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Goulburn Mulwaree Council Recreational Needs Strategy

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Executive Summary

This Recreation Needs Strategy has been prepared for Council to provide a framework for future investment in open space and recreation facilities to address existing and future needs of the community across the Goulburn Mulwaree local government area.

It is intended that the Strategy be released for public comment prior to any actions being taken by Council.

The study has reviewed all existing recreation facilities, identified the likely future scale and distribution of demand for new facilities, considered trends in recreation planning and usage levels, identified the statutory planning environment affecting recreation planning and provides recommendations for action by Council.

The study has included consultation with a range of sporting and community groups interested in the wider provision of open space and recreation facilities as well as their individual sporting codes or interests. Council has also undertaken an on-line survey of community attitudes to open space usage. The feedback from the consultations and on-line survey are an important component of the study and have informed the development of the Strategy

The main “high level” conclusions reached in this study are summarised below:

- The GMC area has a wide range of open spaces and recreation facilities catering to numerous sporting and community groups
- These facilities provide services and address needs at a regional level (e.g. racecourse; main sporting codes), a district level within Goulburn (e.g. local sporting clubs) and at a local level (e.g. pocket parks in each neighbourhood).
- Sporting facilities and open spaces are scattered throughout the Goulburn urban area and are available in other parts of the GMC area.
- The LGA had an estimated total population of over 30,000 in 2017, concentrated mainly in Goulburn.
- Population growth has increased in recent years as a result of several factors including housing affordability, internal migration and proximity to major urban centres including Canberra. This increased demand puts pressure on all urban services including open space/recreation facilities.
- New growth areas in Goulburn are centred on the Mary’s Mount area and to a lesser extent in West Goulburn, as well as some renewal in existing urban areas.
- GMC is experiencing changes in recreational usage consistent with changes in State and National trends, but there is continuing demand for the full spectrum of sporting and open space needs.
- GMC has embarked on a range of new recreation projects that represent a major capital investment and boost to the local economy. These projects will provide increased amenity for residents across the urban area and beyond.
- The provision of open space and recreation facilities is a critical element in the overall urban fabric (in terms of land use and areas occupied). These areas provide a fundamental part of the amenity of an urban area adding to residents’ well-being, health and the local economy.
- A recreation needs strategy for GMC should address the needs of all members of the community, regardless of age, gender, nationality, health or socio-economic status.



- A balanced investment by Council in open space and recreation facilities will be needed to meet sometimes competing community interests specific health all age groups.
- Amendments to existing planning controls is required to ensure adequate provision of new open space and recreation facilities are provided in the new urban growth areas.

It is RECOMMENDED that this Recreational Need Strategy be adopted by Council as the basis for further consultation with individual affected stakeholders as well as the wider community.

As a basis for adoption and the framework for further action, the Strategy covers:

- sports grounds
- parks and playgrounds
- natural areas
- specialised facilities
- changes to statutory planning requirements (DCP)

Strategy for Sports Grounds

This study has identified a number of sporting codes and associated facilities that operate at a regional level as well as district and local level in the hosting of recreational activity. To date however, the study has concluded that Goulburn's facilities are generally not of a standard to host national or state activities.

Some rural centres in NSW have implemented a deliberate strategy to invest in "state" and "national" standard facilities as part of a wider strategy for economic development and or city pride. Examples include rugby league facilities in Wagga, Bathurst and Mudgee. Sports facility investment in these towns was targeted towards hosting National Rugby League competition games. Importantly, these centres are located at greater distances from major urban areas than Goulburn. Due to the proximity of Goulburn to Canberra and western Sydney, the possibility of national-level competition games (e.g. NRL) may not generate large flow-on multiplier effects because of the likelihood of spectators returning to their home base immediately after the game. As such, the economic benefits potentially would not be significant but the financial outlay to meet national standards would be substantial.

On this basis, a more appropriate recreational needs strategy for Goulburn would be to focus on a number of selected sports that have a rapidly increasing membership base (e.g. touch football, hockey, netball etc) and seek to achieve standards of facilities that meet NSW specifications for holding state and/or regional carnivals. Such carnivals are usually held over a weekend and therefore generate significant cash-flow into the local economy.

The regional and district sports grounds are geographically spread throughout Goulburn (e.g. Carr Confoy in the south-east, Cookbundoon in the north-east, Workers Arena in the south, Poidevin in the southwest). While this is not ideal it does allow for major games to be played concurrently without placing stress on facilities (e.g. car parking). In addition, the spatial separation is not so great that it creates major barriers for local residents. Goulburn is a city with high levels of car ownership and all facilities are within a short drive of most residents to access these facilities. While there are clear opportunities to better utilise existing facilities by providing for multiple sports in the one location, it is considered that the dispersed nature of the regional facilities is not a significant issue. However, this planning approach relies on improvements to cycle/pedestrian linkages between facilities and to/from residential areas to improve modes of active travel.

With regard to district and local level sports grounds, it is considered that priority should be given to facilities that cater for multi-use of the ground. This priority could be by way of Council's support for State Government Grant Funding. The emphasis on multi—use facilities results in economies of scale in the costs associated with amenities buildings, change rooms, lighting, irrigation infrastructure and the like. It also assists in the ongoing maintenance burden for the sports groups, Council and wider community.

Actions

1. Council **target selected sports** with a rapidly increasing membership base (e.g. touch football, hockey, netball etc) and seek to achieve standards of facilities that meet state specifications for holding state and/or regional carnivals.
2. Council encourage the use and ongoing development of sports grounds that **facilitate multi-use**, either by sports 'overlapping' (e.g. cricket/AFL) or operating side-by-side (e.g. netball/touch football)
3. Council accept that the **dispersed nature of the regional facilities** within Goulburn meets current and forecast future needs and does not seek to establish additional new sports centres. However, there be opportunities to consolidate sports facilities within Victoria Park, close to the city centre. This could include Cricket, AFL, Cycling and Athletics.
4. Council continue with **ongoing development at Carr Confoy Park** to achieve a regional standard for the range of sports (touch football, netball, hockey, junior league/union). That additional land area be identified for expansion of each of the sports played at Carr Confoy, including allocation of land for additional parking.
5. Council allocate funding to **improve the pedestrian connection** from Carr Confoy Park to the CBD. The current pedestrian bridge at the railway station, the underpass adjacent to Blackshaw Road (south) and level crossing at Blackshaw Road (north) are not adequate to enable ease of pedestrian/cycle movement from residential areas to the sports facilities. Improvement of these connections will also provide benefits for the pedestrian/cycle network as a whole.
6. Council review the **Victoria Park Master Plan** to consider opportunities to:
 - Reconfigure Prell Oval with the aim of achieving an AFL/cricket ground with a playing surface of approximately 160m length, together with adequate run-off areas.
 - Prell Oval should be established as the premier cricket/AFL ground within Goulburn.
 - Reconfigure Seiffert Oval to provide an oval-shaped velodrome plus athletics facilities adjacent to the velodrome
 - This will necessitate adjustment to a range of other facilities and structures adjacent to the existing ovals.
7. Council review the 2008-2018 **Bicycle Strategy** to ensure opportunities for improved linkages from residential areas to sports fields are implemented.

8. With regard to **specific sports** in Goulburn the following actions are recommended based on the assessment of the existing facilities together with feedback received from the various sports clubs:

i. Hockey

Goulburn Hockey has formed a working party to pursue development at Carr Confoy Park as the preferred location of a new regional hockey facility.

Goulburn Mulwaree Council has supported this proposal and allocated initial funds and prepared a development plan to facilitate hockey at Carr Confoy Park. The development plan incorporates two water based synthetic turf fields and two multi-use grass fields constructed to the east of the netball courts.

It is considered that the development of a Regional Level hockey facility at Carr Confoy Park is an appropriate outcome consistent with good open space planning principles. The ongoing development of the site to provide facilities that will enable regional (and State level) carnivals is a positive outcome for the sport and for Goulburn and the ongoing development should be supported by Council.

ii. Netball

The Goulburn netball facilities are located within Carr Confoy Park and comprise 9 asphalt courts and two grass courts. The club caters for players from the wider region and has about 130 active players. The popularity of Netball is growing with 2018 experiencing the highest participation in the sport locally.

The location and number of courts is considered appropriate to cater for the short, medium and long term. The club is happy to be part of a multi-use sports complex. However, the level of provision of facilities is the key issue. The club does not have the required standard of facilities to hold carnivals, it does not have separate storage facilities and adequate female change rooms.

The ability for netball to hold state/regional carnivals is seen as a positive economic and social contribution for Goulburn and improvements to facilities at Carr Confoy Park can be combined with other users, such as Hockey and Touch Football.

It is considered that Council support investment in netball facilities at Carr Confoy Park (including the likely need that the existing grass surface netball courts should be upgraded to provide a high quality acrylic resin surface) to achieve a regional standard of facilities catering for state/regional carnivals, as well as local competition.

iii. Touch Football

Touch Football is based at Carr Confoy park and played over warmer months. There are 7 touch football fields providing for the current level of competition. However, the sport is expanding and this should be encouraged by Council. Due to the limited times that the sport can be played, the option of intensifying competition on existing fields to additional evenings is not the best option. Additional playing fields are seen as a better outcome for the sport. There appears to be additional land at Carr Confoy Park that could potentially accommodate another 4 touch football sized playing fields.

It is considered that the Development Plan for Carr Confoy Park should be reviewed to consider the incorporation of additional playing fields for touch football. The need for additional fields needs to be resolved, without impact on proposals for additional sports including hockey and netball to be located at Carr Confoy

iv. Football (Soccer)

The majority of soccer competitions, particularly for junior soccer are held at the Cookbundoon Sporting Complex. This soccer facility provides a combined centre for different age competitions providing distinct advantages for families compared to dispersed fields across the city. The location and number of fields is considered appropriate to cater for the short, medium and long term needs of this sporting code. The level of provision of facilities is the key issue. In this regard, there is an opportunity to improve parking arrangements, both for soccer players/families and for patrons to the Racecourse.

It is considered that Council support investment in the soccer facilities at Cookbundoon to achieve a level of facility that is capable of holding regional as well as local competitions.

Council should encourage the Soccer Club to work with the Race Club to review parking and access arrangements to prepare a plan that facilitates improved parking and traffic management for patrons of both facilities.

v. Australian Rules Football (AFL)

The Goulburn AFL senior team plays in the regional competition (4th Grade AFL Canberra) which includes teams from the ACT, Yass, Queanbeyan and Batemans Bay. Goodhew Oval is the 'home' of AFL but other grounds such as Prell Oval in Victoria Park and cricket grounds are also used.

The level of facilities at Goodhew Oval are very basic and do not support the AFL Club if it proposes to advance the sport to regional competition standards

Due to steady player numbers it is considered that the establishment of Goodhew Oval as the AFL 'home' is appropriate, provided that the single use of this site can support the required ongoing improvements to facilities. Demand for additional grounds is not likely to emerge in the short-medium term. Even if demand did spike, then there are ready options to use other cricket grounds for AFL during the winter.

It is considered that Council should initiate further discussions with the AFL Club and local cricket representatives to identify combined use of the Goodhew Oval where improved facilities would benefit both AFL and Cricket.

Alternatively, that Council work with the AFL Club to relocate their 'home' from Goodhew Park to Prell Oval within Victoria Park, on the basis that Prell Oval can be upgraded to competition size (160m playing length).

vi. Athletics

Hudson Park caters for Little Athletics and Senior Athletics. The facilities at Hudson Park are quite dated and not 'fit for purpose'. The relative enclosure of the park (mostly surrounded by houses and having no main road frontage) results in significant vandalism of club property.

The Athletics Club considered relocating to Carr Confoy park. However, this was only considered feasible if an upgrade of the running track surface was achievable, such as artificial surface. Due to the nature of artificial running surfaces, the flood prone land at Carr Confoy was not an option for the Athletics Club. It is understood that flooding of an artificial running track destroys the surface, noting that such materials are different to that of artificial Hockey field surfaces which can withstand flooding.

It is considered that Council establish a working party involving the Goulburn Athletics Club to investigate the feasibility of relocation of the athletics facilities from Hudson Park to establish a multi-use facility catering for a number of sports.

If relocation could be achieved, the existing site could be considered for redevelopment as a residential area, with revenue gained from land sale to be re-invested in new sporting facilities. A preliminary estimate of residential yield generated by this option is in the order of 40+ dwellings, subject to detailed investigation.

vii. Rugby Union

Goulburn Rugby Union have Poidevin Oval as their 'home'. This oval is on a Department of Land and Water Conservation Reserve and is managed by the Goulburn Rugby Park Trust. The facilities appear to be well developed to meet the needs of the sport. The club fields senior teams in the regional competition and also have local junior, golden oldies and women's teams.

It is considered that Council support ongoing investment by the Rugby Club in Simon Poidevin Oval as the home of Rugby Union for the region. Further, it is considered that other facilities at Carr Confoy Park continue to be developed as a regional facility for junior rugby union.

viii. Rugby League

The Goulburn Rugby League Club competes in the Canberra Raiders Cup at a regional level, against teams from the ACT, Queanbeyan and Yass. The principal competition field is within the Goulburn Workers Arena, but North Park is also used for junior competitions and other senior games. North Park includes three fields, although two fields are reduced size for junior play. The park can host junior rugby league carnivals.

North Park is also a venue for cricket matches in warmer months.

It is considered that the main rugby league facility continues to be located within the privately owned Workers Arena, and that facilities at North Park continue to be developed as a regional facility for junior rugby league

ix. Cricket

The Goulburn District Cricket Association hosts eleven cricket teams that play on fields dispersed across Goulburn, including:

- Carr Confoy (Ovals 1-4)
- East Grove (Oval 1)
- North Park (Ovals 1-2)
- Seiffert Oval + Prell Oval (within Victoria Park)
- Trinity College (Wexted Oval + Oval 2)

It is considered that Prell Oval within Victoria Park be identified as the main cricket oval, allowing Sieffert Oval, Carr Confoy and other local fields to be used as required for junior cricket

x. BMX

The Goulburn BMX facility is a degraded facility located off Albion St adjacent to the PCYS and the Wollondilly River. The BMX club has ambitious plans for the facility and have been consulting with a US based company who have designed a new track and facilities which would accommodate junior and senior competitions.

It is considered that Council should initiate further discussions with the BMX Club, together with the PCYC to identify combined use of the Albion St parkland areas with the aim of flood proofing the existing BMX track, or relocating the track out of the flood plain.

xi. Cycling (track)

The Goulburn Cycle Club host track events from the outdoor velodrome at Sieffert Oval within Victoria Park. The venue is used for track events and competitions during summer and for training during winter. The track is circular having a length of 400m with a good quality bitumen surface. The facility includes a grandstand and toilets. The circular rack is not consistent with current competition standards which usually have two straights with 180-degree circular bends.

It is considered that Council should initiate further discussions with the Goulburn Cycle Club, together with the Athletics Club and Cricket Association to identify alternative use of the area of Victoria Park to facilitate cycling, athletics, cricket and AFL.

xii. Speedway

The Speedway Club advised has been located on a site at Governors Hill (Mt Gray) since about 1972 that privately owned by the Club. The Club serves regional NSW but can host national competitions. Although the site is only about 100m off Sydney road, access is only available via Speedway Road which requires visitors to traverse 1½km off Sydney Road through the bushland area. The area of land available to the Club is not sufficient to meet current or future needs, particularly with the increasing use of large trailers and trucks used to haul race vehicles. The speedway track is within a RU6-Transition Zone and the adjoining land to the west is an environmental conservation area.

It is considered that Council should support the Speedway Club to investigate options to expand their land area and, if appropriate facilitate rezoning of the subject site and adjacent land. The investigations should address more appropriate means of access to the site, directly from Sydney Road.

xiii. Fishing

Recreational fishing is acknowledged as a popular recreational activity in and around Goulburn. Popular locations include Marsden Weir, Pejar Dam and Wollondilly River. Access to some areas is denied due to priorities for maintaining water quality (e.g. Sooley Dam). Council has formed a recreational fishing party working group to investigate and recommend sites that could be developed and the facilities needed.

It is considered that the formation of the Recreational Fishing Working Party is an appropriate step forward in furthering the opportunities for recreational fishing. In addition, Council could consider specific opportunities as part of any future review of Plans of Management for the individual Crown Reserves.



9. **Marulan** – The existing soccer fields are subject to high levels of use and an expanded facility will be required to meet long term future needs. The dormant cricket ground provides an opportunity for re-use as soccer fields, however, this would split the use which is not ideal. Ongoing master planning of the Marulan soccer facility is required which should investigate the opportunity to increase the number of junior soccer fields on this site, possibly through relocation of the skate bowl.
10. **Villages** – While some small villages (Tallong, Tarago, Bungonia, Lake Bathurst, Towrang) do not have facilities where competition sports can be held, it is not considered necessary at this time to acquire land for the provision of sports fields. The existing population in these villages do not warrant the provision of competition standard sports fields. In addition, the existing sports field at Tarago is considered to meet projected future needs.

Strategy for Parks

Parks are mainly used by local communities with Goulburn, but in some cases receive regional and interstate visitors.

The following strategies are considered appropriate for Council to address in the on-going provision and maintenance of these facilities.

Actions

1. **Riverside Walk** should continue to be developed. This linear parkway has the potential to be Goulburn's 'string of pearls' with activity nodes at intervals along the path. Completion of the path will facilitate recreational and commuter use by linking residential areas to the CBD and sports grounds.
2. Council should continue to provide a series of **pathways to link areas of open space**. In addition to the ongoing development of the Riverside Walk, there are opportunities to link other facilities including the wetlands, heritage sites, and the like. Casual walking is identified as the most common recreation activity and the ongoing development of linkages between facilities will enhance this activity.
3. **Local parks** should be within a convenient 5 minute walk of 95% of residents within the urban area of Goulburn
4. There is an **oversupply of local pocket parks** within specific precincts within Goulburn. However, these parks contribute to the character of the city and are integral to the amenity and heritage values of residential areas.
5. The oversupply of local parks allows Council and the community to focus on the **potential public use** of these spaces. It is common for residents to expect that all parks will be mown, irrigated, and have play facilities, at significant cost to Council. However, there is an opportunity to further consider the diversity of functions and types of parks available and explore opportunities for rationalisation of some parks.
6. Council should encourage residents surrounding parkland areas to be actively involved in the **future use of parks** with the aim of the community contributing to their future use, possibly through tree planting (if shade areas are desired) or establishing community gardens rather than a focus on upgrading play equipment.



7. Council implement a **footpath policy** that gives priority to new footpaths to local parks, including assessment of hazardous pedestrian crossing points
8. Provide **thematic tree planting** at local parks, which relates to the surrounding streets.
9. **Facilities within local parks** should reflect the demographics of the immediate area (e.g. playgrounds where there are young families, paved areas for half-court basketball where there are older children/young adults and community gardens or shade trees and seating where there are older people)
10. **Maintain high standards of maintenance** for those open spaces (e.g. Belmore Park) that are likely to be used by out-of-town visitors as well as by residents from across the urban area.

Strategy for Specialised Facilities

The GMC area has a range of specialised facilities including motor sports, equestrian facilities, greyhound racing and dog training.

This study concludes that no further special provision of these facilities is required, but that Council provide on-going support to ensure their continued viability.

In particular there is an excellent opportunity for ongoing development of the Mt Gray speedway facility to provide regional level motorcycle sports facilities.

Strategy for Natural Areas

Goulburn is fortunate in having access to several natural areas close to the urban area.

Whilst not used by large numbers of residents, the importance of these areas as both environmental resources as well as potential areas for certain forms of low-impact recreation (e.g. bushwalks) mean that they are importance elements in the overall open space spectrum.

It is noted that natural areas are often subject to competing land use demands where specific sports clubs or other land users may identify natural areas as being under utilised and therefore appropriate for long term use as sports fields, e.g. Cookbundoon, West Goulburn.

To avoid conflicts Council should consider mechanisms such as early consultation with key stakeholders and, where necessary, undertake site assessments to consider the significance of the natural area.

Allocation of funding for plans of management, and provision of facilities appropriate to user requirements (e.g. parking areas; information boards; selected toilet facilities) will be important in managing future use of these assets.

It is also desirable as part of good recreation planning to link natural areas to cycling facilities and walking trails where possible, but without interfering with the natural values of the areas. The study has identified opportunities to connect linear parks to create circuits around the urban area.

Council endorse proposed connections to the existing linear park network to create a series of loops around Goulburn.



Opportunities for rationalisation

As discussed above, opportunities for rationalisation of sporting facilities is a desirable goal in the wider recreation planning context, especially where funding for provision of new facilities and /or maintenance of existing facilities is tight.

In reviewing all of the sporting facilities in the GMC area, this study has considered the scope for co-location of facilities but in the context of the specific requirements of individual sporting codes.

Having a “home ground” or space to call one’s own is important for individuality of sporting teams. Often the home ground has been established by the hard work of code players and their support groups over a long period of time. Changing the location of a home ground through plans to co-locate can also be traumatic for the affected organisation and should not occur without substantial consultation with all stakeholders.

In some cases, the scope for relocation can result in an opportunity for redevelopment of the vacated site for new urban development, with revenue generated being used for investment in new sporting facilities.

Several co-location opportunities have been identified in the study and are recommended for further consideration by Council but only in conjunction with all affected stakeholders, and only on the basis that there is a net gain for all stakeholders. Examples include Athletics and AFL.

New Statutory Planning Provisions

As stated above, it is considered that the land areas provided for district and regional level sports facilities and open space areas are adequately catered for to meet current and projected needs. However, the provision of local parks within the newly developing areas of Goulburn City are not sufficiently addressed in Council’s planning instruments (e.g. Local Environment Plan and Development Control Plan).

It is recommended that Council include a provision in DCP 2009 that requires future residential subdivisions to address the following planning controls:

- At least 95% of all residential allotments shall be within 400m walking distance (measured along roadways and dedicated pathways, not a straight line distance)
- Where a subdivision proposes to create allotments that are not within 400m of an existing park, an area of at least 2,500m² shall be identified within the subdivision for dedication to Council as a public reserve.
- The area required for dedication as public open space may incorporate drainage reserve, flood prone land and/or natural areas, but shall include a contiguous area of at least 1,000m² to enable establishment of a playground area.
- The above provisions apply to all residential subdivisions of 10 allotments or more.

The above provisions are considered to be an interim measure pending more detailed structure planning within the identified urban release areas. The existing DCP structure plans address water management, road network, environmental characteristics and the like, however, do not adequately address the provision of local parks (other than within drainage reserves).

In established areas any redevelopment will be subject to Section 94 contributions that will be allocated to improvements to existing open space facilities.

Purdon Planning in association with Anthony Burton & Associates

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1 Introduction

Recreation facilities and open spaces are a critical part of the Goulburn Mulwaree area, making an important contribution to health and emotional well-being of the community as well as making a material economic contribution to the local area (LGA).

The preparation of a **Recreational Needs Strategy** will give Council the basic framework for the future provision of recreational facilities in the local government area. This framework is based on an objective assessment of existing and future community needs, the existing nature and distribution of recreational and open space assets and a strong community input to the planning process.

A strategy which considers how to best manage the existing network of recreational assets as well as making appropriate provision for newer parts of the urban area is seen as a vital part of Council's forward planning as well as the basis for decisions regarding new capital works and maintenance.

1.1 Purpose

The **Recreational Needs Strategy** will identify demand for facilities based on localities and projected population within the Goulburn Mulwaree local government area to 2038. The purpose of the strategy is to make an assessment of the current provision of recreational areas and provide recommendations on viable locations of future facilities where it may be required and re-classifying facilities in areas with a surplus of recreation space.

This Recreational Needs Strategy will provide Council with a framework for addressing the following key matters:

- An inventory of what assets are located where in the urban area, including information about their key attributes and catchment areas
- Costs and benefits of the recreational facility network
- An assessment of demand for a range of recreation facilities including demographic changes and user patterns
- Trends in the use and provision of recreation facilities in other localities
- Guidelines for the provision of open spaces and recreation facilities in new urban areas
- Advice on the location of new recreation facilities including priorities for new sporting facilities

Throughout this report the terms "recreation" and "open space" are used interchangeably but include the full spectrum of outdoor open spaces from pocket parks to sports fields to racecourses and bushland reserves, as well as indoor sporting facilities including basketball.



1.2 Objectives

The **Recreational Needs Strategy** for the Goulburn Mulwaree Council area will provide Council with clear recommendations to meet the present and future recreational land needs of the community through the provision of appropriate facilities and services to 2038.

The project has the following objectives:

- To research and identify the demands for open space and recreational facilities of the Goulburn Mulwaree community;
- To research and analyse trends in participation in active and passive recreation and use of public open space specific to the study area demographics;
- To identify gaps in the requirements for and provision of existing open space and recreational facilities;
- To identify possibilities for equitably addressing gaps in recreational facility and open space supply and demand;
- To inform Council's approach to any rationalisation of open space with appropriate consideration of active, passive and natural usage as well as place-based analysis of need; and
- To provide recommendations that allow for the development of a clear policy framework to meet Goulburn Mulwaree's open space, recreational facility and service needs to 2038

1.3 Study Area

The Recreation Needs Strategy is a Council-wide study that addresses the recreational needs of the whole Goulburn Mulwaree Council area (Figure 1). However, as Goulburn City is the dominant urban area within the Council and the primary location for the vast majority of recreational facilities, the main focus of the study is on Goulburn (Figure 2).

Notwithstanding, the study reviews and assesses the recreation facilities in Marulan and each of the rural villages and provides recommendations for future planning and provision in these localities.

1.4 Background

1.4.1 Recreational Planning

Any community has a range of recreational facilities that have a hierarchy of catchment areas. Some facilities serve the whole urban community, the surrounding region and often much further afield. Other facilities serve a much smaller local community. River corridor walkways can serve small communities along their length or a wider community choosing to use the extended trails.

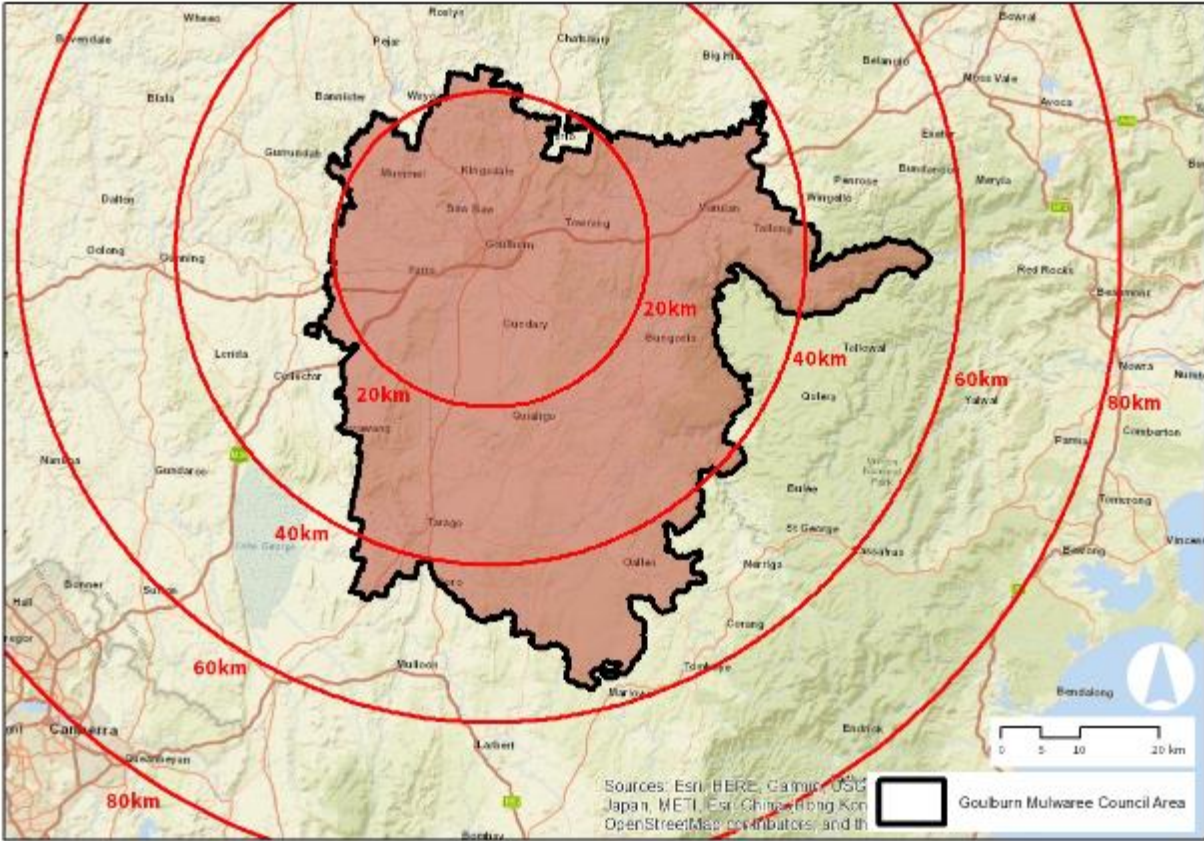
Not all neighbourhoods in an urban area will have immediate access to the full range of recreation facilities in their own area. Hence the need for convenient location of major facilities with good access to all parts of the city and region. Some recreation facilities can be more readily provided in smaller catchment areas for district or local use.

Recreational facilities provide a valuable public service and benefit to the community. They can be delivered in both public and private settings (e.g. a public park or swimming pool versus a private gym

or equestrian centre). However, recreational facilities can be expensive to establish and to maintain in a manner that is attractive and safe for users.

Detailed recreational planning concepts and preferred methodology can be found in Section 3 – Recreational Planning Concepts.

Figure 1: Goulburn Mulwaree Council & Region



Source: Purdon planning, 2018



Source: Goulburn Post



1.4.1 Goulburn Mulwaree Context

The Goulburn Mulwaree council area is located in central New South Wales, about 200 kilometres south-west of the Sydney CBD, and 95 kilometres north-east of the Canberra CBD. It covers an area of 3,293 square kilometres and includes the town of Marulan and a number of small village communities including: Bungonia, Lake Bathurst, Tallong, Tarago, and Towrang.

Recent population estimates (2017) indicate 30,438 people living in the Goulburn Mulwaree council area and an ageing population due to the combined effects of relatively low childbearing levels, increasing life expectancy and internal migration of retirees (*Southern NSW Local Health District: Our Population, October 2016*).

Most of Goulburn Mulwaree's population lives in Goulburn, and the major employment sectors are retail trade, health care and social assistance, and school education. The largest segment of the population is parents and homebuilders aged 35-49 (18.6%) followed by older workers and pre-retirees, and the young workforce. Together these groups represent 44% of the Goulburn Mulwaree population.

Additional demographic information on The Goulburn Mulwaree Council area can be found in Section 8.

Population projections indicate that Goulburn Mulwaree will see a 9% increase in its population from 2016 to 2026 levels, with a 34% increase in those aged 65+ in that period. These projections represent a significant increase in growth compared with recent years and will generate more demand for a range of urban services including recreation.

1.4.2 Goulburn Mulwaree Recreational Planning Hierarchy

The Goulburn urban area has a substantial and widespread network of recreational spaces and facilities that service the local community as well as the wider region and beyond. Other towns and villages in the wider LGA also have a range of sporting facilities and other public open spaces. These open space facilities add to the character and amenity of the city and support the heritage values of the area as well as catering to the needs of a modern and growing city.

The city provides recreational facilities across the full spectrum of activity ranging from small undeveloped pocket parks to large formal gardens, sporting fields, aquatic centre, golf courses, tennis and basketball courts, as well as a network of more natural open spaces along river corridors and adjacent areas. All of these facilities contribute in their own way to the health, amenity and prosperity of the urban area.

However, the development, location and distribution of these facilities has occurred in an ad hoc fashion over a long period of time in response to a variety of initiatives and circumstances. This has led to a situation where the facilities are unevenly spread and, in some cases, underutilised.

Not all recreational facilities are provided and managed by Council. There are a number of private recreational facilities in Goulburn, as in other urban areas, that contribute to the overall network of resources. Whilst these facilities are often restricted in use to members and/or invited guests, they nevertheless play an important role in the overall health and well-being of the wider community.

In some cases, open space resources such as school ovals that traditionally have been used by the local community are now less accessible because of security measures that restrict out of hours usage. It should be noted however, that some of these "restricted access" facilities are made available by schools for interschool competitions or limited week-end use, so still form part of the wider recreational infrastructure base.



The nature of Goulburn city is changing, and this is putting pressure on existing facilities and the way in which open space is used. Council is concerned about the high cost of maintenance of existing facilities and their ability to maintain existing as well as additional areas. However, this must be balanced with the on-going amenity and health needs of the Goulburn Mulwaree community.

The changing nature of the city such as changing demographic patterns, changing leisure preferences and behaviours, and differing capabilities of older and younger people means that the areas and types of public open spaces provided by Council must be reconsidered.

Investment in recreation facilities is an important component of the services provided by Council and this allocation of public funding is warranted to ensure long term benefits to the community, and versatility to adapt to future needs.





2 Methodology

This section summarises the Study Brief and explains how the study was undertaken.

2.1 Scope of the Study

The scope of this Recreation Needs Strategy was guided by a 'Study Brief' provided by Goulburn Mulwaree Council. In summary the Study Brief includes;

- (a) Undertake a desktop audit of existing sports grounds and facility provision within the local government area including Council owned and managed land, Crown Lands that are managed outside of Council, vacant Crown Lands with a trustee, and other private or public sporting grounds and facilities.
- (b) The audit is to identify: buildings/development on the site; the range of sporting activities the site provides for; an assessment of the catchment that the facility services (e.g. local, regional); POMs or other plans governing its use; tenure, leases and or licences; an assessment of the sites capacity; and current usage/participation data for existing sports grounds (for statistical demand analysis).
- (c) Review relevant studies, reports, strategic documents and plans to inform recreational needs study recommendations for the Goulburn community over the short (2018-2021), medium (2022-2027) and long term (2028-2038) based on population projections and catchments/localities.
- (d) The review should draw on recreational trends and contemporary best practice in recreation grounds and facilities planning and participation;
- (e) Provide detail of the health benefits, economic costs and benefits, environmental benefits and links to natural/biodiversity values. Any assessment should consider the dual function of a recreation space such as link to existing drainage reserves and native vegetation remnants.
- (f) Consult specifically with the current sports working parties regarding existing sports grounds and facility provision, patterns of use, opportunities and constraints;
- (g) Consult more broadly with the community in preparation of the draft Strategy and during its public exhibition period.
- (h) Provide detailed recommendations on viable locations for sporting facilities (if additional facilities required). Connections and accessibility to recreational facilities should be considered including pedestrian, cycling connections and car parking requirements.
- (i) Review the Goulburn area's demographics over the short, medium and long term including population projections, changing age cohorts, and changing patterns of population distribution and emerging issues.
- (j) Provide recommendations on projected future demands within catchment/locality areas over the short, medium and long term, ensuring such recommendations are based on sound evidence. The recommendations should include:
 - i. a weighting for sports grounds in order of priority needs;
 - ii. a spatial representation that highlights tenure and demand that is compatible with Council's GIS system and can be incorporated as a data layer



2.2 Approach

The approach adopted by the Consultant team to this Recreation Needs Study, in response to the Study Brief issued by Council is outlined below and summarised in Figure 3:

- Review recent 'best-practice' Recreation Planning documentation
- Review Council Planning Strategies
- Review and supplement data provided by Council in relation to the audit of open spaces
- Undertake a demographic analysis at the 'precinct' level within Goulburn
- Prepare base mapping to identify all areas of open space
- Carry out field inspection of the open space facilities
- Provide commentary on recreational trends and contemporary best practice in recreation grounds and facilities planning and participation
- Provide detail of the health benefits, environmental benefits, economic costs and benefits.
- Email and telephone contact with sports and community groups
- Face-to-face meetings with sports groups where requested
- Initiate an on-line community survey
- Provide recommendations for the recreational needs strategy.

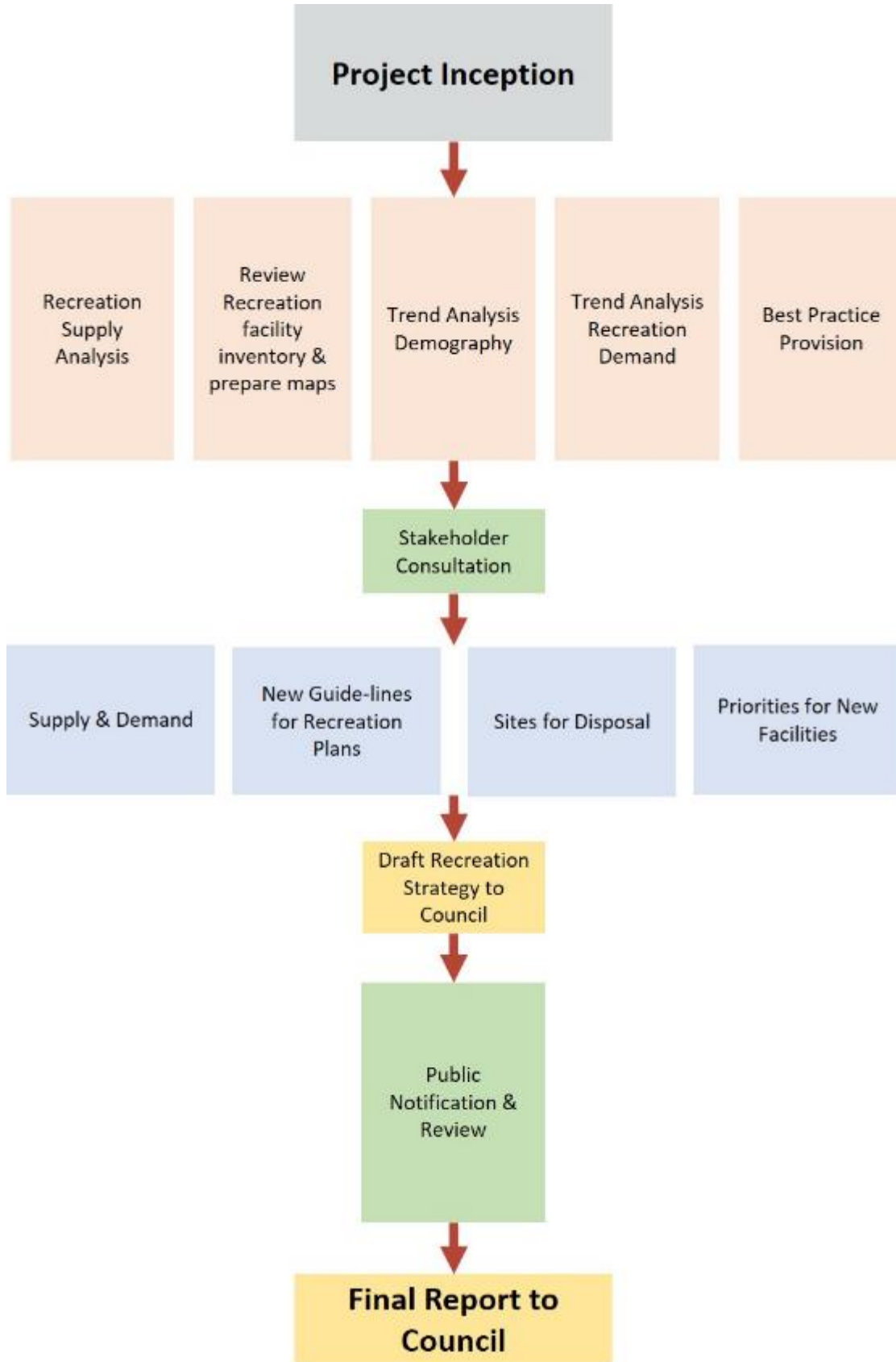
The preferred approach to recreation planning, adopted for this strategy is effectively an amalgam of the above approaches. Firstly, the function and use of each of the parks and sports grounds has been classified consistent with the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) approach. This has resulted in the classification of open spaces as follows:

- Sports Grounds and Parks (within Goulburn)
 - Regional.
 - District.
 - Local.
- Sports grounds and Parks within Towns and Villages
- Natural Areas
- Specialised Centres/Facilities
- Indoor Facilities

In addition, local Parks have been assessed based on proximity to and accessibility for local residents having regard to the function of the park in the context of the local demographic characteristics.

The hierarchy of facilities and functional classification is explained in detail below.

Figure 3: Study Flowchart





2.2.1 Hierarchy of Facilities and Spaces

Identification of a hierarchy of facilities and spaces based on the function of the space allows for a practical assessment of recreational needs within the Council area. The establishment of a hierarchy including state/national, regional, district and local level facilities for both sports grounds and parks is considered an appropriate approach.

However, the establishment of a hierarchy is not appropriate for other forms of recreation spaces, such as natural areas, riverside walkways and the like.

In addition, an area of open space can have multiple functions and sit within different levels in a hierarchy. For example, a sports ground can have a primary purpose as a district sports ground and a secondary purpose as a local recreation park. In this study, the overall/final classification of the land parcel is determined by its primary function.

