rail reserve open space where the public toilet facility is located. All spaces provide a different recreation service for the community. There are no significant changes forecasted in demographics, indicating that future rationalisation or consolidation of open space should be considered. The master plan for Stanhope Recreation Reserve supports this and recommends the consolidation of spaces and recreation activities.

Echuca

Garden Crescent play space in Echuca contains a swing and slide set. The space has poor visibility (passive surveillance) and is on a site equivalent of two house blocks situated back to back. There is limited recreational value and does not cater for a range of ages and has no accessibility within the space. Options would be to consider creating a play space that meets the play and open space principles, or rationalisation of the space and using funds from sale to upgrade another the space nearby.

Township open space provision

Under supply

Echuca

Echuca West is an area of potential under-supply as at this stage is not yet fully developed. The Echuca West Precinct Structure Plan addresses this potential under-supply which will also see development of linear trails that will provide increase connectivity to the current open space network.

Areas of Echuca East (north of Eyre Street) are potentially under-supply, though the development of Echuca East Recreation Reserve will provide ample recreation and leisure activities for the east community. The proximity to Banyule Forest should also be considered. For this area, the focus should be on creating linkages and connections for Echuca East, including footpaths to increase activities like walking and cycling for families and older people (as per the Active Transport Strategy and Echuca East Primary School walkability study).

Rochester

Further west and east of Rochester has a potential under supply of open space should there be any further development to these areas. Connectivity is always an important aspect of any development and ensuring residents have connection to existing and future open space should be a priority.

Kyabram

Further development of Kyabram residential land would have the potential for an under supply of open space. Connectivity is always an important aspect of any development and ensuring residents have connection to existing or future open space. The quality of open space, its function is also important to determine and to assess what is appropriate for those areas, so that Council has a proliferation of small pocket parks which do not meet the community's needs.



Colbinabbin

Recreation Reserve
Masterplan (8)

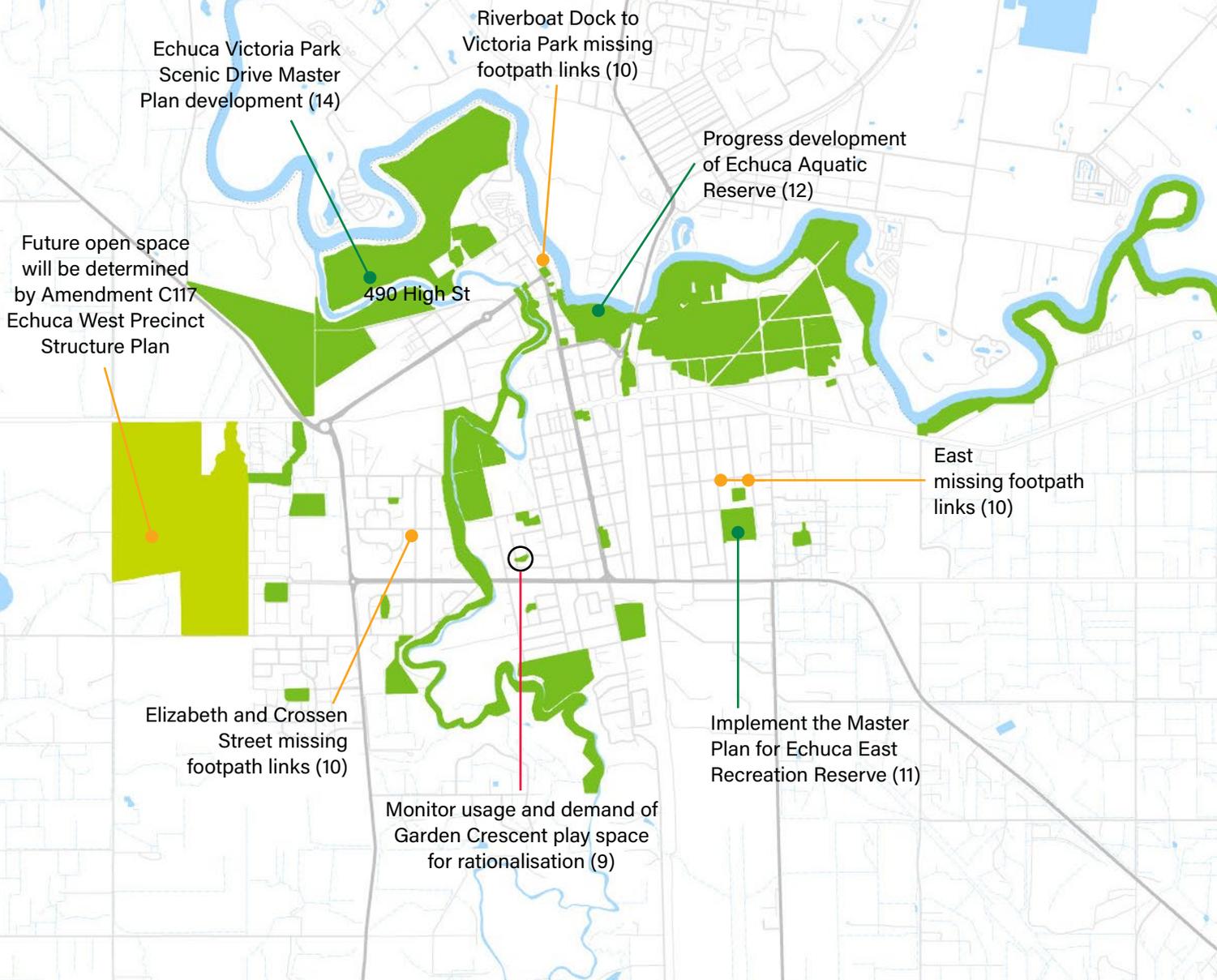
Overview

Colbinabbin is situated in the south of the shire and has a population of 304 (2016, ABS Census data). There is a recreation reserve, playground and open space along channel road. Colbinabbin is well serviced with open space with the recreation reserve and the playground beside the memorial hall. The silo art and parking space has access to the playground and toilets and creates a stopover point for travellers. There is no foreseeable need to develop any additional public open space in Colbinabbin.

Key

- Existing open space
- Future open space
- Consolidation / rationalisation
- Potential upgrade
- High priority
- Medium priority
- Low priority

Echuca



Overview

Echuca is the biggest centre in Campaspe and has a population of 14,415 (2016, ABS census data). Echuca's main open space is Victoria Park, including the informal space of Scenic trail and the formal sporting oval, netball and tennis courts. The Campaspe River also offers an adjoining linear open space of approximately 5 kilometres of sealed path. There are 12 playgrounds that sit within park and/or formal gardens, or sport and recreation reserves. Echuca also has waterfront open spaces for conservation or heritage purposes and recreation, including Banyule State Forest. Areas of undersupply of open space are being addressed through the Echuca West Precinct Structure Plan and the development of Echuca East community precinct.

