Strathbogie Shire Council

2024-2034 Play and Open Space Strategy

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Strathbogie
SHIRE COUNCIL

Acknowledgement of Country

Strathbogie Shire Council acknowledges the traditional custodians of the lands on which we strive, the peoples of the rivers and the hills of the Strathbogie Shire region who walked these lands for generations.

We pay our respects to the elders of the past, and the speakers of the first words, who lived in harmony with this country.

We acknowledge the elders of the present, who seek to regain their culture and to teach the elders of the future their law, their history and their language.

We pay our respects to them and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

We honour their spirit – and the memory, culture, art and science of the world's oldest living culture through 60,000 years.

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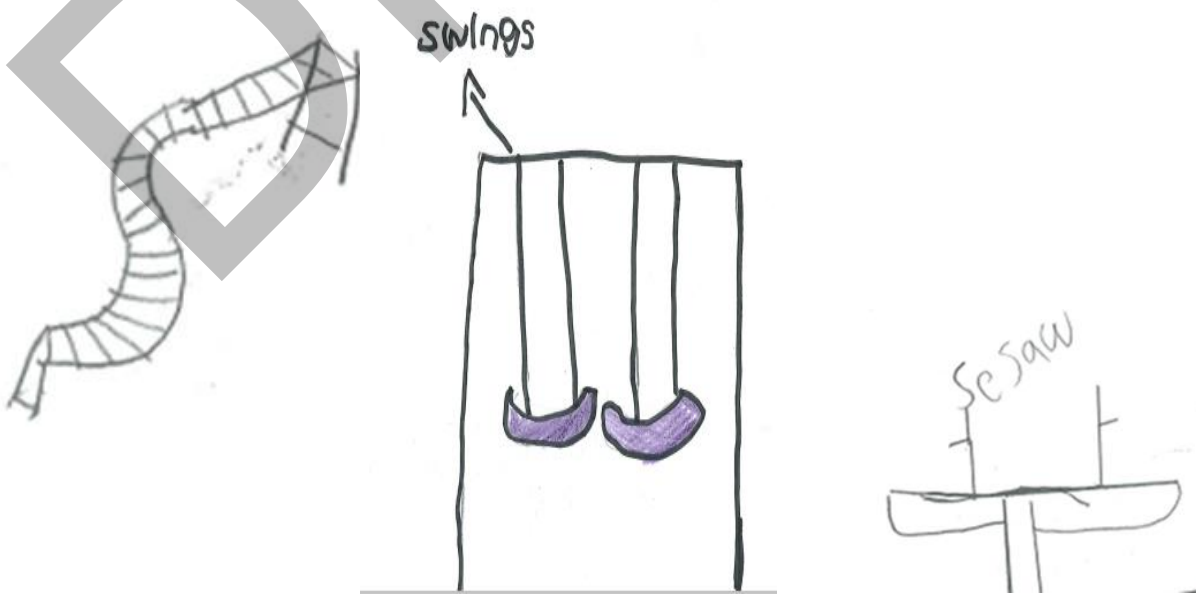
Table of Contents

1.0 INTRODUCTION 4
1.1 PURPOSE OF THIS STRATEGY 4
1.2 STRATEGIC CONTEXT 5
2.0 TYPES OF SPACES 6
3.0 DESIGN AND PRINCIPLES FOR PLAY AND OPEN SPACE 7
4.0 THE IMPORTANCE OF PLAY AND OPEN SPACES 9
5.0 DOG PARKS 11
6.0 PLAY SPACE HIERARCHY 12
6.1 FUTURE RECOMMENDATIONS - PLAY SPACE 15
7.0 OPEN SPACE HEIRARACHY 17
7.1 FUTURE RECOMMENDATIONS - OPEN SPACE 19
8.0 FUTURE RECOMMENDATIONS - DOG PARKS 22
9.0 FUTURE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT 24
9.1 PROVISION OF NEW OPEN SPACE AS PART OF SUBDIVISION 25
10.0 IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW OF THIS STRATEGY .....**Error! Bookmark not defined.**

APPENDIX 1: STRATEGIC CONTEXT 26
APPENDIX 2: SITE CONDITIONS AND AUDIT OF PLAY SPACES, EXERCISE STATIONS AND DOG PARK 27
APPENDIX 3: OPEN SPACE SITE INSPECTIONS 28



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PLAY AND OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

1.0 INTRODUCTION

In response to the growing importance of recreation, community engagement, and environmental sustainability, Council has developed a Play and Open Space Strategy. This strategy aims to address the diverse needs of our community by enhancing access to play and open spaces, promoting active lifestyles, and fostering social interaction while also preserving and enhancing our natural environment.

Council's Play and Open Space Strategy 2024-34 incorporates guiding principles for play and open spaces, including dog parks and exercise station areas helping to inform Council's commitment to these assets and investment in future years.

1.1 PURPOSE OF THIS STRATEGY

The purpose of the strategy is to set the direction for the future of play and open spaces in Strathbogie Shire and determine what is required to achieve this and meet the needs of our communities as they grow and change over the next 10 years. Greater attention must be placed on planning for our play and open spaces to ensure that they meet our current and future requirements.

The strategy aims to:

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1.2 STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Our Community Vision:

The Strathbogie Shire is a region of natural beauty with vibrant communities who are respectful, optimistic and inclusive. We have a strong sense of belonging and of our collective history. We care deeply for Country and First Nations people. We are bold. We embrace opportunities. We welcome you.

