



Tamworth Regional Council



Recreation and Open Space Plan

October 2008





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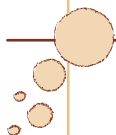
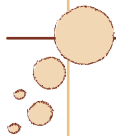


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1. Executive Summary

In January 2008 ROSS Planning Pty Ltd was engaged to undertake the Recreation and Open Space Plan. Tamworth Regional Council needed a plan that covered the whole Council area, integrating recreation and open space issues, ideas and community aspirations from the previous five individual Councils.

Youth

Youth living in or near to Tamworth have access to a much wider range of sport and recreation opportunities compared with youth living in outlying localities. Many youth (and their parents) believe that a degree of equity is required across the region particularly with regard to informal recreation opportunities. For both 'city' youth and those living outside Tamworth, the key desires are for enhanced bike and skate facilities. Outlying areas such as Barraba, Manilla, Nundle and Kootingal have very limited facilities of this nature, while a second skate facility is required in Tamworth to take the pressure off the existing heavily used facility.

While opportunities exist for boys to participate in most sports, girl's participation in sport is limited. Peak sporting bodies need to be encouraged to enhance development initiatives within the region (particularly in outlying towns).

In outlying towns opportunities for unstructured play are limited (very few parks have activities for primary school-aged youth or teenagers). However, local pools are well patronised and a feature of summertime fun.

Active Adults

Keen adults in the Tamworth region have access to a range of quality activities. Opportunities exist in activities such as riverside walking, tennis, tai chi, bowls, yoga and craft (among others). However, a number of areas requiring additional Council attention have been noted.

There is a strong walking culture within the Tamworth region, and this should be expected to increase as the population ages. However, a number of the existing pathways "lead to nowhere" while signage and navigability and promotion need to be enhanced. Further, a number of paths have trip hazards, overhanging tree branches and long grass encroaching on paths.

Developments in feature parks have created attractive venues for passive recreation and are well patronised. However, a number of active adults suggested that local parks were being largely ignored with areas of overgrown grass, dead and dangerous trees and playground equipment requiring maintenance/upgrades (or replacement).

Council Policies

Council needs to establish and implement a suite of uniform tenures across the field sports in the region. Currently, a number of well-established clubs have no form of tenure while a range of different tenure set-ups exist across those groups that do have formal agreements. These agreements are required for clubs to attract State and Federal government funding, while animosity arises when sporting groups compare current tenure requirements.

Currently, Council 355 Committees conduct a large amount of maintenance and development work in parks and open spaces on behalf of Council and the community. However, in a similar vein to the sporting club tenure issue, Council support and expectations of these 355 Committees is not uniform across the Council area. For instance, some 355 Committees conduct all the maintenance and development in parks without

funding support from Council, while others oversee relatively underutilised facilities yet receive significant Council support.

While Council continues to conduct a range of planning initiatives across parks, sport and open space, limited resource allocation makes implementation difficult. Pedestrian and cycleway networks have been planned throughout Tamworth for a number of years; however, limited funding has seen only a small component of the proposed networks commenced. Similarly, a number of sporting clubs are jaded with regard to planning as they have seen few infrastructure developments from the plans they have developed with Council.

Communication

Council has embraced a policy of public participation and community involvement in Council planning. This commitment to community engagement is reflected within many Council plans, strategies, policies, procedures and documents.

Whilst feedback from community members during the development of this Recreation and Open Space Plan indicated that Council officers are generally approachable and friendly to deal with, there was clear evidence of a breakdown in communication. This included:

- requests for improvements (park and/ or pathway maintenance) that are not actioned
- results/ outcomes of surveys or information gathering by Council not known (“information goes in, nothing comes back”)
- lack of feedback to residents on actions taken (or rationale for not taking action)
- lack of feedback to groups and organisations on funding priorities or implementation plans
- excessive surveying, with no evidence that the information/ suggestions provided are used or implemented
- lack of community awareness of improvements, upgrades or successful completion of projects/ developments.

Council has established procedures for gathering information and community requests. It now needs to ensure processes are in place to keep residents and groups informed on the actions taken, plans developed, funding allocated, proposed timing of implementation and successful completion.

Given the level of frustration of some groups in repeatedly providing information with no apparent outcome or result, Council should also take care to ensure surveys are only sent when specific information is required, or prior priorities and requests have been largely implemented and additional planning is being undertaken (e.g. five year intervals). A blanket approach to communication is not appropriate (i.e. sending information requests to every group), and Council should take care to direct information and enquiries/ surveys only to relevant organisations.

Promotion

Tamworth Regional Council has many high quality facilities and unique opportunities for residents and visitors alike to enjoy recreation and open spaces. However, most promotion and information is focused on the Country Music Festival and other associated tourism opportunities. While the staff of the Tamworth Information Centre are knowledgeable and able to offer suggestions on walks and parks, there is no supporting printed material available.

This largely undersells the recreation and open space assets of the region. Brochures on opportunities, parks and walks should be developed and made readily available to residents and visitors. Council should also ensure that new or improved facilities are promoted and advertised to rate payers and potential users.



Field Sports

A range of field sports opportunities are available throughout the Tamworth region. Most sports offer facilities of suitable quality—from smaller local training facilities (such as Kootingal Recreation Reserve) through to highly maintained multi-field complexes (such as the Regional Sports Complex).

When considering required upgrades at field sport sites, key themes emerge. A number of the facilities require additional field lighting. Playing field lights provide opportunities to spread training across a longer period (after sunset) and for an alternate competition environment at night.

Additional facilities for spectators are required at a number of field sports sites. Provision of adequate seating and shade would greatly enhance spectators' experiences at sporting events. With many sporting groups noting difficulty in attracting volunteers, opportunity exists to entice 'interested spectators' into the club system as volunteers.

Finally, opportunity exists to further the informal use of a number of the key sporting facilities. For instance, the development of a network of pedestrian/ cycle paths and suitable seating throughout the Riverside Sporting Precinct would see further use of this area. Not only is enhanced walking, jogging and cycling throughout the precinct a positive health outcome, it will also enhance the passive surveillance of the sporting precinct (and hence further deter vandals).

Riverside Sporting Complex: In 2007, Council's Sports Working Group oversaw the development of two options for the future use of the Riverside Sporting Complex. The preferred option included minor league being relocated to a new site at Plain Street while football (soccer) was to share the Carter Street fields with cricket. It was these movements that were the basis of discussions with those sporting groups affected by these changes (netball, cricket, football, minor league, baseball and softball) and relevant concerns are highlighted throughout the Plan. However, very recently (with the Plan at draft stage), the Sports Working Group has decided that football will share the Gipps Street Sports Complex with touch football rather than relocate to Carter Street. Minor league will be relocated to Plain Street.

This change will require the development of a revised Master Plan for the Riverside Sporting Complex and adoption of a final Master Plan for the Gipps Street Sports Complex.

Stadium: There has been some discussion about development of a feature rectangular stadium in Tamworth, suitable for hosting major football events (various codes). However given the significant number of major facility developments already planned and committed to by Council, and the pressing need to address local parkland development and maintenance levels, such a facility is beyond the scope of this plan. Assuming major facilities (equine centre, aquatic centres, indoor centre, Bicentennial and Riverside master plans) have been substantially completed in 10 years times, and the service level of local and district parks has been addressed, planning for a rectangular stadium could be commenced.

Court Sports

Indoor Centre: A site has been determined for the development of the indoor sports facility and Council should work closely with the proposed user groups and move quickly to finalise a design while enthusiasm remains high for the project. While netball is keen to relocate a number of its programs to the new facility, further development of the existing outdoor facility is also planned and currently on hold. Finalising design of the new facility will allow netball to determine what developments (if any) they will pursue at the Riverside Sporting Precinct outdoor facility. No specific demand for the existing indoor centre has been identified through this study. The site could be returned to recreational open space to address deficiencies in that area.

Tennis: The tennis facility on the north side of Tamworth has fallen into a state of disrepair in recent years, with ongoing maintenance of the five ant bed courts beyond the capacity of the club. There is however evidence that these courts are still used by some keen players, with lines scratched in the dirt. Two privately owned courts on Bligh Street are very likely to be lost as the land is redeveloped for commercial interests. Decline in availability of tennis courts and the mix of available surfaces is a concern to schools, tennis clubs and coaches across Tamworth, particularly regarding space for junior tournaments and ongoing development of the sport.

Aquatic Facilities

Tamworth has two 50m swimming pools but has no dedicated “leisure water” pool. The water slide at the South and West Tamworth War Memorial Swimming Pool offers this type of water experience, but its limited accessibility and cost restricts its ability to provide a general fun aquatic experience.

Leisure water, for this report, implies a body of water that is designed for fun, not fitness or competition. The pool might be an irregular shape, start at zero depth (i.e. walk-in), having moving or flowing water such as a waterfall or rapids, have toys (e.g. squirting guns) or objects that you can climb on, jump-off or slide down.

Tamworth’s two 50m pools meet the needs of the lap swimmers and the fitness users, but for a significant proportion of the population, these facilities offer little more than can be obtained in a backyard pool. For these people, there is no incentive to pay the entry fee. If Council wants to attract a broader user group to its pools, it needs to consider contemporary developments that add fun and variety to the aquatic experience.

Equine Sports

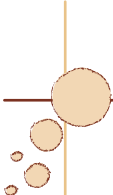
The development of the Australian Equine and Livestock Events Centre, and the Racecourse Precinct is likely to have a profound effect upon all horse sports in the Tamworth region. These peak facilities will be supported by a local and a national industry that will meet the needs of beginners through to those reaching the peak of their sport and competing within these elite centres—a sporting pathway from beginner to elite.

The number of horse-owners in the region will no doubt grow. Typically, these people will opt for an acreage living arrangement that has some space to graze a horse or horses. A number of “horse-friendly” developments are already before Council with more no doubt being planned. For the short-term though, it is difficult to quantify the impact that Equine Influenza has had on the various clubs. During the quarantine period most clubs have ceased activity and a number have noted that their members have found other activities to occupy their time—whether they return to the club is not known.

Horse owners will be looking for places to walk or exercise their horses safely as well as clubs and venues in which to compete. The need for shared use trails and dedicated bridle trails will become more evident as “hot spots” of horses develop. Clubs are likely to slowly increase their membership and, potentially, some new clubs may form. Places to train trotters will also be in demand.

Another dimension to this growth will be the loss of the Tamworth Showgrounds as a home to a number of horse clubs (e.g. Tamworth Showjumping Club). The development of the Racing Precinct will not cater to these clubs.

This growth will not happen quickly but it is important that Council monitors the situation and has a strategic plan to accommodate the growth. Venues such as the Moonbi Showgrounds, and possibly the Manilla Showgrounds (that will always be lower in the equine event hierarchy than the Australian Equine and Livestock Events Centre) are likely to be the focus of clubs and their growing membership. How these



venues are administered to accommodate this growth will be one aspect that has to be managed. The other, is that the areas will need a master plan to avoid ad hoc developments that may hinder the efficient development of the venues and, hence, limit their recreational outcomes.

Recreation Parks and Play Opportunities

The Tamworth area has many attractive and highly valued open space areas. There is considerable opportunity to build on the natural assets of the region to improve performance of the open space network for recreation outcomes.

There is a stark need for major re-think of the way play opportunities are provided across the region. An assessment of the range of opportunities has highlighted that primary and secondary aged children are poorly catered for, compared to their younger (preschool) counterparts. District parks need to be improved to cater more for groups and families, providing “something for everyone”. A major recreation parkland and playground development is required within the Bicentennial Park area, integrating play, picnicking, recreational corridors and community event space. Greater emphasis is required on pathways to cater for the physical activity and mobility needs of a growing older population.

A number of areas of inequitable access to recreation opportunities were identified. These include: spatial deficiencies, where some residents have poorer access to parks within walking distance; and low levels of provision, where some neighbourhoods have access to very limited open space. In most instances, however, opportunities exist to rectify these deficiencies. The open space assessment identifies a number of improvements that can be progressively implemented. These should be included in a capital works program with an appropriate budget allocated.

Outdoor Recreation

Within the Tamworth Regional Council boundary there are many natural areas and attractive places to visit e.g. Hanging Rock, Nundle, Watsons Creek, Barraba. In many of these locations there are walking paths—either formed or of an ad hoc design. Often these paths are not signed or graded.

There are also a number of operating dams (Keepit, Split Rock and Chaffey) as well as disused dams (Sheba and Moore Creek) that offer outdoor recreation experiences. Also, the rivers and creeks can be accessed at many points for picnicking and swimming.

Council and the Department of Lands operate a number of camping areas. NSW National Parks offers further opportunities to explore natural areas.

Council could make more of these opportunities by developing information on the outdoor recreation resource and promoting it (through the internet and brochures). Some works may be required to upgrade paths or facilities before encouraging greater use but this can be programmed and there is often a willing group of outdoor enthusiasts willing to help.

2. Recommendations

The Recreation and Open Space Plan is an opportunity for Council to maintain and build upon Tamworth's diversity of sporting facilities, parks for locals and visitors, play spaces for children and young people and pedestrian/ cycle paths.

Implementation of the recommendations outlined in this Plan will require strong leadership, appropriate resources from Council and a commitment to making difficult decisions.

The dominant theme that came through the range of consultation processes undertaken was that the region is not in need of (many) new venues for sport and recreation but that existing facilities need a range of improvements to make them more functional and attractive to use.

The recommendations of this study are detailed below and are grouped into five strategic areas. These are:

1. Viability of sport and recreation groups
2. Council policies, coordination and management arrangements
3. Maintenance and improvement of existing facilities and programs
4. New facilities, programs and initiatives
5. Information and awareness

Priorities are assigned for each action. A high recommendation is to be undertaken as soon as resources allow while medium and low are not as urgent.

2.1 Viability of Sport and Recreation Groups

Strategy / Issue	No.	Actions	Priority
Provide support to the volunteer organisation and club sector to ensure the long term viability of sport and recreation provision in Tamworth	1.1.1	Facilitate a program of education and training for sport and recreation groups across Tamworth, focusing on identified training needs. Training and club development should initially focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• strategic and business planning• funding and grant applications• club governance and committee management• risk management• volunteer management• advertising and marketing. Contact should be made with NSW Department of Sport and Recreation to explore the full range of available opportunities, including funding options.	High and Ongoing
	1.1.2	Pilot an annual forum for community-based sport and recreation organisations. The forums should aim to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• promote information and resource sharing• provide networking opportunities• open communication between Council and sport and recreation groups• encourage education and training program co-ordination	Medium and Ongoing

Strategy / Issue	No.	Actions	Priority
		<p>within the sport and recreation delivery sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • seek, reward and retain quality leaders and administrators. <p>The forums could be delivered in partnership with NSW Department of Sport and Recreation and should provide a platform to co-ordinate the delivery of information for the benefit of both community and Council. The forums could also provide a mechanism for Council and the community to monitor and evaluate policies affecting community-based organisations and help develop strategies to respond to emerging issues.</p>	
Ensure a strong working relationship across government sectors and between community based organisations	1.2.1	<p>Liaise with NSW Department of Sport and Recreation to improve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge of, and access to funding opportunities • the co-ordination of an annual process for clubs to notify Council of changes to office bearers or their contact details. Details should be able to be made public to interested parties. 	High
	1.2.2	Develop a communication package from Council to inform club office bearers of key Council contacts, responsibilities and processes.	High
	1.2.3	Develop partnerships with community organisations, Government Departments (NSW Department of Sport and Recreation NSW Health, Division of General Practitioners, NSW Education and Training) and professionals delivering recreation activity programs, information and advice to expand, target and promote appropriate new programs (e.g. walking, community recreation and physical activity programs).	High
Ensure formal sporting opportunities exist for females	1.3.1	Actively assist volunteers to develop sporting clubs (e.g. netball, basketball or softball) that will provide regular opportunities for females to be involved in formal sport in outlying towns.	High

2.2 Council Policies, Coordination and Management Arrangements

Strategy/ Issue	No.	Actions	Priority
Ensure an appropriate level of resources is allocated to achieve optimal sport and recreation outcomes	2.1.1	Review recommendations in this Plan and co-ordinate priorities and timeframes across Council with other planning strategies. Undertake a regular process for undertaking reviews and reporting outcomes.	High
	2.1.2	Complete a major review of this Plan within 10 years.	Low
	2.1.3	Review annual budget allocations for sport and recreation purposes to ensure adequate funding is available for the development and management of facilities. Council funding can also be used to attract external funding from sources such as NSW Department of Sport and Recreation.	High
Ensure that community, sport and recreation groups have adequate support for seeking funding	2.2.1	Investigate the possibility of employing an officer to work across Council departments and community groups to identify potential funding sources and prepare appropriate applications.	Medium
Ensure appropriate tenure is available for sport and recreation organisations	2.3.1	Develop a leasing/ right-of-use policy that clearly articulates roles and responsibilities, maximises community benefit and promotes sound management of assets, whilst ensuring all regular user groups have appropriate tenure to support their development plans and potential.	High
Ensure equity of support for 355 Committees and other community groups across the region	2.4.1	Develop a consistent policy for of fees, charges, maintenance and support mechanisms for community organisations/ committees that reflects the income potential and community benefit of organisations.	High
Ensure open space and recreation needs are reflected in statutory planning documents	2.5.1	Update zoning within the LEP to identify new park areas as detailed in Sections 8.3, 8.4 and Appendix Four.	High
	2.5.2	Amend Development Control Plans and Section 94 Plan to address findings of the open space assessment (Section 8), specifically: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reflect the need for improved embellishment of district parks • provide additional land development criteria to ensure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – adequate road frontage – regular dimensions – minimum widths – immunity from constrain by infrastructure/ drainage functions – connectivity – vegetation and landscaping – diversity in play opportunities and park settings • amend the desired standard of service to reflect the hierarchy of parks. 	High

2.3 Maintenance and Improvement of Existing Facilities and Programs

Strategy/ Issue	No.	Actions	Priority
Ensure appropriate future development at key sport and recreation sites	3.1.1	<p>Work closely with the individual organisations, peak bodies, Sports Working Group and other key stakeholders to develop appropriate plans for key sites, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • precinct master plan for the Australian Equine and Livestock Events Centre and surrounds (e.g. Regional Sporting Complex, Tamworth Regional Events and Conference Centre, Longyard Golf Club and undeveloped land) • master Plan for the Moonbi Recreation Reserve • strategic asset condition audit and master plan for the Barraba Showgrounds • master plan for the Regional Sporting Complex, including provision of a 3rd synthetic hockey field and retention of 1 turf cricket field (able to accommodate grass hockey fields). • (revised) master plan for the Sporting Precinct from Jewry St to Locks Lane (in light of relocations of sporting codes to this area) • concept/ master plans for district recreation parks including Hyman Park, Anzac Park, Chauvel Park and Powerhouse Park • review master plan for Bicentennial Park with the view to developing a regional recreation park with major play facility catering for all ages and abilities, and associated picnic/ community gathering nodes. 	High
Undertake appropriate planning and design to ensure spaces are attractive and functional	3.2.1	As a general rule establish concept/ master plans prior to development of district, regional recreation parks or sporting complexes to prevent adhoc development.	Ongoing
	3.2.2	Work with the Oakburn Park Management Committee to investigate opportunities to enhance the appearance of the bund and adjoining road side at Oakburn Park.	Medium

Strategy/ Issue	No.	Actions	Priority
Ensure a range of play opportunities are available for youth	3.3.1	<p>Develop additional play opportunities in parks throughout the region, as identified in Section 8.4 and Appendix Four. In particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nundle—develop a playground facility to service the local community and visitors. This may include support for the plans of local groups. • Kootingal—develop a playground near Sandy Creek behind the War Memorial Hall • Manilla—establish a skate park/ active youth space • Tamworth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – develop a regional playground and supporting picnic and activity node – improve district parks to provide for activities in a range of age groups and interests – create a youth activity hub at the skate park by providing additional elements (e.g. courts, hit-up wall) 	High
Ensure parks are embellished to meet community needs	3.4.1	Develop additional play opportunities in parks throughout the region, as identified in Section 8.4 and Appendix Four.	Ongoing
Ensure open space is well maintained and attractive	3.5.1	Undertake an audit of maintenance and safety issues across open space areas and develop a plan to address the backlog. Allocate sufficient resources to deliver improvements in a timely manner.	High and ongoing
	3.5.2	Develop an asset management and replacement plan to ensure funds are allocated for capital replacement within the life cycle of assets.	Medium
Encourage and support sport and recreation organisations in applying for grants from external funding sources to develop and improve facilities and opportunities	3.6.1	<p>Prioritise assistance to those organisations that have identified their needs in either this Plan or through other development plans lodged with Council or New South Wales Sport and Recreation. In particular, encourage and support the following groups to obtain external funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barraba Sports Ground—relocate cricket practice facility, rebuild the amenities and canteen facility and continue to pursue opportunities to use recycled water for field irrigation (and golf course irrigation) • Barraba Tennis Facility—upgrade the existing clubhouse • Barraba Recreation Ground—develop a new amenities facility • Kootingal Recreation Reserve—level and irrigate the field, install lights to competition standard and enhance spectator facilities (shade, covered awning and car parking) • Woolbrook Tennis Facility—repair the existing courts • No. 1 OVAL—install lights to AFL and cricket competition standard and upgrade shower facilities 	Ongoing

Strategy/ Issue	No.	Actions	Priority
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ken Chillingworth Oval—install lights to competition standard Rugby Park—install lights to competition standard and investigate opportunities for additional parking in the Rugby Park/ Viaduct Park precinct Gipps Street Sports Complex—level, irrigate and re-turf the playing fields, upgrade existing lighting and install additional lights to competition standard Riverside Sporting Precinct (Baseball)—install lights to competition standard on Diamond 1 and investigate opportunities for additional car parking Riverside Sporting Precinct (Softball)—install lights to competition standard on Diamond 1 Riverside Sporting Precinct (Cricket)—level and top dress the Carter Street playing fields and develop a lit 5 net practice facility Riverside Sporting Precinct (Netball)—investigate opportunities to enhance car parking (taking into consideration reduced pressure as a result of the new indoor sport development) Chaffey Park—rebuild and increase the number of cricket practice nets. 	
	3.6.2	Investigate opportunities to develop additional spectator facilities (seating and shade) across all sporting facilities.	Medium
Continue the implementation of a well designed and connected pedestrian and cycle network for residents and visitors	3.7.1	Liaise with community walking and cycling groups to establish priority pathway developments and include these in a revised Walk/ Cycle Strategy.	High and Ongoing
	3.7.2	Ensure appropriate standards for pedestrian/ cycle network development and maintenance, including assessment of safety and design criteria (e.g. minimum width and Austroad design guidelines).	High and Ongoing
	3.7.3	Investigate opportunities to develop pedestrian/ cycle networks in sporting areas.	Medium