Key

- Existing open space
- Future open space
- Consolidation / rationalisation
- Potential upgrade
- High priority
- Medium priority
- Low priority

Girgarre

Transfer of additional recreation reserve land to community (16)

Gargarro Regional Botanic Gardens project (15)

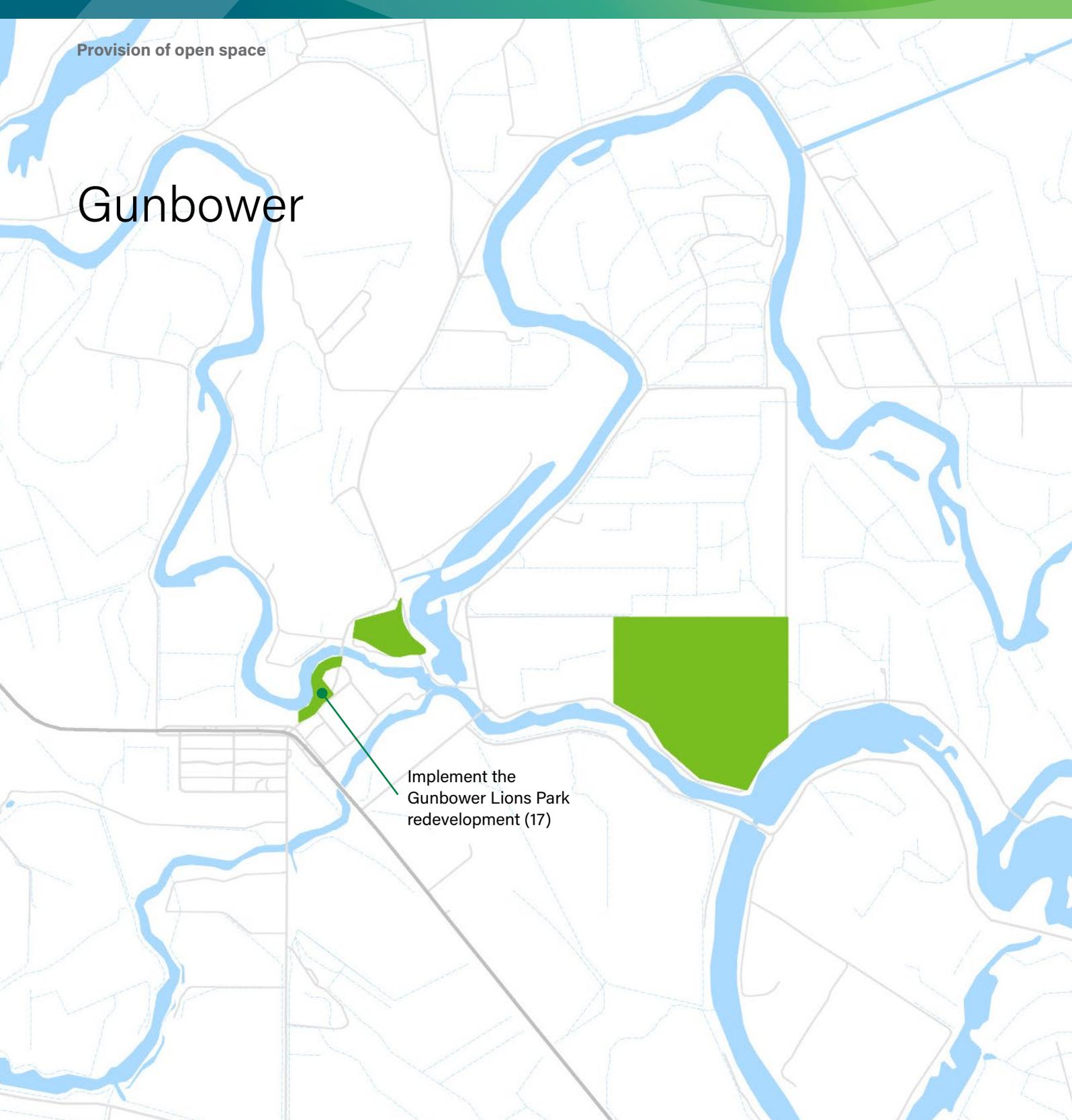
Overview

Girgarre (and surrounds) has a population of 561 (2016, ABS Census data). Girgarre has a variety of open space for the community to use, including a rail trail that is in progress to connect Girgarre to Stanhope. The Gargarro Botanical Gardens is a major open space project for Girgarre, the Campaspe community and beyond. There is no foreseeable need based on population and current open space provision to develop any additional public open space in Girgarre.

Key

- Existing open space
- Future open space
- Consolidation / rationalisation
- Potential upgrade
- High priority
- Medium priority
- Low priority

Gunbower



Implement the Gunbower Lions Park redevelopment (17)