Sports Grounds

Includes all open space areas which have spaces and facilities dedicated to sporting use, such as ovals and fields. Some outdoor sports grounds and court areas are restricted for use by club members at all times, while others are available for general community use. Most types of playing fields can also be used for unstructured recreation activities outside the times set aside for organised competition.

Sports Grounds are further categorised into a Sports Grounds Hierarchy depending on their size, catchment area, and level of sport played (relates to scale and standard of facilities).

The suggested classifications within the proposed Sports Grounds Hierarchy and their respective definitions are as follows.

- *State/National* – specialised facilities for elite level competition
- *Regional Sports Ground* – formal sports field/ovals and courts maintained to state regulations for the sporting codes and able to host events and carnivals.
- *District Sports Ground* – cater for training and competition and are normally the “headquarter” ground or centre for clubs.
- *Local Sports Ground* – generally used for casual sports and informal areas where children may arrange an ‘ad-hoc’ game. Not usually maintained to a competition standard.

Parks

Parks are open space areas used mostly for casual recreation, rather than organised sports. Parks occur in numerous sizes and shapes, as they are not limited to the specific dimensions of a sports field. The Parks are further categorised into a hierarchy depending on their size, catchment area, and prime function of use, being: Regional (such as Belmore Park); District (such as Victoria Park); and Local parks.

Within the hierarchy of parks there are a range of ‘functional’ parks including: Ornamental/Utility Parks; Linear parks and formal park

3 Recreation Planning Concepts

This section identifies, analyses and critiques approaches to open space and recreational planning used by local and state governments in Australia.

These approaches include:

- *Traditional Approach* which is primarily quantitative setting an area allocation for open space per 1,000 people;
- *Area Approach* which establish a proportion of land area in urban release areas (or the whole town/city) to be dedicated as public open space (e.g. 5% of total development area)
- *Radial Analysis* which uses location and population assessment;
- *Recreation Opportunity Spectrum* which is a classification method;
- *Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC)* model is a system used to assess the relationship between recreational use and its existing and/or potential impact.
- *Interconnected Park Systems Model*, which identifies open and recreational spaces by their interconnectedness to like facilities and areas.

This study concludes that no single method below is entirely appropriate as a stand-alone concept; and has therefore adopted a more holistic interpretation of these approaches applicable to the Goulburn-Mulwaree area.

3.1 Traditional Approach

The traditional approach to recreational needs assessment is focused around area 'standards'. These standards compare the population and density against a geographical area. This traditional approach has origins that date back to the late 19th century in Britain. Since then, several variations of the standard approach have been used in Britain, America and Australia.

In Australia, the most widely used standard provision for this approach is 2.83ha/1,000 people (originally being 7 acres per 1,000 people. This is further refined to allocate 1.62ha/1,000 for active recreation uses and 1.21ha/1,000 for passive recreation areas. This model has been used largely by local and state governments as guidelines and expectations around delivering open space.

The criticism of this method is that it fails to address several other considerations critical to successful open space planning, such as the quality of open spaces, type of uses, accessibility and the demand for the space. Additionally, a limitation of this method is that it does not consider fluctuating population size and structure over time.

Whilst this method has been widely used in open space planning, it is generally no longer accepted or implemented – especially at local level governments.

3.2 Area Approach

The 'Area Approach' is sometimes used as a basic tool for new urban release areas but can also be applied to established areas. The approach is quite simplistic as it effectively sets a planning control that requires dedication of a certain percentage of the development area for public open space. The area usually is a figure between 5-10% of the total development area, and most commonly 10%. For



example, if a new urban release area had an overall area of 100ha, an area of 10ha would need to be dedicated as public open space through the subdivision process.

While this approach is an easy measure to implement, it usually results in the lowest value real estate being dedicated as public open space. This is usually flood plain, drainage reserves or very steep land that couldn't otherwise be developed for residential purposes. In many cases compliance with the planning control actually resulted in an ongoing burden to the Council and no net benefit for the public.

3.3 Radial Analysis

The Radial approach assesses the proximity of a population to a specific use. For example, it measures the proportion of the local population within a specific distance (often 400m) from an area of open space. Similarly, to the standards approach, it does not consider qualitative values.

3.4 Recreation Opportunity Spectrum

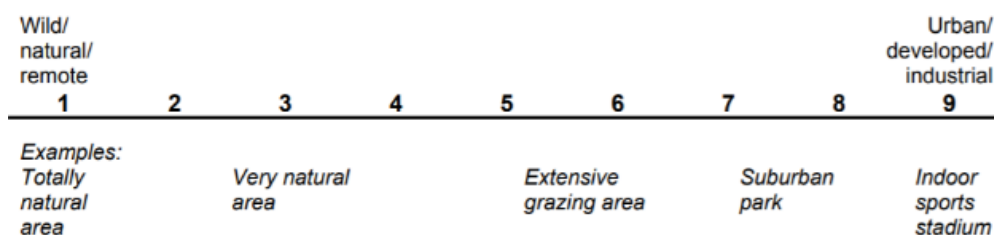
The Recreational Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) is a means of classifying spaces to identify the relationship between recreational spaces and settings, and activities and experiences. By classifying uses according to setting, an analysis of open space and gaps in opportunities can be determined.

This method was designed for large recreational areas and lacks a formal framework. As explained by Maruani & Amit-Cohen (2007): *'It is not a systematic outcome of any specific guiding principle. It therefore does not ensure a sufficient response to the population's needs, nor provides for appropriate protection of natural resources'*.

The 'micro-ROS' concept was proposed by Jubenville (1989) and Richards and Heywood (1999) as a means of providing a framework for smaller scale localities. This was further adapted and called the Landscape Classification System (LCS) by Parkin et al (2000), whereby the classing system was refined, and conditions (rather than features) were introduced.

Unlike the original ROS, the LCS appreciates that: 'naturalness can be expressed on a range from wild-natural-remote to urban-developed-industrial, depending on the proportion of natural and human modified elements in the landscape' (Parkin et al, 2000).

The LCS identifies nine classes that could be further subdivided if the circumstance requires (diagram below). Determining the landscape class requires an assessment against the descriptors: biophysical; social; and managerial. Whilst this refined method is much more robust and specific in comparison to the original ROS, this method still lacks quantitative data measures and therefore remains entirely subjective.



3.5 Limits of Acceptable Change

The Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) model is a system used to assess the relationship between recreational use and its existing and/or potential impact. The model identifies the level of use that an area can accommodate until deterioration of resources (both natural and urban) occur, as well as the other social, ecological or economic impacts.

The LAC approach is a standalone concept; however, the process requires a ROS assessment at the beginning of the process to assist in the identification of carrying capacity.

This model was originally intended for assessment of reserves and large natural areas, rather than smaller sites in urban areas.

3.6 Interconnected Park System Model

The Interconnected Park System (sometimes referred to as the Park System Model) is a concept whereby the open spaces and recreational assets of a locality are interrelated and/or interconnected.

A well known example of this approach is the Abercrombie 1943/1944 plan for London, which explained summarised the intent of the concept is that:

‘Adequate open space for both recreation and rest is a vital factor in maintaining and improving the health of the people. All forms of open space need to be considered as a whole, and to be coordinated into a closely-linked park system, with parkways along existing and new roads forming the links between the larger parks’ (Greater London Regional Planning Committee as cited in Turner, 1992).

Some examples of park systems use a hierarchical method of planning, whereby gardens and parks are arranged by size and service in relation population hubs.

A criticism of this method is the lack of consideration for recreation facilities such as netball courts and playing fields. The primary focus of this system is the connectivity of parks, gardens, trails and natural features. This would be a sound model for new urban areas and greenfield developments, however in established and existing areas this could be difficult to implement due to the distribution of existing infrastructure.

3.7 Guiding Principles

There are generally 3 types of “open space”:

- Public Open Space: This is land that is set aside for public recreation such as parklands. This may also incorporate active and passive open space.
- Active Open Space: Land set aside for the primary purpose of formal outdoor sports (football, cricket, netball etc).
- Passive Open Space: Open space that is set aside for parks, gardens, linear corridors, conservation bushlands, nature reserves, public squares and community gardens that are made available for passive recreation, play and unstructured physical activity.



Within these spaces there are nuances with regard to definitions. Some of these include:

- Parklands and Gardens
- Conservation and Heritage
- Natural or Semi-natural, landscapes and amenity
- Linear Open Space and Trails
- Civic Spaces
- Utilities and Service corridors
- Undeveloped Lands

In general, the broad principles in planning for public open space should have regard to and be planned around:

- Permanent water bodies, streams and foreshores
- Integrated with floodways and encumbered land that is accessible for public recreation.
- Linked to existing or proposed future public open spaces where appropriate.
- Be suitable for the intended use.
- Be of an area and dimensions to allow easy adaptation to different uses in response to changing community active and passive recreational preferences.
- Maximise passive surveillance.
- Be integrated with urban water management systems, waterways and other water bodies.
- Incorporate natural and cultural features where appropriate.

Contemporary planning in Victoria¹ indicates that open space planning should be undertaken through the lenses of recreational use and conservation of natural and cultural environments. Open space should be considered as part of a network and should ensure that they are:

- Linked, including through the provision of walking and cycling trails.
- Integrated with open space from abutting subdivisions.
- Incorporate, where possible, links between major parks and activity areas, along waterways and natural drainage corridors, connecting places of natural and cultural interest.
- Maintain public accessibility on public land immediately adjoining waterways

The Integrated Open Space Network provides guidance on the amount, distribution and quality of public open spaces (*Open Space Planning and Design Guide*):

Distribution:

A network of quality, well distributed, multi-functional and cost effective open space should be provided catering for a broad range of users that includes:

- Local parks within 400 metre safe walking distance of at least 95 per cent of all dwellings;
- Active open space within 1 kilometre of 95 per cent of all dwellings
- Linear parks and trails, most often along waterways, but also linked to vegetation corridors and road reserves within 1 kilometre of 95 per cent of all dwellings



Quantity

- Residential
 - In residential areas, approximately 10 per cent of the Net Developable Area (NDA) is to be allocated for public open space, of which 6 per cent of the NDA is to be allocated for active open space.
 - In addition, residential precincts should contain active indoor recreation facilities that are collocated and/or share space with schools and integrated community facilities. This should result in an active indoor sports provision of approximately 5 hectares per 60,000 residents
- Major Employment
 - In major employment areas, approximately 2 per cent of the NDA is to be allocated for public open space usually with a passive recreation function.

Integration and Sharing

- Encumbered land (land retained for drainage, electricity, biodiversity and cultural heritage purposes) should be used productively for open space. The network of local and district parks should be efficiently designed to maximise the integration and sharing of space with publicly accessible encumbered land.

Active Open Space

Active open space should be:

- Of an appropriate size, i.e. sufficient to incorporate 2 football/cricket ovals, but small enough to enable regular spacing of active open space provision across the precinct (around 8 hectares).
- Appropriate for its intended open space use in terms of quality and orientation;
- Located on flat land (which can be cost effectively graded);
- Located with access to, or making provision for a recycled or other sustainable water supply;
- Designed to achieve sharing of space between sports; and
- Linked to pedestrian and cycle paths.

Other

Two other major trends in open space planning identified include:

- Risk management
 - spiralling costs of liability insurance premiums have placed added stresses on community organisations and councils.
- Water availability
 - Water is critically important for the management of the landscape and to service the facilities that are located within open space. Water serves a number of functions within open space including the provision of a higher amenity value, creating a focus for both active and passive/informal recreation as well as for use for irrigation of the landscape. While availability and cost of water will always be an issue, the highland sources pipeline and new wastewater treatment plant assists in mitigating the issue for Goulburn Mulwaree Council.

4 Trends in Recreation Planning and Utilisation

This section identifies trends in sporting and recreation activities at National, State and local levels. Data is indicative only.

4.1 National and State trends

The top five reasons identified by the Australian Sports Commission as part of its 2016 “AusPlay” surveys as to why Australians participate in recreation and sport-related activities are (in order of popularity)

1. physical health or fitness
2. fun and enjoyment
3. social reasons
4. mental health/psychological benefits
5. to lose or maintain weight.

The AusPlay surveys highlighted that the number one venue that 26% of the Australian population use is a fitness centre/gym, followed by swimming facilities (8%).

In NSW walking is the most popular “sport” for adults, and swimming is the most popular sport for children. Table 1 summarises the top 10 activities for adults and children in NSW based on the AusPlay research in June 2018).

Table 1: Top 10 Activities (undertaken at least once a year) for adults and children

Adults	% NSW population	Children*	% NSW population
Walking (recreational)	43.6%	Swimming	33.0%
Fitness/gym	35.1%	Football/soccer	18.4%
Swimming	16.6%	Australian football	9.5%
Athletics, track & field (incl jogging & running)	15.1%	Gymnastics	9.0%
Cycling	10.0%	Netball	6.5%
Football	6.8%	Athletics, track & field	6.2%
Bush walking	5.5%	Tennis	5.4%
Tennis	5.1%	Basketball	4.9%
Yoga	5.0%	Cricket	4.4%
Golf	4.8%	Australian football	4.3%

Source: AusPlay Participation data for the sport sector: Summary of key NSW findings (June 2018), Australian Sports Commission
*organised outside of school hours (children up to 14 years)

The above statistics available from the Australian Sports Commission do not include data in relation to recreational fishing. The NSW Department of Primary Industries estimated that in NSW the participation rate for recreational fishing was 17%, but was twice as high in country areas compared to Sydney.

An Intergenerational Review of Australian Sport, 2017, highlighted that in rural Australia, club participation rates are 61% higher for boys and 44% higher for girls than in urban areas, illustrating the importance of sports clubs to rural community connectivity.

However, while people living in rural areas may be more inclined to play sport, there are fewer provisions in rural areas for older adults. Sporting organisations currently prioritise participation of children and adolescents, and not specifically for older adults. Given the ageing population in Goulburn Mulwaree it will be important to consider the needs of older adults in any revisions of sporting and recreational infrastructure.

4.2 Sport and Recreation in Goulburn Mulwaree

In Goulburn Mulwaree there are a range of organised sport and recreation activities on offer including:

- Archery
- Athletics
- Aqua aerobics
- Basketball
- Bushwalking
- Cricket
- Cycling
- Dance
- Darts
- Dog Training & Kennel Club
- Equestrian
- Fitness centres and gyms
- Fishing
- Football (AFL, rugby league, rugby union, soccer)
- Greyhound Racing
- Golf
- Gymnastics
- Hockey
- Harness Racing
- Lawn Bowls
- Little Athletics
- Martial arts
- Motor sports
- Netball
- Pony Club
- Rodeo
- Shooting
- Skating (skate park)
- Swimming
- Softball
- Table tennis
- Tennis
- Touch Football
- Walking & Jogging
- Yoga

During discussions with local sports groups (refer Section 9) some clubs were able to provide estimates of current registration numbers for members or persons involved in local competitions. This data has been converted to participation rates based on the 2016 Goulburn City census population (Table 2).

Anecdotal data from local sports clubs indicates that Soccer and Touch Football are the most popular sports in Goulburn followed by Hockey.

Table 2: Estimates for Selected Sport Participation Rates in Goulburn

Sport	Approximate Number (Adults + Children)	% Goulburn population
Soccer	1,200	5.5%
Hockey	800	3.5%
Touch Football	800	3.5%
Cricket	300	1.5%
Athletics	250	1.0%
Netball	150	0.5%

NOTES:

* Figures provided from discussions with sports club representatives and are estimates only.

* Not all clubs could provide data and no detailed study into club membership was undertaken as part of this study

* Figures do not include school sports activities



Goulburn Mulwaree offers a range of social and recreation clubs and associations including the Country Women's Association, Progress Association, Lions Club, Probus Club, View Club, Rotary Club, Masonic lodges, musical and performance societies, and choirs, as well as 20 other community service groups and clubs, and in excess of 25 special interest clubs and societies.

4.3 Health trends in Goulburn Mulwaree

4.3.1 Children

Goulburn Mulwaree is a regional centre, and as such can be compared to the "rural" findings of the NSW School Physical Activity and Nutrition (SPANS) Survey 2015, spanning school children and adolescents aged 5-16 years.

Key findings for rural NSW school children are that:

- Overweight and obesity amongst primary school-aged children has increased from 17.4% in 2010 to 21.1% in 2015 (however the rates of overweight and obesity amongst rural children are still lower than their urban counterparts)
- 28% of primary school-aged children and 13% of adolescents meet the recommended daily physical activity level
- 58% of primary school-aged children 62% of adolescents are in a "healthy fitness zone"
- Primary school-aged children sit for around 3 hours a day, outside of school hours
- One in four rural primary schools reported the absence of a quality PE or sport program as a barrier to enhancing students' skill development, fitness and physical activity

In NSW 1 in 10 preschool children (aged 3 to 5) show significant mental health problems, including poor emotional, behavioural and social skills, and the rate of mental health problems among children aged 4 to 16 years is about 14%. Children living in disadvantaged families are more than 3 times more likely than those in well-off families to suffer from mental health disorders¹⁷.

4.3.2 Adults

Adults who live outside of a major city have a greater prevalence of overweight and obesity than the NSW state average. In 2011, 58.3% of those living in regional and remote locations were overweight or obese compared to the state average of 52.6% (*NSW Department of Health Statistics 2018*)

- 49.5% of males and 27.9% of females in the Southern NSW Local Health District are overweight, while 27.7% of males and 29.8% of females in the SNSW LHD are obese
- 52.6% of those over 16 participate in adequate physical activity

Notably, female obesity rates are significantly above the national average in Goulburn Mulwaree and the surrounding NSW regions.

In 2015-17 there was a higher rate of potentially preventable hospitalisations in Goulburn Mulwaree compared with the NSW average (2,415 per 100,000 compared with 2,161 per 100,000 in NSW).

In terms of mental health, 10% of people aged 16 years and over experienced high or very high levels of psychological distress in the month prior to being surveyed. The self-harm rate for females aged 15-24 years is higher in the SNSW LHD than the NSW state average and has been increasing since the mid-1990s.



4.4 Trends in Open Space Planning and Use

The key trend in use of open space will drive the future of open space planning. The noted change in participation patterns in sport and leisure including the move toward non-organised structured sport, increased use of technology and increased time pressures will continue to have impacts upon how we plan for open space in the future. With this in mind there are three key Principles in open space planning:

- Accessibility and liveability
 - Acknowledgement of the benefits of open space to social inclusion and health and wellbeing.
 - Open space is highly valued by the community - involvement and engagement is critical.
 - Safe and supportive environments / accessible and equitable across communities.
 - Usability and appropriateness of use (relevant to the primary function of the open space).
 - Well distributed and connected – important role of linkages and connections
 - Meet current and future needs of the community / changing trends in participation and delivery.
 - Partnerships / collaboration (including volunteers) in development and management of open space
- Multi-Functional and adaptable
 - Flexibility and multi-use - encouraging participation.
 - Diversity of opportunities, settings and experiences – balanced and complementary.
 - Integration of public open space across various land owners and managers.
 - Responsive / adaptable to population and demographic change.
 - Minimising risk, conflict and competing interests
- Environmental protection and sustainability
 - Sustainable development – environmental protection / preservation / enhancement.
 - Well maintained, sufficiently resourced and sustainable for future generations.
 - Planned and strategic approach to the delivery of open space.
 - Character – including natural, heritage and cultural features.
 - Community sustainability through contributions to economic, health and social wellbeing.
 - No net loss as population expands and communities change.

It is recognised that open space provides an array of social, health, economic and environmental benefits to individuals and to the community as a whole.

4.5 General Recreation Participation Trends

There is a noted rise in lifestyle, adventure and alternative sports which are particularly popular with younger generations. These sports are characterised by a strong lifestyle element and participants often obtain cultural self-identity and self-expression through these sports (*Hajkowicz, Cook et al 2013*).

The perception is that men have higher levels of participation in leisure activities than women however, when a comprehensive definition of leisure is adopted, while leisure patterns of men are *different* from those of women, the quantum of participation does not significantly favour men (i.e. both men and women participate in similar amounts of recreation) (*AusPlay Surveys, 2016 & 2018*)

While over 17 million Australians aged 15 or over (87%) participated in a sport or physical activity in the last 12 months, non-sport related physical activity is more important as we age.

Figure 4 identifies adult participation in physical activity by age and shows that as the population participation in organised sports declines. Overall participation in individualised sport and fitness activities are on the rise while participation in organised sport is declining (Hajkowicz, Cook et al 2013). In other words, sport clubs are not the main choice for participation in sport or physical activity in Australia for adults aged 18 years and over.

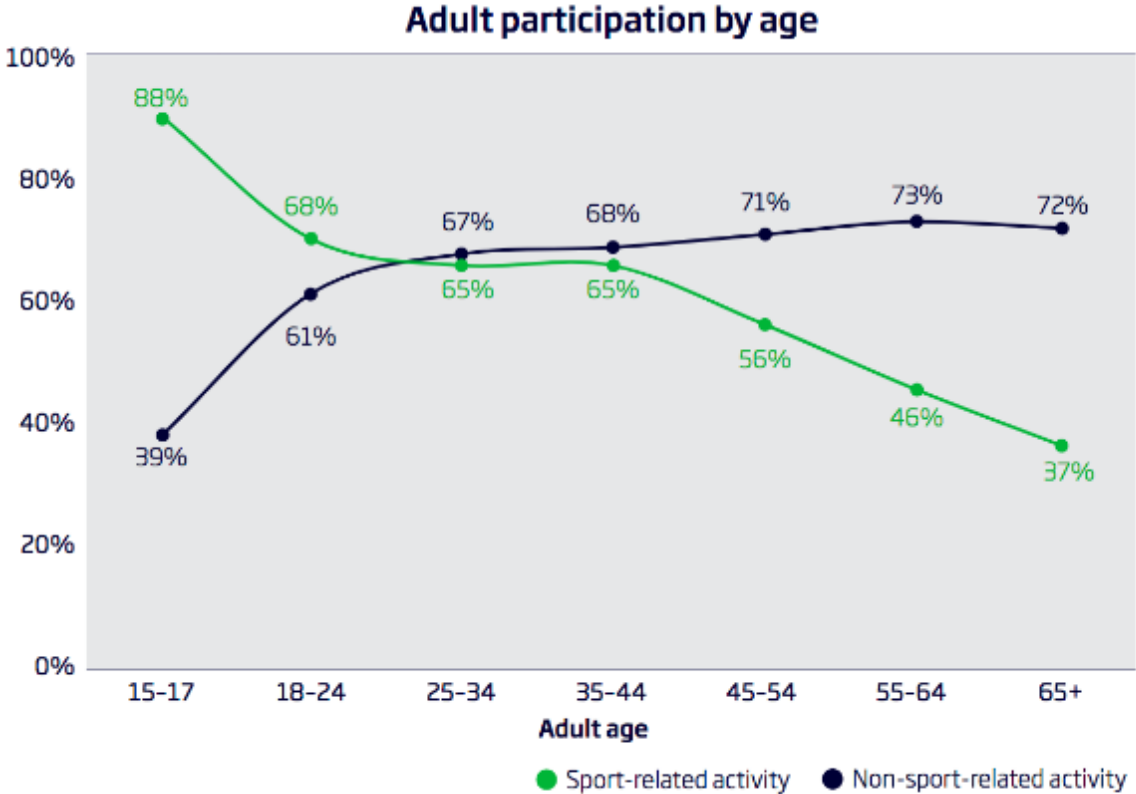
About 11.6 million Australians (59%) aged 15 or over are participating in sport or non-sport related physical activity three or more times per week. Australian adults tend to play sports for longer durations than non-sport related physical activities. However, adults participate in non-sport related physical activities more often than sport (AusPlay Surveys, 2016)

For adults up to middle-age, the major barrier to participation in physical activities relate to time pressure. This indicates that if people were able to integrate physical activity into their everyday (e.g. active travel) then more people would be able to regularly participate in physical activity. The AusPlay research does not identify that lack of access to recreational venues is a factor.

Physical health or fitness is the strongest motivation for non-sport related physical activity (Hajkowicz, Cook et al 2013).

Crime prevention is identified an extremely positive by-product of increased participation in Sport and recreation (Cameron & MacDougall, 2000).

Figure 4: Adult participation in physical activity by age



Source: AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT 2016. AusPlay - Participation data for the sport sector: Summary of key national findings - October 2015 to September 2016 data. Australian Sports Commission.

Figure 5: Top ten motivations for participation in Physical Activity

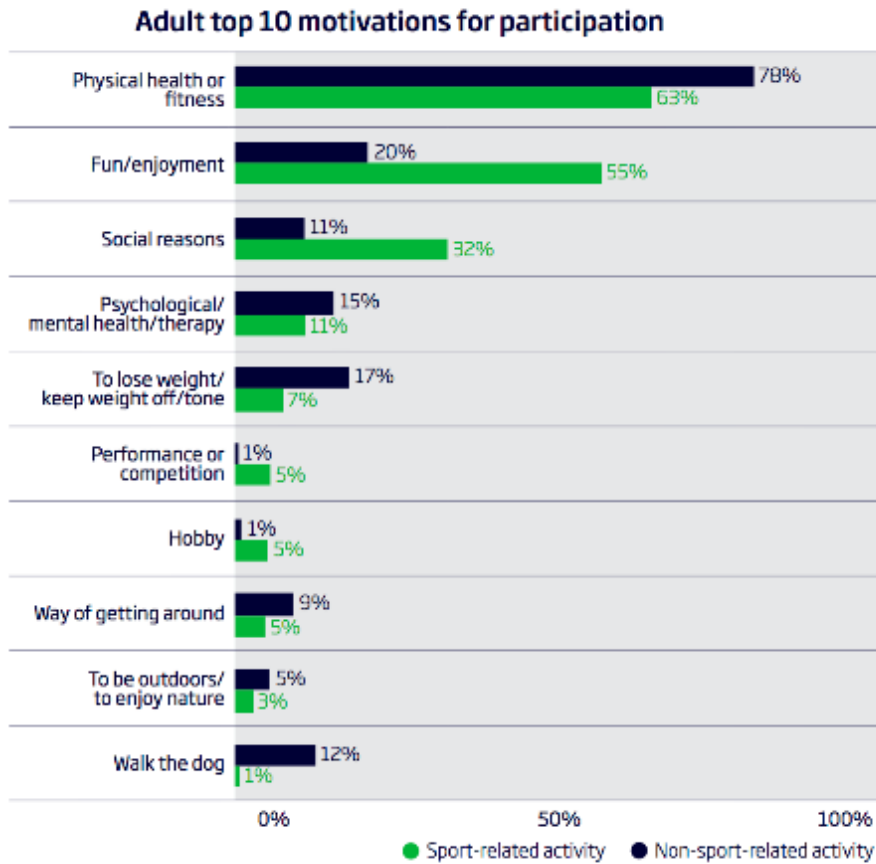
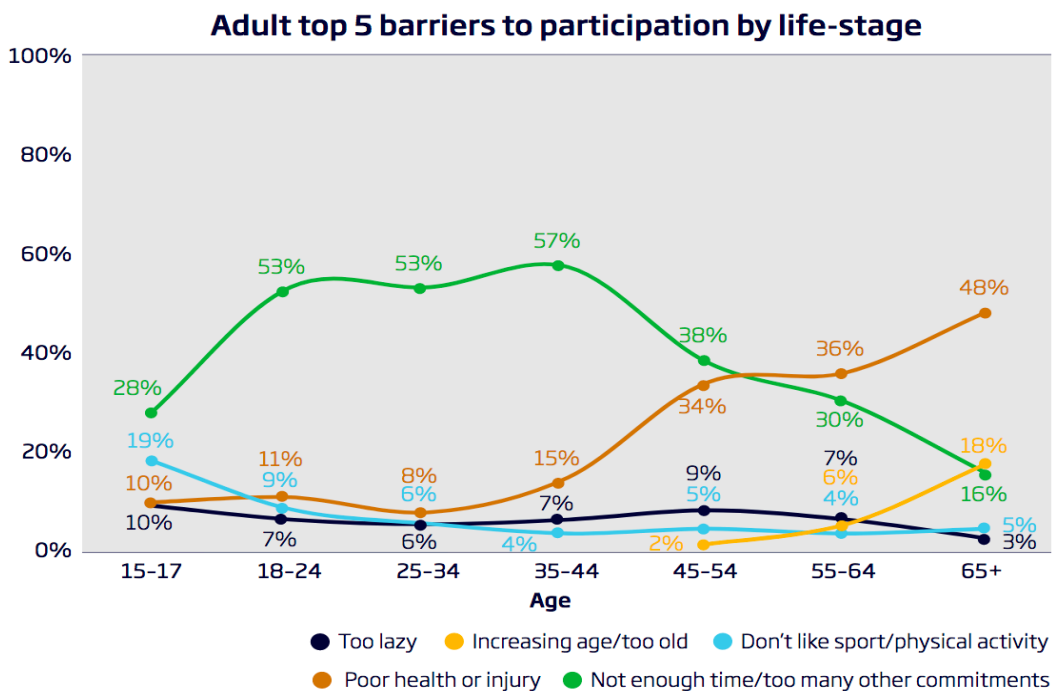


Figure 6: Barriers to physical activity participation by life stage





The largest trend in physical recreation over the last 15 years is that adults are looking at fitting sport into their increasingly time-fragmented lifestyles with the aim of achieving personal health objectives. Participation rates in activities such as aerobics, running and walking have all risen sharply over this period while participation rates for many organised sports have flatlined or declined (*Hajkowitz, Cook et al 2013*).

Despite this decrease in participation rates by adults in organised sport and recreation activities, sustained participation rates by young people, increasing populations and increasing range of opportunities have resulted in field overuse and/or lack of fields in a number of areas.

4.6 Sports Participation Trends – Children

AusPlay surveys indicate that nearly 3.2 million children (69%) participated in some form of organised sport or physical activity outside of school hours

However, girls 9-11 years old are slightly more likely to participate in sport or physical activity (at least once a year) compared to boys of the same age.

2.5 million Australian children (54%) aged 0 to 14 are active at least once a week through organised sport/physical activity outside of school hours. Only 19% or 0.9 million children are active at least three times per week.



5 Benefits of Recreation, Sport and Open Space

It has been reported that inactivity leads to poorer levels of health, lower rates of workforce participation, earlier retirement and less productivity at work (*NSW Healthy Eating and Active Living Strategy 2013-2018*). Specifically, physical inactivity can impact on employee productivity by causing increased absenteeism and presenteeism, which impose direct economic costs on employers (*Dalziel, 2011*). The work productivity of a physically inactive person has been estimated to be 0.75% lower than the work productivity of a physically active person, costing around \$458 per employee per year.

In 2008, the economic impact in NSW of obesity alone was estimated by Access Economics to be \$19 billion, which includes \$2.7 billion in financial costs (such as productivity losses) and \$16.3 billion in costs associated with lost wellbeing.

Active living is a key factor in maintaining individual and population health. Physical activity promotes health and wellbeing and prevents chronic disease across all life stages. It reduces the risk of cardiovascular disease, ischaemic stroke, diabetes mellitus, colon cancer, osteoporosis, fall-related injury, obesity, high cholesterol and hypertension, and mental health problems such as depression (*Ding, Lawson et al, 2016*).

The benefits that sport and recreation bring to people and communities include are summarised below.

5.1 Psychosocial and health benefits

- Brings people together, providing opportunities for social interaction.
- Empowers, inspires and motivates individuals.
- Contributes to higher levels of self-esteem and self-worth.
- Can help to prevent cardiovascular disease, diabetes and some cancers.
- Reduces obesity.
- Eases pressure on the health system.
- Improves mental health.
- Tones and strengthens the body.
- Provides a sense of belonging.
- Promotes a healthy, active lifestyle.

5.2 Community benefits

- Sport and recreation clubs are the hub of community life, especially in the regions.
- Galvanises communities in times of need.
- Provides a vehicle for inclusion, drawing together people of different races, religions and cultures.
- Creates positive alternatives to youth offending, antisocial behaviour and crime.
- Fosters community pride.
- Binds families and communities through shared experiences.

- Contributes to social capital.
- Helps shape our national character and pride.

5.3 Work and education benefits

- Creates opportunities for, and promotes, volunteering.
- Provides work/life balance.
- Great opportunities for networking.
- Contributes to lifelong learning.
- Healthy workers are more productive and take less sick days.
- Creates employment opportunities.
- Develops life skills and leadership abilities.
- Kids who participate learn better and are more likely to enjoy school.
- Keeps kids away from the TV or computer screen!

5.4 Environmental benefits

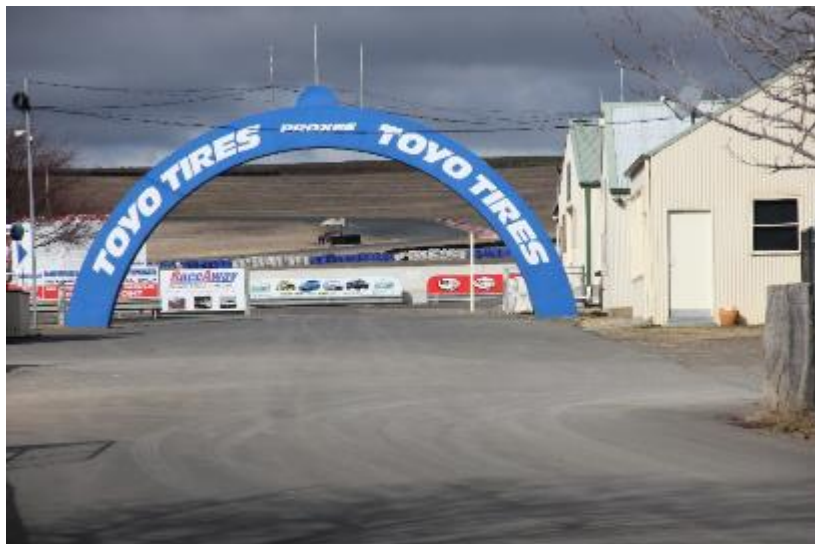
- Reduces pollution – promotes use of active modes of transport like walking and cycling.
- Helps to sustain the environment through protecting open space and natural areas.

5.5 Economic benefits

It has been estimated that for every one per cent increase in the number of people who are sufficiently active in a population, 1,300 full time equivalent jobs are created (*Marsden Jacob, 2018*).

Per person benefits include:

- \$300 - \$1,355 healthcare cost savings
- \$200 - \$1,255 workplace production benefit





6 Policy Context

Policy that influences open space and recreation planning in the Goulburn Mulwaree Local Government Area is implemented at state, regional and local levels.

This part of the Study outlines the intent of strategies/policies and the way in which they seek to influence recreational and open space planning– in the Goulburn Mulwaree LGA.

6.1 State Strategies

NSW Government Architect's Greener Places

In October of 2017, the Government Architect of NSW released a draft Green Infrastructure policy called 'Greener Places' that intends on guiding planning, design, the provision of open space and delivery of Green Infrastructure within the urban areas of NSW.

The document addresses four primary principles that guide the policy framework: integration of infrastructure with the natural environment; better connectivity between open spaces, town centres, transport hubs, employment and residential areas; multifunctional spaces that provide several services simultaneously; and participation from the community throughout the planning process.

The policy also outlines four outcomes which are the primary goals of the policy implementation. These outcomes include: conservation of the natural environment; increased access to open space; improved connectivity to promote active living; and increase urban greening to ameliorate climate change.

Implementation measures of the Greener Places policy to achieve these outcomes have been identified as funding, statutory measures and collaborative action.

The primary implementation measure that the Greener Places framework identifies is the proposed changed statutory measures at various levels of government. Regional Plans, District Plans, Land Use and Infrastructure Plans will include Green Infrastructure strategic planning outcomes and requirements. Clauses regarding Green Infrastructure will also be added to local governments' Development Control Plans; this aims to assist in implementing the requirements of the Greener Spaces policy at a local level.

6.2 Regional Strategies

This section summarises the regional strategies that apply to the Goulburn Mulwaree Local Government Area. Regional plans assist in guiding planning and management on a broader scale, specific to the region's economic, social and environmental needs and values.

South East & Tablelands Sport and Active Recreation Plan 2018 -2023 (Draft)

The NSW Office of Sport have developed the draft *South East & tablelands Sport and Active Recreation Plan 2018 -2023*¹⁶. The aim of this plan is to allow the Office of Sport, the local councils and individual sports to collaborate, plan and deliver sport and active recreation across the state and in the South East & Tablelands. The plan will be used by to Office of Sport to guide resource allocation and investment across NSW and provide a consistent basis for regional planning and delivery.



The draft plan focuses on achieving six outcomes by undertaking a series of region and non-region specific strategies over the next decade. These outcomes are:

1. Increase the Participation of adults and children in regular sport and active recreation;
2. Improve Access to sport and active recreation for everyone in the region, regardless of participant background or ability;
3. Integrate Performance Pathways for participants in sport;
4. Deliver fit for purpose Facilities in the region;
5. Valued Regional Sporting Events which are valued by the region; and
6. Effective Collaboration within the sport and active recreation sector.

It is important that this Recreational Needs Strategy is consistent with the draft South East & Tablelands Sport and Active Recreation Plan 2018 -2023. The alignment between the Strategy and the Sport and Active Recreation Plan should attempt, where appropriate, to cover all six of the specified outcomes:

Outcome 1 – Increased Participation; identifies the following relevant strategies

- Develop a “Sport for Life” initiative (Sport and active recreation that suits people of all ages, meaning all family members can participate).
- Plan for and promote child safe and child friendly environments
- Include and strengthen reference to sport and recreation in Council’s Strategic Plans

Outcome 2 - Improved Access; identifies the following relevant strategies:

- Utilisation of schools
 - Opening up schools for use outside of school hours. This also provides an opportunity to improve the standard of facility quality if community assets are consolidated with schools
 - Outcomes delivered could include improved sustainability of facilities through joint funding between schools and local councils and creating connections between schools and clubs to improve participation.
- Explore options for expanding walking and cycling trails
 - Adopt the Neighbourhood Planning Principles to integrate walking and cycling networks into the design of new communities to encourage physical activity
 - Design new cycling and walking networks in order to provide equal access, shade, landscaping, seating, bubblers, rest points, signage, changes of surface treatments and end of trip facilities such as showers and lockers
 - Explore the use of non-operational train lines as rails trails (Goulburn to Crookwell).
- Provide support to under-represented groups to access sport and active recreation opportunities
 - Determine which groups are significantly under represented within the region.
 - Identify organisations who can adequately represent the needs of Indigenous, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) groups including other underrepresented groups and communities.
 - Modify facilities and programs to enable access for people with disabilities, seniors and other underrepresented groups.
 - Consider the priorities referred to in the Office of Sport’s 2018-2022 Women in Sport Strategy as a guide for supporting underrepresented groups.



Outcome 3 – Integrated Performance Pathways; identifies the following relevant strategies

- Strengthen links between the South East Sports Academy and other sector partners

Outcome 4 – Fit for Purpose Facilities; identifies the following relevant strategies

- Develop a strategic infrastructure plan
 - Explore other locations for regionally significant sports facilities
 - Provide a range of sport and active recreation facilities that meet current and future demand and the needs of traditional and new sports. The types of facilities would be expected to meet the needs of sports and Councils i.e. a range of national/state, regional, district/local and neighbourhood level facilities
- Audit of current facilities (noting that this, in part is the role of the GMRNS)
 - Identify gaps and future requirements through an audit of existing facilities. This could deliver a set of baseline data to help create any future plans that could address the needs of the sport and active recreation sector.
 - Importantly, the professional athletes start their career at local clubs, and therefore there is an importance to continue to review and update these local facilities to keep them relevant, well used, and meeting current and changing needs of their local communities.
- Develop facilities for low-cost outdoor activities
 - Install non-age and non-gender specific facilities that encourage low-cost activities.
 - This may reduce barriers around participation. Examples may include developing outdoor gyms, rail trails, bike paths, dog parks, walking or hiking trails, nature play and adventure parks
- Plan for female friendly sporting facilities
 - Include female friendly toilets and change rooms in every new sporting facility

Outcome 5: Valued Regional Events; identifies the following relevant strategies

- Maintain and enhance existing successful sporting and active recreation events
 - Events could include: Indoor Hockey (Goulburn)
- Showcase region through sports tourism
 - Host multi-day events that target different age groups. Not only will this drive participation in the region, but it will attract a mass flow of tourism, generating great economic benefits

Outcome 6: Effective Collaboration; identifies the following relevant strategies

- Health links to funding

Southeast and Tablelands Regional Plan

The Southeast and Tablelands Regional Plan is a state initiative that intends to identify growth opportunities, infrastructure investments and connections within the region. The region includes Goulburn-Mulwaree, Yass Valley, Wingecarribee, Hilltops, Upper Lachlan, Queanbeyan-Palerang, Eurobodalla, Snowy Monaro and Bega Valley Local Government Areas, with Metropolitan Canberra at its heart.

South East Tablelands Regional Plan identifies that the Goulburn-Mulwaree local government areas is well positioned to use Western Sydney's growth as an impetus to create new jobs. To foster this the Plan identifies that Goulburn Mulwaree will need to foster initiatives to promote the South East and Tablelands as a suitable place for businesses to relocate.



Direction 22 identifies the building of socially inclusive, safe and healthy communities targeting increasing walking and cycling. It identifies that best-practice guidelines for planning, designing and developing healthy built environments need to be developed and suggests that Neighbourhood Planning Principles be adopted in local environmental plans, development control plans and local strategies in the interim.