Strategy/ Issue	No.	Actions	Priority
	3.7.4	Continue the development of pedestrian/ cycle opportunities in the region by initially focussing on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> developing a link around the Manilla River between Cherry Street Park and the Sports Ground in Barraba developing a link along the Peel River in Nundle developing additional links within Hanging Rock (natural areas) developing a link along Station Street in Kootingal to connect the shops with the new development areas. Develop linking paths and trails within existing waterway parkland developing visual connections through the street network to connect Chaffey Park and The Junction (Manilla) developing a link from Campbell Road (Calala) to King George V Memorial Avenue. 	Ongoing
Improve parks, sporting and recreation facilities to meet a diverse range of user group needs and have safe and quality embellishments	3.8.1	Continue to work with communities in rural centres to develop active play spaces for youth, including bike riding areas, hard courts and/or skate facilities. Investigate provision of modular skate park system (mobile and flexible configuration) that can be rotated around skate facilities in the short term, ensure rural centres have adequate youth facilities permanently located in the long term.	High
	3.8.2	Consider developing a second skate facility on the southern side of Tamworth (Hyman Park).	High
	3.8.3	Monitor the frequency with which the waterslide and high diving board are in operation at the Barraba War Memorial Swimming Pool. Ensure times of operation reflect community demand and increase frequency where staffing levels allow.	High
	3.8.4	Consider developing additional shade at the Kootingal-Moonbi War Memorial Swimming Pool.	Medium
	3.8.5	Monitor and evaluate the use, public benefit and operational cost of the Olympic Pool over time, in relation to proposed upgrades and changing opportunities at South and West Tamworth Memorial Swimming Pool.	Ongoing
Ensure the long term viability of recreation and sporting land use	3.9.1	Protect disused rail corridors and investigate the potential for a Rail Trail from Manilla to Barraba initially but potentially could link to Tamworth.	Ongoing
	3.9.2	Protect the use of Oakburn Park for motor sport and other difficult to locate activities through appropriate buffering from any residential land use within the Local Environment Plan (LEP)	Ongoing
	3.9.3	Investigate resource allocations across Barraba to ensure the Barraba Airstrip is maintained to a minimum standard for emergency service access as a priority in the long term.	Medium

Strategy/ Issue	No.	Actions	Priority
	3.9.4	Identify and protect publicly owned Travelling Stock Routes for their environmental values and long term potential to provide outdoor recreation/ nature appreciation activities.	Ongoing

2.4 New Facilities, Programs and Initiatives

Strategy/ Issue	No.	Actions	Priority
Ensure that community, sport and recreation facilities are available to meet community needs	4.1.1	Work with the Department of Lands and appropriate user groups to consider plans for trail bike riding in the Tamworth region. This process would need to investigate the environmental and social implications of trail bike riding in the area and would involve community consultation.	Medium
	4.1.2	Continue to progress the development of the proposed indoor sports facility. Through detailed consultation with relevant user groups and peak sporting bodies, the plans should be finalised and opportunities for funding confirmed.	High
	4.1.3	Investigate the development of a community park at the southern entrance to Barraba. This park could incorporate the disused railway line. Investigations should include consideration of potential constraints such as contamination.	High
	4.1.4	Support the Tamworth Pistol Club's State Government application for the development of an indoor pistol facility.	High
	4.1.5	Investigate opportunities for Connors Creek Reserve to be opened to sailing and boating (electric motors only).	Medium
Ensure that sport, recreation and physical activity programs are available to meet community demand and population changes	4.2.1	Facilitate partnerships to develop a range of physical activity programs for residents (e.g. walking groups, aqua fitness groups and men's health program). These should target groups of high need (e.g. indigenous people and older residents). Facilities that should be encouraged to be used include local parks, swimming pools, tennis courts and walking tracks. Ensure programs are specific to expressed resident needs.	High
	4.2.2	Work in partnership with NSW Department of Sport and Recreation and Tamworth Youth Advisory Council to develop a range of regular youth activities, events and school holiday programs that are delivered across the region using local facilities and service providers (e.g. BMX/ skate skills development; youth adventure camps and come and try programs).	Medium
Improve access to sport and recreation activities	4.3.1	Investigate and trial different delivery strategies when activities are conducted (e.g. buses for one-off events; deliver activities in all townships).	Medium
	4.3.2	Review access arrangements/ procedures to facilities such as tennis courts in rural centres and the velodrome to ensure community use and benefit are maximised. Assist groups to make facilities available where appropriate.	Medium

Strategy/ Issue	No.	Actions	Priority
Increase the outcomes and value of obtaining external funding by Council and the community	4.4.1	Council should seek external grant funding for initiatives in this Plan and others and assist the community to access grants by supplying information, training in grant writing and, time permitting, helping with key grant applications. Council may consider employing a Grants Officer to assist the community.	Medium
Ensure adequate parkland is available to meet the needs of current and future populations	4.5.1	Acquire land in the Hills Plain, Moore Creek and Kootingal areas in line with projected needs identified in Section 8.3, with particular consideration for accessibility of roads for pedestrians, horse riders and cyclists.	Ongoing
	4.5.2	Ensure any rural/ rural residential development to the south of the Australian Equine and Livestock Events Centre is master planned to support equine friendly development, including appropriate horse trails (ideally linking to Kingswood area), stabling and exercise yards in conjunction with future development.	Ongoing
	4.5.3	Address current and future deficiencies in the network, as identified in section 8.4 and Appendix Four through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • augmentation of existing parks to improve access, road frontage and visibility • acquisition of land to address deficiencies • consideration of the role of water storage areas within the open space network. 	Ongoing

2.5 Information and Awareness

Strategy/ Issue	No.	Actions	Priority
Improve communication channels with Council and awareness by community organisations of their roles and responsibilities	5.1.1	Develop and trial an information and communication package that aims to improve clarity of roles and responsibilities of Council, NSW Department of Sport and Recreation and community organisations. This should cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • leasing and facility management and maintenance • feedback and reporting procedures between Council and community groups to ensure communication is two-way • available funding programs and helpful funding application hints. Information should then be delivered through a range of mediums and forums.	Medium

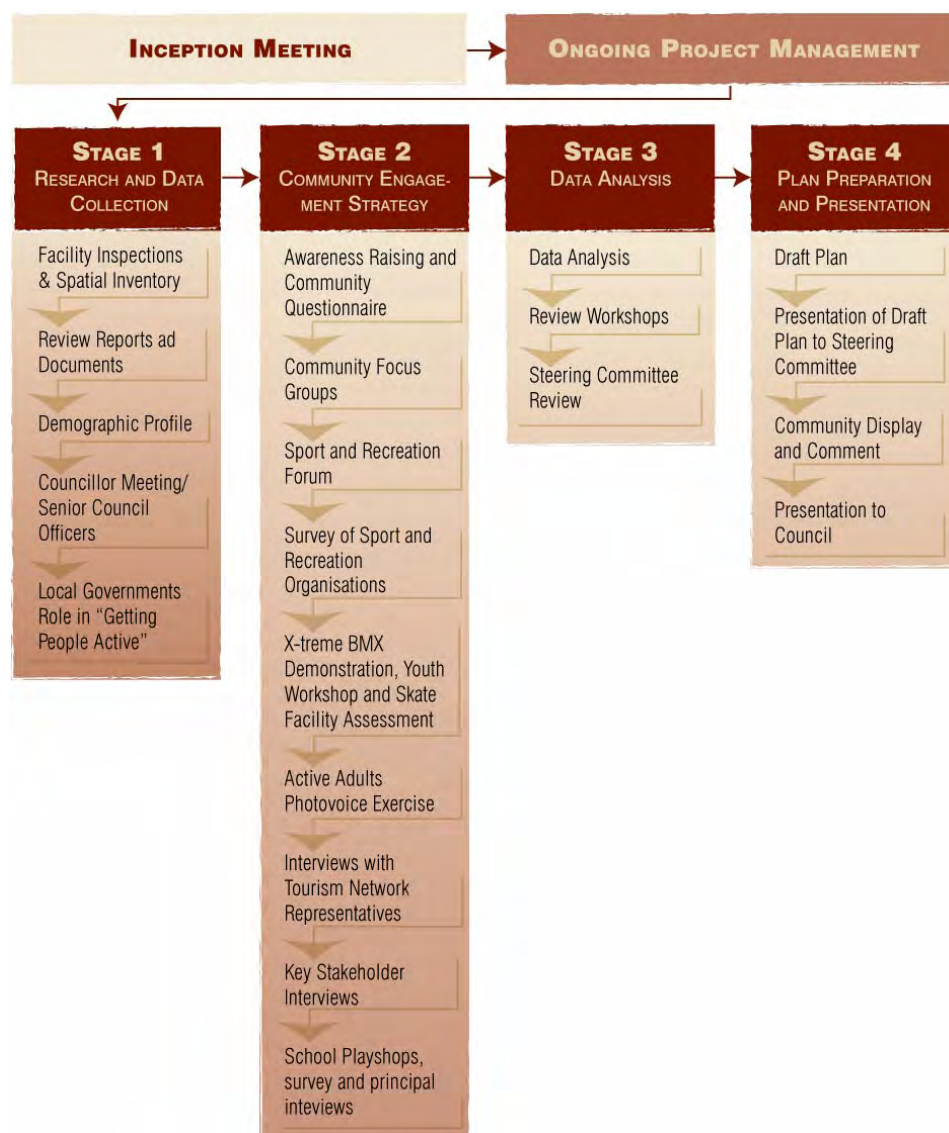
Strategy/ Issue	No.	Actions	Priority
Promote the recreation, physical activity and open space assets of the Region and improve public awareness of Council and its activities	5.2.1	Develop an Outdoor Recreation Opportunities Brochure promoting camping, walking and cycling opportunities across the region. Initially, Council will need to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inspect and repair any trails on council land • install appropriate signage • map all trails • grade the trails according to difficulty • develop a brochure of the trails noting other opportunities such as camping opportunities, locations for water etc. 	Medium
	5.2.2	Assist rural centres to develop parkland and cultural trail pamphlets for their communities.	High
	5.2.3	Develop promotional brochure(s) for Tamworth parkland to promote and raise awareness of physical activity and recreational opportunities.	Medium
	5.2.4	Ensure information and resources are available at information centres and key tourism points across the region.	Ongoing

3. Study Approach and Methodology

The Recreation and Open Space Plan provides a clear direction for the provision, management and use of recreation and open space facilities and services within Tamworth Regional Council local government area. This Plan is intended to:

- be a broad strategic document that fits within Council's overall planning structure (which includes Council's Management Plan, Draft Regional Development Strategy and 10 year Community Plan [under development] and other corporate plans)
- direct the preparation of specific short to medium term strategies including a Sports Strategy and Recreation Facilities Strategy
- where relevant, guide the preparation of associated policies and plans (e.g. Section 94 Plan, Local Environment Plan and Development Control Plan).

To meet Council's objectives in developing the Plan, a comprehensive process of research and consultation was undertaken across Tamworth Regional Council. The figure below provides an outline of the project methodology.



4. Planning Context

4.1 Council and Government Areas

4.1.1 Planning and Coordination

Recreation, sport and open space functions of Council sit within the Regional Services Directorate. The daily management of open space, recreation and sport facilities and liaison with sporting clubs and groups occurs through the Horticulture and Recreation Division. Other community liaison and community facility planning and management activities occur under the Culture and Community Services Branch. The majority of services are delivered through the Tamworth City Office, however there are some remotely based staff in Barraba, Manilla, Kootingal and Nundle.

Whilst the working relations between staff in all the directorates and branches appears good, occasions can arise where critical information is not communicated and “left hand, right hand” difficulties arise. Council has made a first step in addressing some of these issues with the introduction of the Sports Working Group. Additional coordination of activities across staff in different divisions, and even a basic, informal information sharing process for staff would be beneficial.

In general, there is a relatively low level of understanding in the community about Council’s roles, support, policies and processes. Whilst some clubs are clearly “in the know” in relation to Council activities, this appears to be only a small proportion. Many of the smaller groups/ committees could benefit from networking and learning opportunities with other successful or larger clubs/ groups.

4.1.2 Management

Tenure arrangements are variable across different sporting grounds. The majority of fields/ courts are hired through Council’s booking system, providing sporting groups/ schools a right-to-occupy/use for defined periods of time. Most specialised sporting facilities (e.g. enclosed ovals, equine facilities) have leases with varying length terms and provisions, although some have expired. The arrangements for Council 355 committees provide for management of a defined area.

The leases tend to be highly variable in terms of the length and general conditions applied. There appears to also be considerable variation in the fees/ charges, rents, maintenance provision and support structures provided to different user groups/ hirers. A contributor to this situation is likely to be differences in policies, practises and documentation of the preceding five local governments, prior to amalgamation.

The varying roles and responsibilities of clubs/ groups vs Council within a lease/ use/ management arrangement is not well understood, if articulated at all. In addition, a number groups/ clubs have no formal tenure as leases have expired and not yet been renewed. This can cause difficulty in obtaining external funding where tenure is a requisite to eligibility.

The current system is ad hoc and lacking any specific performance-based outcomes or clearly defined roles and responsibilities. It is also poorly communicated and understood within the community. Although typical of many local governments, such situations contribute to poor asset management of valuable community resources and reduced community benefit.

The system requires a review to develop a consistent and fair leasing/ right of use approach and policy. This would ideally include:

- development of standard conditions outlining Council and Club/Committee responsibilities

- asset management requirements based on a whole-of-asset-life approach
- processes to identify 'spare capacity' in sporting ground and community facility use
- introduction of performance criteria/ outcomes to promote full utilisation and maximum community benefit
- reference to a consistent policy of fees, charges and support mechanisms for community organisations that reflects the income potential and community benefit of organisations (likely to be hierarchical).

That said, Council needs to be aware that a "one size fits all" approach to management and leasing of recreation and sporting grounds and facilities is not appropriate. Council will need a range of approaches to provide innovative and flexible solutions for the benefit of the community.

4.1.3 Community Support

Community support can cover a broad range of assistance including financial (e.g. rate rebates, peppercorn rents, donations), operational (e.g. minor maintenance, mowing, equipment provision), education and training and in-kind support. Tamworth Regional Council provides avenues for many such support mechanism for community organisations.

Council has policies in place for:

- Annual Donation Program (including in-kind support)
- waiving/ reducing fees for community groups outside the Annual Donations Program (up to \$5,000 per annum across all organisations)
- interest free loans for community groups and organisations
- Town Hall hire fee waivers for charitable functions and some specific community events.

The level of awareness of the different avenues for support and, in fact, the levels of support provided appear to be highly variable across the region. Development of a consistent and fair approach and policy is required to maximise community benefit.

4.2 Report and Document Review

Reviewing background studies, plans and policies provides an understanding of the planning and organisational context in which potential opportunities for Tamworth Region may be provided.

Council has progressively worked towards implementing the actions of some of the plans and studies documented below.

4.2.1 Community Plans—Rural Centres

Manilla Matters Program—Community Strategic Plan (2006)¹

This Plan identifies Manilla as "a town with a lot of potential to grow and flourish" (p. 12). Opportunities exist for enhancing the streetscape and town entrance and installing appropriate visitor signage.

The need to increase activities for youth has been highlighted. The development of a skate park near the pool could provide a focus for youth activity. The Plan also notes the need to upgrade the parkland facilities that run alongside the river near the weir.

¹ de Greenlaw Consultancy, 2006

Mt Borah has been developed as a world class site for paragliding and hang gliding. Significant economic benefit arises for the regular events that this area attracts. Opportunities exist for town of Manilla to capitalise further on these events.



With regard to the Recreation and Open Space Plan, the mission statement developed clearly highlights the importance of beautifying the town and enhancing youth, sport and health opportunities:

Develop opportunities to expand business, marketing and events; upgrade and beautify the built and natural environments; establish facilities and activities for youth, sport, health and the elderly.



A range of projects have been recommended under the four key areas of Business Development, Events and Marketing Development, Physical Development and Youth and Social Development.

A number of the proposed projects involve the maintenance and/or upgrade of existing facilities rather than the development of new ones.

Barraba Unlimited Program—Community Strategic Plan (2007)²

As a premier location for bird watching and with quality camping, boating, fishing and swimming opportunities at Split Rock Dam, tourism is a key industry for Barraba.

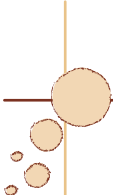
To ensure the continued environmental beauty of the town, a local Landcare Group has been established. This group has commenced a tree planting program on the southern side of town and a

rehabilitation program along the Manilla River.

The Plan recommends projects under four key areas of Business, Tourism and Marketing; Built and Natural Environment; Events and Social Development; and Youth.

A number of the projects involve beautifying/ upgrading existing parks and the river bank, while the need for significant tree planting along town streets has also been identified.

² de Greenlaw Consultancy, 2007



The Plan outlines the importance of establishing a youth space (skate and bmx park) and additional youth sporting facilities such as cricket practice nets.

Building a Better Bendemeer Program—Community Strategic Plan (2007)³

The Plan notes the ageing population and drain of young people from Bendemeer. In an effort to attract young families, the community sees an advantage in developing small hobby farms in the area.

With the popular Banalasta Visitor Centre, a tranquil environment and an inviting river, Bendemeer is well-positioned to attract additional visitors and tourists.

A range of projects are presented under four key areas of Business, Tourism and Marketing; Built and Natural Environment; Events and Social Development; and Youth.

This Plan presents a number of objectives and projects directly relevant to the current Plan. Three key objectives are listed below:

- Built and Natural Environment—to upgrade the river, CBD, trees, services and facilities and lobby for hobby farm re-zoning.
 - by December 2007 we will establish gateway signage and South Entrance Plan, plan walking trails, clean up the riverbanks and install 3 phase power at the hall, rodeo and football grounds
 - by December 2008 we will commence the North Entrance Plan, plant trees in the main street and establish the community art project.
- Events and Social Development—To develop the tennis courts and club and more entertainment, activities and events.
 - by December 2007 we will identify funding and tasks to establish a multi-purpose court and Flicks in the Sticks
 - by December 2008 we will establish the multi-purpose court, move the Golf Clubhouse to the tennis court area and establish regular movie nights.
- Youth—To develop more activities and infrastructure for children and youth.
 - by December 2007 we will establish a site for funding for the skate park and two weekly sporting activities
 - by December 2008 we will establish the skate park and a Youth Centre
 - by June 2009 we will establish a BMX/ motor bike track.

Nundle Gold Rush Program—Community Strategic Plan (2007)⁴

With large dams and picturesque outlooks, Nundle has a number of quality sites for picnicking, fishing, bushwalking and boating activities.

The Plan recommends a range of projects under four key areas of Business, Tourism and Marketing; Built and Natural Environment; Youth, Events and Social Development; and Hanging Rock.

Two of the key objectives under the Built and Natural Environment area are to upgrade the Captain Cook Park playground and establish a park and barbecue area at Hanging Rock. Additionally, a number of projects involve enhancing the existing areas of open public green space and providing activities for target groups (youth—BMX, skate park and gym and the elderly—gentle exercise classes/ yoga).

³ de Greenlaw Consultancy, 2007

⁴ de Greenlaw Consultancy, 2007

4.2.2 Tamworth and Regional Planning Documents

2007—2010 Management Plan

The Management Plan is the over-arching planning document for Council, directing it over a 3 year period. It captures key strategic objectives under the five priority areas of:

- Planning, Development and Civil Infrastructure
- Governance, Organisation Development and Community Partnerships
- Community, Cultural and Recreational Services
- Environment, Health and Waste Management
- Business, Economic and Tourism Development.

Council's vision—*"Tamworth to be seen as the leading region in rural Australia because it is the perfect place to live, invest, visit and work"* presents a clear direction for the future of the Region. This important relationship with the community is further highlighted throughout the Plan.

Delivering quality open space, sport and recreation opportunities is a clear theme in the Plan and is best encapsulated within the Community, Cultural and Recreational Services priority as *"provide and facilitate access to a diverse range of accessible, safe, enjoyable and equitable recreational facilities"*.

Sport, recreation and open space outcomes are embedded in the Community Health and Wellbeing priority and include:

- through the Section 94 Plan, provide and develop open space within urban areas
- maintain and improve the provision of aquatic services in the region
- plan for the provision of sport and recreation facilities to meet current and future needs
- provide well developed sporting and recreation facilities for the benefit and enjoyment of all members of the community
- manage our horticulture and recreational assets to ensure sustainable long term service delivery
- continue to engage key stakeholders regarding the provision of sporting and recreational facilities and services and encourage and recognise participation in all forms of sport and recreation
- make provision for the supply of adequate, well maintained and well designed public toilet facilities that are located on Council reserves at appropriate locations.

Council is actively pursuing these key outcomes and this Strategy will further investigate sport, recreation and physical activity opportunities from a regional approach.

Tamworth City Council—Recreation Plan (2001)

This Plan was developed before the amalgamation to form Tamworth Regional Council. As a result, it has only considered recreation issues for Tamworth City.

In summary, the Plan identified that:

- Tamworth residents were, generally, satisfied with the provision of recreation and sport facilities
- adequate provision existed for both local and district level reserves (however, these areas received limited use)
- informal activity types such as walking and gardening were of key importance
- the City required an indoor heated swimming pool, skateboarding/ rollerblading facilities, equine centre, gymnasium (South/ West Tamworth) and trail bike riding/ additional motor sports facilities
- no additional open space was required, however, the provision of links between existing sites was necessary.

In total, \$7.4m worth of new capital expenditure over 11 years was recommended in the Plan, including a number of site specific recommendations to improve parks and recreation. Whilst a number of land disposal suggestions seem to have been implemented, many of the park improvement suggestions still seem to be outstanding.

The recommendations and findings of the plan have informed strategies and actions in other subsequent regional and statutory planning process, and it could be generally said that most Council documents reflect the summary above. This Recreation and Open Space Plan will supersede the prior recreation plan and may result in the need to update/ revise a number of other documents (specifically those relating to land development and contributions).

Tamworth Sport Strategy (2004)

Completed before Council amalgamations, this Strategy only considers issues within Tamworth City. This strategy was not formally adopted by Council due to the amalgamations.

The purpose of this Strategy was to:

- “Provide and improve services to sport because Council understands its importance and benefits to the community in social and economic terms; and to:
 - Make service delivery more effective and equitable, and
 - Facilitate understanding—clear communication and input from stakeholders in local sport” (p.3).

Three key areas were addressed in the Strategy—Facility Development; Asset Management; and Sport Development and Promotion. Proposed actions for each of these three areas are listed below.

