Strathbogie
SHIRE COUNCIL

FINAL

Play and Open Spaces Strategy 2024-2034

June 2024

Technical Report

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Acknowledgment of Country

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land 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, 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.

Executive Summary

Play is a fundamental right of children and enhances every aspect of children's development and learning, and it is through play that children learn to interpret and make sense of the world around them. Play is recognised by the United Nations as a specific right in addition to, and distinct from, a child's right to recreation and leisure.

Open space encompasses the variety of spaces within the natural environment that are readily and freely accessible to the wider community for recreation and enjoyment.

The Strathbogie Shire Council is committed to providing play and open spaces to enhance the health and well-being and social connectedness of our community.

The *Play and Open Space Strategy 2023-2033* provides strategic direction on the future provision and upgrade of play and open spaces across Strathbogie Shire over the next 10 years.

The key outcomes of this strategy include:

- a three-level play space hierarchy to guide future play upgrade and development;
- demographic analysis of current and future community profile;
- spatial and site analysis of access, distance to surrounding areas, connections to cultural and natural resources and impacts of extreme weather conditions and events;
- condition report on all play and open spaces including the age, condition, strength and limitations of equipment and facilities, and usage;
- recommendation for renewal of play spaces which no longer meet Australian Standards in the 10-year plan and locations of proposed new play spaces;
- *Play and Open Space Design and Management Guidelines* to inform the design and planning of all play and open space upgrade and development for all ages and all abilities;
- *Play and Open Space Implementation Plan / Action Plan* to facilitate staged upgrade and development of play and open spaces across the Shire over the next 10 years;
- provision of funding recommendations and sources for future upgrade and development to support Council's Capital Improvement Plan

The scope of this strategy is limited to all public, freely accessible open spaces including recreation reserves, passive open space/natural reserve, community use space, Walking and cycling and playgrounds that are open for public uses in the Council-owned lands. Playgrounds located on school grounds, kindergartens or those that can only be accessed via a fee have not been considered in this strategy. Similarly, recreational or sports facilities for clubs and events (such as ovals and sports courts) are not addressed. The strategy is also limited to the towns with existing play spaces including Avenel, Creightons Creek, Euroa, Longwood, Nagambie, Moglonemby, Ruffy, and Violet Town.

1

Introduction

1.1 Key Purposes of this Strategy

In the development of the *Play and Open Space Strategy 2023*, this strategy aims to:

- undertake a process of research, benchmarking and data and information collection to give a clear picture of the current state of the Shire's spaces;
- develop a clear vision that ensures Strathbogie Shire's play and open spaces offer a broad range of high quality, safe, fun and creative play and recreation opportunities for different age groups, genders and abilities across the Shire;
- identify the levels of service for all play spaces and the gaps of required facilities at each level for future upgrade and development;
- improve the design and management of all play and open spaces throughout the Shire to ensure compliance with Australian Standards and provide play values, accessibility and sustainability;
- develop a comprehensive action and implementation plan for the staged upgrade of existing play and open spaces, renewal of existing play spaces, and design and construction of new play spaces;
- provide guidelines on designing and maintaining play and open spaces ensuring consistency and compliance.

KEY PURPOSES

The Shire's playgrounds and open spaces will:

Be Safe and Accessible	Provide equitable, safe and accessible play and open spaces considering linkages, walkability and connections between the play / open spaces and surrounding areas
For All Ages and All Abilities	Create intergenerational play spaces and play spaces that encourage all members of our community to use
Be High Standard, Well Planned and Maintained	Provide high standard equipment and products to encourage use, access, be consistent but provide unique characters at each township, and to ensure longevity of materials, ease of maintenance, and innovative and contemporary design which offers a variety of unstructured, stimulating, challenging and fun play experiences. Be developed in accordance with the three-level play space hierarchy established in this strategy and respond to Council's capital works and maintenance budget
Integrate Community Ideas and Design	Integrate community ideas and inputs as part of the playground design process
Enhance Unique Qualities	Compliment, enhance and celebrate the unique qualities of each playground and open space location
Support Amenities in Consideration of Environments	Provide supporting amenities such as seating, paths, shade structures / trees, garden beds and drinking fountains according to the identified play space hierarchy and in consideration of the impacts of climate change and extreme weather events such as flooding, urban heat island effect, bushfire, etc on outdoor activities and experiences
Use Sustainable Materials	Be environmentally sustainable where suitably durable and cost effective materials such as recycled and reclaimed materials and processes are available
Integrate Artwork and Natural Elements	Provide opportunities to integrate artwork and natural elements (such as logs, planting, boulders, mounds, etc) to enhance play experiences for all senses and connect with nature

1.2 Strategic context

1.2.1 The Council Vision

A broad group of people selected from across the Shire, with different viewpoints and backgrounds came together to create a vision of the Shire of Strathbogie for the future outlined in the *2021-2025 Council Plan*. The vision outlines Community aspirations and priorities to guide the Council's four year plan with a view towards 2040. Six strategic focus areas identified 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 vision of 'people and places are connected' and 'communities are filled with happy, healthy people' .

Some of the goals to achieve relating play and open spaces are:

- *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.*
- *Connectivity within and between townships is enhanced through a developing network of cycling routes, tracks, trails and community transport options.*
- *Our active and passive open spaces cater for all generations and all abilities.*

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 including:

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

This strategy also:

- includes the visions and goals established in locality and parks and reserves specific plans and reviews such as *Seven Creeks Master Plan (Draft 2022)* and *Strathbogie Shire Urban Green Infrastructure Review 2019*;
- reflects the communities' directions identified for community recreational areas, public spaces and play spaces in *Avenel Community Plan 2022-2026*, *Euroa Community Action Group 2022-2025 Strategic Plan*, *Graytown Community Plan 2021-2025*, Draft Longwood Master Plan 2022, *Nagambie Community Plan 2017 – 2021*, *Ruffy Community Action Plan 2018-2022*, *Strathbogie Tableland Community Action Plan 2019 - 2023*;
- reviews the completion level of the required rectification works in the play spaces including playgrounds, skate parks and exercise stations detailed in *Strathbogie Shire Playground Audits 2021* and includes the remaining required works in the 10-year plan;
- considers future residential development areas in access and network analysis ensuring equitable coverage of play spaces and public spaces at each service level.

1.2.2 Previous Council Play and Recreation Framework

In 2019 *Play and Recreation Framework for Children of All Ages* was adopted by Council. The framework outlines:

- brief reviews of the demographic profile of all of the Shire's children to understand the locations, the ages and future trends during 2019-2029
- the importance of play for children of all ages
- some of the consultation outcomes from school visits, online survey and onsite drop-in sessions
- key site selection criteria to determine the best locations of active spaces
- a hierarchical flexible model for provision across the Shire that looks at staged implementation of spaces for kids of all ages to enjoy
- mapped concept areas and a staged guide to roll out these active spaces
- key recommendations to guide the strategic implementation of new active spaces to meet childrens' play and recreation needs as part of the 10 year framework plan in Strathbogie Shire

The underlying principles of the *Play and Recreation Framework for Children of All Ages 2019* are still relevant and reflect current best practice in play space planning and development and has underpinned the development of this Play and Open Space Strategy 2023-2033.

Figure 1.2.2a Five Types of Play, *Play and Recreation Framework for Children of All Ages, 2019*

What people most enjoy, want and need from play varies along developmental and age spectrum's, and is underpinned by five types of play:

Physical (or active) play
Opportunity for walking, running, balance, coordination, jumping, skipping, hanging, climbing, sliding, rocking and swinging;

Cognitive play
Opportunity for exploration, manipulating objects, problem solving, imaginative play and building on what already known to interpret new experiences;

Sensory play
opportunity for sensory stimulation through sound, sight, touch and smell;

Emotional play
Opportunity for appropriate risk taking, self-direction and self-regulation;

Social play opportunity for sharing, teamwork, communication, building friendships and support[4].

1.2.3 The Benefits of Play and Open Space

Play is important to the physical, social, cognitive, sensory and emotional development of children. Through play children learn the essential skills they will need in adulthood. *Play and Recreation Framework for Children of All Ages 2019* recognises such skills could include problem solving, independence, self awareness, creativity, resilience, spatial knowledge and flexibility.

Play and Recreation Framework for Children of All Ages 2019 also states providing play opportunities for children of all ages means acknowledging that everyone can, and should play. Play can include public place pop-ups, performance, programs and events, or artworks and sculptures that foster fun, inspire imagination or evoke senses and memories.

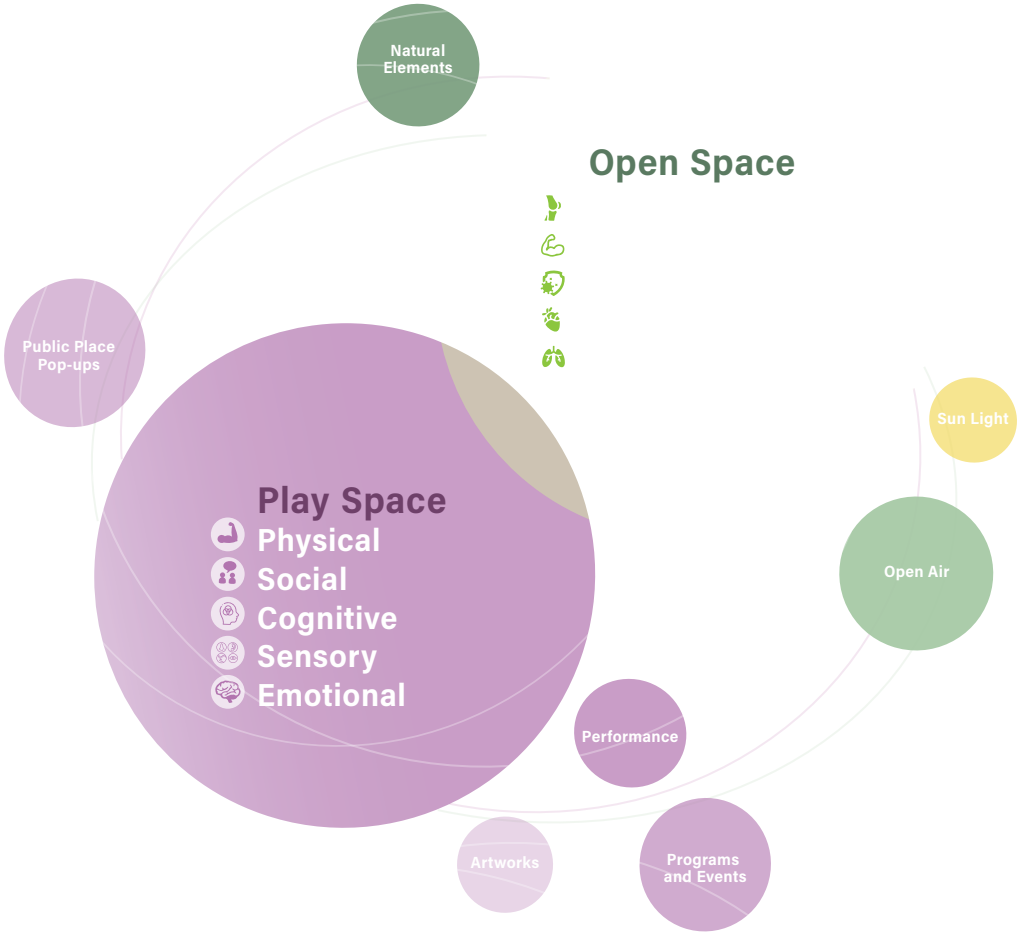
It is suggested that play in an outdoor environment is increasingly recognised as a foundation for children's healthy development. Children are hard-wired to need nature and to play in their natural environments. Research shows that unstructured play that takes place outdoors is vital to children's social, emotional, cognitive and physical development (Brussoni, 2019).

Studies also indicate while playing outside, children benefit from being exposed to sunlight, natural elements, and open air, which contributes to bone development, stronger immune system and physical activity (Bento and Dias, 2013).

Choose Health: Be Active[1] by Sports Medicine Australia, Department of Veterans' Affairs and Department of Health and Aging suggests seniors should accumulate at least 30 minutes of moderate intensity physical activity such as brisk walking, aerobics, stretching, etc on most, preferably all, days. 30 minutes is needed to keep heart, lungs, muscles and bones in good working order.

1 https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2021/03/choose-health-be-active-a-physical-guide-for-older-australians.pdf

Figure 1.2.3a The Benefits of Play and Open Spaces



My perfect park:

'Well-developed trees I think is an important thing. I think you need to have interesting spaces to walk around, so you've got to have paths and zones leading in different directions. I think you've got to have a diversity of things to look at, you know like war memorials and sports paths and so on. And I think probably most of all you've got to have reasonable sized spaces where people can just lie out and feel no one's there.'

– Interview of a Male, 69 years in ProjectPARK researchproject by IPAN, Deakin University

Figure 1.2.3b The Benefits of Typical Play Features and Settings

Typical Play Features and Setttings	Physical	Social	Cognitive	Sensory	Emotional
Small adventure playground	●			●	
Balancing unit	●				
BBQ shelter and picnic area		●			
Bird watching		●		●	
Picnic shelter		●			
Café		●		●	
Carousel	●	●		●	
Small climbing unit	●		●	●	
Combination unit	●	●	●	●	
Cubby house		●	●		●
Freestanding trackglide	●				●
Garden beds and plants		●		●	
Giant slides (eg. long curly slide)	●	●	●		
Grassy open space				●	●
Interactive play (eg. touch-sensor illuminated statues)		●		●	●
Large adventure playground	●	●		●	
Large climbing unit (eg. tree climbing frame)	●	●	●		
Large swings (eg. 360° swings or cantilever swings)	●				●
Long flying fox	●	●			
Lots of trees for climbing	●		●	●	
Monkey Bar	●				●
Natural play elements		●	●	●	●
Obstacle course or parkour area	●	●	●	●	●
Outdoor fitness equipment	●				
Peaceful and relaxed setting		●		●	●
Public artwork				●	●
Quiet, private place to hang out with seating area				●	●
Sandpit	●	●	●	●	
Shading trees		●		●	
Slides	●		●		
Sports courts (eg. netball or basketball)	●	●	●		
Sports goals	●	●	●		●
Spring rockers	●				
Small swings (eg. single and circle swing)	●	●			
Table tennis	●	●			●
Themed play equipment	●				●
Trampolines	●	●			●
Walking/cycling paths	●	●			
Water feature such as a pond, lake or creek		●		●	●
Water play area	●	●		●	
Well maintained turf area		●		●	●

*Refer to *Play and Recreation Framework for Children of All Ages, 2019* and *Greater Shepparton City Council Play Space Strategy 2020 - 2030, 2021*

2

Background Research

This strategy has conducted background research and analysis in understanding the strategic context, the current conditions and limitations, the current gaps for play and open spaces and the compliance issues of the existing play equipment.

Site inspections have been carried out for 38 sites including 17 playgrounds, 3 skate parks, 5 exercise stations, and 13 other types of open spaces. The assessment criteria includes the available services provided, the play auditing items, environmental conditions including wind and solar, accessibility at the time of inspection, and installation dates of play, skate and exercise equipment.

The background research also identified the gaps of playground servicing area using 400m and 800m walkable catchment as the benchmark.

The background research and analysis findings will inform the future development of new play spaces and improvement of the existing play and open spaces to meet compliance requirements and increased needs for better and improved public and recreational services. It will also guide the preparation of implementation plans for the Council Capital Investment Program.

2.1 Background Research

2.1.1 Statistic Analysis

The strategy has conducted a review of the demographic profile in determining the future demand for play and open spaces across the Shire. The study outlines the relevant demographic data driving the demands for play and public spaces at each town, the proportions of gender and age groups at each town, and supports determining the services level of the play spaces and the required facilities for each town.

2.1.1.1 Demographic Profile

Victoria in Future 2016 (VIF2016) identifies the population and household projections to 2051 to assist decision makers across government and in other areas. It is predicted the Shire will reach the total population of 10,800, the total households of 5,100, 18.6% aged under 20 years and 34.3% aged 65 years or older by 2031.

However, the VIF2016 projections do not accurately portray the growth Strathbogie Shire is currently experiencing. The actual population in the Strathbogie Shire had reached 10,984 in 2019 and is projected to be 15,058 in 2036 as predicted in the *Strathbogie Shire Economic Profile 2020*.

2.1.1.2 Population at each Locality

According to Australia Bureau of Statistics 2021 Census data (see Table 2.1.1.2a), Euroa, Nagambie, Avenel and Violet Town have the largest population in the Strathbogie Shire. Euroa has a population of over 3,500 population and is the largest in all towns in the shire followed by Nagambie as the second largest and Avenel as the third (see Appendix 2.1.1.2a).

39% of the towns in the Shire have a population between 50-500. Most of them are located adjacent to the four major towns - Avenel, Euroa, Nagambie and Violet Town. Compared the increase rate of the four townships, Nagambie has been experiencing the strongest residential development and growth with 20% of increasing rate from 2016-2021.

Table 2.1.1.2a Population Increase Rate of Major Towns

Town	2016	2021	Rate
Avenel	1,048	1,112	6%
Euroa	3,275	3,508	7%
Nagambie	**1,886**	**2,254**	**20%**
Violet Town	874	936	7%

Some of the towns have a small number of population that is lower than 50, which includes Whroo, Wirrate, Moorilim, Koonda, Moormbool West, Molka and Pranjip, Sheans Creek and Upton Hill. The majority of those towns are located closer to the border of the Shire.

2.1.1.3 Population of age groups

A research project called *ProjectPark* (2020) by IPAN (Institute for Physical Activity and Nutrition) and Deakin University studied the types of equipment that different age groups including children, teens and seniors are interested (see Figure 2.1.1.3a).

Accordingly, this strategy has reviewed the age group distributions at each town. Four groups were reviewed separately including toddlers (0-4), younger children (5-14), and teenagers (15-19), seniors (over 65).

Toddlers (0-4)

Most of the towns have an average of 8% in toddler population. The rate is particularly high in Molka, Sheans Creek, Bailieston and Graytown reaching 9%-10%. A few other towns have 6-7% of toddler population (see Appendix 2.1.1.3a).

Figure 2.1.1.3a Study Findings of Preferred Play Items by Different Age groups, ProjectPARK, 2020

Study Findings

TEENS
13-18 YEARS

A study with teens 13-18 years to identify the park features they consider to be most important for their park visitation, park-based physical activity and social interaction.

TOP 10 FEATURES THAT ENCOURAGE TEENS TO VISIT PARKS

1. Large swings (i.e. 360° swing)
2. Large grassy open space
3. Café[2]
4. Sports goals[1]
5. Trampolines[2]
6. Quiet, private place to hang out
7. Outdoor fitness equipment
8. Giant slides[2]
9. Obstacle course or parkour area to climb on[1]
10. Table tennis tables[1]

TOP 10 FEATURES THAT ENCOURAGE TEENS TO BE ACTIVE IN PARKS

1. Sports courts (netball or basketball)
2. Large grassy open space[1]
3. Outdoor fitness equipment[2]
4. Walking/cycling paths
5. Long flying fox
6. Sports goals[1]
7. Large swings (i.e. 360° swing)
8. Obstacle course or parkour area to climb on
9. Trampolines
10. Large things to climb (i.e. climbing structures)

TOP 10 FEATURES THAT ENCOURAGE SOCIAL INTERACTION IN PARKS

1. Café
2. BBQ/picnic area
3. Sports courts (netball or basketball)
4. Traditional swings[3]
5. Large grassy open space
6. Sports goals[1]
7. Long flying fox[2]
8. Interactive areas (e.g. touch-sensor illuminated statues)
9. Trampolines
10. Giant slides

[1]Particularly for males [2]Particularly for females [3]Swings were more important for females than males, particularly group swings in a circle

34 completed a walk-along interview in a park to discuss park features

222 rated 40 photos of different park features

244 completed a survey to identify the relative importance of park features

In all three phases, teens tended to prefer park features that were large, adventurous, and challenging, such as a long flying fox

'Well there's not like any basketball courts or anything. Like so they could put that there because then a lot of people would come' **- Male, 14 years**

Study Findings

OLDER ADULTS
65+ YEARS

A study with older adults 65+ years to identify the park features they consider to be most important for their park visitation, park-based physical activity and social interaction.