A key principle identified in this document is that there must be integration of walking and cycling networks into the design of new communities to encourage physical activity. It specifically makes mention of the use of non-operational railway lines as rail trails (including Goulburn to Crookwell).

Priorities for Goulburn-Mulwaree are:

- Continue to develop Goulburn as an inland transport hub to connect the region to local and global markets.
- Build capacity and self-sufficiency to create a resilient community.
- Create and maintain connected natural areas across the landscape for ecosystem functioning and biodiversity conservation.
- Sustainably manage natural resources using best practices and regional collaboration with key stakeholders

Tablelands Regional Community Strategic Plan 2016 - 2036

Goulburn Mulwaree Council joined forces with the Upper Lachlan Shire and Yass Valley Local Government Areas to prepare a Regional Community Strategic Plan. The document brings together the regional communities' priorities and opportunities for the next 20 years.

Implementation of the Community Strategic Plan is achieved by each Council through commitments and deliverables of the Council Delivery Program and Council Operational Plan, provided at 4 and 1-year intervals, respectively.





6.3 Council Strategies

This section summarises the strategies specific to the Goulburn Mulwaree Local Government Area. Below includes information regarding planning strategies, strategies that directly relate or impact to recreational facilities in the area, as well as other implemented Council strategies.

Examples of Council's current development projects for recreation facilities upgrades in Goulburn are shown in Section 7.8 below.

Goulburn Mulwaree Strategy 2020

The Goulburn Mulwaree Strategy 2020 was prepared in 2004 to assess the future directions of the newly formed Goulburn Mulwaree Local Government Area and the planning provisions of the Local Environmental Plan. Some of the specific objectives of the study include:

- to provide an understanding of the existing social, economic and physical characteristics of Goulburn Mulwaree
- identify broad solutions/policy directions that may be implemented in the new Goulburn Mulwaree Local Environment Plan, and also potentially through other Council management tools, such as the Management Plan or Social Plan.

The Goulburn Mulwaree Recreational Needs Strategy will likely inform the updated Goulburn Mulwaree Strategy, as the current strategy has only made objectives and principles up until 2020.

Goulburn Mulwaree Council Delivery Program 2017-2021

The Goulburn Mulwaree Council Delivery Program is part of a 4-year deliverables system that is applied by Council under the Tablelands Regional Community Strategic Plan 2016-2036. In 2016 Council released its commitments to the community for the next four years. Some of the highlighted projects include:

- Adventure Playground – this project is now completed and is located close to the Aquatic Centre and Skate Park within Victoria Park;
- Aquatic Centre Redevelopment – \$16.5 million has been allocated for Stage 1 of the Centre which includes an additional 25m indoor pool;
- Citywide Exercise Equipment – \$80,000 allocated for outdoor exercise equipment;
- Skate Park Repairs – \$50,000 allocated for skate park repairs within Victoria Park;
- Sports field upgrade – upgrade of amenities at Seiffert Oval;
- Tree planting – for the city entrances, Wollondilly Walkway and Avenues of Honour;
- Victoria Park – \$1.15 million allocated for upgrades within the park.

Draft Housing Strategy

Council is preparing a Housing Strategy to plan for the future growth of the urban centres of Goulburn and Marulan. The Strategy will address the desired future character of these areas as well as identify (where necessary) opportunities for future residential land releases.

The Housing Strategy will identify and address opportunities to increase housing diversity including shop-top housing, affordable housing, medium density housing and housing for older people.

Goulburn Bicycle Strategy

The Goulburn Mulwaree Bicycle Strategy 2008-2018 is a comprehensive plan for improving the environment for people who ride bicycles for transport, health and fitness (Figure 7 and Figure 8). The Bicycle Strategy aims to facilitate increased bicycle use within the Goulburn Mulwaree Council area over a ten year period.

Within the strategy there are seven identified elements of the proposed network, including:

- The Demonstration Project which includes the pathway system along the Wollondilly River Corridor and the Crookwell Railway;
- Main Bicycle Routes and Local Connections which are based around the Demonstration Project;
- Urban Recreational Routes which include the heritage trail and urban sections of the Rail Trail;
- Regional Tourism and Training Routes which include four long distance routes:
 - Bungonia and Marulan
 - Windellama, Tarago and Lake Bathurst
 - Roslyn and Crookwell
 - Gurrundah, Gunning and Breadalbane
- The Goulburn to Crookwell Rail Trail
- Spine cycle routes to rural villages

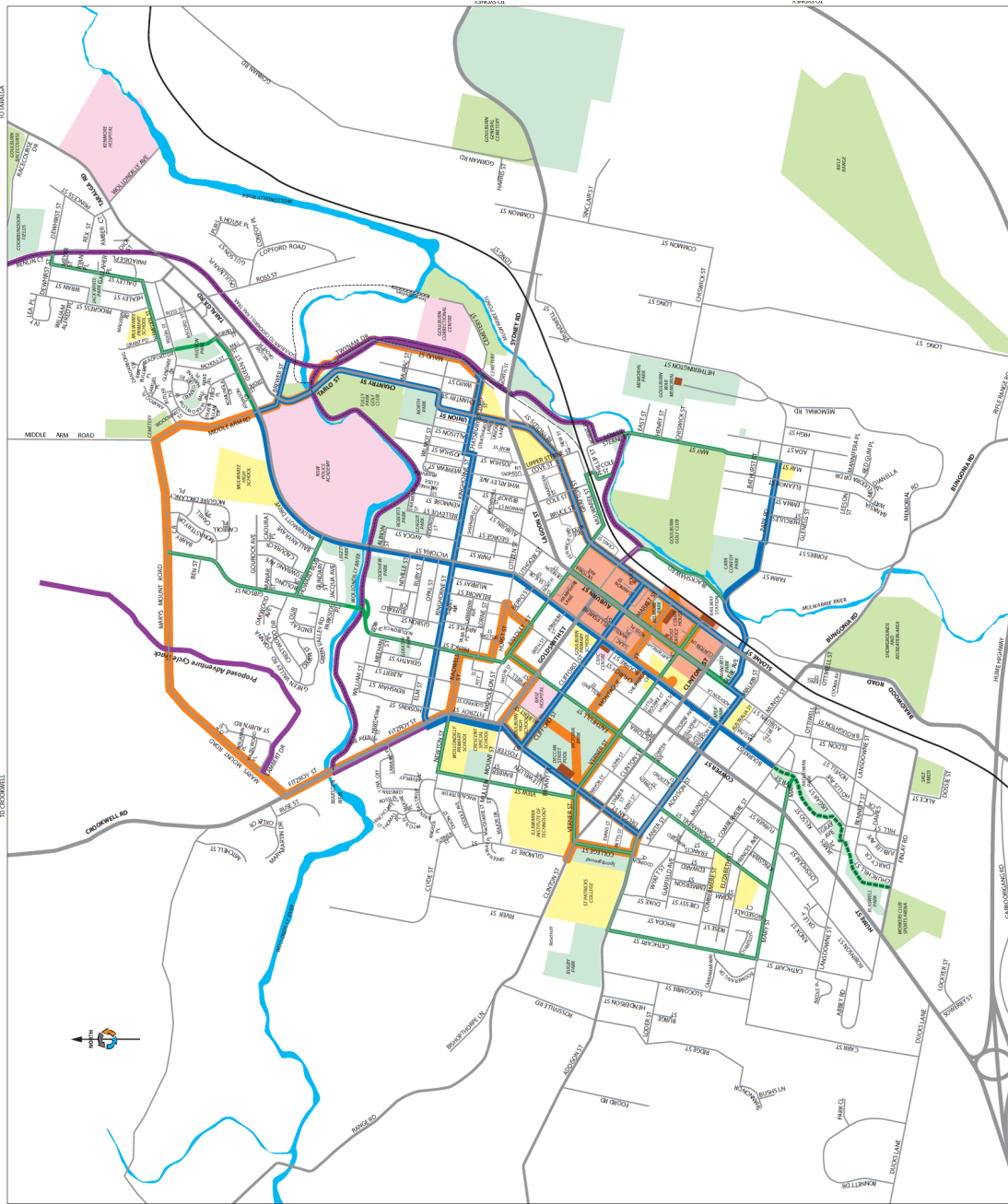
The bicycle network provides a form of transport whilst offer health benefits to the those that utilise it. The above elements act as a means of integrating and consolidating recreational facilities and open spaces by connecting them through the bicycle network.

Since the strategy's focused time period ends in 2018, this Recreational Needs Strategy will identify recommendations for Council to continue implementation of some unfinished elements and key recommendations of 2008-2018 Bicycle Strategy.



Source: VisitNSW

Figure 7: Goulburn Bicycle Strategy – Goulburn City



**Goulburn-Mulwaree
Bicycle Strategy
2008-2018**

**Map 1
Goulburn City -
proposed bicycle
network and major
trip generators**

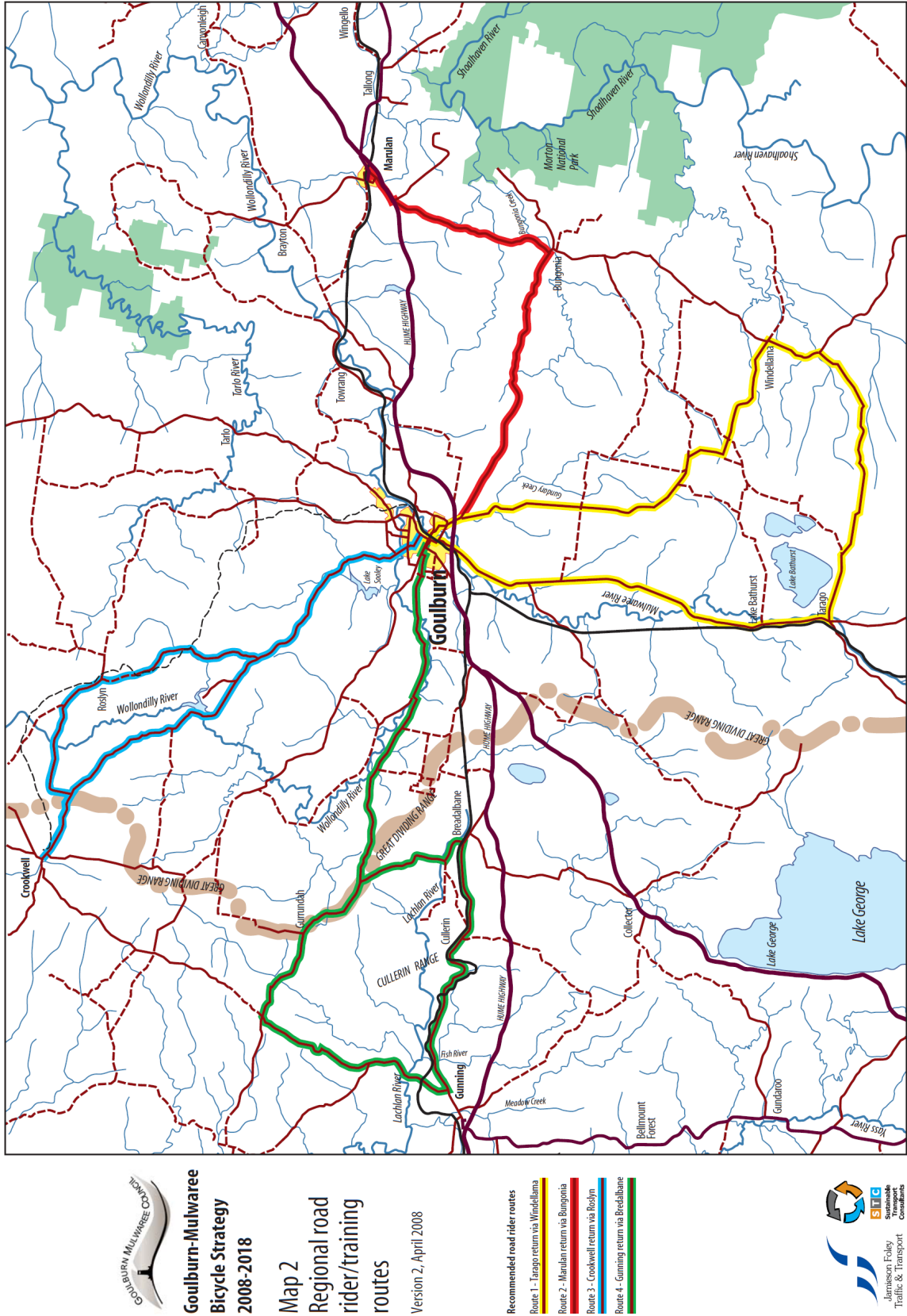
Version 2, April 2008

- Legend**
- Schools, colleges and universities
 - Retail, cafes and entertainment
 - Government buildings
 - Parks and privatised open space
- Roads and streets**
- Route signing
 - Path - On-road off-road (shared)
 - Shared to road
- Planned or existing routes**
- Main bicycle routes
 - Local bicycle routes
 - Planned or existing routes
 - Recreational and tourism routes
 - Heritage Ride route



Source: Goulburn Bicycle Strategy

Figure 8: Goulburn Bicycle Strategy – Regional networks



Source: Goulburn Bicycle Strategy

Flood Studies

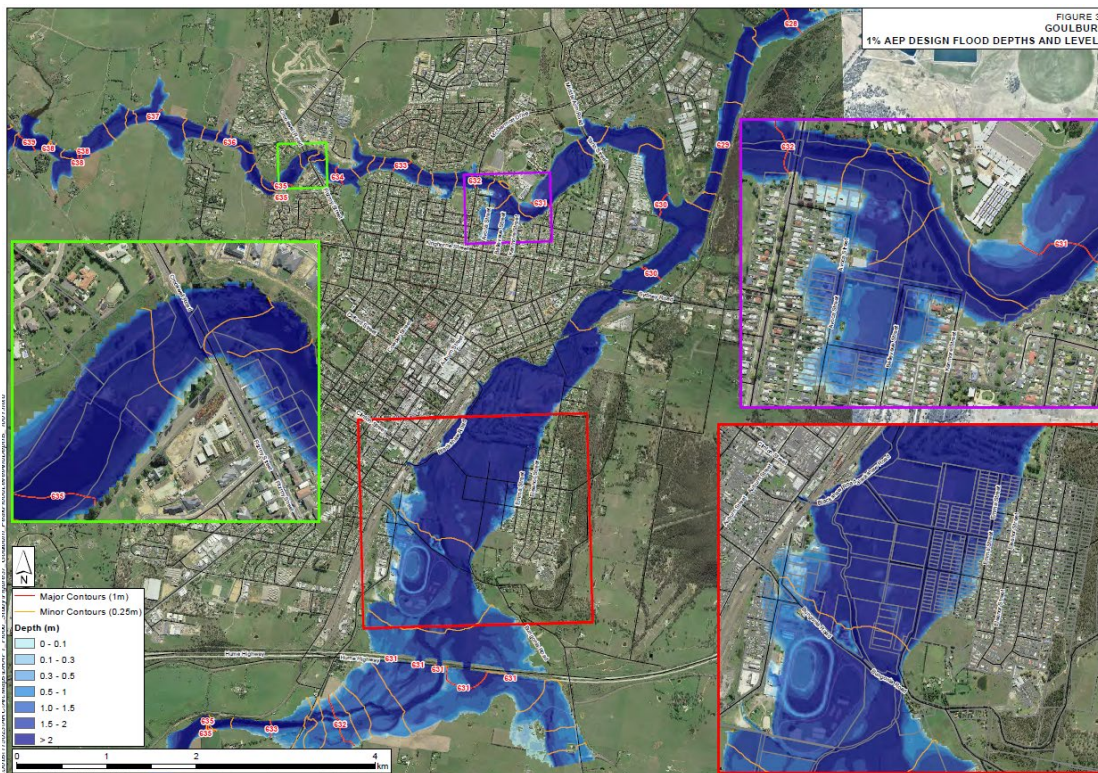
The Goulburn Flood Study was completed in 2016 to assess the impact of flooding and its behaviour in the case of a flood event due to the Wollondilly and Mulwaree Rivers. The study takes into account past flood events, velocities and flows from full range modelling.

A substantial amount of outdoor recreational areas (in particular Carr Confoy) in the Goulburn area are subject to flooding according to this study. During a 1 in 100 year flood event, Carr Confoy would essentially be inundated, most areas that lay close to the Wollondilly River would also be subject to flooding (Figure 9).

Many areas within the floodplain have not been developed for urban purposes, and as such have been identified as best suited to recreational and open space areas.

Whilst open space/recreation is generally seen as a good use of flood prone land, there are some facilities for which this location is not suitable. Examples include: indoor sports; specialised synthetic athletics tracks and cycling tracks.

Figure 9: Flood Map (1% AEP)



Source: Goulburn Flood Study

Floodplain Risk Management Study

The Wollondilly River and Mulwaree Chain of Ponds Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan was prepared in 2003 to identify the areas subject to flooding within the river corridor and to outline management methods in the instance of a 1 in 100 year flood.

The key objectives of the plan are to reduce losses and hazards from flooding and provide a framework for land owners to produce their own management methods.



Goulburn Mulwaree Council - Bushfire Prone Land Map

The Goulburn Mulwaree Council prepared a Bushfire Prone Area map to identify area of vulnerability to bush fire. The highest risk areas are around the eastern side of the LGA. Within the city of Goulburn, areas in East Goulburn are at the highest risk.

Employment Land Strategy

The Employment Land Strategy was prepared as a means of assessing the availability of employable land, due to the major economic development and growth within the Goulburn-Mulwaree Local Government Area. The main purpose of this Strategy is to provide for population growth and projects, economic and business performance and emerging industries.

The Strategy makes a list of recommendations for the employment areas within the region – including industrial areas, commercial core areas, and enterprise precincts – with reference to the immediate local economy, population, location and background of the areas.

There are short, medium and long term strategies for several of these sorts of precincts in Goulburn, Marulan and other villages and localities.

Disability Inclusion Action Plan

The Goulburn Mulwaree Disability Inclusion Action Plan was prepared by Council as required under the NSW Disability Inclusion Act 2014. The Plan provides Council with methods of providing accessible services and facilities to create an inclusive community. There are four key focus areas outlined in the Plan, they are:

1. Developing positive attitudes and behaviours in our community
2. Creating communities that are nice for people to live in;
3. Helping people find good jobs and work they like doing; and
4. Having good ways of doing that's that will help use our services.

Goulburn Mulwaree Biodiversity Strategy

The Goulburn Mulwaree Biodiversity Strategy was prepared as a mechanism for assessing the aspects of biodiversity conservation within the Goulburn Mulwaree area. The aim of the study is to provide Council and the local community with conversation recommendations and to improve the protection of relevant areas.

Goulburn Mulwaree Heritage Study

Being Australia's first inland city, Goulburn and the Goulburn-Mulwaree area has a rich history of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal significance. The Goulburn Mulwaree Heritage Study aims to bring together the heritage and history of the entirety of the LGA to assess its significance of such a level, and to provide recommendations for protection of assets with the region.

The study was undertaken by the review of existing heritage studies; review current Council strategies for cultural heritage protection; provide analysis of the importance of actions and suggest amendments to relevant Council materials.

6.4 Statutory Context

6.4.1 Local Government Act

The *Local Government Act 1993* sets the framework for Councils in relation to the management of public land owned or controlled by councils. The fundamental provision of the Act in relation to recreation planning is that all public land must be classified by council as either '**community**' or '**operational**' land.

Operational land is effectively the land that Council occupies to carry out its day-to-day functions, such as council depots, offices and the like.

Community land is intended for public access and use and involves all land that is used for open space or recreational purposes. Community land cannot be sold and must be developed in accordance with a plan of management. In addition, community land must be categorised according to a list of categories provided in the Act and managed according to 'core objectives'.

6.4.2 EP&A Act

The *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act* (EP&A Act) is the primary planning framework for local government. The objects of this Act are as follows:

- a) *to promote the social and economic welfare of the community and a better environment by the proper management, development and conservation of the State's natural and other resources,*
- b) *to facilitate ecologically sustainable development by integrating relevant economic, environmental and social considerations in decision-making about environmental planning and assessment,*
- c) *to promote the orderly and economic use and development of land,*
- d) *to promote the delivery and maintenance of affordable housing,*
- e) *to protect the environment, including the conservation of threatened and other species of native animals and plants, ecological communities and their habitats,*
- f) *to promote the sustainable management of built and cultural heritage (including Aboriginal cultural heritage),*
- g) *to promote good design and amenity of the built environment,*
- h) *to promote the proper construction and maintenance of buildings, including the protection of the health and safety of their occupants,*
- i) *to promote the sharing of the responsibility for environmental planning and assessment between the different levels of government in the State,*
- j) *to provide increased opportunity for community participation in environmental planning and assessment.*

The above objectives influence the implementation of the recommendations of this Recreational Needs Strategy through requirements in relation to rezoning of land, development contributions (i.e. S7.11 Contributions, formerly known as S94 contributions) and specific provisions and planning controls established through Council's Local Environment Plan (LEP) and Development Control Plan (DCP).



Council LEP

Goulburn Mulwaree Local Environmental Plan 2009 (LEP) provides the local planning controls and development standards for land use within the Council area. The LEP has a number of aims, however the key aims of relevance to this Strategy include:

- to promote and co-ordinate the orderly and economic use and development of land in the area,
- to encourage the sustainable management, development and conservation of natural resources,
- to protect and conserve the environmental and cultural heritage of Goulburn Mulwaree

In general, open space areas (sports grounds and parks) are zoned RE1 - Public Recreation under the Council LEP. The objectives of the RE1 zone are:

- To enable land to be used for public open space or recreational purposes.
- To provide a range of recreational settings and activities and compatible land uses.
- To protect and enhance the natural environment for recreational purposes.

The land use table applying to the zone requires most activities to be the subject of a Development Application (DA). The carrying out of environmental protection work and roads are exempt from the need for a DA. The zone allows a range of activities to be undertaken, including:

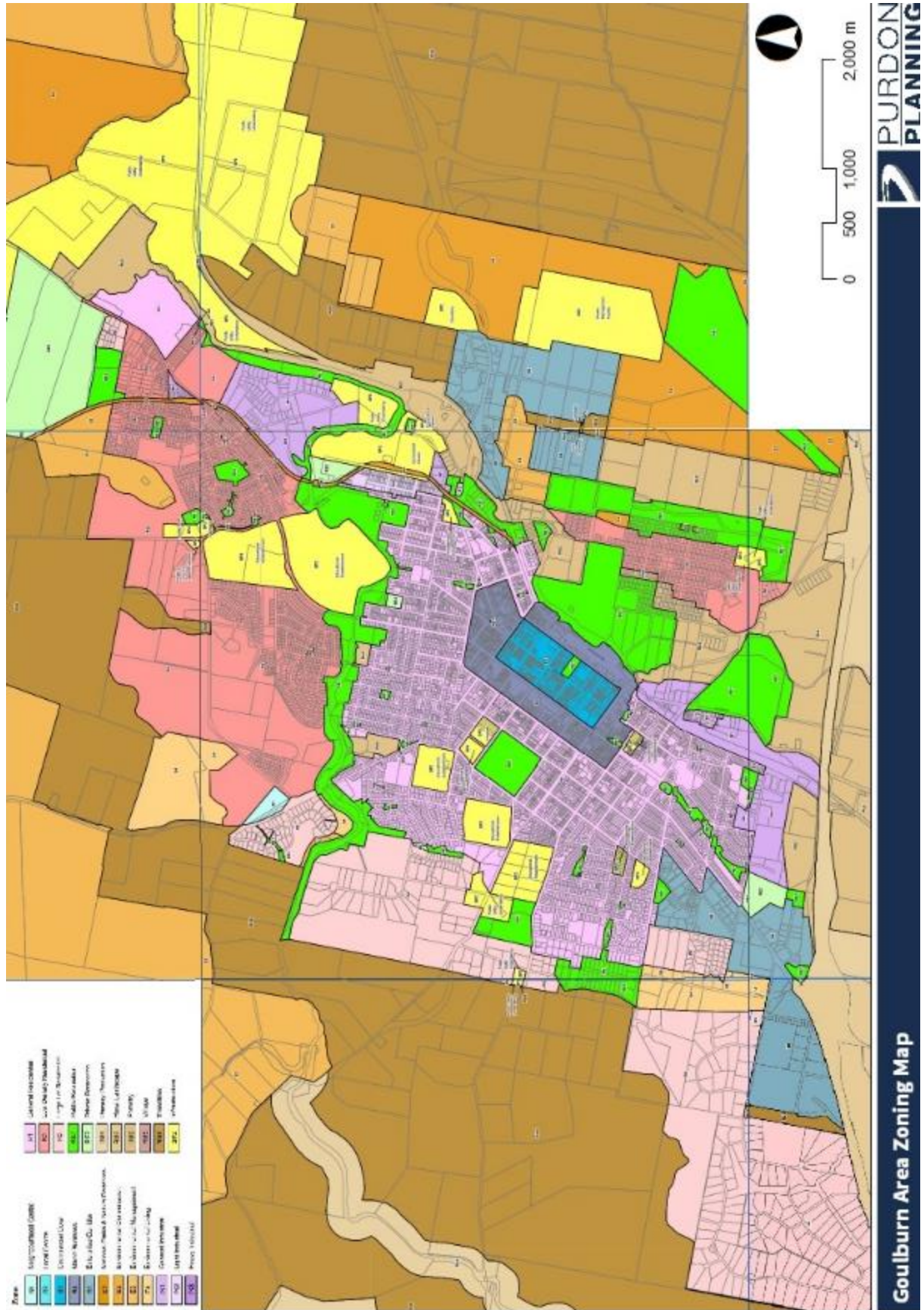
- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| ▪ Building identification signs | ▪ Kiosks |
| ▪ Camping grounds | ▪ Markets |
| ▪ Caravan parks | ▪ Recreation areas |
| ▪ Centre-based child care facilities | ▪ Recreation facilities (indoor) |
| ▪ Community facilities | ▪ Recreation facilities (major) |
| ▪ Emergency services facilities | ▪ Recreation facilities (outdoor) |
| ▪ Entertainment facilities | ▪ Respite day care centres |
| ▪ Information and education facilities | ▪ Water recreation structures |

All other land uses and developments are prohibited within the RE1 – Public Recreation zone.

In addition, the LEP sets out a range of development controls for development of land. The most relevant control in relation to future use of recreation facilities relates to development within flood prone land (as many of the existing facilities are located within the flood plain of the Wollondilly or Mulwaree Rivers). The LEP prevents development within the flood plain unless it does not:

- adversely affect flood behaviour resulting in detrimental increases in the potential flood affectation of other development or properties, or
- significantly alter flow distributions and velocities to the detriment of other properties or the environment of the floodplain, or
- affect the safe occupation or evacuation of the land, or
- significantly detrimentally affect the floodplain environment or cause avoidable erosion, siltation, destruction of riparian vegetation or a reduction in the stability of river banks or watercourses, or
- be likely to result in unsustainable social and economic costs to the community as a consequence of flooding, or
- if located in a floodway is not incompatible with the flow conveyance function of the floodway, or cause or increase a flood hazard in the floodway.

Figure 10: Open Space Zoning – Goulburn





Council DCP

Council's Development Control Plan 2009 supplements the LEP by providing detailed reasoning, guidelines, controls and general information relating to development of land.

The DCP provides general provisions for development of land as well as specific planning controls for selected neighbourhoods within Goulburn (particularly new development areas).

The provision of new open space areas relies on dedication of privately owned land within new residential subdivisions as public land. The DCP sets the broad framework for subdivision applications, including the following provisions:

- a) *Open space should be dispersed throughout the locality to ensure equity of access for residents.*
- b) *Areas identified as being a drainage line shall be set aside as a drainage reserve and the open space network shall be focused on these drainage lines.*
- c) *Drainage lines are to be re-established as 'natural' watercourses largely through revegetation with native species.*
- d) *Environmental Management plans for natural areas are to be prepared particularly for the watercourses and areas of remnant vegetation.*
- e) *Council's Leisure- Recreation and /social Planning Study identifies that there is sufficient active recreational reserves and sports grounds provided elsewhere in the City.*
- f) *Goulburn Mulwaree Contributions Plan details community facilities and open space requirements.*

There are different controls for specific areas. Some areas, such as the Clyde St development area, are not required to provide any area of open space as the DCP specifies - *there is sufficient active recreational reserves and sports grounds provided elsewhere in the City, which are adequate to cater for any organised sporting needs from the area.*

In other areas, such as Mary's Mount, the planning controls are focussed on drainage reserves, with the controls detailing:

- a) *Open space should be dispersed throughout the locality to ensure equity of access for residents.*
- b) *Areas identified as being a drainage line shall be set aside as a drainage reserve and the open space network shall be focused on these drainage lines.*
- c) *Drainage lines are to be re-established as 'natural' watercourses largely through revegetation with native species.*
- d) *Environmental Management plans for natural areas are to be prepared particularly for the watercourses and areas of remnant vegetation.*
- e) *Council's Leisure- Recreation and /social Planning Study identifies that there is sufficient active recreational reserves and sports grounds provided elsewhere in the City.*
- f) *Goulburn Mulwaree Contributions Plan details community facilities and open space requirements.*

There is a need to update the provisions of the DCP to ensure that new urban areas are provided with adequate areas of open space, including areas capable of being developed as playgrounds as well as drainage reserves and linear pathways.

The Strategy provided in this report (Section 10) provides details on proposed changes to Council's DCP.

7 Existing Provision of Open Space/Facilities

This section identifies the range of open space/recreation facilities identified in the study and provides examples in each categories of the recreation hierarchy.

The Goulburn Mulwaree Council area, and Goulburn in particular, has a range of parks and sports facilities covering most levels in the overall hierarchy identified in Section 2.

7.1 Inventory

The types of open space/recreation facilities addressed in this study include:

- Sports Grounds: Regional, District, Local
- Parks: Regional, District, Local, Linear, Formal Gardens,
- Natural Areas: Bushland, Escarpment, Wetlands, River Foreshore, Drainage Reserves
- Specialised Centres: Tennis courts, Showground, Golf Course, Racecourse, Speedway etc
- Indoor Facilities: Aquatic centre, basketball
- Community halls: Community rooms, scout/guide halls etc
- Other: Schools, Church grounds, Crown Land, etc

Attachment A provides a comprehensive inventory of the main open spaces and recreation facilities in the LGA and should be read in conjunction with Figure 11 (for Goulburn).

As noted above, some of these facilities provide “regional level” services to a catchment area that extends beyond Goulburn. Others operate at a “district” or “local” level but there is no absolute distinction as a regional facility will also provide for use at a district or local level.

The following sections provide examples of facilities at each level in the recreation hierarchy.



7.2 Types of Open Space

7.2.1 Sports Grounds – Goulburn

Regional Level Facilities

Regional sports grounds generally include:

- spectator seating
- lighting to competition standards on at least one field/oval/court plus lighting to enable training on other fields
- formalised car parking and internal road
- large central ‘club house’ building
- canteen buildings and multiple amenities buildings
- storage facilities
- informal recreation opportunities (e.g. Playground).

Regional sports grounds are facilities that have a catchment area beyond Goulburn and cater for adult competition. They have a range of support facilities built to a high standard and are capable of hosting a major recreation or sporting event / tournament, such as country championships.

Details of Regional sports grounds within Goulburn are outlined below.

Workers Arena

The Workers Arena is a privately owned recreation facility in Hume St, South Goulburn. The site comprises a rugby league field and two hockey fields, together with training facilities such as cricket nets and indoor facilities. (Reference number 95 on Figure 11)



Carr Confoy

The Carr Confoy fields are the most used fields in the Goulburn area, throughout winter the fields cater for Junior Rugby Union and Senior Rugby training, Touch Football, Netball, a number of fitness classes and other uses. (Reference number 8 on Figure 11).



Cookbundoon

Located at the northern edge of Goulburn at number 13 Dewhirst Street adjacent to the Goulburn & District Racing club, Cookbundoon Sporting Complex contains about a dozen soccer fields of varying sizes, lighting and two pavilions. The park is zoned RE1 Public Recreation and is owned and maintained by Council (Reference number 31 on Figure 11).



North Park

This park is situated at 34 Chantry Street in Goulburn with an area of 43,960m2. North Park is the primary facility for Rugby League in Goulburn. It contains several rugby ovals and in summer two cricket pitches. It also has night lighting, a pavilion, play equipment, BBQs and cricket cages. The park is zoned RE1 Public Recreation and is owned and maintained by the Council (Reference number 22 on Figure 11).



Poidevan Oval

Located at 240 Addison Street in Goulburn. This park is the primary facility for Rugby Union in Goulburn. It contains several rugby ovals and in summer two cricket pitches. It also has night lighting, a pavilion, play equipment, BBQs and cricket cages. The park is zoned RE1 Public Recreation and is owned and maintained by the Council (Reference number 73 on Figure 11).



Seiffert Oval (within Victoria Park)

Located within Victoria Park (134 Faithful Street, Goulburn) this oval contains a central cricket pitch with a peripheral cycling circuit; the only such circuit in Goulburn/Mulwaree. It is also equipped with night lighting, a pavilion, and is connected to the additional amenity of Victoria park. The park is zoned RE1 Public Recreation and is owned and maintained by the Council (Reference number 42 on Figure 11).



District Level Facilities

District sports parks generally contain one or two formally maintained sports fields/ovals/courts that cater for a mixture of winter and/or summer sporting codes. The fields/ovals/courts are of a high standard but may not comply to, or be maintained to, state regulations for the sporting codes using the park. Details of District sports grounds within Goulburn Mulwaree Council area are outlined below.

District sports parks generally include:

- basic spectator seating
- amenities and canteen building
- Club storage facilities
- car parking

Goodhew Park

Located at 15 Neville St, Goulburn, with an area of 45,050m². This park contains a large field suitable for Cricket, Softball or AFL. It also contains a pavilion, a score box, cricket cages and a BBQ, the park connects to the Wollondilly River Corridor. The park is zoned RE1 Public Recreation and is maintained by the Council (Reference number 15 on Figure 11).



Roberts/ League Park/ PCYC Sports Field

Located at 31 Avoca Street, Goulburn, with an area of 36,300, Roberts Park contains a rectangular soccer/ league field which appears to be in reasonable condition. It adjoins and surrounds the PCYC Gymnasium, leading down to the Wollondilly river and also contains a BMX track and play equipment. The park is zoned RE1 Public Recreation (Reference number 37 on Figure 11).



Hudson Park

This park is located at 173 Record Street, Goulburn, with an area of 44,400m². This park contains an athletics track, a shotput circle, a hammer/ discus cage and a pavilion/ grandstand. In addition to this there are some tennis courts in an extreme state of disrepair, and some play equipment. The park is a Crown Reserve zoned RE1 Public Recreation and maintained by the Council (Reference number 17 on Figure 11).



Local Sports grounds

Local sports grounds are generally maintained to a lower level when compared to District facilities. Details of Local sports grounds within Goulburn are outlined in Attachment B.



7.3 Parks - Goulburn

7.3.1 Regional Parks

Typically, a Regional Park will allow for a variety of play experiences plus toilet facilities picnic facilities such as barbecues and shelters, lighting, attractive landscaped areas, shade structures. The facilities should be able to cater for individuals through to large groups and have facilities that enable visitors to stay for several hours. The catchment area is typically the beyond the local government area.

Regional parks may also host major events such as Australia Day celebrations, local fairs or markets. A Regional Park will also include pedestrian and cycleway systems, and informal areas for sports / recreation. A Regional Park is maintained at a higher standard than other open space areas.

Details of Regional parks within Goulburn are outlined below.

Belmore Park

Bounded by Auburn Montague, Market and Sloane Streets within the Goulburn city centre. The park has an area of 16,540m² and is a major feature of the city centre. It is located on the site of the original market place. It includes a number of monuments and ornaments including the Band Rotunda, gardens, fountain, glass house conservatory and war memorials. In addition, there are picnic tables, children's playground and public toilets. (Reference number 5 on Figure 11)



7.3.2 District Parks

A District Park will generally include parking areas (mostly on-street), lighting, attractive landscaped areas, pedestrian and cycle path, playground structures, a public toilet, natural shade, and picnic / visitor facilities. Events that require a park-based setting such as markets, musical events and film nights can usually be accommodated in a district recreation park. Medium to high level of maintenance.

Details of District parks within Goulburn are outlined below.

Victoria Park

Located at 134 Faithful Street, Goulburn, with an area of 180,100m², Victoria park is Goulburn’s primary urban gardens. Aside from a variety of sporting facilities (see Seiffert Oval, Prell Oval and Goulburn Aquatic and Leisure Centre) Victoria park also contains a skate park, an adventure playground, tennis courts, a half basketball court, a bowling green, rose gardens, a pond, many paths, and amenities like benches and BBQs throughout. (Reference number 42 on Figure 11).



7.3.3 Local Parks

Generally located within a residential setting these parks cater for the surrounding residents. They are usually of relatively small size (less than ½ha) and mostly accessed by walking or cycling, being within a 5-10 minute walk (400-800m) of local residents. A local park will rarely have toilet facilities and irrigation, but can include some or all of the following:

- basic level playground area
- park benches / seating
- open informal play area
- landscape treatment
- natural shade
- low level of maintenance

Details of Local parks within Goulburn are outlined in Attachment B.



7.4 Natural Areas – Goulburn

Includes open space areas defined as “natural” in character, providing for recreation pursuits such as walking, jogging, cycling, nature observation, and picnics.

Typically, Natural Areas provide the basis for developing a linear park system and can include:

- Escarpment
- Wetland
- River corridor
- Bushland

Details of Natural Areas within Goulburn are outlined in Attachment C.

River Corridor Reserves

Other Council land not within a designated park is dotted along the length of both the Wollondilly and Mulwaree Rivers where they pass through Goulburn. Most comprise areas of mown grass and scattered trees with some tracks cutting through them. These areas are zoned RE1 Public Recreation and are owned and maintained by Council. (Reference numbers 30,93,96,97 on Figure 11).



7.5 Indoor Facilities – Goulburn

Veolia Arena

The Veolia Arena comprises a two court multi-use hall which is suitable for most indoor sports and events requiring a large open indoor area.

Key Features include:

- 2 Championship size Basketball Courts with timber sprung flooring
- Retractable Basketball rings to allow multi-sport activities or corporate events
- Both Courts are at Competition LUX levels for lighting
- Line markings for 2 full size netball courts with fixed posts
- Line marking for 2 indoor hockey courts and 1 international size indoor hockey court

The facilities at the Veolia Arena are exemplary and are considered to meet the needs for indoor sporting groups in Goulburn. No additional facilities are required.



Aquatic Centre

Refer below for details of proposed new centre by Council in Victoria park.

7.6 Specialised Facilities

Recreation Area & Multi-Function Complex

The Goulburn Showground and Recreation Area is located at the intersection of Braidwood Road and Bungonia Road in Goulburn. The complex occupies 45 hectares of land alongside the Mulwaree River. The facility is a Crown Reserve with Council as Trustee managing the complex. Council is assisted by a "Committee of Management" consisting of representatives from each of the main Recreation users.

The main users of the Recreation Area include:

- Greyhound Racing
- Harness Racing and Training
- AP&H Society (Show Society)
- Basketball
- Poultry Fanciers
- Rodeo
- Dressage
- Goulburn Dog Training & Kennel Club

The Recreation Area may be booked for use by the community.

Wakefield Park

Wakefield Park motor racing circuit is a first privately owned facility on Braidwood Road, 10 kilometres south of Goulburn. It is a national level facility having hosted the Fujitsu V8 Supercar Series, the Australian Superbike Championship and the Australian Motor Racing Series. The raceway also hosts state and club level racing.

The track is open to the public providing three circuits licensed by the NSW Department of Sport and Recreation, CAMS, and Motorcycling NSW Inc and Australian Karting Association Inc. There is also a hill climb and short variations of the circuit.

Golf Course

The Goulburn Golf Course, located on Blackshaw Road is an 18 hole course with clubhouse, restaurant and pro shop facilities.

Tully golf course

Tully Park Early Birds Golf Course is located on Chantry St adjacent to the Wollondilly River. The course provides for 12 holes with 18 tees. The Club is run by volunteers.

Mount Gray Speedway (Governor's Hill)

The Goulburn Speedway Club operate a gravel circuit located at on the eastern side of the Mount Gray/Governor's Hill range. The site is approximately 5km from the city centre.



7.7 Community halls, Schools, other areas

Goulburn also has a range of community halls, community rooms, scout/guide halls etc, that provide additional recreational facilities for Goulburn residents. Some of these facilities have adjacent land area that is also used for informal recreation activities.

In addition, Schools and Church grounds also provide opportunities for either organised recreation activities or casual recreation.

However, due to the land tenure arrangements of these facilities are usually controlled by groups outside of the control of Council, the recreation opportunities that they provide cannot be factored into long term recreation planning for the City. If they continue to operate and provide recreational facilities for residents, that is considered a 'bonus' for the purpose of recreation planning. However, their ongoing operation is not a matter that is within the control of Council.