Table 1—Facility Development Actions

Program	Action	Priority	Status
Facility Development Program	Field lighting at Riverside Sports Complex—softball	High	Not started
	Lighting (stage II) at No. 1 Oval	High	Seeking external funding
	Covered air pistol/ rifle range	High	Seeking external funding
	Lighting at Jack Woolaston Oval	High	Not started
	Fourth court and upgrade amenities at the Basketball Stadium	Medium	Concept planning complete—detailed planning to be completed in 2008/09
	Cricket practice nets at a yet to be identified site	Medium	Not started
	Amenities/ tool shed at Regional Sports Complex	Medium	No longer required
	Training lights at a yet to be identified site	Medium	Associated with Riverside Sports Complex Master Plan
	Synthetic track at the Regional Sports Complex (athletics)	Medium	Not started
	Upgrade Oakburn Park	Medium	Complete

Program	Action	Priority	Status
	Master Plan Stage 1 at Riverside Sports Complex	Medium	Continuing
Facility Planning Program	Facility investigation for the development of a fourth court at the Basketball Stadium	High	Concept planning complete—detailed planning to be completed in 2008/09
	Master Plan Stage 1 at Riverside Sports Complex	High	Complete
	Identify sites, detailed design and costing for training lights	Medium	Continuing
	Investigate the feasibility of developing a regional sports venue/ stadium	Medium	Considered in this plan as a long term priority
	Review the Regional Sports Complex Master Plan	Medium	Continuing
	Identify a site, preliminary design and costing for cricket practice nets	Medium	Not started
	Identify a site, preliminary design and costing for amenities and tool shed at the Regional Sports Complex	Low	No longer required
	Detailed design and costing for a synthetic track at the Regional Sports Complex (athletics)	Low	Not started
	Facility investigation for squash courts at yet to be identified sites	Low	Not started

Table 2—Asset Management Actions

Program	Action	Status
Management Improvements	Provide a fence around the athletics track	Complete
	Install a computerised irrigation system for sports grounds	Commenced
	Upgrade irrigation at the Regional Sports Complex	Implemented in association with the Australian Equine and Livestock Events Centre
	Construct a groundsman's tool shed at the Riverside Sports Complex	No longer required
	Erect a vertical catch net for AFL at No. 1 Oval	Not started

Program	Action	Status
	Install irrigation for Riverside Sports Complex No. 2	Associated with Riverside Sports Complex Master Plan
	Concrete the safety fence at Oakburn Park	Not started
	Install irrigation at Cross Park	Stage 1 complete
Non-recurrent Maintenance	Maintain irrigation at Gipps Street Sports Complex	Continuing
	Paint the pavilion at No.1 Oval	Complete
	Paint the picket fence on No.1 Oval	Complete
	Resurface the track at the Motorsport Complex	Not started
	Maintain irrigation at the Riverside Sports Complex	Continuing
	Maintain irrigation at Viaduct Park	Continuing

Table 3 –Sport Development Actions

Program	Action	Status
Sport Administration	Liaise with NSW Tourism, Sport and Recreation to provide 1-2 course/ seminars covering the 2 highest rated topics and other essential/ mandatory topics (e.g. child protection)	Not started
	Collect literature covering other high rating topics and where practical register with the library	Not started
	Provide venues to conduct seminars/ courses	Not started
	Promote availability of courses and resources	Not started
Sport Promotion	Facilitate information on Council's internet web site on sporting facilities and clubs as well as providing links to and from other relevant sports sites	Continuing
	Investigate and facilitate other forms of sport promotion, such as information provided in "new resident kits" and flyer/ brochures being sent out with rate notices	Not started
	Review and address signage requirements for venues	Not started
	In association with local media outlets, coordinate a 'media workshop' for local sporting bodies	Not started
	Investigate and implement improved methods for the coordination and promotion of the Tamworth Games	Continuing
	Organise and promote the Tamworth Sports Awards	Continuing
Event Support and Promotion	Liaise between sporting bodies, Tourism Tamworth and the events units to ensure event hosting opportunities are identified and pursued	Continuing

Program	Action	Status
	Facilitate/ assist applications from sporting bodies for funding under Tourism Tamworth's Event Funding Program	Continuing
	Provide in-kind assistance to sporting bodies holding major regional, state or national events	Continuing
	Where possible, utilise Council's communication networks (e.g. web page) for the promotion and administration of events	Continuing

As identified in Tables above, many of the actions proposed by this (now) four-year old strategy are yet to commence (or be finalised), largely due to the fact that the strategy was not adopted. This may reflect the community perception that Council needs to allocate additional resources to sport and recreation management, maintenance and development.

Additionally, the priority of a number of the actions has changed since 2004. For instance, the development of basketball facilities is now a high priority while sports field lighting projects (Riverside Sports Complex (softball) and Jack Woolaston Oval) have decreased in priority.

Supply and Development of Sports Facilities (Discussion Paper)⁵

This paper outlines the supply and demand of outdoor sporting facilities owned and/ or managed by Council within Tamworth. The document considered (and mapped) potential changes over a 20-year period.

While current sporting field supply is 2.8ha/1000, in the next 5—10 years this is predicted to reduce to 2.3ha/1000. This rate of provision is considered appropriate and has been proposed as a future benchmark.

Three sites are considered for future possible expansion. The paper recommends:

- Riverside Sports Complex (Carter Street Extension, 5ha) be developed for future soccer expansion
- A total of 6ha be developed for school sport and local clubs at Hills Plain
- Locks Lane (18ha) be retained for flood management and developed for sport if required.

Additionally, recommendations are presented regarding future relocations and expansions across all sports within the City. Key changes will result from Federation Park and Minor League Park being converted to industrial land and an indoor sport and aquatic centre being developed at Scully Park—No.2.

Finally, the paper identifies the need to monitor the impact that the Australian Equine and Livestock Events Centre has on the Regional Sports Complex (hockey, athletics, cricket and gymnastics).

Sportsgrounds Plan of Management

This Plan of Management was prepared as a requirement of the *Local Government Act (1993)*.

This document outlines that 86ha of community land is currently categorised as 'sportsground'. In general, these sites are of suitable size, include multi-use fields with amenities, good street frontage, perimeter and internal tree planting, and are used year-round (except Llama Park). Further, the document highlights that Council maintains all open space based on a maintenance hierarchy.

⁵ Sports Working Group



A range of actions are presented under nine key strategies:

1. Organise, facilitate and promote competitions and events
2. Facilitate and promote informal/ social use of the area
3. Develop and improve facilities for active and passive use
4. Provide professional support for the management of the facility
5. Manage activities appropriately to limit negative impacts such as noise pollution and traffic congestion on nearby residents
6. Facilitate clear communication channels with nearby residents
7. Establish/ review acceptable processes for the management and maintenance of the subject land
8. Monitor management activities
9. Limit/ regulate undesirable activities within sportsgrounds.

Swimming Pools Management Plan (2007)

For each of Council's six swimming pools, this document outlines:

- administration requirements
- occupational health & safety expectations
- operating hours
- fees
- booking requirements
- conditions of entry
- activities requiring approval
- young children considerations
- authorisation
- pool lane allocation
- use by aquatic groups
- recreational devices and areas
- access for people with a disability
- emergency and evacuation plans
- access to Council resources.

Riverside Sports Complex Master Plan Discussion Paper (2006)

The Riverside Sports Complex is one of the Region's premier sports facilities. The precinct currently caters for hockey, cricket, baseball, softball and netball.

The construction of the Taminda Levee will protect Federation Park and Minor League Park from flooding and, thus, make these areas attractive for industrial development. This master plan was developed to ascertain opportunities to relocate Tamworth and District Minor Rugby League (from Minor League Park) and Tamworth District Soccer (from Federation Park) to the Riverside Sports Complex.

The Plan identifies a number of issues that were determined when the relocations were considered. These issues include:

- impacts of the Taminda Levee (changes in field layout and land use; changes in traffic conditions)
- areas available to accommodate new fields
- compatibility with other sports
- potential for growth
- car parking and traffic management

- requirements of amenities buildings and clubhouses.

Ultimately, the Sports Working Group recommended the users of Minor League Park be relocated to new fields to be developed at Plain Street (\$1.35m—\$1.6m) and the users of Federation Park be relocated to Riverside Ovals 1-3 (\$650k—\$800k). At this stage, neither of these relocations has come to fruition. However, in early 2008, the first steps to developing the Plain Street fields were taken with levelling of the field areas.

Aquatic Centre and Indoor Sports Centre—Public Exhibition Document (2007)

Council has recognised the need to develop an aquatic and indoor sports centre in Tamworth for a number of years. In November 2007, Council selected a preferred design that was placed on public display from early December 2007 until late in January 2008. This staged aquatic development is planned for a site within Scully Park while a site on George Street is proposed for the indoor sports development.

At the completion of a two stage process, the ultimate aquatic facility will include an indoor 50m pool, indoor 25m pool and indoor leisure water, program pool and toddler's pool. Additional 'dry' facilities will include a gymnasium, program room, multipurpose room and sauna. To service the activity areas, a range of ancillary facilities will be developed including café, change rooms, administration area, crèche, first aid area and bleacher seating.

The proposed indoor sports centre will be the home of the Tamworth Basketball Association and will also be available for indoor netball, futsal, badminton, volleyball and indoor hockey. Up to seven multi-sport courts are proposed for this facility. Appropriate change rooms, administration area and retail area will also be developed.

4.2.3 Land Planning and Statutory Documents

A number of statutory documents control and direct the planning and provision of open space and recreational parkland through the development process. These include:

- Local Environment Plans (LEP)
- Development Control Plans
- Section 94 Plans
- other State and Regional planning policies, legislation and plans.

Tamworth Regional Council currently has multiple LEP's due to the prior amalgamation of several council areas. A new LEP is underway and will commence consolidation of statutory planning instruments. In terms of their relationship to recreation and open space planning the following applies:

LEP(s): guides appropriate land use. The LEP will provide zoning as well as objectives and specific development requirements for each zone. An LEP generally includes protecting or improving the environment, controlling development, protecting or preserving trees or vegetation and controlling advertising.

Development Control Plans: a detailed guideline that illustrates the controls that apply to a particular type of development or in a particular area. A Development Control Plan refines or supplements LEP.

There are in excess of 20 DCP's relating to various development areas and land uses in Tamworth Regional Council. The Tamworth City DCP 19—Subdivision Guideline provides the following objectives for public open space provision:

- To ensure adequate provision and distribution of public open space in convenient locations and of a quality to meet the recreational needs of the community.

- To encourage dual use of open space for recreation and major drainage networks, provided the land is suitable for both purposes.
- To encourage opportunities to link open space networks, community facilities and public services with dwellings.
- To encourage the retention of significant existing vegetation within open space areas, and its integration with both private site landscaping and natural bushland areas.

The public open space guidelines within the DCP state the following:

- Council has determined that *adequate reserves of land exist to meet future population demands* over the program of the Plan and that adequately developed district facilities already exist in the City.
- The contribution has been based on a *strategy of augmenting existing local reserves* to a standard to satisfy the future population needs, at a basic facility level and improve opportunities for movement-orientated recreation.
- Dedication of land may be accepted or required where it forms part of an identified recreation strategy which is designed to meet the needs of the future population, or where there is no existing reserve in the locality (e.g. development of a "greenfield" site).
- In areas where no or insufficient local facilities exist in the vicinity, Council has the discretion to acquire or seek dedication of stand alone local reserves.

The criteria and principles under which dedication or monetary contribution towards acquisition may be required are as follows:

- Land forming part of a movement recreation link or corridor being either:
 - cycle path link identified by the Council as part of the planned cycleway network, minimum 4m width (refer Cycleway Strategy); or
 - pedestrian/ cycleway link between two existing or planned reserves, minimum of 4m width.
- Land that may form part of a "stand alone" local reserve where no existing land is zoned for or capable of providing recreation opportunities in the vicinity of the proposed development (further defined as not within a 10 minute walk or within 500 metres from the site boundaries, taking into account any physical and perceptual barriers such as topography, roads, railways, development etc)

A diagram is provided to show a possible layout for such a link, however it could be improved to take into account current "good practise" design principles, including passive surveillance opportunities through provision of street frontage.

The guideline specifies size criteria for land dedication as follows:

- area less than 0.25ha—only those areas which form a movement orientated recreation link or corridor
- area between 0.25 and 0.5ha—only those areas which adjoin existing or zoned open space
- area greater than 0.5ha—only where no existing facility lies within the vicinity of the development (see criteria above) or where consolidation of open space or linkages would not provide adequate recreation opportunity for a local facility.

Other criteria relating to the form of the land specifies that it must have the capability to be used for the intended purpose and be:

- an acceptable gradient, no drainage conflicts, etc
- cleared of all debris and suitably graded
- serviced to the boundary with water
- free of all encumbrances which restrict its development and use.

Section 94 Plan: Councils are able to levy a contribution on developments that will require or increase the demand for public facilities and services within the area, such as open space, community facilities and recreation facilities. The Section 94 Plan specifies the contribution, how it is determined and the facilities/ services to for which it applies. A contribution under Section 94 can be the dedication of land and/or the payment of money.

The current Section 94 Plan reiterates the size criteria and landform specifications from DCP 19— Subdivision Guideline.

Tamworth Regional Development Strategy (2006 draft)⁶

The primary aim of this Strategy is to develop a strategic planning framework for the recently amalgamated Tamworth Regional Local Government Area. The Development Strategy will then be used to guide development and updating of other statutory documents, including the soon to be revised LEP.

One of the primary objectives of the Regional Development Strategy is to ensure that Tamworth Region is developed as a place to “live, work and play” for its existing and future residents. The guiding principle of meeting cultural and social needs identifies:

- An attractive environment and lifestyle must be provided to encourage skilled, working age young people to stay in the region
- Open space provides a visual contrast to the built environment, contributes to a sense of place and provides opportunities for conservation
- Recreation needs of the future population need to be identified
- Additional facilities need to provide for the diverse population of the Region, be equitable and encourage all people to participate.

Tamworth Urban Development Strategy (2004)⁷

This document provides background and guidance on the specific development strategy for Tamworth City area. Within the objective of enhancing the image and character, the following actions have been identified:

- Establish an open space corridor surrounding the City utilising and linking the existing open spaces, parks and public places. The additional land that would be required could be obtained by donation, vested at time of subdivision, or by acquisition and would establish a greenbelt around the City which could, in time and/or through commitment accommodate wildlife corridors, and dual use pedestrian/bicycle paths for recreation purposes.
- Review the City's major tourist oriented parks and open spaces and enhance amenities where required (for example the experience of the Oxley Scenic Lookout could be enhanced by removing vegetation which obstructs views, by increasing the availability of sheltered picnic/ barbecue facilities which are located to enjoy the views and by introducing vandal resistant public artworks which tell the story of Tamworth and its history and culture).

⁶ GHD, 2006

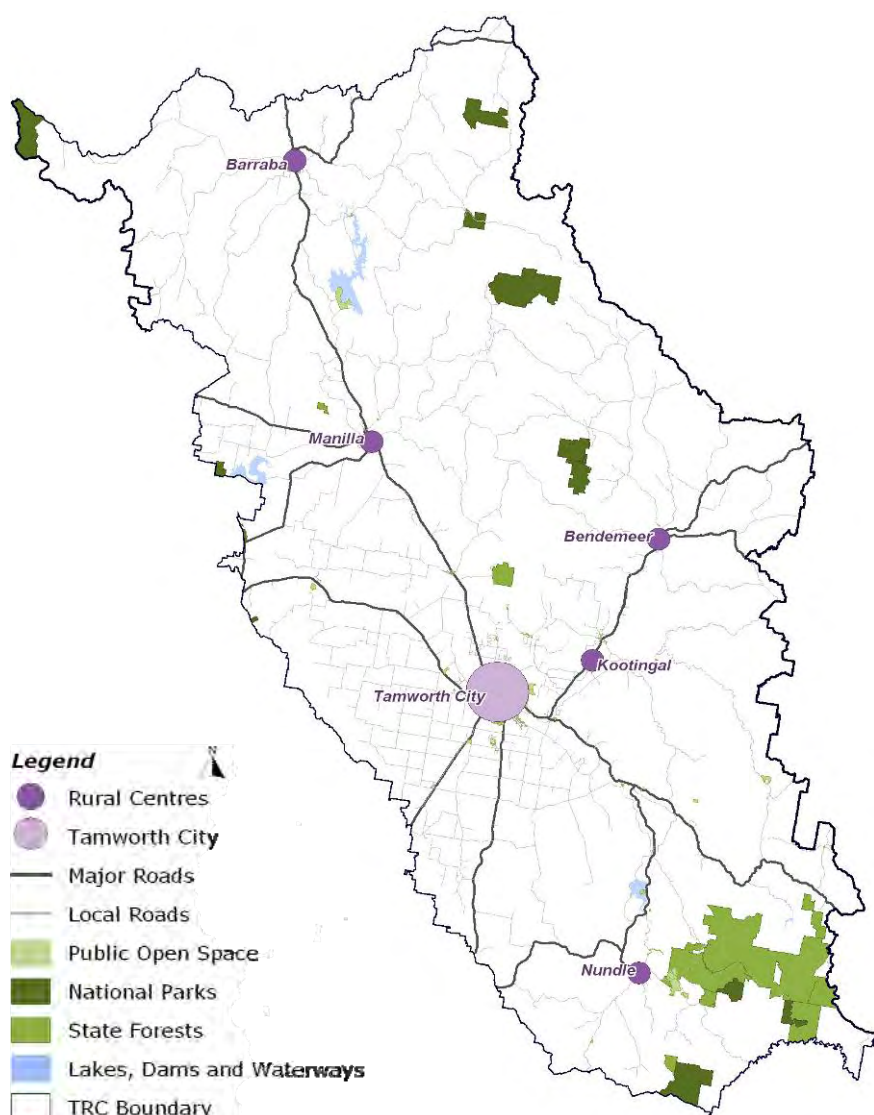
⁷ Woods Bagot, 2002

5. Our People, Our Communities

This Section provides an overview of Tamworth Regional Council communities; characteristics of the population and how it is distributed across the region. An overview of population change and growth is also provided.

The Regional Council area has been broken down into different areas in order to understand the nuances and hence specific needs of different communities. With such a large spread of population, distinct community characteristics emerge. In the first instance demographic variations are explored between the Tamworth City area; rural centres of Barraba, Manilla, Kootingal/ Moonbi, Bendemeer and Nundle; and the remaining rural population. Map 1 provides an overview of Tamworth Regional Council and these areas.

Map 1—Tamworth Regional Council area



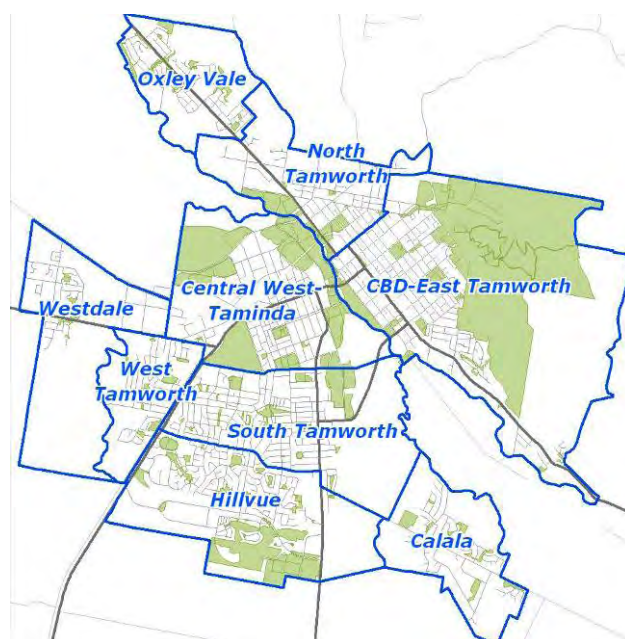
In addition, the city area has been further broken down into nine planning sectors. These are used to describe suburbs or broader areas that have a relationship for the purposes planning recreation and open space facilities. The areas are determined through considering communities of interest, physical and

cognitive barriers that may influence access and participation, and the level of data availability to undertake analysis of needs. The planning sectors covering the existing urban population include:

- Oxley Vale
- North Tamworth
- CBD—East Tamworth
- Central West—Taminda
- South Tamworth
- Hillvue
- West Tamworth
- Calala
- Westdale.

In addition to these sectors, the greenfield development area of Hills Plain/ Moore Creek is considered separately, as the profile and structure of this area will change dramatically as it develops.

Map 2—Planning sectors in Tamworth city area



5.1 Population Estimate and Growth

The estimated population of Tamworth Regional Council is 53,774 people, based on ABS Census night counts 2006. The population across the region is relatively stable with growth at approximately 0.65% per annum. This growth is not evenly distributed, with some areas contracting, others expanding at faster rates and others remaining very stable.

The trend of urban migration has been evident in rural areas. While Manilla and Nundle's populations are stable and even experiencing some growth, Barraba, Bendemeer, Somerton and Attunga areas have tended to contract. Kootingal, by contrast is experiencing growth around 1.5% per annum.

The established urban areas of Tamworth have varying levels of growth, from little to no change and gradual infill development. Across the urban area growth is generally averaging around 1% per annum. Newer residential areas include Calala, Hillvue, Westdale and West Tamworth, with infill development in Oxley Vale.

The Hills Plain and Moore Creek areas to the north of Tamworth will undergo substantial population change as this area redevelops from agricultural uses to a mix of urban and rural residential densities. The development and settlement of this area will occur over many years, but ultimately could hold almost 12,000 people, based on current estimates of lot yields⁸.

With 0.65% per annum average annual growth, the population of Tamworth Regional Council could be expected to reach 57,370 people by 2016.

⁸ Assumes average household size of 2.6

5.2 Population Characteristics

An extensive array of demographic information and analysis is available for the Tamworth Region, including small area breakdowns and regional and state level comparisons⁹. The information presented below summarises some of the key population characteristics from the 2006 ABS Census¹⁰ that influence our understanding of recreation, open space and sporting participation.

Table 4 provides a summary of demographic characteristics across different areas of Tamworth, compared with the entire Regional Council area and NSW as a whole. Key points of interest include:

- the age, household and family structure of Tamworth Region is largely comparable to that of the New South Wales as a whole:
 - there is a slightly larger proportion of people in the younger age groups (0 to 14) as well as in the older age groups (65 and over). The most notable difference is in the lower proportion of people aged 25 to 44 years.
 - there is a higher proportion of couples without children in Tamworth Region than NSW as a whole.
- there is a more marked difference between Tamworth City areas and populations in rural centres:
 - there is a lower proportion of young people in rural centres, and a notably higher proportion of people in the older age brackets. This is reflected in a median age of 45 years in rural centres, compared with 36 years in Tamworth City area.
 - household and family composition is similar between Tamworth City and rural centres, however there is a higher proportion of families without children in rural centres.
 - rural areas are more family-oriented than their urban counterparts, with higher proportions of family households with children and lower proportions of single parent families or lone person households.
- there are higher proportions of people identifying as Indigenous in Tamworth City and rural centres than in NSW as a whole. However, there are substantially lower proportions of people speaking languages other than English at home.
- commensurate with the older age structure, there is a higher proportion of households with low income in rural centres.
- there is a higher proportion of people requiring assistance with core activities in rural centres, but otherwise the Tamworth region is largely similar to NSW on average.
- there is a higher proportion of people volunteering across Tamworth region than NSW on average.
- a higher proportion of people in rural centres walked to work (and subsequently benefited from incidental physical activity) than other areas of Tamworth or NSW as a whole.