The vision outlines Community aspirations and priorities to guide the Council's four-year plan with a view towards 2040. Six strategic focus areas were identified and guide Council's strategies, initiatives & actions over this four-year period.

The Play and Open Space Strategy fits within and assists Council in achieving the following key strategic focus areas:

- Engage. Create. Unite:
  - *We are inspired by our creatives and celebrate art and culture*
  - *We create welcoming social spaces where people can connect*
- Protect. Enhance. Adapt
  - *We are minimising harmful impacts on our natural environment*
  - *We are reversing biodiversity decline*
  - *We are championing best-practice environmental strategies*
- Inclusive. Productive. Balanced
  - *We have empowered locals to make decisions*
  - *We care, support, and listen to each other*
  - *We partner with our community to achieve great things*
- Strong. Healthy. Safe
  - We have protected 'the vibe' we love
  - *We are working together to share knowledge and get things done*
  - *We are encouraging health and wellbeing activities*

The goals to be achieved include:

- Our sporting and recreation facilities, whether they be passive or active spaces, continually adapt to meet changing needs and maximise participation by all sexes, ages and abilities
- We have a range of strategies and initiatives in place to help our community adapt to minimise adverse impacts on health and wellbeing caused by climate change
- Our open spaces cater for all generations and all abilities

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The vision and goals of the 2021-2025 Council Plan have guided the preparation of this strategy.

The Play and Open Space Strategy does not sit in isolation from other Council programs and strategies. It is integrally linked with, and supports, other Council plans and strategies these can be found in Appendix 1.

2.0 TYPES OF SPACES

For the purpose of this strategy, a play space is considered an area that provides a range of play experiences including play equipment, natural play elements and run-about spaces. Open spaces are spaces that are outdoor spaces without built structures that are publicly accessible.

Open Spaces identified in this strategy include spaces managed and maintained by Council that are primarily set aside for the purposes of outdoor recreation, nature conservation, passive outdoor play and public gatherings. This includes all public, freely accessible open spaces, passive open space/natural reserves, community use spaces. The strategy will be guiding the future provision, design and management of the public space network and defines the hierarchy of the existing open spaces in our communities.

This strategy will not be looking at Council's recreation reserves or walking and cycling spaces, these will be considered in separate strategies namely:

- Strathbogie Shire Council Active and Connected Cycling and Walking Strategy 2024 – 2034
- Strathbogie Shire Council Draft Sport and Recreation Strategy 2024-2035

Encumbered open space which includes easements for power/transmission lines, road reserves, sewers, gas, waterways/drainage; retarding basins/wetlands; conservation, wildlife corridors, and heritage areas will not be considered as part of this strategy. Council will not include encumbered open space as a public open space contribution required via the *Planning & Environment Act 1987* and the *Subdivision Act 1988.* Council may from time to time accept encumbered open space where it can provide a community benefit and where it has the capacity to be maintained to a safe and acceptable standard.

Play Spaces included in this strategy consist of three types of play spaces - playgrounds with play equipment that are mostly used by children and families, skate parks, exercise stations that are mostly suitable for adults and seniors. This strategy defines the hierarchy of the existing playgrounds, lists renewal of playgrounds that are due for renewal, and includes recommended new playgrounds over the next 10 years.

Off-leash Dog Park dedicated open outdoor space to allow off leash exercise for dogs. Parks are required to meet Council's off-leash dark park policy and site selection criteria.

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3.0 DESIGN AND PRINCIPLES FOR PLAY AND OPEN SPACE

Council's play and open spaces will be designed on five key principles. The open and play space principles will guide the development and renewal of spaces for Council, community groups, and developers in the Shire. These design considerations establish the minimum design standards for all new and upgraded play and open spaces and will also support the management and maintenance of new and existing spaces in the next 10 years in the Shire.

PRINCIPLE 01

BE SAFE, ACCESSIBLE AND INCLUSIVE

Our Play and Open Spaces aim to:

- Be accessible, safe and conveniently located, catering for a range of users to enjoy the space at all times without public access restrictions.
- Ideally be located within a 400m walking distance from dwellings, workplaces, schools and shops, within township areas.
- Connect to the surrounding pedestrian and cycling network, locate entry paths with clear views to other exits from the public space and continue pedestrian paths through the public space with direct and logical routes.
- Use best practice design principles, incorporating Safety by design principles.
- Create intergenerational play and open spaces all members of our community will want to enjoy.
- Provide equitable, safe and accessible equipment, associated facilities and landscaped areas.
- Be compliant with Play Standards to maximise safety.
- Be compliant with current Access Standards to encourage all abilities accessibility.
- Connect skateparks, exercise stations, tracks and trails that older children, adults, and seniors can use.

PRINCIPLE 02

HIGH QUALITY AND WELL PLANNED

Spaces will:

- Provide high standard of equipment and products to encourage use and access which are consistent but reflect the unique character of each site.
- Be well planned taking into consideration environmental risks, heat, flood, drought, climate change considerations and the need to create habitat corridors.
- Use contemporary design practice which offers a variety of unstructured, stimulating, challenging and fun experiences for a range of ages and abilities where practical.
- Provide dynamic and flexible activity areas that can be used for both active and passive recreation.
- Provide supporting amenities such as seating, paths, shade structures, trees, garden beds and drinking fountains where necessary to support recreational uses in line with our hierarchy.