TOP 10 FEATURES THAT ENCOURAGE OLDER ADULTS TO VISIT PARKS

1. Shady trees
2. Peaceful and relaxed setting
3. Walking paths
4. Birdlife
5. Gardens, landscaping and plants
6. Water feature like a pond, lake or creek
7. Café
8. Grassy open space
9. BBQ/picnic areas
10. Signage, information maps

TOP 10 FEATURES THAT ENCOURAGE OLDER ADULTS TO BE ACTIVE IN PARKS

1. Walking paths
2. Shady trees
3. Peaceful and relaxed setting
4. Birdlife
5. Gardens, landscaping and plants
6. Water feature like a pond, lake or creek[2]
7. Grassy open space[1]
8. Signage, information maps
9. Well maintained grass[1]
10. BBQ/picnic areas

TOP 10 FEATURES THAT ENCOURAGE SOCIAL INTERACTION IN PARKS

1. Peaceful and relaxed setting[2]
2. Shady trees
3. Walking paths[1]
4. BBQ/picnic areas
5. Café
6. Birdlife
7. Gardens, landscaping and plants
8. Water feature like a pond, lake or creek
9. Built picnic shelter
10. Quiet, secluded seating area

[1]Particularly for females [2]Particularly for males

30 completed a walk-along interview in a park to discuss park features

258 rated 42 photos of different park features

243 completed a survey to identify the relative importance of park features

Walking paths, a peaceful and relaxed setting, and shady trees were the top three features for older adults across all outcomes

'I think paths are important. As I get older, that's important' **- Female, 78 years**

For further details please see:
Veitch, J., et al., Designing parks for older adults: A qualitative study using walk-along interviews. Urban Forestry and Urban Greening, 2020. 54, 126768.

Young Children (5-14)

Younger children have the average population number of around 11%. Some towns including Moorilim, Moglonemby, Tamleugh and Koonda reach approximate 13% in this group, while Wirrate has none (See Appendix 2.1.1.3b).

Teenagers (14-19)

Similar to younger children, teenagers have the average population number of around 11% in most of the towns. Some remote towns including Moorilim, Moglonemby, Pranjip, Whroo, Moormbool, Koonda and Upton Hill reach approximate 12%-13% in this group (See Appendix 2.1.1.3c).

Senior (65+)

The Shire has a large population in senior group, which takes up to more than 70% in most of the towns. Only a handful of towns fall below 70%, but are still over 65%. Although the population of this age group is higher, the needs to access to open spaces and play spaces for grandchildren are evidential (See Appendix 2.1.1.3d).

2.1.2 Existing and Planned Play and Open Spaces and Future Development

2.1.2.1 Existing Play and Open Spaces

The Shire of Strathbogie currently manages 26 play spaces including 17 playgrounds, 3 skate parks, 6 exercise stations, and 19 other types of open spaces of varying sizes distributed across the Shire.

Due to the absence of a well-documented play and open space strategy prior and the ages, most of the play equipment are not compliant with Australian Standards. The *Strathbogie Shire Playground Audits 2021* was prepared to identify the gaps of the current play and exercise equipment including exercise stations and skate parks against the Australian Standards (AS4658.1:2014*). The auditing results have been reviewed and integrated into the strategy to guide the future improvement and development of play spaces in the Council's Capital Investment Program over the next 10 years.

*Only relevant standards at the time of the play auditor's inspections and reporting. The auditing comments were based on the auditor's experience of looking for wear and tear and safety issues in skate parks and exercise stations according to the standards.

Below are the tables of existing Council managed or co-managed play spaces and open spaces in the major towns.

Table 2.1.2.1a Avenel Existing Play and Open Spaces	
Play Spaces	Avenel Jubilee Park Playground
	Avenel Jubilee Park Exercise Station
	Avenel Skate Park
Open Spaces	Avenel Recreation Reserve
	Avenel Stewart Park

See Appendix 2.1.2.1a Map of Avenel Existing Play and Open Spaces.

Table 2.1.2.1b Euroa Existing Play and Open Spaces	
Play Spaces	Euroa Rotary Bicentennial Park Playground
	Euroa Leos Park Exercise Station
	Euroa Lions Park Exercise Station
	Euroa Spencer Street Reserve Exercise Station
	Euroa Lions Park Playground
	Euroa Rotary Park Playground
	Euroa Skate Park
Open Spaces	Euroa Friendlies Reserve
	Euroa Memorial Oval
	Euroa Seven Creeks park
	Euroa Telegraph Park
Off-leash Dog Parks	Euroa Off-leash Dog Park

See Appendix 2.1.2.1b Map of Euroa Existing Play and Open Spaces.

Table 2.1.2.1c Nagambie Existing Play and Open Spaces	
Play Spaces	Nagambie River Street Reserve Playground
	Nagambie Blayney Lane Playground
	Nagambie Blayney Lane Exercise Station
	Nagambie Recreation Reserve Playground
	Nagambie Whroovale Estate Playground
Open Spaces	Nagambie Lakes Regatta Centre
	Nagambie Blayney Reserve

See Appendix 2.1.2.1c Map of Nagambie Existing Play and Open Spaces.

Table 2.1.2.1d Violet Town Existing Play and Open Spaces	
Play Spaces	Violet Town Lions Park Playground
	Violet Town Recreation Reserve Playground - near Swimming Pool
	Violet Town Recreation Reserve Playground - near Tennis Court
	Violet Town Recreation Reserve Skate Park
Open Spaces	Violet Town Recreation Reserve

See Appendix 2.1.2.1d Map of Violet Town Existing Play and Open Spaces.

Current Play and open spaces in Longwood, Ruffy and Strathbogie are shown on the Appendix 2.1.2.1f, 2.1.2.1g, and 2.1.2.1h.

2.1.2.2 Planned Playground Projects

The Council has planned some upgrading or new play spaces projects in 2023.

Table 2.1.2.2a Upgrade and New Play Spaces	
Avenel Jubilee Park Playground	Planned Upgrade
Creightons Creek Recreation Reserve Playground	Planned Upgrade
Nagambie Whroovale Estate Playground	New, completed in 2023

Figure 2.1.2.2a Avenel Jubilee Park Playground

Figure 2.1.2.2b Creightons Creek Recreation Reserve Playground

Figure 2.1.2.2c Nagambie Whroovale Estate Playground Site

2.1.2.3 Future Development

The strategy has also identified some of the future residential development areas* (see Appendix 2.1.2.3a-2.1.2.3d) which will be in need of an appropriate level of play and recreational spaces. It is considered in preparing the implementation/action plan in this strategy.

Extensive public consultations were carried out for Council Planning Scheme Review, which can be found in *Strathbogie Planning Scheme Review (2019)*. The document has highlighted the Council's action plans for land use and priorities of planning works.

The 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 under the Subdivision Act 1988 (the SA 1988) and the Planning and Environment Act 1987 (the P&EA 1987) as part of the subdivision process. All new developments in the Shire have statutory obligations to meet the planning requirement and the Council has a statutory obligation to allocate the contributions in the maintenance of existing or creation of new public open spaces.

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

- **Monetary POS contribution**
- **Land POS contribution**

Where Monetary POS constribution applies, the Council can seek to including the below rates in the planning scheme cia a planning scheme amendment. The rates are:

- **Three lot subdivisions - 3% POS contribution**
- **Four lot subdivisions - 4% POS contribution**
- **Five or more lot subdivisions - 5% POS contribution**

The Land POS contribution is usually agreed upon between the Council and the proponent and the land will be designated as public open spaces on the plan of subdivision that forms of the certification and Statement of Compliance (SOC).

With the new development currently planned in the Shire, this strategy has considered the POS contribution as the funding source as part of the implementation/action plan. The maps in the Appendix 2.1.2.3a-2.1.2.3d show the future development areas in Avenel, Euroa, Nagambie and Violet Town*.

*Development information from planning/building permit submitted to Strathbogie Shire Council Planning Department.

2.1.3 Spatial Analysis

2.1.3.1 Environmental resources analysis

Strathbogie Shire has a great coverage of environmental resources in all areas, especially along natural waterways. Victorian Biodiversity Atlas has recorded 764 flora and fauna species in a total number of 39,099 across the Shire.

Flooding is a major concern. 100-year flooding could impact most of the towns in the northern part.

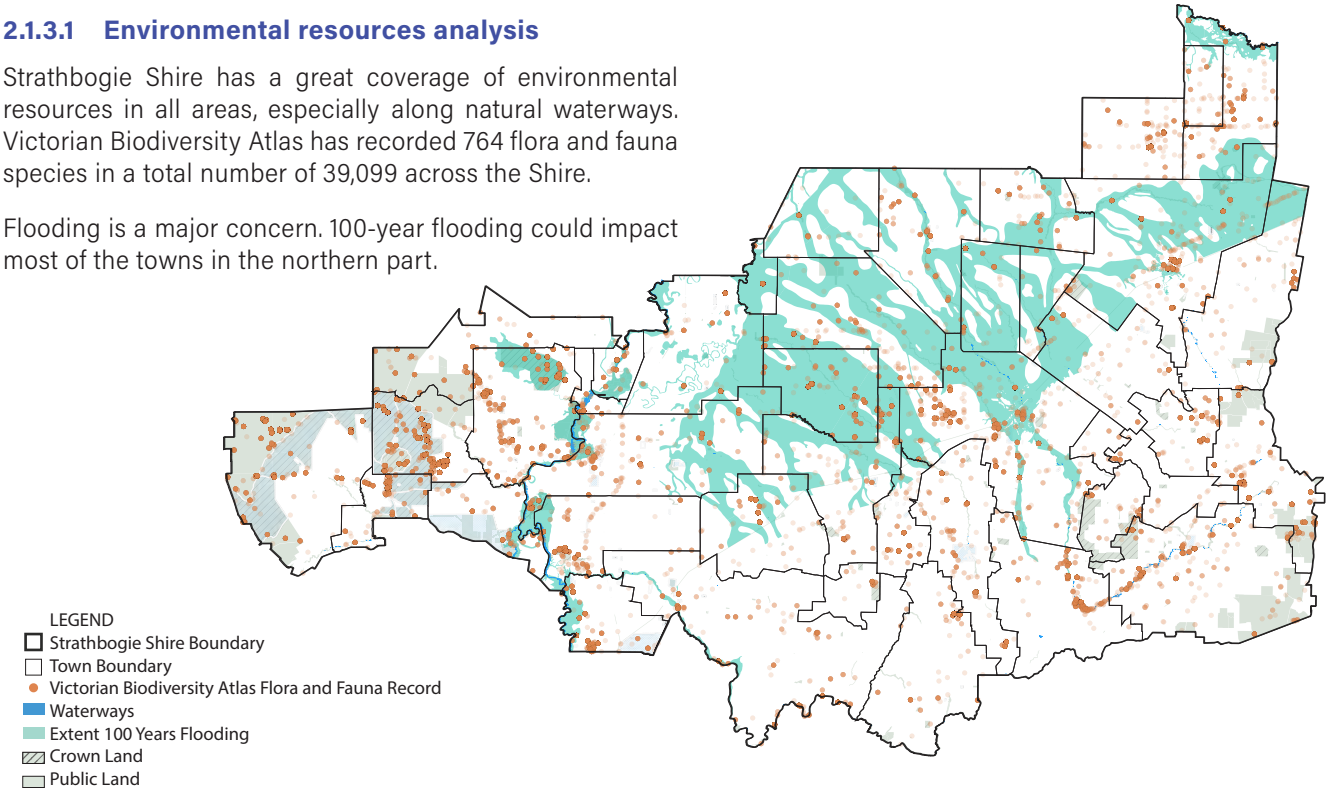


Figure 2.1.3.1a Map of Waterways, 100-year Flooding and Flora and Fauna Record

2.1.3.2 Ecological connectivity analysis

The EVC 2005 map shows the biological conservation value across the Shire. Vegetation closer to urban and more populated areas seems to be more vulnerable than that in rural areas. It can function as a guidance on future improvement works in revegetation, habitat restoration and new developments. *Strathbogie Shire Council Urban Green Infrastructure Review 2019* also conducted detailed reviews at each town, which can be used as a reference.

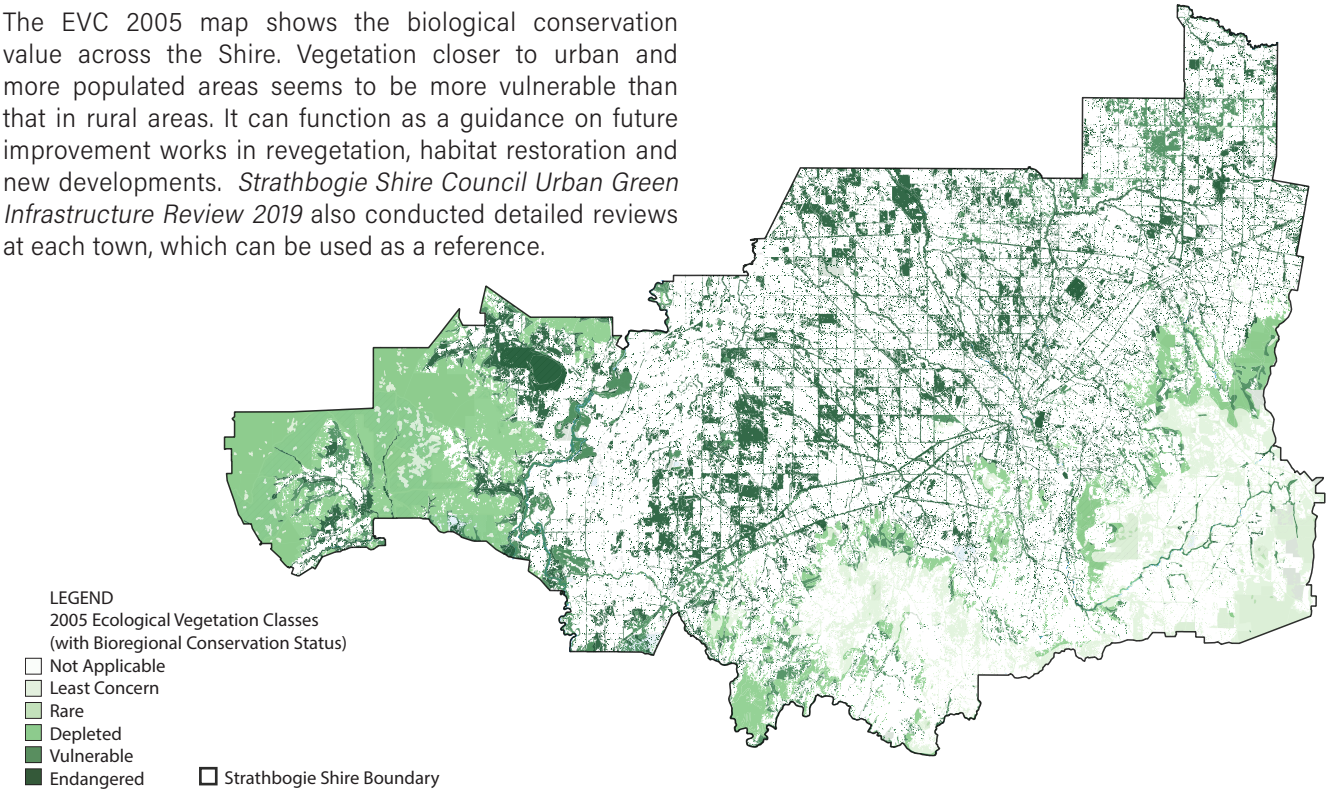


Figure 2.1.3.2a Map of 2005 Ecological Vegetation Classes (with Bioregional Conservation Status)

2.1.3.3 Transportation and Access

The transport infrastructure across the Shire consists of railways, highways, PTV regional buses and roads. Railways and highways are the primary ways to access the Shire from other parts of Victoria. The railways pass the four major towns Avenel, Euroa, Nagambie and Violet Town with railway stations are located at each town. PTV regional bus routes travel from Euroa to Miepoll to further north with stops located in Euroa and Miepoll.

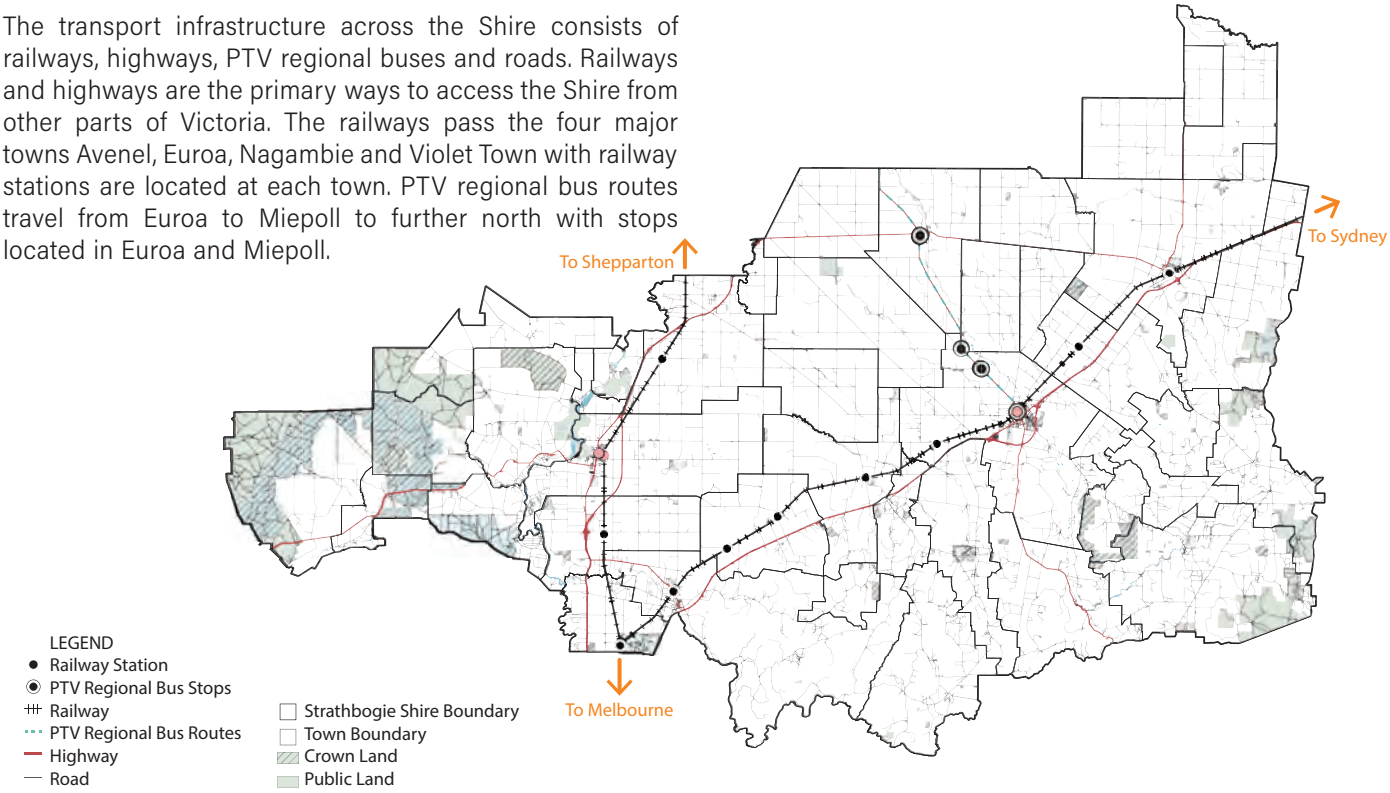


Figure 2.1.3.3a Map of Transportation

2.1.3.4 Areas of Cultural Heritage Sensitivity

Cultural Heritage Sensitivity Areas are either known to contain, or are likely to contain Aboriginal cultural heritage places and objects. These areas, which include various landforms within Victoria, are defined in the Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018 (*Data Victoria, 2022*).