Table 4: Comparison of Demographic Characteristics

Characteristic	Tamworth City*	Rural Centres*	Rural Areas*	Tamworth Region	NSW
Number of People (census night count)	38,022	6,018	9,517	53,557	
Age Profile					
Aged 0 to 14	21.8%	18.8%	20.9%	21.3%	19.8%
Aged 15 to 24	14.2%	9.5%	10.2%	13.0%	13.3%
Aged 25 to 44	24.8%	21.1%	23.8%	24.2%	28.2%
Aged 45 to 64	24.1%	27.4%	32.2%	25.9%	24.8%

⁹ www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/communityprofile

¹⁰ ABS 2006 Basic Community Profile (Release 2) cat no: 2069.0.30.001

Characteristic	Tamworth City*	Rural Centres*	Rural Areas*	Tamworth Region	NSW
Aged 65 and over	15.1%	23.2%	12.8%	15.6%	13.8%
Median Age	36 [^]	45 [^]	41 [^]	38	37
Household and Family Composition					
Family households	70.0%	68.0%	80.7%	71.6%	72.1%
Couple families without children	37.4%	43.6%	43.7%	39.3%	36.0%
Couple families with children	41.0%	36.2%	46.6%	41.6%	46.2%
One parent families	19.9%	18.3%	9.1%	17.6%	16.1%
Other families	1.7%	1.9%	0.6%	1.5%	1.7%
Lone person households	27.0%	29.6%	17.8%	25.8%	24.2%
Other households	3.0%	2.4%	1.5%	2.7%	3.7%
Ethnicity and Cultural Diversity					
Identifies as Indigenous	7.9%	6.3%	3.1%	6.9%	2.1%
Speaks only English at home	94.4%	93.9%	96.1%	94.6%	74.0%
Speaks language other than English at home	1.8%	1.3%	1.1%	1.6%	20.1%
Other Characteristics					
Household income under \$500 per week	26.3%	39.7%	22.6%	27.3%	22.6%
People needing assistance with core activities [~]	4.8%	8.7%	3.0%	4.9%	4.6%
People undertaking volunteer work	23.5%	23.6%	27.6%	24.3%	19.0%
Method of Travel to Work on Census Day (incidental physical activity indicator)					
Walked to work	5.0%	9.1%	6.0%	5.6%	5.3%
Biked to work	1.0%	1.0%	0.3%	0.8%	0.8%
Used Public Transport	0.5%	0.4%	0.4%	0.5%	14.9%
Used other methods (motorised)	93.5%	89.6%	93.3%	93.1%	79.0%

* The figures are an aggregate of the census collection districts that most closely align with the boundaries of these areas. Tamworth City comprises the main urban area and immediate surrounds. Rural Centres include populations in Barraba, Manilla, Kootingal/ Moonbi, Bendemeer and Nundle. Rural Areas includes the remainder of the Regional Council.

[^] The median age for the area was calculated by averaging the reported median ages of each census collection district making up the geographic area. Whilst not precise, it provides a point of comparison to that of the Region and NSW.

[~] People who need help or assistance to undertake core activities, in the areas of self-care, mobility and/or communication (where a disability or long term health condition lasts six months or more, or is due to old age).

5.3 Spatial Variations

The variations in demographic characteristics can best be understood through spatial mapping. A series of “hot spot” maps are provided below and show areas where the population has particularly high or low proportions of key characteristic. Understanding these “hot spots” is important in determining priority areas and strategies.

Each of the maps utilises a colour scheme where darker red indicates a high proportion (or “hot spot”) of a certain characteristic, with lower proportions indicated in gradually lightening shades to pale beige. Although the percentages change depending on the characteristic being analysed, the average level is in

line with the reported average for Tamworth Regional Council and NSW as a whole. The follow legend provides a general interpretation.

Demographic Legend

Well above average Above average Average Below average Well below average

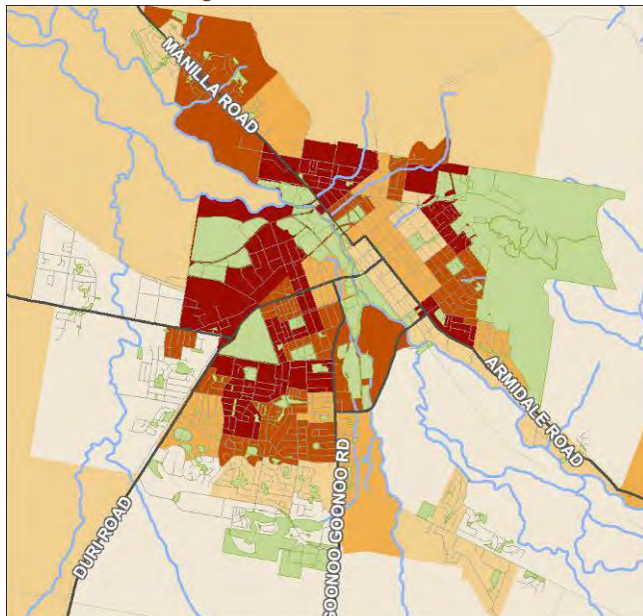
Table 5: Comparison of “Hot Spots” for Older Adults and Young People

Hot Spots of Older Adults (High proportions of people aged 65 years & over)	Hot Spots of Young People (High proportions of youth aged 0 to 14 years)
<p>Demographic Legend Proportion of adults aged 65 years or over</p> <div><div>22 to 40%</div><div>17 to 22%</div><div>13 to 17%</div><div>10 to 13%</div><div>0 to 10%</div></div> <p>Legend</p> <div><div>Major Roads</div><div>Local Roads</div><div>Public Open Space</div><div>National Parks</div><div>State Forests</div><div>Lakes, Dams or Waterways</div></div>	<p>Demographic Legend Proportion of young people aged 0 to 14 years</p> <div><div>26 to 35%</div><div>22 to 26%</div><div>19 to 22%</div><div>15 to 19%</div><div>0 to 15%</div></div> <p>Legend</p> <div><div>Major Roads</div><div>Local Roads</div><div>Public Open Space</div><div>National Parks</div><div>State Forests</div><div>Lakes, Dams or Waterways</div></div>



Hot Spots of Older Adults (High proportions of people aged 65 years & over)

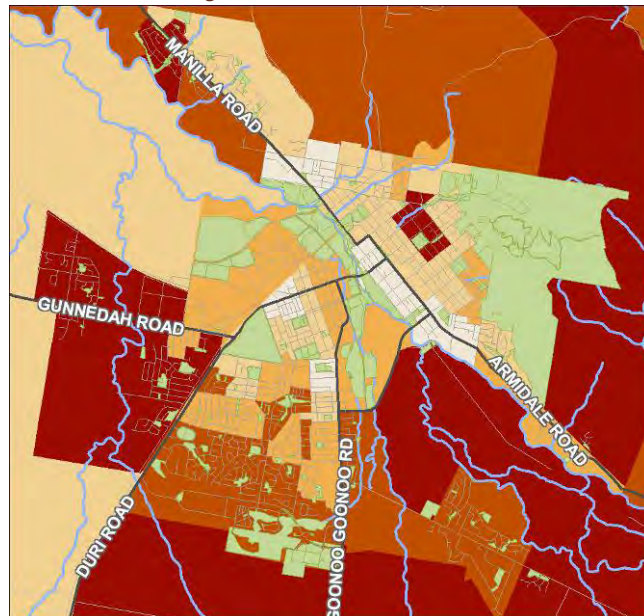
Tamworth City Area



Hot spots of older adults can be seen through North Tamworth, Central West/ Taminda area and South Tamworth. The eastern fringe near Oxley Park also tends to be older.

Hot Spots of Young People (High proportions of youth aged 0 to 14 years)

Tamworth City Area



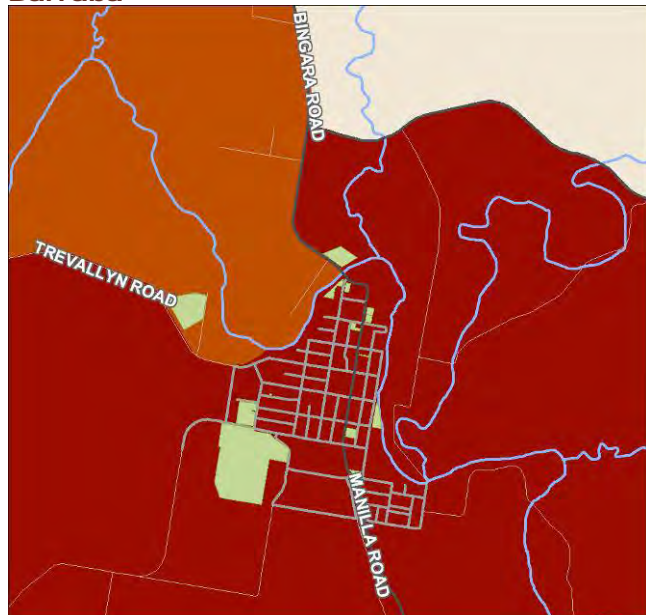
The tendency for rural residents to have larger family sizes, few older people and hence higher proportions of youth is evident with the hot spots of young people surrounding Tamworth urban area.

Within the urban zone we see pockets of high proportions of young people in Oxley Vale and East Tamworth, around Anzac Park. It is the outer fringe areas of Tamworth's urban zone that have the highest proportions of young people, including Westdale, West Tamworth, Hillvue and Calala.

Hot Spots of Older Adults (High proportions of people aged 65 years & over)

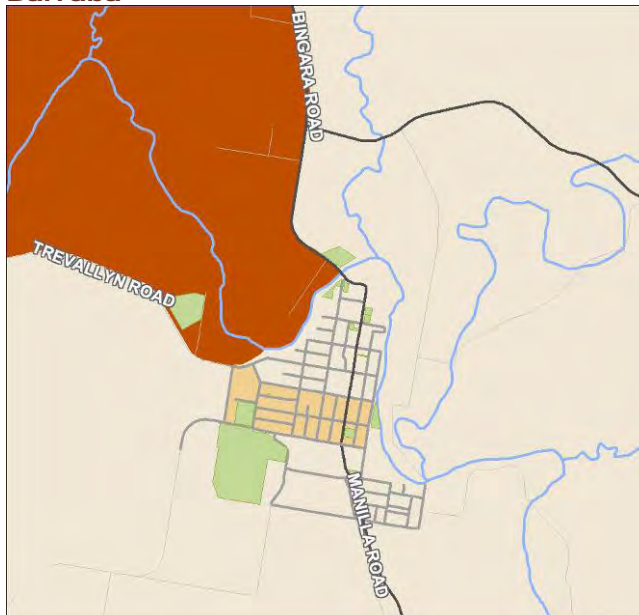
Hot Spots of Young People (High proportions of youth aged 0 to 14 years)

Barraba



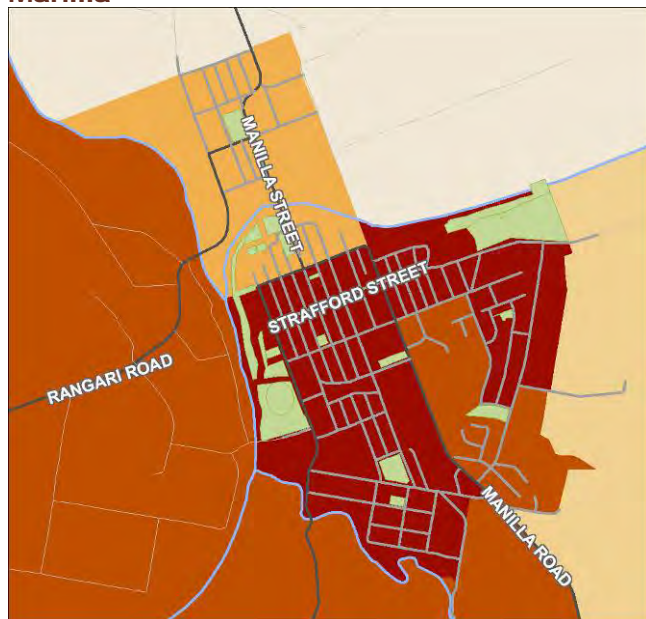
The high proportion of older people living in rural centres is evident in hot spot mapping of Barraba and Manilla

Barraba

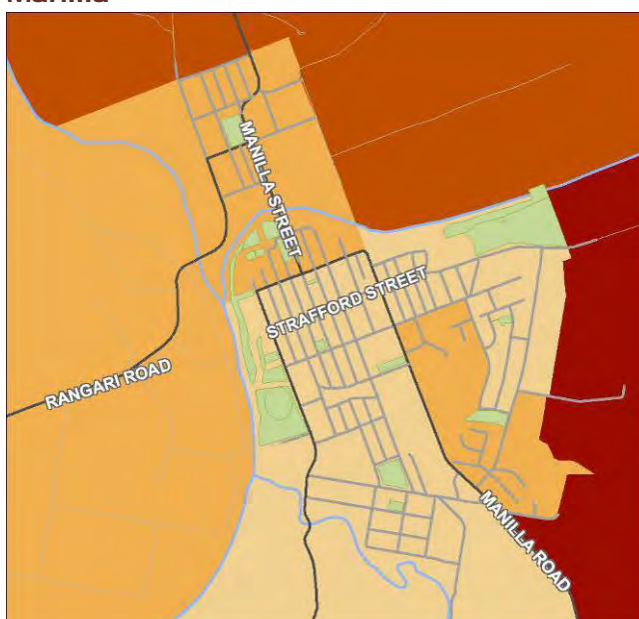


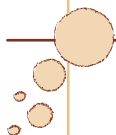
Conversely, there are lower proportions of young people. The rural areas surrounding the towns show higher proportions of young people. This is indicative of family households and few older people remaining on rural property past retirement age. Whilst the proportion of youth is high in these areas, the actual number is quite low, given the much lower population density.

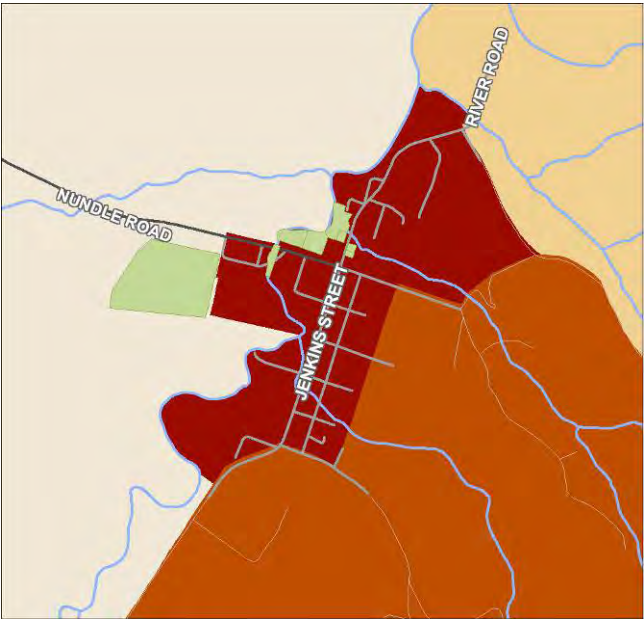
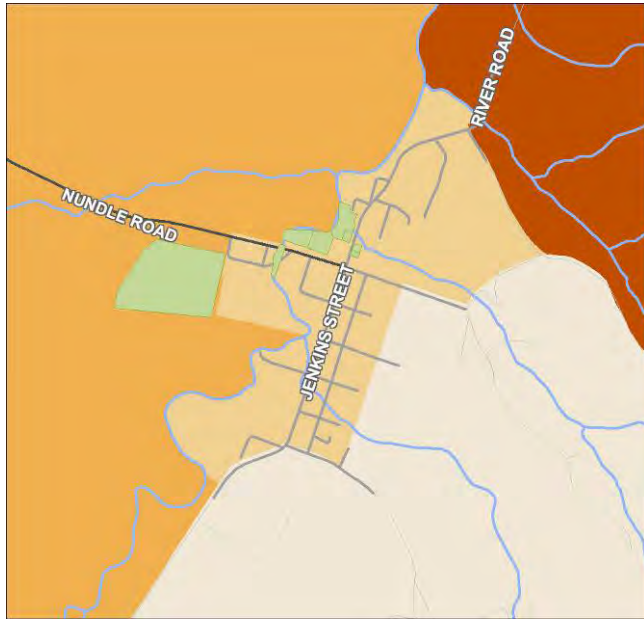
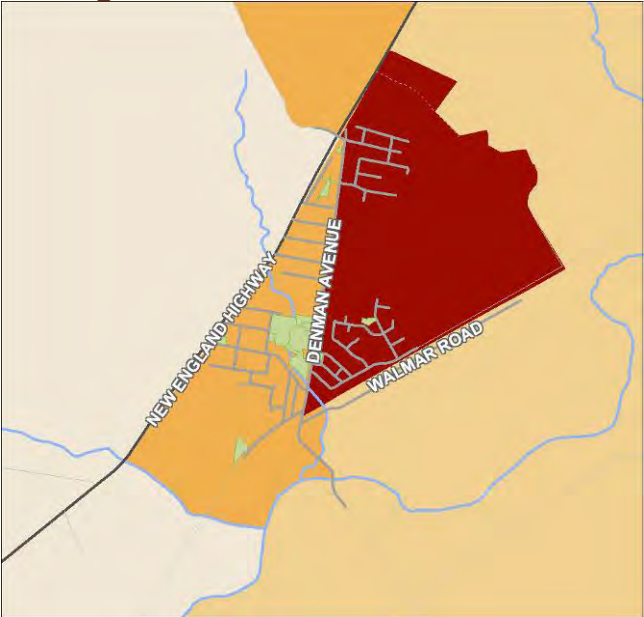
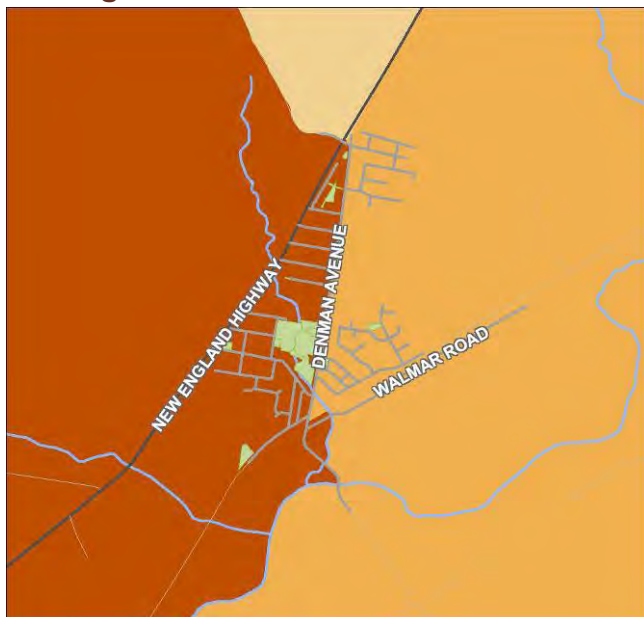
Manilla



Manilla





Hot Spots of Older Adults (High proportions of people aged 65 years & over)	Hot Spots of Young People (High proportions of youth aged 0 to 14 years)
<p>Nundle</p> 	<p>Nundle</p> 
<p>Again, Nundle displays similar characteristics to Barraba and Manilla, in having high proportions of older people within the town.</p>	
<p>Kootingal</p> 	<p>Kootingal</p> 
<p>Kootingal's age profile shows some variation from the norm for a rural centre. Whilst there is still a hot spot of older adults, there are also areas showing greater proportions of youth. This indicates the changing nature of Kootingal's population, as new families begin to settle in the area.</p>	

5.4 Trends in What People Do

5.4.1 Participation in Sports and Recreation Activities

Adults

Age, gender and family life stage all impact on the type of activities and frequency that people participate in sport, recreation and leisure. For example, current trends for people aged over 15 years show¹¹:

- walking is the single most frequently undertaken activity across the Australian population, being the most popular form of physical activity for females (45.9%) and those aged 65 years and over (45.2%)
- aerobics/fitness activities (18.6%), swimming (15.3%) and cycling (8.8%), along with walking, make up the top four activities for the New South Wales population
- running (7.5%), golf (also 7.5%) and tennis (5.7%) are the next most popular activities in New South Wales
- females tend to participate more frequently in physical activity and exercise than males, however males tend to participate for longer than females. Overall, women are less likely to participate in sufficient physical activity than males
- young people tend to participate in vigorous activities more often than older adults.
- older people are more likely to participate in informal, unstructured activities, with young people being more likely to engage in organised sports
- there is a substantial decline in organised sport participation around the age of 17 years due to changes in lifestyle and commitments as young people leave high school, commence working or undertake further studies.

Children

Research into children's participation in cultural and leisure activities (for those aged 5 to 14 years, outside of school hours)¹² provides the following insights into activities of young people across Australia for the 12 months prior to the survey:

- 63% of children participated in at least one organised sport outside of school hours. This is an increase of 4% from 2000 (59%)
- boys participated in organised sport more than girls (69% compared to 58% respectively). This trend was apparent from age 7 years
- participation in sport peaked in the 9 and 10 year age bracket (above 70%), declining to 60% participation by those aged 14 years
- 23% of girls participated in dancing (organised lesson or performance)
- 23% of children had participated in skateboarding/ rollerblading in the two weeks prior to the survey (17% for girls and 29% for boys)
- participation in bike riding was 68% on average (62% for girls, 73% for boys)
- Playing electronic or computer games has declined from 69% since 2000 (with a peak of 70% in 2003) to 63%. Participation in physical activities of sport, dancing and bike riding have increased over the same period.

Table 6 shows a comparison of participation rates for Australian boys and girls in a selection of physically active pastimes and sports.

¹¹ Participation in Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey 2006 Annual Report; Standing Committee on Recreation and Sport 2007

¹² Children's participation in cultural and leisure activities, April 2006; Australian Bureau of Statistics catalogue 4901.0

Table 6: Participation in Physically Active Pastimes and Sport for Children

Activity	Boys		Girls		Total	
	Participation	Rank	Participation	Rank	Participation	Rank
Bike riding	73.4%	1	61.9%	1	67.8%	1
Skateboarding/ rollerblading	29.2%	2	17.6%	4	23.6%	2
Swimming	16.5%	4	18.2%	3	17.4%	3
Soccer	19.6%	3	6.4%	7	13.2%	4
Dancing	2.4%		23.1%	2	12.5%	5
Netball	*0.1%		17.3%	5	8.5%	6
AFL	13.8%	5	0.9%		7.5%	7
Tennis	8.0%	7	6.6%	6	7.3%	8
Basketball	7.4%	9	5.7%	8	6.6%	9
Cricket	10.1%	6	*0.4%		5.4%	10
Martial Arts	6.1%	10	2.9%	11	4.5%	11
Rugby League	7.9%	8	*0.3%		4.2%	12
Gymnastics	1.6%		5.5%	9	3.5%	13
Athletic/ track and field	2.6%	11	3.2%	10	2.9%	14

* estimate has a relatively standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution.

5.4.2 Social and Societal Influences

Ageing Society

While the nation's, and Tamworth's, populations continue to grow, the ageing of society will have a significant impact on the way that parks and open space are used. An older society will have a greater demand for informal recreation opportunities than a younger society.

For older people, access to playing fields and formal sport opportunities is not as important as walking and bike paths, dog off-leash areas and picnic grounds. This does not mean that Tamworth will require less sports fields than it has in the past—there will always be enough young people to require formal sports fields. It does mean though that new developments need to recognise the needs of this changing demography.