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- Be well-planned and developed according to the recommendations identified in this strategy and community inputs, including those of the traditional owners of our lands.
- Be upgraded and maintained through Council's maintenance and renewal program to ensure continuous functions and product longevity for community uses.
- Encourage social activities in a variety of recreational areas through design.
- Support community interactions in each play and open space enhancing community bonds through passive and active recreation.
- Enable community groups to take the initiative in managing and maintaining open spaces and to become involved in decision-making processes to promote a sense of belonging, social identity and fulfilment.

PRINCIPLE 03

LOW MAINTENANCE AND SUSTAINABLE

Ensure longevity and sustainability of materials, ease of maintenance, and innovative practice. Be delivered in accordance with the three tier play and open space hierarchy, ensuring an appropriate level of amenity and service at each identified location, whilst being financially responsible for Council.

- The design and management of play and open spaces must:
- Preserve remanent vegetation, maintain and enhance where possible.
- Consider the selection of planting species to have appropriate environmental tolerance to ensure survival rates and provide positive impacts under climate change and extreme weather events.
- Consider materials for furniture and fixtures in response to weather, uses and longevity and sustainability.
- Feature low maintenance materials, fixtures and furniture.
- Feature play equipment that supports whole of life, and is durable and easily replaced when it comes to the expiration for renewal.
- The play space design responds to Council's sustainability policies and climate change action plans.

PRINCIPLE 04

CONSISTENT WITH THE UNIQUE CHARACTER OF THE AREA AND INFORMED BY THE COMMUNITY

Design and amenity will complement, enhance and celebrate the unique qualities of each play and open space location integrating community ideas and inputs as part of the design process.

- This will be achieved by:
- Inviting and integrating community ideas and input for new play and open space planning and design; and renewal of existing spaces.
- The selection of good quality furniture and fixtures meeting relevant standards.
- The selection of play equipment meeting relevant standards.

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- Work with local environment groups to promote and increase biodiversity in our existing open spaces.
- Select planting and landscape elements that support the existing character or preferred future character of the area as well as elements that engage the senses.
- Integrating locally relevant public art that people can interact with for a range of people to enjoy.
- Work with the Traditional Owners of our lands to build partnerships and protect cultural heritage in our open spaces.

PRINCIPLE 05

INTEGRATE ARTWORK AND CELEBRATE THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Spaces will:

- Recognise and celebrate First Nations connections to the land with appropriate signage and artwork.
- Provide opportunities for artwork installation in play and open spaces in new and renewed locations.
- Provide opportunities to integrate natural and art elements with play space design including, but not limited to, custom equipment design, paving design, sculpture, wayfinding design, mural design, etc.
- Celebrate natural elements in play and open space to enhance experiences for all senses and connect with nature, both passive and actively.

4.0 THE IMPORTANCE OF PLAY AND OPEN SPACES

Play is essential for the development of children and adults. Through play children learn the essential skills they will need in adulthood.

The importance of play in the health and development of children is undisputed. There are infinite benefits for children who regularly experience play, particularly in an outdoor setting. The links between healthy childhood development and play are well established. It is widely accepted that spaces that are well-designed to encourage play provide varied opportunities for young people to develop emotionally, cognitively and physically whilst socialising, exploring, taking risks and having fun.

Access to spaces dedicated to both structured and unstructured play support the growth of healthy, resilient adults. All children have different preferences and requirements for play. To ensure spaces are providing for varying preferences and developmental needs a range of play opportunities should be provided that support these needs.

It is suggested play in an outdoor environment is increasingly recognised as a foundation for children's healthy development. Children are hard-wired to need nature and to play in

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their natural environments. There are various health and wellbeing benefits associated with spending time outside. These include emotional development, cognitive development, physical development, socialisation, exploration, risk taking to build resilience and having fun.

The three major childhood developmental elements (cognitive/emotional, physical and social) and their relationship to play are further explored below.

Cognitive development refers to how children think and process information, solve problems and make decisions. It is the development of knowledge that helps them understand their environment. Cognitive play provides an opportunity for exploration, manipulating objects, problem, solving, imaginative play and building on what is already known to interpret new experiences. The following features in a play space will contribute to cognitive development: - Elements that encourage language development and communication e.g. speaker tubes - Sensory play experiences including access to sand, water and vegetation - Mechanical equipment that teaches cause and effect - Interactive panels and musical instruments - Natural areas for exploration and observation of living things	Physical development is achieved through movement, supporting the development of both fine motor skills – smaller movements like picking things up and gross motor skills – large movements like running and climbing as well as hand eye coordination, agility and balance. Physical movement also utilises stores of energy and improves a child's eating and sleeping habits. Features that support physical development are often well provided for in play spaces including: - Play equipment that requires gross motor skills such as monkey bars, climbing frames and ladders - Break out spaces that encourage running and kick about areas - Equipment that promotes agility such as balance beams, experiencing height, sliding, balancing, swinging, crawling, bouncing, spinning and rocking - Paths and connectivity that encourage scooters, bikes and hard surface games such as hopscotch	The development of social skills through play comes about through communicating and interacting with other children. Learning to cooperate, take risks, compromise, establish self-control and become aware of the feelings and needs of others. The following features in a play space will contribute to social development: - Providing space for group activities and semi enclosed seating areas - Hard surfaces that support ball games and competition - Sharing, taking turns, friendships - Elements that encourage cooperation and sharing - Role play elements and props such as boats or cars, steering wheels, shops and cubbies - Equipment that caters to group use such as large spinners - Activities that require sharing and taking turns

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✚ Spaces/materials for outdoor games e.g. hopscotch ✚ Loose parts and unstructured informal play to foster creativity ✚ Provides an opportunity for appropriate risk taking, self-direction and self-regulations		

Open spaces provide social, health and wellbeing, environmental and economic benefits for the whole community. They also help cool our towns, build resilience to climate change, and create and maintain healthy biodiversity across our environment. As our communities grow and change, greater attention must be placed on planning our open spaces to ensure that they meet our current and future needs.