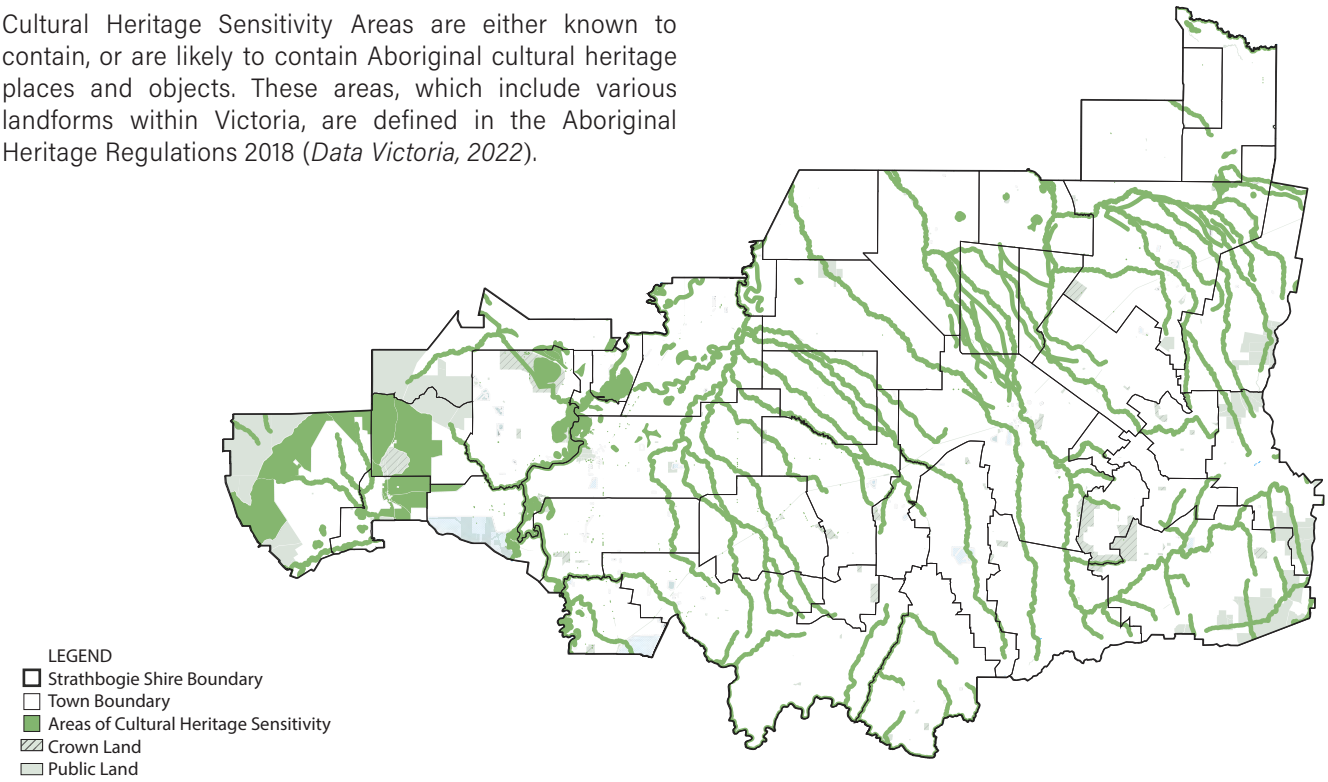


Figure 2.1.3.4a Map of Cultural Heritage Sensitive Area

2.1.3.5 Network analysis

This strategy uses 400m walkable catchment* to calculate play space servicing coverage at each town. Play spaces include playgrounds, skate parks, exercise stations, and dog parks. The walk catchment analysis (see Appendix 2.1.3.5a-2.1.3.5e) will also guide the trail and path upgrade at each area to ensure walkability and safety to the play and open spaces and construct walkable neighbourhoods for communities in future.

*Urban Design Guidelines for Victoria, published by The State of Victoria Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning in 2017, defines walkable catchment as: 'The area within a specified walking distance of a destination and where paths provide a specific level of service and amenity. Often a 400m walking distance is defined as walkable, being about a five minute walk for most people. More important destinations, such as train stations or major centres, may serve a wider walkable catchment.'

- **Avenel**

Avenel Jubilee Park Playground provides the outdoor activity place for local families with 400m walkable catchment (approximately 5mins walk) and 800m (approx. 10mins walk) in the centre of the town. With the existing facilities in the Avenel Jubilee Park, it can also function for communities residing in a further distance as a high-end play space.

In Avenel, only Jubilee Park has a variety of community facilities including play equipment, sport courts, swimming pool, toilet and community buildings. Considerations of the future improvement of this playground can include upgrading to accommodate population growth, age and ability groups, and required parking space. Future development could also be adding new neighbourhood playgrounds in other areas based on walkable catchments.

100-year flooding has some impacts on the town as indicated in the Appendix 2.1.3.5a, primarily along Hughes Creek, which will require considerations for all future improvement and new projects.

- **Euroa**

Eight existing play spaces in Euroa provide good service coverage for outdoor activities for local families within 400m and 800m walkable catchment in the western part of the town.

In Euroa, the majority of the play and open spaces are situated along the Seven Creeks Corridor. Considerations of the future improvement in this area can include upgrading to accommodate population growth, age and ability groups, and required parking space. Future development could also be adding new neighbourhood play spaces in the eastern part of the town, especially the southeast region.

100-year flooding has a significant impact on the town as indicated in the Appendix 2.1.3.5b. Almost all areas in the town will be inundated in the 100-year extreme event. This is required to be considered for all future improvement and new projects.

- **Longwood**

Longwood Recreation Reserve Playground provides the outdoor activity place for the community within 400m and 800m walkable catchment and it covers the southeast part of the town. With the existing facilities in the Longwood Recreation Reserve, it can also function for local families residing in a further distance.

As a small town, Longwood only has one playground, but the reserve provides a range of other facilities including sport courts, toilet and community buildings. Longwood Pub Paddock BMX track, which can function as a youth facility. Considerations of the future improvement in this town can include upgrading the existing play equipment to accommodate population growth, age and ability groups. Future development could also be adding new neighbourhood play spaces in northern areas.

100-year flooding has significant impacts on the northern part of the town and some impacts on the southern part including the reserve as indicated in the Appendix 2.1.3.5c, primarily along Camerons Well Creek. The Paddock will mostly be inundated in the 100-year floording event This will require considerations for all future improvement and new projects.

- **Nagambie**

Five existing play spaces in Nagambie provides a good service coverage as outdoor activities for the residential areas adjacent to Lake Nagambie within 400m and 800m walkable catchment.

In Nagambie, the majority of the play and open spaces are situated around Lake Nagambie. Considerations of the future improvement in this playground can include upgrading to accommodate population growth and future development, age and ability groups, and required parking space. Future development could also be adding new neighbourhood play spaces in the northern and southern part of the town.

100-year flooding has a significant impact, mostly along the edge of the lake as indicated in the Appendix 2.1.3.5d. The open spaces and play spaces situated in the close vicinity will be greatly impacted. This is required to be considered for all future improvement and new projects.

- **Ruffy**

One playground located in Ruffy Community Centre provides a good service coverage as outdoor activity space for the community withih 400m and 800m walkable catchment. Remote residents will need to travel to the community centre.

- **Strathbogie**

Strathbogie Recreation Reserve provides the outdoor activity place for local families within 400m and 800m walkable catchment in the northeast of the town. With the existing facilities in the Strathbogie Recreation Reserve, it can also function for communities residing in a further distance.

Strathbogie Recreation Reserve is the only community recreational facility. Given the scale of the town, considerations of the future improvement can be upgrading to accommodate population growth, age and ability groups, and required parking space to service more community members.

- **Violet Town**

Three existing playgrounds and two skate parks (one old and one new) in Violet Town provide good service coverage as outdoor activity places for local families within 400m and 800m walkable catchment adjacent to Violet Town Recreation Reserve which is also the centre of the town.

In Violet Town, the reserve is the major recreational centre which features two playgrounds, one swimming pool, sports courts, one oval and two skate parks. Most of the facilities are located closer to Tulip Street. Considerations of the future improvement in this town can include major upgrading to the existing playground near swimming pool and the one in Lions Park to accommodate population growth, age and ability groups, and required parking space. Future development could also be adding new neighbourhood play spaces in the southern part of the town, especially the southeast region.

100-year flooding has a significant impact on the town as indicated in the Appendix 2.1.3.5g. Most of the areas in the town will be inundated in the 100-year extreme event. This is required to be considered for all future improvement and new projects. More than half of the reserve is impacted by 100-year flooding along Honeysuckle Cree. However, the playgrounds and skate parks located in the reserve are not situated within the flooding zone.

2.1.3.6 Gap analysis

Based on the network analysis (see Appendix 2.1.3.6a-2.1.3.6f) of 400m and 800m walkable catchment, this study has identified areas including future residential development that do not currently neighbourhood, district and regional play spaces.

Future new play space locations and upgrading existing play spaces should consider the current and future gaps in the play space provision. By upgrading neighbourhood level play space to district level or regional level, the service capacity in the play spaces will be increased for larger community groups, i.e, providing services for larger residential areas.

This strategy focuses on the four major townships and two other towns which have existing playgrounds in the close vicinity of residential areas. The towns are Avenel, Euroa, Nagambie, Violet Town, Longwood and Strathbogie (see Appendix 2.1.3.6a-2.1.3.6f).

2.2 Site Inspection Assessment Criteria

Site inspections have been conducted in preparing the current conditions of play and open spaces.

The reviews of the current Council plans, strategies and policies, and playground audits have informed the process and formed the primary focus of the site inspections.

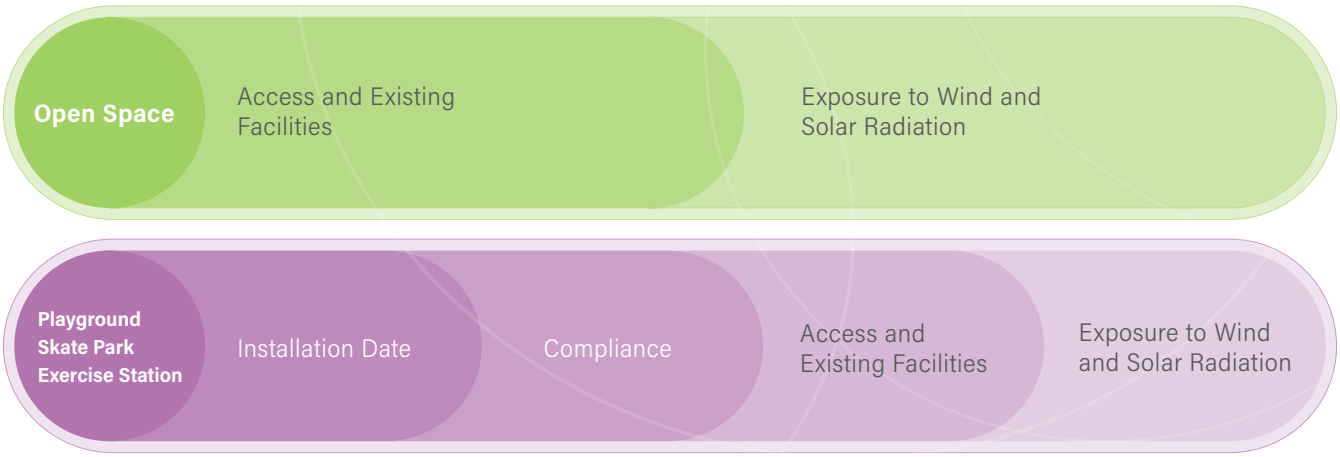
For open spaces, the focus was:

- **Access and Existing Facilities**
  - if access of the open spaces is easy for general public and wheelchair users;
  - whether the spaces provide Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) compliant facilities in car parks or paths;
  - are there other existing facilities to support recreational uses such as drinking fountains, seating, picnic sets, BBQ shelters, etc;
  - any other connections to adjacent open spaces.
- **Exposure to Wind and Solar Radiation**
  - is the site open or semi-open;
  - whether the site has tree and shrub planting or shade structure to provide protection from wind and solar radiation, if yes, is it partial protection or full;
  - is the site windy during site inspection, where is the wind direction, any considerations needed for future development.

For playgrounds, skate parks, and exercise stations, the site inspections focused on:

- **Installation Date:**
  - when was the play equipment installed;
  - is there any planned renewal by the Council.
- **Compliance:**
  - how many high, medium, low priority of non-compliant items identified in the play audits report 2021;
  - check if all non-compliant items have been rectified and which items required immediate attention.
- **Access and Facilities:**
  - if access of the play spaces is easy for general public and wheelchair users;
  - whether the play spaces provide DDA compliant facilities in car parks or paths;
  - are there other existing facilities to support recreational uses such as drinking fountains, seating, picnic sets, BBQ shelters, etc;
  - any other connections to adjacent open spaces;
  - is all equipment accessible;
  - whether the play equipment offers opportunities for different ages and ability groups.
- **Exposure to Wind and Solar Radiation**
  - is the site open or semi-open;
  - whether the site has tree and shrub planting or shade structure to provide protection from wind and solar radiation, if yes, is it partial protection or full;
  - is the site windy during site inspection, where is the wind direction, any consideration needed for future development.

Figure 2.2a Site Inspection Focuses



2.3 Play Space Site Inspections and Play Audits

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.

x Recommended renewal of existing play units in *Strathbogie Shire Playground Audits 2021*

Table 2.3a Overall Site Conditions and Play Audits of Playgrounds, Skateparks, Exercise Stations and Dog Parks

Park Name	Existing Hierarchy	Existing Facilities																								Climate Response		Existing Play Equipment																										Accessibility	
		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	Regional																												x																										
Violet Town Recreation Reserve Playground - near Swimming Pool	Regional																												x																										
Euroa Lions Park Playground	N/A																												x																										
Longwood Recreation Reserve	District																																																					
Nagambie Blayney Lane Playground	District																																																					
Nagambie Recreation Reserve	Neighbourhood Urban																												x																										
Ruffy Community Centre	N/A																																																					
Strathbogie Recreation Reserve - Strathbogie	Neighbourhood Remote																														x		x	x																					
Violet Town Lions Park	N/A																																																					
Creightons Creek Recreation Reserve	Neighbourhood Remote																																																					
Euroa Park Rotary Park Euroa	Regional																																																					
Euroa Rotary Bicentennial Park	Neighbourhood Urban																												x																										
Moglonemby Hall	Neighbourhood Remote																																																					
Nagambie River Street Reserve Playground	Neighbourhood Urban																																																					
Nagambie Whroovale Estate	Neighbourhood																																																					
Violet Town Recreation Reserve Playground - near Tennis Courts	Neighbourhood Urban																																																					
Exercise Station																																																						
Avenel Jubilee Park Exercise Station	N/A																																																					
Euroa Leos Park Exercise Station	N/A																																																					
Euroa Lions Park Exercise Station	N/A																																																					
Euroa Spencer Street Reserve Exercise Station	N/A																																																					
Nagambie Blayney Lane Exercise Station	Exercise Station																																																					
Skate Park																																																						
Avenel Skate Park	N/A																																																					
Euroa Skate Park	Road																																																					
Violet Town Recreation Reserve - Skate Park	N/A																																																					
Dog Park																																																						
Euroa Off-leash Dog Park	Neighbourhood																																																					

*Euroa Off-leash Dog Park was closed at the time of site inspection. Facilities inside is unknown.

*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.

2.4 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.

Table 2.4a Overall Site Conditions and 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
Avenel Stewart Park																		
Avenel Jubilee Park																		
Avenel Kent/Scobie St Reserve																		
Euroa Apex Park																		
Euroa Charles Kemp Park																		
Euroa Creek Drive Reserve																		
Euroa Seven Creeks Park																		
Euroa Telegraph Park																		
Euroa Reserve - Parker Street																		
Euroa Bowling Club Reserve																		
Euroa Dr Dunn Reserve																		
Euroa Seven Creeks Park																		
Euroa Scott St Reserve Open Space																		
Euroa Senior Citizens Reserve																		
Euroa Yiiro Community Garden																		
Kirwans Bridge Picnic Area																		
Longwood Pub Paddock																		
Nagambie Apex Park																		
Nagambie Buckley Park																		
Nagambie Blayney Reserve																		
Nagambie Church Street Reserve																		
Nagambie Active Space Hub/Glass St Reserve																		
Nagambie River Street Reserve																		
Nagambie Goulburn Street Reserve																		
Nagambie Jacobsen's Outlook																		
Nagambie Sandy Coves																		
Ruffy Tablelands Community Centre Open Space																		
Violet Town Baird Street Reserve																		
Violet Town Hurt Street Reserve																		
Violet Town Shadforth Reserve																		

*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.

3

Types of Spaces

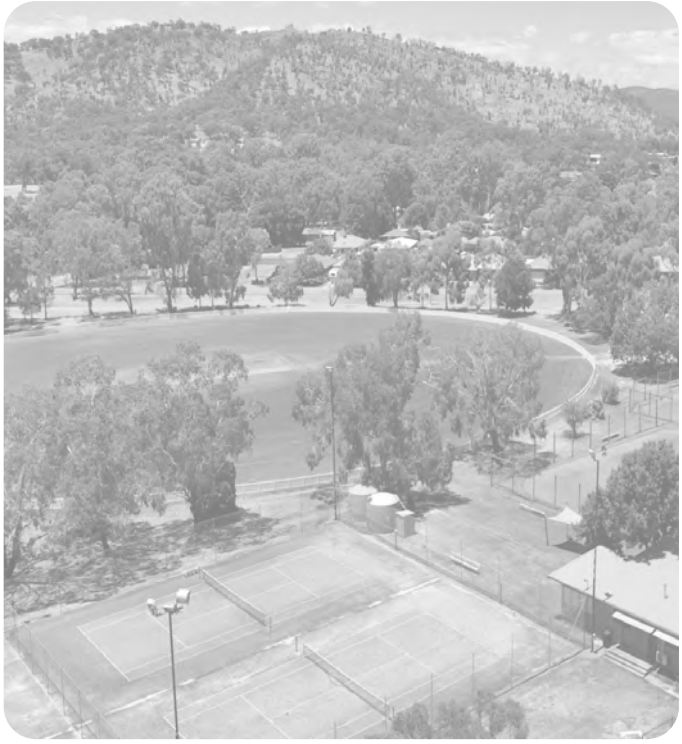


Figure 3a Euroa Friendlies Reserve Aerial Photo

In light of the Background Research, this strategy has identified three types of spaces across the shire including Open Spaces and Play Spaces.

Open Spaces identified in this strategy include those ones on Council owned land that are primarily set aside for the purposes of outdoor recreation, nature conservation, passive outdoor enjoyment and public gatherings. This includes all public, freely accessible open spaces including recreation reserves, passive open space/natural reserve, community use spaces, walking and cycling.

The strategy will be guiding the future provision, design and management of the public space network and is the focus of the framework, guidelines and recommendations.

Play Spaces included in this strategy consist of four types of play spaces - **playgrounds** with play equipment that are mostly used by children and families, **skate parks**, and **exercise stations** that are mostly suitable for adults including 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 is also defined as one type of play spaces in this strategy. This chapter provides an overview of off-leash dog park, its policy and site selection criteria and possible sites in the shire.

Figure 3b Avenel Jubilee Park Playground

3.1 Open Spaces

3.1.1 Hierarchy

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 3.1.1a. Shows the characteristics of each hierarchy of open space. These characteristics guide the classification of open space across the Shire for this strategy.

Table 3.1.1a 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	✓	✓	

	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	✓	✓	✓

3.1.2 Future Recommendations

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 Figure 3.1.2a:

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 3.1.2a Future Open Space Recommendations

Open Space	Hierarchy	Recommended Action				
		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	

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	

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	

3.2 Play Spaces

Three levels of play spaces are defined in this strategy across the Shire - Regional, District and Neighbourhood. These classifications are determined by the geographical location, population, transportation, existing facilities, the scale, variety and number of play activities available at each town. Table 3.2a shows the characteristics of each hierarchy of play spaces. These characteristics guide the classification of play spaces across the Shire in this strategy. Table 3.2b lists play space features across each hierarchy level.

The Strathbogie Shire Council play and open spaces database currently identifies 7 categories to define hierarchy including Regional, District, Road, Neighbourhood Urban and Neighbourhood Remote, Exercise Station, and N/A. Some of the play space hierarchy no longer reflect the current status of the places given the scale, available facilities, the varieties of the play equipment.

Table 3.2a Characteristics of Play Spaces at each level

Play Spaces Hierarchy / Characteristics	Regional Play Space	District Play Space	Neighbourhood Play Space
Scale	Large	Intermediate	Small
Suitable Age Group	All ages	2-14 years	2-4, 5-11, or 11-18 years (typically suitable for one group, or two groups per site)
Location	Typically located in regional reserves with connection to the town and accommodated with other major recreational facilities and park infrastructure such as BBQ shelters and picnic tables, drinking fountains, toilets, sports fields, skate parks, basketball courts, car parks, etc community buildings and amenities located adjacent.	Generally located in district and neighbourhood reserves and near other supporting recreational facilities and park infrastructure where possible (such as half basketball courts, sports fields, seating, shelters, walking tracks, drinking fountains, picnic tables etc.)	Usually accommodated in neighbourhood level parks, reserves and open spaces in the close vicinity of residential areas. Can also be located in other size parks, reserves and open spaces.
Expected Duration per Visit	Extended duration, a number of hours or longer – though play spaces for tourism purposes may also be due to the range of other recreational activities offered in the park, such as sports facilities, BBQs and picnic areas etc and other tourism attractions and accommodations available in the region.	Approximately one hour – though this may also be due to variety of play equipment to attract the local residents and the range of other recreational activities offered in the park, such as basketball half-courts or picnic areas, and the distance of residents traveled.	Short duration (approximately 30 minutes or less).
Type of Play Equipment	Contain a large number and variety of play activities through a range of play equipment, other supporting facilities and landscape design elements. • Could include custom designed equipment, strong themes and integrated artwork, along with standard play equipment. • At least 50% of activities (both at ground and elevated levels) can be utilised and accessed by children and carers with a range of physical, social or emotional disabilities in accordance with universal design principles.	Contain a decent number of play activities through different types of play equipment, other supporting facilities and landscape design elements. • Primarily comprising off-the-shelf / standard, could be themed play equipment, with limited custom designed pieces or artwork introduced where appropriate. • At least 25% of activities can be utilised and accessed by children and carers with a range of physical, social or emotional disabilities, in accordance with universal design principles.	Contain a small number of play activities through no more than 5no. of play equipment, other supporting facilities or landscape design elements. • Off-the-shelf / standard, could be themed play equipment. • Include as many activities as possible / practical which can be utilised by children and carers with range of physical, social or emotional disabilities, in accordance with universal design principles.