Physical Activity and Health

The incidence of obesity is increasing across all age groups and local governments (as well as State and Commonwealth governments) are taking steps to increase physical activity levels. At the local government level, opportunities for walking, cycling and sport are some of the most common, and easily implemented, responses.

Various ERASS studies¹³ have shown that the most popular physical activities for both Australian men and women are walking, swimming, aerobics/ fitness, running, cycling, tennis and golf. These are predominantly undertaken as non-organised, recreational activities.

¹³ Participation in Exercise Recreation and Sport Annual Reports 2001 to 2006, Standing Committee on Recreation and

Volunteer Organisations

Anecdotal evidence suggests that the rate of volunteering for executive positions in sport and recreation clubs has been declining for many years. At the same time the requirements/ responsibility of volunteer positions has increased, with the advent of risk management, asset management, and greater levels of accountability. Anecdotal evidence suggests paper work alone is becoming a significant burden for community organisations.

The increased responsibility in volunteer roles is tending to be being carried by fewer people, adding to the burden on volunteers' time. Volunteers are increasingly expected to deliver high quality sport and recreation experiences. This trend is likely to continue.

It could be expected that this will drive changes in this sector over time. Amalgamations are likely with multi-sport clubs becoming more common. In other cases, organisations may become aligned to larger licensed clubs that take over some or all of the volunteers' roles as well as asset management responsibilities.

Some "professionalisation" of clubs is also likely to take place with some positions attracting at least a basic remuneration. The commercial sector will also displace some clubs by offering competitions where people can turn up and compete without any requirements to undertake other duties (e.g. umpiring or canteen duty).

Cost of Participation

The cost of participating in sport is increasing. These cost increases are most often linked back to insurance premiums and facility safety standards, but the end-result is that parents, in particular, are being more selective in the activities that their children pursue. The cost of junior sport is often a real burden particularly where there are a number of children in a family. Parents may reduce the number of activities that their children are involved with, choose a lower cost option, or withdraw altogether.

As the cost of increasing professionalism of sport delivery is passed on to users, some sporting and recreational activities (and hence traditional modes of physical activity) may become inaccessible to lower income sectors. Such an occurrence should be of extreme concern to all levels of government in the campaign to reduce obesity, as lower income earners tend to have lower levels of physical activity and higher rates of obesity related health concerns.


Programming of Parks

No longer are local governments taking a "build it and they will come" approach to parks. Increasingly, Councils are recognising that they need to program public open spaces to encourage people into them.

A number of Councils are now taking this approach. Examples include programs such as "Active and Healthy Parks¹⁴" where 120 parks across the City are being actively programmed. Gold Coast City Council has appointed an "Active and Healthy Community Officer", who, over the next three years, will trial a range of methods, including programming, to increase community physical activity. Other Councils have implemented, or are considering, similar responses with some. A number of Councils have appointed physical activity officers with the sole purpose of getting their communities active.

Sport, Australian Sports Commission

¹⁴ Brisbane City Council



Apart from physical activity programs, open spaces are being programmed for events (e.g. community festivals, film nights) and more regular activities such as markets. These sorts of activities help to enliven a space and increase community attachment. Resulting increased use has a positive bearing on perceptions of safety and ongoing use.

5.5 Trends in Places and Spaces

This review looks at some key trends that are affecting the provision of, and embellishment of open space. This review is not a comprehensive critique of all trends. Such a task would be a major report in itself. The purpose of this information is to highlight to readers, who are less familiar with park provision and design, some more important trends that influence local governments thinking in open space provision.

5.5.1 Open Space and Park Design

The design of a park is critically important in ensuring that it is well used. In particular, public open spaces should include:

- “attractive and safe open spaces with good lighting, seating, shade, shelters, areas for play
- well-lit, level and shaded footpaths that provide linkages to open space and facilities
- walking and cycle pathways, with links to community and commercial areas, and public transport
- facilities linked to regular transport and/ or easily accessible to communities
- well-designed and landscaped streets, including safe pedestrian road crossings and traffic management devices
- availability of a range of safe, quality indoor and outdoor facilities
- infrastructure that supports participation by people with disabilities and mobility constraints (e.g. pushchairs), including the provision of ramps, accessible amenities, and safe pedestrian crossings”.¹⁵

Variety of Settings and Activities

Creating the right park setting is critically important to the community's use of it for physical activity and recreation. The type of facilities and age ranges they are targeted to should ensure that all interests and user motivations of a community are catered for. A range of places and environments will be required to meet the varied expectations of potential users. Play facilities are only one element of a parkland system. Other elements that should be present across a parkland system (i.e. across a number of different parks) include opportunities for:

- nature appreciation and interpretation
- contemplation and peaceful relaxation
- challenge and adventure
- social and group interaction
- physical activity for all ages and abilities.

Modern development techniques often see land cleared and levelled, with all facilities and features within public open space then built up. Whilst this is cost effective for housing development, it can remove or fail to maximise features that could cheaply and effectively cater for imaginative play and recreation. Many playgrounds have tried to supplant natural features, with constructed “climb here, slide here” structures. When well designed and integrated with the greater place, these can contribute to the physical strength, coordination and agility of children. However, “integration” is the key. The total experience is often poorly

¹⁵ NSW Department of Local Government 2001, Creating Active Communities: Physical activity guidelines for local councils, NSW State Government, Sydney

considered, which can result in under-utilised spaces, or worse, under-engaged communities and un-challenged children.

Creating destinations for families and groups requires provision of attractions for all age groups (younger children, older youth and teens, and adults), whilst catering for the comfort of and ease of supervision for parents/ spectators. The layout of facilities and play elements requires careful consideration to ensure functional spaces, and reduce conflicts between incompatible uses (e.g. high activity spaces and places for quiet contemplation).

Integrated Urban Design

Numerous studies highlight the need for trails linking residential areas with parks and other types of open spaces. Walking has become the preferred physical activity for both men and women; therefore, there is a need for path systems providing good connectivity between places of activity. The layout and location of open space within the greater neighbourhood design must consider:

- road frontage to a local through road (i.e. not a cul-de-sac), to ensure high levels of visibility to passing residents (park user surveys show “passing by” contributes to around 30% of initial sources of knowledge on park location and subsequent decisions to use a park¹⁶)
- impacts of the road hierarchy on amenity and enjoyment of spaces (e.g. noise and perceptions of safety along busy roads)
- regular dimensions and configuration of spaces, and minimum widths to ensure good visibility of parkland for safety and personal security (reduced likelihood of entrapment, being able to see who is approaching)
- proximity to public transport, especially for higher order facilities (sports grounds, aquatic centres)
- suitable gradient to facilitate the intended use
- sufficient flood immunity (where collocated with drainage functions) to ensure recreational facilities can reasonably be installed and safe, flat pedestrian/ cycle access is achievable to all connection points (i.e. avoid drain construction with narrow pinch-points and steep sides that will limit access)
- connectivity within and between parkland and other community destinations
- integrated urban design elements and relationship to other land uses
- vegetation retention and buffering between land uses (both in terms of physical distance and vegetation screen between activity areas and other land uses, such as residential housing).


Water Management

Current drought conditions have made all park managers more aware of saving water in park maintenance.

Greater use of drought tolerant plants and grasses is important. The collection of rain water for use in water features and playgrounds can reduce the demands on the reticulated supply. Artificial surfaces and hard surfaces, such as gravels and decomposed granite, are being considered instead of grasses where landscape appearance and durability is of more concern.

The lack of rainfall is also making sports fields hard. In some cases these fields may be too hard and are possibly contributing to higher injury rates. While Australia does not have a current Standard for field hardness one is being considered. Once the Standard is in place, there will be pressure from sports administrators and insurers to meet the standard—often this will require “softening” of the sporting surfaces.

¹⁶ Park User Surveys completed for local governments across Australia. Integrated Open Space Services



In some cases, more extensive use of artificial grasses may be the answer as they need no water and are kept soft by their rubber chip “filling”. This surface may be suitable for football (soccer) but appears unsatisfactory for rugby league and rugby union due to possible health effects associated with ingesting the rubber chips. It is likely though, that new surfaces being trialled now, will soon be suitable for sports such as rugby league.

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, or CPTED, is about crime prevention by “designing out crime”. Research is showing that particular types of crime, fear of crime and feelings of insecurity can be reduced by a better design and proper maintenance of the built environment.¹⁷ There is a correlation between the visual appearance of public spaces and incidents of vandalism and/or graffiti. Rapid attention to damage and maintaining quality is one strategy utilised to reduce reoccurrences of vandalism/ graffiti, as places that appear well used and ‘loved’ are less likely to be targeted.

5.5.2 The Play Experience

Defining ‘play’ through different eyes

- to an adult, play is a way to pass time, with no immediate useful product (although they enjoy watching)
- to a child, play is doing something interesting or enjoyable which they are in control of; through play children can be *anyone, at anyplace, at anytime*.¹
- to a play planner, play is the outcome of a sophisticated interaction between the physical setting, the play opportunities and the child users.

When carefully planned, a play facility instantly delivers benefits to the delight of the child users. But it can also have wider benefits such as by promoting the child’s physical, emotional and social competencies, or by providing a community asset for either active or passive enjoyment. Children at play should be seen as an integral component to any public park facility.

What, Where and How do we Play?

The criterion of a successful play experience is whether children *want* to return. Play experiences need to incorporate many or all of the following characteristics:

- **Physical form:** The play area needs to be adapted to the physical landscape (rocks, trees, gullies) and supplemented by man-made variations (mounds, bridges, platforms). It can beneficially reflect the local sense of place or identity.
- **Child and adult participants:** Consider the local demographics within the user groups; there is a need to offer separate areas for different age groups (2-5 years, 5-12 years, 12+ years) while providing for active adult supervision (yes, adults can play too) or for adult passive watching.
- **Safety:** The play area should be accessible to all including the physically challenged and supervisors with prams. The design must incorporate safety standards to prevent traumatic events, but still provide challenge and invitation to explore.
- **Invitational design:** This tends to be subtle so that children spontaneously move between play opportunities—exploring and discovering, using their imaginations to create new uses for infrastructure or loose parts (water, sand, leaves), interacting with each other, utilising rhythm, movement, co-

¹⁷ International CPTED Association, *Designing Out Crime Newsletter*, March 2002

ordination and balance. Open-ended designs with graduated support build into them are of high play value.

To the extent that an area for play cannot deliver on the four points above, then the users will be less than satisfied.

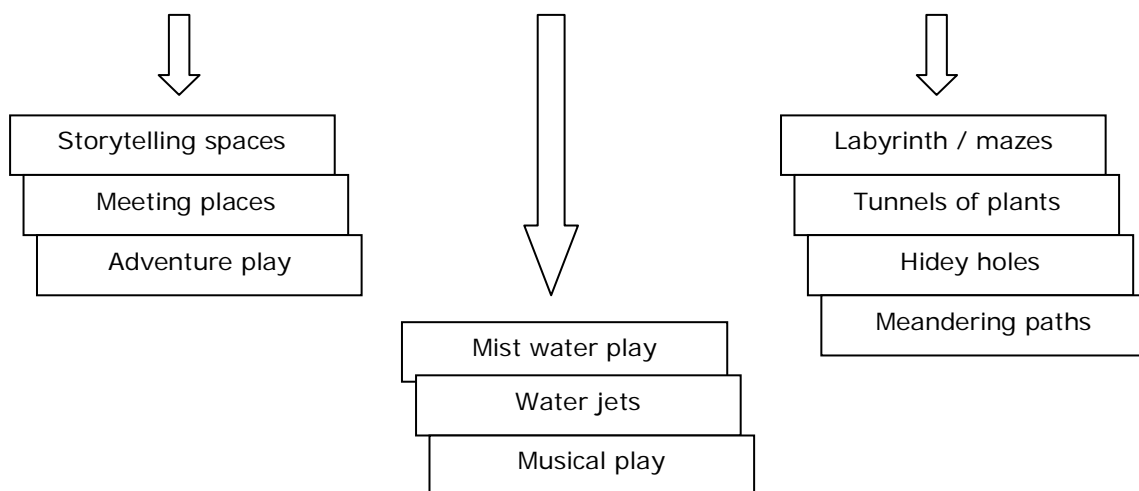


A Play Experience versus a Playground

A play experience is, or should be, vibrant and exciting—whereas a playground is just the infrastructure which is provided. The difference is somewhat like that between a mountain bike ride and a stationary bicycle.

More importantly, a play experience does not automatically require the installation of structured play equipment. Interesting and interactive places to play and explore may be created by designing magical and evocative landscapes. This may include sculpting the earth or utilising the natural contours, planting (for example, vegetated tunnels or mazes, forests), utilising various textures and materials such as creative paving patterns (stepping stones, steps, edgings for balancing). A play space may incorporate interesting views or vistas, showcase art or innovation (mobiles and alternate energy sources), sculptural park furniture, landscape structures or buildings.

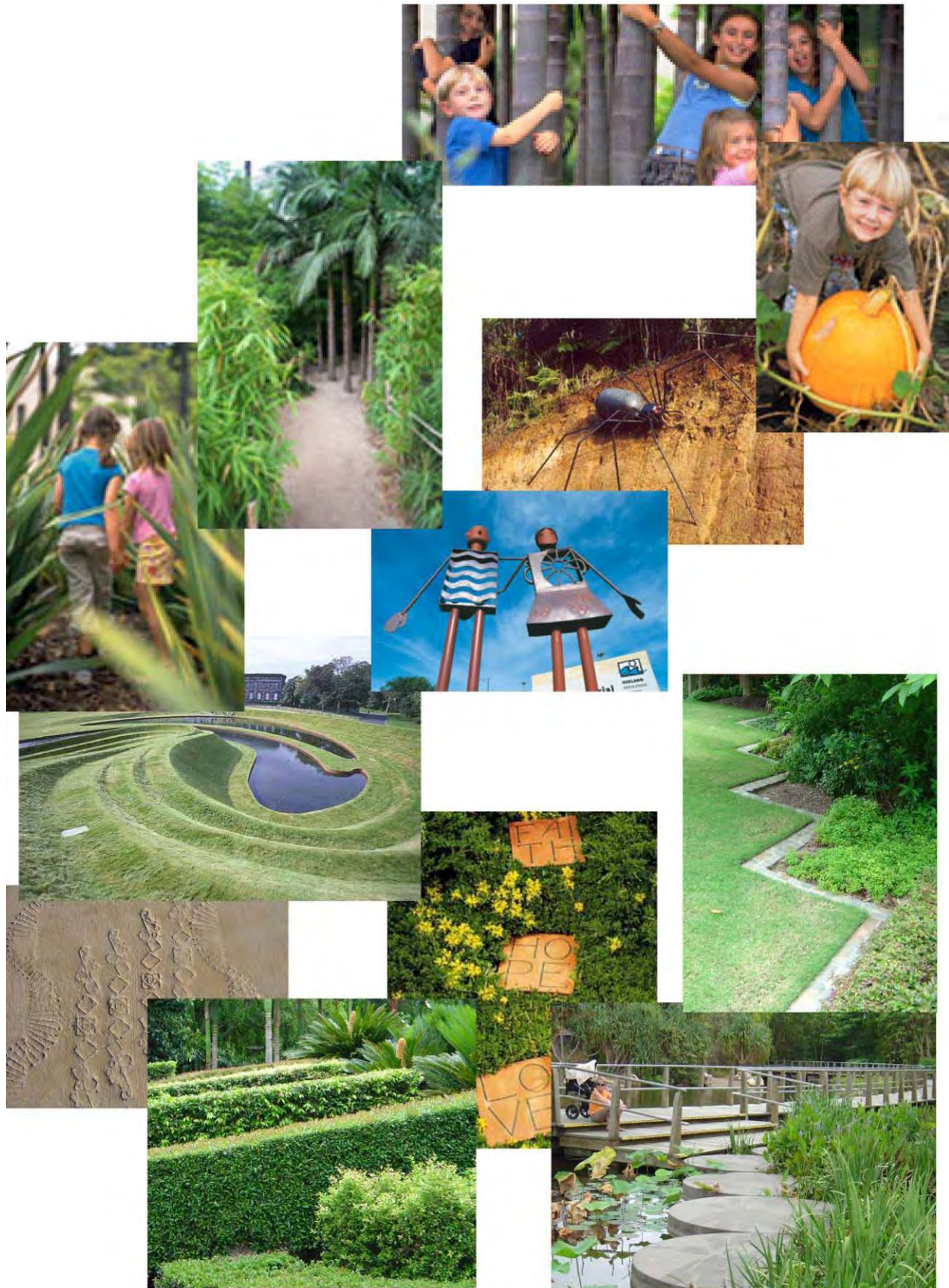
Play experiences may incorporate elements, such as:



The common characteristic in all these is that the infrastructure suggests (but never dictates) how it is to be used. Moreover, each element can be used in many ways; commonsense says that a toddler will use a mist water play area quite differently to a 12 year old using it.

Such unstructured play needs to complement and be integrated with other recreational facilities to encourage active recreation for children, youth and adults, such as:

- basketball courts/ hoops
- play structures/ equipment
- cycling/ pedestrian networks and skill development trails/ circuits
- attractive open space areas for ball games etc
- water play parks
- surfaces and markings for games such as hopscotch and handball
- swings for all ages including adults
- flying foxes/ climbing walls
- fitness stations/ training equipment.





Clusters of Activities

As children want to play at their own pace and to be able to choose what type of play fits 'today's ideas', then a play area needs to accommodate this.

For example:

- When toddlers are present, the variety of play and scale of components require that they have a separate zone, this is vital for their safety and enjoyment.
- Within any play space, some children will prefer noisy, active play (like climbing); this play should be physically zoned to separate them from children playing quietly (like fantasy or sand play); this is vital to reduce conflict and promote socialisation skills.
- Compare the effectiveness of separate zones with the problems inherent in a toddler playing in sandy softfall while older children are chasing each other over the nearby obstacle course.

It is important to have a variety of activities within each zone—otherwise children will look for variations (which tend always to be less acceptable to the supervising adults). Research shows that *... the average time children play on play equipment is less than 4 minutes — what will they do the rest of the time?*

Integrate the play areas with the wider park

The provision and thoughtful location of play spaces and complementary park infrastructure which considers how children, supervisors and the community will use the space and what their requirements will be, is necessary in order to create a destination which can be utilised by all. Design considerations will be site specific and may include:

- design to create attractive places
 - landscaped open spaces that maximise shade and create an aesthetically pleasing environment.
- design which provides for comfort and convenience
 - complementary amenities may include seats, shelters, picnic areas, bins, bicycle stands, fencing, lighting, drinking fountains/ bubblers and showers. Assess the need for public toilet provision.
 - the adjacent seating and picnic areas ought to face and be within full view of the play space to optimise use by supervisors.
 - the play space ought to be accessible by pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles with safe and comfortable walking distances. In order to maximise community use, pedestrian and cycle path networks are required with linkages to other entries and areas of interest. Circuit opportunities promote recreation purposes.
- design which promotes safety and amenity
 - consider the orientation of the play space/ equipment and park amenities especially seating to maximise shade protection during the hottest part of the day. Shade protection may be achieved by locating infrastructure under shade trees (existing or proposed) or shade structures.
 - consider the set out and location of play space to also ensure indirect and passive surveillance of facilities. Play spaces should be protected from vehicles zones (roads, car parks) and not cause nuisance or disturbance to adjacent neighbours.
 - in order to ensure playgrounds are safe and functional, play spaces ought to comply with the relevant Australian Standards. The Australian Standards specify requirements for the design, construction, installation and maintenance of playground equipment and softfall materials. The design needs to consider the mobility challenged and access for supervisors with prams.
- design which considers maintenance objectives
 - ensure ease of maintenance to enable a high standard of maintenance.
 - select materials and plant materials which are low maintenance.

6. Community Needs and Demand Assessment

An extensive program of consultation was undertaken with community members, groups and clubs across Tamworth Regional Council area. A range of tools and techniques were used to engage target groups and the general community, ensuring all interested people had multiple opportunities to comment during development of the Plan. The consultation program included:

- young people: consulted through activities in school class rooms, intercept surveys/ discussions in parks, an X-treme BMX display and youth survey, and discussions with providers/ key stakeholders (e.g. school principals, “Youthies”)
- older adults: discussions with community groups, walking tour of Tamworth and Photovoice exercise
- general community: community forum, open space preferences survey, intercept discussions/ surveys and newspaper clip-out questionnaire
- rural centres: community meetings, committee and club meetings in Barraba, Manilla, Kootingal and Nundle
- sporting groups: sport club specific survey across Tamworth Regional Council, Sport Forum, and interviews/ discussions
- major facility providers: interviews/ discussions with key facility managers
- other key stakeholders: interviews and discussions, mystery shopper with tourism networks.

6.1 Open Space Preferences Survey

A survey was undertaken to identify people’s preferences for different types of open space. Completed surveys were received from 85 residents across Tamworth Regional Council area. The profile of respondents showed:

- 44.6% lived outside of Tamworth urban areas
- 55.4% lived inside Tamworth urban areas
- 40.5% were male
- 59.5% were female
- 7.1% were 24 years or under
- 35.7% were 25 to 44 years
- 25.0% were 45 to 64 years
- 32.1% were 65 years and over

Eight specific categories of open space and recreation facilities were investigated. The survey explored, for each category of open space, the:

- importance of the different types of open space
- amount of available parkland
- quality of facilities
- maintenance
- frequency of use.

An additional question explored the importance of a range of open space and parkland characteristics.

6.1.1 Importance of Open Space Characteristics

“Well maintained and clean facilities” is the most important characteristic of public open space areas for people in Tamworth Regional Council, with 82% indicating it was very important and another 9% indicating it is somewhat important. This is followed by:

- feeling of safety
- lots of shady trees and vegetation
- place to be physically active and healthy
- good range of facilities for all ages and interests.