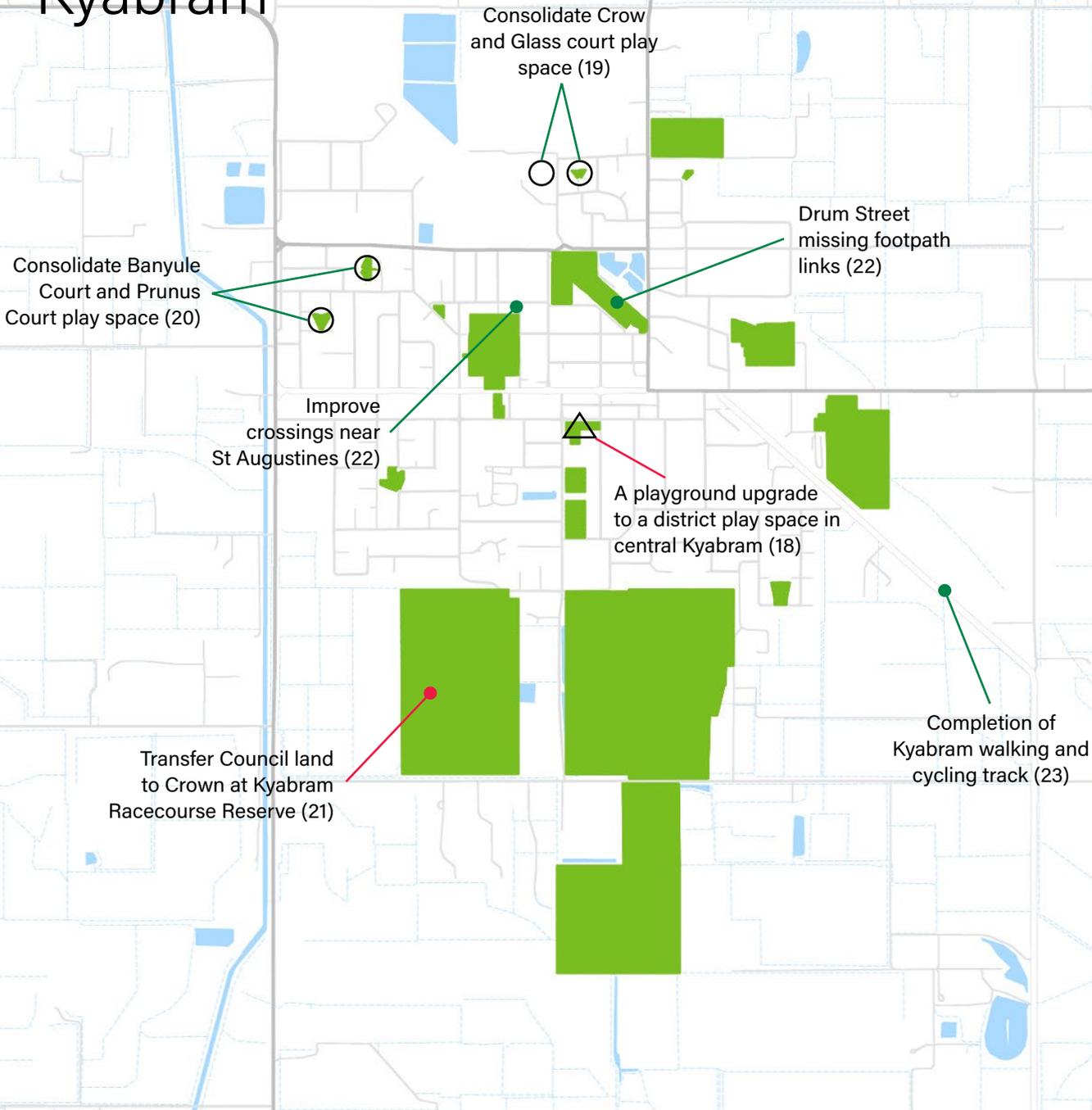
Overview

Gunbower has a population of 551 (2016, ABS Census data). The Gunbower community has multiple spaces that serve the local community. The racecourse while listed as open space is restricted in use. Gunbower is well serviced with open space with key facilities such as Gunbower Recreation Reserve, the Lions Park and racecourse. It is also home to Kow Swamp and the Gunbower National Park. There is no foreseeable need based on population and current open space provision to develop any additional public open space in Gunbower.

Key

- Existing open space
- Future open space
- Consolidation / rationalisation
- Potential upgrade
- High priority
- Medium priority
- Low priority

Kyabram



Overview

Kyabram area has a population of 7,731, and the town population of 5,899 (2016, ABS Census data). Kyabram has five sport and recreation open spaces, 15 parks and formal gardens and multiple other spaces that form part of the open space network in Kyabram. The town also has a racecourse, showgrounds, linear walking track (not mapped) and the Kyabram Fauna Park. Kyabram has multiple pocket parks that provide the same play experience. To better service those communities it is recommended to consolidate spaces to use funds to upgrade other spaces.

Key

- Existing open space
- Future open space
- Consolidation / rationalisation
- Potential upgrade
- High priority
- Medium priority
- Low priority

Lockington



Overview

Lockington has a population of 399, with surrounds 808 (2016, ABS Census data). Lockington community is serviced by a sporting oval in town, as well as multiple other specific purpose facilities in the area, such as Scurrah, Bamawm and Bamawm Extension. Lockington has a number of open spaces that serve different functions in the community. For a small town like Lockington the provision of two play spaces is deemed over supply and the rationalisation of Lucas Crescent is considered appropriate.

Key

- Existing open space
- Future open space
- Consolidation / rationalisation
- Potential upgrade
- High priority
- Medium priority
- Low priority

Rochester

Remove play equipment
(at end of life) from
Lions Park (29)

Rotary Park
natural play space
development (26)

Missing footpath
links (28)

Design the continuation of
the Campaspe River walking
track and improving Rochester
riverbank access (27)