Planning and Design Process	Preferably, a detailed design documentation package for the whole park carried out prior to the playground construction. The planning and design process typically includes assessment of the immediate playground environment such as playground siting, site levels, impacts on existing vegetation, climate effects, good drainage, CPTED and accessibility principles, associated facilities and basic park elements such as trees/planting, shade, paths, car parking, waste bins, lighting, signage, seating, tables, shelters, drinking fountains, BBQ's, public toilets etc. At a minimum, it needs to include concept design for community consultation and tender documentation for procurement.	Preferably, a detailed scale master plan for the whole park carried out prior to the playground construction. At least – a detailed concept plan of the immediate playground environment (or the whole reserve if it is less than 1 ha in size), assessing things such as playground siting, site levels, impacts on existing vegetation, climate effects, CPTED and accessibility principles, associated facilities and basic park elements such as trees/planting, shade, paths, waste bins, seating, tables, shelters, drinking fountains, BBQ's, public toilets etc.	At least – a sketch concept plan of the immediate playground environment (or the whole reserve if the reserve is less than 1ha in size), assessing things such as playground siting, CPTED and accessibility principles and basic park elements such as trees/planting, shade, paths, waste bins and seating.
Community Consultation Process	Comprehensive community consultation process that may include: • An initial online Surveys* call for ideas and suggestions, or an initial *Large Group** consultation to workshop ideas and inspirations; • Exhibition and display of playground concept plan/s at appropriate locations (*Online**, in-park/onsite signage such as *Visual Arts** and at Council offices), and • Notification to local residents via *local papers, Council newsletters, Communication Materials** out to residents across the Shire wide; • Consultation with local schools and disability services through *One to one, Small, Community Education*; • On-site *Drop-in** sessions, workshops or community forums. *Different Community Consultation/Engagement Methods defined in *Strathbogie Shire Council Community Engagement Strategy*	Intermediate community consultation process involving exhibition of a playground concept for community feedback via: • Display at appropriate locations (*Online**, in-park/onsite signage such as *Visual Arts** and at Council offices), and • Notification to local residents via *local papers, Council newsletters, Communication Materials** out to residents at towns of the *District level**; *Defined in this strategy at 2.2.3 Level 2: District Playground	Basic community consultation process involving exhibition of a playground concept via either: • Notification to local residents via *local papers, Council newsletters, Communication Materials** out to residents in the immediate vicinity of the reserve (approximately 400m* radius of the proposed facility) *Walkable distance (approximate 5mins walk identified at 2.2.4 Level 3: Neighbourhood Playground

This strategy has redefined the hierarchy to include three levels - Regional, District and Neighbourhood. The redefined hierarchy level applies for the playgrounds, exercise stations and skate parks. Table 3.2b shows the hierarchy changes in numbers and Table 3.2c details the changes of each place.

Table 3.2b Play Space Hierarchy Numbers

Playground Hierarchy	Existing Total Number	New Total Number	Number of Changes
Regional	3	2	-1
District	2	6	+4
Neighbourhood	7	16	+9
Undefined (N/A)	5	0	-5

Figure 3.2a 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			
	Path			
	Sinage			
	Green Space			
	Drainage			
Recreational Facilities	Shelters			
	Trails / Bike Path			
	BBQ			
	Picnic tables			
	Toilets			
	Sport Fields			
	Hard Surfaces / Pump Track			
	Open Space			
	Variety of Play Equipment			
	Community Buildings Located Adjacent			
Play Equipment	All Ages			
	All Abilities			
Play Activity Type	Various Play Type	at least 50%	at least 25%	
Accessibility	Universal Access Path			
	Accessible Parking			
Landscape Design Elements	Custom Designed Equipment			
	Themed Play Equipment			
	Public Artwork			
	Nature Play Elements			
Climate Resiliense	Sun Protection			
	Wind Protection			

Based on the new hierarchy levels and background research, this Play and Open Space Strategy 2023 has identified 2 regional-level play spaces, 6 district-level play spaces and 15 neighbourhood-level play spaces as shown in the table 3.2c.

Table 3.2c Play Space Hierarchy Changes and Proposed New Play Space Location and Hierarchy

No.	Play Space Name	Existing Hierarchy	Proposed Hierarchy
01	Avenel Jubilee Park Exercise Station	N/A	Neighbourhood
02	Avenel Jubilee Park Playground (Planned renewal in 2023/2024)	District	District
03	Avenel Skate Park	N/A	Neighbourhood
04	Creightons Creek Recreation Reserve Playground (Planned renewal in 2023/2024)	Neighbourhood Remote	Neighbourhood
05	Euroa Leos Park Exercise Station	N/A	Neighbourhood
06	Euroa Lions Park Exercise Station	N/A	Neighbourhood
07	Euroa Lions Park Playground	N/A	District
08	Euroa Rotary Park Playground	Regional	Neighbourhood
09	Euroa Rotary Bicentennial Park Playground	Neighbourhood Urban	Neighbourhood
10	Euroa Skate Park	Road	Neighbourhood
11	Euroa Spencer Street Reserve Exercise Station	N/A	Neighbourhood
12	Longwood Recreation Reserve Playground	District	Neighbourhood
13	Moglonemby Hall Playground	Neighbourhood Remote	Neighbourhood
14	Nagambie Blayney Lane Playground	Regional	Regional
15	Nagambie Blayney Lane Exercise Station	Exercise Station	Neighbourhood
16	Nagambie Park River Street Reserve Playground	Neighbourhood Urban	District
17	Nagambie Recreation Reserve Playground	Neighbourhood Urban	Neighbourhood
18	Nagambie Whroovale Estate Playground (New, completed in 2023)	No Playground	Neighbourhood
19	Ruffy Community Centre Playground	N/A	Neighbourhood
20	Strathbogie Recreation Reserve Playground	Neighbourhood Remote	District
21	Violet Town Lions Park Playground	N/A	District
22	Violet Town Recreation Reserve Playground - near Swimming Pool	Regional	District
23	Violet Town Recreation Reserve Playground - near Tennis Courts	Neighbourhood Urban	Neighbourhood, Decommission in 2026/2027
24	Violet Town Recreation Reserve Skate Park	N/A	Neighbourhood
25	Euroa Nature Play Space (New, planned in 2023)	No Playground	Regional

3.2.1 Level 1: Regional (Tourism) Play Space

Regional-level play spaces are large scale places offering a variety of play opportunities and experiences for residents and tourists, and diverse play equipment for different age and ability groups. They are designed to become destinations/ attractions for both local and neighbouring residents and for travelers from other regions. This level play space is usually built at the highest cost.

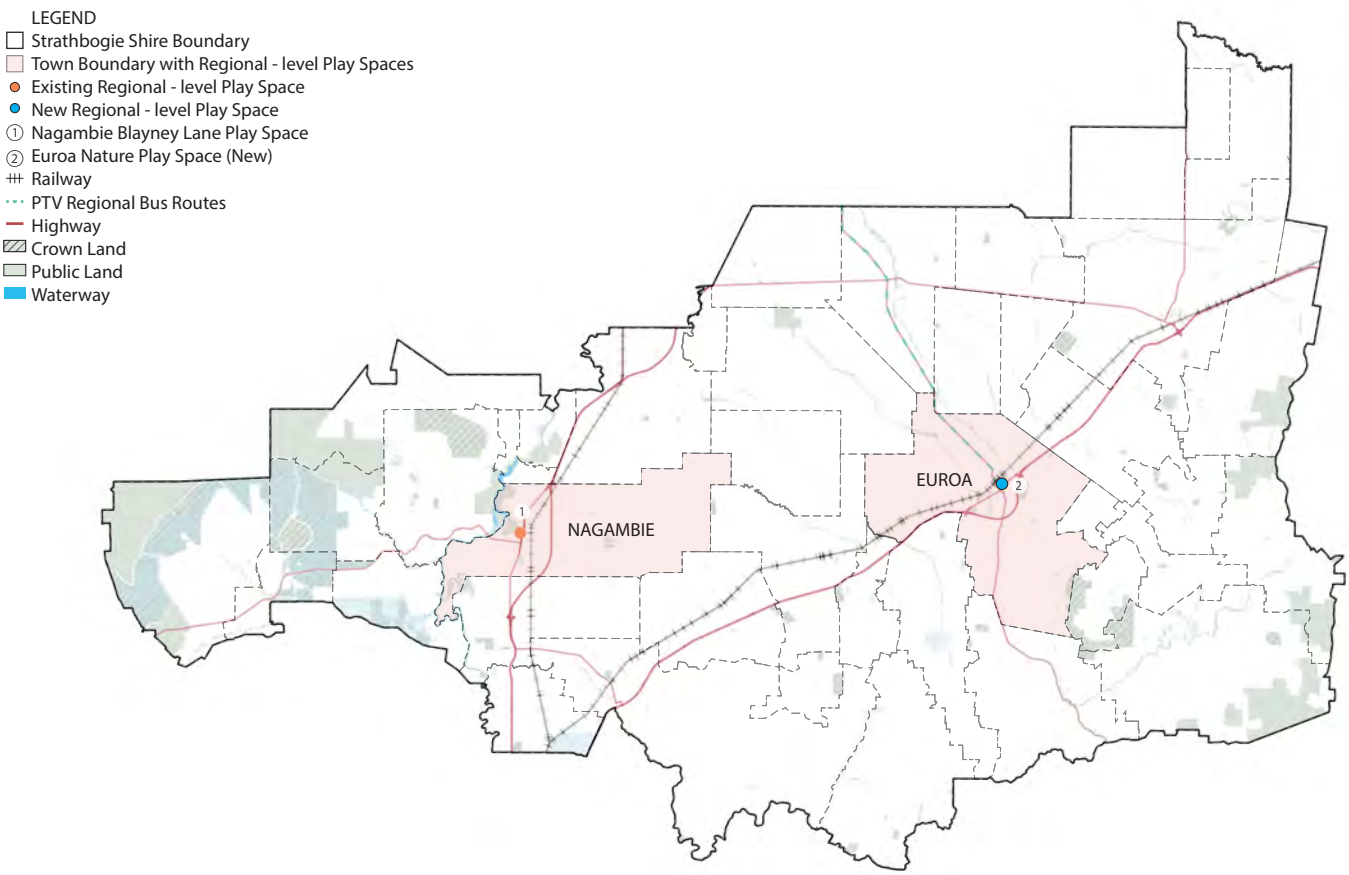
Regional-level play spaces typically are accompanied with supporting facilities to accommodate longer stay or recreational use. The supporting facilities could include public toilet, BBQ shelters, picnic tables, accessible paths, gardens and planting, shade canopy, abundance of car parking, artworks, seating, waste bins, and drinking fountains.

Regional-level play spaces are primarily located in equivalent regional open spaces and generally co-located with other major recreational infrastructure such as skate parks, basketball courts, etc as appropriate. Regional-level playgrounds can function as district-level playgrounds, neighbourhood-level playgrounds.

Four towns have the largest population across the Shire - Avenel, Euroa, Nagambie and Violet Town. Given the geographical locations, Nagambie and Euroa are identified to have the regional-level play spaces with appropriate facilities in the reserves/public spaces. The play spaces are:

- **Nagambie Blayney Lane Playground**
- **Euroa Nature Play Space** - the location is planned to be determined as part of this strategy. The Euroa Nature Play Space will be designed in 2023 followed by construction as a regional-level playground. The commencement and completion of construction will depend on funding availability.

Figure3.2.1a Map of Regional-level Play Spaces across the Shire

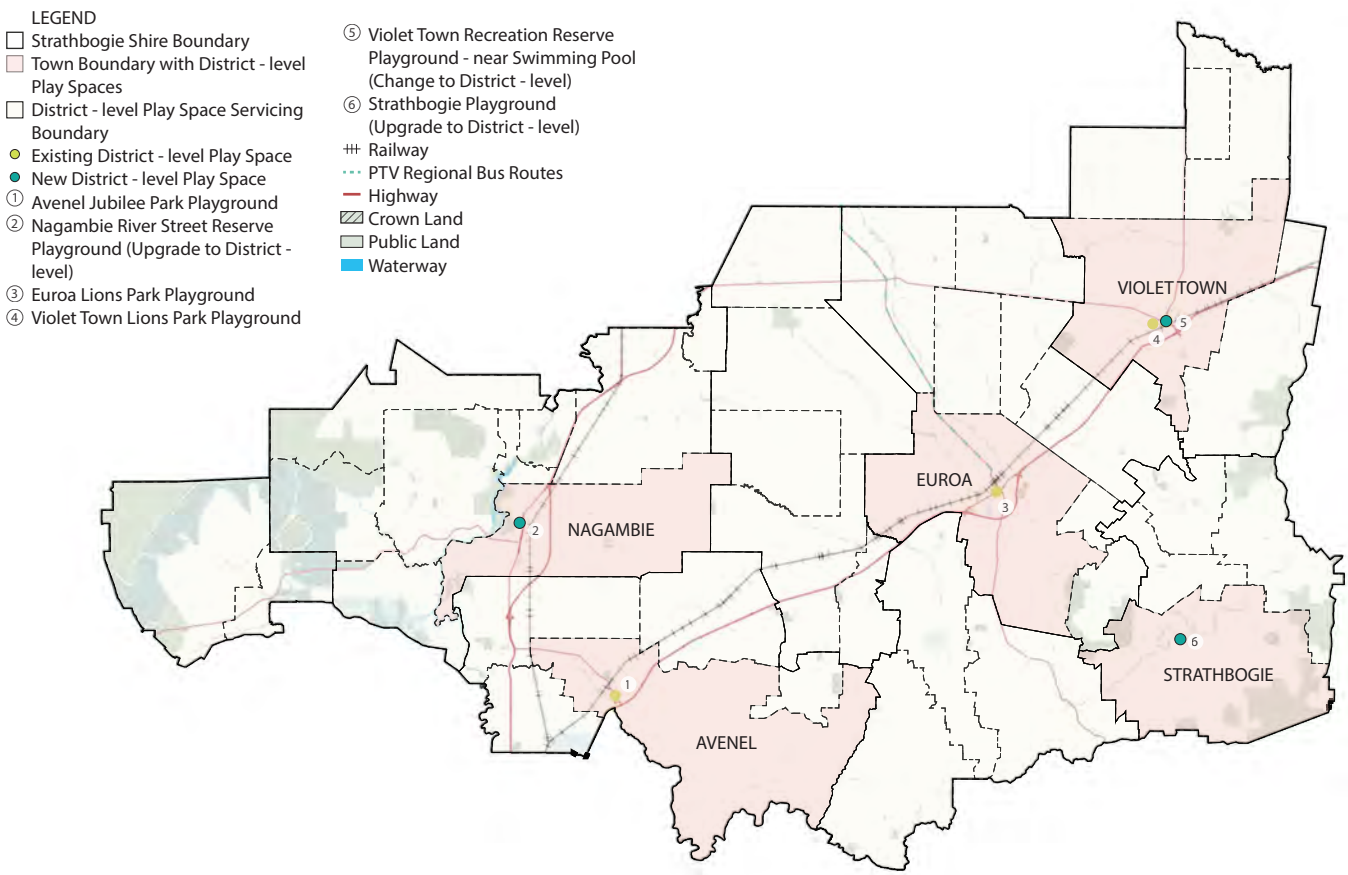


3.2.2 Level 2: District Play Space

District-level play spaces offer a variety of play opportunities and experiences to residents and visitors from local and neighbouring towns. These types of play spaces can cater various needs of different age and ability groups. This level play space is typically constructed at the intermediate cost. The changes in district-level play spaces include:

- Based on demographic analysis, this strategy identifies opportunities to upgrade 4 playgrounds to district levels including:
  - Euroa Lions Park Playground;
  - Nagaimbie Park River Street Reserve Playground;
  - Strathbogie Recreation Reserve Playground;
  - Voilet Town Lions Park Playground;
- Avenel Jubilee Park Playground will be remained at the district-level and is planned to be renewed in 2023-2024 financial year;
- Due to geographical locations and the distribution of regional-level play spaces, Violet Town Recreation Reserve Playground - near Swimming Pool will be redefined as district-level play space.

Figure 3.2.2a Map of District-level Play Spaces across the Shire



3.2.3 Level 3: Neighbourhood Play Space

Neighbourhood-level play spaces (see Appendix 3.2.3a-3.2.3g) are each town' intermediate to small scale play spaces serving a catchment of 800 metres. Neighbourhood-level play spaces are designed for residents within walking distance (400 metre walkable catchment) and, therefore, are typically small scale. These types of playgrounds typically cater to toddler and younger children and are visited more often by local families.

Each major town in Strathbogie Shire has reasonable numbers of neighbourhood playgrounds that serve the local communities.

- This strategy proposes to redefine 7 play spaces (did not have hierarchy or had other hierarchy types) as neighbourhood-level play spaces including:
  - Avenel Jubilee Park Exercise Station;
  - Avenel Skate Park;
  - Euroa Leos Park Exercise Station;
  - Euroa Lions Park Exercise Station;
  - Euroa Spencer Street Reserve Exercise Station;
  - Ruffy Community Centre Playground;
  - Violet Town Recreation Reserve Skate Park;
- The strategy combines two existing hierarchy levels - Neighbourhood Remote and Neighbourhood Urban into one hierarchy level - Neighbourbood. This applies to:
  - Creightons Creek Recreation Reserce Playground, which is planned for renewal in the 2023/2024 financial year;
  - Euroa Rotary Bicentennial Park Playground;
  - Moglonemby Hall Playground;
  - Nagambie Recreation Reserve Playground;
- A new playground has been constructed in Nagambie Whroovale Estate to accommodate the recent development in local areas in the 2022/2023 financial year;
- Due to non-compliance and location, Violet Town Recreation Reserve Playground (near Tennis Courts) will be decommissioned in 2026/2027;
- Upgrade works will be required for all existing neighbourhood-level playgrounds to ensure compliance, which will be reflected in Implementation/ Action Plan in this strategy.

3.2.4 Renewal of Existing Play Spaces

Renewal of existing play spaces is based on the recommendations made in the *Strathbogie Shire Playground Audits 2021*. The report stated that the life expectancy of playgrounds or parts of play equipment and associated installation was generally evaluated according to the physical conditions of the playgrounds or the equipment and/or based on general rules of 30 years for steel equipment and 25 years timber equipment.

This strategy has listed the recommended renewal of the playgrounds in the next 10 years and included the Council's current renewal plan for a few playgrounds in table 3.2.4a. The Council is planned to renew/replace play spaces at a rate of 2 per year for the duration of this strategy.