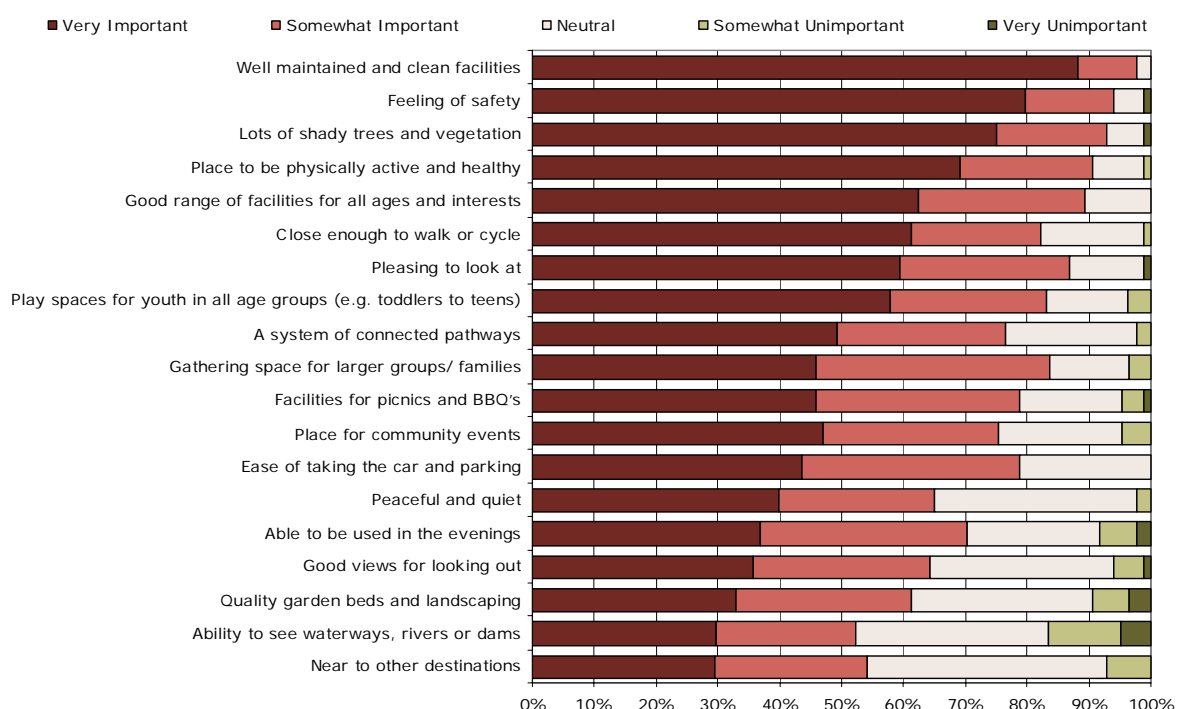
Figure 1 shows the level of importance of each characteristic. There were some variations depending on the location and age of respondents:

- ‘Well maintained, clean facilities’, ‘feelings of safety’ and ‘a good range of facilities for all ages’ were more important to people residing within Tamworth City area than those living in rural areas or centres
- A ‘place to be physically active’ was more important to those living in rural areas or centres and to younger respondents (under 45 years of age)
- Younger respondents placed a higher level of importance on being able to use open space in the evenings
- Older respondents placed a higher level of importance on places being pleasing to look at.

Several comments indicated a need for more accessible open space areas, including paths for wheelchair access for at least part of the open space and special facilities for people with disabilities and the frail aged, such as paths and toilets. One resident commented:

“A lot of facilities need attention (rundown, older types) etc. More time to be allocated to clean up around parks”

Figure 1—Importance of open space characteristics



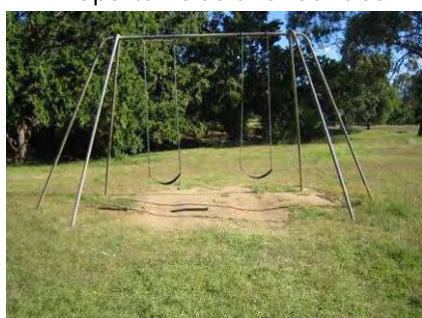
A series of questions explored the level of importance and a range of performance indicators for different types of open space in Tamworth Regional Council. Indicative photos of the different types of open space are provided below.



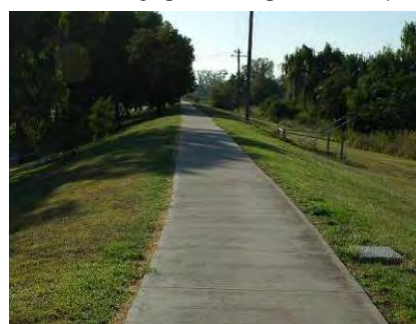
1. Sports fields and facilities



5. Community gathering/ event spaces



2. Basic parks
with minimal or no facilities



6. Pathways for walking or cycling



3. Local parks
with kick-about space and play facilities



7. Natural environments



4. Major recreation parks with a range of play
facilities and picnic areas for families

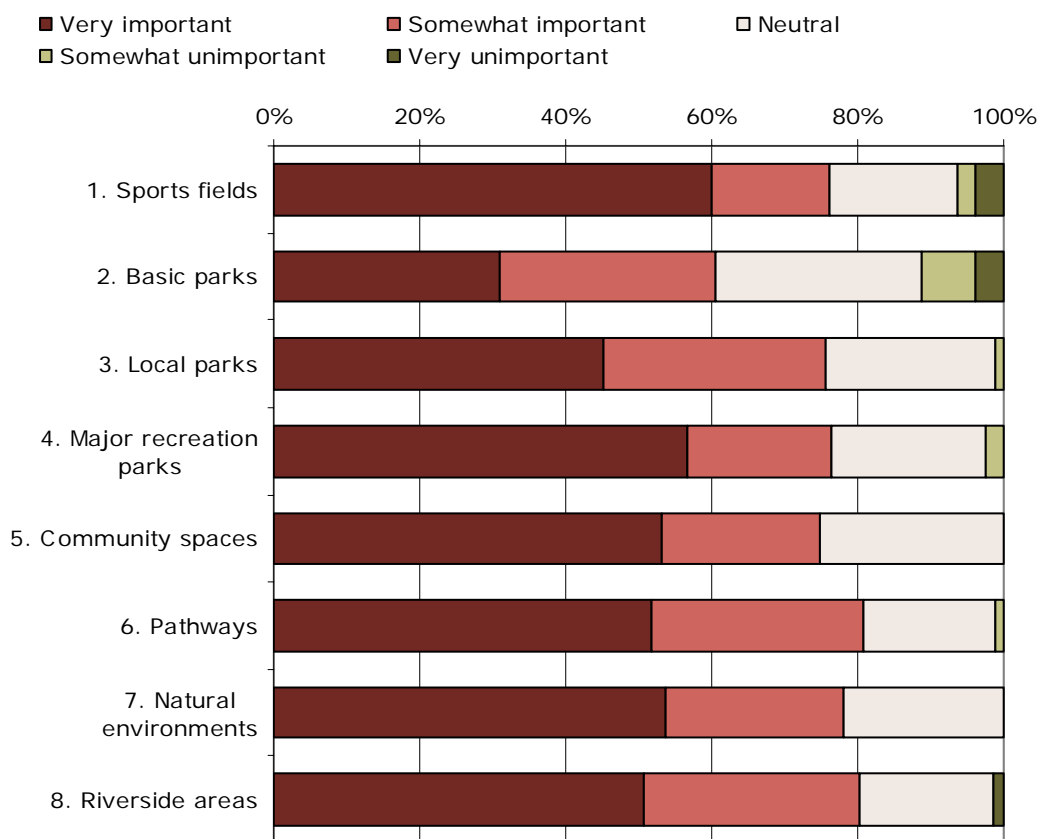


8. Areas to access rivers and dams

6.1.2 Importance of Different Types of Open Space

Figure 2 shows that perceived importance of park types was relatively similar for the eight open space categories. Basic parks were considered less important than the other park types. More people indicated that pathways were 'very important' or 'somewhat important' than for sports fields (81% and 76% respectively).

Figure 2: Importance of open space types



Variations in responses include:

- basic parks and community spaces were less important to people residing within Tamworth urban areas
- local parks, pathways and riverside areas were more important to people residing in rural areas/ centres
- sports fields were notably more important to respondents aged under 45 years
- respondents aged 45 and over rated major recreation parks, community spaces, pathways, natural environments and riverside areas as more important than younger respondents.

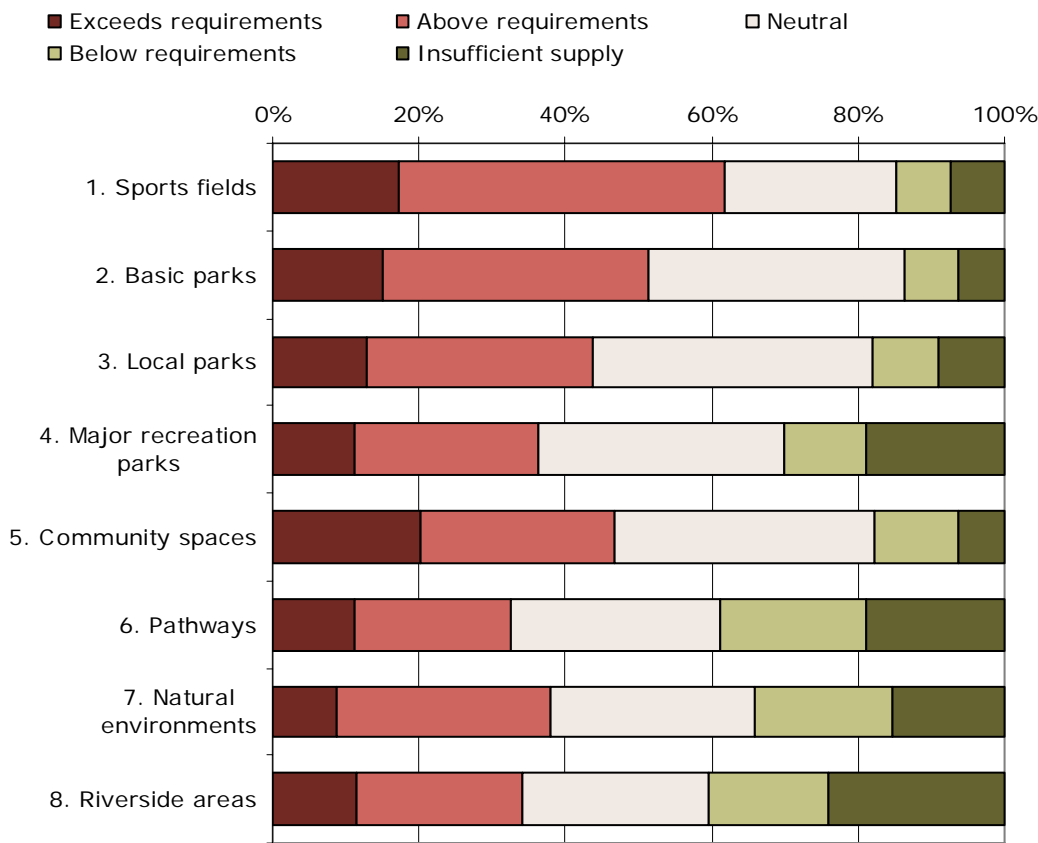
6.1.3 Performance in Delivering Different Open Space Types

Amount of Available Parkland

Respondents were asked to rate the amount of available parkland, indicating if it exceeds requirements, is neutral or if insufficient is available (refer Figure 3).

- over 50% of people considered sport fields and basic parks to be well supplied (above or exceeds requirements)
- riverside areas, pathways, natural environments and major recreation grounds were considered to be below requirements or insufficiently supplied.
- significantly more younger people consider major recreation parks to be insufficiently supplied than those aged 45 and over
- older people consider riverside areas and pathways to be insufficiently supplied or below requirements
- there was no difference in age group perceptions on the supply of sporting fields—62% of both younger and older respondents considered sports field availability to exceed or be above requirements.

Figure 3: Amount of available parkland types



Quality of Facilities in Open Space Areas

Respondents were asked to rate the quality of facilities in each open space type. Facilities are the elements that make a park usable, such as play equipment sport fields/ goal posts, car parks, toilets, lights, seating, shade, tables and barbecues.

- the quality of sporting facilities was rated as 'good' or 'excellent' by nearly 60% of respondents.
- a higher proportion of respondents rated the quality of facilities in riverside areas and pathways as 'low'

or 'poor' than rated them as 'good' or excellent'

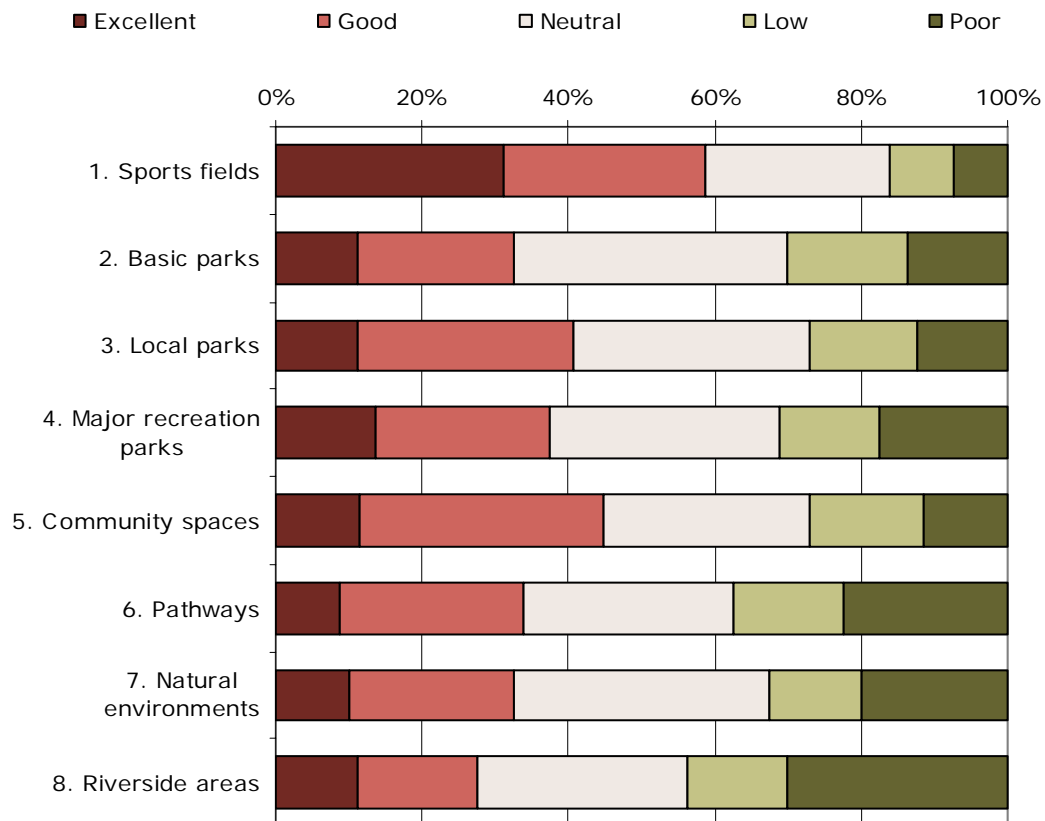
- people from rural areas/ centres rated the quality of local park higher than their city-base counterparts.

Comments from respondents included:

"Some sporting fields are better than others—quality of surfaces and amenities wise"

"[Riverside] areas cannot be accessed due to the weeds and height of the grass"

Figure 4: Quality of facilities in open space areas



Maintenance of Open Space areas

Respondents were asked to rate the maintenance of each open space type. Maintenance includes elements such as mowing, rubbish and weed removal, and vegetation management (refer Figure 5).

- maintenance of sports fields, major recreation parks and community spaces tended to be rated as 'excellent' or 'good'
- 45% of people rated maintenance of riverside areas as 'low' or 'poor'
- respondents living within Tamworth city area were significantly more likely to consider maintenance of basic parks, local parks, and major recreation parks to be 'low' or 'poor'
- respondents aged 45 and over were significantly more likely to consider maintenance of riverside areas, natural environments and pathways as 'low' or 'poor'.

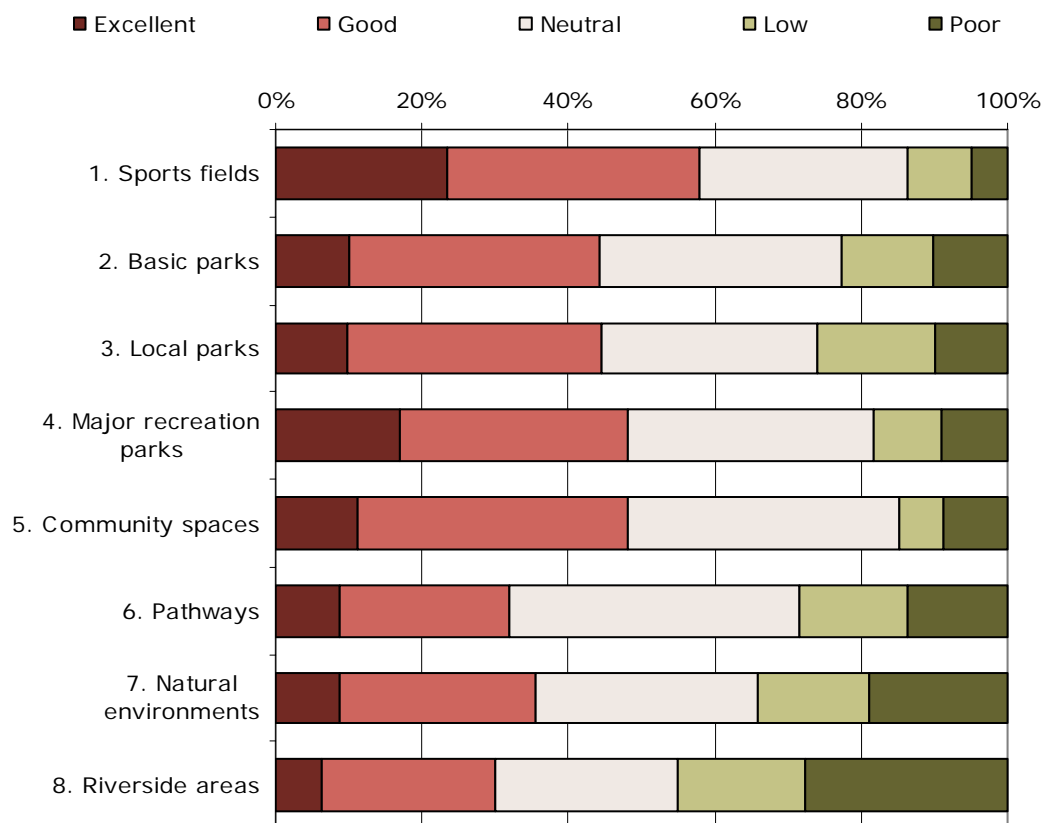
Comments relating to maintenance include:

"Volunteers do excellent job with limited resources (Barraba)"

"Too many cat heads [on paths] to use for cycles"

"In times of dry conditions I believe the Council has done a fairly good job to keep Tamworth and surrounding areas e.g. Kootingal, Moonbi, Attunga etc clean and tidy with the help of volunteers"

Figure 5: Maintenance of open space areas



6.1.4 Frequency of Use of Open Space

Figure 6 shows the frequency with which respondents use the different open space types.

- pathways tend to be used by more people on a daily basis than other open space types
- nearly 45% of respondents used sporting fields daily or several times a week
- use of open space areas was notably more frequent for respondents in rural area/ centres than people from Tamworth city area for **all** open space types.
- use of open space areas was notably more frequent for younger respondents aged under 45 years for **all** open space types.

Some comments received indicate some of the motivations for, and barriers to, greater use of open space areas:

"At my age (68) I no longer use the sports fields as much as I did 10 years ago. However, I do enjoy the outdoors with my grandchildren whenever possible."

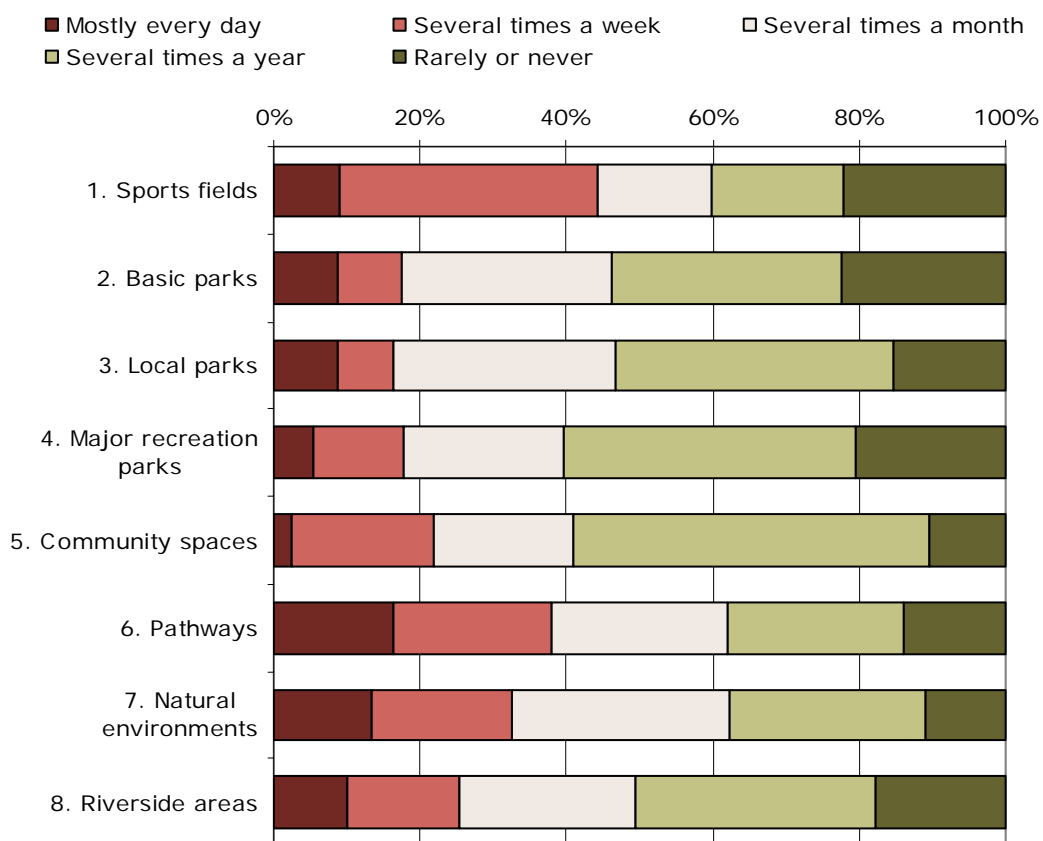
"Lovely evening picnics with family groups [in local parks]"

"Would use more often if there were more pathways"

"Would use a major recreation park daily if available"

"Would use riverside areas every day as I am a walker but at present I don't because it's too untidy"

Figure 6: Frequency of use of open space types



6.2 Young People

6.2.1 Playshops

Discussions were held with primary and secondary classes in Tamworth (Year 6 and Year 9), Manilla (Year 5/6), Barraba (Year 5/6) and Nundle (Years 3—6) during class time. The aim of these sessions was to develop a snapshot of participation trends for youth. The difference between 'sport' and 'recreation' was explained and the students were asked four questions.

The questions were:

- whether they were involved in club sports (outside the school system)
- what existing sport and recreation they enjoyed in the town
- what sport and recreation they thought was missing
- what sport and recreation they would develop for the community if each won Gold Lotto.

Class sizes for each of the groups are listed in the table below.

Table 7—Class sizes

School	Primary	Secondary
Tamworth West State School	33 (Year 6)	
Peel High School (Tamworth)		23 (Year 9)
Manilla Central School	42 (Year 5/6)	24 (Year 9)
Barraba Central School	16 (Year 5/6)	17 (Year 9)
Nundle Public School	15 (Years 3-6)	

Participation in Club Sport (Primary)

A high proportion of the students participated in club sport outside the school sport system. As Table 8 indicates, a wider range of sporting opportunities are available for youth in Tamworth and within close proximity to Tamworth (Manilla) compared with those more outlying areas (Barraba and Nundle). Interestingly, few of the girls spoken to in Tamworth participated in club sport. (The numbers in parentheses indicate how many students are involved in each sport).