7.8 Current Council Projects

This section outlines a number of significant open space/recreation projects that Goulburn Mulwaree Council are currently pursuing or have in the planning phase. These projects have been considered in preparation of the recreation needs strategy and will form part of the on-going investment in and implementation of the strategy.

CBD Master Plan

The Goulburn CBD Master Plan was implemented to lead development within the CBD to reflect the community values, and social and economic directions of the city. The basis of the planning and design policies suggested in the Master Plan are formed around; economic viability; social values; heritage values; urban structure; views and vistas; built form; landscape setting and public domain; and access and movement. With these in mind, a CBD concept plan was prepared with 8 planning ‘mechanisms’ in mind.

Some of the mechanisms considered in the preparation of this Recreational Needs Study is the need to consolidate, integrate and connect various land uses and precincts within the CBD. Some of the mechanisms relevant to recreational planning include the following:

- Define a CBD core and a series of land use precincts that support and enhance its function.
- New development zones including key redevelopment sites identified by Council at the northern and southern ends of the CBD are designed to enhance and strengthen the integrity of the CBD Core.
- The open space connection to the river at the southern edge of the CBD is reinstated and strengthened.



Source: CBD Master Plan

Wollondilly River Walkway

Work on stage one of the project was completed in October 2016, and the 2.5km path now links Marsden Weir and the Goulburn Historic Waterworks with Joshua Street. The second stage includes an elevated walkway around the rock face at Joshua Street and a footbridge that will link the track with Gibson Street.



Source: GMC

Figure 12: Map of Wollondilly River Walkway

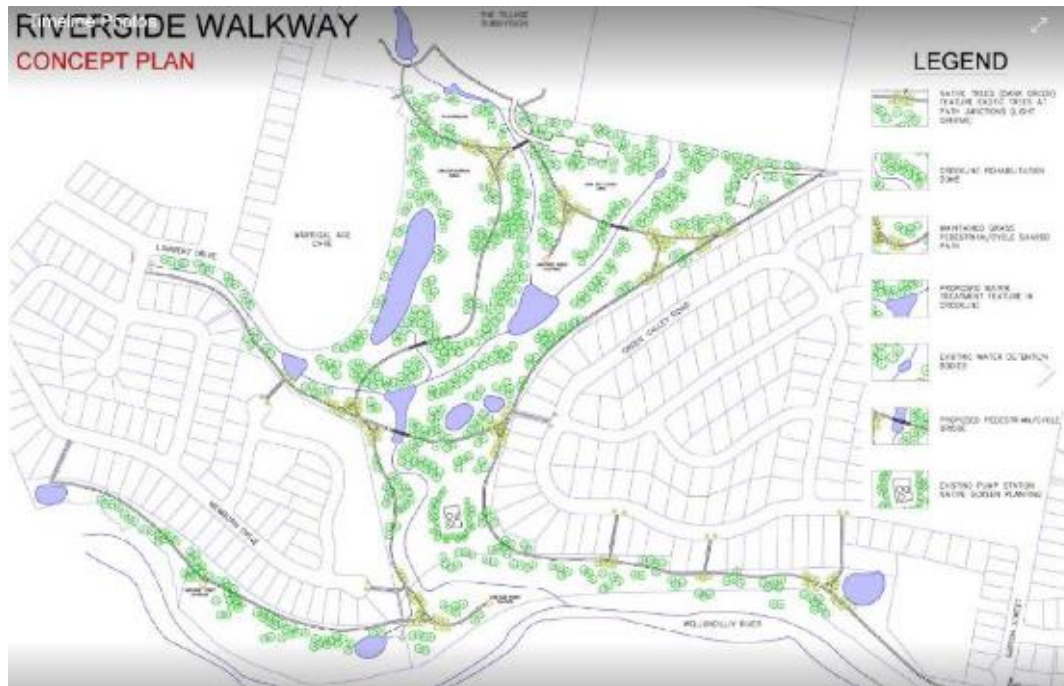


Source: Goulburn Post (www.goulburnpost.com.au)

Riverside Park

Concept plan for the Riverside Park at Marys Mount includes a playground and dog off-leash area and pedestrian links to the river. Significant landscaping is also proposed in a zone bordered by The Tillage residential subdivision, Warrigal Aged Care facility, Green Valley Road and the Wollondilly River. It would also include pedestrian links to all of these points, as well as Lambert Drive.

The park will connect with shared pedestrian pathways linking different sections of the park, while bridges will also create features over waterways. A pathway will also run along to the Gibson Street bridge, enabling users to connect with the River walkway. Creek line rehabilitation, native tree planting and a proposed water treatment feature will complete the community space.



Source: GMC

Carr Confoy Park Development Plan

Carr Confoy in Eastgrove is the preferred location of a new regional hockey facility. The necessary planning works will include concept design of the fields and amenities, and finalisation of a business plan. The proposed location would see two water-based synthetic turf fields and two multi-use grass fields constructed to the east of the current clubhouse and netball courts at Carr Confoy.



Source: Goulburn Hockey Association



Source: Hugh Gordon Architects

Victoria Park Master Plan

The Victoria Park Master Plan was prepared as a means of rejuvenating the Victoria Park area. The park is identified as a regional attraction in this study. The Master Plan aims to create a better functioning location and identifies place making techniques to increase its use.

The proposed Goulburn Aquatic Centre redevelopment plans were publicly exhibited in July 2018 by the Goulburn Mulwaree Council. The Aquatic Centre redevelopment forms part of the Victoria Park Master Plan.

The \$45 million redevelopment is anticipated to be built over three stages and includes new indoor pools, water play features and a cafe among other improvements.

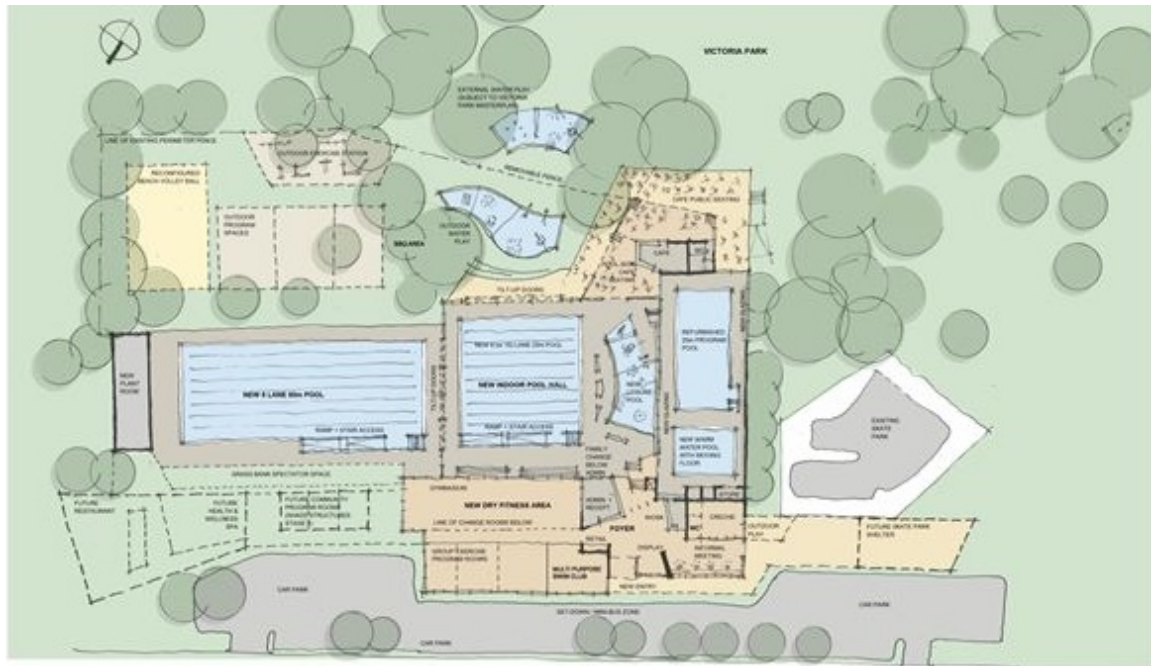
Stage one includes the upgrade of the indoor facilities; stage two is for outdoor aquatic and fitness facilities, and stage three is the upgrade to the existing outdoor pool, which will remain open while work on stage one is completed.



Source: SpaceLab + GMC



Source: GMC



503482 GOULBURN AQUATIC CENTRE REDEVELOPMENT STUDY

CONCEPT PLAN
PREFERRED SITE DEVELOPMENT MODEL

ISSUE: 30/01/18
SCALE: NTS
DRAWN: SAJ
DATE: 26.05.2016

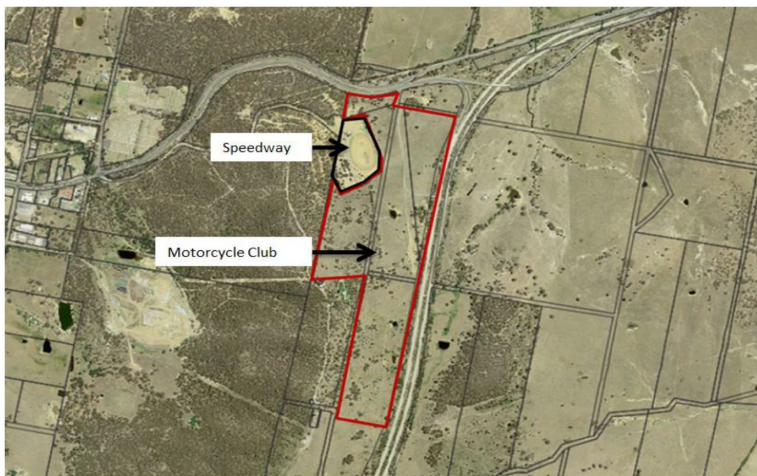


Goulburn Speedway and Motorcycle Club

Council recently received a request from the Goulburn Motorcycle Club to rezone land around 135 Speedway Road, Goulburn in order to enable the club to host more events as well as future national and international events.

The Goulburn Motorcycle Club currently has consent to hold events up to 30 days per year in accordance with a conditional development approval that includes strict conditions on hours of operation. Goulburn Speedway operates under existing use rights created before the Goulburn Mulwaree Local Environmental Plan 2009 (LEP).

Council have resolved to prepare and lodge a planning proposal to rezone land around 135 Speedway Road, Goulburn from Zone RU6 Transition to Zone RE2 Private Recreation. This will facilitate larger national events to be held at the site.



Other Potential Projects

The following projects have been identified as potential future projects for Council to undertake:

- Japanese garden for Victoria Park
- Upgrades of Goodhew and North Parks
- Second field for Poidevin Oval
- Copford Reach
- Wollondilly Boat Shed
- Peter Mowle reserve
- Ken Brown Reserve

Projects Summary

The projects listed above represent a major investment in new open space/recreation facilities in the Goulburn area that will serve all residents in the LGA as well as attracting interest from visitors outside the area. They will boost amenity and provide for greater use of open space resources, as well as providing new jobs during construction and ongoing boost to overall economic activity in the area. In addition, the range of projects caters for a wide range of local interests (and age groups), not just a focus on one sector alone.

7.9 Marulan

This section summarises the main open space and recreation facilities currently provided in the Town of Marulan

Figure 13: Location of Recreation Facilities – Marulan



Tony Onions Memorial Park

The Tony Onions Memorial Park is centrally located on the main street of Marulan (George Street). The Park includes two children’s playgrounds, public toilets, BBQ facilities, seating, gazebo and water bubbler.

The park is 3,190m² in area and zoned Public Recreation. The park was the subject of a 2017 Master Planning exercise and has been recently upgraded in line with the Master Plan.



Soccer

The Marulan Soccer fields are located off Portland Avenue and Goulburn Street at the western edge of Town. The soccer fields include a Club House/Canteen, toilets, seating and lighting. The Club is well supported through local industry sponsorships and the facilities are well maintained. However, the facility is suffering from drought.



Marulan Park

Marulan Park is located at the northern end of town off Brayton Road.

The Park has an area of 31,560m² and includes an oval which has been used predominately for cricket but could be used for a range of other ball sports.

The oval in general is not considered to be in a good condition and is not watered and has no lighting.

In addition to the oval, there are two training cricket nets and synthetic turf pitches that are in good order.

The Cricket Club which used the oval and developed all of the facilities on site no longer operates due to a lack of members.



Adjacent to the oval and practice pitches are two small brick buildings, one of which is the cricket Club House and includes a canteen. The Club House is in a deteriorated state and is not actively used.

Marulan Park also has a single tennis court. The court has a sealed surface but does not appear to have been maintained in recent years.

There is a grassed area to the west of the tennis courts that were also previously used as tennis courts. This area was then used as a basketball court, but this has since deteriorated to the point that tennis or basketball would not be possible. There is an informal car parking area.

Given there is no active Cricket Club or competitive tennis use, we do not recommend that Council makes any changes to the facilities.

Purdon Planning consider the Marulan Park to be somewhat segregated from other sporting and commercial activities in Town and consider that this Park could be better relocated to a more central location or to a shared sporting facility. The sporting facilities may also be better activated if they were within a shared precinct and there could therefore be better justification for maintenance and upgrades.

Skatepark

The Marulan Skate Park is located in the same area as the Marulan Soccer Fields; at the corner of Goulburn Street and Portland Avenue.



The Skate Park is in a dilapidated state filled with rubbish and had an uneven chipped/cracked surface. The presence of the broken surface and rubbish indicates that the skate park is not regularly used as the rubbish and deteriorated surface present as both a significant inconvenience and hazard to skaters.

The skatepark is also considered to be poorly placed at the western edge of the town and largely inaccessible on board due to the uneven gravel roads which service the area. The bowl is also only accessible via a set of stairs.

Community feedback was that the bowl had no drainage and became infested with mosquitos when it rained. The community noted that some kids did play around the bowl but not with skateboards or bikes. Some people did take scooters there but mainly scooted around the bowl rather than going into it.

Despite the deteriorated state of the facility, additional repairs and spending is not recommended on the basis that the facility appears to be underutilised and is poorly located.

If a skate park is required, Purdon Planning would recommend placing such a facility in a central location like the Tony Onions Park.

Meridian Park

The Meridian Park is accessible off George Street. The Park includes information about the Meridian and features the Marulan Meridian Arch.

Outdoor fitness equipment was installed at the Meridian Park in 2017 with the support of the Lions Club and funding from Veolia Mulwaree Trust and Goulburn Mulwaree Council.



Meridian Park does not have any toilet facilities or other amenities but does have two undercover seating areas.

The presence of the fitness equipment does help give the Park a purpose (outside of being ornamental) but relies on people actively travelling to the park to use the equipment. The location of the Park does not encourage incidental use. Location of fitness equipment along a desire line such as a river foreshore or lake lends itself to incidental use as people walking/using these areas are often doing so for recreational/fitness purposes and are therefore more inclined to use the fitness equipment. It is unknown whether people from the Town actively travel to the fitness centre to use it.

It is not considered that any further upgrades or installations in this location to be necessary.

As noted above, skate park and play equipment investment would be better directed to a central location which is on a pedestrian desire line such as the Tony Onions Memorial Park.

Tupra Park

Tupra Park is a small local park in Loseby Avenue Marulan. It has an area of just over 1,000m² and includes play equipment, benches, grassed area with trees

7.10 Village Facilities

7.10.1 Tallong

Tallong has a population of just over 800 people and comprises one area of open space within the village, being 2-8 Memorial Drive. This park has an area of 9,093m² and includes a grassy area with shelter and play equipment.

Figure 14: Location of Recreation Facilities – Tallong



7.10.2 Tarago

Tarago has a broad range of recreational facilities located within the Tarago Recreation Reserve.

The facilities include:

- Tennis Courts / Basketball courts (with adjustable basketball hoops)
- Children’s playground
- Sports field (cricket)
- Public toilets
- Dressage arena
- Seating and shelter
- Wetland ponds



Figure 15: Location of Recreation Facilities – Tarago



7.10.3 Bungonia

Bungonia has a population of just over 350 people and has two recreation areas. The main area is a parkland / picnic area within the centre of the village with shelters, seating, BBQs and open grassed areas. A second area is a parkland to the south of the village near the community hall. This area has been landscaped and includes short walking paths.

Figure 16: Location of Recreation Facilities – Bungonia



7.10.4 Lake Bathurst

Lake Bathurst is a small village, located on the Goulburn-Braidwood Road, with a population of approximately 230 people.

Existing recreation areas are limited to a disused tennis court.



7.10.5 Towrang

Towrang is a small village of approximately 150 people about 5km off the Hume Highway and about 15km from Goulburn.

The village is served by a small casual recreation area with basic facilities.



7.11 Other Localities

Other small localities within the Council area include:

Baw Baw	Lower Boro	Run-O-Waters
Boxers Creek	Middle Arm	Tarlo (part)
Brayton	Mummel	Tirrannaville
Brisbane Grove	Oallen	Windellama
Carrick	Parkesbourne	Wollogorang
Gundry	Quialigo	Yarra
Kingsdale		

The above localities are rural areas or hamlets with only a small cluster of houses. They generally do not have any recreation facilities (although Lake Bathurst has a dis-used tennis court). Their current population together with likely future population does not necessitate any specific focus on recreation planning for these areas. If a specific demand arises (e.g. if a rural hamlet establishes a sports team in a local competition and seeks to establish its own sports ground, then Council can appropriately respond at the relevant time.

7.12 Summary of Available Facilities in Goulburn

The local government area has a wide range of open space and recreation facilities, mainly located in Goulburn as the largest population centre, but also spread across other settlements in the area. These facilities appear to be generally well maintained by Council and well used by local residents and in some cases by users from the region as well as out of area visitors.

This study estimates that Goulburn has a combined total area of approximately 855ha for sports grounds, parks and natural areas. This represents about 16% of the total urban area of Goulburn (5,200ha) and thus represents a major land use.

The provision of **sports grounds** by category in the hierarchy in Goulburn is summarised as follows:

- Regional Sports Grounds = 260ha
- District Sports Grounds = 100ha
- Local Sports Grounds = 4ha

(Note: the above figures include the Rifle Range as regional facilities, the Speedway (5.5ha) lies outside the urban area)

The provision of **parks** is summarised as follows:

- Regional parks = 80ha
- District parks = 6ha
- Local parks = 24ha

The approximate size of natural areas (river corridors; ridges; drainage reserves and wetlands) is estimated at 532ha.



8 Community Profile

This section of the study provides a brief outline of key demographic features in the LGA, and a more detailed discussion about the profile of the Goulburn community and distribution of open spaces/recreation facilities by main districts.

The following section provide the results of community consultation as part of the needs assessment.

8.1 Goulburn Mulwaree LGA

The Goulburn Mulwaree Council area is located in central New South Wales, about 200 kilometres south-west of central Sydney, and 95 kilometres north-east of central Canberra. It covers an area of 3,293 square kilometres and includes the town of Marulan and a number of small village communities including: Bungonia, Lake Bathurst, Tallong, Tarago, and Towrang.

Goulburn Mulwaree is part of the Southern NSW Local Health District (SNSW LHD) which spans the NSW South Coast and Southern Tablelands, across the Great Dividing Range and the Snowy Mountains, and mostly surrounds the Australian Capital Territory.

Recent population estimates (2017) indicate approximately 30,438 people living in the Goulburn Mulwaree Council LGA (Table 2), with a large majority living and working in the Goulburn urban area.

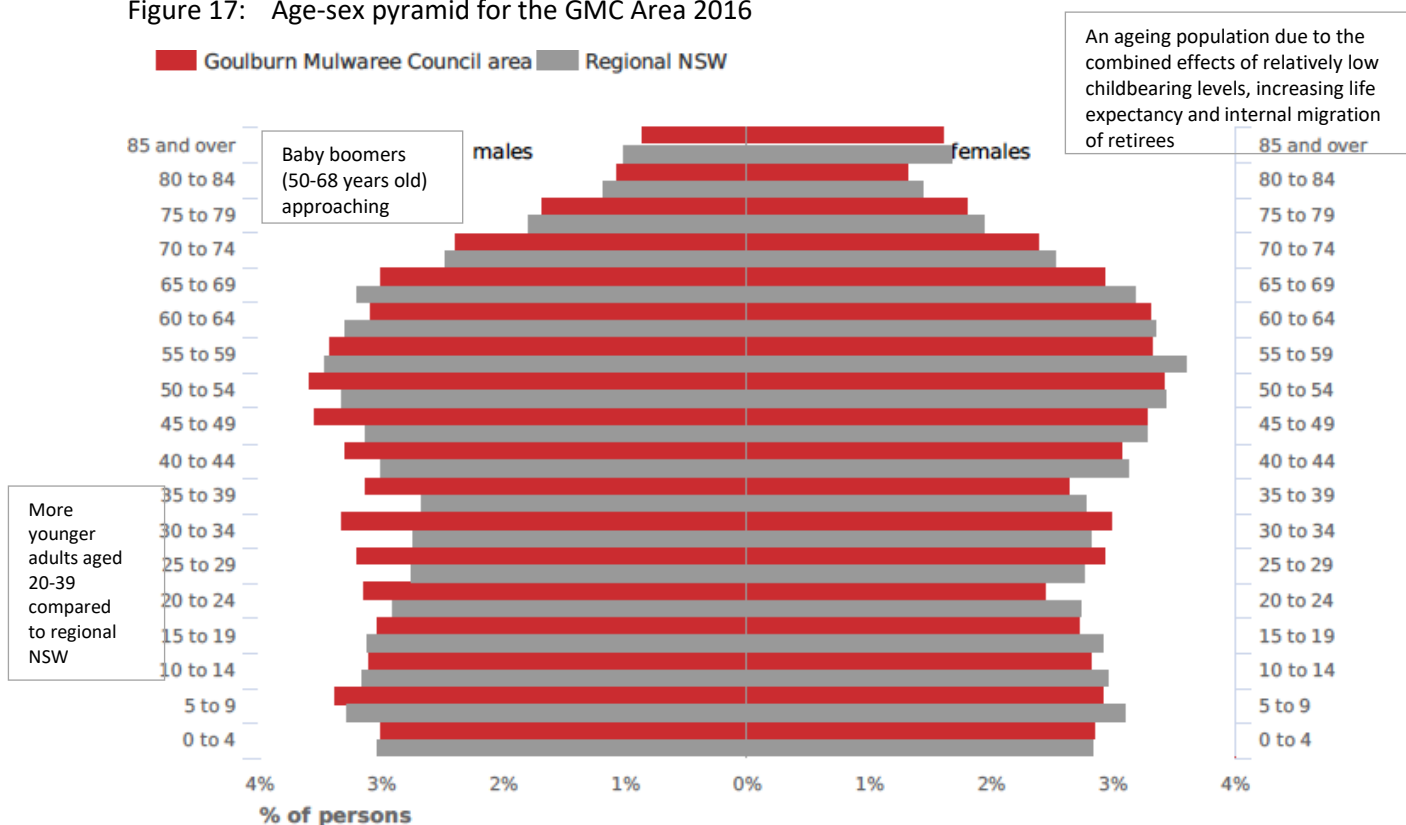
The LGA has an ageing population due to the combined effects of relatively low childbearing levels, increasing life expectancy and internal migration of retirees¹ (Figure 22Figure 21).

The major employment sectors in the LGA are retail trade, health care and social assistance, education and construction².

The largest segment of the population is parents and homebuilders aged 35-49 (18.6%) followed by older workers and pre-retirees, and the young workforce (Table 4). Together these groups represent 44% of the Goulburn Mulwaree population.

Population projections indicate that Goulburn Mulwaree will see a 9% increase in its population from 2016 to 2026 levels, with a 34% increase in those aged 65+ in that period. Most of this growth is expected to occur within the Goulburn urban area, with the Mary's Mount district accounting for a significant part this new development.

Figure 17: Age-sex pyramid for the GMC Area 2016



Source: ABS, Census of Population and Housing 2011 and 2016. <https://profile.id.com.au/goulburn/>

Table 3: Estimated Resident Population Goulburn Mulwaree Council Area

Census Year	Former Goulburn City Council Area	Former Mulwaree Council Area	Combined Councils	Annual % change
1981	21,970	4,379	26,349	
1986	21,765	5,084	26,849	+0.37%
1991	21,990	5,399	27,389	+0.39%
1996	21,490	5,806	27,296	-0.07%
2001	21,312	6,917	28,229	+0.66%
	Goulburn City Urban Area	Annual % change	Goulburn-Mulwaree Council	
2006	20,127	-	26,695	-1.15%
2011	21,092	+0.92%	28,363	+1.18%
2016	22,419	+1.18%	30,261	+1.25%

Source: ABS Census 2016, Profile.id.com.au, Compiled by Purdon Planning

Table 4: Age Cohorts, GMC (2016)

Service age group (years)	Number	%	Regional NSW %
Babies and pre-schoolers (0 to 4)	1,742	5.9	5.8
Primary schoolers (5 to 11)	2,612	8.8	8.9
Secondary schoolers (12 to 17)	2,134	7.2	7.3
Tertiary education and independence (18 to 24)	2,302	7.8	7.9
Young workforce (25 to 34)	3,567	12.0	11.0
Parents and homebuilders (35 to 49)	5,507	18.6	18.0
Older workers and pre-retirees (50 to 59)	4,084	13.8	13.8
Empty nesters and retirees (60 to 69)	3,738	12.6	13.1
Seniors (70 to 84)	3,192	10.8	11.4
Elderly aged (85 and over)	738	2.5	2.7
Total	29,616	100.0	100.0

Source: ABS, Census of Population and Housing 2011 and 2016. <https://profile.id.com.au/goulburn/>

Country of Birth

Within the Goulburn Mulwaree area there is a predominance of Australian born residents as opposed to people born in other countries and is substantially higher than the NSW average.

Table 5: Country of Birth

No.	Goulburn City (%)	Goulburn-Mulwaree LGA (%)	NSW (%)
1	Australia - 84%	Australia – 83%	Australia – 65%
2	England – 2%	England – 2.3%	China – 5%
3	New Zealand – 1%	New Zealand – 1%	England – 3%
4	India – 0.6%	China – 0.7%	New Zealand – 1.6%

Source: ABS 2016

Household Composition

The household composition within the Goulburn Mulwaree LGA is broadly consistent with the NSW average, with slightly higher numbers of 1-2 person households and fewer 3-4 person households.

Table 6: Household Composition

Number of Persons per household	Goulburn City (%)	Goulburn-Mulwaree LGA (%)	NSW (%)
One	31%	29%	24%
Two	34%	35%	32%
Three	14%	14%	16%
Four	12%	12%	16%
Five	5%	6%	7%
Six or more	3%	3%	4%

Source: ABS 2016

Industry of Employment

The main employment sectors in the LGA and Goulburn are shown in Table 7.

Table 7: Industry of Employment

No.	Goulburn City	Goulburn-Mulwaree LGA	NSW
1	Health Care and Social Assistance	Health Care and Social Assistance	Health Care and Social Assistance
2	Retail Trade	Public Administration and Safety	Retail Trade
3	Public Administration and Safety	Retail Trade	Education and Training
4	Construction	Construction	Construction

Source: ABS 2016

Household Income Levels

Median income levels per household are significantly lower in Goulburn Mulwaree than in comparison to the rest of NSW.

Table 8: Median Weekly Income Levels (per dwelling)

Goulburn City (\$)	Goulburn-Mulwaree LGA (\$)	NSW (\$)
\$1,155	\$1,178	\$1,486

Source: ABS 2016

Number of Motor Vehicles per Household

The number of motor vehicles per household in the Goulburn Mulwaree area is slightly higher than the NSW average. This is likely due to the dependence on motor vehicles in the region for work.

Table 9: Motor Vehicles per Household

Goulburn City	Goulburn-Mulwaree LGA	NSW
1.7	1.9	1.7

Source: ABS 2016

Village demographics

Villages other than Marulan only account for a small percentage of total population in the LGA.

Table 10: Village Demographics

	Tallong	Tarago	Bungonia	Lake Bathurst	Towrang
Population	813	426	367	228	171
Median Age		44	49	46	44
People per household		2.6	2.3	2.3	2.6
Median weekly household income		\$1,645	\$1,025	\$1,649	\$1,274
Motor vehicles per dwelling		2.1	2.1	2.4	2.6

Source: ABS 2016

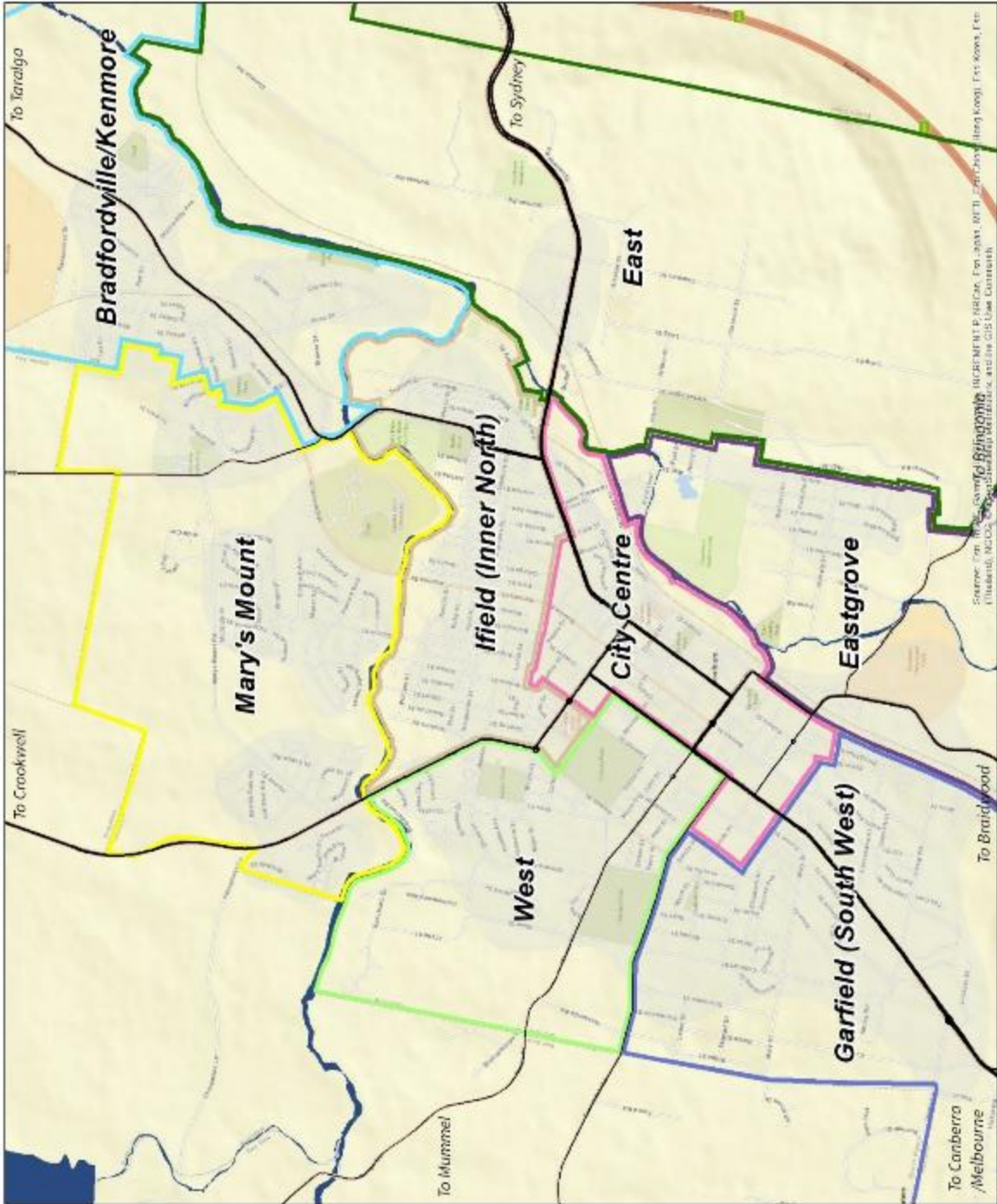
8.2 Goulburn City

This part of the study examines the current pattern of development, demographics and other characteristics of the Goulburn urban area and should be read in conjunction with the summary of existing open space/recreation facility provision.

For discussion purposes the study has divided Goulburn into eight general districts as shown in Figure 18. The eight areas are discussed in detail below. Figure 25 to Figure 32 shows the location of each precinct and open spaces/recreation facilities in these precincts.



Figure 18: Goulburn Districts Overview



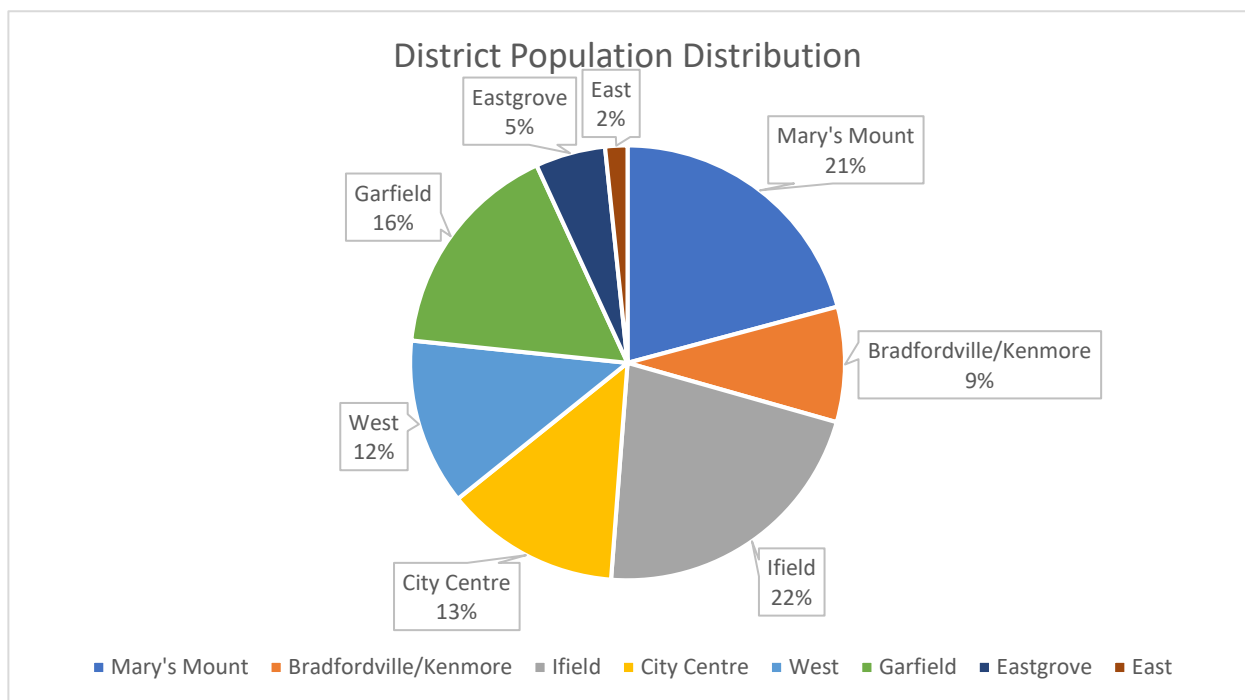
8.2.1 Population Distribution

The population distribution of each district in Goulburn according to the 2016 Census is summarised below (Figure 19).

The three most populated districts are Ifield, Mary’s Mount districts and Garfield which account for about 59% of total urban population). The least populated districts are East Goulburn, Eastgrove and Bradfordville/Kenmore.

Areas likely to accommodate the bulk of new growth over the next decade are Mary’s Mount and West Goulburn although there is also likely to be some redevelopment in the inner areas consistent with trends in other urban areas.

Figure 19: District Population Distribution



Source: ABS 2016; Purdon Planning

8.2.2 Age Distribution

The age distribution of the eight districts across Goulburn have been divided into 4 demographic groups as follows:

- CHILD – 0 to 9 year olds: people who are dependent on others when using facilities
- YOUNG ADULT – 10 to 35 year olds: people who use facilities by themselves and are competitive in sports
- ADULT – 36 to 74 year olds: people who take others to sporting facilities or use them less regularly, and use passive spaces more often
- SENIOR – 75 years plus: use passive spaces often and may require additional facilities and access requirements

The geographic distribution of these age groups is summarised for each of the 8 urban districts in Goulburn (Figures 18 & 19) to give an indication of where demand for certain kinds of recreation facilities might be experienced.

Figure 20 to Figure 22 show the distribution of age groups by district.

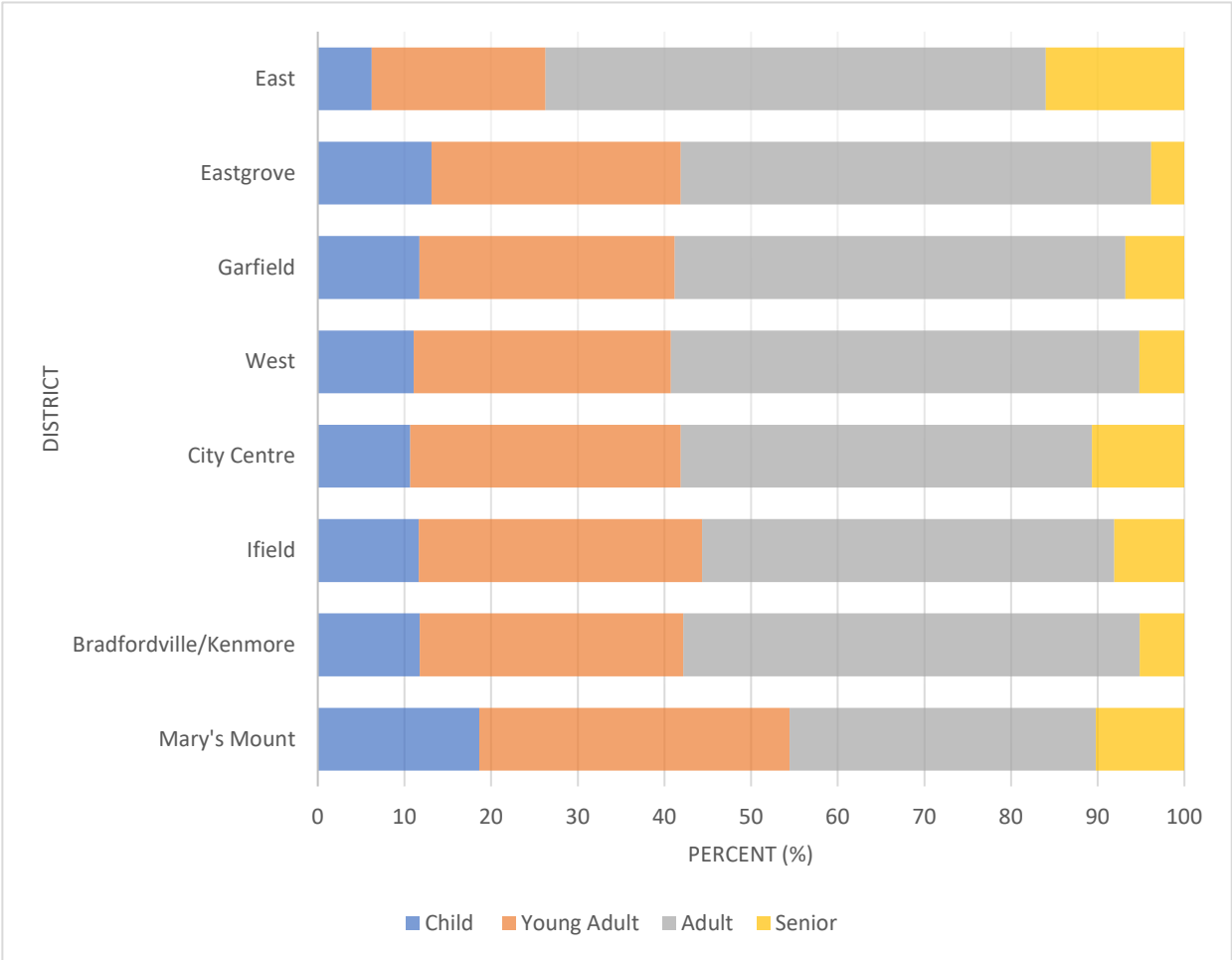
Children – the largest concentration is located in Mary’s Mount (28%) followed by Ifield (20%) with only 11% in the City Centre

Young adults are concentrated in are again concentrated in Ifield (23%) and Mary’s amount (22%), with 13% in the City centre

Adults are mainly concentrated in Mary’s Mount (25%), Ifield (23%) and 18% in the City Centre

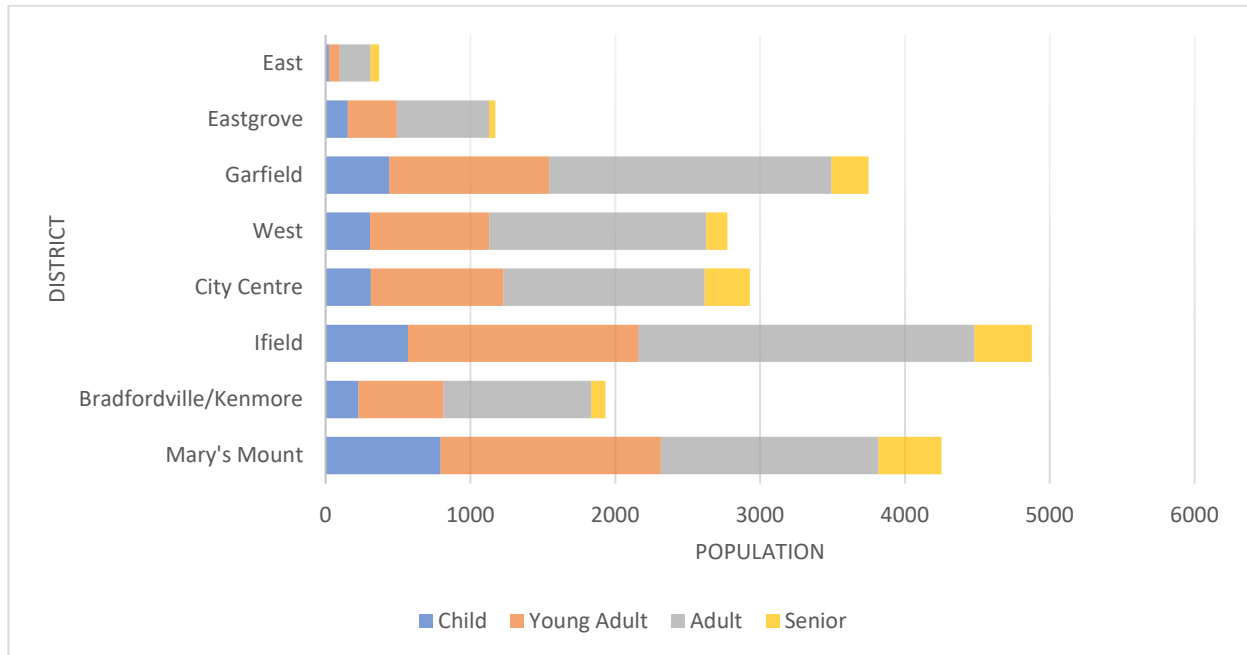
Seniors are concentrated in Ifield (22%) and Garfield (19%), with 13% in the City Centre.