Table 3.2.4a Play Spaces to be renewed and renewal year

No.	Play Spaces to be Renewed	Renewal Reason	Installation Year	Renewal Year	Compliance Year	Proposed Hierarchy
PLAYGROUND						
1	Avenel Jubilee Park Playground	Council has planned to renew this playground in 2023/2024	Varies	2022/2023	2024	District
2	Creightons Creek Recreation Reserve Playground	Council has planned to renew this playground in 2023/2024	2005	2022/2023	2024	Neighbourhood
3	Euroa Rotary Bicentennial Park Playground	Due to age and compliance issues identified in the Strathbogie Shire Playground Audits 2021, it suggests numerous items have safety concerns and are non-compliant. Removal of numerous units in the play units are more cost-effective than modifying to ensure compliance. Therefore, renewal of the existing play equipment and construct a new playground is recommended.	1988	2023/2024	2025	Neighbourhood
4	Violet Town Recreation Reserve Playground - near Tennis Courts	Decommission due to age and conditions.	Varies	Decommission in 2023/2024		
5	Moglonemby Hall Playground	Complete renewal due to age and conditions.	2004	2024/2025	2026	Neighbourhood
6	Strathbogie Recreation Reserve Playground	Complete renewal due to age and conditions.	1992	2024/2025	2026	Neighbourhood
7	Euroa Lions Park Playground	The playground equipment was installed in 2000 and 2010. It is recommended that the combination units are due for renewal in 2025, while the rest of the equipment can function until 2030.	Varies	2025/2026	2027	District
8	Nagambie Park River Street Reserve Playground	Complete renewal due to age and conditions.	2003	2026/2027	2028	District
9	Nagambie Recreation Reserve Playground	Complete renewal due to age and conditions.	2003	2026/2027	2028	Regional
10	Violet Town Lions Park Playground	Complete renewal due to age and conditions.	2003	2027/2028	2029	Neighbourhood
11	Ruffy Community Centre Playground	It is suggested that the safety concerns raised in the Strathbogie Shire Playground Audits 2021 to be rectified accordingly.	2017	2027/2028	2029	Neighbourhood

12	Violet Town Recreation Reserve Playground - near Swimming Pool	The conbination units and swings were installed in 1988. The play audits report recommends to decommission the curved slide, corkscrew and swings in 2028 and the rest in 2033. The rubber sleeper edging is due for replacement in 2030.	Varies	2028/2029	2030	District
13	Nagambie Blayney Lane Playground	Complete renewal due to age and conditions.	2003	2029/2030	2031	Neighbourhood
14	Euroa Rotary Park Playground	Complete renewal due to age and conditions.	2003	2030/2031	2032	Neighbourhood
15	Nagambie Whroovale Estate Play Space	New playground installed in 2022.	2022	2031/2032	2033	Neighbourhood

SKATE PARK

1	Euroa Skate Park	Complete renewal due to age and conditions.	2005	2030/2031	2032	Neighbourhood
2	Violet Town Recreation Reserve Skate Park	In the vicinity of the old steel skate park, a new concrete one is constructed. A number of items were identified as non-compliant in the Strathbogie Shire Playground Audits 2021. Rectification works will need to be planned as advised. It is also optional to renewal the old steel skate park equipment sooner than the play auditor recommended renewal date.	2002	2031/2032	2033	Neighbourhood
3	Avenel Skate Park	It is suggested that the safety concerns raised in the Strathbogie Shire Playground Audits 2021 to be rectified accordingly.	2020	2032/2033	2034	Neighbourhood
4	Nagambie Skate Park	Not included in the project scope.	2021	-	-	Neighbourhood

EXERCISE EQUIPMENT

1	Euroa Leos Park Exercise Station	High priority issues need to be rectified according the play audit 2021	2019	2023/2024	2025	Neighbourhood
2	Euroa Lions Park Exercise Station	No compliance issues in the play audit 2021	NO DATA	2025/2026	2027	Neighbourhood
3	Nagambie Blayney Lane Exercise Station	No compliance issues in the play audit 2021	2016	2025/2026	2027	Neighbourhood
4	Euroa Spencer Street Reserve Exercise Station	No compliance issues in the play audit 2021	2019	2030/2031	2032	Neighbourhood
5	Avenel Jubilee Park Exervise Station	Issues rectified.	2021	2032/2033	2034	Neighbourhood

3.3 Off-leash Dog Park

Off-leash dog parks provide a valuable opportunity for dogs to socialise, exercise, and play in a controlled environment. However, without proper planning and management, they can also pose risks to the safety and well-being of dogs and their owners.

This strategy aims to address the key factors that contribute to the success of an off-leash dog park, including:

- A **Site Assessment Criteria** that helps guide the location and site selection of Off-leash Dog Parks across the shire;
- A **Design and Management Guideline** that identifies essential, preferable and optional infrastructure and amenities and probable costs for the provision of Off-leash Dog Parks across the shire. The guideline will be included in the Chapter Five;
- **Operations and Maintenance Requirements** that guides the operation, supervision, and maintenance of future Off-leash Dog Parks by the Council or the relevant community groups. This will be included in the Chapter Five.

By implementing these strategies, the off-leash dog park will create a safe and enjoyable environment for dogs and their owners to interact and play. Additionally, the strategy seeks to promote responsible dog ownership and improve public safety by reducing the number of dog-related incidents outside of the designated areas. Ultimately, the successful implementation of this strategy will result in a well-managed and secured off-leash dog park that enhances the quality of life for dogs and their owners within the community.

3.3.1 Off-leash Dog Park

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.

The Shire's Off-leash Dog Park will be fenced with at least 6ft fences, double gateway entrance, bin and dog waste bags, water bowls for dogs, grassed, appropriate amounts of parking for potential users and seating.

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 in effective 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.

Further details can be found in the Council's Domestic Animal Management Plan 2021 and on notice boards at dog parks.

3.3.2 Benefits

A well planned and maintained Off-leash Dog Park will provide benefits for dogs, the owners and the community.

- **Benefits for dogs**
  - Physical and mental exercise for dogs - provide 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.
  - Socialisation for dogs - provide 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 - provide 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.
- **Benefits for people**
  - Outlet for dog owners to socialise - provide 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 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 - provide 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 - provide a space where dog owners can feel connected with other community members improving their mental and emotional health.

- **Benefits for the community**
  - Responsible dog ownership - reduce 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.
  - Affordable recreation option - A trip to the Off-Leash Area is a free, outdoor activity where the family can take both their children and their pet.
  - Resting place for travelling community - provide a safe resting spot for those owners travelling with their pets, pet friendly holidays.

3.3.3 Site Selection

The site selection of an off-leash dog park is the most important step and should be based on the appropriateness in local areas that reflect the needs of the community.

The location of a fenced dog park is often influenced by the land available that is the Council owned and managed. This may restrict the selection of the most appropriate location.

To help guide the selection of off-leash dog parks across the shire the following considerations need to be given encoluse Off-leash Dog Park - a constructed barrier provides separation between off leash dogs and other reserve users. open - No constructed barrier provides separation from other reserve users.

- Within close proximity to the dog population (residential areas) by data collection for distribution of registered dogs across the shire if permitted by local law
- Existing location of off-leash dog parks. 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.
- Requests for off-leash dog parks in specific areas from community groups
- Easy access by road with adequate space for off-street parking
- Good connections to existing pedestrian paths and trails
- Within walking distance of residential areas and good passive surveillance from public areas
- Relatively flat, drains well, mature trees for shade

Other considerations include:

- Utility services nearby (water, electricity)
- 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.

SIZE

The an ideal size of an off-leash dog park is difficult to defined and the range varies in different areas in Australia and overseas. Based on research, this strategy identifies two types of lands size - medium and large that has the potential for the provision of fenced dog parks. The land sizes are:

- **Small size:** **1,000m² - 3,000m²**
- **Large (preferred) size:** **3000m²**

Large size dog parks can accommodate more park users and provide opportunities for multiple activity zones for large and small dogs within the park. It also increase the longevity of ground surfaces and reduce overcrowding issues that could cause stress to sensitive dogs. However, large size dog parks require more investment and maintenance for fencing and surfaces and attract more users and frequent usages. It demands for more parking available and could cause community complaints.

Smaller size parks require less investment and is easier to maintain, but it could cause overcrowding and conflicts between dogs.

In identifying potential lands for off-leash dog park in this strategy, land sizes larger than 3000m² are considered the preferred options and land sizes between 1000-3000m² are listed as less preferred. The areas have conservation values with environmental and cultural significance are regarded as unsuitable for dog parks.

Strathbogie Shire Council is investigating options for off-leash dog park in Nagambie. Glass Square has the potential to establish a off-leash dog park and the community consultation will be organised in 2024.

4

Consultation and Discussion Paper

Refer individual report.

5

Design and Management Guidelines

This strategy provides guidelines on designing and maintaining play and open spaces ensuring consistency and compliance in the next 10 years.

Based on community and stakeholder consultations conducted in 2023, the guidelines identify design principles and considerations in planning and designing the play and open spaces and off-leash dog parks in the Shire. It also provides guidance in management, maintenance and inspections for those spaces.

Figure 5a Nagambie River Street Reserve Playground

5.1 Open Spaces

5.1.1 Open Space Principles (Passive & Active Recreation)

The open space principles for passive and active recreation uses in Strathbogie Shire Council guides the planning and design, upgrade and renewal, and management and maintenance of the provision of new open spaces or the renewal of existing open spaces in the next 10 years.

Community consultations were organised by Strathbogie Shire Council in 2023 to discuss the principles for passive and active recreation uses in open spaces. Engagement was conducted via a staged approached, drawing on both community input and the expertise of Council's community panel for the strategic and technical elements to the strategy.

An range of tools and methods was employed in accordance with the Council's Engagement Policy. The tools and methods include Share Strathbogie, Media release, Social Media, Website content, Advertising, Internal communications and eNews. A total of 112 contributions were received during the entire consultation period, which was taken into considerations in this strategy.

To ensure the residents and visitors can enjoy the recreational activities in the open spaces in the next 10 years, the Council is committed to design, manage and maintain the spaces according to the below principles. The open spaces for passive and active recreation will:

- **be safe & accessible**
- **blend with surroundings & local environment**
- **promote unique qualities**
- **provide good amenities**
- **be socially engaging**
- **be low maintenance & well planned**

The above design principles have been developed to provide a guideline for the Council, designers, developers and the community groups to identify and explore opportunities for the development of new open spaces and the improvement of existing open spaces.

The strategy identifies environmental considerations that are required to be considered in new and existing open spaces in building resilient and sustainable places for the users under climate change and extreme natural disasters.

The examples of furniture and planting palette provided in the following sections provide a general advice on types, materials, and forms of furniture and planting for open spaces, and relevant design standards for design and replacement of the furniture components. This strategy also refers planting list to the Council's urban tree list and recommended planting list referred by Nationally Cooler Towns by GMCA, 2022.

PRINCIPLE 01

SAFE & ACCESSIBLE

Community says:

"Accessibility is needed at all hierarchy levels so all children and families can connect especially at neighbourhood level. Accessible car parking/ paths and accessible equipment options."

"Accessibility and some accessible equipment must also be a criteria at the neighbourhood level. If not, children with a disability and their families are not able to meet and connect with other children and families in their local community. Accessibility must be included otherwise the playground becomes another barrier to participation and sense of belonging."

Figure 5.1.1a Nagambie Blayney Reserve

According to *Urban Design Guidelines for Victoria 2017*, a safe and accessible public space should:

- provide for accessible, safe and conveniently located to cater sufficient potential users to activate the space;
- provide for information and active recreation that is located within a 400m walking distance from dwellings, workplaces, schools and shops;
- connect to the surrounding pedestrian network;
- locate entry paths with clear views to other exits from the public space;
- continue pedestrian paths through the public space with direct and logical routes.

PRINCIPLE 02

BLEND WITH SURROUNDINGS & LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

Figure 5.1.1b Avenel Stewart Park

Urban Design Guidelines for Victoria 2017 identifies a good public space should support a strong sence of place and local character via:

- selecting planting and landscape elements that support the existing character or preferred future character of the area;
- selecting planting and landscape elements that engage the senses;

Community says:

"Our local landscapes have many natural 'play' spaces. For many years the 'Swing Tree' on the creek was the most popular play space - and it cost nothing."

PRINCIPLE 03

PROMOTES UNIQUE QUALITIES

Community says:

"No point having a play space that does not reflect the needs of the local community. This does not exclude safe, accessible inclusive planning aspects or in fact any of the other principals. Your planning should consider place based framework that is informed by the unique characteristics of each community.."

Figure 5.1.1d Euroa Telegraph Park

The strategy recognises that every open space has its own unique characters that can be reflected through:

- thorough background study and site analysis that reveal the identity of each open space
- inviting and integrating community ideas and inputs for new open space planning and design, and renewal of existing spaces;
- integrating locally relevant urban art that people can interact with is popular and can draw people to the space (*Urban Design Guidelines Victoria, 2017*);
- the selection of furniture and fixtures that are good in quality and meet relevant standards

PRINCIPLE 04

GOOD AMENITIES

Figure 5.1.1f Euroa Telegraph Park

To encourage uses and enjoyment for community members in the open spaces. It requires a good variety of amenities. The open spaces should:

- provide supporting amenities such as seating, paths, shade structures / trees, garden beds and drinking fountains where necessary to support recreational uses
- be well planned and developed according to the recommendations identified in this strategy and community inputs
- be upgraded and maintained through maintenance schedule and renewal program to ensure continuous functions and product longevity for community uses

Community says:

"water features, both small and large, man-made is OK, can be wetlands and bogs. Marketable as Boutique Destination with a themed attraction. Waterpark, place to see wombats, ropes course, skatepark, basketball courts"

PRINCIPLE 05

SOCIALLY ENGAGING

Figure 5.1.1e Violet Town Lions Park

Community says:

"dogs off lead integration; linkage pathways to other open spaces; native animal habitat (nest boxes, canopy walkways, themed plantings (butterfly garden, bee garden, lizard rockery) and corresponding educational/interpretive signage of environment and history; Large shelter for neighborhood gatherings."

To support for passive and active recreation, the open spaces in the shire provide dynamic and flexible activity areas that can:

- encourage social activities in a variety of recreational areas through planning and design
- support community interactions in each open space that enhances community bond through passive and active recreation
- enable community groups take the initiatives in managing and maintaining open spaces to provide a sense of belonging, social identity and fulfillment

PRINCIPLE 06

LOW MAINTENANCE & WELL PLANNED

Figure 5.1.1c Euroa Lions Park

Under the rural setting, it is important for the provision of the new open spaces and the renewal of the existing fences to be low maintenance and properly planned. This requires the design and management of the open spaces to:

- consider the selection of planting species to have appropriate environmental tolerance to ensure survival rates and to provide positive impacts under climate change and extreme weather events;
- consider materials for furniture and fixtures in response to weather, uses and longevity;
- consider the design of low maintenance materials, fixtures and furniture.

Community says:

"All of the principles listed have their merit. I assume that a good quality and well planned playground would also be sustainable, using robust materials that are low maintenance, and also ties in with the natural environment."

5.1.2 Environmental Considerations

In the planning and design of the open spaces, this strategy identifies the needs to consider environmental aspects including extreme weather events and environmental characters in the shire. The considerations includes flooding, bushfire, climate change, environmental preservation, and rural setting.

5.1.2.1 Flooding

In the past years, flooding is a major concern across the Shire, especially those larger towns in the northern part of the shire.

In the planning, design and renewal of the public spaces, flooding events must be considered to mitigate the risks to the public and the Council's properties. The strategy discusses flooding considerations in design and management chapter.

Strathbogie Shire Flood Emergency Plan (2020) also details arrangements agreed for the planning, preparedness/ prevention, response and recovery from flood incidents within the Strathbogie Shire. The scope includes:

- identifying the Flood Risk to Strathbogie Shire;
- supporting the implementation of measures to minimise the causes and impacts of flood incidents within the Strathbogie Shire;
- detailing Response and Recovery arrangements including preparedness, Incident Management, Command and Control;
- identifing linkages with Local, Regional and State emergency and wider planning arrangements with specific emphasis on those relevant to flood.

5.1.2.2 Bushfire

Bushfire has a certain level of impact on the shire, predominantly in the southern part. As a guide for open spaces for large development projects, *Landscaping for Bushfire: Garden Design and Plant Selection by CFA* has established design principles that can be used to consider vegetation management options and for supporting planning and design decisions.

This document provides information on the bushfire behavior, typical types of garden in different environment settings including coastal, hilly, rural and suburban, planting selections for landscaping, and ongoing landscaping maintenance requirements.

5.1.2.3 Climate Change

As one of the 16 members in the Goulburn Murray Climate Alliance (GMCA), Strathbogie Shire Council is committed to helping building capacity for local communities in facing one of northern Victoria's greatest challenges - climate change (Urban Forest Consulting, 2022).

Naturally Cooler Towns In the Goulburn Murray Region Summary Report (2022) has identified benefits of regional urban forests, tree protection, management and maintenance programs, tree selection guidelines and recommended tree species, and best practice tools and guidelines in design and management of trees. The report is a reference for Strathbogie Shire Council in selecting, designing and managing trees. The extended species list is referenced in the Appendix 5.1.2.3a.

5.1.2.4 Environmental Preservation

In 2019, *Urban Green Infrastructure Review* was prepared to provide a baseline of urban green infrastructure for 6 main towns including Euroa, Nagambie, Longwood, Avenel, Strathbogie, Violet Town in the Shire. The study found that the tree canopy cover is relatively adequate across what appears from aerial imagery as open space compared to metro areas where imperviousness can be as high as 70%-80%. The higher vegetation covers show the importance of having appropriate management and maintenance strategy in place to preserve the environmental features.

Strathbogie Shire Council acknowledges the Council's green infrastructure is highly valued by the community and contributes greatly to the amenity of the built environment within the Shire, enhancing liveability, landscape character and biodiversity(Tree Management Plan: Urban and Rural Strategies, 2022). The plan identifies Council's role and responsibility in tree assessment, management and maintenance to ensure the longevity and quality of trees within the Shire's urban environments, as well as the mitigation strategies to reduce risks to the public.

5.1.2.5 Rural Setting

Under *56.05 Urban Landscape* in the Strathbogie Planning Scheme, it requires **new subdivision developments** to integrate urban landscape in their landscape designs. The objectives are:

- To provide attractive and continuous landscaping in streets and public open spaces that contribute to the character and identity of new neighbourhoods and urban places or to existing or preferred neighbourhood character in existing urban areas;
- To incorporate natural and cultural features in the design of streets and public open space where appropriate;
- To protect and enhance native habitat and discourage the planting and spread of noxious weeds;
- To provide for integrated water management systems

and contribute to drinking water conservation.

For **the provision of open spaces**, the objective are:

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

5.1.3 Maintenance

5.1.3.1 Management Agencies

In addition to Council, a number of community groups are responsible for the provision, management and maintenance of open space within the Shire. These community groups and their responsibilities in open spaces includes:

Longwood Community Centre Inc. completes maintenance for Longwood Play and Open Spaces on behalf of Council.

5.1.3.2 Tree Management and Maintenance

Naturally Cooler Towns In the Goulburn Murray Region Summary Report (2023) focused on the management of Council owned street and park trees as well as the regulation of privately owned trees, and aimed to helps to build capacity for local communities to actively respond to climate change in order to help build a positive future. As a guideline, this report provides framework for best practice urban forest management including tree management and maintenance. *Proactive Tree Pruning Program* (2022) demonstrates the necessity of establish a good cyclic program for tree pruning in the early life of a tree to support long-term tree safety and survival.

Tree Management Plan: Urban and Rural Strategies (2022) clearly defines the proactive maintenance scope for urban and rural areas and inspection targets in establishing tree maintenance programs.

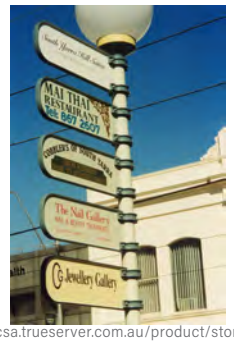
5.1.4 Recommended Furniture and Fixture Types

Table 5.1.4a Recommended Furniture and Fixture Types

Type	Example	Description
Bollard Lighting	https://www.csa.trueserver.com.au/product/solar-bollard/	• Located in the area of highly used pedestrian areas within the park (such as walking paths and bicycle paths etc.) ; • Provide security and personal safety for users.
Shelter	https://www.csa.trueserver.com.au/product/wandong-park-shelter/	• Mixed life span materials structure (such as galvernised/mild steel with timber, etc.) that are easy to maintain; • Provide security, personal safety and protection from the weather.
Seating	https://www.csa.trueserver.com.au/product/steel-slat-bench-2/	• Seating; • Longer life span materials structure (such as aluminum, stainless steel, etc.) that are easy to maintain. Provide rest and sociable space for users.
	https://www.csa.trueserver.com.au/product/dda-seat/	• DDA standard seat; • In comliance with DDA standard ; • Longer life span materials structure (such as aluminum, stainless steel, etc.) that are easy to maintain; • Provide rest and sociable space for users.

Type	Example	Description
Picnic Table	https://www.csa.trueserver.com.au/product/koomang-setting/	• Picnic table set • Mixed life span materials structure (such as galvernised/mild steel with timber, etc.) that are easy to maintain; • Provide rest and sociable space for users.
	https://www.csa.trueserver.com.au/product/lisboa-picnic-setting/	• DDA compliant picnic table set; • Longer life span materials structure (such as aluminum, stainless steel, etc.) that are easy to maintain; • Provide rest and sociable space for users.
Drinking Fountain	https://www.csa.trueserver.com.au/product/box-fountain/	• Drinking fountain provides users to intake water while stay or pass open space to avoid dehydration; • Considering good drainage around the drinking fountain to reduce waterlogging and mud.
	https://www.csa.trueserver.com.au/product/lisboa-drinking-fountain/	• DDA compliant drinking fountain provides for all abilities to intake water while stay or pass open space to avoid dehydration.