5.0 DOG PARKS

Off-Leash Areas have become a recognised amenity catering for the health and wellbeing of both dogs and their owners. When properly established and managed Off-Leash Areas represent a valuable asset providing physical and mental health to the community derived from physical exercise, social interaction and pet kinship. Strathbogie Shire Council recognises the importance of amenities such as these and aims to establish them against a consistent set of principles and manage them in a safe and environmentally sustainable manner.

A recently published list of benefits for Off-Leash Areas includes the following.

 Benefits for dogs	 **Benefits for people**	 **Benefits for the community**
Physical and mental exercise for dogs by providing opportunities where dogs can get physical and mental exercise. Well exercised dogs are less likely to behave in a destructive or annoying way such as excessive barking.	Outlet for dog owners to socialise by providing a public space where dog owners can interact with each other and form community bonds. It has been established that pets act as a lubricant for social contact and pet owners are more likely to exchange favours with neighbours, to	Responsible dog ownership reduces the likelihood of conflict with other users of open space through dog owners letting their dogs off-leash in other recreational areas, and provide opportunities to educate dog owners about animal health and welfare.

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Socialisation for dogs by providing opportunities for dogs to have frequent interaction with other dogs and people. Dogs that are well socialised and exercised are healthier and happier as well as less likely to be aggressive. Safe environment for dogs to play by providing a secure environment where dog owners can exercise their dogs off-leash and not encounter cars, bikes and other obstacles. Dog parks can provide an outlet for natural dog behaviours such as running, chasing, playing and barking with the result that the dog is less likely to engage in such nuisance behaviour at home.	be involved in community issues and to have higher levels of social capital. Seniors and disabled owners have an accessible place to exercise their dogs by providing people with limited access, such as the elderly and disabled, with opportunities to exercise their dog and provide ongoing social contact. Places for people to connect by providing a space where dog owners can feel connected with other community members improving their mental and emotional health.	Affordable recreation option, Off-Leash Area is a free, outdoor activity where the family can take both their children and their pet. Resting place for travelling community by providing a safe resting spot for those owners travelling with their pets, pet friendly holidays.

6.0 PLAY SPACE HIERARCHY

Three levels of play spaces have been identified in this strategy - Regional, District and Neighbourhood. These classifications are determined by the population, transportation, existing facilities, the scale, variety and number of play activities available at each town.

Table 1. shows the characteristics of each hierarchy of play. These characteristics guide the classification of play spaces across the Shire for this strategy.

Table 2. of this strategy documents the features across each hierarchy level

Table 1. Play space hierarchy characteristics.

- Largest sized play space
- A ‘destination’ play space that services the whole region
- Provides for all ages and abilities, offering a

- Medium sized play space
- Provides a broad range of play experiences
- Caters to a broad range of age groups

- Smallest of the three tiers
- Caters to the local residents
- Should cater for a couple of different age

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range of unique play experiences
- Includes facilities such as barbecues, carpark, toilets and amenities to support long stays of many hours
- Has a catchment of over 5km or greater and often attracts visitors from other regions
- Often located in close proximity to open space and other recreational facilities

- Services a wider catchment of 500m-2km (Can be walked to in less than 30min or driven to in less than 10min)
- Provides a range of amenities to support longer visits
- Provides access and some play equipment for all abilities

ranges with varied play experiences
- May cater for all abilities with access and some play equipment
- Open grass areas for free play and runabout space
- Provides basic amenities such as seating and shade
- Used for short visits up to an hour
- Has a catchment of approx. 500m or a 10 minute walk

Table 2. Play space features across each hierarchy level

Type	Feature	Regional	District	Neighbourhood
General Facilities	Lighting	✓		
	Planting – trees	✓	✓	✓
	Planting/garden beds	✓	✓	
	Drinking fountain	✓	✓	
	Seating	✓	✓	✓
	Car parking	✓		
	Bike station	✓		
	General waste/recycled bins	✓	✓	✓
	Paths	✓	✓	✓
	Signage	✓		
	Green space	✓	✓	

DRAFT

	Drainage	✓	✓	
	Shelters	✓	✓	
	Trails/bike path	✓		
	BBQ	✓	✓	
	Picnic tables	✓	✓	
	Toilets	✓	✓	
	Sports fields	✓	✓	
	Hard surfaces/pump track	✓		
	Open space	✓	✓	✓
	Variety of play equipment	✓	✓	✓
	Community buildings located adjacent	✓		
	All ages	✓	✓	✓
	All abilities	✓	✓	
	Various play type	✓	✓	
	Universal access path	✓		
	Accessible parking	✓		
	Custom designed equipment	✓	✓	
	Themed play equipment	✓	✓	
	Public art	✓		
	Nature play elements	✓		
	Sun protection	✓	✓	✓
	Wind protection	✓	✓	✓

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6.1 FUTURE RECOMMENDATIONS - PLAY SPACE

Council currently manages 25 play spaces including 17 playgrounds, 3 skate parks, 5 exercise stations. The Strathbogie Shire Playground Audit was conducted in 2021, the auditing results have been reviewed and integrated into this strategy to guide the future improvement and development of play spaces in Council's Capital Investment Program over the next 10 years.