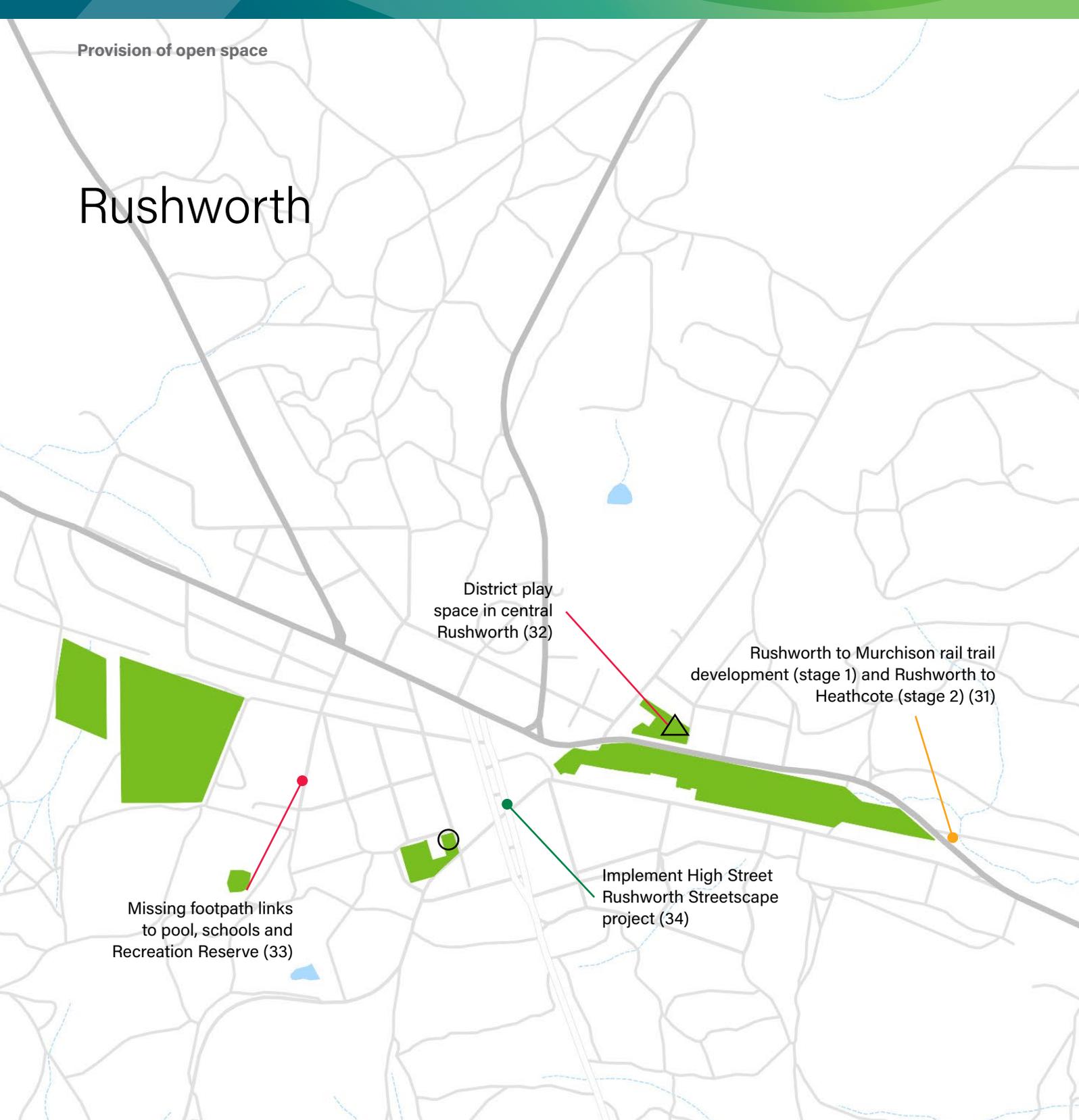
Overview

Rochester has a population of 2,724 in town (2016, ABS Census data). The Campaspe River runs through Rochester providing unique open space opportunities for the town such as the walking tracks and fishing. The two sport and recreation reserves offer different sporting opportunities, including tennis, football, netball, cricket and golf. Consolidation of spaces will need to occur in Rochester as there is a concentration of open space offering similar experiences in the centre of town.

Key

- Existing open space
- Future open space
- Consolidation / rationalisation
- Potential upgrade
- High priority
- Medium priority
- Low priority

Rushworth



Overview

Rushworth has a population of 1,335 (2016, ABS Census data). In town Rushworth has two playgrounds, a skatepark and recreation reserve for open space. Outside of town is the Whroo Nature Conservation Reserve and the Waranga Basin nearby which offer open space and opportunities for leisure and recreation. Rushworth is well serviced with open space. There are no significant changes forecasted in demographics, indicating that future consolidation of spaces could occur to play for a district play space that is accessible and meets the principles of play.

Key

- Existing open space
- Future open space
- Consolidation / rationalisation
- Potential upgrade
- High priority
- Medium priority
- Low priority

Stanhope



Overview

Stanhope has a population of 452 (2016, ABS Census data). Stanhope recently completed the Stanhope Place Based Plan, as well as a master plan for the Stanhope Recreation Reserve (Crown land). The recreation reserve redevelopment is the main priority for the town. There are no significant changes forecasted in demographics, indicating that future rationalisation or consolidation of open space should be considered.

Key

-  Existing open space
-  Future open space
-  Consolidation / rationalisation
-  Potential upgrade
-  High priority
-  Medium priority
-  Low priority

Tongala

Consolidate spaces to allow for a district play space in Tongala (38)
(location not determined)

Partial sale of 75-77
Miller Street (39)

Sale of Brose
Recreation Reserve
(37)

Overview

Tongala has a population of 1,926 (2016, ABS Census data). The town has a main oval and a second oval at Brose Recreation Reserve. There is a concentration of open space in the centre of Tongala, including St James Park, Miller Street, Potts Village and Century Park. There are no significant changes forecasted in demographics, indicating consolidation of open space should be considered.

Key

- Existing open space
- Future open space
- Consolidation / rationalisation
- Potential upgrade
- High priority
- Medium priority
- Low priority

Key Opportunities

The strategic framework, our community, current industry practice and trends in public space encompasses a broad range of issues and opportunities.

The strategy document has been used to identify opportunities and actions. The following action plan highlights the projects that will be implemented over a 10-year period from 2022-2032.



Shire wide practice guidelines

The strategy has identified guidelines across the shire to ensure appropriate planning and funding is achieved to meet demand and provision shortfalls. These priorities reflect the principles of open space and the overall strategic direction of open space for Campaspe.

Ref	Action	Principle	Rationale
1	Identify key open spaces to utilise recycled water and to include integrated water management responses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sustainable spaces 	Enhance the sustainability of assets and open spaces and reducing the impacts of warmer weather. Responding to key public open space trend of "Environment and Climate".
2	Identify local pocket parks and small spaces to be transitioned where funds could be used to develop district spaces and/ or connectivity and linkages to other play spaces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adequately resourced ▪ Accessible and connected 	To provide quality play spaces in Campaspe that best suit the needs of the community. Responding to key public open space trend "importance of play". "Quality vs Quantity".
3	Develop a listing of shovel-ready projects that have potential to be funded. This would enable Council to be prepared for any funding opportunities that arise.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adequately resourced ▪ Health and community benefit 	To be competitive in funding applications and respond quickly to opportunities. Responding to key public open space trends.
4	Develop a priority listing of upgrades and renewal of play spaces to best meet the needs of the community, focusing on the principles of play.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Health and community benefit ▪ Adaptable 	To diversify our spaces and cater for all young people not just for pre-school aged children. Responding to key public open space trends. "Quality vs Quantity" and "Importance of play".
5	Implement a rolling program of footpath, cycling paths, trails and sealed road connections with a focus on localities where missing links have been identified.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adaptable ▪ Accessible and connected 	Responding to the need for better connections and walking and cycling networks in communities. Responding to key public open space trends "connectivity".
6	Engage and include key Traditional Landowners in planning, design and management of culturally significant open spaces in Campaspe.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protection and conservation ▪ Partnerships 	To ensure we are conserving our cultural heritage and recognising the Traditional Landowners. Responding to key public open space influences "Traditional Owners of the land".
7	Determine appropriate service level and asset provision for open spaces and the hierarchy in which they fall under using the open space development standards template (addendum 1).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adequately resourced 	To provide a service level and standard for Council's open spaces.

Township recommendations

The following section addresses the issues and opportunities of open spaces in Campaspe townships. The townships are defined by the Planning Scheme local planning policy framework 21.09, where Echuca, Kyabram, Rochester, Tongala and Rushworth listed as service centres that support a district. The remaining small towns defined in the planning scheme are Stanhope, Gunbower, Colbinabbin, Lockington, Girgarre, Toolleen and Corop. Not all towns have associated actions for the strategy. These actions will be provided in an implementation plan in section 8 to detail timeframes and funding scenarios.

Colbinabbin

Ref	Action	Principle	Rationale
8	Colbinabbin Recreation Reserve Committee of Management to develop a master plan for the reserve.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnerships Health and community benefit 	A priority project for the community alongside a whole of town plan (has commenced).