Figure 20: percentage Age Groups by District:



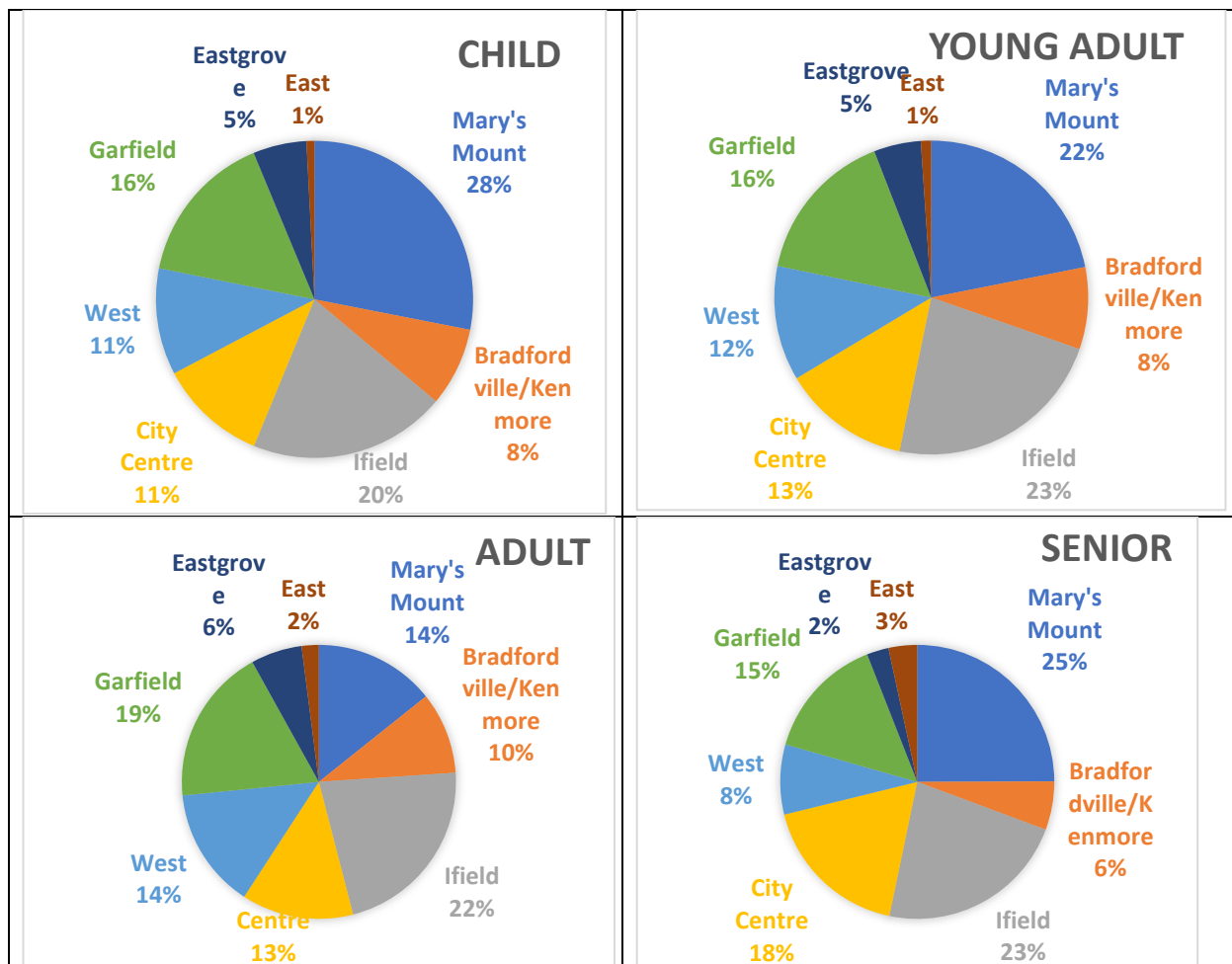
Source: ABS 2016; Purdon Planning

Figure 21: Age Groups by Districts



Source: ABS 2016; Purdon Planning

Figure 22: Population by age (Goulburn)



Source: ABS 2016; Purdon Planning



8.2.1 Existing Open Space Provision

In general, Goulburn is well supplied with local parks and sports grounds. Residents within the urban areas of the city are mostly within 400m of an area of open space. The key issue relates not to the amount of land dedicated for open space, but to the quality of the open spaces.

While it is accepted that residents will seek to achieve high quality playgrounds in all local parks or quality irrigated playing fields at all sports grounds, this level of provision is not achievable.

Figure 23 shows the extent of the urban areas that are within 200m and 400m of all types of **open space and recreation facilities** in Goulburn. This confirms that over 95% of residents are within close proximity to open space. For most people, the 400m radius is regarded as a reasonable distance to walk or cycle to public facilities. However, whilst closer proximity would be desirable for people with movement disabilities, most of the open spaces are accessible by motor vehicle.

Figure 24 shows the proximity of residents to **playgrounds**. Whilst the 400m playground catchment covers a substantial part of the urban area, there are some local areas where there is less provision.

Areas requiring additional provision of play grounds include areas in Mary's Mount and West Goulburn associated with new suburban development. Such facilities could be included in a revised DCP for these areas.

New play equipment could also be considered for some existing pocket parks in established areas where there was a clear demand for new facilities. This level of detailed assessment has not been undertaken as part of the current study but could arise from a recommendation in the Strategy for consultation on the future use of pocket parks. Alternatively, these spaces could be used for other activities such as community gardens, wood lots or small enclosed dog parks.

8.2.2 Open Space by District

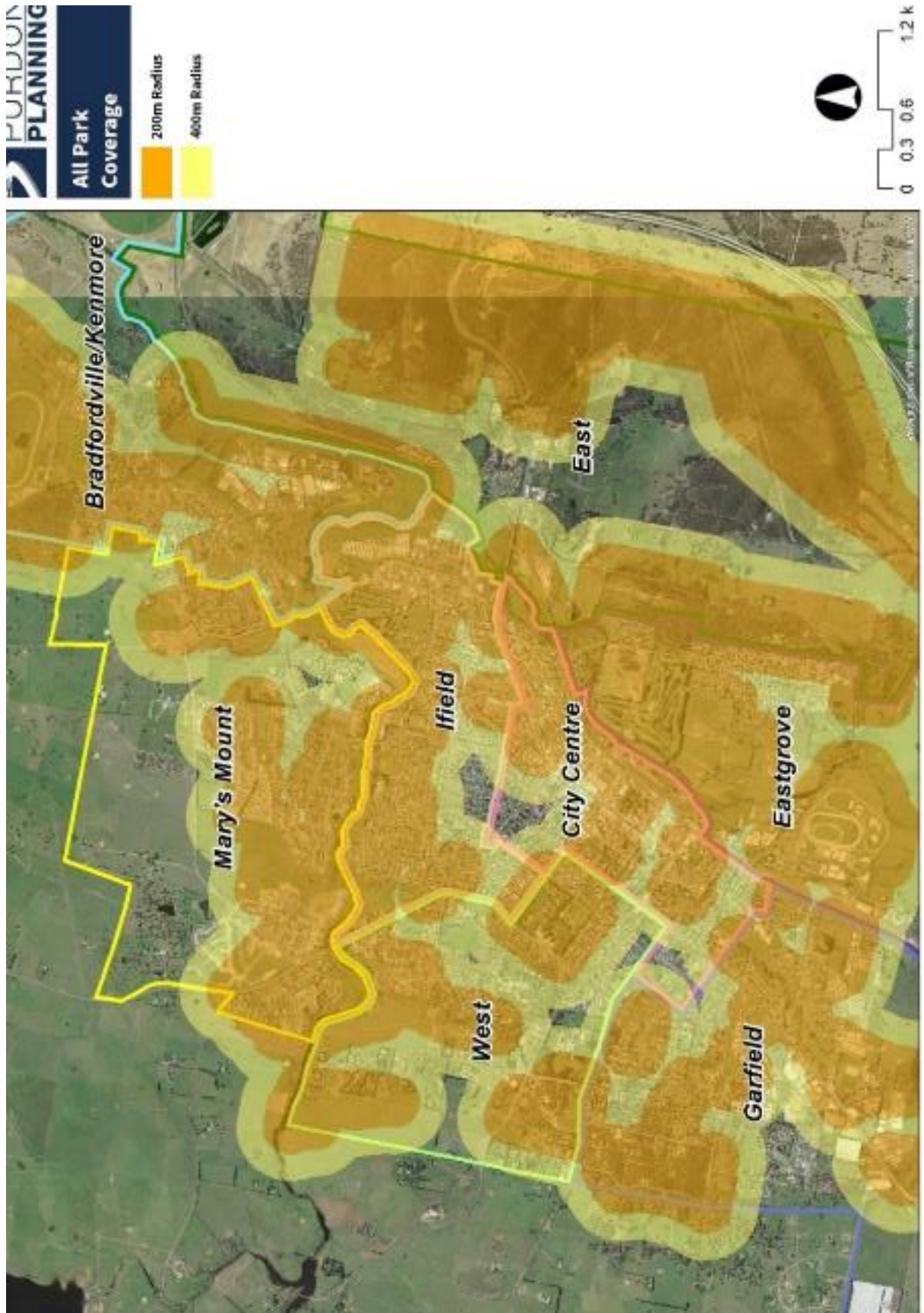
An analysis of the GMC open space inventory shows that open spaces and recreation facilities are scattered across the Goulburn area. This current pattern reflects the historical development of these spaces and facilities over an extended period from early settlement, as well as the confluence of natural local features (eg river corridors; rocky outcrops; etc). The pattern also reflects decisions about new facilities that have been made in response to specific user requirements or decisions by the community to upgrade certain facilities.

In most cases, whilst the development of or investment in upgrading a place or facility has been a conscious decision of Council (often in conjunction with a special interest group), there has been no comprehensive spatial plan for the location of these open spaces or facilities.

As a result, not all districts have the same level of provision or the same mix of recreational land uses.

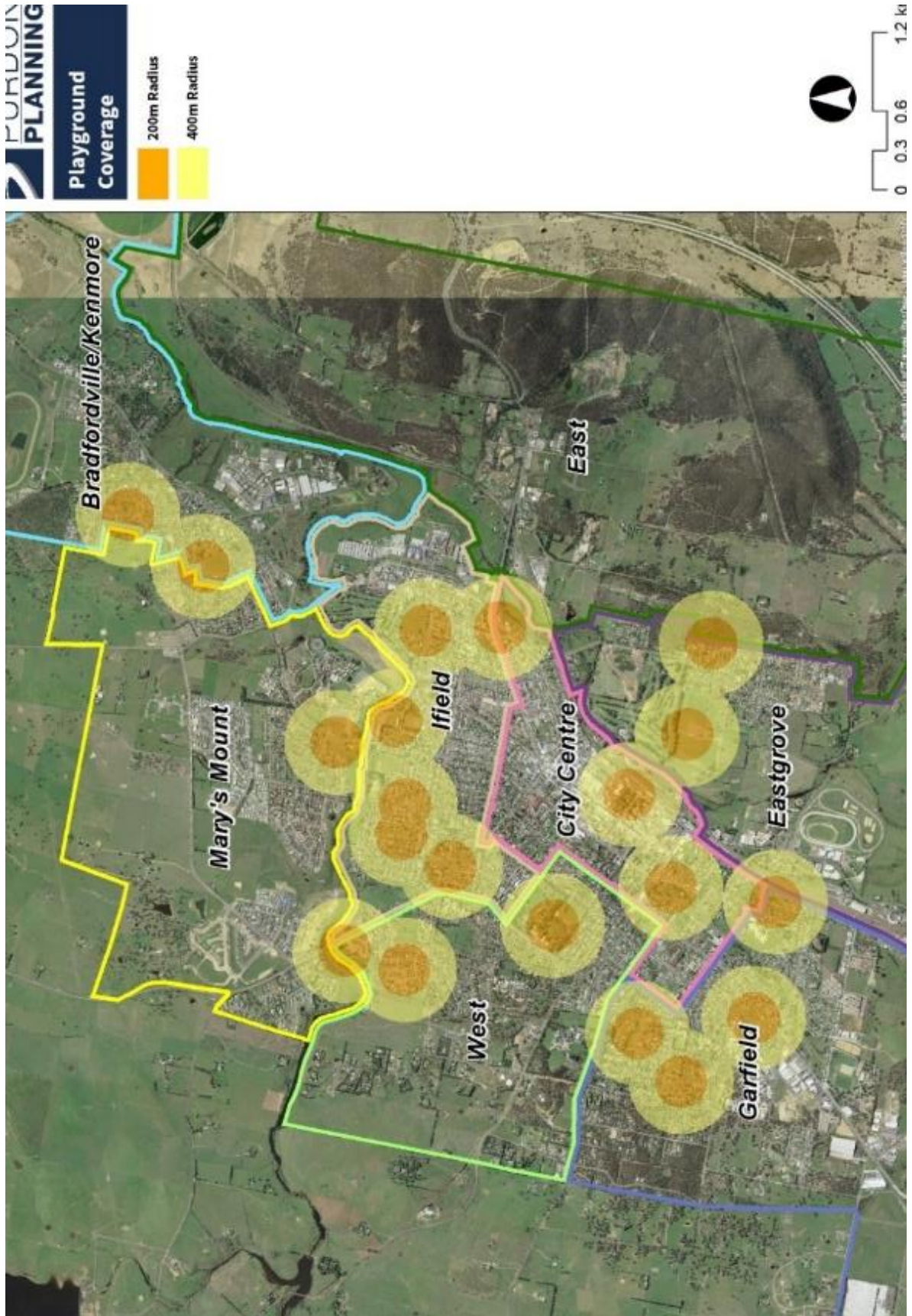
Goulburn is an old city and has not had the opportunity to plan the location of all of its recreational facilities in the same manner as some much new communities. However, the size of the urban area and the street network, combined with relatively high levels of car ownership has meant that most recreation facilities are accessible to the majority of the local population, as well as to visitors.

Figure 23: Accessibility of Residents to Open Space



Source: Purdon Planning 2018

Figure 24: Accessibility of Residents to Playgrounds



Source: Purdon Planning 2018



8.2.3 District Profiles

This section identifies the 8 local planning precincts in Goulburn and provides commentary on their demographics, land use mix and provision of recreation facilities.

City Centre

City Centre is roughly bound by Citizen Street, Lagoon Street, Clinton Street and Cowper Street. The main features include Belmore Park, Saviours Cathedral, Saints Peter and Paul's Old Cathedral, Goulburn Library, Goulburn Railway Station and Goulburn Square (Figure 25).

This district includes the main commercial core of Goulburn which is surrounded by mixed use zoning. This mixed-use area includes several heritage buildings, some non-retail commercial and older residential areas.

The population of the City Centre is estimated to be 2,929 people (ABS 2016).

There are 10 available recreational spaces in the City Centre precinct, and a number of others immediately adjacent to this area (eg Victoria Park).

The main facility is Belmore park which serves as a regional as well as district and local facility. It contains a number of different features types including formal gardens, playground equipment and toilets, and has good adjacent parking. It is also supported by (and supports) services in the main street.

Towards the northern end there are rose gardens which attract a wide age range and are considered to be of predominantly local use. There is also a park adjacent the Service Club offering play equipment, BBQs and facilities for use by a relatively wide age range. These recreational spaces are predominantly passive use spaces and are not strongly associated with sporting use.

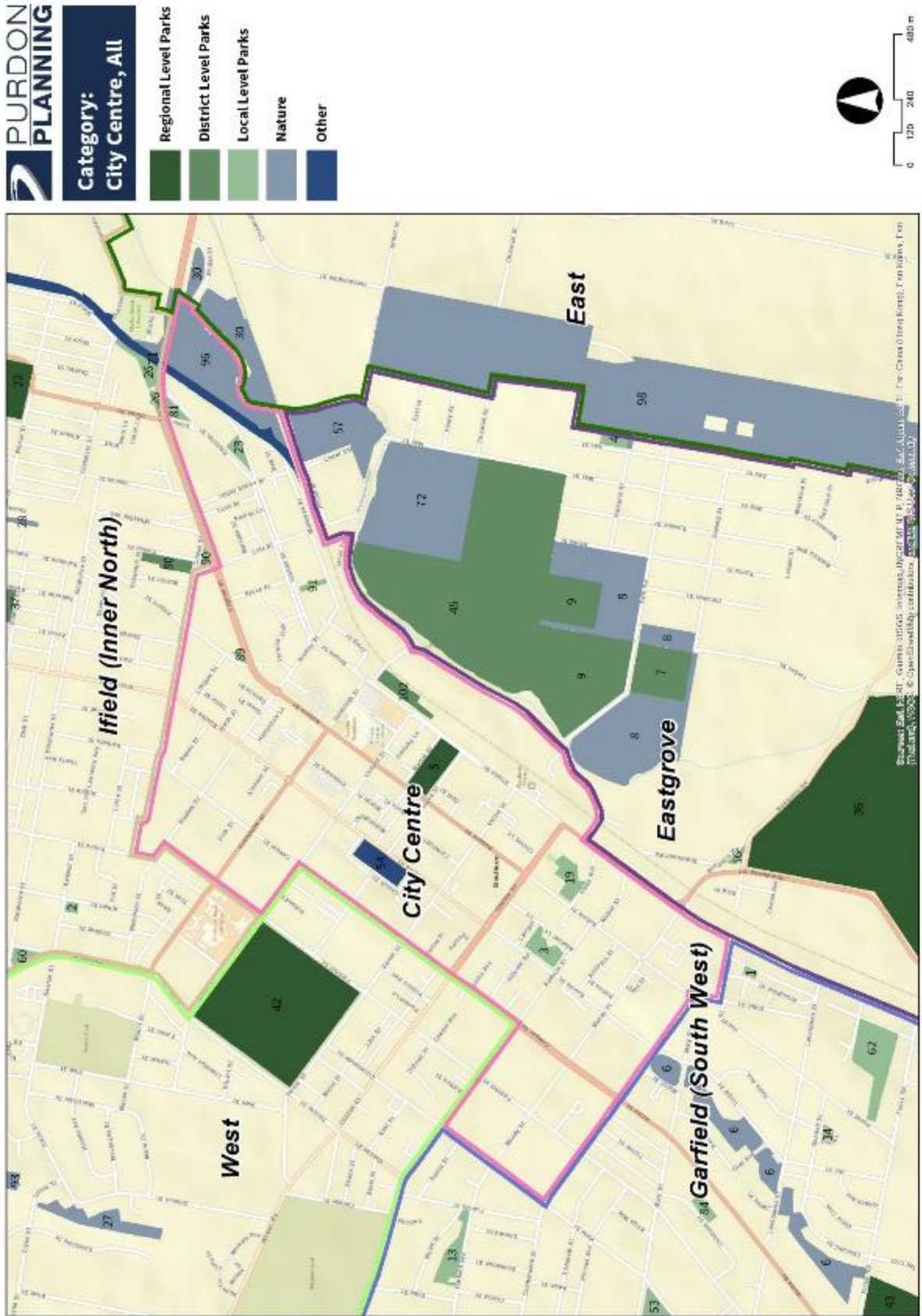
There are also lower quality parks including Manfred Park and Apex Park which provide some outdoor facilities and lower grade parks.

It is considered that the quality of parks in the City Centre precinct is reasonable and the parks are relatively well spaced in response to the age profile of the precinct.

Parks in the City Centre area have an aesthetic focus, given the high number of floral displays and formal layouts. There are fewer higher-grade sporting facilities, however the provision of such facilities in immediately adjacent precincts meet the demand.

The city centre precinct traditionally receives a relatively large number of visitors to Goulburn notwithstanding the bypass, and the parks /open spaces form an important element in their initial appreciation of the city.

Figure 25: City Centre Detail





Ifield

This area is bound by the Goulburn Correctional Centre, Wollondilly River, the Crookwell Road Bridge and Citizen Street (Figure 26).

The area is predominantly residential but includes some sporting fields and pocket parks. There is also the Tully Park Early Birds Golf Club to the north east. The eastern side of the district contains a light industrial area, St Saviours Cemetery and Goulburn Correctional Centre. The western side adjoins Victoria Park.

Some urban redevelopment (mainly townhouses) is occurring in this precinct.

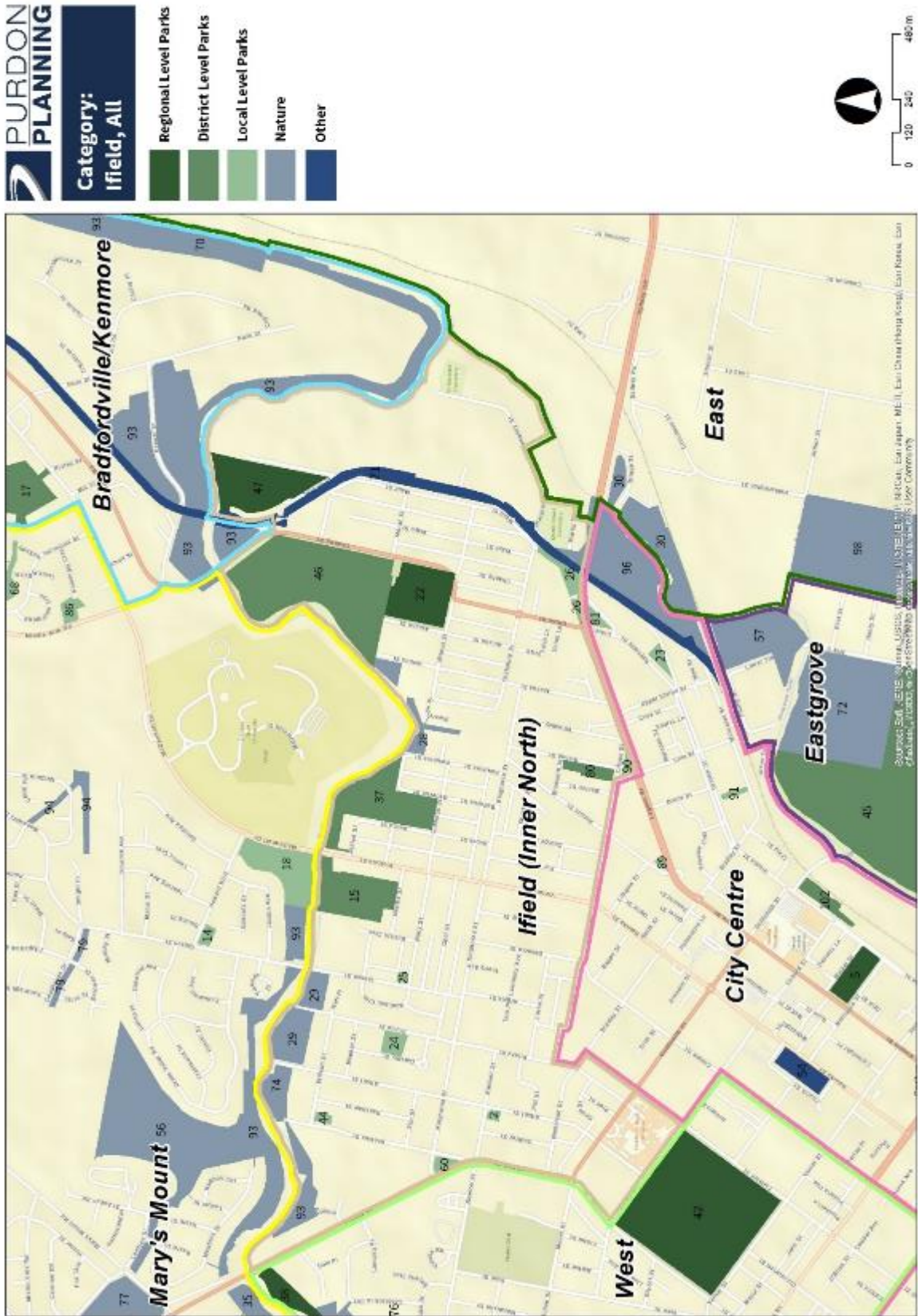
Ifield has an estimated population of 4,875 people (ABS,2016) which makes it the largest concentration in Goulburn.

There are 20 identifiable recreational and open spaces in the Ifield area to service this higher population. A large number of these identifiable areas are riverside parks and corridors.

There are several sporting facilities within the Ifield precinct, including the Golf Club, AFL oval, cricket fields, rugby fields and tennis courts. All of these facilities are located around the perimeter of the precinct or within the river corridor.

Other open spaces within Ifield are grassy areas with few facilities and equipment, and an upgrade of these spaces could be warranted subject to local community consultation.

Figure 26: Ifield Detail





Mary's Mount

Mary's Mount is north of Ifield, bound by the Wollondilly River and the northern borders of Goulburn urban area and is relatively isolated from the central Goulburn urban area because of the Wollondilly River corridor (Figure 27).

This district has been identified as the future urban growth area of Goulburn, and now contains several recent subdivisions with other estates planned or under construction.

The main features in the Mary's Mount district include the Charles Sturt University Goulburn Campus and the NSW Police Force Academy.

The population of Mary's Mount is estimated to be 4,253 people (ABS, 2016). This is the second highest population among the precincts within Goulburn, and this is expected to grow substantially over the next decade.

Mary's Mount has the highest numbers of children and young adults of all districts and is amongst the highest of the 30-34 year old category. It also contains about 25% of all seniors.

There are a number of identifiable areas on the GMC inventory within the Mary's Mount precinct which are considered to form part of the recreational and open space system of Goulburn. A review of these open spaces reveals that they are predominantly drainage reserves, stormwater ponds, river corridors and other generally featureless areas. These open spaces all service a local level recreational catchment. There are no district or regional service areas within the precinct.

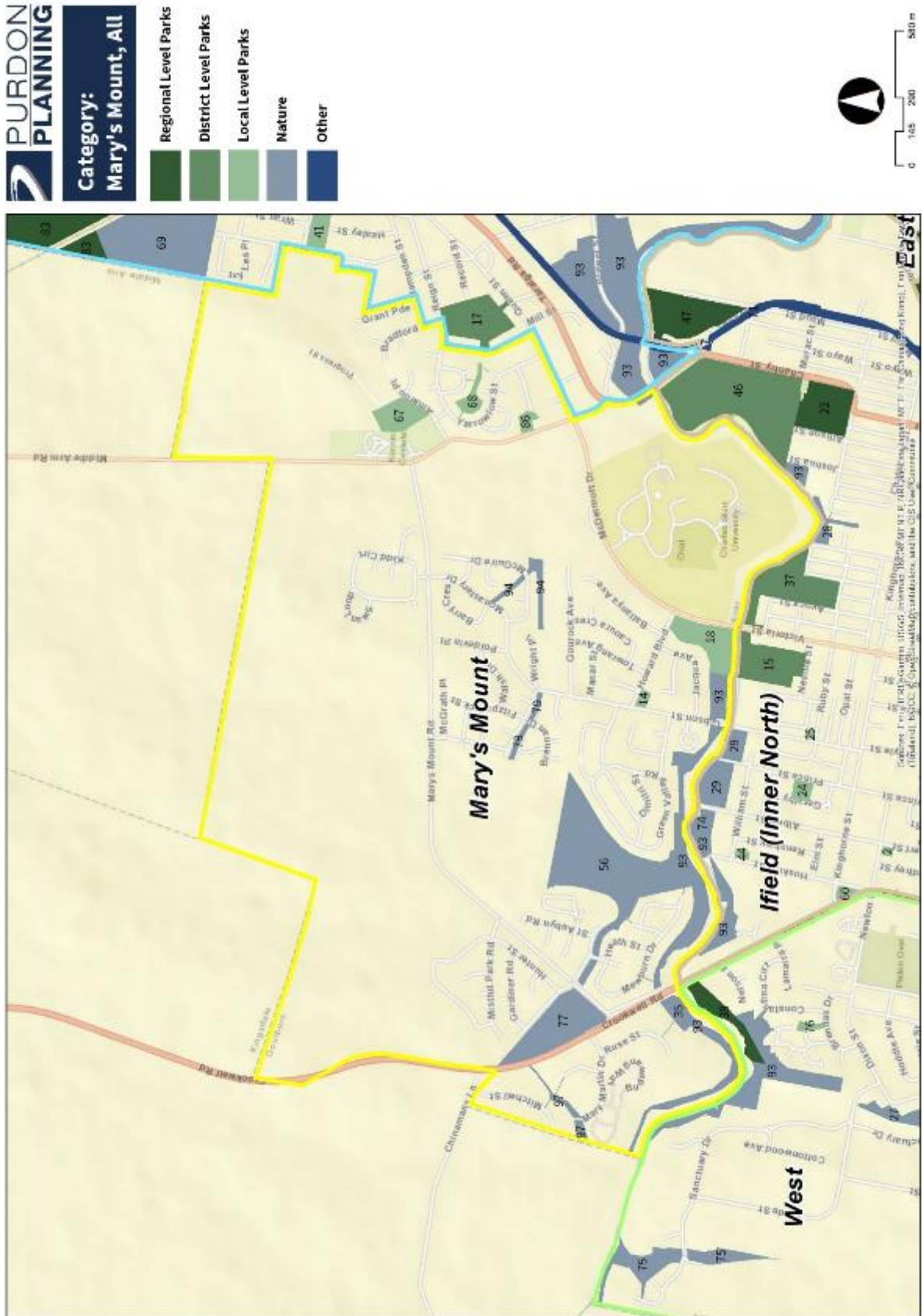
Whilst the drainage reserve, stormwater areas and river corridors provide amenity and passive use within the precinct, there is no provision of quality sporting fields, play equipment or facilities that provide for all age ranges.

A low-quality cricket pitch and picnic tables are provided in areas on the eastern side of the precinct. No similar facilities are provided in other areas of Mary's Mount.

Whilst the provision of these open spaces appears adequate, the quality of these spaces for active recreational use is low.

There is scope to improve the range of local recreation facilities in this district by way of amendments to the DCP to review contributions from new residential development subdivisions.

Figure 27: Mary's Mount Detail





Bradfordville/Kenmore

Bradfordville/Kenmore district is in the north-east part of Goulburn and comprises the land surrounding Taralga Road. It is bound by Mary's Mount to the west, the East district to the south and the Goulburn urban border to the north (Figure 28).

There is a historical industrial area within this district as well as Cookbundoon Sorting Complex, Goulburn & District Racing Club, and low density residential.

The population of the Bradfordville/Kenmore precinct is estimated to be 1,932 people (ABS, 2016).

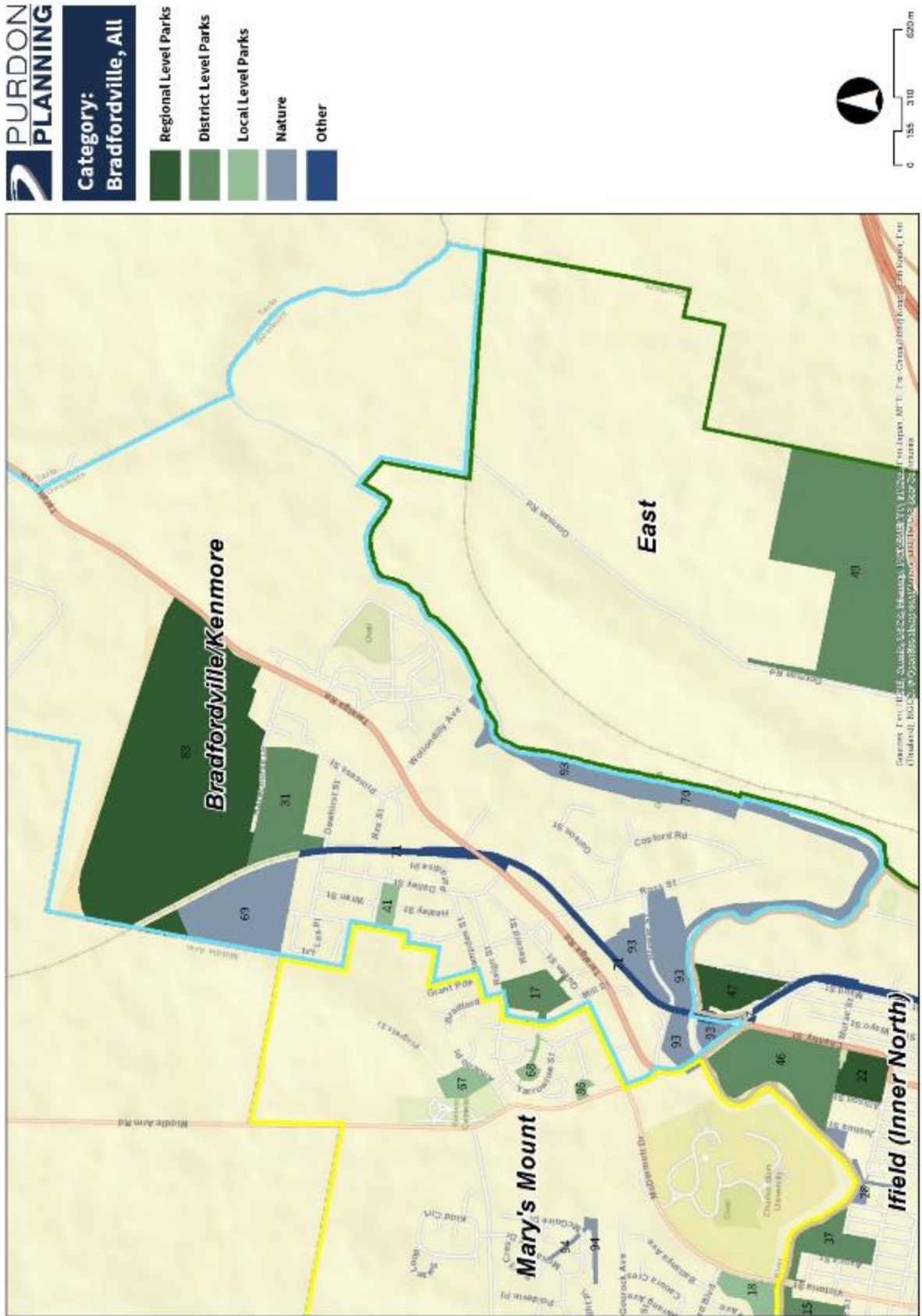
There are 13 identifiable parks in the precinct, several of these contribute to the rail and river corridors, however provide amenity and passive recreational use within the precinct.

There are several sporting facilities in the Bradfordville/Kenmore precinct, including the athletics track, tennis courts and play equipment in Hudson Park, and the race track and soccer fields at Cookbundoon. These sporting facilities are able to provide service up to a district and regional level.

Given the demographic profile for this district, the parks within the Bradfordville/Kenmore precinct should service each age profile adequately. The play equipment at Hudson Park and the park along Dalley Street are adequate and able to service the number of children and youth in the area.

However, some eastern areas of Bradfordville/Kenmore are subject to future subdivisions, and as such provision of local parks and equipment will be required to service this growth. Changes to DCP requirements for developer contributions may also be of assistance in this district.

Figure 28: Bradfordville / Kenmore Detail





East Goulburn

This district is bound by the Wollondilly River to the north, and the urban edges of Goulburn to the east and south (Figure 29).

The area is predominantly reserved for environmental living and management. The district includes extractive industries, caravan parks, resource recovery centres, a motorcycle speedway and motels.

The population of the East Goulburn precinct is estimated to be 369 people (ABS, 2016) and is the lowest in Goulburn reflecting the predominant environmental living and environmental management zonings.

There are higher numbers of older residents in this precinct as opposed to children and youth, however it could be assumed that this means residents host their younger family members as guests – including children and grandchildren – and therefore the addition of a park with play equipment should be considered.

There are 7 identifiable recreational and open spaces in the East Goulburn precinct. Most of the recreational and open spaces in the precinct are nature reserves and corridors.

The adjacent Eastgrove precinct has high provision of sporting facilities which are close to the residential areas of the East precinct.

It is considered that given the low population of the precinct and the lack of intention for future growth into East Goulburn, the current level of open space provision is generally acceptable. However, the provision of a park with play equipment and the like should be considered given the distance from this precinct to a similar facility.



Eastgrove

Eastgrove district is located in the south eastern part of the urban area bound by Hume Highway to the south and the railway to the west (Figure 30).

This district contains a large area of flood liable land and railway corridor. It is primarily known for its recreational facilities, including Carr Confoy Park (netball courts, hockey, football grounds) a golf course, pony club, greyhound track and indoor sports arena most of which serve regional as well as district and local catchment areas.

The population of the Eastgrove Goulburn precinct is estimated to be 1,172 people (ABS,2016), and is the second lowest population level of all Goulburn precincts.

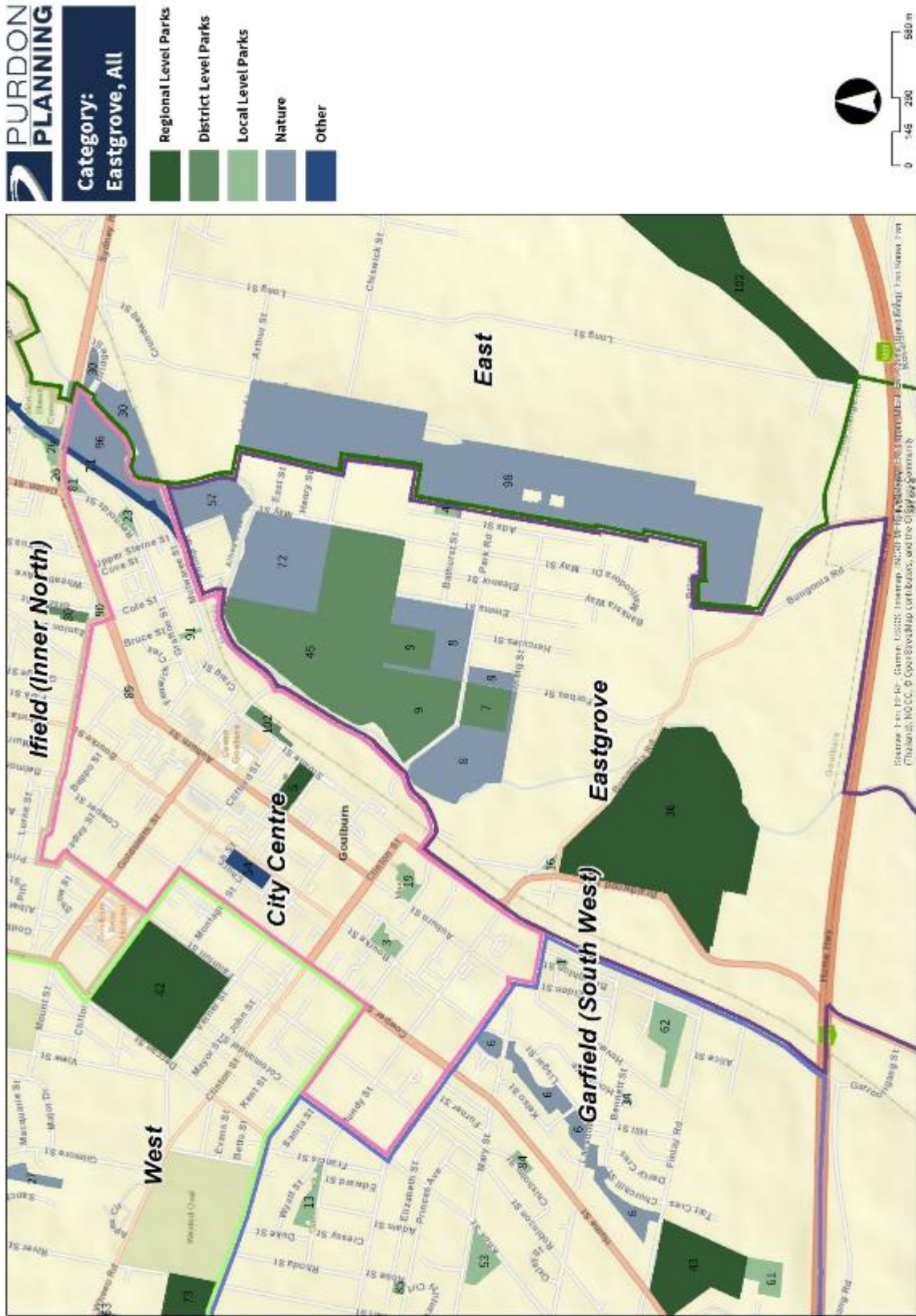
There is also an established residential area set apart from the town on the eastern side of the Mulwaree River. The Eastgrove residential area lies above the flood plain and against the backdrop of the War Memorial hills. This part of the district has a distinct physical and visual separation from the central Goulburn retail centre.