Each play space has been identified as requiring one or more of the following 4 (four) actions be undertaken and are outlined in Table 3:

New – Entirely new play space required if:

- The park has no existing play space
- The existing play space is not suitable and/or cannot be modified or improved
- In some instances it has been recommended entirely new play spaces be developed, these have been located in areas with a gap in play amenities.

Upgrade existing – Existing play space to be retained but modified, consider:

- Further assessment of each individual play space must be undertaken to identify what can be improved
- The play space audit table (Appendix 2) may be used to identify things each site is providing the community and what it is lacking or require improvement
- Renewal of existing play spaces is an opportunity to increase diversity of play equipment, accessibility and provision for different age groups.

Maintain/Renew - No changes currently required

- Council to continue to maintain play space to current standard
- Renew play provision as required upon condition report failure, with consideration of design guidelines

Decommission – Play spaces recommended for decommission are;

- Located in areas that will be adequately serviced by other surrounding play spaces when removed
- Currently providing very little or no additional play amenity to the community
- Equipment is old and will require replacement or repair in the near future at a cost to Council, redistribute capital investment to aid in the improvement of other play spaces Decommissioning will occur when equipment is deemed at the end of its life and notification to the community will be made at that time

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Table 3. Future play space recommendations and hierarchy classification

Play Space Type	Hierarchy	Recommended Action				Priority Level	Installation Year	Compliance Year	Renewal Year
		New Space	Upgrade Existing	Renew/Maintain	Decommission				
Avenel Jubilee Park Exercise Station	Neighbourhood			x		LOW	2021	2051	2051
Avenel Jubilee Park Play Space	District			x		LOW	2023	2038	2038/39
Avenel Skate Park	District			x		LOW	2019	2048	2048
Creightons Creek Recreation Reserve Play Space	Neighbourhood			x		HIGH	2005	2023	2023/24
Euroa Lions Park Exercise Station	Neighbourhood			x		HIGH	2019	2049	2049
Euroa Lions Park Play Space	District			x		MED	Varies	2025	2025/26
Euroa Rotary Bicentennial Park Play Space	Neighbourhood			x		HIGH	1988	2023	2023/24
Euroa Rotary Park Play Space	Neighbourhood			x		LOW	2003	2030	2030/31
Euroa Nature Play Space	Regional	x				HIGH	2025		
Euroa Skate Park	District				x	LOW	2005	2030	2030
Euroa Spencer Street Reserve Exercise Station	Neighbourhood			x		LOW	2019	2049	2049
Longwood Community Centre Play Space	Neighbourhood				x	MED			2027/28
Longwood Nature Play Space	Neighbourhood	x				MED	2026		2026/27

DRAFT

Moglonemby Hall Play Space	Neighbourhood			x		HIGH	2004	2026	2024/25
Nagambie - Whroovale Estate Play Space	Neighbourhood			x		LOW	2022		2031/32
Nagambie Blayney Lane Exercise Station	Neighbourhood			x		LOW	2016	2046	2046
Nagambie Blayney Lane Play Space	Regional			x		LOW	2003	2031	2029/30
Nagambie Park River Street Reserve Play Space	District			x		MED	2003	2028	2026/27
Nagambie Recreation Reserve Play Space	Neighbourhood				x	MED	2003	2030	2030/31
Nagambie Skate Park	District			x		LOW	2021	2050	2050
Ruffy Community Centre Play Space	Neighbourhood			x		MED			2027/28
Strathbogie Recreation Reserve Play Space	District			x		HIGH	1992	2025	2024/25
Violet Town Lions Park Play Space	District			x		MED	2003	2029	2027/28
Violet Town Recreation Reserve Play Space - near Swimming Pool	District			x		MED	Varies	2028	2028/29
Violet Town Recreation Reserve Play Space - near Tennis Courts	District				x	HIGH	N/A	N/A	2023/24
Violet Town Recreation Reserve Skate Park	District		x			LOW	2002	2031	2031

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7.0 OPEN SPACE HEIRARACHY

Three levels of open spaces have been identified in this strategy - Regional, District and Neighbourhood, remaining consistent with the play space hierarchy. These classifications are determined by the population, transportation, existing facilities, the scale, variety and number of activities available at each location.

Table 4. Shows the characteristics of each hierarchy of open space. These characteristics guide the classification of open space across the Shire for this strategy.

Table 4. Open space features across each hierarchy level

Type	Feature	Regional	District	Neighbourhood
General Facilities	Lighting	✓		
	Planting – trees	✓	✓	✓
	Planting/garden beds	✓	✓	
	Drinking fountain	✓	✓	
	Seating	✓	✓	✓
	Car parking	✓		
	Bike station	✓		
	General waste/recycled bins	✓	✓	✓
	Paths	✓	✓	✓
	Signage	✓		
	Green space	✓	✓	
	Drainage	✓	✓	

DRAFT

	Shelters	✓	✓	
	Trails/bike path	✓		
	BBQ	✓	✓	
	Picnic tables	✓	✓	
	Toilets	✓	✓	
	Sports fields	✓	✓	
	Hard surfaces/pump track	✓		
	Variety of play equipment	✓	✓	
	Community buildings located adjacent	✓		
	All ages	✓	✓	✓
	All abilities	✓	✓	
	Universal access path	✓		
	Accessible parking	✓		
	Public art	✓		
	Sun protection	✓	✓	✓
	Wind protection	✓	✓	✓

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7.1 FUTURE RECOMMENDATIONS - OPEN SPACE

Open space plays an important role in our society by providing places for gathering, exercise, quiet reflection, children's play and organised sport.