Township recommendations

Echuca

Ref	Action	Principle	Rationale
9	Monitor usage and social demand of Garden Crescent play space and engage with community to determine better value of play at a district level play space at an alternate location.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adaptable Play space principles 	There are multiple local play spaces (pocket parks) that are limited in play experiences.
10	<p>Improve the connections and walkability to open spaces through footpaths, shared paths and cycling paths (on and off road).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete missing links to connect residents to school and Echuca East Community precinct. Complete missing links west of Campaspe Esplanade and north of Ogilvie Avenue, connecting residents to Campaspe walking/cycling track Complete connection from Riverboat Dock to Victoria Park boat ramp. Complete connection from Port of Echuca to Echuca East Precinct. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accessible and connected 	Connectivity and walkability is key to creating an accessible open space network. This includes creating connections for communities who have limited open space or where there are no walking/cycling connections to key open spaces.
11	Complete the Master Plan for Echuca East Recreation Reserve as key community precinct.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adaptable Health and community benefit 	A current project that is underway and adopted by Council. Key project to cater for open space demand in Echuca East.
12	Progress development of Echuca Aquatic Reserve as per infrastructure plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health and community benefit Accessible and connected 	As per the recommendation in the Council Plan 2021-2025 and the Echuca Aquatic Reserve Infrastructure Plan.
13	Plan for growth areas and open space demand for Echuca West, utilising the Echuca West PSP Open space assessment, the open space guiding principle and open space development standards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequately resourced Health and community benefit 	Addressing open space shortfalls through planning and ensuring adequate open space is provided in new subdivisions.
14	Review and implement actions of the Echuca Victoria Park Scenic Trail Master Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health and community benefit Protection and conservation 	Quality attractive recreational spaces and sites of importance in the shire, as per Council Plan 2021-2025.

Township recommendations

Girgarre

Ref	Action	Principle	Rationale
15	Engage with Girgarre Development Committee to further support and advocate for Gargarro Regional Botanic gardens project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health and community benefit 	A key project for the Girgarre community.
16	Transfer of additional recreation reserve land to community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequately resourced 	An additional reserve that does not align with Council policy that sport and recreation facilities must be shared by two or more clubs/ organisations.

Gunbower

Ref	Action	Principle	Rationale
17	Implement the Gunbower Lions Park redevelopment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health and community benefit Accessible and connected 	A current project, endorsed by Council that has been supported by the community.



Township recommendations

Kyabram

Ref	Action	Principle	Rationale
18	Consolidate spaces to allow for a district play space in central Kyabram following the principles of play for all ages and abilities to improve play opportunities for the community. Examples of what this could look like - Gunbower Lions Park or the nature play space in Rochester.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adequately resourced ▪ Adaptable 	<p>Kyabram is lacking a diverse range of play spaces, with multiple pocket parks not meeting the needs of the community. A district space would be a focal point for the community and visitors.</p> <p>Listed as a medium term project in the Kyabram Place Based Plan.</p>
19	Consolidate Crow Court and Glass Court play space and sell off any potential surplus land. Engage with community to determine better value of play at a district level play space. See recommendation number 18.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adequately resourced ▪ Adaptable ▪ Play space principles 	<p>Kyabram is lacking a diverse range of play spaces that are in line with current play space trends. There are multiple local play spaces (pocket parks) that are limited in play experiences.</p>
20	Consolidate Banyule Court and Prunus Court play space and sell off any potential surplus land. Engage with community to determine better value of play at a district level play space. See recommendation number 18.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adequately resourced ▪ Adaptable ▪ Play space principles 	<p>Kyabram is lacking a diverse range of play spaces that are in line with current play space trends. There are multiple local play spaces (pocket parks) that are limited in play experiences.</p>
21	Transfer Council land to Crown at Kyabram Racecourse Reserve where there is part ownership by Crown and Council.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adequately resourced 	<p>Review of land holdings and ensuring appropriate management is in place.</p>
22	<p>Improve the connections and walkability to open spaces through footpaths, shared paths and cycling paths (on and off road).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve crossings near St Augustine's school as per Walking and Cycling study. ▪ Complete footpath missing links on Drum Street. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Accessible and connected 	<p>Connectivity and walkability is key to creating an accessible open space network.</p>
23	Completion of Kyabram walking and cycling track on Breen Avenue.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Accessible and connected 	<p>A long term project that has been supported by Council.</p>

Township recommendations

Lockington

Ref	Action	Principle	Rationale
24	Remove play equipment from Lucas Crescent (Clare Avenue) to direct funds to main play space (Lions Park) and better serve the community through a district play space.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequately resourced Play space principles 	To align with the play space guidelines and to provide smaller towns a distribution play space rather than several local play spaces that have limiting play experiences.
25	Acquire Crown section of land at Lockington Recreation Reserve where there is part ownership by Crown and Council.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequately resourced 	Review of land holdings and ensuring appropriate management is in place.

Rochester and district

Ref	Action	Principle	Rationale
26	Implement the Rotary Park natural play space development in partnership with the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Play space principles Health and community benefit 	Enhance the play experience for residents and visitors by offering diverse play spaces.
27	Design the continuation of Campaspe River walking track and improving Rochester riverbank access.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accessible and connected Adaptable 	Walking and cycling are the most common activities people participate in. Including more walking tracks also supports older people to remain active.
28	Improve the connections and walkability to open spaces through footpaths, shared paths and cycling paths (on and off road). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete footpath missing links with connection to Campaspe River walking track and the school. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accessible and connected 	Connectivity and walkability are key to creating an accessible open space network.
29	Remove play equipment (at end of life) from Lions Park, Rochester to accommodate increase development at Rotary Park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adaptable Health and community benefit 	Due to the development at Rotary Park, there will be an increase in service level therefore a rationalisation of another space will need to occur.
30	Sale of Nanneella Recreation Reserve to either community or possible residential development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequately resourced 	Not required as open space and has not been utilised as a reserve for a period of time.

Township recommendations

Rushworth

Ref	Action	Principle	Rationale
31	Implementation of the Rushworth to Murchison rail trail development (stage 1) and Rushworth to Heathcote (stage 2).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health and community benefit 	Provide a range of recreation and open space for residents and visitors.
32	Identify appropriate rationalisation of spaces to allow for a district level play space to be developed in Rushworth at central location.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Play space principles Health and community benefit Adaptable 	Enhance the play experience for residents and visitors.
33	<p>Improve the connections and walkability to open spaces through footpaths, shared paths and cycling paths (on and off road).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete missing links connections from both schools to the recreation reserve and other open spaces. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accessible and connected 	Connectivity and walkability is key to creating an accessible open space network.
34	Implement High Street Rushworth Streetscape project and work towards creating a greener Rushworth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accessible and connected 	Planning for future water management and creating green spaces for the community.

Stanhope

Ref	Action	Principle	Rationale
35	Assist the community in obtaining funding to implement the Stanhope Recreation Reserve Master Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnerships Adaptable 	Master plan has been developed by the community and has been highlighted as their key priority for the town.
36	Assist the community in obtaining funding to implement the Stanhope – Girgarre rail trail.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnerships Accessible and connected 	Provide a range of recreation and open space for residents and visitors.

Township recommendations

Tongala

Ref	Action	Principle	Rationale
37	Investigate the future use of Brose Recreation Reserve.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequately resourced 	Brose Reserve is an additional reserve to the towns main recreation reserve.
38	Identify appropriate rationalisation of spaces to allow for a district level play space to be developed in Tongala at central location.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health and community benefit Adaptable Play space principles 	Enhance the play experience for residents and visitors.
39	Investigate the future use of 75-77 Miller Street.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequately resourced 	This space is listed as open space but does not provide a recreation value. Tongala has multiple open spaces for amenity purposes.