The types of recreational and open spaces in the Eastgrove precinct vary, and it is considered that the variety, quality and spatial distribution of these spaces serve all age ranges that live within the precinct, as well as any tourists and visitors from local to regional levels.

Within the precinct there are areas for passive and leisurely use including the Peter Mowle Nature Reserve and river corridors. Honour Park/Park Road also provides a rose garden, pergola and BBQ.

There are children's playground areas within the precinct such as Bartlett Park and Carr Confoy Park.

Figure 30: Eastgrove Detail





Garfield

The Garfield district is located in the southwest part of Goulburn. The area is bound by the Hume Highway to the south, Gurrundah Road to the north and the railway line to the east. (Figure 31).

This area includes rural residential to the west, and low density residential and commercial land use to the east. The main features within this district include the Big Merino, Goulburn South Caravan Park, highway convenience retail services and bulky goods retail destinations.

The population of the Garfield precinct is estimated to be 3,748 people (ABS,2016) and represents the third largest population total in Goulburn.

The age range in the Garfield area is consistent with other parts of Goulburn although there is slightly lower percentage of seniors.

The GMC inventory shows a number of open spaces/recreation facilities scattered across the district.

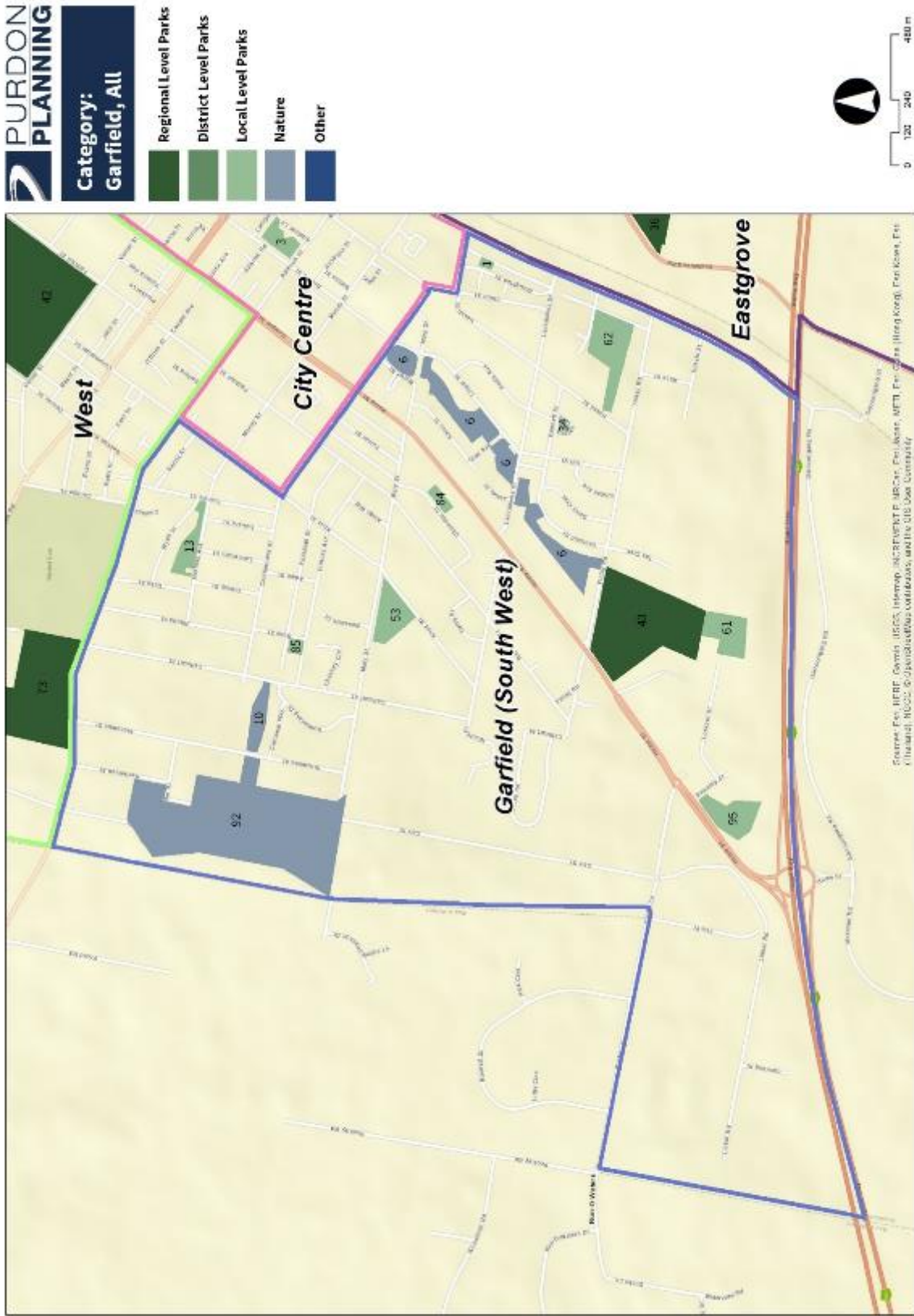
The Workers Club is the most significant facility in this precinct and contains high grade sports fields and hockey fields which are used at a regional, district and local level. This facility is close to a major fast food highway service centre.

Garfield Park and Eldon Park have reasonable quality children's play equipment and are adequately located within the precinct.

Hovell Street Reserve and Cathcart Park contain nature reserves and drainage reserves which provide amenity, passive and active uses of the area.

There are several empty lots within the precinct that have been created into a park by the addition of play equipment and benches. Several of these parks are low quality and their standard could be improved.

Figure 31: Garfield Detail





West Goulburn

The West Goulburn district is bound by the Goulburn urban edge, Gurrundah Road to the south, Wollondilly River to the north and the city centre to the east (Figure 32).

The main land use of the district is low density residential, with farmland to the west and a range of open spaces, education and religious facilities, community and commercial uses on the eastern side near the city centre. A key feature of the West district is Victoria Park, which includes an Adventure Playground, aquatic centre (subject to substantial upgrade), rose garden, sporting fields and dog park.

The population of the West Goulburn precinct is estimated to be 2,773 people (ABS,2016).

The age profile is typical for Goulburn although there is a relatively smaller concentration of seniors in this district.

The GMC inventory identifies a relatively small number of facilities scattered through this district, the largest of which is Victoria Park which is a regional level attraction, but also serves district and local catchment needs. The park provides a range of recreational facilities and services for a wide age range and different interest groups.

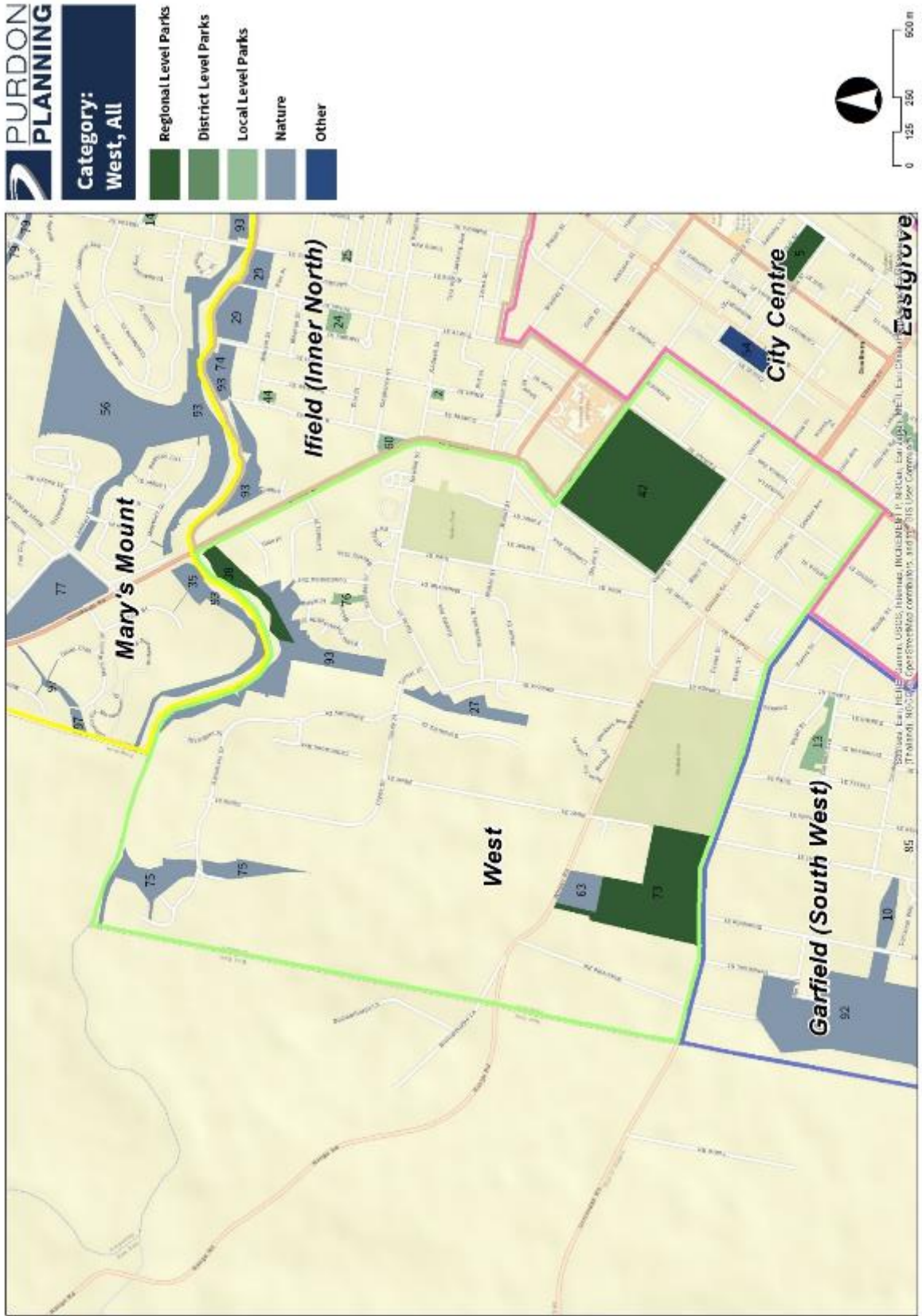
Simon Poidevin Oval and areas within Victoria Park provide sporting facilities and services for children, youth and adults. However, given the standard of other similar parks in the precinct and the larger population of West Goulburn, there may be demand for more facilities of this type.

Rossi Place Park and the Steam Museum Park provide a reasonable level of recreational opportunity to children and youth.

The western side of the West Goulburn precinct contains a number of nature reserves. Areas along the Wollondilly River corridor are identified as drainage and river corridors. These areas provide a different type of recreational use as opposed to sporting facilities and play equipment.

Future residential estates in this district will generate demand for new playgrounds with play equipment and this will be addressed in proposed changes to the DCP.

Figure 32: West Goulburn Detail





8.2.4 Open Space Network

The city includes a number of regional, district and local areas of open space together with important linear parks and open spaces along the river corridors and rocky ridges. These facilities, when considered as a whole, comprise Goulburn's open space network.

Figure 33 shows the existing network in schematic form.

This Strategy does not propose to significantly alter the existing network, but there appear to be a number of opportunities to strengthen this network in terms of:

- creating greater connectivity between linear parks and associated recreational trails (walking and cycling)
- linking linear corridors to major recreation facilities

Figure 33 shows a number of suggested new linkages to the existing network that could be added over time to create this fully connected network. Each new chain in the link would require detailed assessment and feasibility study, including possible land acquisition (or license thoroughfare) where private land is involved. Connectivity to an extended bicycle network would reinforce use of this circumferential route.

8.2.5 Outer Active Transport Loop

The outer western bicycle/walking track is designed to give residents of Goulburn's growing outer west as well as visitors to the region access to a bicycle and pedestrian path network that will link them to Goulburn's core and allow them to enjoy the best active transport opportunities offered by life in a small city. This initiative will encourage greater use of bicycles, ebikes, electronic scooters and other light vehicles. The loop will also appeal to those who ride for leisure, the 20-25km length is ideal for a short afternoon of cycling at a relaxed pace with family or friends. There are a number of existing facilities that provide potential destinations for tourists and day trippers.

Following the outer western loop around in a clockwise direction, the route starts on the western edge of Goulburn at the southern end of the bushland around Burge St. Cycle lanes on Mary St, and the creation of further cycle links north to Poidevin Oval and south to the Mulwaree river would integrate the loop into existing and future active travel links within Goulburn.

The route would then move west through Run-O-Waters, utilising a combination of roadways and negotiated access across farmland to link up with the Wollondilly River near the Gurrundah Road Bridge. The route in this section would be highly dependant on the outcome of negotiations over access.

The path would run north alongside the Wollondilly river to its confluence with Sooley Creek (near Range Road bridge). The path would split here, with a branch running east to connect with the existing Wollondilly river path at Mary's Mount. The second branch would turn north along Sooley Creek to the dam below lake Sooley.

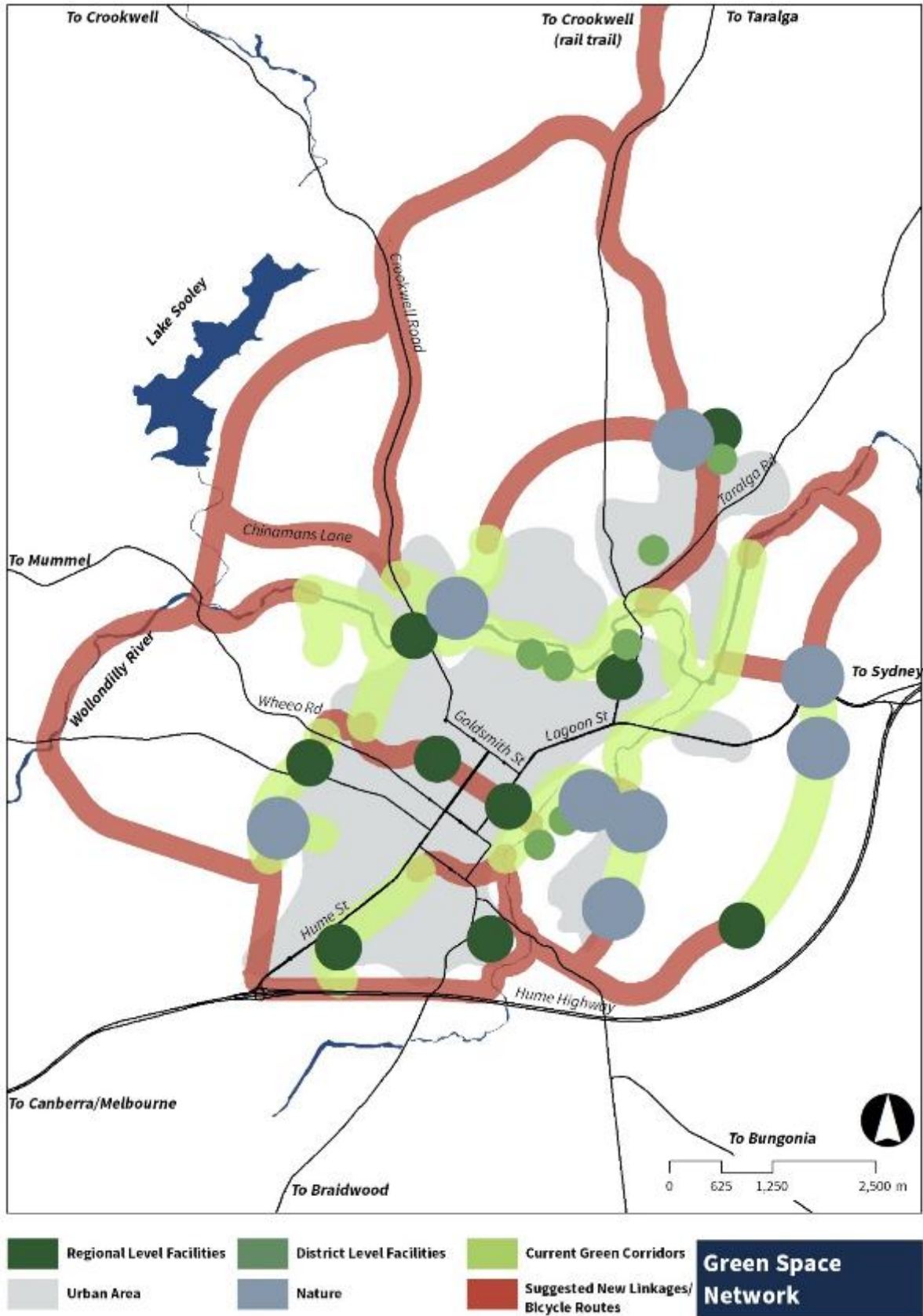
Based on the favourability of both geography and negotiations, the path would run alongside Lake Sooley on one side or the other using a combination of negotiated access and existing roads and tracks. At the far north eastern corner of the lake, the path would turn up Bumana Creek towards Crookwell Road. Kingsdale Wines is located a few hundred metres off the proposed route at this location.



The path could then follow either Marble Hill road, or Bumana creek to the north east from here before cutting directly east on, or immediately south, of Norwood road. At the eastern end of Norwood road, the path would connect with the old Crookwell Railway – to be converted into a rail trail. To the north this route links to Crookwell (50km north west) and to the south it returns to Goulburn (8km) via the northern suburbs of Kenmore and Bradfordville, passing major employment centres such as the University and the Correctional Centre.



Figure 33: Existing Open Space Network & Possible Extensions



9 Community Needs Assessment

This section outlines the findings on consultation undertaken by the consultant team as part of the recreation needs strategy with a range of community groups. It also presents the results of a community survey undertaken by Council as part of the study. Details of the consultation methodology were provided in section 1 above.

In total 15 sporting bodies and 7 community organisations representing a wide range of interests and membership base participated in this part of the study, together with about 80 respondents to a Council on-line survey.

The outcomes of this consultation have been included in the preparation of the draft recreation needs study presented in Section 11 below.

9.1 Sports Clubs

Goulburn & District Netball Association

The Goulburn and District Netball Association utilises outdoor courts at Carr Confoy Sports and indoor courts at the Veolia Arena.

There are 9 asphalt courts at Carr Confoy which are 20+ years old and are of poor quality. The courts are quite uneven and gravel around the courts was a nuisance as it often washed onto the playing surface and posed a hazard to players. There are also two grass courts at Carr Confoy which are used by junior teams, but these courts are not well watered or maintained. During weekends, the Netball Association uses 4 of the courts. Upgrading to a synthetic surface was considered to be the highest standard. However, this was not considered feasible at Carr Confoy as it is a flood prone area. The Association has recently applied for an NSW Government Grant for some aluminium grand stands.

Compared to other towns, Goulburn has poor quality Netball facilities. There are no storage areas or cabinets for equipment at Carr Confoy and because of this, the Association consider that they did not have a 'home' there. Some storage space within the Touch Football building was available but this was not practical. Notwithstanding, the Netball Association has a connection with the courts at Carr Confoy because of their history and it is noted that the Association would not like to move.

The Netball Association advised that Carr Confoy should be a multi-sport complex and that they were happy to share the area with the Hockey Club.

The Association's enrolments have continued to grow with 2018 being the biggest year to date. Across all age groups there would be approximately 130 players that belonged to Goulburn and District Netball Association and a high proportion of players were from Towns outside of Goulburn.

The Association would like to host carnivals but change rooms, a toilet and canteen are needed. The Netball Association would be happy to share these additional facilities as long as they were large enough.

The Netball Association was happy to continue playing indoor games at Veolia Stadium.

Goulburn Touch Association

The Goulburn Touch Association considered that Goulburn should be a better sporting town and that Mudgee was a great example of a town that had successfully invested in sport.

The Association were concerned that Council had never explained what their overall vision was for provision of sports facilities in Goulburn.

The Association added that touch football was the fastest growing sport in Goulburn and that the Association currently used 7 fields over 4 timeslots across 3 nights per week (during Summer). The Association was looking to expand and ideally was seeking an area for 11 additional fields to cater for growing demand.

The Association expressed some concern that the Hockey Club may occupy land at Carr Confoy that the Touch Association would like to use. The Association feels that Carr Confoy was not a feasible location for the Hockey Club as the site was within a flood zone which is not suitable for synthetic fields. Carr Confoy Park is within a flood plain and the Club House had previously been flooded despite the floor levels of the buildings being 2.5m above the flood plain. A plan prepared by the Association of possible Touch Fields was provided (refer Figure 34). Some of these fields have already been pegged out by the Association.

Figure 34: Proposed touch Football Fields



Source: Goulburn Touch Association

The Touch Association hosts regular competitions at the Carr Confoy facility and have received comments from other Touch Sporting Clubs (from elsewhere in NSW) that the facilities in Goulburn had the best set up. It was noted that the Club House at Carr Confoy is owned by the Goulburn Touch Association.

At present Wagga host major competitions but Goulburn would like to be able to host as well. The Goulburn Touch Association intends to host a competition in February 2019 and needs an additional 11 fields. The new fields will need lighting.



The Association stated they do not mind sharing Carr Confoy with other sporting Clubs/activities and that the Goulburn Touch Association is not keen to move sites.

The following matters need to be improved at Carr Confoy:

- Car parking – there is presently a lack of parking spaces during major events.
- Lighting is needed for the new football fields
- A stadium type field, with grandstand seating is needed so that the Touch Association has somewhere to host large competitions and grand finals.

Goulburn Hockey Association

The Association proposes to relocate its main grounds from the Workers Arena to the multi-sport facility at Carr Confoy Park. The Goulburn Hockey Association provided a copy of a submission it lodged with Council to support its proposals for development of the hockey fields at Carr Confoy.

The submission to Council presents the following points:

- There are approximately 800 hockey players in the Goulburn area
- The Club has grown from 450 to 800 over ten years which is higher than the NSW state average
- Hockey has been directed to leave existing fields at Workers Arena by 2022
- Club membership supports construction of 2 new water based synthetic fields
- The Hockey Club is in a financial position to sustain regular replacement of the 2 fields
- There is a need for a dedicated Club location before funding can be obtained from any private or government organisations
- The Club proposed to build an environmentally sensitive field through implementation of stormwater catchment and reuse systems, solar power integration for facility buildings and smart metering to manage electricity consumption and reliance on the grid
- New fields estimated to cost \$3,000,000
- Estimated operational cost per player once up and running is \$160 per player
- Canteen/Hockey Shop could be source of additional revenue

Goulburn City Swans Australian Football Club

The Goulburn City Swans AFL Club is currently located at Goodhew Park on Neville Street adjacent the Wollondilly River and walkway. The Club has moved locations several times in the past but is understood to be happy with their current location.

The club considers that their location will not inhibit them in the future, but rather, sees their location as a positive as it is located within “the community”. The Wollondilly walkway that goes past the site has increased casual use of the site during non-sport days.

Club members have been actively involved in improvements to club facilities to ensure competition standards are maintained for inclusion in the ACT AFL league. The club has recently upgraded their changeroom facilities, these upgrades have enhanced the pride in the facilities, and vandalism is now less of a problem than previously.



The site does not have lighting facilities and therefore is unable to host late afternoon/evening matches. There are also few hardstand parking areas close to the site, meaning most visitors park on the grass beside the field. This is not seen as a negative by the club, as most people can then watch games from the side-lines in cars.

Irrigation of the oval is considered to be an important goal to maintain the fields to a suitable standard. If the field were to be irrigated it would be the only irrigated field in Goulburn available to the public for general recreational use. Fields need to be irrigated to comply with standards in order to participate in ACT/NSW competitions. The Club is actively engaged in achieving irrigation of the field and have obtained quotes and liaising with Council to ensure the irrigation works will be installed to achieve the most efficient system regarding coverage, performance and longevity.

The Club are most keen to stay at Goodhew Park and consider this site provides benefits as follows:

- The field is in an established residential area and provides an area for casual recreation, in addition to organised AFL sports
- AFL is a growing sport with a growing junior base
- The gap in current requirements relates to the need for irrigation, not the need for additional sports grounds
- The ground is also used for juniors and over 35's tournaments
- The proximity to the Wollondilly Walking Track provides for additional usable space
- There is adequate space for parking

The club is happy to have the ground developed as a multi-use sports facility providing for other sports such as cricket as well as soccer, rugby league and rugby union.

Goulburn BMX Club

The Goulburn BMX Club provided a written submission which outlined future plans for the existing facility adjacent to the Wollondilly River. Key points from the submission are summarised as follows:

- In the 1980's the BMX Club thrived
- In the 2000's the track was in disrepair and the Club disbanded
- The Goulburn BMX Club was re-established in recent years but the track is still not up to competition standard
- The BMX Club wants to reinvigorate the Club and highlight Goulburn as a hub for BMX excellence through development of an international standard track, with facilities for spectators and competitors, and host local and regional events
- Provision of a safe, regulated and monitored facility would help address mental health issues, alcohol and drug use, inequality and discrimination.
- There is a dedicated group of parents who have a long association with the track and are interested in revamping the facility
- The BMX club have been consulting with a US based company who have designed a new track and facilities for the Club which would accommodate junior and senior competitions
- Competitions would provide the following benefit to Goulburn:
 - Improve health and sustainability through increased bicycle use
 - Economic benefit through tourism, athletes, teams and media



- Community benefit to youth
- Help to create an identity for Goulburn and put it on the map as town with exemplar facilities
- Goulburn is within 2.5 hours of 19 BMX Australia Clubs with a total of 57,360 social media followers

Goulburn Railway Bowls Club

The facilities at the Goulburn Railway Bowls Club meet the needs of the Club and the Club is experiencing some increase in patronage from the younger demographics but the sport overall was in decline.

The Goulburn Railway Club recently joined ACT bowls as it means less travel for competitors but also a better competition mix with Yass, Queanbeyan and Bungendore also being part of ACT Bowls. ACT Bowls recently surveyed the Goulburn facilities and ranked them highly. The Clubs which ranked higher had synthetic greens but it is the Club's preference to stay with grass as the members in Goulburn generally preferred turf.

The Railway Bowls Club went into administration in 2009 but was saved by an amalgamation with the Wyong Rugby League Club Group. The Railway Bowls Club is now financially stable receiving support from the Club Group for bigger renovations etc.

The Railway Bowls Club continues to be financially viable because of the social club component which is located in the Goulburn CBD and attracted good patronage.

Goulburn Amateur Swimming Club

The Council has proposed plans to develop a \$45 million Aquatic Centre within Victoria Park. The Swimming Club had been engaged as part of the proposal and that they had been consulted throughout. The Club also noted that the community had been engaged and that the results of community consultation showed a strong preference for a 50m pool indoor and outdoor.

The Club considers that a 50m pool is considered to be optimal as it can be split down the middle if required to accommodate recreation as well as competition swimming. Despite the community and Club's preference, the proposed Aquatic Centre includes a 25m indoor pool and retention of the existing 50m outdoor pool. The Swimming Club explained that the 25m indoor pool would accommodate some competitions but would preclude Goulburn from hosting the majority as most competitions required 50m.

If only one 50m pool could be provided it would be better to have it indoor and then have the 25m outdoor as the Club notes that even in summer, the indoor pool is more heavily utilised as families were now sun conscious and did not like to be outside in the heat. It was largely teenagers who utilised the outdoor pool for recreation.

The Swimming Club also expressed some concern that the existing outdoor pool may eventually become unrepairable (even with the proposed renovations) and that this would result in even less capacity to host competitions and carnivals.

Notwithstanding, the Club appreciated and supported the proposal put forward by Council but there was still a clear preference for a 50m indoor pool rather than a 25m indoor pool as this would allow Goulburn to host all carnivals and competitions rather than just some.



Goulburn Speedway

The Speedway Club advised that memberships were increasing but shortage of land was the biggest concern in terms of ability to cope in the future with growing demand. The majority of the Club's funding comes from annual memberships, ticket sales and some sponsorship.

The Club has been located at Governors Hill (Mt Gray) since about 1972 so this site is considered to be their home. The site is also privately owned by the Club.

There have been some discussions with Council about rezoning land surrounding the Speedway so that the Club could expand to accommodate additional car parking. The car parking needs for the Club have changed over recent years and the existing car park cannot accommodate large trailers and trucks which are now commonly used to haul race vehicles.

The Club was largely happy with existing facilities but some improvements could be made to lighting and seating and development of a disabled toilet was needed.

The Speedway Club largely serves regional NSW but does host national competitions. Parramatta was the nearest international competition location. The Club feel that if in the longer term Parramatta Speedway was to close to accommodate a higher order land use then there would be significant opportunity for Goulburn Speedway to become the next International competition holder. However, to host international competitions greater grand stands and facilities would be required.

Goulburn Mulwaree Athletics

The Athletics club has fluctuating numbers, ranging from 150-250+ each year. They are located in Hudson Park in Bradfordville/Kenmore. The club caters for all the schools in the region for sporting competitions, as well as for the schools regional and zone competitions.

The Club arranges 18 competition nights between October and March. In addition, schools hold athletics carnivals at Hudson Park involving over 2,500 primary and 2,000 secondary students.

Around December of 2017 the club was invited by Council to discuss an opportunity to relocate from their current site in Hudson Park, Bradfordville to Carr Confoy Park in Eastgrove. This idea was not supported by the club, on the grounds that they would not relocate unless they were provided with a quality synthetic track. The Club's current location is able to cater for their numbers and projected growth well into the future.

The club's facilities need upgrading as the current track, canteen and toilets do not cater for wheelchair access or athletes with disabilities. The quality is below the standards of other tracks in other regional centres, and as such the centre is not able to host any larger competitions because of this low quality.

The Club considers that there is an opportunity to create a centre of excellence for regional athletics, similar to facilities in Jindabyne. This would require:

- Synthetic track of 8 lanes, with 100m straight together with steeplechase facilities
- Field event facilities including pole vault, javelin, high jump
- Covered seating
- Upgraded storage areas, change rooms, toilets, canteen, offices (results room)
- Upgraded parking areas
- Improved access for persons with limited mobility

- Fencing around facilities

Goulburn & District Cricket

The club's numbers range from 250-300 people, and their current location and capacity is able to accommodate growth. The primary grounds used for competitions and most training is at Carr Confoy in Eastgrove. The clubs believe this location is ideal and meets their needs.

The cricket association's main concern is the quality of field. The grass and grounds are in bad condition because of lack of watering. There are several holes in the grounds, and due to the hard surfaces, there is a significant concern for safety.

- Goulburn and District Cricket Association Clubs
 - Combined Schools Cricket
 - Coolavin Cricket Club
 - Crookwell Junior Cricket Club
 - Hibo Cricket Club
 - North Goulburn Cricket Club
 - St Joseph's Primary School
 - St Peter and Pauls Primary School
 - Trinity Catholic College
 - Tully Park Indoor Sports
 - West Primary School
 - Wollondilly Cricket Club
 - Billabong Cricket Club
 - Coolavin Cricket Club
 - Crookwell Golf Club Cricket Club
 - Exchange Cricket Club
 - Gordon Hotel Cricket Club
 - Goulburn Soldiers Warriors Cricket Club
 - Goulburn Workers Cricket Club
 - Hibo Cricket Club
 - Lake George Bunyips Cricket Club
 - Marulan Cricket Club
 - Railway Bowling Club

Marulan Cricket Club

The Marulan Cricket Club has become inactive over recent years and players have joined Goulburn teams instead. The demise of the Club is not directly related to the poor standard of facilities but more to do with players in Marulan seeking the higher level of competition provided in Goulburn.

The facilities at the Cricket Oval were previously funded by the Marulan Cricket Club members and that the facilities included a Club House and practice pitches. The fields are not maintained as there is no cricket played there at present. However, facilities could be easily upgraded if interest peaked again.

Southern Tablelands Football (Soccer) Association

The association operates from 6 fields located at Cookbundoon on Racecourse Drive in north Goulburn. There are 5 Goulburn Clubs and 2 regional clubs based at Cookbundoon. There are about 900 – 1,200 players involved with the club and this continues to grow.



The increase in female participation is also quite significant. Soccer in NSW attracts approximately 5.5% of the population playing the sport. It is predicted that if Goulburn attracts this same level of participation, then there will be almost 1,900 Goulburn players within the next 20 years.

The Cookbundoon complex has an area of 12ha accommodating 6 full-size fields, 2 small fields and 3 mini fields. The facility is not yet at capacity, but is close. The association advised that the consolidation of facilities is the preferred outcome, rather than individual fields spread throughout the city as was the situation some years ago.

The facilities at Cookbundoon do not adequately cater for women competitors. In addition, there is a need for lighting to allow games to be played at night. Such lighting would spread the times that games could be played easing the pressure to expand the facility to provide more fields. There is an automatic irrigation system using re-used water.

The Association felt there were some inequities in the allocation of the sports levy by Council in that they felt they were the only association that had additional costs, such as paying for the grass to be mown. In addition, the association expressed concern that a Recreation Strategy may adversely affect their ability to seek ongoing grant funding.

The Association has developed a Master Plan to assist in the planning and grant applications for future upgrading of facilities. The Master Plan seeks to further develop the facility through provision of:

- Re-turfing/drainage of the fields
- New change rooms, including separate change rooms for women
- New toilets
- Additional shelter/shade structures
- Grandstand – for higher level competition games
- LED lighting
- Sealed car parking
- Internal fencing

Marulan Football (Soccer) Club

The Club has tripled in participants over a 5-year period and that growth was expected to continue as more estates in Marulan continued to be developed. Goal posts were rearranged last year to allow creation of more junior soccer fields to cope with the expanding club size. The oval was noted as being in poor condition.

Given this level of growth, there is some concern that Junior teams may need to relocate to the unused Cricket Oval and this is considered a poor outcome resulting in splitting of the facilities. If this were to happen the Cricket Oval would need new facilities including toilets and changerooms. An alternative to relocating the Junior's would be to resurface the lower area of the site which was used by Junior's previously but is now commonly used for car parking.

At the existing oval female change rooms were required. There had recently been a successful push for females to play soccer and as a result females are forced to get changed on the side line.

There are two toilets for each gender but there is no lighting in the toilet, so people have to park their cars nearby the toilets with head lights on to provide some illumination. The Club House meets basic requirements and has some kitchen/canteen facilities.



New training lights were required to illuminate fields of an evening and new changerooms are a priority. Additional seating around the oval is needed as there are only a few seats at present. Given the poor condition of the oval, a top dress and new grass is required. However, to ensure the grass is sustained an irrigation system needs to be installed.

Goulburn Pony Club

The Pony Club have been operating to the south end of Carr Confoy Park for about 20 years. The land is leased from the Council and the Club is keen to stay in this location.

The club continually seeks to improve its facilities through grant applications to the State Government. The land is flood prone which restricts the extent of improvements possible.

The pony club grounds are used for rallies and competitions about once a month, together with ongoing training activities.

Goulburn Rodeo Club

The Rodeo Club operates from the Goulburn Show Grounds and has around 16 active members. Most of the members live in Goulburn or close by on rural properties. The Club is always looking to improve facilities and were currently trying to promote the sport to increase participation.

At present the Goulburn Rodeo facilities are considered (by the Club) to be the best in NSW but in order to maintain the level of facilities and continue to meet expectations, the Club had a wish list of items to be implemented over a 10 year period. Two of the things that were most needed were shade over the spectator's area at the arena and automated irrigation as members of the Club presently must attend the showground 3 times per day to move hoses and sprinklers in the lead up to a competition.

The Club was also investigating a new toilet block as the existing toilet facilities are a long walk from the Rodeo Arena.

Other Clubs and Sports Groups

As part of the research for this study, a number of attempts, via email and telephone, were made to contact representatives of all sporting clubs. However, not all sports groups were able to be contacted, including:

- Goulburn Cycle Club
- Goulburn Strikers Football Club
- Goulburn/Crookwell Primary Schools Sport Association (PSSA)
- Taralga Rugby Union Club
- PCYC
- Goulburn Rugby Union Football (Junior & Senior)
- Goulburn & District Junior Rugby League

It is assumed that release of the draft recreation strategy by Council for community comment, as well as the associated media coverage, will ensure that all sporting associations including those not initially contacted will be able to review the Strategy and comment on draft proposals as required.



9.2 Community & Environmental Groups

This section discusses the outcomes of consultations with a wide range of community and environmental groups that also have a direct or indirect interest in planning for open space and recreation needs.

Workspace 2580

Workspace2580 is a social enterprise established to assist business start-ups and provide meeting rooms, spaces and facilities. The group has a strong interest in the wellbeing of the Goulburn community.

The group considered that the enhancement of specific sports precincts should be encouraged. The racecourse held Rotary Race days and shared parking with Cookbundoon Sports Complex. These two facilities could co-ordinate their operations and open up the parking areas allowing for shared use of the spaces. This could also address security issues at the facilities.

The Mount Gray motorcycle area was an opportunity to establish a major state level facility and could include BMX tracks and mountain bike trails through the bushland.

The ownership of the old sewerage ponds needs to be resolved by Council to finalise future plans for this area.

The Workers Arena is a major facility for the city with a range of groups and sports clubs using the space.

The area around Bradley Grange was an excellent opportunity to link to a heritage trail incorporating the round-house, railway, Hume homestead, the towers and then a link to the railway station and the riverside walkway.

There are also opportunities to create additional trails, such as around the Run-O-Waters estate in Goulburn West where walkers and cyclists are required to share the roads which is often dangerous.

The group considered that the recent focus by Council on upgrading local parks was achieving good results.

There is an opportunity to enhance the Toll Gate Park at Lansdowne Bridge, as well as other sites such as the Towrang turn-off Rest Area and Convict Culverts along the old road.

There could be a greater focus on the planning for community gardens which could be located throughout the city.

Southern Tablelands Arts

Southern Tablelands Arts consider that there is significant opportunity to enhance the linear open spaces throughout Goulburn. There are existing green corridors that have significant opportunity for enhancement through improved connections to surrounding areas, improved shade structures at regular intervals and greater amenity along the pathways. This could be influenced by drawing on Goulburn's heritage with naming of the places, planting themes and park furniture.

The linear parks should incorporate heritage walks incorporating the array of heritage buildings and sites throughout Goulburn. However, there are significant existing barriers to the linear networks,



being the existing crossings of the railway line. Future planning should identify the need for crossings and improve the pedestrian/cycle experience.

The river corridor has been the subject of a range of studies and design projects that could be used by Council as a framework for future improvements along the river. University of Canberra Landscape students have undertaken a number of design projects for selected areas of the corridor and these could be used as the basis for ongoing improvements.

There is also a need in Goulburn for a large gathering space within the central area of Goulburn that can be used for ceremonial and community purposes.

Friends and Residents of the Goulburn Swamplands

The Friends of the Goulburn Swamplands (FROGS) main concern regarding the Goulburn Recreational Needs Strategy was to ensure that 'recreation' included more than playing fields and sporting facilities, but also preserved open spaces for passive enjoyment. They consider that the natural areas of Goulburn should be the subject of more focus in regards planning, management and conservation.

The Group felt that there was strong support for the Goulburn Recreational Needs Strategy, and acknowledged that there needs to be more systematic planning in regards to greenspace in the Goulburn area.

The existing wetlands area is in need of recycled water from the waste management facility.

Goulburn has a high demand for community gardens. There are a number of areas of open spaces that could be used for innovative food options; community gardens and the like with some outcomes assisting in waste minimisation.

There is an opportunity to have a river management plan that addresses the natural characteristics of the river and considers ways to improve connections to the various facilities, incorporating the Rail Trail, river walkways, pedestrian bridges, and specific areas – such as Peter Mowle Reserve, toilet facilities and the like. This included an opportunity for an Environmental Education Centre at the start of the rail trail. The group understands that there are 26 greenspaces that they can't build on that could be used for walkways, recreation etc.

There was an opportunity to create a circuit of Goulburn for cyclists that kept cyclists away from CBD and towards the eastern side of the rail line.