We honour the deep spiritual connection, belonging and identity our First Nations people and Traditional Owners have with open space. We recognise the Taungurung and Yorta-Yorta people as the traditional owners of the land and waterways of the Shire.

The open and play space principles outlined in Section 3.0 of this strategy will guide the development and renewal of Council's open spaces. The Strategy and the accompanying technical report has analysed the Shire's existing open space network, including different types of open spaces and their locations. Alongside forecasting of future needs and providing key recommendations for open space projects across the Shire.

Our strategy acknowledges that our open spaces occupy the ancestral lands of the Taungurung and Yorta-Yorta people. The development of this strategy represents an opportunity to show a deeper level of respect for the land within our open spaces. Our goal is to further integrate Traditional Owner philosophies and perspectives into the way we utilise, manage, plan, and maintain our open spaces. We acknowledge that embedded within our First People's culture is collective responsibility of caring for Country, and we look to their long-standing history of land custodianship as an outstanding example of sustainable practice for Strathbogie Shire to adopt in this Strategy.

Each open space has been identified and the following 3 (three) possible actions are scheduled to be undertaken and are outlined in Table 5:

New – Entirely new open space required if:

- Inadequate open space for free play is available for community
- The existing open space is not suitable and/or cannot be modified or improved

Upgrade existing – Existing open space to be retained but modified, consider:

- Further assessment of each individual open space must be undertaken to identify what can be improved
- The open space audit table (Appendix 3) may be used to identify things each site is providing the community and what it is lacking or require improvement
- Renewal of existing open spaces is an opportunity to increase diversity of play, accessibility and provision for different age groups.

Maintain/Renew - No changes currently required

- Council to continue to maintain open space to current standard

Table 5. Future open space recommendations

		Recommended Action				
Open Space	**Hierarchy**	**New Space**	**Renew/Upgrade**	**Maintain**	**Priority Level**	**Renew/Upgrade Year**
Avenel Jubilee Park	District			x	LOW	
Avenel Kent/Scobie St Reserve	Neighbourhood			x	LOW	
Avenel Stewart Park	Neighbourhood			x	LOW	

DRAFT

Euroa Apex Park	Neighbourhood			x	LOW	
Euroa APEX Walking Trail and associated reserves Seven Creeks Park	District		x		MED	2025
Euroa Charles Kemp Park	Neighbourhood			x	LOW	
Euroa Dr Dunn Reserve	Neighbourhood			x	LOW	
Euroa Outdoor Space (Youth Corridor)	Regional	x			HIGH	2026
Euroa Parker Street Reserve	Neighbourhood			x	LOW	
Euroa Scott Street Reserve	Neighbourhood			x	LOW	
Euroa Seven Creeks Park	Regional			x	MED	
Euroa Telegraph Park	District			x	LOW	
Euroa Yiiro Community Garden	Neighbourhood			x	LOW	
Kirwans Bridge Picnic Area	Neighbourhood			x	LOW	
Longwood Pub Paddock	District			x	LOW	
Nagambie Apex Park	Neighbourhood			x	LOW	
Nagambie Blayney Reserve	Regional			x	LOW	
Nagambie Buckley Park	Regional		x		MED	TBC on completion of master plan
Nagambie Church Street Reserve	Neighbourhood			x	LOW	
Nagambie Glass Square	Neighbourhood			x	LOW	

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Nagambie Goulburn Street Reserve	Neighbourhood			x	LOW	
Nagambie Jacobsons Outlook	District		x			TBC on completion of master plan
Nagambie River Street Reserve	Neighbourhood			x	LOW	
Nagambie Sandy Coves	Neighbourhood			x	LOW	
Ruffy Tablelands Community Centre Open Space	Neighbourhood			x	LOW	
Violet Town Baird Street Reserve	Neighbourhood			x	LOW	
Violet Town Hurt Street Reserve	Neighbourhood			x	LOW	
Violet Town Shadforth Reserve	Neighbourhood			x	LOW	

Actions
Council will work towards the development of masterplans for the below Tier 1. Regional open spaces

- Seven Creeks
- Jacobsons Outlook
- Buckley Park

8.0 FUTURE RECOMMENDATIONS - DOG PARKS

Off Leash Dog Areas can be defined in the following 2 ways

Enclosed
A constructed barrier provides separation between off leash dogs and other reserve users.

Open
No constructed barrier provides separation from other reserve users.

Council currently has one declared off leash dog park located in Euroa. Dogs that are unleashed must still be under the effective control of the owner.

Enclosed dog parks in Strathbogie Shire Council will at a minimum:

- ✓ Be fenced with 6ft fences
- ✓ Have a double gateway entrance
- ✓ Have bin and dog waste bags
- ✓ Will have access to water bowls for dogs
- ✓ Will be predominately grassed but may have other suitable dog play surfaces

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- ✓ Have appropriate amounts of parking for potential users, and
- ✓ Have seating

Open dog parks in Strathbogie Shire Council will at a minimum:

- ✓ Have a defined off leash area
- ✓ Have bin and dog waste bags
- ✓ Have appropriate amounts of parking for potential users, and
- ✓ Have seating

Prominent highly visible signage consistent with current corporate standards and branding requirements is to be placed at each entry point for both enclosed and open dog parks. The minimum information to be provided includes:

- ✓ Standard Off-Leash Area use rules
- ✓ Site specific use rules where applicable
- ✓ Hours of operation where applicable
- ✓ Local Laws contact information
- ✓ Emergency contact information

The standard rules below are reflective of Community Local Law 2020 and applicable to all Off-Leash Areas:

- ✓ An owner must carry a chain, cord or leash sufficient to bring the dog under control by placing the dog on a chain, cord or leash if the dog behaves in a manner which threatens any animal or person.
- ✓ An owner must remain ineffective voice and or hand control of the dog and be within constant sight of the dog so as to be able to promptly bring the dog under control by placing the dog on a chain, cord or leash if that becomes necessary or desirable to avoid any wandering out of control or to avoid any threatening behaviour or attack.
- ✓ An owner must carry a bag, receptacle or other means of picking up, and removing from the designated area, any of their dog's faeces.
- ✓ The owner must not allow their dog to worry or otherwise threaten any person or animal, and must not allow the dog to attack any person or animal.

In Victoria, councils have a wide range of responsibilities for the management of domestic animals – primarily dogs and cats – pursuant to the Domestic Animals Act 1994 (DAA). These responsibilities include a requirement to prepare a Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) every four years. Additional off leash dog park locations will be considered post the adoption of Council's next DAMP iteration in 2026.

Stakeholder Engagement

Where the evaluation process recommends significant changes to, or potential closure of, an existing Off-Leash Area, formal Community Engagement processes will be carried out in order to inform the final decision. This includes the proposal from the community of potential locations for new off leash dog parks.

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Table 6. Council's current dog parks

Off Leash Dog Park	New Space	Upgrade Existing	Renew/Maintain	Recommended Action: Priority Level	Recommended Action: Installation Year
Euroa Dog Park			x	LOW	2022

Consideration for further enclosed and open dog parks is made through Council's DAMP. Consideration must be given to the ongoing costs associated with enclosed dog parks in a municipality with considerable open green space and parklands.

9.0 FUTURE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

The Local Government Act 2020, Strathbogie Shire Local Laws and Victorian Planning system provide requirements and guidance for how Strathbogie Shire plans, delivers and manages our open space.

The Local Government Act articulates that "the role of a Council is to provide good governance in its municipal district for the benefit and wellbeing of the municipal community" (section 8 (1)). This aligns with the Vision of the Play and Open Space Strategy.

Council is advocating for good development which will contribute to the value and wellness to local communities. The Public Open Space Contribution Policy was adopted in accordance with the requirements of the Subdivision Act 1988 (the SA 1988) and the Planning and Environment Act 1987 (the P&EA 1987) as part of the subdivision process, to give guidance to officers and developers for consistency and uniformity requiring POS contributions across the municipality.

Council has a statutory obligation under the SA 1988, that specifies when Public Open Space Contributions (POS) are applied, and how these contributions are managed.

There are two types of Public Open Space (POS) contribution including:

- Monetary POS contribution
- Land POS contribution

Or a combination of both land and monetary contributions can be provided.

Clause 53.01 of the Strathbogie Planning Scheme sets out the direction for Council for when Council can require public open space contributions. However, it does not set a specific amount the Council can request. As a result, Council can request up to 5% of land

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value (pre development) under SA 1988. Council's POS Policy states "Strathbogie Shire Council applies a POS rate of 5% for three (3) lots or more".
If a new subdivision falls within the identified catchment area of the Open Space Hierarchy at section 3 of this strategy, being Regional, District and Neighbourhood, a land contribution will not be required. In this instance, Council will require a 5% monetary contribution towards upgrades of the preexisting open space areas.

9.1 PROVISION OF NEW OPEN SPACE AS PART OF SUBDIVISION

Any provision of new open space required via subdivision is to be determined by a combination of planning scheme and Council Policy requirements and discussions between Councils Community and Planning Directorate and the Sustainable Infrastructure Directorate with the overarching aim to provide net community benefit. Any new public open spaces must be designed to provide:

- Public spaces of a minimum of 0.4 hectares that is demonstrated to be unencumbered.
- The inclusion of pedestrian and cycle paths and play equipment, that encourage active recreational opportunities.
- Opportunities for visual surveillance to promote safety of users, through encouraging active frontages.

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APPENDIX 1: STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Strathbogie Shire Council Financial Plan 2022/23 - 2031/32	Playground Management Plan 2007
Arts and Culture Strategy - 12 Month Action Plan 2019 - 2023	Stormwater Management Plan Vol 1
Arts and Culture Strategy 2019 - 2023	Stormwater Management Plan Vol 2
Strathbogie Shire Council - 2022/23 Budget	Sustainable Strathbogie 2030
Strathbogie Shire Council - Community Engagement Policy September 2022	Strategic Resource Plan 2020/21 to 2023/24
Play and Recreation Framework for Children of All Ages	Financial Plan 2021-22 to 2030-31
Euroa Township Strategy July 2020	Gender Equality Action Plan 2021-2025
Avenel 2030 Strategy	Strathbogie Shire Economic Profile - Final Report
Council Plan 2021 - 2025	Tracks and Trails Strategy 2015-18 map
Euroa Structure Plan - Appendix A: Background Report	Tracks and Trails Strategy 2015 - 2018
Euroa Structure Plan - Appendix B	Heatwave Plan 2022
Euroa Structure Plan Final Report September 2010	Municipal Fire Management Plan 2020
Climate Change Action Plan 2022-2027	Nagambie Growth Management Strategy - Lake Access & Activities Framework- 2008
Public Open Space Contributions Policy	Violet Town and District Strategic Development Plan - 2010
Tree Management Plan: Urban and Rural Strategies	Euroa Neighbourhood Character Study 2008 and Guidelines
Asset Management Plan 2021/31	Strathbogie Shire Heritage Study Stage 1
Nature Strip Policy September 2014	Strathbogie Shire Heritage Study Stage 2 (Part 1)
Youth Strategy 2013 - 2015	Strathbogie Shire Heritage Study Stage 2 (Part 2)
Bicycle and Walking Path Strategy 2009	Naturally Cooler Towns In the Goulburn Murray Region Summary Report February 2022
2021-22 Annual Report	56.05 Urban Landscape, Strathbogie Planning Scheme
Euroa Post Flood Mapping and Intelligence Project	Euroa Outdoor Space Report
Technical Report Play and Open Space	Longwood Master plan 2023-2032