Type	Example	Description
BBQ	https://www.parkquip.com.au/products/matilda-greenplate-double-bbq-cabinet-extended-top/	• Stainless steel standalone cabinet with double BBQ provides for leisure and social; • It is suggested be accompanied with picnic tables and open grass areas under shelters
	https://www.csa.trueserver.com.au/product/bbq-shelter/	• Shelter over BBQ areas provides security, personal safety and protection from the weather
General Waste / Recycled Bins	https://www.csa.trueserver.com.au/product/240l-timber-bin-enclosure-2018/	• Located in a highly used pedestrian area in an open space to encourage users of the general public to dispose of their waste responsibly, helping to keep the area clean and tidy for all park users.
	https://www.csa.trueserver.com.au/product/manhattan-litter-receptacle/	• DDA complaint bin to encourage users of the general public to dispose of their waste responsibly.

Type	Example	Description
Signage	https://www.csa.trueserver.com.au/product/park-directory-board/	• Park directory board consists of maps, park guides and community communication features and is recommended located nearby the entrance.
	 https://www.csa.trueserver.com.au/product/stonnington-sign-paddles/	• Wayfinding signage provides legible pedestrian wayfinding inforrmatiion within the park to guide people to where attracted and unique in the park.
Fencing	https://aprcomposites.com.au/composites/post-and-rail-fencing/	• Mixed life span materials structure (such as recycled timber etc.) that are easy to maintain; • As a boundary for separate park spaces from roads.
	https://www.csa.trueserver.com.au/product/rustic-barrier/	• Integrated with artwork to present local context.

Type	Example	Description
Bollard	https://www.csa.trueserver.com.au/product/uni-bollard-od140mm/	• Bollards at entrance to form a security barrier for pedestrians and cyclists; • Stainless steel allows longer life span and less maintenance.
	https://www.tkobollards.com.au/blogs/news/5-reasons-why-should-you-get-timber-bollards	• Bollards at entrance to form a security barrier for pedestrians and cyclists; • Recycled timber promotes for sustainability and provides cost efficient option for small areas and projects.
Toilet	https://www.stawelltimes.com.au/story/7322273/open-for-use-new-cairo-park-toilets-up-and-going/	• Providing convenience and accessible for all that could encourage revisits
	https://www.changing-places.org/news/view/reopening-your-changing-places-toilet-safely-after-lockdown	• Additional option for specific ability requirements.

5.1.5 Planting Selections

Tree (Cooler Town Plants)

The tree list (refer Appendix 5.1.2.3a) is extracted from *Goulburn Murray Climate Alliance Naturally Cooler Towns Species List, 2022*. The aim is to help communities adapt to climate change and improving health and wellbeing for biodiversity outcomes.

Acacia melanoxylon
Blackwood

Acacia howittii
Sticky wattle

Large Shrub (2.5-4m Height)

Suggesting native species* that are valuable for creating habitats for wildlife and enhancing their ecological values. Native species tends to be low or ease of maintenance. It offers shelter from weather and predators.

Medium Shrub (1-2.5m Height)

Suggesting native species* that are valuable for creating habitats for wildlife and enhancing their ecological values. Native species tends to be low or ease of maintenance. It offers shelter from weather and predators.

Rosmarinus officinalis
Creeping Rosemary

*Refer to Appendix 5.1.4a and Appendix 5.1.5a for extend list

Small Shrub (Under 1m Height)

Suggesting native species* that are valuable for creating habitats for wildlife and enhancing the meaning of local value. Native species tends to be low or ease of maintenance. It forms the structure for habitat creations.

Groundcover (Under 0.5m Height)

Suggesting native species* that are valuable for creating habitats for wildlife and enhancing their ecological values. Native species tends to be low or ease of maintenance. It forms the foundation structure and connections for habitat creations from ground level.

Indigenous Plants

Suggesting indigeous species* that are valuable for creating habitats for local flora and fanua. Indigeous species tends to be robust and requires low maintenance. It provides habitat and food resources to restore local ecological systems.

*Refer to Appendix 5.1.4a and Appendix 5.1.5a for extended planting list

5.2 Play Spaces

5.2.1 Play Space Principles

This play space principles will guide the development and renewal of playground facilities for the Council, community groups, and developers in the Shire. These design consideration establish the minimum design standards for all new and upgraded playgrounds, and will also support the management and maintenance of the new and existing playgrounds in the next 10 years in the shire.

The primary considerations in this strategy include:

- safety and accessibility of the playgrounds;
- atmosphere in and surround the playgrounds, especially at the access point;
- inclusion of all age groups and all abilities of the play equipment and associated spaces;
- compliance with relevant standards;
- suitable and good quality of equipment and materials to be high and above average;
- community involved in designing playgrounds;
- achieving sustainability in material selection in respond to relevant Council policies and strategies including but not limited to *Climate Change Action Plan* and *Sustainability Policy*;
- design to respond to surrounding environment and local context;
- considerations of impacts of extreme weather events, solar and wind exposures on play activities;
- integrations of natural environments and artworks from local artists.

The strategy identifies the key standards to be considered in the planning, design, management and maintenance of the playgrounds. However, the discussions around standards will be broad and referred to the Play Standards itself as a guides.

Whether playground facilities that aren't Council Owned will need to be guided by this strategy are also discussed in this strategy in the following sections.

The aim of the strategy is to improve the quality and standard of future playgrounds and the improvement works of the existing playgrounds. The recommendations and actions are developed to align with the Council's capital works programs and maintenance schedules.

PRINCIPLE 01

SAFE & ACCESSIBLE

Community says:

"Play spaces must be easily accessed by pedestrians. Minimising car travel is essential.Small and informal play spaces can also be incorporated into existing streetscapes. The Pop Up spaces installed in Binney Street were hugely successful because retail spaces became recreational spaces as well. Having points of interest in the streetscape proved a winning formulae. During summer the Pop Up Beach and the Pop Up Park consistently crowded with kids looking for excitement and adults looking for resting spaces - and a reprieve from grumbling kids!"

Figure 5.2.1a Nagambie Blayney Reserve Playground

As the top priority, playgrounds requires to provide a range of play experiences that children in all ages and with all abilities can enjoy. The playgrounds will:

- provide equitable, safe and accessible play equipment and associated facilities and landscaping areas
- consider linkages, walkability and connections with surrounding areas
- be compliant with Play Standards to minimise the risks of personal injuries and incidents
- be compliant with Access Standards to encourage children will all abilities to play

PRINCIPLE 02

WELCOMING, ENGAGING

Community says:

"Inviting users to be part of the 'construction' team could deliver better outcomes. If local families/residents were perhaps invited to create components of the play spaces (ie, plant trees, create and install paving tiles, add quirky touches to the space) - this would build greater acceptance and participation."

"Spaces should allow for open ended play, suit a range of ages/ family groups, use natural elements to compliment structured equipment."

Figure 5.2.1b Avenel Jubilee Park Playground

The playgrounds in the shire will present a welcoming environment and invite Communities to engage. It can be achieved via:

- inviting community members' inputs in the design of playgrounds;
- providing opportunities for artwork display and integration;
- providing signage/wayfinding and information boards to navigate in the spaces;
- empower and guide community members in managing and maintaining the playgrounds in local areas.

PRINCIPLE 03

ALL AGES

Community says:

"They also need to cater to a range of ages. Most playground s in our shire are aimed at very young children."

"Recently I watched children loving a playground that was situated on a sand base, this introduces another play area for all ages."

"Enhance the gross motor experience of children."

"Need to consider the park to be a place for visitors who drive through and stop to rest for an hour or so, as well as a destination for locals with a range of ages from parents with prams, small toddlers and up to teenagers. The Benalla 'Rocket ship' park should be used a as a benchmark for combining its offering. From picnic grounds, BBQ area, protected area for little kids, to more adventurous ropes and swings for older kids. Sand play area, shaded area with big trees, a water play area and open space to throw a frisbee/kick a ball. Ideal parking availability for those with a car as well as trailers."

Figure 5.2.1c Euroa Skatepark

To encourage the engagement of all community members, the playgrounds will provide to

- create all-ages play spaces that encourage all members of the community to use;
- provide a variety of play opportunities that support various ages, interests, knowledge, strengths, abilities and culture to stimulate and support play;
- offer associated facilities to support resting and overseeing younger children for guardians and parents;
- connecting with skateparks, exercise stations, and walks and tracks that older children, adults, and seniors will use.

PRINCIPLE 04

EASE OF ACCESS

Community says:

"Accessibility and some accessible equipment must also be a criteria at the neighbourhood level. If not, children with a disability and their families are not able to meet and connect with other children and families in their local community. Accessibility must be included otherwise the playground becomes another barrier to participation and sense of belonging."

"Accessibility is needed at all hierarchy levels so all children and families can connect especially at neighbourhood level. Accessible car parking/paths and accessible equipment options."

Figure 5.2.1d Euroa Telegraph Park

Connectivity between the playgrounds and the surrounding environment is critical for residents to access and safety of the places. The planning and design of the playgrounds shall consider:

- connections to the surrounding trails and tracks, and opens spaces that support easy and clear access to the playgrounds;
- selections of planting species that enable visual connections to the entry points of the playgrounds;
- applications of path and paving materials to compliant with design standards.

PRINCIPLE 05

HIGH STANDARD/ QUALITY

Figure 5.2.1e John Mark Stallings, SNAP (Special Needs Accessible Playground)

The new constructions of playgrounds and the upgrade of the existing playgrounds will ensure a high quality of productions for play equipment, associated fixtures and furniture, planting and materials. This requires:

- all the playgrounds to be well-planned and maintained;
- all new playground design to meet Australian Standards and replace all non-compliant play equipment with new compliant equivalent unit;
- to source good quality equipment that meets the Council's standardised equipment;
- enabling community involved in design of playgrounds;
- playgrounds to be equipped with suitable infrastructure/amenities.

Community says:

"Quality Design integration, bold, future proof and exciting . Inspirational for future local projects- Big picture thinking. Not piecemeal."

PRINCIPLE 06

SUSTAINABLE

Community says:

"All of the principles listed have their merit. I assume that a good quality and well planned playground would also be sustainable, using robust materials that are low maintenance, and also ties in with the natural environment.."

Figure 5.2.1f Violet Town Lions Park

The new constructions of playgrounds and the upgrade of the existing playgrounds will ensure sustainability in compliance with the Council's policies and strategies. This requires:

- selective applications of materials that ensures longevity and low maintenance in respond to the local environment;
- play equipment that support whole of life, and is durable and easily replaced when it comes to the expiration for renewal;
- the play space design to respond to council's sustainability policies, and climate change action plans.

PRINCIPLE 07

DESIGN/LOCATION CONSIDERATION

Community says:

"Recognise and celebrate First Nations connections to the land with appropriate signage / artwork Showcase sustainable and low-maintenance products. Utilise alternatives to concrete, with an emphasis on low emissions materials.."

Figure 5.1.1g Longwood Pub Paddock

The uniqueness of each playground is the key to enhance identity, provide a sense of belonging, and support the quality of engagement. The design and location of every playground in the shire will:

- provide unique design considerations in respond to the local context including but not limited to culture, history and ecology;
- present unique quality through design ideas, concept inspirations, materials and equipment selections, spatial design considerations, and micro-climate conditions.

PRINCIPLE 08

RESPOND TO ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

Community says:

"Follow Australian Standard, refer to IDM and consider the carers/guardian/parents needs when attending with children, I.e access to amenities, shade, water and winter sun."

"One thing we will really need to consider when choosing the materials is their ability to withstand water erosion. We don't want our elements eroding/getting damaged from flood waters."

Figure 5.2.1h Violet Town Lions Park Playground

This strategy considers environmental factors that can impact on experience and enjoyment of the playgrounds in the shire. This includes:

- urban island heat effect and heatwave that put outdoor activities at risk;
- extreme flooding events that compromise outdoor play equipment and associated facilities.

This will be discussed in the following sections.

PRINCIPLE 09

NATURAL/ART

Community says:

"Integrating artwork is important and could go beyond painting and include sculptures and a growing theme of bird metal work sculptures, which Euroa can become ""famous"" for and be a drawcard for visitors. This in turn can lead to annual competitions with showpieces being integrated into the play area over the years."

Figure 5.2.1i Longwood Pub Paddock

To encourage community engagement and enhance social interactions in the shire's playgrounds, this strategy recommends the opportunities to engage artworks by communities or local artists. This includes:

- explore opportunities for artwork installation in playgrounds in new and renewal projects;
- explore opportunities to integrate natural and art elements with play space design including but not limited to custom equipment design, paving design, sculpture and wayfinding design, mural design, etc.

5.2.2 Design Considerations at each level

- **Shelter**

Table 5.2.2a BBQ/Shelter

Regional Playground	https://gossi.com.au/products/capricorn-hd-park-shelters/	• Provide general comfort, amenity space and protection from the weather. • Longer life span materials structure (such as aluminum, stainless steel, etc.); • Higher investment at the installation with lower maintenance requirement.
District Playground	https://www.terraingroup.com.au/product/skillion-shelter/	• Mixed life span materials structure (such as galvernised/mild steel with timber products, etc.) • Medium investment and ease of maintenance option

- **Shade Sail**

Table 5.2.2b Shade Sail

Regional Playground	https://www.melbourneplaygrounds.com.au/strath-creek-pioneer-reserve-playground-glover-street-strath-creek	• Provide general comfort, amenity space and protection from the weather over the play area that reduces direct sun exposure.

- **Seating**

Table 5.2.2c Bench Seat

Regional Playground	https://felton.net.au/shop/outdoor-bench-seats/in-ground-bench-seat-backrest/	Provide rest and sociable space for users. DDA compliance is the priority consideration. • Longer life span materials (such as aluminum, stainless steel, etc.) • Bench seat with backrest and/or armrest • Low maintenance requirement
District Playground	https://felton.net.au/shop/street-park-furniture/ribbon-bench-seat/	• Mixed life span materials (such as galvernised/mild steel with timber battens, etc.) • Easy to maintain
Neighbourhood Playground	https://www.woodcraftuk.co.uk/the-wykeham-douglas-fir-6ft-park-bench	• Shorter life span and affordable materials (such as recycled timber, etc.)

- **Picnic Table**

Table 5.2.2d Picnic Table

Regional Playground	https://www.csa.trueserver.com.au/product/septem-picnic-setting/	Provide table set for picnic. DDA compliance is the priority consideration. • Allows for wheelchair access on one side or both sides of the table • Longer life span materials (such as aluminum, stainless steel, etc.) • Low maintenance requirement
District Playground	https://felton.net.au/shop/peak-street-furniture/peak-a-frame-picnic-table/	• Mixed life span materials (such as galvernised/mild steel with timber products, etc.) • Easy to maintain • Optional for wheelchair access table on one side

- **Drink Fountain**

Table 5.2.2e Drinking Fountain

Regional Playground	https://urbanff.com.au/product/apollo-950-drinking-fountain/	Provides users to intake water while stay or pass open space to avoid dehydration. Considering good drainage around the drinking fountain to reduce waterlogging and mud. • DDA compliant • Longer life span materials (such as stainless steel, etc.) • Multiple functions with dog bowl
District Playground	https://urbanff.com.au/product/apollo-900-stainless-steel-outdoor-drinking-fountain/	• Longer life span materials (such as stainless steel, etc.) • Single functioned drinking fountain

- **BBQ**

Table 5.2.2f BBQ

Regional Playground	https://playandgo.com.au/tea-tree-gullys-new-civic-park-playground-now-open-december-2016/	BBQ with shelter to provide security, personal safety and protection from the weather. It is usually accompanied with picnic tables and open grass areas. • Longer life span materials (such as stainless steel, etc.) • Amenity, social and leisure areas
District Playground	https://www.goldfieldsguide.com.au/explore-location/307/community-garden-playground-skate-park-and-bbq/	BBQ provides for leisure and social activity. It is usually accompanied with picnic tables and open grass areas. • Mixed life span materials (such as galvernised/mild steel, etc.)

- **General Waste / Recycled Bins**

Table 5.2.2g General Waste / Recycled Bins

Regional Playground		https://felton.net.au/shop/caring-for-country/wirimbirra-wirimbirra-bin-enclosure/	Located in highly used pedestrian areas encourage users responsible waste disposal. • Enclosure bin with durable exterior grade powder-coated finish • High-quality material for durable used • Integrated art with local elements
District Playground		https://felton.net.au/shop/bin-enclosures/wheelie-bin-surrounds/	• Regular wheelie bins with plastic material. • Mixed life span materials (such as plastic etc.)

- **Public Toilets**

Table 5.2.2h Public Toilets

Regional Playground		https://www.landmarkpro.com.au/access-for-the-whole-community/	Provide convenience and accessible for all that allows users to visit public spaces for longer periods. • Meet the DDA toilet standards • Integrated with local and landscape design elements
District Playground		https://www.grdesignandconstruct.com.au/re-strooms-shrooms.html	Public amenities allowing users to visit public spaces for longer periods. • Meet the DDA toilet standards

- **Parking**

Table 5.2.2i Parking

Regional Playground		https://nwadacenter.org/factsheet/accessible-parking-employment-accommodation-practical-guide-employers	Provide for park users and accessible parking. • Compliance with DDA parking requirement • Longer life span materials (such as concrete, exposed aggregate, asphalt, etc.)

- **Trail / Bike Path**

Table 5.2.2j Trail / Bike Path

Regional Playground		https://brisbanekids.com.au/greenways-esplanade-park-fun-for-all-ages/	Provide for park users and accessible parking. • Compliance with DDA parking requirement • Longer life span materials (such as concrete, exposed aggregate, asphalt, etc.)

- **Paving Materials**

Table 5.2.2k Paving Materials

Regional Playground		https://www.marigoldtarneit.com.au/marigolds-gathering-grove-park-is-open-ready-for-play/	Impact attenuating surface provides critical fall height protection. Integrated with artwork to bring vibrantly and stimulate the child's imagination atmosphere. • Longer life span materials (such as rubber, etc.) • Custom paving with artwork
District Playground		https://nofault.com/2018/04/is-poured-in-place-rubber-safety-surfacing-actually-safe/	Impact attenuating surface provides critical fall height protection. • Mixed life span materials (such as rubber in FHOF zones with play mulch surrounded, etc.)
Neighbourhood Playground		https://www.soilworx.com.au/shop/product/Kids-Play-Mulch-1	Impact attenuating surface provides critical fall height protection. • Shorter life span and affordable materials (such as play mulch, etc.)

- **Path**

Table 5.2.2l Paving Materials

Regional Playground		https://www.onkaparingacity.com/Community-facilities-support/Venues-facilities/Parks/Wilfred-Taylor-Reserve	Consider using longer life span materials that are easy to maintain. Integrate with artwork to bring vibrant and present local features to the park.
District Playground		https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/playgrounds/federal-park-playground	• Mixed life span materials (such as concrete, etc.)

Neighbourhood Playground		http://0.s3.envato.com/files/54608568/English%20garden%20gravel%20path.jpg	• Shorter life span and affordable materials (such as compacted granitic sand etc.)

- **Bike Parking**

Table 5.2.2m Bike Parking

Regional Playground		https://www.csa.trueserver.com.au/product/manhattan-bike-leaning-rail/	Provide amenities and security for cyclists to encourage longer stay. • Longer life span materials (such as stainless steel or mild steel, etc.)

- **Signage**

Table 5.2.2n Wayfinding Signage

Regional Playground		https://www.pentagram.com/work/hudson-river-park#26247	Provide legible pedestrian wayfinding information/signage to help people navigate through the spaces. • Longer life span materials (such as aluminum or stainless steel etc.) • Integrated with local arts

- **Path Lighting**

Table 5.2.2o Path Lighting

Regional Playground		https://www.blackljusdesign.se/blaparken-upplands-vasby/	Located highly used pedestrian areas within the park (such as walking paths and bicycle paths etc.) to provide security and safety for users at night.

- **Green Space**

Table 5.2.2p Green Space

Regional Playground		https://www.outhousedesign.com.au/portfolio-items/camperdown-community-edible-garden-playground/camperdown-commons feature landscape/	Sensory plants stimulate senses and encourage imagination and creativity. Refer appendix 5.2.2a for sensory plants selection.

- **Drainage**

Table 5.2.2q Drainage

Regional Playground	https://insights.jonite.com/next-big-thing-decorative-trench-grates	Reduce water-logging and mud, especially around play areas and paths. • Longer life span materials (such as aluminum or stainless steel etc.) • Strip drain

- **Variety of Play Equipment**

Table 5.2.2k Paving Materials

Regional Playground	https://adventureplus.net.au/project/cornerstone-estate-safari-park	Provide at least 50% of various types of play items in the regional playground. Consider choosing the large size of play equipment. • At least 50% various play type • Large size of play equipment • Combination unit
District Playground	https://adventureplus.net.au/project/grange-drive-reserve	Provide at least 25% of various types of play items in the district playground. Consider choosing the medium size of play equipment. • At least 25% various play type • Medium play equipment • Combination unit
Neighbourhood Playground	https://adventureplus.net.au/project/koonung-creek-reserve	Consider setting up one combination unit to provide various types of play in the neighbourhood playground. • At least one combination unit • or single play equipment (such as slide, swing, etc.)