In general, preferred participation in club sport across the primary-aged students was varied. While soccer had the highest participation rates for boys in Tamworth and Barraba, rugby league was preferred in Nundle and Manilla. Additionally, touch is popular for both boys and girls in Manilla.

In Manilla and Nundle, swimming was a popular club sport for both boys and girls. Netball and tennis showed high participation rates for girls in Manilla and Barraba, while basketball was popular for boys and girls in Manilla and for boys in Tamworth. Finally, pony club was well attended by girls in Manilla.

Table 8—Participation in club sport (Primary)

Tamworth (Year 6)		Manilla (Year 5/6)		Barraba (Year 5/6)		Nundle (Years 3-6)	
Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Soccer (4)	Hockey (2)	Touch (8)	Netball (7)	Soccer (4)	Netball (7)	Rugby League (4)	Swimming (3)
Basketball (3)	Baseball (2)	Basketball (7)	Swimming (7)	Cricket (3)	Tennis (3)	Cricket (3)	Gymnastics (1)
Archery (3)	Cricket (1)	Rugby League (6)	Tennis (7)	Tennis (2)	Golf (2)	Swimming (3)	Netball (1)
Rugby League (2)	Oztag (1)	Swimming (6)	Pony Club (6)	Golf (2)	Touch (1)	Rugby Union (1)	Basketball (1)
Cricket (1)		Tennis (6)	Basketball (6)	Rugby Union (2)	Soccer (1)	AFL (1)	
Baseball (1)		Cricket (4)	Touch (6)	Fishing (2)			
Rugby Union (1)		Soccer (3)	Dance (2)	Rugby League (1)			
Touch (1)		Fishing (2)	Little Athletics (1)				
Boxing (1)		Little Athletics (1)	Lawn Bowls (1)				

Tamworth (Year 6)		Manilla (Year 5/6)		Barraba (Year 5/6)		Nundle (Years 3-6)	
		Pony Club (1)	Fishing (1)				
		Golf (1)	Golf (1)				

Participation in Club Sport (Secondary)

Similar to the results presented above for primary-aged youth, a wider range of sporting opportunities are available in Tamworth and within close proximity to Tamworth (Manilla) compared with those more outlying areas (Barraba). Table 9 highlights the limited sporting opportunities available for young females within Barraba. (The numbers in parentheses indicate how many students are involved in each sport).

Across the three areas investigated, participation in cricket was popular for males, while touch football was popular for both males and females. For males, rugby league was popular in Tamworth, while rugby union was played in Barraba. Finally, netball was exceptionally popular in Manilla with almost every female in the group participating at club level.

While it is recognised that more primary-aged youth were spoken to compared with secondary-aged youth, it is important to note that primary-aged youth participate in a wider range of club sport and showed higher participation rates compared with secondary-aged youth. This reflects a trend for older youth to drop out of organised sport, as many face additional time pressures from part-time work, increased study load and relationships.

Table 9—Participation in club sport (Secondary)

Tamworth (Year 9)		Manilla (Year 9)		Barraba (Year 9)	
Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Rugby League (4)	Touch (7)	Cricket (2)	Netball (11)	Cricket (5)	Touch (3)
Cricket (3)	Basketball (4)	Tennis (2)	Touch (4)	Rugby Union (4)	
Touch (3)	Netball (2)	Touch (2)	Pony Club (3)	Touch (3)	
Tennis (2)	Baseball (1)	Rugby League (1)	Basketball (2)	Golf (1)	
Rodeo (2)		Basketball (1)	Fishing (1)		
Golf (1)		Lawn Bowls (1)			
Baseball (1)		Swimming (1)			
Hockey (1)					
Indoor Cricket (1)					

Sport and Recreation Likes

Primary—there was a clear distinction between the preferred sport and recreation activities in Manilla, Barraba and Nundle (smaller towns) compared with Tamworth. In the smaller towns, youth enjoyed swimming and fishing in the river (and weirs), informal use of the local pools and playing at the feature playground in the town. In contrast, Tamworth youth enjoyed visiting the skate park and bike activities such as the bmx track, riding along formed paths in Bicentennial Park and riding at Road Safety Park

(Hyman Park). In addition, the Tamworth youth appreciated the range of sports on offer and attending the Youthie.

Further, the Barraba youth described the local pool as “the best pool ever!”.

Secondary—The older youth in Manilla enjoy swimming and playing at the river (and weir) while in Barraba the quality of the sports ground is liked as is the town feature park—O’Meara Park. In Tamworth, the skate park and the Youthie are well patronised by older youth.

Sport and Recreation that is Missing

Primary—the need for a skate park and informal bmx track were identified by the youth in Manilla, Barraba and Nundle. Manilla youth also noted the need for a multipurpose netball/ basketball court that was not on school land (i.e. free and unstructured access). Manilla youth noted the need for toilets within parks to be cleaned more often and unlocked regularly. The need to upgrade the grass quality on the junior fields at the sports ground, new toilets at the rugby league ground and a public trail bike area were all noted by Barraba youth. The youth in Nundle also requested soccer and rugby league posts to be erected in parks for kicking practice.

In Tamworth, the youth highlighted the need to develop a second skate park and to upgrade the bmx track. Additional shade and seating at Road Safety Park and the development of a community trail bike park were also requested. The youth also indicated that Marsupial Park is looking “tired and run down”.

Secondary—both Manilla and Barraba youth noted the need for a skate park. Further, Manilla youth identified that parks, generally, required more trees and better grass cover, the need for a bmx park and separate trail bike park and additional facilities at the pool (e.g. diving board and slide). For Barraba youth it was important that Bicentennial Hall was reopened and its use reinvigorated (youth discos, boxing classes and dance classes), and that sport upgrades were regular (e.g. cricket practice nets).

Tamworth youth noted the importance of extending the existing skate park, developing a second skate park on the south side of the City, developing an area where bmx free-riding can occur (without the fear of being fined), additional (legal) mountain bike tracks down from the lookout and a public area for trail bike riding.

Gold Lotto—Developing Sport and Recreation for the Community

This is a fun discussion and gives the students a chance to think a little daringly (at the end of the discussion, it is explained that some of the ideas may be a little far-fetched and unlikely to attract resources).

Responses from the primary students reflected each of the items that they indicated as currently missing from their areas listed above. Additionally, Barraba youth wanted to see the high diving board and waterslide opened more frequently and a wave pool developed. Manilla youth would like to see a larger park developed where more children could comfortably play at the same time. A heated indoor swimming pool and outdoor go kart track were identified by Tamworth youth.

In addition to the items previously noted, the secondary students in Tamworth identified the need for more hard courts at the netball facility and an increase in the field quality at the touch fields. Similar to their primary-aged counterparts, the Barraba secondary students noted the need for the high diving board and slide to be open more regularly. In addition to the items previously identified, Manilla youth noted the need for significant upgrades at the Pony Club facility and for the development of a community multipurpose hard court facility, within Council parkland.

6.2.2 X-treme BMX Demonstration

An additional innovative approach to engaging the young people of Tamworth was undertaken—a high energy entertainment event, with youth surveys, adult open space surveys and open discussions.

To encourage a good turn out at the workshops, professional BMX freestyle rider Tim Wood presented an 'X-treme BMX Demonstration' of BMX tricks while ROSS Planning staff conducted the consultation.

Tim Wood BMX demonstrations at Tamworth



More than 100 children, older youths and parents attended the session.

Before, during and after the demonstration, the youth were encouraged to complete a small survey. As an enticement to complete the survey, prizes were offered that resulted in a high participation rate. Tim and the ROSS Planning team also engaged the youth in a broad ranging group discussion at the conclusion of the demonstration.

The survey and group discussion canvassed a broad range of topics including:

- positive and negative aspects of the sporting and recreation environment in the Tamworth Region
- youth needs and aspirations
- barriers to participation
- unique issues pertinent to their communities.

There were 37 surveys collected in total (young people only), with the following characteristics recorded:

- 31 surveys completed by males, 4 by females and 2 without gender noted
- the average age of the respondents was 10.7 years old.

A summary of the sport and recreation 'likes' is recorded in Table 10. Only those responses that were reported more than once have been included in the summary.

Table 10—Summary of sport and recreation 'likes' from survey responses

Identified 'Likes'	Frequency
Skate Park	29
BMX Track	13
Community Pools	8
Anzac Park	5
Youthie	4
Private BMX Jumps	3
Parks—place for picnic and play	3

Identified 'Likes'	Frequency
Hyman Park—bike park	2
Parks—open space	2
Motor bike riding	2
Endeavour Park	2

Not surprisingly, the skate park and bmx track are the most favoured sport and recreation places within Tamworth. This finding reflects that noted in the youth consultation conducted at schools (Section 6.2.1). Additionally, the community pools, Anzac Park and the Youthie are well regarded by youth.

A summary of the sport and recreation 'dislikes' is recorded in Table 11. Only those responses that were reported more than once have been included in the summary.

Table 11—Summary of sport and recreation 'dislikes' from survey responses

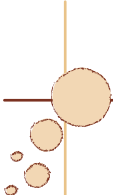
Identified 'Dislikes'	Frequency
Limited skate park elements (make it bigger)	4
Limited shade and taps at the skate park	3
Limited skate parks outside Tamworth City	3
Poor facility maintenance in Hyman Park	3
Limited shade and taps in Hyman Park	3
Jumps at the bmx track are poor	3
Poor facility maintenance at the bmx track	2
Heated indoor pool required	2
Limited play equipment in Anzac Park	2
Scully Pool is old and run down	2
Granny Munro Park is rundown	2

Young people found it more difficult to respond to the question asking what the worst sport and recreation places are in the Tamworth Region. The consistent responses included general upgrades (shade and taps) and maintenance of the skate park, bmx track and Hyman Park. Additionally, a number of youth attending the demonstration had travelled in from outside Tamworth City and noted the need for skate/ bmx park development in the outlying towns.

Most respondents were, however, able to provide a response to what they think is the most important thing Council could do to improve sport and recreation for young people in the area. Only responses that received multiple reports have been included.

Table 12—Summary of most important Council improvements

Identified Improvement	Frequency
Expand/ enlarge the skate park	13
Provide additional play equipment in parks	7
Develop skate/ bmx facilities outside Tamworth City	4
Enhance general park maintenance	4



Identified Improvement	Frequency
Provide shade over the skate park	3
Provide additional shade in parks	3
Clean rubbish more frequently	3
Ensure safety in parks	3

6.2.3 Summary of Youth Consultation

It should be noted that the responses from the X-Treme BMX Demonstration component of the youth consultation were expected to be biased towards skate and BMX activities due to the venue where it was held. However, these results, generally, reflected feedback gathered from school-based consultation. Clearly, the upgrade of the existing Tamworth skate park and the bmx facility and the development of additional facilities of this nature are key needs of the younger community.

In addition, the need to enhance play experiences in parks has been identified. Not only have youth noted the importance of additional play elements, they have also outlined the need for additional shade, taps and general maintenance.

The desire to ride motor bikes in a public area has also been raised. However, many Councils have found it difficult to provide options for off-road riding given land tenure and insurance issues.

Finally, a number of sport-specific upgrades were noted by club members.

6.3 Active Adults

It is increasingly important to hear the views of older members of communities. In social planning, the needs of older adults are generally considered within two general age brackets:

- Active adults, older adults up to 74 years, and
- Senior citizens aged over 75 years.

Tamworth's older adults were consulted through several means:

- discussions with members of the Happy Wanderer's Walking Group
- discussions with members of the Tamworth Senior Citizens group
- photovoice exercise with members of both groups.

Photovoice involves participants using cameras to capture visual images and associated stories representing their views on recreation and open space issues in their communities.

Discussions with older adults identified the following:

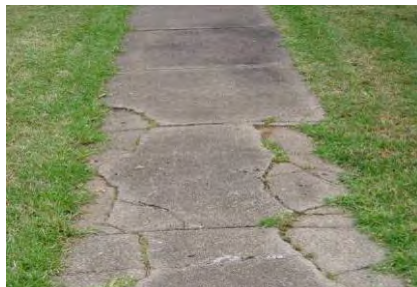
- there is generally plenty to do, if people want to be involved in activities (tennis, tai chi, hydrotherapy pools, bowls, yoga, craft etc). However, some people are hard to motivate
- use of motorised scooters is increasing in older populations, as a way of maintaining personal mobility and independence. Pathways and ramped curb crossings will be increasingly required to facilitate access for older people
- a lot of emphasis is placed on development and maintenance of major parks. Local parks however, are largely being forgotten
- maintenance of playgrounds and park areas requires attention, particularly softfall under play equipment and mowing
- a number of trees have suffered during the drought and dead vegetation requires removal for visual

amenity and safety reasons.

- gate opening times to the Botanic Gardens and Marsupial Park are not always on time. This has caused inconvenience for organised activities in the past.
- some places “feel” unsafe and negatively impacts on use of the area (note: Bicentennial and Cross Park were cited by people of all ages as places where they feel unsafe at times). Such antisocial behaviour was seen to limit use of otherwise valuable facilities. Suggestions included additional security at Cross Park car parking area.
- public toilets are too dark, leading to increased concerns for personal safety. Some public toilets are locked reducing convenience for potential users.
- there is a strong culture of walking in older age groups. It is an important activity for health and well being, yet pedestrians and accessibility seem to be given a low priority at times within open space areas. Whilst paths were considered to be mostly ‘OK’, particular areas of concern include:
 - pathways that lead to nowhere
 - lack of signage or information to help people find their way
 - trip hazards on pathways
 - lack of ramped curbs
 - over hanging trees and vegetation
 - appropriate surface treatments—pavers and gravel paths are more prone to damage/ wear and tear that will create trip hazards. Their use in major parks with high visitation should be reconsidered.
 - instances where remedial works to other infrastructure obstructs pedestrian connections.

One of the key points to note from the discussions with older adults is that one bad experience can have a long-term impact on future decisions to participate in an activity or to visit a place. This sentiment was supported by other age groups of the community and indicates the importance of regular maintenance and prompt attention to issues.

The photographs below represent the issues and ideas raised by active adults. They provide a visual record of ideas, aspirations and areas for improvement for older adults in the Tamworth community.



Lack of maintenance makes facilities more difficult to use and less appealing, e.g.

- bricks dislodged from wall onto path
- cat head burrs
- crack paths
- uneven surfaces
- vegetation and gardens across paths





Appearance and amenity is important. Rubbish and waste needs to be removed. Design needs to ensure aesthetic places and maintenance should keep things looking clean (e.g. scum on duck pond).

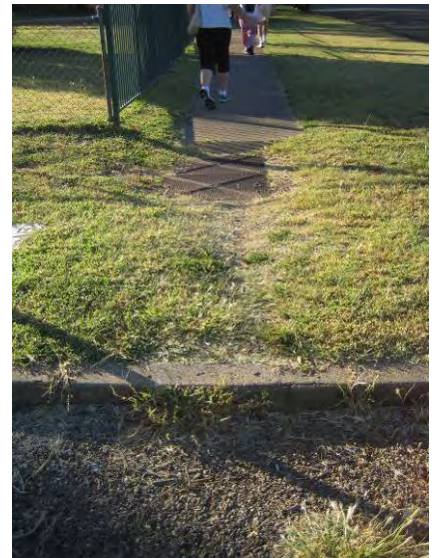


Facilities should be easy to use—
little things make a difference

*"Sprinklers on the path—OK in
summer, not good in winter"*



Greater priority needs to be given to ensuring safe access for
pedestrians and cyclists





Surface material of major parks needs to be of high quality and provide consistent levels of access (rather than changing surfaces)



"A winner already"



"Wonderful"



"It is wonderful"

Appreciation of high quality and attractive sport grounds, park features and community facilities, e.g.

- athletics
- TRECC
- touch fields



"Very attractive feature"

Pathways to nowhere need to be connected



Local park maintenance:

- risk of snakes in unmown grass
- detracts from the appearance
- maintenance required



Areas of particular need—
Armidale Road



6.4 Promotional and Tourist Information

Tamworth Regional Council has many high quality facilities and unique opportunities for residents and visitors alike to enjoy recreation and open spaces. However, most promotion and information is focused on the Country Music Festival and other associated tourism opportunities. While the staff of the Tamworth Information Centre are knowledgeable and able to offer suggestions on walks and parks, there is no supporting printed material available. The one map of a walking area in Tamworth (Kamilaroi Walking Track brochure produced by the Lands Department and dated 1989), is not available from the Information Centre.

This largely undersells the recreation and open space assets of the region. Brochures on opportunities, parks and walks should be developed and made readily available to residents and visitors. These should include:

- existing walking trails and physical activity opportunities in the rural centres of Barraba, Manilla, Kootingal and Nundle/ Hanging Rock. Brochures should promote parkland assets, trail opportunities and provide local/ historic interpretation for visitors (and/ or new residents). Development of brochures should be considered in line with timing of proposed track/ trail development
- walking and cycling trails within Tamworth, including recreational routes in Riverside Park/ Bicentennial Park and transport oriented routes (e.g. Scott's Road, Taminda to Westdale)
- an update/ review of the Kamilaroi Walking Track brochure and possible inclusion of additional mountain biking routes
- park brochures that showcase the facilities and opportunities available within the region's major parks (e.g. Botanic Gardens, Marsupial Park, Anzac Park, outdoor recreation areas). The local park network should not be overlooked in the information dissemination process.

Council should also ensure that new or improved facilities are promoted and advertised to rate payers as well as other potential users.

To provide useful information, brochures should include:

- maps of track and trail networks
- key connection points (e.g. park entrance and car parking locations)
- parkland attractions, points of interest, historical/ local interpretation and information, key nodes and locations of facilities and amenities
- information on distances between nodes.

6.5 Rural Centres

6.5.1 Barraba

Community Forum

Action Review: The forum commenced with a review of the sport and recreation-related actions identified in the Barraba Unlimited Program—Community Strategic Plan. While it is acknowledged that the Community Strategic Plan was only completed in 2007, very few of the actions relevant to this Recreation and Open Space Plan had been initiated.

Of the short-term projects, the establishment of a riverbank care group and associated remedial works is still a key priority, while the proposed toilet block at Cherry Street Park is no longer considered important. While tree planting throughout the town's streets is supported, it is acknowledged that plantings will require regular watering until established. Finally, the sports ground committee is currently investigating opportunities to demolish and replace the cricket practice facility in an alternate location at the facility.

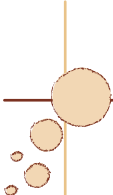
Further detailed discussion highlighted that the number one project to enhance recreation opportunities would be to clean up the river bank and establish a hard surfaced pedestrian/ cycling link from Cherry Street Park around the river to the golf course.

The two medium-term projects remain a priority. The installation of drinking water tanks and barbecues at Cherry Street Park has yet to be initiated, while the sports ground committee is currently considering possible alternatives to upgrade or replace the amenities building.

Two of the proposed long-term projects remain important (and preference is that they be fast-tracked if possible). The use of the decommissioned railway tracks for recreation opportunities and the development of a skate/ bmx facility are considered integral for developing additional community pursuits. In contrast, the proposed toilet block in Australia Day Park is not considered an appropriate project.

Barraba Airstrip: This facility is a key asset for the community. It is used by model aircraft enthusiasts, local flight training schools and the air ambulance. As a key site for emergency medical service access, ongoing maintenance of this open space is critical and should be prioritised accordingly. The maintenance of this facility is becoming a burden for the community and an investigation into Council resource allocations, generally, across Barraba would be timely.

Garden Club Initiatives: The Club would like to see the Railway land at the southern entrance of the town developed into a beautified community area (with barbecues, seating and shade). (However, given the nature of past uses of this land, potential constraints such as contamination need to be considered). In addition, the group sees benefit in a beautification program being implemented in the Mall. At present, this area looks run-down and is not inviting. It is important to note that any of these projects would require an initial funding injection from Council with the local community taking on a maintenance role after establishment.



Legal Trail Bike Area: While the group acknowledged that it would be difficult for Council to be involved in the development of a legal public trail bike area, it remained a priority to have youth using trail bikes in a location where they could be monitored.

Relationship with Council: The community needs strong support from Council. While the user groups have, generally, accepted that they need to take a lead role in facility maintenance and development Council assistance in areas such as provision and maintenance of equipment (such as lawn mowers and brush cutters) is essential.

The Community Development Committee appreciates the funding it recently received from Council to develop barbecues and shelters at Adams Lookout.

The community would like Council to consider opening Connors Creek Reservoir for recreation purposes such as sailing or power boating (with electric or small horse power motors).

User groups also noted that they were not always aware of the range of available grants. They would appreciate more regular correspondence from Council in this regard and further assistance in developing funding applications.

Barraba Community Development Committee (CDC)

Within the scope of this Plan, there are two key priorities for the Barraba CDC. Firstly, the group wishes to appoint a Main Street Coordinator to oversee beautification processes. This person could also drive the upgrade and maintenance of the mall area.

The second priority for the CDC is the development of a community park at the southern entrance to the town. The concept is to establish an easily-accessed open space area that provides a visual 'welcome point' and offers opportunities for historical interpretation. The park could be developed along themes such as wool production, mineral mining and bird watching. Additionally, the disused railway line could be a feature of the park with a hand-driven rail trolley ride likely to attract visitors.

Additional items noted by the CDC included:

- upgrading (or rebuilding) the amenities block at the Sports Grounds
- upgrading the electricity supply at the Sports Grounds
- upgrading the Barraba Tennis clubhouse
- upgrading the toilets at the rugby league grounds
- continuing to pursue the use of recycled water for irrigating sports fields and parkland
- upgrading the amenities at the Barraba lookout
- investigating the further use of the river banks
- enhancing activity and program provision within the town.

The CDC is very satisfied with the quality of the local swimming pool and the range of opportunities it provides.

Barraba Sports Ground Committee

Usage: Despite being heavily used, this facility is in very good condition. In winter, it plays host to junior and senior rugby union and junior soccer. Given the central location of the facility, junior rugby union hosts a major carnival each year. In addition, many junior representative training sessions are conducted at the Sports Ground. During summer, junior and senior cricket and touch are played at the facility. Throughout the year, the Sport Ground hosts a range of school sport events including rugby union, cricket and cross-

country. Community events such as the Relay 4 Life Cancer Council fundraiser are also conducted at the facility on an ad hoc basis.

Council Support: Sports Ground Committee members are often disgruntled with the support they receive from Council. Despite the Committee overseeing all maintenance and development of the sporting facilities at the complex, Council is regularly perceived as obstructive rather than helpful. For instance, when the Committee’s ride-on mower recently broke down it was taken to the Council workshop to assist the committee volunteer to remove the drive shaft. However, the Council mechanics were ‘told’ they could not assist the Committee unless they charged full commercial rates (despite the fact that the individual Council staff were more than willing to help out). In addition, the Committee continues to chase Council for a long-term lease over the footprint of the clubhouse building.