Implementation And Review

The Open Space Strategy is a whole of Council approach, with the guiding principles, hierarchy and recommendations to be embedded into Council planning and practices.

The Integrated Open Space Management Group will continue to oversee the planning, development and management of the open space network in a coordinated and strategic manner. Responsibilities will include:

- Monitoring and review
- Planning and reporting
- Budget, resourcing and determining priority projects for contribution fund
- Future land use and open space planning
- Planning scheme reviews relating to open space
- Local and state land use policies
- Strategic partnerships
- Marketing and promotion

Priority projects for contribution fund

Strategic framework

The planning scheme clause 53.01 public open space contributions states:

A person who proposes to subdivide land must make a contribution to the council for public open space in an amount specified in the schedule to this clause (being a per centage of the land intended to be used for residential, industrial or commercial purposes, or a per centage of the site value of such land, or a combination of both). If no amount is specified, a contribution may still be required under section 18 of the Subdivision Act 1988.

Open space contributions are an important source of funding for local government to implement actions from an Open Space Strategy. Contribution funding needs to be complemented with other sources of funding such as general rates revenue, government grants and community/user contributions.

Council currently collects public open space contributions through the Schedule to Clause 53.01 of the Planning scheme. The rates are:

- All land within a residential zone (other than the low-density residential zone) – 5% of the value of the land
- All land within the low-density residential zone 2.5% of the value of the land.

The purpose of this reserve is to provide improved recreational facilities for the Campaspe Shire, both of an active and passive nature. This reserve is funded solely from the subdivision developer contributions in lieu of the 5 per cent public open space requirement.

Outflows are limited to capital works on parks and playgrounds, recreation reserves and other outdoor sporting activities including swimming pool development.

The call on the reserve must be directly connected to the residential catchments for which the contribution has been made. Other open space projects including new sporting grounds/pavilions, reserves, roads and maintenance are funded as part of the capital works program and recreation team's budget.



When establishing priorities and the delivery of actions from this strategy it is important to base this on the decision making process outlined in section 6 and that the project aligns with the open space principles. These criteria, along with a graded matrix will assist Council in determine priority projects for the contribution fund.

The graded matrix has been developed in line with the principles of open space, and the criteria assessment for open space supply and demand.

Pass/fail conditions	Does the project:	Pass/fail	Justification
	Service contributing areas		
	Provide access to or improvement to public open space		
	Consent from all parties		
	Align with strategic direction		

Rating	Rate the project	Score	Justification	Weighting	Weighted score
	Alignment with the principles of open space reserve guidelines (1-10)			15%	
	Project score (0-18)			50%	
	Strategic justification (1-10)			15%	
	Contribution funds directed to contributing township (1-10)			20%	



Implementation plan

The implementation plan takes the recommendations and allocates resources, staffing and outlines the priority for each action and potential funding scenarios. These are not in any priority order, rather prioritised as low, medium and high. Based on current budget and staffing resources, many of the following actions may not be achieved within the strategy timeframe.

Short-term: to be completed in 0-2 years.

Medium-term: to be completed in 2-5 years.

Long-term: to be completed in 5+ years

Low priority
 Medium priority
 High priority

No.	Action	Responsibility	Timeframe	Risk of not achieving action	Resources required	Possible funding scenarios
Shire wide recommendations						
1	Identify key open spaces to utilise recycled water and to include integrated water management responses.	Planning & Building Recreation Assets Projects & Facilities	Medium term	Lack of green spaces available making them unattractive to the community and visitors.	Existing resources	Council budget Grants
2	Identifying local pocket parks and small spaces to be transitioned where funds could be used to develop district spaces and/ or connectivity and linkages to other play spaces.	ISOMG	Long term	Council resources stretched to maintain multiple play spaces in one area.	Recreation Project Officer	Contribution fund Sale of land Grants
3	Develop a listing of shovel-ready projects that have potential to be funded. This would enable Council to be prepared for any funding opportunities that arise.	ISOMG	Short term	Council are not competitive in grant applications or responsive to grant opportunities.	Consultant Existing resources	Council budget

Implementation and review

No.	Action	Responsibility	Timeframe	Risk of not achieving action	Resources required	Possible funding scenarios
4	Develop a priority listing of upgrades and renewal of play spaces to best meet the needs of the community, focusing on the principles of play.	Recreation Assets	Long term	Play spaces become uninviting and don't meet the principles of play spaces.	Existing resources Recreation Project Officer	Council budget Grants
5	Implement a rolling program of footpath, cycling paths, trails and sealed road connections with a focus on localities where missing links have been identified.	Assets Projects & Facilities	Long term	People/communities remain unconnected to spaces, services and facilities.	Existing resources	Council budget Grants
6	Engage and include key Traditional Landowners in planning, design and management of culturally significant open spaces in Campaspe.	ISOMG Community Development	Medium term	Opportunities to connect people to land and celebrate Campaspe's heritage and culture are missed.	Existing resources Consultants	Council budget
7	Determine appropriate service level and asset provision for open spaces and the hierarchy in which they fall under using the open space development standards template (addendum 1).	ISOMG Recreation	Short term	To provide a service level and standard for Council's open spaces.	Recreation project officer	NA
Colbinabbin						
8	Colbinabbin Recreation Reserve Committee of Management to develop a master plan for the reserve	Recreation Community Development Community	Short term	No long term plan for Colbinabbin Recreation Reserve.	Existing resources to support Committee.	Grant received Partnership with Council and Community groups

No.	Action	Responsibility	Timeframe	Risk of not achieving action	Resources required	Possible funding scenarios
Echuca						
9	Monitor usage and social demand of Garden Crescent play space and engage with community to determine better value of play at a district level play space at an alternate location.	Recreation	Medium term	Continue to offer a low-quality space that has limited play experience.	Additional resources Recreation Project Officer	Council budget
10	<p>Improve the connections and walkability to open spaces through footpaths, shared paths and cycling paths (on and off road).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete missing links to connect residents to school and Echuca East Community precinct. Complete missing links west of Campapse Esplanade and north of Ogilvie Avenue, connecting residents to Campaspae walking/cycling track Complete connection from Riverboat Dock to Victoria Park boat ramp. Complete connection from Port of Echuca to Echuca East Precinct. 	Assets	Long term	People/communities remain unconnected by walking/cycling to spaces, services and facilities.	Existing resources	Council budget Grants
11	Complete the Master Plan for Echuca East Recreation Reserve as key community precinct.	Recreation	Medium term	Funding obligations are not met, and the community has an unfinished facility and space.	Existing resources	Contribution fund Council budget
12	Progress development of Echuca Aquatic Reserve as per infrastructure plan.	Recreation Assets Projects & Facilities	Medium term	Accessibility and maintenance levels would be below standard and current requirements.	Existing resources	Contribution fund Council budget Grants