- **Planting Consideration**

Tree (Cooler Town Plants)

The tree list (refer Appendix 5.1.2.3a) is extracted from *Goulburn Murray Climate Alliance Naturally Cooler Towns Species List, 2022*. The aim is to help communities adapt to climate change and improving health and wellbeing for biodiversity outcomes.

Low Shrub (Under 1m Height)

Suggesting of low shrub* that are native species and valuable local ecosystem and the creation of wildlife habitat. Native species are usually low maintenance. It forms a variety of spaces with low boundaries and visual clearance for surpervision in a play spaces.

Sensory Plant

Sensory plants* encourage children to touch, taste, listen and wonder. The sensory experiences provided by sensory plants can stimulate sense development and inspire for imagination.

*Refer Appendix 5.2.2a for extended planting list

5.2.3 Skate Park

The existing skate facilities across the Shire consist of a combination of obstacles and challenges (such as BMX track, ramp, fun box and rail, etc.). The majority of users are adolescents and a variety of users including bikers, skaters, scooters and parkourers. Those play spaces are typically active recreation places for teenagers to social and gather.

According to *Play and Recreation Framework for Children of All Ages* (2019), skate parks are popular play spaces among the young generation in the Shire. Extensive consultations were conducted in obtaining community inputs in considering all ages play for each township. In preparation of the *Framework* (2019), there were a total of 438 responses received from local schools, face to face discussions, and local drop ins. It is evident that skate parks can provide active play opportunity for older children and teenagers.

The *Framework* (2019) identified the gaps between teen and tween play across Australia. It is considered the current play opportunities do not appropriately cater for adolescents and are lack of challenges for them. The *Framework* (2019) has developed a series of modules that can be considered for future improvement and development to provide play opportunities for teens and tweens. The modules include:

- Social Space
- BMX
- Water Play Fun
- Fitness
- Parkour
- Rebound/Climbing Wall Space
- Ball Court Space
- Skate Space

Considering the existing skate park facilities and the proposed modules under *Play and Recreation Framework for Children of All Ages* (2019). This strategy identifies the play elements for future skate parks improvement and develop, which includes:

- **Social Space**

  Social space provides seating, resting and gathering opportunities with shade and shelters. It should be integrated in all play spaces.

- **BMX**

  BMX riding is a fun outdoor sport that the whole

https://groupgsa.com/exploring-new-sydney-parramatta-park-designed-to-be-a-community-hangout/

https://do512family.com/mueller-skate-park/

family can enjoy. BMX track generally consists of dirt tracks, with some offering built-up dirt hills and various types of jumps, which caters for different skill levels.

- **Ramp**

  A ramp is a sloping surface between two places that are at different levels. Skate ramps can be used with a skateboard, bicycle, roller skates or other similar devices.

- **Funbox**

  A standard element of a skate park that generally consists of a box shape with a flat top and a ramp on two or more sides. It may also include other elements that allow for more complicated skateboarding tricks.

- **Rail**

  A normally parallel handrail to the ground that skaters can rail, slide and grind. It is usually square or round.

- **Other furniture and fixtures**

  Some general furniture and fixtures shall be considered in accomodating longer stay and comfortable uses of the facilities. Such items could include bin enclosures, drinking fountains, seating, shelters, and signage.

https://www.iou-ramps.com/

https://www.archiexpo.com/prod/velopa/product-70430-1153175.html

https://www.terraingroup.com.au/project/skate-park-upgrade-gembrook-reserve/

https://skatesculpture.com.au/projects/port-kennedy-skatepark/

5.2.4 Exercise Station

Exercise stations are usually located around play/open spaces and along trails and tracks. It provides a range of outdoor exercise equipment. It helps to build fitness, core strength, balance, joint range of motion and mobility for residents.

There are four exercise stations in total across the Shire, three of them located in Euroa and one located in Nagambie. They are:

- Euroa Leos Park Exercise Station
- Euroa Lions Park Exercise Station
- Euroa Spencer Street Reserve Exercise Station
- Nagambie Blayney Lane Exercise Station

As part of this strategy, the Council is committed to upgrading playgrounds, skate parks, and open spaces. The Council is not actively investigating exercise stations across the shire. However, depending on community demands and funding sources, the Council will work with the community in deciding whether to add new exercise stations through 'Pitch My Project' program.

Figure 5.2.4a Avenel Jubilee Park Exercise Station

5.2.5 Environmental Considerations

In planning and design play spaces, environmental factors should be considered in respond to the Council's legislative requirements and the community's concerns in using the play spaces.

The primary concerns around environmental impacts on play spaces are climate change, urban heat island effect, heatwave and flooding.

5.2.5.1 Climate Change

The Council is committed to helping the community prepare for climate change and implementing *Climate Change Action Plan 2022-2027* to achieve the below five goals:

- Protecting our natural environment
- Reducing our emissions
- Our climate resilient community
- Moving sustainably
- Advocating for change

In developing new play spaces and upgrading existing play spaces, the Council has a key role to play in mitigating environmental impacts in line with the commitments in the *Climate Change Action Plan 2022-2027*. The selection of play equipment, materials, fixtures and furniture should take into considerations of environmentally sustainable alternatives and the longevity/durability, repairebility and recyclability. The selection of product suppliers should consider their environmental impacts and sustainable process in manufacturing.

On the other hand, climate change can have detrimental impacts on outdoor activities, especially for children. Appropriate setting for playgrounds will need to be considered in mitigating climate change impacts. This strategy inspected the existing playgrounds across the shire and recommends shade structure or natural shade to avoid direct sun exposure and wind screen or screen planting to mitigate strong wind environment. This will be discussed further in fixtures and furniture required and integrated in the Action Plan in this strategy.

5.2.5.2 Urban Island Effect & Heatwave

Severe and extreme heatwaves have claimed more lives than any other natural hazard in Australia (AIDR, 2023). Babies and yound chilcren can quickly lose body fluids through perspiring, which can lead to dehydration under heatwave events (RWH, 2023). Therefore, it is critical to consider micro-climate conditions in planning and designing new play spaces and prioritise such design response in renewing the existing play spaces.

It will reduce the risks in providing sufficient natural or built shade structures, offering drinking fountains, and ensuring air circulations and adequate resting areas. The action plan will be developed in accordance with site inspections of all existing play spaces and recommends appropriate mitigation measures in new and existing play spaces.

5.2.5.3 Flooding

Similar to flooding concerns in open spaces, it impacts on the longevity of play equipment and other facilities in play spaces.

The map of Waterways, 100-year Flooding in Figure 2.1.3.1a has shown that flooding is inevitable in most of the major towns in the shire. During flooding events, most of equipment and facilities might be submerged and prone to water damages. Hence, the mitigation strategy is like to be limited to material selections to ensure installing flood resistant materials and products and the life span of the products.

5.2.6 Standards and Risk Management

5.2.6.1 Relevant Standards

Given the ages of the play equipment in the Shire, most of them are no longer meeting the required design standards and are not aligned with best practice in design. The strategy has listed the most common Standards relating design and management of playgrounds, exercise stations, skate parks and public spaces as a general reference.

- **Playground Standards**

Prior to the publish of Exercise Station and Skate Park Standards in late 2021, all design, auditing and testing of play spaces in Australia were prepared in accordance with Playground Standards for Free of Fall Height, Impact Attenuating Surfaces, etc as a general rule. This includes the preparation of the *Strathbogie Shire Playground Audits 2021*.

The latest Playground Standards include Part 0-6 of **AS4685 2021**. It is a guidance for the Council, consultants, contractors and suppliers to manage and maintain, planning and design, construct, supply and install of play equipment.

The provision of future play equipment and design will be required to comply with the new Standards where appropriate.

- **Exercise Station Standards**

From 2021, Standards Australia has adopted **AS16630:2021** for permanently installed outdoor fitness equipment.

This Standard specifies general safety requirements for the manufacture, installation, inspection and maintenance of permanently installed, freely accessible outdoor fitness equipment (Standards Australia, 2021).

The provision of future exercise stations will be required to comply with the new Standards where appropriate.

- **Skate Park Standards**

From 2021, Standards Australia has adopted **AS EN 14974:2021** for skate parks. This Standard specifies safety requirements and requirements for testing and marking, information supplied by the manufacturer, information for users, as well as for inspection and maintenance to protect users and third parties (e.g. spectators) from hazards, as far as possible, when using a skatepark as intended, or as can be reasonably expected (Standards Australia, 2021).

The provision of future skate parks will be required to comply with the new Standards where appropriate.

- **DDA Standards**

Under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA), it is unlawful to discriminate against a person, in many areas of public life, including employment, education, getting or using services, renting or buying a house or unit, and accessing public places, because of their disability. Disability discrimination occurs when a person is treated less favourably, or not given the same opportunities as others in a similar situation because of their disability (Australian Human Rights Commssion, 2023).

In designing play spaces, providing all abilities accessible opportunities is essential and required in compliance with the Act.

AS 1428:2021 Design for access and mobility standards series specify the design requirements for new building work to provide building designers and users (architects, property owners and regulators) with the minimum design requirements for new building work to enable access for people with disabilities (Standards Australia, 2021).

The provision of future play equipment and design will be required to comply with the new Standards where appropriate.

5.2.6.2 Risk Assessment and Management

Each play auditor usually has their own inspection checklist to assess the likelihood of an accident occurring and the expected consequences of the accident, and to determine the priority of each rectification works required. In order to ensure public safety is maintained and improved and to reduce risks to Council in terms of litigation, it is essential that the Council establishes internal Play Space Inspection Checklist and as well as engages external consultant to carry out play audits at reasonable time frames.

This strategy will include an internal Play Space Inspection Checklist (see Table 6.2.2) that the Council will use to identify risks and hazards on a routine playground maintenance schedule for future improvement works.

5.2.7 Playground facilities that aren't Council owned

There are some playground facilities constructed across the Shire by other organisations other then the Council. The Strathbogie Shire Council will strategically invest on the Council owned assets. However, the Council manages all publicly accessible playgrounds including those that aren't Council owned.

Longwood Community Centre Inc. completes maintenance for Longwood Play and Open Spaces on behalf of Council.

5.2.8 Maintenance and Inspection

The Council currently carries out regular inspections and maintenance audits by external consultants of all

playgrounds in the Shire. In 2021, the Council has engaged an external consultant to conduct playground audits on all playgrounds and identified the areas of non-compliance to be rectified. The Council has completed some high priority works according to the auditing report, while the rest of works will be integrated into the Implementation/Action Plan in this strategy.

In general, inspections are carried out and resources as followed:

- **Visual Inspection** 3 times each week to identify immediate safety risks and carry out rectification works;
- **Checklist Inspection** at every month on a rotational basis. The purpose of the checklist inspection is to ensure:
  - playground equipment is checked in terms of structural integrity, functionality and safety, with minor repairs carried out on site immediately, or with significant items are logged for action and damaged areas fenced off to the public for safety until repairs completed;
  - play mulch levels are monitored and topped up as required by Play Standards;
  - regularly monitor play areas for syringes, glass, rocks and other potentially dangerous materials and remove them as required.

  Checklist inspections are conducted using the Council' checklist inspection app.
- **Maintenance Audit** from a qualified external consultant at every three years (last audit inspection carried out in 2021). The play auditing inspection is to ensure:
  - the playground inventory updated and safety related recommendations for improvements/ rectifications are made to Council for prioritised action;
  - the play equipment is to be renewed in compliance with Play Standards.

It is to note that the above inspections are not carried out to assess play space value and quality, or to make recommendations in improving facilities and design. Inspections for improvement works of each facilities shall be carried out on a project by project basis.

5.3 Off-leash Dog Park

5.3.1 Design Considerations

In planning and designing a dog park, this strategy has included considerations for essential amenities, preferable amenities, and optional amenities. The selection of infrastructure and amenities is also pending on project budget and lands available.

5.3.1.1 Essential Amenities

- **Fencing**

  Provide secure perimeter fencing to discourage dogs escaping under, over or through the fence, and offering designated off-leash area of the open space. The height off fence should be around 1.8m to discourage dogs jumping over it.

https://adventureplus.net.au/project/grange-drive-reserve

- **Ground Surface Materials**

  Provide dog-friendly ground surface materials such as concrete, mulch, grass, sand, gravel, etc.

  Avoid asphalt surfacing which can harm dog paws in hot seasons.

https://www.soilworx.com.au/shop/product/Kids-Play-Mulch-1

- **Drinking fountain**

  Provide drinking fountain with dog bowl.

  Ensure good drainage around the drinking fountain to reduce water logging and mud.

https://www.richmond-news.com/in-the-community/have-you-noticed-drinking-fountains-with-dog-bowls-around-richmond-5551664

- **Shade area**

  Natural shade (such as tree shade etc.) is preferable.

  Provide sufficient space under the shade for dogs to rest and cool themselves.

https://byford.com.au/news/icaria-dog-park-now-open/

- **Seating**

  Select longer life span materials structure such as stainless steel or mild steel, etc., or mixed life span materials structure such as galvernised/mild steel with timber battens, etc.

  Seating with backs is preferable to avoid dogs jumping up onto the seats.

  Located in the position that has unobstructed views of the dog play areas and is under a shade tree or structure.

https://spacelc.com.au/projects/semaphore-park-reserve-dog-park/

- **Waste disposal**

  Provide a good location for bag dispensers and waste bins to encourage people to pick up and dispose of dog waste appropriately.

https://[illegible]waste-bag-dispenser/

- **Signage**

  Provide signages for wayfinding and park rules. The signages should locate in high visibility areas such as on the entry gates or fences next to the gates.

  Present in a friendly, east to read and positive manner.

  Consider using signs with icons or diagrams to reinforce key messages.

  Prominent highly visible signage consistent with current corporate standards and branding requirements is to be placed at each entry point. 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.

https://www.foxcarolina.com/2022/05/18/new-dog-park-opening/spartanburg-county/

5.3.1.2 Preferable Amenities

- **Double Gates**

  Offer self-closing, double-gate system to prevent dogs escaping from the park. Consider accessible requirements such as in appropriate height and concrete surfacing.

https://byford.com.au/news/icarra-dog-park-now-open/

- **Separate areas**

  Consider separating small and large dogs to prevent potential conflicts.

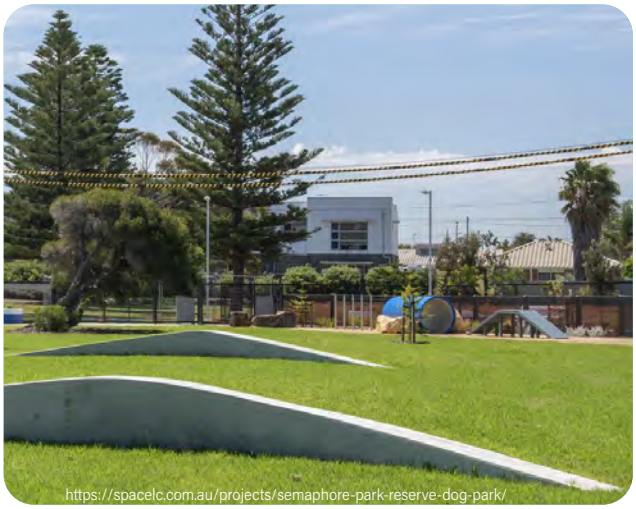
https://www.liherald.com/stories/newbridge-road-park-goes-to-the-dogs,94768

- **Different activity zones**

  Offer different zones for different activities for dogs such as active and passive zones.

  Consider creating undulating topography for dogs to play and interact with their owners.

  Consider using mounding and mass plantings to divide the park into active and passive zones.



https://spacelc.com.au/projects/semaphore-park-reserve-dog-park/

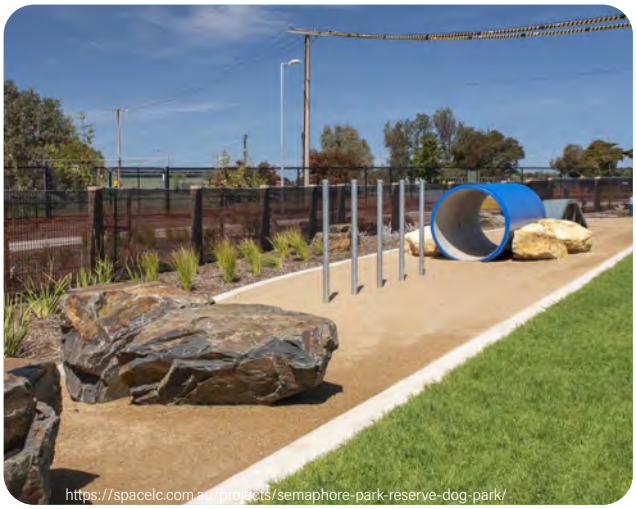
- **Pathway**

  Provide an internal accessible walking path or trail to encourage owners and their dogs to keep moving in the dog park.

https://spacelc.com.au/projects/semaphore-park-reserve-dog-park/

- **Play Diversity**

  Consider including varied height objects, mounding, sensory planting, tunnels and other dog play items.


https://spacelc.com.au/projects/semaphore-park-reserve-dog-park/

- **Plants**

  Enrich the dogs experience at the park with various textures of plants.

  Ensure the plants within the park are non-toxic and non-irritating to dogs.

  Ensure robust and low maintenance planting species.

https://www.australiandoglover.com/2019/12/how-to-create-sensory-garden-for-

5.3.1.3 Optional Amenities

- **Lighting**

  Provided for extend hours of park use.

https://topdogparks.com/places/reed-street-dog-park/

- **Dog equipment**

  Providing agility training equipment to enrich a dog's experience at the park (such as tyres, logs, boulders, tunnels and other, etc.)

https://discountplaygroundsupply.com/a-frame-dog-park-ramp/

- **Notice board**

  Provide a notice board to assist park users to obtain useful information (such as animal health, welfare, and safety, etc.) and to promote educational sessions and dog events.

https://twitter.com/stj_ucc_dogpark

- **Picnic tables**

  Provide long life span materials structure such as stainless steel or mild steel, etc.

  It should be provided outside the dog park as it may encourage food in the park.

https://www.cse.trueserver.com.au/product/steel-slat-setting-w-benches/

- **Modular Toiletblock**

  Consider providing toilets where appropriate.

  Consider integrating artwork.

https://exeloo.com/gallery/#gallery-29

5.3.2 Probable Cost Estimate

The below table lists the opinion of probable costs of each element to construct a 3000m² dog park. The figures are indicative as a general reference only. This schedule can also be provided to contractors as a schedule of rates in preparing quotations for new dog park development.