Goulburn Field Naturalists Society

The Society were keen to ensure that future recreation planning by Council incorporated natural areas and ecological linkages (physical and bird connectivity). Goulburn had a number of natural areas that contributed to the overall amenity of the city. These areas are mostly not the subject of management plans or conservation strategies. As such, they are subject to impacts and competing uses. An area in west Goulburn that has been subject to volunteer regeneration works has also been used by bike riders and a series of mountain bike trails have been made with little regard to drainage, erosion or impacts on the bushland.

The maturation ponds at the old sewerage treatment works provided a good opportunity to establish a bird reserve, while retaining the agricultural uses on surrounding land. This area was habitat for the Blue-bill duck which is an ecologically significant species.



There is an area to the north of Goulburn, and west of the racecourse and Cookbundoon Sports Complex that was a good woodlands reserve, but this area is not managed under any Reserve Trust and is not protected.

There were opportunities to enhance the natural assets within the urban areas of Goulburn through improved walking trails, especially the riverside walkway. This includes better connections between new subdivisions which should provide better areas for green space and consider ecological impacts on natural areas.

The Society considered that ongoing improvements at Victoria Park, such as the adventure playground, has created local problems such as parking. The park is not well located as very few children live in the immediate area requiring all parents to drive to the park.

Tarlo/Middle Arm Landcare

The Tarlo/Middle Arm Landcare Group applies the objectives of Landcare within a framework of sustainable agriculture in the Sooley, Bumana and Tarlo catchments and surrounding area. The group manage a Crown Reserve site within the Council area being the Tarlo Bridge Project. This is a 6.4ha reserve on Taralga Road on the Goulburn side of the Tarlo River.

The Group consider that the Tarlo Bridge Project should become a Council passive recreational area. Its amenity could then be readily enjoyed by community members as well as visitors to our area. Being at the local government boundary on the Tablelands Way tourist drive, it would make visitors feel welcome by Goulburn Mulwaree Council.

Current licensing restrictions prevent the Group from furthering their vision and also limits the use of the reserve for local community picnics and other events.

Beekeepers

The Goulburn District Beekeepers Club consider that there is an opportunity for areas of open space to enhance opportunities for local beekeepers. Honey bees suffer from the combined stress of land clearing, monoculture agriculture, chemicals, disease and climate change.

The maintenance regime applied to selected open space areas can have a beneficial effect for local beekeepers. A reduced emphasis on mowing can allow wild flowers to grow and seed allowing the wild flowers to proliferate and the bees to forage on the nectar.

The Club considers that the parks and verges and areas beyond the trylines of sports fields could be areas of diverse vegetation that could still be walked on or picnicked on, but that they be allowed time for plants to flower and seed and therefore not be mown all year round. The use of herbicides could also be restricted to times when weeds are not in flower.

Pejar Local Aboriginal Land Council

The Wollondilly River is of special significance to the community. The Pejar Aboriginal Land Council used the river around NAIDOC week with events held in September.

There is an area along the river near Copford Road (also referred to as 'Goulburn Park') which the Land Council noted as having BBQ and seating facilities previously. However, the facilities were not maintained and have recently been removed entirely. This area is considered important to the Pejar Local Aboriginal Land Council as it contained indigenous artefacts.



The Land Council noted that more toilet facilities were required along the river but acknowledged that there were maintenance issues associated with these. They suggested facilities that were constructed almost entirely of stainless steel and were easier to maintain and harder to vandalise.

A gazebo along the river would also be of benefit and provide a place to gather. A community hall which can be hired at low cost is also required so that various community organisations can have events or gatherings. At present there is the Veolia Hall but this is a high cost facility.

Overall the Land Council noted that maintenance of recreation areas was often poor and that more seating and BBQ areas were required along the river, particularly in the areas which are not subject to the Council path upgrades as these areas are often heavily utilised by the community but are not serviced by seating, BBQs and other necessary facilities.

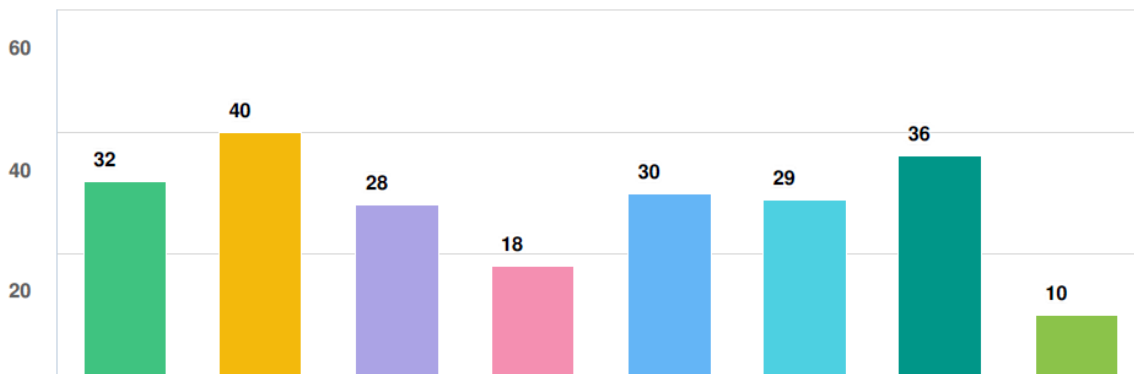
9.3 Community Survey

During the preparation of the study, Council facilitated an on-line survey allowing residents to have input into the study.

The purpose of the survey was not to treat the results as a definitive basis for new policies or action (sample size was limited) but to get a feeling for the types of issues of concern to the local community.

Council received a total of about 80 responses to the survey, the main results of which are presented below.

Q6 What do you like most about the parks you visit? (You may choose more than one)



Question options

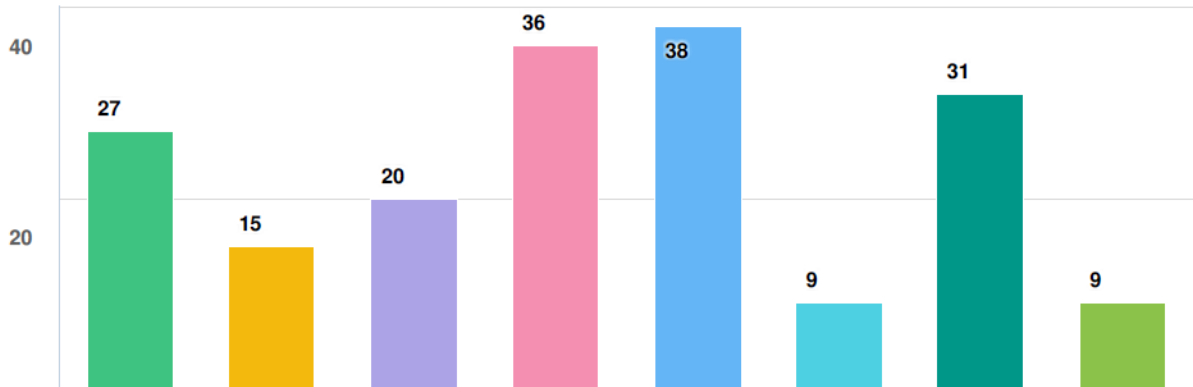
- Place to relax
- Easy to access
- Quiet, peaceful space
- Historical character
- Natural area
- Gardens
- Playground facilities
- Other

Ease of access is ranked as the most valued aspect of parks in Goulburn. This could be interpreted as people preferring to use local parks as they are often closer to home and within walking distance from residential areas making them easier to access. It also suggests that because of the size of Goulburn and relative ease of movement especially by motor vehicle, that most areas are accessible to those with private transports.

The playground facilities themselves were ranked as the second most valued aspect of recreational areas. This shows that the community perceives existing playgrounds to be of good quality and standard and shows that money spent on improving these facilities generates community satisfaction.

Historical character was the most underrated aspect of recreational areas. Historical significance is often overlooked in terms of recreational value as monuments, statues or historical plaques are largely viewed once by a person and then never again. However, these aspects are considered to add a cumulative character to recreational spaces and although local residents may not actively engage with them on a regular basis as they would with a playground, they do passively engage with them. Historical monuments and information are also of interest to visitors to the area and help reinforce the identity of the local government area as one of the earliest inland settlements in NSW.

Q8 What activities do you mostly use the parks/recreation areas for? (You may choose more than one)



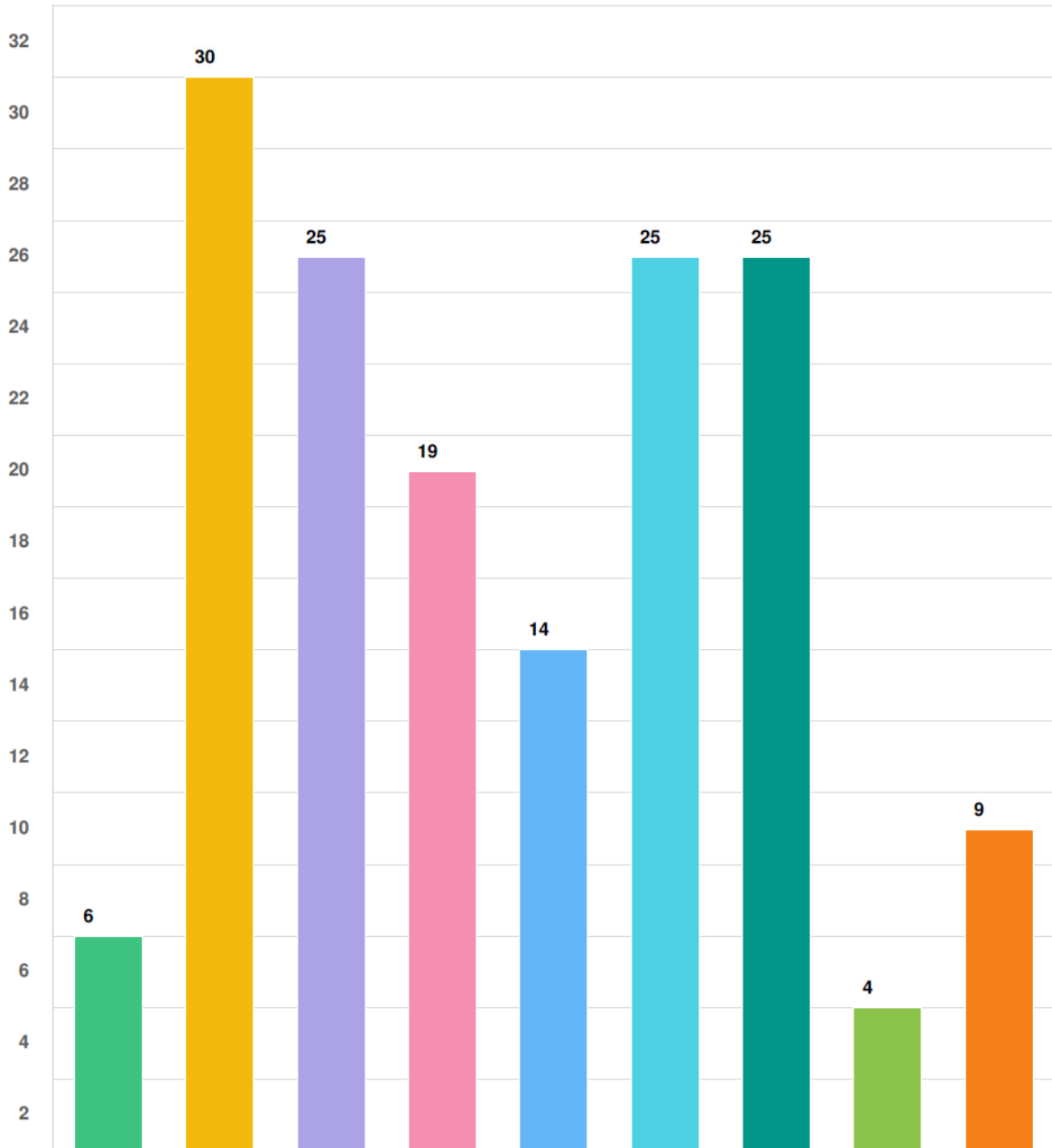
Question options

- Play sport
- Watch sport
- Walk the dog
- Play on equipment
- Sit and relax
- Bushwalk
- Walk/jog/run/cycle (for fitness)
- Other

This response again reflects the importance of playground facilities with playgrounds rated as the second most undertaken activity at parks/recreation areas. Sitting and relaxing was the number one activity undertaken at recreation areas. These two functions can go hand in hand with seating areas at parks catering to both uses.

Walk/run/cycle facilities were also high on usage, but bushwalking areas ranked the lowest. This shows a strong preference for formal pathways rather than less formal hiking trails and strengthens Council’s recent initiative to improve pathways along the Wollondilly River.

Q10 Are there any barriers that prevent or restrict you in using the parks/recreation areas?
 (You may choose more than one)



Question options

- Lack of disabled access/facilities
- Lack of toilets
- Lack of facilities (BBQs, seats, tables)
- Lack of car parking
- Lack of lighting
- Lack of shelter
- Poor maintenance/untidy
- Don't feel safe
- Other

Lack of toilets was considered the biggest hinderance to use of existing recreational areas. Close behind was poor maintenance and lack of lighting and sheltered areas. Toilet facilities are often quite expensive to develop and also carry a high ongoing maintenance cost.

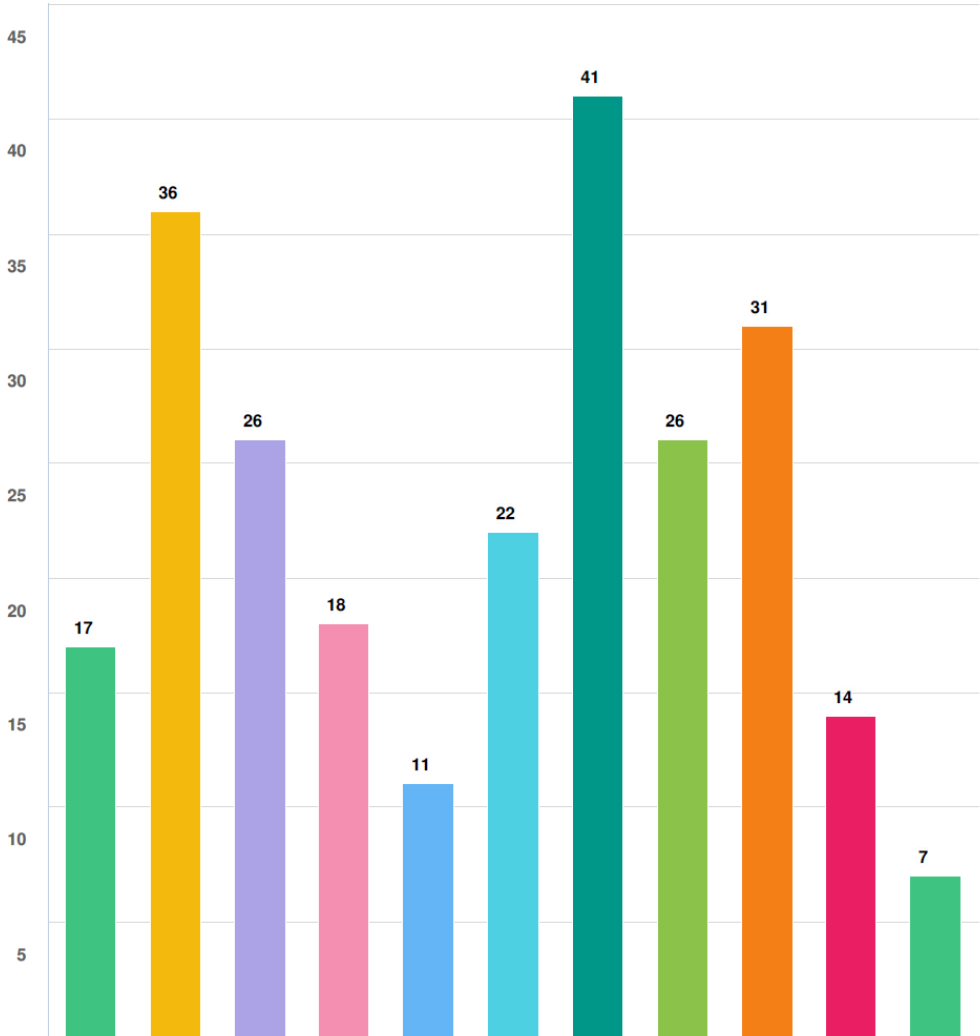
Maintenance was listed as being the second biggest deterrent to use of recreational facilities. As such, development of toilets in areas which already suffer from poor maintenance is not considered to be appropriate given the health and safety risks.

Further, toilets are not considered to be feasible for local and small-scale parks. Some larger regional parks and sporting fields could benefit from toilet amenities, but it is considered that the majority of sporting fields and regional parks are already sufficiently catered for.

Addition of shaded areas is something that can be implemented at a relatively low cost and carries a significant benefit to users. Shade could be provided in the form of shade structures but also through tree plantings.

Safety was ranked the lowest restricting element which is an excellent result from the survey.

Q12 Parks throughout the Council area have a range of facilities. Which of the following should there be more of? (You may choo...



- Question options**
- Sports fields
 - Walking paths
 - Cycling/shared path
 - Fitness stations/equipment
 - Dog parks
 - Community gardens
 - BBQs, seats, tables, toilets, drinking fountains
 - Playground facilities
 - Informal recreation facilities (outdoor cricket nets, basketball hoops)
 - Conservation reserves
 - Other



Facilities like BBQs, seats, tables, toilets and drinking fountains were considered to be the highest need at parks and recreational areas.

Second was walking paths. Walking/jogging and cycling ranked high in terms of the most undertaken activities so addition of more walking paths is considered to be an area of high need as survey results show high participation in these activities as well as significant lack of facilities. Better pedestrian connectivity carries benefit in terms of health, access and also vibrancy in CBD areas.

Dog parks were ranked the lowest in the survey. However, in contrast it is noted that dog walking ranked high in terms of activities undertaken at recreational areas which indicates that residents are happy to walk their dogs on shared paths and recreational areas rather than having a dedicated dog park.

General Comments from Survey

Other comments listed in the survey included:

- Need large parks to get away from people watching you out their back door
- Need large green area with multiple BBQs, open spaces for families to play games, roads like at Mt Annan and around Lake Burley Griffin, WiFi
- Areas for kayaking, including launch spots
- More watered lawn areas to enjoy
- Dog Park in Marys Mount area
- Less houses, more convenient dog parks
- Water Splash park
- Council should purchase an area of land south of the showground and make this into an equestrian area, joining up with other equestrian users of the grounds

The above comments are the general comments provided where respondents chose to complete this section of the survey form. They reflect individual responses and do not necessarily align with the broader survey responses (e.g. individual comments about the need for dog parks do not reflect the overall survey results).



10 Recreation Needs Strategy

This section outlines the basis for a comprehensive recreation needs strategy for the Goulburn Mulwaree LGA for adoption by Council after further consultation with sporting and community groups and the wider public. The strategy is based on an assessment of existing levels of provision of open spaces and recreation facilities, as well as perceived future needs.

The strategy covers:

- sports grounds
- specialised facilities
- parks and playgrounds
- natural areas
- changes to statutory planning requirements (DCP)

10.1 Strategy for Sports Grounds

This study has identified a number of sporting codes and associated facilities that operate at a regional level as well as district and local level in the hosting of recreational activity. To date however, the study has concluded that Goulburn's facilities are generally not of a standard to host national or state activities.

Some rural centres in NSW have implemented a deliberate strategy to invest in "state" and "national" standard facilities as part of a wider strategy for economic development and or city pride. Examples include rugby league facilities in Wagga, Bathurst and Mudgee. Sports facility investment in these towns was targeted towards hosting National Rugby League competition games. Importantly, these centres are located at greater distances from major urban areas than Goulburn. Due to the proximity of Goulburn to Canberra and western Sydney, the possibility of national-level competition games (e.g. NRL) may not generate large flow-on multiplier effects because of the likelihood of spectators returning to their home base immediately after the game. As such, the economic benefits potentially would not be significant but the financial outlay to meet national standards would be substantial.

On this basis, a more appropriate recreational needs strategy for Goulburn would be to focus on a number of selected sports that have a rapidly increasing membership base (e.g. touch football, hockey, netball etc) and seek to achieve standards of facilities that meet NSW specifications for holding state and/or regional carnivals. Such carnivals are usually held over a weekend and therefore generate significant cash-flow into the local economy.

The regional and district sports grounds are geographically spread throughout Goulburn (e.g. Carr Confoy in the south-east, Cookbundoon in the north-east, Workers Arena in the south, Poidevin in the southwest). While this is not ideal it does allow for major games to be played concurrently without placing stress on facilities (e.g. car parking). In addition, the spatial separation is not so great that it creates major barriers for local residents. Goulburn is a city with high levels of car ownership and all facilities are within a short drive of most residents to access these facilities. It is considered that the dispersed nature of the regional facilities is not such a significant issue that warrants relocation of any of the regional facilities to a more central location. However, this planning approach relies on improvements to cycle/pedestrian linkages between facilities and to/from residential areas to improve modes of active travel.



With regard to district and local level sports grounds, it is considered that priority should be given to facilities that cater for multi-use of the ground. This priority could be by way of Council's support for State Government Grant Funding. The emphasis on multi—use facilities results in economies of scale in the costs associated with amenities buildings, change rooms, lighting, irrigation infrastructure and the like. It also assists in the ongoing maintenance burden for the sports groups, Council and wider community.

Actions

1. Council **target selected sports** with a rapidly increasing membership base (e.g. touch football, hockey, netball etc) and seek to achieve standards of facilities that meet state specifications for holding state and/or regional carnivals.
2. Council encourage the use and ongoing development of sports grounds that **facilitate multi-use**, either by sports 'overlapping' (e.g. cricket/AFL) or operating side-by-side (e.g. netball/touch football)
3. Council accept that the **dispersed nature of the regional facilities** within Goulburn meets current and forecast future needs and does not seek to establish additional new sports centres. However, there be opportunities to consolidate sports facilities within Victoria Park, close to the city centre. This could include AFL, Cricket, Cycling and Athletics.
4. Council continue with **ongoing development at Carr Confoy Park** to achieve a regional standard for the range of sports (touch football, netball, hockey, junior league/union). That additional land area be identified for expansion of each of the sports played at Carr Confoy, including allocation of land for additional parking.
5. Council allocate funding to **improve the pedestrian connection** from Carr Confoy Park to the CBD. The current pedestrian bridge at the railway station, the underpass adjacent to Blackshaw Road (south) and level crossing at Blackshaw Road (north) are not adequate to enable ease of pedestrian/cycle movement from residential areas to the sports facilities. Improvement of these connections will also provide benefits for the pedestrian/cycle network as a whole.
6. Council review the **Victoria Park Master Plan** to consider opportunities to:
 - Reconfigure Prell Oval with the aim of achieving an AFL/cricket ground with a playing surface of approximately 160m length, together with adequate run-off areas.
 - Prell Oval should be established as the premier cricket/AFL ground within Goulburn.
 - Reconfigure Seiffert Oval to provide an oval-shaped velodrome plus athletics facilities adjacent to the velodrome
 - This will necessitate adjustment to a range of other facilities and structures adjacent to the existing ovals.
7. Council review the 2008-2018 **Bicycle Strategy** to ensure opportunities for improved linkages from residential areas to sports fields are implemented.

8. With regard to **specific sports** in Goulburn the following actions are recommended based on the assessment of the existing facilities together with feedback received from the various sports clubs:

i. Hockey

Goulburn Hockey has formed a working party to pursue development at Carr Confoy Park as the preferred location of a new regional hockey facility.

Goulburn Mulwaree Council has supported this proposal and allocated initial funds and prepared a development plan to facilitate hockey at Carr Confoy Park. The development plan incorporates two water based synthetic turf fields and two multi-use grass fields constructed to the east of the netball courts.

It is considered that the development of a Regional Level hockey facility at Carr Confoy Park is an appropriate outcome consistent with good open space planning principles. The ongoing development of the site to provide facilities that will enable regional (and State level) carnivals is a positive outcome for the sport and for Goulburn and the ongoing development should be supported by Council.

ii. Netball

The Goulburn netball facilities are located within Carr Confoy Park and comprise 9 asphalt courts and two grass courts. The club caters for players from the wider region and has about 130 active players. The popularity of Netball is growing with 2018 experiencing the highest participation in the sport locally.

The location and number of courts is considered appropriate to cater for the short, medium and long term. The club is happy to be part of a multi-use sports complex. However, the level of provision of facilities is the key issue. The club does not have the required standard of facilities to hold carnivals, it does not have separate storage facilities and adequate female change rooms.

The ability for netball to hold state/regional carnivals is seen as a positive economic and social contribution for Goulburn and improvements to facilities at Carr Confoy Park can be combined with other users, such as Hockey and Touch Football.

It is considered that Council support investment in netball facilities at Carr Confoy Park (including the likely need that the existing grass surface netball courts should be upgraded to provide a high quality acrylic resin surface) to achieve a regional standard of facilities catering for state/regional carnivals, as well as local competition.

iii. Touch Football

Touch Football is based at Carr Confoy park and played over warmer months. There are 7 touch football fields providing for the current level of competition. However, the sport is expanding and this should be encouraged by Council. Due to the limited times that the sport can be played, the option of intensifying competition on existing fields to additional evenings is not the best option. Additional playing fields are seen as a better outcome for the sport. There appears to be additional land at Carr Confoy Park that could potentially accommodate another 4 touch football sized playing fields.

It is considered that the Development Plan for Carr Confoy Park should be reviewed to consider the incorporation of additional playing fields for touch football. The need for additional fields needs to be resolved, without impact on proposals for additional sports including hockey and netball to be located at Carr Confoy

iv. Football (Soccer)

The majority of soccer competitions, particularly for junior soccer are held at the Cookbundoon Sporting Complex. This soccer facility provides a combined centre for different age competitions providing distinct advantages for families compared to dispersed fields across the city. The location and number of fields is considered appropriate to cater for the short, medium and long term needs of this sporting code. The level of provision of facilities is the key issue. In this regard, there is an opportunity to improve parking arrangements, both for soccer players/families and for patrons to the Racecourse.

It is considered that Council support investment in the soccer facilities at Cookbundoon to achieve a level of facility that is capable of holding regional as well as local competitions.

Council should encourage the Soccer Club to work with the Race Club to review parking and access arrangements to prepare a plan that facilitates improved parking and traffic management for patrons of both facilities.

v. Australian Rules Football (AFL)

The Goulburn AFL senior team plays in the regional competition (4th Grade AFL Canberra) which includes teams from the ACT, Yass, Queanbeyan and Batemans Bay. Goodhew Oval is the 'home' of AFL but other grounds such as Prell Oval in Victoria Park and cricket grounds are also used.

The level of facilities at Goodhew Oval are very basic and do not support the AFL Club if it proposes to advance the sport to regional competition standards

Due to steady player numbers it is considered that the establishment of Goodhew Oval as the AFL 'home' is appropriate, provided that the single use of this site can support the required ongoing improvements to facilities. Demand for additional grounds is not likely to emerge in the short-medium term. Even if demand did spike, then there are ready options to use other cricket grounds for AFL during the winter.

It is considered that Council should initiate further discussions with the AFL Club and local cricket representatives to identify combined use of the Goodhew Oval where improved facilities would benefit both AFL and Cricket.

Alternatively, that Council work with the AFL Club to relocate their 'home' from Goodhew Park to Prell Oval within Victoria Park, on the basis that Prell Oval can be upgraded to competition size (160m playing length).

vi. Athletics

Hudson Park caters for Little Athletics and Senior Athletics. The facilities at Hudson Park are quite dated and not 'fit for purpose'. The relative enclosure of the park (mostly surrounded by houses and having no main road frontage) results in significant vandalism of club property.

The Athletics Club considered relocating to Carr Confoy park. However, this was only considered feasible if an upgrade of the running track surface was achievable, such as artificial surface. Due to the nature of artificial running surfaces, the flood prone land at Carr Confoy was not an option for the Athletics Club. It is understood that flooding of an artificial running track destroys the surface, noting that such materials are different to that of artificial Hockey field surfaces which can withstand flooding.

It is considered that Council establish a working party involving the Goulburn Athletics Club to investigate the feasibility of relocation of the athletics facilities from Hudson Park to establish a multi-use facility catering for a number of sports.

If relocation could be achieved, the existing site could be considered for redevelopment as a residential area, with revenue gained from land sale to be re-invested in new sporting facilities. A preliminary estimate of residential yield generated by this option is in the order of 40+ dwellings, subject to detailed investigation.

vii. Rugby Union

Goulburn Rugby Union have Poidevin Oval as their 'home'. This oval is on a Department of Land and Water Conservation Reserve and is managed by the Goulburn Rugby Park Trust. The facilities appear to be well developed to meet the needs of the sport. The club fields senior teams in the regional competition and also have local junior, golden oldies and women's teams.

It is considered that Council support ongoing investment by the Rugby Club in Simon Poidevin Oval as the home of Rugby Union for the region. Further, it is considered that other facilities at Carr Confoy Park continue to be developed as a regional facility for junior rugby union.

viii. Rugby League

The Goulburn Rugby League Club competes in the Canberra Raiders Cup at a regional level, against teams from the ACT, Queanbeyan and Yass. The principal competition field is within the Goulburn Workers Arena, but North Park is also used for junior competitions and other senior games. North Park includes three fields, although two fields are reduced size for junior play. The park can host junior rugby league carnivals.

North Park is also a venue for cricket matches in warmer months.

It is considered that the main rugby league facility continues to be located within the privately owned Workers Arena, and that facilities at North Park continue to be developed as a regional facility for junior rugby league

ix. Cricket

The Goulburn District Cricket Association hosts eleven cricket teams that play on fields dispersed across Goulburn, including:

- Carr Confoy (Ovals 1-4)
- East Grove (Oval 1)
- North Park (Ovals 1-2)
- Seiffert Oval + Prell Oval (within Victoria Park)
- Trinity College (Wexted Oval + Oval 2)

It is considered that Prell Oval within Victoria Park be identified as the main cricket oval, allowing Sieffert Oval, Carr Confoy and other local fields to be used as required for junior cricket

x. **BMX**

The Goulburn BMX facility is a degraded facility located off Albion St adjacent to the PCYS and the Wollondilly River. The BMX club has ambitious plans for the facility and have been consulting with a US based company who have designed a new track and facilities which would accommodate junior and senior competitions.

It is considered It is considered that Council should initiate further discussions with the BMX Club, together with the PCYC to identify combined use of the Albion St parkland areas with the aim of flood proofing the existing BMX track, or relocating the track out of the flood plain.

xi. **Cycling (track)**

The Goulburn Cycle Club host track events from the outdoor velodrome at Sieffert Oval within Victoria Park. The venue is used for track events and competitions during summer and for training during winter. The track is circular having a length of 400m with a good quality bitumen surface. The facility includes a grandstand and toilets. The circular rack is not consistent with current competition standards which usually have two straights with 180-degree circular bends.

It is considered It is considered that Council should initiate further discussions with the Goulburn Cycle Club, together with the Athletics Club and Cricket Association to identify alternative use of the area of Victoria Park to facilitate cycling, athletics, cricket and AFL.

xii. **Speedway**

The Speedway Club advised has been located on a site at Governors Hill (Mt Gray) since about 1972 that privately owned by the Club. The Club serves regional NSW but can host national competitions. Although the site is only about 100m off Sydney road, access is only available via Speedway Road which requires visitors to traverse 1½km off Sydney Road through the bushland area. The area of land available to the Club is not sufficient to meet current or future needs, particularly with the increasing use of large trailers and trucks used to haul race vehicles. The speedway track is within a RU6-Transition Zone and the adjoining land to the west is an environmental conservation area.

It is considered that Council should support the Speedway Club to investigate options to expand their land area and, if appropriate facilitate rezoning of the subject site and adjacent land. The investigations should address more appropriate means of access to the site, directly from Sydney Road.

xiv. **Fishing**

Recreational fishing is acknowledged as a popular recreational activity in and around Goulburn. Popular locations include Marsden Weir, Pejar Dam and Wollondilly River. Access to some areas is denied due to priorities for maintaining water quality (e.g. Sooley Dam). Council has formed a recreational fishing party working group to investigate and recommend sites that could be developed and the facilities needed.

It is considered that the formation of the Recreational Fishing Working Party is an appropriate step forward in furthering the opportunities for recreational fishing. In addition, Council could consider specific opportunities as part of any future review of Plans of Management for the individual Crown Reserves.



9. **Marulan** – The existing soccer fields are subject to high levels of use and an expanded facility will be required to meet long term future needs. The dormant cricket ground provides an opportunity for re-use as soccer fields, however, this would split the use which is not ideal. Ongoing master planning of the Marulan soccer facility is required which should investigate the opportunity to increase the number of junior soccer fields on this site, possibly through relocation of the skate bowl.
10. **Villages** – While some small villages (Tallong, Tarago, Bungonia, Lake Bathurst, Towrang) do not have facilities where competition sports can be held, it is not considered necessary at this time to acquire land for the provision of sports fields. The existing population in these villages do not warrant the provision of competition standard sports fields. In addition, the existing sports field at Tarago is considered to meet projected future needs.

Strategy for Parks

Parks are mainly used by local communities with Goulburn, but in some cases receive regional and interstate visitors.

The following strategies are considered appropriate for Council to address in the on-going provision and maintenance of these facilities.

Actions

1. **Riverside Walk** should continue to be developed. This linear parkway has the potential to be Goulburn's 'string of pearls' with activity nodes at intervals along the path. Completion of the path will facilitate recreational and commuter use by linking residential areas to the CBD and sports grounds.
2. Council should continue to provide a series of **pathways to link areas of open space**. In addition to the ongoing development of the Riverside Walk, there are opportunities to link other facilities including the wetlands, heritage sites, and the like. Casual walking is identified as the most common recreation activity and the ongoing development of linkages between facilities will enhance this activity.
3. **Local parks** should be within a convenient 5 minute walk of 95% of residents within the urban area of Goulburn
4. There is an **oversupply of local pocket parks** within specific precincts within Goulburn. However, these parks contribute to the character of the city and are integral to the amenity and heritage values of residential areas.
5. The oversupply of local parks allows Council and the community to focus on the **potential public use** of these spaces. It is common for residents to expect that all parks will be mown, irrigated, and have play facilities, at considerable cost to Council. However, there is an opportunity to further consider the diversity of functions and types of parks available and explore opportunities for rationalisation of some parks.
6. Council should encourage residents surrounding parkland areas to be actively involved in the **future use of parks** with the aim of the community contributing to their future use, possibly through tree planting (if shade areas are desired) or establishing community gardens rather than a focus on upgrading play equipment.



7. Council implement a **footpath policy** that gives priority to new footpaths to local parks, including assessment of hazardous pedestrian crossing points
8. Provide **thematic tree planting** at local parks, which relates to the surrounding streets.
9. **Facilities within local parks** should reflect the demographics of the immediate area (e.g. playgrounds where there are young families, paved areas for half-court basketball where there are older children/young adults and community gardens or shade trees and seating where there are older people)
10. **Maintain high standards of maintenance** for those open spaces (e.g. Belmore Park) that are likely to be used by out-of-town visitors as well as by residents from across the urban area.

Strategy for Specialised Facilities

The GMC area has a range of specialised facilities including motor sports, equestrian facilities, greyhound racing and dog training.

This study concludes that no further special provision of these facilities is required, but that Council provide on-going support to ensure their continued viability.

In particular there is an excellent opportunity for ongoing development of the Mt Gray speedway facility to provide regional level motorcycle sports facilities.

Strategy for Natural Areas

Goulburn is fortunate in having access to several natural areas close to the urban area.

Whilst not used by large numbers of residents, the importance of these areas as both environmental resources as well as potential areas for certain forms of low-impact recreation (e.g. bushwalks) mean that they are importance elements in the overall open space spectrum.

It is noted that natural areas are often subject to competing land use demands where specific sports clubs or other land users may identify natural areas as being under utilised and therefore appropriate for long term use as sports fields, e.g. Cookbundoon, West Goulburn.

To avoid conflicts Council should consider mechanisms such as early consultation with key stakeholders and, where necessary, undertake site assessments to consider the significance of the natural area.

Allocation of funding for plans of management, and provision of facilities appropriate to user requirements (e.g. parking areas; information boards; selected toilet facilities) will be important in managing future use of these assets.

It is also desirable as part of good recreation planning to link natural areas to cycling facilities and walking trails where possible, but without interfering with the natural values of the areas. The study has identified opportunities to connect linear parks to create circuits around the urban area.

Council endorse proposed connections to the existing linear park network to create a series of loops around Goulburn.

In some cases, the scope for relocation can result in an opportunity for redevelopment of the vacated site for new urban development, with revenue generated being used for investment in new sporting facilities.



Several co-location opportunities have been identified in the study and are recommended for further consideration by Council but only in conjunction with all affected stakeholders, and only on the basis that there is a net gain for all stakeholders. Examples include Athletics and AFL.

As stated above, whilst opportunities may exist for the re-use of a number of small pocket parks in some parts of the inner area, this study concludes that the net benefit would not be sufficient to warrant this action.

New Statutory Planning Provisions

As stated above, it is considered that the land areas provided for district and regional level sports facilities and open space areas are adequately catered for to meet current and projected needs. However, the provision of local parks within the newly developing areas of Goulburn City are not sufficiently addressed in Council's planning instruments (e.g. Local Environment Plan and Development Control Plan).

It is recommended that Council include a provision in DCP 2009 that requires future residential subdivisions to address the following planning controls:

- At least 95% of all residential allotments shall be within 400m walking distance (measured along roadways and dedicated pathways, not a straight line distance)
- Where a subdivision proposes to create allotments that are not within 400m of an existing park, an area of at least 2,500m² shall be identified within the subdivision for dedication to Council as a public reserve.
- The area required for dedication as public open space may incorporate drainage reserve, flood prone land and/or natural areas, but shall include a contiguous area of at least 1,000m² to enable establishment of a playground area.
- The above provisions apply to all residential subdivisions of 10 allotments or more.

The above provisions are considered to be an interim measure pending more detailed structure planning within the identified urban release areas. The existing DCP structure plans address water management, road network, environmental characteristics and the like, however, do not adequately address the provision of local parks (other than within drainage reserves).

In established areas any redevelopment will be subject to Section 94 contributions that will be allocated to improvements to existing open space facilities.



10.2 Opportunities for rationalisation

As discussed above, opportunities for rationalisation of sporting facilities is a desirable goal in the wider recreation planning context, especially where funding for provision of new facilities and /or maintenance of existing facilities is tight.

In reviewing all of the sporting facilities in the GMC area, this study has considered the scope for co-location of facilities but in the context of the specific requirements of individual sporting codes.

Having a “home ground” or space to call one’s own is important for individuality of sporting teams. Often the home ground has been established by the hard work of code players and their support groups over a long period of time. Changing the location of a home ground through plans to co-locate can also be traumatic for the affected organisation and should not occur without substantial consultation with all stakeholders.

As part of the recreation needs assessment Brief undertaken for Goulburn Mulwaree Council (GMC), Purdon Planning has undertaken a review of all local parks in Goulburn to assess their continued use as open space and potential for asset disposal.

This report including the attached site analysis provides the results of an initial assessment and basis for conclusions reached in the study.

The underlying rationale for the assessment should be considered in the context of a strategic overview of open space in Goulburn undertaken as part of a wider Brief for GMC.

A decision to reuse some or parts of some open spaces for urban development is a sensitive issue and will involve more detailed assessment, community consultation and a process for rezoning of the site(s) should the process continue to this stage.

The rationale for consideration of asset disposal is based on several factors including:

- Continued access by most residents to local open spaces within a 400m walking distance
- Retention of places with significant tree cover and/or amenities including playgrounds
- High maintenance costs
- Ease of development
- Scope for financial return to Council for investment in other community infrastructure

It is noted that during the course of the Purdon Planning Review, Council has separately considered disposal of several open space parcels which have been included in the Purdon Planning study.

Methodology

Goulburn has about 50 local parks (as distinct from major sporting facilities or nature reserves) listed on Council’s inventory of open spaces.

Purdon Planning has reviewed all of these parks using the following criteria as considerations in our assessment:

- Size
- Location in the urban area
- Proximity of adjacent parks (within a 400-500m radius)

- Existing facilities on site (e.g. swings; seating; lighting)
- Tree cover
- Other constraints such as flooding and utility easements
- Adjacent streets
- Adjacent housing

As a result of this assessment, about 25 parks were “shortlisted” for further review and of these 13 sites have been included in the final “short” list for discussion with Council. Each of these sites were then investigated for potential rezoning and development in full or in part depending on local circumstances.

Table 11 lists local parks identified for further consideration as part or total asset disposal.

Section 10.2.1 of the report provides a site plan, photo and rationale for proposed action in relation to each park.

Table 12 in Section 10.2.2 lists the nominated parks and provides a summary of development potential and potential net revenue to Council, based on assumptions about development yield, indicative development costs and indicative land values.

It should be noted that the results of this assessment have not been discussed with any external party, and would require more detailed assessment, consideration by Council, community consultation and ultimately rezoning if Council decided to dispose of any or all of the sites.

Figure 35: Location of Parks subject to Review



10.2.1 Review of Parks

Local parks considered suitable for partial or full disposal are shown in Figure 35.

Table 11 summarises the main features of each park “short-listed” for potential disposal.