Implementation and review

No.	Action	Responsibility	Timeframe	Risk of not achieving action	Resources required	Possible funding scenarios
Echuca (continued)						
13	Plan for growth areas and open space demand for Echuca West, utilising the Echuca West PSP Open space assessment, the open space guiding principle and open space development standards.	Planning & Building Recreation	Long term	Unsuitable open space developed that does not meet the open space guidelines or meet community's needs.	Existing resources Consultants (design etc)	Contribution fund Council budget
14	Review and implement actions of the Echuca Victoria Park Scenic Drive Master Plan.	Recreation Assets Projects & Facilities	Long term	No long-term plan and actions for one of Campaspe's iconic locations.	Existing resources Consultant (design)	Contribution fund
Girgarre						
15	Engage with Girgarre Development Committee to further support and advocate for Gargarro Regional Botanic gardens project.	Community led project	Long term	Relationship with Council and community group compromised.	Existing resources to support community group - Community led initiative	NA
16	Transfer of additional recreation reserve land to community.	Recreation	Short term	Continue strain on Council resources.	Existing resources	Council budget
Gunbower						
17	Implement the Gunbower Lions Park redevelopment.	Recreation	Short term	Lions Park redevelopment not completed and community without a space that meets the principles of play spaces.	Project managed internally.	Council budget Grants

No.	Action	Responsibility	Timeframe	Risk of not achieving action	Resources required	Possible funding scenarios
Kyabram						
18	Consolidate spaces to allow for a district play space in central Kyabram following the principles of play for all ages and abilities to improve play opportunities for the community. Examples of what this could look - Gunbower Lions Park or the nature play space in Rochester.	Recreation Community Development	Medium term	Community would not have access to a play space that follows the principles of play for all ages and abilities.	Recreation Project Officer	Contribution fund (or sales of open space) Council budget Grants
19	Consolidate Crow Court and Glass Court play space and sell off any potential surplus land. Engage with community to determine better value of play at a district level play space. See recommendation number 18.	Recreation Community Development	Medium term	Council continues to maintain two play spaces in close proximity together, putting a strain on resources. Community potentially disadvantaged by low quality play spaces.	Recreation Project Officer	Internal resources Council budget Grants
20	Consolidate Banyule Court and Prunus Court play space and sell off any potential surplus land. Engage with community to determine better value of play at a district level play space. See recommendation number 18.	Recreation Community Development	Medium term	Council continues to maintain two play spaces in close proximity together, putting a strain on resources. Community potentially disadvantaged by low quality play spaces.	Recreation Project Officer	Internal resources Council budget Grants
21	Transfer Council land to Crown at Kyabram Racecourse Reserve where there is part ownership by Crown and Council.	Projects & Facilities	Short term	Current situation remains.	Existing resources	Internal resources
22	Improve the connections and walkability to open spaces through footpaths, shared paths and cycling paths (on and off road). <ul style="list-style-type: none">Improve crossings near St Augustine's school as per Walking and Cycling study.Complete footpath missing links on Drum street.	Assets	Long term	People/communities remain unconnected by walking or cycling to spaces, services and facilities.	Existing resources	Council budget Grants
23	Completion of Kyabram walking and cycling track (Breen Avenue).	Assets Recreation Projects & Facilities	Medium term	Walking track not complete and residents remain unconnected to facilities.	Existing resources - project management	Council budget

No.	Action	Responsibility	Timeframe	Risk of not achieving action	Resources required	Possible funding scenarios
Lockington						
24	Remove play equipment from Lucas Crescent (Clare Avenue) to direct funds to main play space (Lions Park) and better serve the community through a district play space.	Recreation Assets	Short term	Council continues to maintain two play spaces in close proximity together, putting a strain on resources and the community don't have a space that meets the principles of play spaces.	Existing resources	Council budget Internal resources
25	Acquire Crown section of the land at Lockington Recreation Reserve where there is part ownership by Crown and Council.	Recreation Project & Facilities	Short term	Current situation remains.	Existing resources	Internal resources

No.	Action	Responsibility	Timeframe	Risk of not achieving action	Resources required	Possible funding scenarios
Rochester and district						
26	Implement the Rotary Park natural play space development in partnership with the community.	Recreation	Short term	Rotary Park play space not completed and the community don't have a space that meets the principles of play spaces.	Existing resources project management	Council budget
27	Design the continuation of Campaspe River walking track and improving Rochester riverbank access.	Recreation Community Development	Long term	Walking track is not progressed or improved upon.	Recreation Project Officer	Contribution fund Grants
28	Improve the connections and walkability to open spaces through footpaths, shared paths and cycling paths (on and off road). ▪ Complete footpath missing links with connection to Campaspe River walking track and the school.	Assets	Long term	People/communities remain unconnected by walking or cycling to spaces, services and facilities.	Existing resources	Council budget Grants
29	Remove play equipment (at end of life) from Lions Park, Rochester to accommodate increase development at Rotary Park.	Recreation Assets	Long term	Council resources strained by maintaining two play spaces within proximity of each other.	Existing resources Recreation Project Officer	Council budget
30	Sale of Nanneella Recreation Reserve to either community or possible residential development.	Projects & Facilities	Medium term	Council continues to maintain a space that has limited public open space use.	Existing resources Recreation Project Officer	Internal resources

No.	Action	Responsibility	Timeframe	Risk of not achieving action	Resources required	Possible funding scenarios
Rushworth						
31	Implementation of the Rushworth to Murchison rail trail development (stage 1) and Rushworth to Heathcote (stage 2).	Recreation Projects & Facilities Community development	Medium term	Full potential of a regionally significant trail would not be reached.	Existing resources	Council budget Grants
32	Identify appropriate rationalisation of spaces to allow for a district level play space to be developed in Rushworth at central location.	Recreation	Medium term	Community would not have access to a play space that follows the principles of play for all ages and abilities.	Recreation Project Officer	Council budget Grants
33	Improve the connections and walkability to open spaces through footpaths, shared paths and cycling paths (on and off road). ▪ Complete missing links connections from both schools to the recreation reserve and open spaces.	Assets	Long term	People/communities remain unconnected by walking or cycling to spaces, services and facilities.	Existing resources	Council budget Grants
34	Implement High Street Rushworth Streetscape project and work towards creating a greener Rushworth.	Assets	Medium term	Goal to further green Rushworth's main street and improve retention of stormwater would not be achieved.	Existing resources	Council budget
Stanhope						
35	Assist the community in obtaining funding to implement the Stanhope Recreation Reserve master plan.	Community led project Recreation Community Development	Long term	Project may not be completed without Council support/advocacy.	Existing resources – community led initiative	Grants
36	Assist the community in obtaining funding to implement the Stanhope – Girgarre rail trail.	Community led project Community Development	Long term	Project may not be completed without Council support/advocacy.	Existing resources – community led initiative	Grants

No.	Action	Responsibility	Timeframe	Risk of not achieving action	Resources required	Possible funding scenarios
Tongala						
37	Investigate future use of Brose Recreation Reserve.	Recreation Projects & Facilities	Medium term	Council continues to maintain an additional recreation reserve for the community putting a strain on resources.	Recreation Project Officer	Internal resources
38	Identify appropriate rationalisation of spaces to allow for a district level play space to be developed in Tongala at central location.	Recreation	Long term	Community would not have access to a play space that follows the principles of play for all ages and abilities.	Recreation Project Officer	Internal resources
39	Investigate future use of 75-77 Miller Street.	Projects & Facilities	Medium term	Council continues to maintain a space that has limited use.	Existing resources Recreation Project Officer	Internal resources

Review

To ensure Council continues to meet the vision and actions outlined in the strategy, evaluation and monitoring will be undertaken.