Table 5.3.1.2a Dog Park Probable Cost Estimate Template

General Items	Qty	Rate	Estimated Total Costs
Preliminaries			
• Plans and reports preparation (site plans, construction plans, environmental management plans, acoustic reports, etc.)	1	$8,000	$8,000
• Survey, investigation and consultant fees (land survey, underground services survey, geotechnical investigation, planning and design, etc.)	1	$20,000	$20,000
Demolition Work and Site Preparation			
• Clear site of rubbish and debris	1	$5,000	$5,000
• Excavation and minor trimming of site	3000m²	$5	$15,000
• Soil removal	100 tonnes	$25	$2,500
Services			
• Water supply connection allowance	1	$10,000	$10,000
• Electrical supply connection allowance	1	$10,000	$10,000
• Drainage solution and connection allowance	1	$10,000	$10,000
Soft Landscaping			
• Imported topsoil (turf areas)	150m³	$60	$9,000
• Imported topsoil (garden beds - tree planting)	30m³	$60	$1,800
• Filling sand (play pit sand)	50m³	$20	$1,000
Essential Amenities			
• **Fencing**			
- 1.8m height perimeter fence (chainmesh fence with top and bottom rail)	220m	$90 lin.m	$19,800
- Concrete plinth/strip underneath fence	220m	$90 lin.m	$19,800
• **Ground surface materials**			
- Concrete paving (high use area such as entry, fountain and bin, etc.)	100m²	$130	$13,000
- Mulch (high maintenance)	3000m²	$12	$36,000
- Sand (high maintenance)	3000m²	$20	$60,000
- Grass (low maintenance)	3000m²	$10	$30,000
- Gravel (low maintenance)	3000m²	$10	$30,000
• **Drinking fountain with dog bowl**	1	$4,500	$4,500
• **Shade**			
- Nature shade - tree planting (semi-advanced, 40L container including stakes/ties)	10	$200	$2,000
- Shelter structure	1	$22,000	$22,000
• **Seating**			

- Longer life span materials structure (such as stainless steel or mild steel, etc.)	1	$2,000	$2,000
- Mixed life span materials structure (such as galvernised/mild steel with timber, etc.)	1	$1,500	$1,500
• **Waste disposal**			
- Bin enclosure	2	$1,500	$3,000
- Dog bag dispenser	2	$150	$300
• **Signage**			
- Park rules signage	1	$100	$1000
- Wayfinding signage	1	$1,500	$1,500

Preferable Amenities			
• **Pathway**			
- Concrete	100m²	$130	$13,000
- Gravel	100m²	$75	$7,500
• **Double gates** (2 per entry, self-closing, double-gate system)	4	$500	$2,000
• **Different activity zones**	1	$20,000	$20,000
• **Play Diversity**	1	$20,000	$20,000
• **Planting**			
- Tubestock (small plants)	100	$9	$900
- Imported topsoil (garden beds)	200m²	$50	$10,000
- Organic Mulch	200m²	$8	$1,600

Optional Amenities			
• **Picnic tables**			
- Longer life span materials structure (such as stainless steel or mild steel, etc.)	1	$4,500	$4,500
- Mixed life span materials structure (such as galvernised/mild steel with timber, etc.)	1	$3,000	$3,000
• **Lighting** (throughout park)	5	$5,000	$25,000
• **Dog equipment**	1	$4,500	$4,500
• **Notice board**	1	$1,500	$1,500
• **Modular Toiletblock**	1	$120,000	$120,000

Subtotal (excl. GST)	
Contingency (10%)	
GST	
Total Budget Required	

5.3.3 Operations and Maintenance

5.3.3.1 Maintenance Tasks and Costs

According to the types of amenities for the new dog parks, this strategy has identifies the general maintenance tasks required, which are included in the below table:

Table 5.3.2.1a Maintenance Tasks and Costs

Tasks	Frequency	Description	Cost	Annual Cost
Mowing/Grass care	TBC	This generally requires routine mowing to maintain a grass height of no more than 100mm for safety. Each mowing visit should include litter collection prior to any machinery operations. For overused areas with exposed soil, restoration will be required including installing para-webbing and star pickets to the areas and fill small holes with top soil where required.	TBC	
Bag Refill/Waste Collection	TBC	Rubbish bins are required to be emptied twice per week (TBC). Dog bags can be checked and restocked at the same time. It is also required to clean the surfaces of rubbish bins and dog bags amenity.	TBC	
Weed Management	TBC	Weed management is required for all gravel surfaces to be sprayed with bio/animal/environmental friendly herbicide. Temporary signage must be displayed in highly visible location(s) to advise of weed removal treatment for minimum X days prior to task and X days following task (TBC). Grassed area is required to be sprayed annually (spring). Temporary signage must be displayed in highly visible location(s) and park closed for 1 week period following task.	TBC	
Furniture Maintenance	TBC	All fixtures and furniture is required to be inspected on an annual basis and maintained as required.	TBC	
Ground Surface	TBC	All ground surfaces are to be inspected and assessed on an annual basis and logged for repair as necessary.	TBC	
Landscape Maintenance	TBC	Landscape elements are to be inspected and assessed on a monthly basis. The tasks include plant replacement where required, garden mulch top up where required, and rubbish collection of whole site.	TBC	
Toilet Cleaning	TBC	Where dog parks have modular toilet installed, it is required to ensure all toilets and surfaces are clean and toilet paper/hand towel is re-stocked once a week.	TBC	

5.3.3.2 Management and Responsibilities

This is to be confirmed through Council's DAMP.

6

Implementation Plan / Action Plan

6.1 Equipment and materials lifespan and upgrade frequency

According to *Strathbogie Shire Playground Audits* (2021), the life expectancy of playgrounds or parts of play equipment and associated installation was generally evaluated according to the physical condition of the playgrounds or the equipment and/or based on general rules of:

- **30 years** for **steel** equipment;
- and **25 years timber** equipment.

Based on these rules and the auditing report, the strategy has developed an implementation/action plan to review all the Council managed play spaces across the shire. With allocated budget to play space renewal, the Council is committed to rectify or replace the existing play equipment and associated improvement works for two play spaces every year. At the end of the execution of the action plans in the 2033/2034 financial year, it is expected that all current play spaces will be renewed to meet standards requirements.

Where play spaces have different types of play equipment, the renewal actions at one play space might occur in different years.

Some play equipment in the shire is outdated in terms of design, construction techniques and material uses due to age. When one complete play unit is planned to be replaced, it will be required to consider the latest technology, compliance, etc in accordance with the design and management guidelines in this strategy.

6.2 Inspection Checklist - Assessment and Criteria

To inform the development of this strategy, the Council's managed play spaces (list of places provided by the Council) have been assessed using the criteria highlighted in *2.2 Site Inspection Assessment Criteria*.

At a strategic level, the play space hierarchy and distribution of play and open spaces across the shire were reviewed in light of the geographical locations of each place and relevant Council documents listed under *1.2 Strategic Context*.

Combined with the outcomes of *Strathbogie Shire Playground Audits* (2021) and the recommendations in *Play and Recreation Framework for Children of All Ages* (2019), this assessment has contributed to the development of the Implementation/Action Plan (Table 6.3.1a, Table 6.3.2a and Table 6.3.3a), which will guide the installation and upgrade of the play and open spaces across the shire in the next 10 years.

6.3 Implementation/Action Plan

The Action Plan outlines the recommendations for upgrade the existing and proposed play spaces throughout the shire for the next 10 years. This renewal plan is to upgrade all Council managed play spaces to comply with relevant safety standards.

The strategy has developed three types of action plans including short term (1-3 years), medium term (4-6 years), and long term (7-10 years). The actions required are prioritised based on the age and conditions of each play space. However, for some play spaces, when immediate safety risks present, rectification works should be carried out urgently to ensure the public safety.

6.3.1 Playground - Short Term (1-3 years)

Table 6.3.1a Short Term (1-3 years) Action Plan

Year	Location	Proposed Hierarchy	Improvement Type	Actions	Estimated Costs (indicative only)
2022/2023	**Avenel Jubilee Park**	District	Landscape	• Add shrub planting and groundcover to provide sensory garden areas for children	$5,000
			Climate	• Add screening planting for wind protection. Location to be confirmed at design phase	$3,000
			Accessibility	• Add internal path to improve accessibility and external accessible path to connect to surrounding footpaths/trails	$50,000
2022/2023	**Creightons Creek Recreation Reserve Playground**	Neighbourhood	General	• Add recycle bin	$2,500
				• Add drinking fountain	$7,000
			Accessibility	• Provide accessible path at the entry to the reserve	$25,000
				• Add internal path to improve accessibility and external accessible path to connect to surrounding footpaths/trails	$20,000
			Play Equipment	• **Immediate Attention:** Add sufficient mulch depth around slide as required as routine maintenance[1]	$2,000

[1]Refer Strathbogie Shire Playground Audits 2021.
[2]Refer Play and Recreation Framework for Children of All Ages 2019.

2023/2024	**Euroa Rotary Bicentennial Park Playground**	Neighbourhood	**General**	• Add recycle bin	$2,500
			Landscape	• Add shrub planting and groundcover to provide sensory garden areas for children	$5,000
			Climate	• Add screening planting for wind protection. Location to be confirmed at design phase	$3,000
			Accessibility	• Add internal path to improve accessibility and external accessible path to connect to surrounding footpaths/trails	$25,000
				• Rectify the existing footpath at the entry and provide accessible path	$10,000
			General	• Replace the existing tap water with a new drinking fountain	$8,000
			Play Equipment	• Consider replacing existing non-compliant unit with new modern type compliant play equipment, or constructing a new playground if budget allows[1]	$150,000
				• Replace old combination unit with compliant unit[1]	$40,000
				• **Immediate Attention:** Fix the swing edging of existing sandpit that pins exposed above sleeper[1]	$3,000
				• Add junior play and adventure play module	$80,000
2023/2024	**Violet Town Recreation Reserve Playground - near Tennis Courts**	Neighbourhood	-	• Decommission	$15,000
2024/2025	**Moglonemby Hall Playground**	Neighbourhood	**Climate**	• Add screening planting for wind protection	$2,000
				• Add shade sails or canopy trees for sun protection	$10,000 or $3,000
			General	• Add seating	$4,000
				• Add general waste and recycle bins	$5,000
				• Add drinking fountain	$6,000
			Accessibility	• Add internal path to improve accessibility and external accessible path to connect to surrounding footpaths/trails	$5,000
			Play Equipment	• Replace existing playground timber edging which is in poor condition	$3,000
				• **Immediate Attention:** Add sufficient mulch depth around all existing play equipment[1]	$2,000
				• Consider adding modern type of play equipment if budget allows[1]	$40,000
				• Add junior play module[2]	$20,000

[1]Refer Strathbogie Shire Playground Audits 2021.
[2]Refer Play and Recreation Framework for Children of All Ages 2019.

2024/2025	**Strathbogie Recreation Reserve Playground**	District	**Recreational**	• Add seating and picnic tables	$10,000
			Landscape	• Add shrub planting and groundcover to provide sensory garden areas for children	$5,000
			General	• Replace the existing tap water with a new drinking fountain	$8,000
				• Add recycle bin	$2,500
				• Improve the existing drainage	$5,000
			Play Equipment	• Replace hand grips of slide to comply with standards[1]	$2,000
				• Replace hand grips of spring rocker to avoid injury risks[1]	$2,000
				• **Immediate Attention:** Remove tree root and increase mulch depth below the wombat spring rocker[1]	$4,000
				• Consider adding modern type of play equipment if budget allows	$20,000
				• Add junior play and rebound wall module[2]	$30,000
			Climate	• Add screening planting for wind protection	$3,500
				• Add shade sails or canopy trees for sun protection	$10,000 or $3,000
2025/2026	**Euroa Lions Park Playground**	District	**Recreational**	• Add seating and picnic tables	$10,000
			Accessibility	• Add internal path to improve accessibility and external accessible path to connect to surrounding footpaths/trails	$25,000
			Play Equipment	• **Immediate Attention:** Replace existing double swing seat since two rivets are broken[1]	$3,000
				• Replace the combination unit with an modern type of play equipment[1]	$50,000
				• Add junior play module[2]	$30,000
			Climate	• Add screening planting for wind protection. Location to be investigated onsite	$3,000
				• Add shade structure over play equipment for sun protection	$20,000

[1]Refer Strathbogie Shire Playground Audits 2021.
[2]Refer Play and Recreation Framework for Children of All Ages 2019.

6.3.2 Playground Medium Term (4-6 years)

Table 6.3.2a Medium Term (4-6 years) Action Plan

Year	Location	Proposed Hierarchy	Improvement Type	Actions	Estimated Costs
2026/2027	**Nagambie Park River Street Reserve Playground**	District	Climate	• Add screening planting for wind protection. Location to be confirmed at design phase	$5,000
				• Add shade sails over play equipment for sun protection. Location to be confirmed at design phase	$20,000
			Landscape	• Add shrub planting and groundcover to provide sensory garden areas for children	$3,000
			Accessibility	• Add internal and external accessible paths and resting areas to improve the accessibility of the entry point and the lakeside embankment and add protection from falling into the lake	$15,000
			General	• Add drinking fountain	$7,000
				• Add recycle bin	$2,500
			Play Equipment	• Consider adding compliant modern type of play equipment if budget allows[1]	$40,000
				• Add junior play module[2]	$20,000
2026/2027	**Nagambie Recreation Reserve Playground**	Neighbourhood	General	• Add general waste and recycle bins	$5,000
				• Add drinking fountain	$7,000
			Recreational	• Add seating and picnic tables	$10,000
			Accessibility	• Add internal path to improve accessibility and external accessible path to connect to surrounding footpaths/trails	$15,000
			Play Equipment	• Consider adding compliant modern type of play equipment[1]	$30,000
				• Replace D grips of the combination unit to avoid head entrapment risk in compliance with standards[1]	$2,000

[1]Refer Strathbogie Shire Playground Audits 2021.
[2]Refer Play and Recreation Framework for Children of All Ages 2019.

2027/203028	**Violet Town Lions Park Playground**	District	**General**	• Add drinking fountain	$6,000
				• Add fence around playground to provide safety zones for children	$10,000
				• Add shade sails over play equipment for sun protection. Location to be confirmed at design phase	$15,000
				• Improve the existing drainage	$25,000
			Accessibility	• Add recycle bin	
				• Add internal path to improve accessibility and external accessible path to connect to surrounding footpaths/trails	$20,000
			Landscape	• Add shrub planting and groundcover to provide sensory garden areas for children	$5,000
			Play Equipment	• Add junior play module[2]	$30,000
				• Consider adding compliant modern type of play equipment if budget allows[1]	$50,000
			Climate	• Add screening planting for wind protection. Location to be investigatted on site	$5,000
				• Add shade structure over play equipment for sun protection	$25,000
2027/2028	**Ruffy Community Centre**	Neighbourhood	**Climate**	• Add screening planting for wind protection	$3,000
				• Add shade sails or canopy trees for sun protection	$10,000 or $3,000
			General	• Add general waste and recycled bins	$5,000
2028/2029	**Violet Town Recreation Reserve Playground - near Swimming Pool**	Neighbourhood	**General**	• Add recycle bin	$2,500
				• Add drinking fountain	$6,000
				• Replace the rubber sleeper edging[1]	$3,000
			Accessibility	• Add internal path to improve accessibility and external accessible path to connect to surrounding footpaths/trails	$15,000
			Play Equipment	• **Immediate Attention:** Add sufficient mulch depth around all existing play equipment[1]	$4,000
				• Replace the combination units and swings with compliant items[1]	$3,000
				• Replace the curved slide, corkscrew and swings[1]	$70,000
				• Replace the slide of the combination unit to avoid a potential fall risk in compliance with standards[1]	$50,000
				• Replace all existing play equipment to compliant modern type of units[1]	$30,000
			Climate	• Add shade sails or canopy trees over play equipment for sun protection	$45,000

[1]Refer Strathbogie Shire Playground Audits 2021.
[2]Refer Play and Recreation Framework for Children of All Ages 2019.
[3]Refer Background Research and Site Inspection Report under Strategy.

6.3.3 Playground Long Term (7-10 years)

Table 6.3.3a Long Term (7-10 years) Action Plan

Year	Location	Proposed Hierarchy	Improvement Type	Actions	Estimated Costs
2029/2030	**Nagambie Blayney Lane Playground**	Regional	Climate	• Add screening planting for wind protection. Location to be confirmed at design phase	$5,000
				• Add shade sails over play equipment for sun protection	$15,000
			Recreational	• Add public toilet	$200,000
			Accessibility	• Add internal path to improve accessibility and external accessible path to connect to surrounding footpaths/trails	$20,000
			General	• Improve the existing drainage	$25,000
				• Add bike station	$7,000
			Play Equipment	• Add compliant modern types of play equipment[1]	$30,000
			Landscape	• Add artwork installation	$20,000
2030/2031	**Euroa Rotary Park Playground**	Neighbourhood	General	• Add recycle bin	$2,500
				• Add drinking fountain	$7,000
			Accessibility	• Add internal path to improve accessibility and external accessible path to connect to surrounding footpaths/trails	$10,000
			Play Equipment	• Consider adding compliant modern type of play equipment and suitable for all ages groups if budget allows[1]	$30,000
				• Add junior play module[2]	
2031/2032	**Nagambie Whroovale Estate Play Space***	Neighbourhood	General	No playground was completed during site inspection. Not included in the scope of this strategy. Further investigations required to detemine appropriate renewal actions.	

[1]Refer Strathbogie Shire Playground Audits 2021.
[2]Refer Play and Recreation Framework for Children of All Ages 2019.

6.3.4 Skate Park Action Plans

Table 6.3.4a Skate Park Action Plan

Year	Location	Proposed Hierarchy	Improvement Type	Actions	Estimated Costs
2030/2031	**Euroa Skate Park**	Neighbourhood	**Climate**	• Add screening planting for wind protection	$6,000
				• Add shade sails or canopy trees for sun protection	$50,000 or $3,000
			General	• Add seating	$6,000
				• Add general waste and recycle bins	$5,000
				• Add drinking fountain	$6,000
			Accessibility	• Add internal path to improve accessibility and external accessible path to connect to surrounding footpaths/trails	$20,000
			Play Equipment	• Add skateable elements transition and social space module[2]	$100,000
2031/2032	**Violet Town Recreation Reserve Skate Park**	Neighbourhood	**Climate**	• Add screening planting for wind protection	$5,000
				• Add shade sails or canopy trees for sun protection	$25,000 or $3,000
			General	• Add seating	$6,000
				• Add general waste and recycle bins	$5,000
				• Add drinking fountain	$2,500
			Accessibility	• Add internal path to improve accessibility and external accessible path to connect to surrounding footpaths/trails	$15,000
			Play Equipment	• Add skateable elements street, skateable elements transition, BMX and social space module[2]	$250,000
				• Replace or rectify non-compliant components[1]	$8,000
2032/2033	**Avenel Jubilee Park Skate Park**	Neighbourhood	**Climate**	• Add screening planting for wind protection. Location to be investigated onsite	$5,000

[1]Refer Strathbogie Shire Playground Audits 2021.
[2]Refer Play and Recreation Framework for Children of All Ages 2019.

6.3.5 Exercise Station Action Plan

Table 6.3.5a Exercise Station Action Plan

Year	Location	Proposed Hierarchy	Improvement Type	Actions	Estimated Costs
2023/2024	**Euroa Leos Park Exercise Station**	Neighbourhood	Play Equipment	• **Immediate Attention:** Rectify high priority item identified for Chest Press/Leg Press, and Dexterity Builder[1]	$2,000
2025/2026	**Nagambie Blayney Lane Exercise Station**	Neighbourhood	Climate	• Add screening planting for wind protection. Location to be investigated onsite	$2,000
			Play Equipment	• Remove the graffiti from the fitness equipment	$1,000
				• **Immediate Attention:** Fix the existing fallen bollard	$2,000
			General	• Add general waste bin	$2,500
				• Add seating	$2,000
2025/2026	**Euora Lions Park Exercise Station**	Neighbourhood	General	• Add recycle bin	$2,500
			Recreational	• Add seating	$2,000
			Climate	• Add screening planting for wind protection. Location to be investigated onsite	$2,000
				• Add shade structure over play equipment for sun protection	$10,000
2030/2031	**Euroa Spencer Street Reserve Exercise Station**	Neighbourhood	Climate	• Add screening planting for wind protection	$2,000
				• Add shade sails or canopy trees for sun protection	$10,000
2032/2033	**Avenel Jubilee Park Exercise Station**	Neighbourhood	Climate	• Add screening planting for wind protection	$2,000
				• Add shade structure over fitness equipment for sun protection	$10,000

[1]Refer Strathbogie Shire Playground Audits 2021.
[2]Refer Play and Recreation Framework for Children of All Ages 2019.

6.4 Funding Allocations and Sources

Council's Capital Works Program has traditionally been the primary funding sources to implement Council's play and open strategies. The current program has allocated $300,000 per annum to support all of Council's play and open space projects for ongoing maintenance and management. The strategy identifies the implementation plan to rectify and improve play and open spaces in the Shire to achieve compliance and ensure safety. This funding source, however, will not be sufficient to cover new development of play and open spaces.

As part of the community commitment to improve play and open spaces, the community fundraising activities via each community groups in their towns contribute to the maintenance of some of the play and open spaces in the Shire.

Another funding sources were explored from developer contributions. In 2019, the *Public Open Space Contribution Policy* was adopted under the *Strathbogie Planning Scheme Review.* All new developments in the Shire have statutory obligations to meet the planning requirement and the Council has a statutory obligation to allocate the contributions in the maintenance of existing or creation of new public open spaces. The monetary POS contribution seek to include percentage rate of developments via a planting scheme amendment. This funds will be used to improve the play and open spaces in the Shire.

Additionally, external funding can sometimes be sought to help offset the cost to Council of major capital projects, especially for new developments. For example, Regional Community Sports Infrastructure Fund by Sports and Recreational Victoria (SRV) opens annually for applications up to $1 million to create accessible pathways and outdoor areas and provide upgrades to play spaces to ensure accessibility including introducing new accessible play equipment. Local Sports Infrastructure Fund by (SRV) also opens for upgrades in play spaces, active recreation facilities and fixed equipment. There is also a special grant by Department of Families, Fairness and Housing. The Changing Places Fund is designed to support people with disability and high support needs access to suitable, safe, and private bathroom facilities.

Strathbogie Shire Council will investigate and actively pursue external funding opportunities and grants to supplement Capital Works Program funding for improvement and development opportunities for play and open spaces in the Shire.

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