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APPENDIX 2: SITE CONDITIONS AND AUDIT OF PLAY SPACES, EXERCISE STATIONS AND DOG PARK

The below table concludes the site conditions of all Council managed playgrounds, skateparks and exercise stations assessed against the Site Inspection Assessment Criteria identified in this strategy and play auditing results in Strathbogie Shire Playground Audits 2021. See Background Research Report of this strategy for detailed conditions at each site.

Park Name	Existing Facilities																										Existing Play Equipment																										
	Tree Planting	Planting	Shelter	Shade Sail	Seating	Picnic Table	Drink Fountain	BBQ	General Waste Bins	Recycled Bins	Toilets	Parking	Trail	Signage	Lighting	Fence	Rock	Bollard	Rock Post	Edging	Gate	Timber Stepper	Bridge	Drains	Habitat	Wind Protection	Sun Protection	Combination Unit	Swing - Double	Swing - Single	Slide	Spring Rocker - Seesaw	Spring	Spring Unit	Climber	Steel Climbing Frame	Freestanding Trackglide	Balancing Unit	Monkey Bar	Carousel	Cubby Play	Sandpit	BMX Track	Exercise Station - Stretch Station	Exercise Station - Leg Press	Exercise Station - Body Pulls	Exercise Station - Body Twist	Exercise Station - Leg Raises	Exercise Station - Aerobic Cycle	SK - Ramp	SK - Funbox	SK - Rail	Waterpour Rubber	Play Mulch	Accessible Paths	Accessible Parking
Playground																																																						
Avenel Jubilee Park playground																																																						
Violet Town Recreation Reserve playground – near swimming pool																																																						
Euroa Lions Park playground																																																						
Longwood Recreation Reserve																																																						
Nagambie Blayney Lane playground																																																						
Nagambie Recreation Reserve																																																						
Ruffy Community Centre																																																						
Strathbogie Recreation Reserve																																																						
Violet Town Lions Park																																																						
Creightons Creek Recreation Reserve																																																						
Euroa Park Rotary Park																																																						
Euroa Rotary Bicentennial Park																																																						
Moglonemby Hall																																																						
Nagambie River Street Reserve playground																																																						
Nagambie Whroovale Estate																																																						
Violet Town Recreation Reserve playground - near tennis courts																																																						
Exercise Station																																																						
Avenel Jubilee Park exercise station																																																						
Euroa Lions Park exercise station																																																						
Euroa Spencer Street Reserve exercise station																																																						
Nagambie Blayney Lane exercise station																																																						
Skate Park																																																						
Avenel skate park																																																						
Euroa skate park																																																						
Violet Town Recreation Reserve - skate park																																																						
Dog Park																																																						
Euroa Off-leash dog Park																																																						

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APPENDIX 3: OPEN SPACE SITE INSPECTIONS

The below table concludes the site conditions of open spaces assessed against the Site Inspection Assessment Criteria identified in this strategy. See *Background Research Report* of this strategy for detailed conditions at each site.

Overall Site Conditions of Open Spaces

Open Space Name	Shelter	Seating	Picnic Table	Drink Fountain	BBQ	General Waste Bins	Recycled Bins	Toilets	Signage	Lighting	Fence	Bollard	Wind Protection	Sun Protection	Cubby Play	BMX Track	Accessible Paths	Accessible Parking
Nagambie Active Space Hub/Glass St Reserve																		
Euroa Apex Park																		
Nagambie Apex Park																		
Avenel Stewart Park																		
Violet Town Baird Street Reserve																		
Euroa Bowling Club Reserve																		
Euroa Charles Kemp Park																		
Nagambie Church Street Reserve																		
Euroa Creek Drive Reserve																		
Euroa Dr Dunn Reserve																		
Seven Euroa Creeks Park																		
Nagambie Goulburn Street Reserve																		
Violet Town Hurt Street Reserve																		
Avenel Jubilee Park																		
Avenel Kent/Scobie St Reserve																		
Kirwans Bridge Picnic Area																		
Longwood Pub Paddock																		
Nagambie Buckley Park																		
Nagambie Jacobsen's Outlook																		
Nagambie Blayney Reserve																		
Euroa Reserve - Parker Street																		
Nagambie River Street Reserve																		
Ruffy Tablelands Community Centre Open Space																		
Nagambie Sandy Coves																		
Euroa Scott St Reserve Open Space																		
Euroa Senior Citizens Reserve																		
Euroa Telegraph Park																		
Violet Town Shadforth Reserve																		
Euroa Yiiro Community Garden																		

*Accessibility is assessed by visual inspection only and will need detailed land surveys in determining the level of existing accessibility and the location of improvement at each site.

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