Review		
Annual action plan	Review strategy – 5 years	
Monitor		
Monitor and refine strategy when required and to be in line with Council's strategic direction	Changes in government policy and funding	
Reporting		
Integrated Open Space Management Group meetings	Council's annual report	Report at 5-year review

Funding

The funding of open space projects will vary depending on the type of action and project. While majority of the actions listed in this Strategy are within Council's role and influence, there are others that will be reliant on external parties.

Funding for projects within Council's influence will range from the annual budget process, government grants, partnerships and/or the contribution fund. The implementation plan outlines possible funding scenarios for priority projects.

Township Facility Plans

The Open Space Strategy is going to be reviewed after the completion of the Township Facility Plans to ensure consistency.



Addendum 1

Hierarchy	Regional						District						Local									
	Parks/ garden	Sport & recreation	Conservation & heritage	Linear, trail or corridor	Drainage or wetland	Urban space	Passive open space	Parks/ garden	Sport & recreation	Conservation & heritage	Linear, trail or corridor	Drainage or wetland	Urban space	Passive open space	Parks/ garden	Sport & recreation	Conservation & heritage	Linear, trail or corridor	Drainage or wetland	Urban space	Passive open space	
BBQ facilities	✓✓	✓✓	◊	x	x	✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	x	x	x	x	✓	xx	✓	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
Bicycle racks	✓✓	✓✓	x	✓✓	x	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	x	✓	x	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Car parking - off street	✓✓	✓✓	◊	◊	x	x	✓	✓	✓	x	◊	x	x	x	xx	✓	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
Dog off lease area	◊	x	xx	x	◊	xx	◊	◊	xx	xx	x	◊	xx	◊	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
Drinking fountain	✓✓	✓✓	◊	✓✓	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	x	◊	◊	◊	✓	x	✓	x	x	x	x
Fencing/ bollards	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x	✓	◊	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	x	◊	◊	x	x	x	x	x
Festival & event space - major	✓	✓	x	x	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Festival & event space - minor	✓	✓	x	x	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x	✓	✓	◊	◊	x	x	x	x	◊	◊
Garden bed	✓	x	x	x	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	x	x	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x	✓	x	x
Informal recreation - space	✓✓	x	✓	x	✓	x	✓✓	✓✓	x	✓	x	✓	x	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x	✓
Informal recreation - infrastructure	◊	x	xx	xx	xx	xx	x	◊	x	xx	xx	xx	xx	x	x	x	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
Sports infrastructure**	xx	✓✓	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	✓✓	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	✓✓	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	x
Lighting	✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	x	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	x	✓	✓	✓
Paths - Pedestrian	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓	x	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	x	✓	x	xx	x	xx	✓	xx	✓
Paths - Shared	✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓	x	x	xx	xx	xx	✓	xx	x	xx	xx
Play space	✓✓	✓✓	x	x	✓	x	✓	✓✓	✓✓	x	x	✓	x	x	✓	✓	xx	xx	✓	xx	xx	xx
Public art	✓✓	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	x	✓	x	x	x	x	✓	x	x
Public toilets	✓✓	✓✓	◊	x	x	◊	x	✓✓	✓✓	x	x	x	◊	x	xx	✓✓	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
Rubbish bins	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x
Shade (built)	✓	✓	xx	xx	xx	✓	xx	✓	✓	xx	xx	xx	✓	xx	xx	✓	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
Signage - Name of reserve	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓
Seating	✓✓	✓✓	◊	✓✓	✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	x	✓	x	✓	x	x
Skate park/ BMX	◊	x	xx	xx	xx	xx	◊	◊	x	xx	xx	xx	xx	◊	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
Trees - Large canopy shade	✓✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Water features (built)	✓	x	xx	xx	xx	✓	xx	✓	x	xx	xx	xx	✓	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx

- ✓✓ Should have
- ✓ May have
- ◊ Subject to demand analysis
- x Should not have
- xx Must not have

** refer to the sporting grounds facilities classification and State Sporting Association guidelines for relevant standards of asset provision

Appendix 1 - Project Score

The project score table allows assessment of a project or action to determine the level of priority. This is to be used in conjunction with the matrix on page 49 of the strategy.

Project name:		
Project Delivery	Inadequately scoped and timescales for delivery not defined	0
	Adequately scoped but delivery is contingent on others	1
	Adequately scoped to deliver over multiple years or within council control to deliver	2
Service Need	Discretionary service/activity (Service need not clearly defined)	0
	Fits in current service plan	1
	Critical for continued delivery of service at current levels (statutory service or activity)	2
Return on Investment	Undefined	0
	Break even (in 5 years)	1
	Profit/Income within 5 years	2
Place Based Planning/Community Benefit	Specific Location/Precinct	1
	Township/catchment	2
	Shire wide	3
Evidence of Community Need/Benefit	Anecdotal (ideas with no substantial benefit)	0
	Theoretical evidence (research to support / benefit the Community)	1
	Evidential (studies / papers / findings / business case to support the Community of benefit)	2
Level of Community Engagement	No community engagement activity has commenced or been considered yet.	0
	Engagement plan developed and all relevant stakeholders identified.	1
	Engagement already completed and project supported by community and Council	2
Strategic Alignment	No direct link to strategic objectives	0
	Partial links to strategy	1
	Critical to achieving strategic outcomes or multiple Strategic Objectives	2
Council funding Required	Grant/external contribution available but requires match funding from Council in excess of 50%	1
	Grant/external contribution available but requires match funding from Council between 0-50%	2
	Grant/external contribution available - fully funded externally so no Council match	3

Low priority 0-6 score

Medium priority 7-12 score

High priority 13-18 score

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- Victoria Planning Authority, Open Spaces Strategies, Planning Practice Note 70, 2015
- Victorian Government, Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2019-2033, 2019







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Rushworth, 33 High Street

Tongala, 37 Mangan Street