The following section provides details of each local park in the shortlist and outlines the rationale for whole or part disposal.

Table 11: List of Parks subject to Review

Park	Location	Details	Park Area (m ²)
Gibson St Park	36 Howard Boulevard	Grassy field with some small trees	3,197
Buffalo Cres Park	37 Ruby Street	Play Equipment, a bench, grass	1,414
Lockyer Street Reserve	16 Lockyer Street	Grassy Field with some small trees	20,639
Hovell Street Reserve	59-61 Hovell Street	Grassy Field with some small trees	31,857
Thoroughgood Park	Amaroo Place	Grassy Field with some small trees	22,972

Gibson St Park

This park is located at 36 Howard Boulevard, corner Gibson St, Goulburn. It comprises an empty grassy field with some small trees. The land is zoned RE1 Public Recreation and the surrounding area is zoned low density residential R2. The site is owned and maintained by Council.

Park Area (m ²)	Tree density	Nearby Parks	Street frontages	Adjacent Dwellings	Potential Disposal Area	% park site
3,197	Low	Leggett Park 300m Riverview Park 600m Wollondilly R 300m	2	6 Rear/Side on 9 Facing	3,197m ²	100%

Recommendation

There are parks to the south, along the river bank. This park is considered to be under-utilised by the local community. Due to the size of the park it is considered that any disposal would need to involve the whole park. Retention of a small ‘pocket park’ of about 1,000m² does not allow for a feasible park. By rezoning, reclassifying and subdividing this land there is the opportunity to create 4 ‘urban infill’ lots with frontage to existing streets that would have otherwise been created on the far urban fringe. The funds from the sale can be used to invest in other recreation facilities that have a higher rate of utilisation.



(Source: SIX Maps, NSW Government)



(Source: Google 2018)

Buffalo Cres Park

This park is located at the corner of Ruby Street and Gibson St, Goulburn. It is a small park with mown grass and a single set of play equipment. The site is zoned RE1 Public Recreation and the surrounding area is zoned general residential R1. The site is owned and maintained by Council.

Park Area (m ²)	Tree density	Nearby Parks	Street frontages	Adjacent Dwellings	Potential Disposal Area	% park site
1,414	Low	Gerathy Park 200m Albert/Newton St Park 700m Goodhew Park 300m Wollondilly R 300m	2	2 Rear/Side on 5 Facing	1,414m ²	100%

Recommendation

Due to the size of the park it is considered that any disposal would need to involve the whole park. By rezoning, reclassifying and subdividing this land there is the opportunity to create 2 ‘urban infill’ lots with frontage to existing streets that would have otherwise been created on the far urban fringe. The funds from the sale can be used to invest in improvements to the nearby Gerathy Park.



(Source: SIX Maps, NSW Government 2018)



(Source: Google 2018)

Lockyer Street Park

This park is located at 16 Lockyer Street, Goulburn and comprises a mown grass field with some small trees and some bushland. The park appears to be land-locked with no direct frontage to Lockyer St. Park is zoned RE1 Public Recreation, land to the west is zoned Enterprise Corridor B6, land to the east is zoned Rural Landscape RU2, land to the north is zoned Private Recreation RE2 and land to the north-east is zoned General Industrial IN1.

Park Area (m ²)	Tree density	Nearby Parks	Street frontages	Adjacent Dwellings	Potential Disposal Area	% park site
20,639	High	Goulburn Worker's Club 0m 2 Hume St Park 500m	0	0	20639m ²	100%

Recommendation

The park is a public area but is not readily accessible. Its location within an industrial/business area indicates there is potential for this land to be developed for commercial (industrial) purposes. Prior to any development, issues relating to access and significance of trees would need to be resolved. It is assumed that acquisition of some adjoining land to facilitate access would be needed. An extension to Lockyer St would then need to be constructed to service the land. A subdivision of about 5 large industrial sites could be possible. However, it is not clear whether the cost outlay to provide access and services to the site would be less than any financial return from the sale of 5 industrial lots.

It is understood this locality is subject to a broader land use review by Council including possible extension of local roads to provide better traffic movement for heavy vehicles.



(Source: SIX Maps, NSW Government 2018)

Hovell Street Reserve

This park has a battle-axe frontage to Hovell Street, stretching across to Finlay Lane, Goulburn. It contains a large area of mown grass, which appears to be cultivated. Park is zoned RE1 Public Recreation, land to the north is zoned General Residential R1 and land to the south is zoned General Industrial IN1. This site is adjacent to an area of zoned residential land (to the west) that was subject to recent Council consideration for disposal.

Park Area (m2)	Tree density	Nearby Parks	Street frontages	Adjacent Dwellings	Potential Disposal Area	% park site
31,857	Low	Davies Cr Reserve 300m Eldon Park 400m Bartlett Park 600m	1.5	13 Rear/Side on	31,857m ²	100%

Recommendation

Although the site adjoins existing industrial development, it is considered that rezoning of this land for residential use is appropriate. A new road could be constructed off Hovell St to serve a single dwelling residential subdivision allowing for retention of trees. Widening of the existing laneway to service new lots would also be possible. It is considered a residential subdivision could yield about 14 lots.

Development of the site in conjunction with the land to the west would facilitate a more efficient site servicing option, greater yield and a better financial outcome for Council.



(Source: SIX Maps, NSW Government 2018)



(Source: Google 2018)

Thoroughgood Park

This site is located on Amaroo Place in Goulburn adjacent to the main cemetery. This park contains a large area of mown grass with groves of trees. The site is zoned RE1 Public Recreation. Land to the east and south is zoned Low Density Residential R2, with the Cemetery on the western boundary zoned Infrastructure SP2.

Park Area (m2)	Tree density	Nearby Parks	Street frontages	Adjacent Dwellings	Potential Disposal Area	% park site
22972	Low	Walsh Park 200m Komungla Res 500m Hudson Park 400m Jack White Park 1km	1	1 Rear/Side on 7 Facing	22,972m ²	100%

Recommendation

The site is in a major urban growth area with a range of other parks in the general area. A residential subdivision with a new road along the eastern boundary is possible. This could yield about 15 single dwelling residential lots. However, review of long term requirements for the Cemetery should be undertaken prior to disposal.



(Source: SIX Maps, NSW Government 2018)



(Source: Google 2018)

10.2.2 Impacts of Review

To ensure the potential removal of the parks shown does not significantly impact the availability of parks in Goulburn. The park proximity analysis map was re-created with the above parks removed. Also removed are parks that have been the subject of council decisions to sell the land.

The potential removal of the listed parks does not have a significant impact on the availability of parks within 200, and 400m of Goulburn residents, and offers opportunities to improve existing parks to make the available parks more useful. The parks under review are located mostly in areas which either have other parks available nearby, or in areas where very few residents currently reside.

Figure 36: Park Proximity - Prior to review

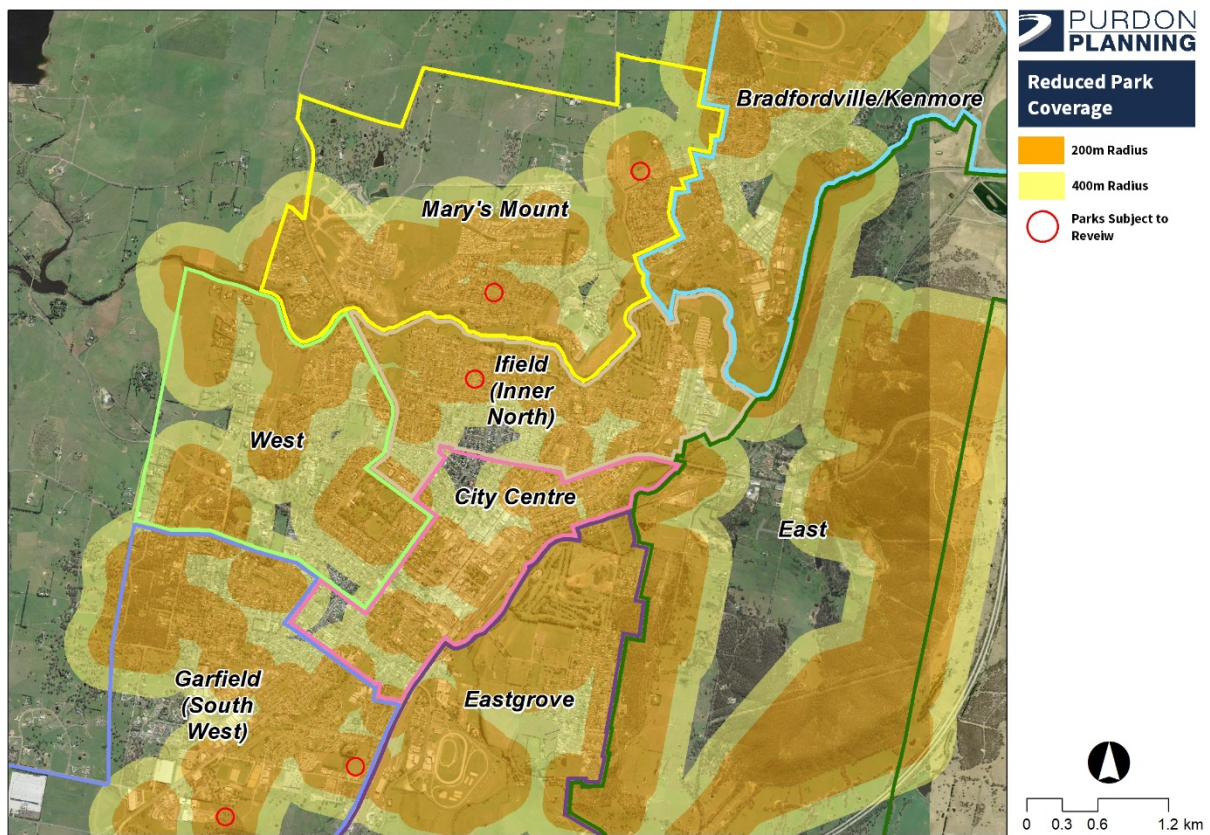
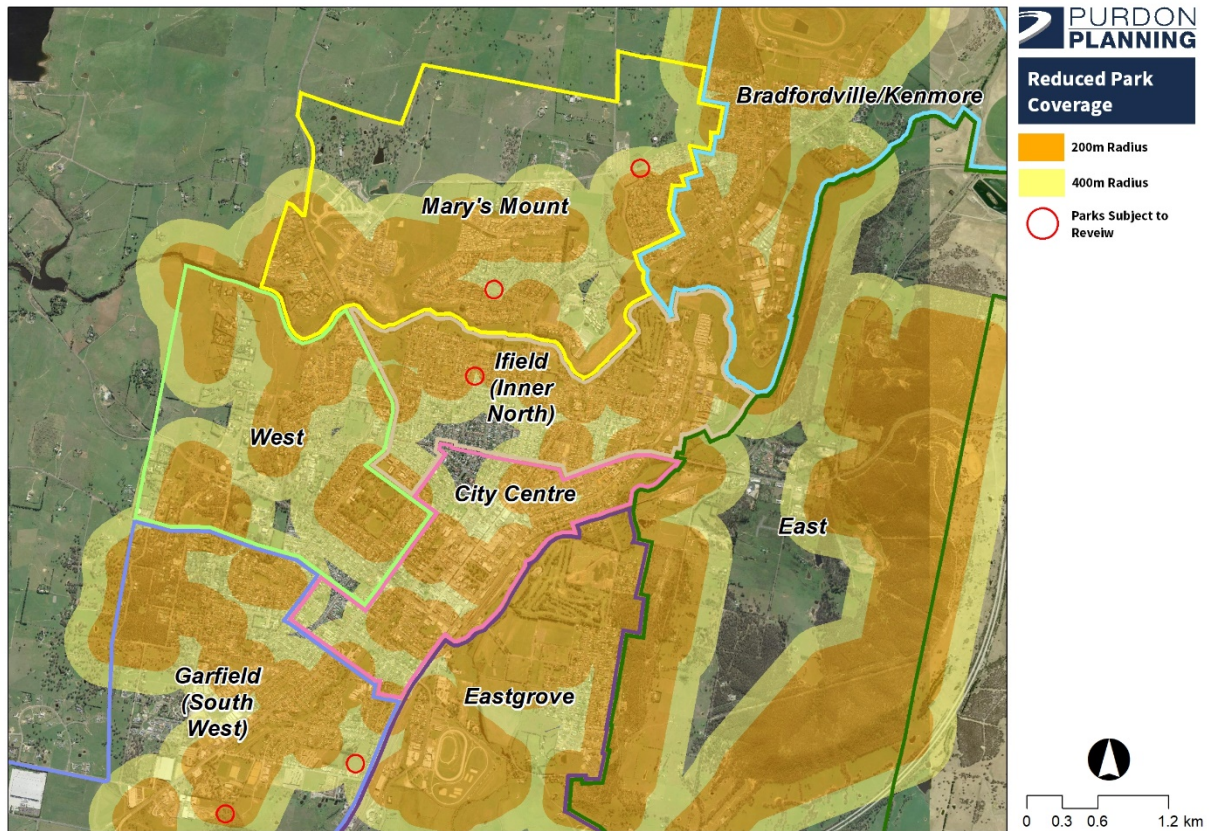


Figure 37: Park Proximity - After review



10.2.3 Potential Development Opportunities

This Section summarises the analysis of local parks considered above for possible disposal and projects estimated net returns to Council based on initial assessment of yield, development costs and land values.

Table 12 below is based on the following assumptions:

- An assessment of indicative development costs (e.g. new road access) for individual lots.
- Development yield based on 700m² lots per standard residential lot and 250m² per multi-unit dwelling.

It is recommended that more detailed financial analysis is undertaken to validate the assumptions used in the table once a more detailed investigation of specific site conditions (e.g. services, flooding, easements, heritage, contamination, trees) and assessment of viability is determined.

Table 12: Potential Yield and Indicative Returns

Park	Location	Disposal Area (m ²)	Indicative Yield
Gibson St Park	36 Howard Blvd	3,200	4
Buffalo Cres Park	37 Ruby St	1,414	2
Lockyer St Reserve	16 Lockyer St	20,639	5
Hovell St Reserve	59-61 Hovell St	31,857	14
Thoroughgood Park	Amaroo Pl	22,972	15
		~ 80,000	40

Conclusion

Main findings from the study include:

- The study identifies 5 sites for further consideration for disposal.
- The total area included in the disposal land is approximately 80,000 sqm (8ha).
- Total residential yield is approximately 40 dwellings.

Implementation

The review of local parks has identified a number of sites that could be considered for whole/part disposal within the frameworks of the Recreation Needs Strategy for Goulburn Mulwaree Council. The following actions would be required to finalise the planning and decision making process:

1. Identify any additional constraints for each park, through more detailed investigation of specific site conditions (e.g. services, flooding, easements, heritage, contamination, trees)
2. Review yield calculations based on outcomes of specific site investigations
3. Review cost assumptions (land values, development costs)
4. Obtain in-principle support from Council
5. Consult with the wider community
6. Undertake land rezoning processes.
7. Land release

11 Conclusions and Recommendations

This recreation needs strategy has been prepared for Council to provide a framework for future investment in open space and recreation facilities to address existing and future needs of the community across Goulburn Mulwaree local government area.

It is intended that the strategy be released for public comment prior to any actions being taken by Council.

The study has reviewed all existing recreation facilities, identified the likely future scale and distribution of demand for new facilities, considered trends in recreation planning and usage levels, identified the statutory planning environment affecting recreation planning and made recommendations for action by Council.

An important part of the study has been consultation with a range of sporting and community groups interested in the wider provision of open space and recreation facilities as well as their individual sporting codes or interests. Council has also undertaken an on-line survey of community attitudes to open space usage.

The main “high level” conclusions reached in this study are summarised below:

- The GMC area has a wide range of open spaces and recreation facilities catering to numerous sporting and community groups in the area
- These facilities provide services and address needs at a regional level (eg racecourse; main sporting codes), a district level within Goulburn (eg local sporting clubs) and at a local level (eg pocket parks in each neighbourhood).
- Sporting facilities and open spaces are scattered throughout the Goulburn urban area and are available in other parts of the GMC area.
- The LGA had an estimated total population of over 30,000 in 2017, concentrated mainly in Goulburn.
- Population growth has increased in recent years as a result of several factors including housing affordability, internal migration and improved transport connections to major urban centres including Canberra. This increased demand puts pressure on all urban services including open space/recreation facilities.
- New growth areas in Goulburn are centred on the Mary’s Mount area and to a lesser extent in West Goulburn, as well as some renewal in existing urban areas.
- GMC is experiencing changes in recreational usage consistent with changes in State and National trends, but there is continuing demand for the full spectrum of sporting and open space needs
- GMC has embarked on a range of new recreation projects that represent a major capital investment, boost to the local economy and will provide increased amenity for residents across the urban area and beyond



- The provision of open space and recreation facilities is a critical element in the overall urban fabric (in terms of land use and areas occupied) but these areas provide a fundamental part of the amenity of an urban area adding to residents' well-being, health and local economy.
- A recreation needs strategy for GMC should address the needs of all members of the community, regardless of age or gender or nationality or health or socio-economic status.
- A balanced investment by Council in open space and recreation facilities will be needed to meet sometimes competing community interests specific health all age groups.
- Existing planning controls need to be amended to ensure adequate provision of new open space and recreation facilities are provided in the new urban growth areas, and that redevelopment of inner urban areas can better utilise existing recreation facilities.

It is RECOMMENDED that the recreational need strategy outlined in section 10 above be adopted by Council as the basis for further consultation with individual affected stakeholders as well as the wider community as a basis for adoption as the framework for further action.

**Purdon Planning &
Anthony Burton & Associates**

20 March 2019

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Attachments

Attachment A: Inventory of Open Spaces & Recreation Facilities in GMC

Attachment B: Local Sports Grounds

Attachment C: Local Parks & Playgrounds

Attachment D: River Foreshore Parks

Attachment E: Natural Areas

Attachment A: Inventory of GMC Open Spaces & Recreation facilities (2018)

ID	Park	Location	Details
1	Eldon Park	21A Broughton Street	Play equipment
2	Albert/Newton St Park	30 Albert Street	Single swing set
3	Apex Park	21 Addison Street	Play equipment, scout hall, grassed area, picnic tables
4	Bartlett Park	55 Ada Street	Play equipment, large grassed area, picnic tables
5	Belmore Park	173 Auburn Street	Large central square, play equipment, band stand, fountains, BBQs, sheltered picnic tables
6	Bladwell Park	2 Lisgar Street	Linear drainage reserve with a walking/bike path
7	Carr Confoy Park	23 Forbes Street	Large sports park, football, cricket, basketball, play equipment and two pavilions, two of the fields have lights and 3 cricket nets.
10	Cathcart Park	72A Cathcart Street	Linear drainage reserve, grass, no formal trails
13	Garfield Park	101 Garfield Avenue	Play equipment and park bench, cricket pitch.
14	Gibson St Park	36 Howard Boulevard	Grassy field with some small trees
15	Goodhew Park	15 Neville Street	AFL field with score board and pavilion, BBQ, connects to Wollondilly river
16	Honour Park	45 Braidwood Road	Pergola, rose garden, BBQ
17	Hudson Park	173 Record Street	Athletics Track, pavilion, grand stand, score box, play equipment, tennis courts (very degraded)
18	Leggett Park	Howard Boulevard	Cricket Pitch, Swing Set, Park Benches, skate park, basket ball hoop, internal path network to Wollondilly River
19	Manfred Park	15 Glebe Street	Cricket Pitch, otherwise just grass
21	Meridian Park	9 George Street	Sculpture Park with picnic tables, rose gardens and maybe a BBQ
22	North Park	34 Chantry Street	Two Rugby Fields with Lights, Play Equipment, A pavilion, BBQs, Cricket Cages
23	Tenison Woods Reserve	173 Reynolds Street	Large Rose Garden, Small Shelter and park table
24	Gerathy Park	60A Prince Street	Play Equipment, park benches, mostly grass
25	Ruby Park	37 Ruby Street	Play Equipment, a bench, grass
26	O'Brien Park	Chatsbury Street	Informal Road grassed area with trees
27	Park	68 Gilmore Street	Linear Drainage Reserve, Grass but no formal trails
28	Park	27 Kenmore Street	Grassy Area next to Wollondilly river.
29	Park	107 Albert Street	Grassy Area next to Wollondilly river.
30	Park	5 Bridge Street	Mulwaree River Reserve, Unmaintained
31	Cookbundoon	13 Dewhirst Street	soccer fields of varying sizes, lighting, two pavilions, and path connections with the race course
34	Public Recreation	10 Davies Crescent	Small area with some trees, no other amenity
35	Lions Park	31 Ruse Street	Linear drainage reserve on Wollondilly River. Contains bike path and mown grass
36	Recreation Area	47 Braidwood Road	showgrounds and race course.
37	Roberts Park	31 Avoca Street	League field, with basic pavilion.
38	Steam Museum Park	72 Fitzroy Street	Linear drainage reserve, contains high quality trails, play equipment and benches, includes BBQs
41	Vacant Land/Park	40 Dalley Street	Play Equipment, Trees, Benches (sheltered), Connects through blocks
42	Victoria Park	134 Faithful Street	2AFL/Cricket fields, A skate park, tennis courts, pools, a bowling green, rose gardens, a pond, many paths and amenities like benches and BBQs throughout
102	Pistol Club	Rifle Range Road	Shooting Range and Bushland
43	Goulburn Workers Club	135 Hume Street	Sports Fields
44	Hoskins Street Park	70 Hoskins Steet	Empty Grassy Field with some small trees

Recreation Needs Strategy

Goulburn Mulwaree Council

ID	Park	Location	Details
45	Goulburn Golf Club	60 May Street	Golf Club
46	Tully Park Golf Club	38 Chantry Street	Golf Club
47	Riversdale	2 Twynam Drive	Historic House
48 (37)	PCYC Sports Field	46 Bellevue Street	Roberts park, gymnasium, play equipment, pavilions, dirt bike track, connection to Wollondilly river
49	Mount Gray Precinct	Sydney Road	Speedway, bushland
50 (68)	Walsh Park	32 Yarrowlow Street	Shade structure, pathways
51 (73)	Simon Poidevin Oval	16 Addison Street	Goulburn Rugby Park
53	Park	40 Knox Street	Empty Lot
54	Cathedral	170 Bourke Street	Not controlled by council
56	Alexandra Park	Wollondilly River Corridor	Undeveloped
57	Peter Mowle Reserve	Lower Sterne Street	River corridor with dirt tracks, large grassed area
58	Goulburn South Linear Park	100 Lansdowne Street	Refer to 6
59	Goulburn South Linear Park	22 Combermere Street	Refer to 6
60	Kinghorne Street Park	176 Kinghorne Street	Empty Grassy Field with some small trees
61	Lockyer Street Reserve	16 Lockyer Street	Empty Grassy Field with some small trees
62	Hovell Street Reserve	59-61 Hovell Street	Empty Grassy Field with some small trees
63	Park	234 Wheeo Road	Water treatment plant?
67	Thoroughgood Park	Amaroo Place	Empty Grassy Field with some small trees
68	Walsh Park	28 Nichols Street	Picnic Table Shelter? Grass and Trees
69	Lot 160 (Cookbundoon)	Progress St	Bushland with some informal trails
70	Goulburn Park/ Copford Park	Copford Rd	River corridor with dirt tracks
71		Kenmore	Rail Corridor Abandoned
72	Goulburn Wetlands	May St	Wetland area with trails and car park
73	Simon Poidevin Oval	240-246 Addison St	Rugby field, with pavilion and adjoining bushland
74	Ken Brown Park	100 Albert St	
75	Sanctuary Drive	7 Sanctuary Drive	Linear Drainage Reserve
76	Rossi Place Park	15 Brendas Drive	Path and play equipment
77	Mistful Park	Mistful Park Road	Stormwater Ponds, Otherwise featureless
79	Geoghegan Drive	Geoghegan Drive	Drainage Reserve, vegetated
80	Ridland's Tennis	17 Bishop St	10 Tennis Courts, a pavilion
81	Service Club Park	Reynolds Street	Play Equipment, BBQs, Many benches and seats,
83	Goulburn Racing Club	Goulburn Racing Club	Race Track
84	Unnamed park	15 Chisholm St	Play Equipment, mostly empty
85	Unnamed park	56a Elizabeth St	Play Equipment, mostly empty
86	Unnamed park	22 Komungla Cres	Empty Grassy Field with some small trees
89	Howard Park	Lagoon/Auburn St	Rose garden, monument, some benches, a swing set
90	Knopp Park	Lagoon/Cole St	Grass, Trees, some park benches, BBQ
91	Unnamed park	31 Grafton St	Block Connection, grass and mature trees
92	Unnamed park	Burge St	Forested Hill
93	Other Land	Wollondilly Corridor	River corridor
94	Unnamed park	McQuire Drive	Drainage Reserve
95	Unnamed park	2 Hume Street	Undeveloped vegetated block near highway exit
96	Mulwaree River	Sydney Road	River corridor



ID	Park	Location	Details
	Corridor		
97	Unnamed park	Mary Martin Drive	Drainage Reserve
98	Rocky Hill Reserve	Memorial Road	Large Ridge of Bushland with Monument
101	Bowling Green	Goulburn Railway Bowling Club	3 Bowling Greens near the centre of Goulburn
103	Tennis Club		Goulburn Railway Tennis Club

Source: GMC + Purdon Planning, 2018

Attachment B: Local Sports Grounds

Leggett Park

This park is located at the corner of McDermott Drive and Howard Boulevard in Goulburn. As well as containing local park facilities (see local parks) Leggett park contains a rudimentary cricket pitch, a skate park, and a basketball hoop. Park is zoned RE1 Public Recreation and is owned and maintained by Council (Reference number 18 on Figure 11).



Prell Oval (within Victoria Park)

Located within Victoria Park (134 Faithful Street, Goulburn) this oval is set up for cricket/AFL. It also has a small pavilion and is connected to the additional amenity of Victoria park. The park is zoned RE1 Public Recreation and is owned and maintained by the Council (Reference number 42 on Figure 11).



Attachment C: Local Parks

Apex Park:

Located at the corner of Addison and Bourke Streets Goulburn with an area of 8,984m². The park includes play equipment, scout hall, large grassed area and picnic tables. The park is zoned RE1 Public Recreation and is owned and maintained by Council (Reference number 3 on Figure 11).



Bartlett Park:

Located at 55 Ada Street Goulburn near the Bathurst St intersection having an area of 5,059m². The park is a relatively steep area and includes play equipment, large grassed area and picnic tables.



Eldon Park:

Located at 21A Broughton Street Goulburn with an area of 1,593m². This small park includes an open grassed area with a central playground comprising swing set, climbing frame and spring rocker. Park is zoned RE1 Public Recreation and is owned and maintained by Council (Reference number 1 on Figure 11).



Albert & Newton Street Park:

Located at the corner of Albert and Newton Streets Goulburn with an area of 1,826m². The park is an open grassed area with a single swing set. Park is zoned RE1 Public Recreation and is owned and maintained by Council (Reference number 2 on Figure 11).



Apex Park:

Located at the corner of Addison and Bourke Streets Goulburn with an area of 8,984m². The park includes play equipment, scout hall, large grassed area and picnic tables. The park is zoned RE1 Public Recreation and is owned and maintained by Council (Reference number 3 on Figure 11).



Bartlett Park:

Located at 55 Ada Street Goulburn near the Bathurst St intersection having an area of 5,059m². The park is a relatively steep area and includes play equipment, large grassed area and picnic tables. Park is zoned RE1 Public Recreation and is owned and maintained by Council (Reference number 4 on Figure 11).



Bladwell Park

Running parallel to Lisgar St between Combermere and Lansdowne Streets, and continuing in a link south from Lansdowne Street to Finlay Road, in Goulburn and having an area of 24,760m². This park is primarily a drainage reserve, with large areas of mown grass and a hike/bike trail running the length of it. Park is zoned RE1 Public Recreation and is owned and maintained by Council (Reference number 6 on Figure 11).



Cathcart Park

This park connects through a block from Slocombe St to Cathcart St in Goulburn. It contains only trees and mown grass with an area of 13,590m². Park is zoned RE1 Public Recreation and is owned and maintained by Council (Reference number 10 on Figure 11).



Garfield Park

Located at 101 Garfield Avenue, Goulburn, with an area of 12,870m². This park contains a large grassed area with a rudimentary cricket pitch and playground (upgraded after this photo was taken). Park is

zoned RE1 Public Recreation and is owned and maintained by Council (Reference number 13 on Figure 11).



Gibson St Park

This park is located at 36 Howard Boulevard, Goulburn and has an area of 3,197m². It comprises an empty grassy field with some small trees. Park is zoned RE1 Public Recreation and is owned and maintained by Council. (Reference number 14 on Figure 11).



Honour Park

Located at 45 Braidwood Road, Goulburn, with an area of 2,023m². This park contains a rose garden, a pergola and a BBQ/ Seating area. Park is zoned RE1 Public Recreation and is owned and maintained by Council (Reference number 16 on Figure 11).



Leggett Park

Located at the corner of McDermott Drive and Howard Boulevard in Goulburn. This park has an area of 51,230m² and contains a rudimentary cricket pitch, a swing set, several park benches, a skate park, a basketball hoop, a toilet block, scattered trees sometimes in groves and an internal path network to which connects to the Wollondilly River corridor. Park is zoned RE1 Public Recreation and is owned and maintained by Council (Reference number 18 on Figure 11).



Manfred Park

Located at 15 Glebe Street, Goulburn, with an area of 10,680m². This park comprises a large grassed area skirted by trees and a rudimentary cricket pitch. Park is zoned RE1 Public Recreation and is owned and maintained by Council (Reference number 19 on Figure 11). It is noted that this park has been reclassified as 'operational' land under Council's LEP. This means that ongoing use as a public reserve is not assured and that the land may be able to be developed or sold for other purposes.



Tenison Woods Reserve

Located at 173 Reynolds Street, Goulburn, with an area of 7,164m². This park contains a large rose garden, with a small shelter, a park bench, and a few trees. Park is zoned RE1 Public Recreation and is owned and maintained by Council (Reference number 23 on Figure 11).



Gerathy Park

Located at 60A Prince Street, Goulburn, with an area of 6,791m². This park contains a large area of mown grass with several scattered trees and park benches and a set of play equipment. Park is zoned RE1 Public Recreation and is owned and maintained by Council (Reference number 24 on Figure 11).



Ruby Park

Located at 37 Ruby Street, Goulburn, with an area of 1,414m². This small park is mostly mown grass with a single set of play equipment. Park is zoned RE1 Public Recreation and is owned and maintained by Council (Reference number 25 on Figure 11)



O'Brien Park

Located at the eastern end of Chatsbury Street, Goulburn, with an area of 2,213m². This park contains two grassed areas with scattered trees separated by a roadway and parking area that formerly connected Chatsbury Street to Sydney road. Park is zoned RE1 Public Recreation and is owned and maintained by Council (Reference number 26 on Figure 11)



Unnamed Park

This park is located at 10 Davies Crescent, Goulburn and has an area of 1,170m². The park comprises a small area of mown grass in a “Place” style with scattered trees. Park is zoned RE1 Public Recreation and is owned and maintained by Council (Reference number 34 on Figure 11)



Unnamed Park

Located at 40 Dalley Street, Goulburn, with an area of 16,190m². This park contains a large area of mown grass with a centrally located set of play equipment, scattered trees, park benches and shelters. Park is zoned RE1 Public Recreation and is owned and maintained by Council (Reference number 41 on Figure 11).



Hoskins Street Park

Located at 70 Hoskins Street, Goulburn, with an area of 2,264m². This park contains an area of mown grass with scattered trees. Park is zoned RE1 Public Recreation and is owned by the department of housing (Reference number 44 on Figure 11).



Unnamed Park

Located at 40 Knox St, Goulburn, 20,000m². This park contains only mown grass and scattered trees. Area of native vegetation at the back of the park appears to be part of a different, possibly private holding. Park is zoned R1 RE1 Public Recreation and is owned and maintained by conservation and land management (Reference number 53 on Figure 11).



Kinghorne Street Park

This park is located at 176 Kinghorne Street, Goulburn. This park comprises a mown grass field with some small trees. Park is zoned RE1 Public Recreation, tenure unknown. (Reference number 60 on Figure 11).



Lockyer Street Park

This park is located at 16 Lockyer Street, Goulburn. This park comprises a mown grass field with some small trees, contains some bushland. Park is zoned RE1 Public Recreation, tenure unknown. (Reference number 61 on Figure 11).



Hovell Street Reserve

Located at 59-61 Hovell Street, stretching across a block to Finlay Lane, Goulburn, with an area of 31,860m². This park contains a large area of mown grass, which appears to be cultivated in some fashion. Park is zoned RE1 Public Recreation, tenure unknown. (Reference number 62 on Figure 11)



Thoroughgood Park

Located on Amaroo Place in Goulburn. This park contains a large area of mown grass skirted by trees. Park is zoned RE1 Public Recreation, tenure unknown. (Reference number 67 on Figure 11).



Walsh Park

Located at 28 Nichols Street, this park stretches through the interior of a block to link up with Yarrowlow Street. It contains mown grass with scattered trees and a sheltered picnic table. Park is zoned RE1 Public Recreation, owned by the department of housing. (Reference number 68 on Figure 11).



Rossi Place Park

Located at 15 Brendas Drive, Goulburn. This park makes a corridor through the interior of a block with mown grass, a foot trail and a set of play equipment. Park is zoned RE1 Public Recreation, tenure unknown. (Reference number 76 on Figure 11).



Services Club Park

This park is located at the junction of Reynolds Street, Union Street and Sydney Road. This park contains a large area of mown grass, many trees, a toilet block, swings, play equipment, sheltered seating and BBQs. Park is zoned RE1 Public Recreation, tenure unknown. (Reference number 81 on Figure 11).



Unnamed Park

Located at 15 Chisholm Street, in Goulburn. This local park contains a large area of mown grass, a set of play equipment, and several trees along the edge near the road. Park is zoned RE1 Public Recreation, tenure unknown. (Reference number 84 on Figure 11).



Unnamed Park

Located at 56a Elizabeth Street, Goulburn. This local park contains a large area of mown grass, a set of play equipment, some swings, a park bench, and several trees scattered around the block. Park is zoned RE1 Public Recreation, tenure unknown. (Reference number 85 on Figure 11).



Komungla Reserve

Located at 22 Komungla Crescent, Goulburn, and connecting through to middle arm road. This park contains a large area of mown grass, with scattered trees. Park is zoned RE1 Public Recreation, tenure unknown. (Reference number 86 on Figure 11).



Howard Park

Located at the corner of Lagoon and Auburn Street, Goulburn. This small park contains several park benches, a swing set and scattered trees. Park is zoned RE1 Public Recreation, tenure unknown. (Reference number 89 on Figure 11).



Knopp Park

Located between Lagoon, Cole and Citizen Streets, Goulburn. This small park contains several park benches scattered trees in an area of mown grass. Park is zoned RE1 Public Recreation, tenure unknown. (Reference number 90 on Figure 11).



Unnamed Park

Located at 31 Grafton Street, Goulburn and connecting through to Mulwaree Street. This park comprises a strip of mown grass with scattered trees. Park is zoned RE1 Public Recreation, tenure unknown. (Reference number 91 on Figure 11).



Unnamed Park

Located at 2 Hume Street, Goulburn, just off the exit from the Hume Highway towards Melbourne. This reserve is completely undeveloped and is currently occupied by black berries and other weeds. Park is zoned RE1 Public Recreation, tenure unknown. (Reference number 95 on Figure 11).



Attachment D: River Foreshore Parks

Ken Brown Park



Located along the Wollondilly River corridor at 100 Albert Street, between Albert Street and Hoskins Street in Goulburn. This park contains a large area of mown grass with scattered trees and a row of denser vegetation along the river bank. Park is zoned RE1 Public Recreation, tenure unknown. (Reference number 74 on Figure 11).

Lions Park

Located at 31 Ruse Street, Goulburn, with an area of 11,270m² snaking along the river corridor. This site contains a bike path, mown grass and scattered trees. Park is zoned RE1 Public Recreation, if the park is in the care of the Lions Club (as the name suggests) it is unclear if they are active in its maintenance and improvement as the site seems minimally maintained and unimproved.



Steam Museum Park/ Marsden Weir Park

This park is located at 72 Fitzroy Street, Goulburn, with an area of 44,900m². It comprises a river reserve surrounding Marsden Weir, including high quality trails, play equipment, benches, BBQs and a toilet block. The back of the park contains the Goulburn Steam Museum. Park is zoned RE1 Public Recreation, the playground and BBQ section of the park is managed by the Rotary Club. (Reference number 38 on Figure 11).



Riverside Park/ Alexandra Park

This park is located at 12 Ledger Street, Goulburn, and has an area of 150,888m². It comprises a large drainage reserve leading from the new suburban areas on Mary's Mount down to the Wollondilly River. It is currently undeveloped apart from some dirt tracks. However, there are plans for future improvements. Park is zoned R2 Low Density Residential and is owned and managed by the Council. (Reference number 56 on Figure 11).

Unnamed Park

Located at 27 Kenmore Street, Goulburn, with an area of 5,189m². This park comprises a riverside strip along the Wollondilly River with an area of mown grass and scattered trees. Park is zoned RE1 Public Recreation and is owned and maintained by Council. (Reference number 28 on Figure 11).



Unnamed Park

Located at 107 Albert Street, Goulburn, with an area of 23,200m². This park comprises a riverside strip along the Wollondilly River with an area of mown grass and scattered trees. Park is zoned RE1 Public Recreation and is owned and maintained by Council. (Reference number 29 on Figure 11).



Unnamed Park

Located at 5 Bridge Street, Goulburn, with an area of 23,000m². This park comprises a riverside strip along the Mulwaree River with an area of mown grass and scattered trees. Park is zoned RE1 Public Recreation and is owned and maintained by Council. (Reference number 30 on Figure 11).



Peter Mowle Park

Located at on Lower Sterne Street, Goulburn. This park comprises a riverside strip along the Mulwaree River with an area of mown grass and scattered trees with some tracks through it. There are plans for future expansion. Park is zoned RE1 Public Recreation and is owned and maintained by Council. (Reference number 57 on Figure 11).

Goulburn Park

Located on Copford Rd, Goulburn. This park comprises a riverside strip along the Wollondilly River with an area of mown grass and scattered trees with some dirt tracks through it. Park is zoned RE1 Public Recreation, tenure unknown. (Reference number 70 on Figure 11).

Unnamed Reserve



Located on Geoghegan Drive, Goulburn. This park comprises a linear drainage reserve of dense vegetation. Park is zoned RE1 Public Recreation, tenure unknown. (Reference number 79 on Figure 11).

Unnamed Reserve

Located on McQuire Drive, Goulburn. This park comprises a linear drainage reserve of dense vegetation. Park is zoned RE1 Public Recreation, tenure unknown. (Reference number 94 on Figure 11).



Mistful Park

Located on Mistful Park Road, Goulburn. This park comprises several stormwater holding ponds. There are plans for future expansion. Park is zoned R2 Low Density Residential and is owned and managed by the Council. (Reference number 77 on Figure 11).

Unnamed Park

Located at 68 Gilmore Street, Goulburn, with an area of 17,270m². This park comprises a linear ridge reserve with mown grass areas and many trees. Park is zoned RE1 Public Recreation and is owned and maintained by Council. (Reference number 27 on Figure 11).



Attachment E: Natural Areas

Progress St Bushland

Located at 70 Progress Street, Goulburn. This site contains a reasonably large swath of bushland with a network of tracks throughout. Site is zoned E3 Forestry, tenure unknown.

Escarpment

Rocky Hill

One of Goulburn's primary land marks. The Rocky Hill reserve is located on memorial road at the eastern edge of town. The hilltop lookout area includes a car park, a pavilion, a public toilet and lookout points. The reserve also contains a basic network of walking tracks which connect the lookout to the suburban streets below. Park is zoned RE1 Public Recreation, tenure unknown.



Rossi Hill

Located at the western edge of the western Goulburn suburb of Garfield. This reserve comprises an area of bushland surrounded by roads and peri-urban development. This park is zoned RE1 Public Recreation, tenure unknown. (Reference number 92 on Figure 11).



Mt Gray

Located beyond the eastern edge of town, the Mt Gray area is bound by farmland to the west and north, and the Hume highway to the south and east. The wider reserve area includes broadacre recreational activities, including the Goulburn Pistol Club and the Goulburn Speedway. Park is zoned mostly E2 Environmental Conservation with some areas of RE1 Public Recreation, tenure unknown. (Reference number 49 on Figure 11).

Wetlands

Goulburn Wetlands

Located just south of the Mulwaree river, bound by the river, May St and the Goulburn Golf Course, in Goulburn. “The Goulburn Wetlands project aims to convert an abandoned brick pit into public parkland and a natural storm-water treatment system by restoring local ecosystems.” The park currently contains a number of ponds and marshes connected by a network of paths and trails, serviced by a small carpark on May St. The Park is zoned RU2 Rural Landscape, it is owned by the council and managed by a volunteer group. (Reference number 72 on Figure 11).