The Committee also perceives that more could be done by both Council and the State Government to inform groups of the various grants and funding opportunities. Further, Council should be working closer with the Committee to assist to market the facility as a (geographically) central venue ideal for training and matches.

Amenities Block: The amenities block (that contains the public toilets, canteen and change rooms) is aged and sinking at one end. This has caused serious cracking and structural concerns. Through discussions with Council, the Committee is considering whether to try to repair the facility (estimated to cost \$170K) or to demolish the building and build a new facility. To demolish and rebuild the facility, the group would look for funding support from the Council and State and Federal Governments.

Water: The water levels within the bore located at the Sports Ground are steadily decreasing. Council is dropping large bores throughout the town as back up supply and the perception is that these new bores are drawing from the same water table as the Sports Ground bore. In conjunction with the Golf Course Committee, the Sports Ground Committee has investigated the possibility of recycled water being used for irrigation purposes. At this stage, it appears this process is too costly.

Field Mowing: Volunteers from the committee spend many hours mowing the facilities. The mower often breaks down and has a badly bent mowing deck. The committee has previously threatened to hand back the maintenance of the facility to Council unless they can source an appropriate mower.

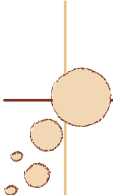
Barraba Showgrounds Committee

This 70 acre Crown Land site is managed and maintained for Council by a 355 Committee. The committee does not currently have any form of tenure over the facility. Council subsidises the committee \$25K each year (of which \$9K is used to pay rates) and covers the cost of the relevant insurances. Members of the committee conduct all the maintenance on the site.

Events and Usage: As detailed in Table 13, a range of user groups are based at the Showgrounds. These groups pay the Showgrounds Committee between \$350 and \$700 per year hire fee while individual hire charges are used for function room bookings.

Table 13—Barraba Showgrounds Usage

Organisation/ Event	Frequency
Jockey Club	1 race/ year
Pony Club	3-4 camps/ year + instruction days
Campdraft	2 events/ year (includes event during Barraba Show)



Organisation/ Event	Frequency
Barraba Show	1 event/ year
School Cattle Judging Events	Varied
Function Room	5-6 private functions/ year + hosts all user groups committee meetings

Development Initiatives: Generally, the facilities (e.g. pavilions) at the Showgrounds are aged and in poor condition. Council recently 'closed' the tiered grandstands given safety concerns. The Jockey Club was unsuccessful in attracting State Government funding to rebuild the grandstand.

The primary toilet and shower block is severely damaged and needs to be replaced. Additionally, the canteen area and set of old stables also need significant upgrades.

The main pavilion also needs to be replaced while the sewerage system needs repairs.

Opportunity exists to incorporate a number of these development initiatives into one large structure. Many years ago, plans were in place to demolish the existing buildings and construct one large building (with grandstands, amenities, bars, open pavilion areas and function rooms). These works were outside the capacity of the Barraba Shire Council and the plans have subsequently been lost.

Barraba Golf Club

Events and Usage: The Golf Club includes an 18-hole sand green course and large clubhouse with covered veranda overlooking the course. The tee blocks and areas around the greens are irrigated from a fully reticulated underground system.

Competitions are conducted at the course every Friday and Sunday and regularly attract 30 players.

The Club works hard to attract events. In 2008, the New South Wales State Sand Green Championships will be held at the Barraba course. The course is also used (as one of a number of courses) in the Fossickers Way Tournament each year.

The clubhouse plays host to regular functions and has recently become the home of the local Lions Club. The revenue raised via private functions through facility hire and bar sales is essential to keep the Club afloat.

Membership: Club membership is currently steady at approximately 100. However, until recently membership had showed regular decreases. With younger families now moving to the district, the Club is looking to initiate a juniors program and build a base of junior members.

Tenure: The Club has a long-term lease directly with the State Government and pays 'rent' of \$670/ year. In addition, the Club pays Council rates of approximately \$1,500/ year. However, last financial year Council donated \$1,000 back to the Club as a rates remission. (The Club will continue to apply for the remission on an annual basis).

Development Initiatives: While no major works are programmed for the course, the Club is looking to conduct significant renovations in the function area and bar area of the clubhouse. In an ideal world, the Club would also upgrade the toilets, showers and change rooms, however, at this stage funding is not available for this scope of works.

Council Support: The Club would like assistance in acquiring quality mowers. The Club wishes to purchase quality second hand mowers directly from Council.

The Club requires additional assistance to know what grants are available and how to successfully apply for funding.

A number of discussions have been held with Council Officers regarding the establishment of an on-site chlorinator and the subsequent use of reclaimed water for irrigating the golf course and adjoining Sports Grounds. The Club believes that funding for these works has been allocated by Council for 2010.

Barraba War Memorial Swimming Pool

Whilst this pool is 44 years old, it has been very well maintained and presents in excellent condition. Outside, the facilities include a 6-lane 25m pool, wading pool, waterslide, barbecue area, covered seating and grass volleyball court. An indoor hydrotherapy pool (heated to 34°C) is also located on-site. The outdoor facilities are, generally, open from October through until April while the hydrotherapy pool is open year-round.

Usage: Given the quality of the facilities, it is not surprising that the venue is well used (see Table 14). During the summer school holidays, the pool regularly attracts 100 patrons daily. Additionally, when the outdoor facilities close the hydrotherapy pool has up to 400 attendances/ month.

The waterslide is not regularly opened. Given limited staffing numbers it is difficult to operate the slide as it takes the staff away from their key role—to monitor swimmers in the pools. To add interest floating toys can be added to the pool and Council has recently purchased some water polo equipment.

Table 14—Barraba War Memorial Pool Usage

Organisation	Frequency
Swimming Club	3 training/ week + 1 carnival/ year
Water Polo	1 session/ week
Learn-to-Swim Classes	Varied
Schools	Daily
Church Groups	1 session/ month
Local Physiotherapist	1 hydrotherapy session/ week
Bingara Health Service	1 session/ week
Barraba Rugby League and Rugby Union Clubs	Occasional pre-season training

Barraba Rugby League Football Club

This small club has maintained steady membership in recent years. The Club is based at the Barraba Recreation Grounds at the northern end of the town. The well-maintained and picturesque facility hosts regular training and competition.

The existing toilet block at the facility is old and run-down. To ensure the ancillary facilities mirror the quality of the playing field, these toilets should be replaced.

The on-site car parking, change rooms and spectator seating are appropriate.



Barraba Netball Association

The Association uses the Barraba Bicentennial Centre once a week for fixtures. (This facility was recently re-opened after being closed for 7 months due to the floor getting wet and buckling).

Steady membership numbers have been enjoyed for a number of years and this is expected to continue.



Now that the floor has been fixed and the facility is again in operation, the primary concern for the Association is the heat that builds up in the building during summer. With little opportunity for air flow, the building becomes stifling.

6.5.2 Bendemeer

Bendemeer Community Development Committee (CDC)

The CDC seeks Council assistance to clean along the river banks and to, subsequently, construct a walking/ cycling track. Given the amount of vegetation in the area, this work is beyond the capacity of the CDC or local community.

There are currently limited appropriate facilities for young people within Bendemeer. Additionally, the CDC notes the need for the development of a Community Centre. It is proposed that the old golf clubhouse be relocated adjacent to the tennis courts for this purpose.

A need exists for an additional playing field/ community activities area. This could be achieved by levelling and developing the area to the south of the rodeo ground.

In general, the CDC believes it gets little assistance from Council. The CDC outlines that the development of a Community Grants Officer position within Council could assist small community groups such as the CDC to apply for funding.

6.5.3 Manilla

Manilla Showground Committee and Manilla CDC

Discussions were held with a number of representatives from the Manilla CDC and the Showground Committee. Additional discussions were also held with a small group of community members. A range of ideas and issues were generated during this discussion and are summarised below, including:

- There is a lack of non-organised play opportunities for young people. Council has been working with young people to identify a preferred location for a skate facility and Coronation Park has been identified as this site. This Park is a popular and well utilised rest stop for travellers.
- Maintenance of parks and open space areas is excellent. The sporting fields at Chaffey Park are in good condition.
- A walking trail has been developed along the river connecting from the showground to Dewhurst Street, with the main entrance on Market Street.
- A walking trail and tourist information brochure could be developed to promote opportunities in Manilla. This should include key parkland features, and possibly provide a heritage trail map and interpretation.
- Other popular recreation areas include parkland at the Weir (Chaffey Park, behind the sporting fields).

Facilities for picnicking and recreation need to be improved in this area. There is a cycle path connecting from the centre of Manilla to this area (mix of on-road and off-road facility). Potential exists to link these two separated areas through additional pathway development (extending the cycle lane to connect to Market Street). Visual connectedness could be achieved through a consistent street tree planting program. This may fit with other town beautification projects.

- Communication from Council is not always timely. The groups have found out information from the local paper about issues affecting their group without receiving notice from the Council directly.
- Community representatives felt local Council staff were helpful and easy to contact. Some communications with the main Tamworth Regional Council office have not met expectations, with calls not being returned or followed up
- There are a number of committees, sub-committees, groups and clubs in Manilla with little coordination or communication between them. There is potential to build capacity within the community by improving communication between groups and Council.
- Members of the Showground Committee expressed disappointment that developments at the Showground were not completed in time for the annual show. Although alternative arrangements were successfully implemented, it was disappointing that some aspects of the approval process did not happen faster.
- Facilities at the showground have gone down-hill rapidly in recent years. Maintenance is becoming an increasing burden with the age of the facilities. The Committee have applied for funding for a new pavilion.
- There is potential to convert the disused rail corridor to a 'Rail Trail'. This involves replacing the railway tracks with a suitable surface for walking, cycling, horse riding or other forms of non-motorised recreational activity. Rail Trails tend to be developed as tourism drawcards and can bring substantial financial return to the communities. There are many examples of successful projects of this type internationally and in Australia (e.g. the 'Riesling Trail', wine trail in the Clare Valley). Such a facility would be a long term project, however, protection of the corridor for this potential future use should be investigated and secured now.
- There is some concern that recent changes in rubbish tip opening times and fees may result in increased illegal rubbish dumping, particularly along the river.

Manilla Swimming Pool

The swimming pool is a focal point of community activities within the Manilla community. A number of events are held and tend to be well supported. These include:

- disco nights
- dive-in-movies
- Carols by Candlelight
- Australia Day celebrations
- birthday parties/ social group gatherings (portable barbecue supplied and free to use)
- regular weekly sausage sizzles to encourage swimming.

The pool and associated facilities are in good condition. A range of aquatic sports are catered for within the programs offered at the schools and swimming club. A small, dry, play area requires shade. This area can be further expanded to cater for dry activities such as picnicking and play. Some maintenance issues exist at this two pool complex that will be addressed over the next few years. The Swimming Club is planning to build a new clubhouse that Council will maintain after construction.



6.5.4 Nundle

Community Forum

The Nundle Community Forum had representation from both Nundle and Hanging Rock, with about ten people present.

The community forum at Nundle reflected many of the priorities contained in the 2007 Nundle Gold Rush Program—Community Strategic Plan. The local newsletter (soon to be published) and the Gold Rush Committee are two of the successes of the Community Plan.

Some of the ideas and/or themes to emerge from the discussions were:

- youth facilities in Nundle—specifically a regional playground, a skate park and further support to the Youth Committee
- walking/ cycling paths in and around the town, with a focus on the River, were high priorities. Any development needs to be accompanied by maps and signs. Bike trails outside of town to tourist attractions may keep tourists in the district a little longer. The walks in Hanging Rock are not well promoted but could be a tourist drawcard. Initially though the walking tracks need maintenance, grading and signing. A map brochure could then be developed and promotion started.
- picnicking and parks—there were various ideas to add new picnic areas. However, an assessment of current supply needs to be undertaken to establish if there is a need for additional facilities.
- programs and activities—would like more activities in the town. Karate is doing well but aqua aerobics was tried at the pool and was not successful. All programs need to be open to visitors. Activities and facilities need to be cognisant of the local climate
- festivals—building on the success of the “Nundle Go For Gold Chinese Festival” the Hanging Rock CDC has an idea to create a “fun-run” and bicycle event starting in Nundle and finishing at Sheba Dams, Hanging Rock.

Other suggestions include:

- a Nundle lookout from the reservoir site
- better use of fossicking areas for tourism. It was noted that there had been some desecration of old fossicking areas (including on private land by the landholders)
- town entrance statements
- upgrading toilet facilities at Sheba Dams for large groups of campers
- storage shed beside Hanging Rock Community Hall
- improve Council’s response to communications—it is too slow.

An open space opportunity was identified as Ponderosa Park. This Park, owned by the Forestry Commission, was closed (apparently) after a tree limb fell and liability issues surfaced. Other opportunities include:

- eastern foreshore of Chaffey Dam
- some of the private fossicking areas.

Nundle Community Development Committee

The Nundle Gold Rush Program—Community Strategic Plan 2007 remains relevant to Nundle Community Development Committee’s priorities for the township.

Many of these priorities are around tourism but others include walking paths, brochures and maps, beautification of parks and streets, upgrading community facilities, planning and communication.

However, since the Community Strategic Plan was published some other issues or priorities have arisen. These include:

- a regional playground to be built in Captain Cook Park. The Nundle CDC is developing a plan and is fundraising toward the \$150,000 facility
- when the bridge works are complete (April 2008) the CDC would like to develop a picnic area/ riverside park near this location
- the township is particularly worried about the impact that the stream of logging trucks, associated with a new sawmill in Quirindi, will have on the amenity of the main street/ CBD, which is the core area for the town's tourism
- there is a growing body of support for youth activities, whether a youth club, indoor sport, scouts or similar. This facility may also be designed to offer activities for the children of tourists staying in the town/ caravan park.

The priorities for the Nundle CDC are:

- a regional playground in Captain Cook Park
- a skate/ BMX facility for older children
- development of a system of town walks and trails with appropriate signage and maps.

Nundle Swimming Pool

The Nundle pool has suffered due to the loss of its learn-to-swim and swim club coach (the pool supervisor has temporarily stepped into the role). Council has employed a person to offer learn-to-swim and to activate the pool.

The facility includes:

- 25m pool
- shade sails that run the length of the pool
- facilities for users with a disability (e.g. hoist)
- solar heated showers.

The pool hosts a range of community events such as discos.

Hanging Rock Community Development Committee

The Hanging Rock CDC is focussed on improving:

- Sheba Dams
- Hanging Rock Recreation Area
- Goldminers Park.

The CDC believes that Sheba Dams is not well maintained (lack of mowing) and needs minor repairs to improvements (e.g. signage and fencing) as well as new toilets.

The Recreation Ground, with very little in the way of improvements, is not well used by the community. The CDC believes that if it was improved then there would be much more local use as well as by tourists for "picnics and other activities".

When asked about different aspects of parks and reserves the Committee was dissatisfied with:

- the provision of walking and cycle paths
- maintenance and cleanliness
- places for camping.

The Committee was satisfied with the quantity of parks, provision of shade, access to bushwalking trails and outdoor recreation.

6.5.5 Kootingal

Community Forum

Sport at the Recreation Reserve: Significant upgrades are required to cater for the range of users currently based at the facility. The complex requires additional grandstands and irrigation, field levelling and top dressing. With increased pressure on field sports in Tamworth, games could be attracted 'out to' Kootingal.

Pedestrian/ Cycleways: A link is required through the middle of the Kootingal Play Centre Park to link residents from the eastern side of town with shops in the main street. Additionally, a link is required along Station Street to service the new developments in this area.

A pedestrian bridge is required across Sandy Creek adjacent to the overpass at Denman Avenue. Currently, young people are required to dice with traffic as they cross the highway.

Play Opportunities: Kootingal is currently lacking in play opportunities. A new combination play unit is required in the open space area behind the War Memorial Hall, while Garden Street Reserve also requires play opportunities.

Environmental Upgrades: (On behalf of the Recreation Reserve Committee) Council has recently received a Permit for the Construction of Artificial Ponds and Footbridges along Sandy Creek in the amphitheatre area. The Recreation Reserve Committee is going to clear the existing reeds in this area and re-establish ponds.

Sandy Creek is a well-recognised bird watching area with 170 species currently identified. The community would like to build upon this and develop a low impact walking trail in the bush setting along the creek bank. Not only would this provide an ideal location for many of the town's recreational walkers it would also form a link for young people accessing the school and pool from the western side of town.

Kootingal Community Development Committee

The Kootingal Community Development Committee (CDC) currently has approximately 10 active members. It is a progressive committee that works well together and has made significant achievements within Kootingal.

Park Development and Maintenance: The CDC establishes and maintains all parks within Kootingal. The CDC conducts regular working bees and, wherever possible, tries not to request assistance from Council.

Parry Park was recently developed by the CDC. Not only does this park provide opportunities for locals to recreate, it has also been designed to bring Kootingal 'onto the highway' in an attempt to attract tourists.





A community hall sub-committee was recently established to save the Scout Hall in Chaffey Street Reserve from demolition by re-igniting the scout movement. The scout group has grown swiftly and currently enjoys thirty members.

Fundraising: Significant fundraising is required to pay for park-related costs and to allow for additional initiatives. The three primary fundraisers are:

- quarterly markets (that attract up to 50 stalls)
- camping at the Recreation Reserve during the Tamworth Country Music Festival
- annual Pumpkin Festival.

Pedestrian/ Cycleways: The CDC is keen to see additional pedestrian/ cycleways built throughout Kootingal through Council funding allocations. The CDC has written to Council outlining the need to link some of the existing areas but is yet to receive a response.

Kootingal Recreation Reserve Committee

Playing Field: The Committee maintains the playing field. The current users of the facility include junior and senior rugby league, junior and senior soccer and cricket. During the winter season, the facility is used for training each afternoon of the week and for matches every weekend.



The field is lit and clubs pay for the lighting via a coin-operated system.

The Committee recently planted shade trees around the outside of the playing field and constructed an announcer's box. The existing fence that runs around the perimeter of the park requires additional uprights to stop it 'swinging' when spectators lean on it.

While the Committee has completed significant works on the playing field surface, further levelling works are required. In addition, the sporting user groups would benefit if the field lighting was upgraded to playing standard. A suitable PA system would also be useful on game days.

To meet the needs of the growing user groups, the complex also requires a large shade sail near the fields, a new shed with awning extension, additional formalised car parking and club rooms constructed on top of the existing kiosk (long-term).

Park and Creek Area: The Committee is looking to upgrade the creek where it runs through the amphitheatre. The creek will be cleared of reeds that are choking the system with pond areas re-established and, potentially, a band rotunda installed.

Footbridges and trails should be developed across and along the creek bank. This picturesque area needs to be made available to recreational walkers. Additionally, a playground should be developed in the open space area near the rear of the War Memorial Hall.

If the use of the area increases with the proposed developments, an additional car park will be required on the Chelmsford Street side of the park area.

The Committee maintains the toilets behind the War Memorial Hall, in Moonbi and at the lookout.

Kootingal-Moonbi War Memorial Swimming Pool

Significant maintenance in the last few years has now lifted the standard at this two pool complex to a satisfactory level.

Attendances have been increasing for the last three years (though the 2007/08 season may be lower due to a cool summer). The Swimming Club is enjoying an expanding membership, even drawing Tamworth residents. The Tamworth Triathlon Club now train from this pool as the roads around the complex are quieter for riding bikes.

Usage: The pool is currently well used. User groups include:

- swimming club (2 training sessions and 1 competition night each week)
- Kootingal Public School (weekly class use)
- Tamworth High School (annual Year 7 activities)
- local sporting clubs (pre-season training)
- outlying schools (annual learn-to-swim intensive program)
- NSW Sport and Recreation (annual 2 week school holiday learn-to-swim program)
- Tamworth Triathlon Club (one race each month).



Development Initiatives: Three key projects have been identified:

- construction of a large shade structure between the kiosk and 25m pool area (funding has recently been received for this project)
- construction of additional shade on the far side of the 25m pool
- heating the 25m pool.

6.5.6 Woolbrook

Woolbrook Community Development Committee (CDC)

The Woolbrook village currently has no sport or recreation facilities. The newly formed CDC is keen to see a number of developments within the village:

- playground development
- repair the existing tennis courts
- provide additional areas of shade
- upgrade showground buildings.

6.6 Tamworth Community Forums

6.6.1 Community Forums and Discussions

A range of issues were identified during discussions with community members in Tamworth and at the Community Forum. These included:

Environment

- there is a strong interest in protecting and preserving areas of land for flora and fauna across Tamworth Regional Council and the broad region. Areas of potential high environmental value include Travelling Stock Routes, which could have a significant role in preservation of bird life if managed appropriately. These need to be identified and actions taken to preserve environmental values, whilst encouraging and promoting appropriate levels of nature appreciation activities (e.g. bird watching).
- greater emphasis needs to be placed on maintaining natural bushland in new development areas. This includes vegetation in recreation parkland areas to create shady attractive places, and also retention of undisturbed remnant vegetation for fauna/flora habitat.

Indoor and Aquatic facilities

- some of the indoor recreation facilities and community halls in Tamworth Regional Council are becoming dilapidated. These facilities are important for a number of recreation groups, such as line dancers. Maintenance of the facilities needs to be kept up.
- some groups are struggling to find appropriate and affordable venues to conduct their activities (e.g. indoor bowls, dancing and cards). Whilst the West Leagues Club is an important community venue, events and other priorities of the club often mean activities are cancelled. Other facilities such as the Community Hall are cost prohibitive to hire.
- aquatic centres need to be updated. Tamworth should have a heated pool complex that is available for year round swimming. Some residents have found it hard to use facilities on an informal basis due to heavy use by clubs (swimming and polo)

Cycling

- while the network of pathways through Tamworth parkland is good for walkers and slower cyclists, it is not suitable for use as a cycle training or higher speed commuting facility. A criterium cycle track was seen as a possible solution and if a suitable site was located, a cycle centre could be developed that catered for a range of cycle and wheeled pursuits

Pathway, tracks and trails

- maintenance on pathways is at times insufficient and this causes difficulties for mobility and visually impaired. In particular, the quality of gravel path surfaces in Bicentennial Park and vegetation/ tree trimming was considered to be below a reasonable level.
- many residents walk up to Oxley Lookout and Marsupial Park, amongst other places, and these area are valued areas for walking and exercise. However the road/ verge design does not is not particularly supportive of pedestrian activity.
- some of the paths through Riverside Park are too narrow for the level of use they receive
- many people walk for exercise and additional pathways are required, especially where they can add interest to the experience
- there is an emerging and increasing demand for mountain biking locations across the region. Oxley Park is used, although no formal facilities/ tracks are in place. Oxley Park has potential to support mountain biking tracks, if developed appropriately



Parks

- council has developed some valuable, high quality assets, such as the velodrome. Such initiatives have resulted in the production of top athletes and Council should be commended for supporting the sporting goals of the community.
- there are many high quality sporting facilities available. There is now a need to deliver high quality, attractive spaces for non-sport people. It was felt that with an aging population, older adults were losing out in the mix.
- performances and displays are a frequent activity in Tamworth, especially during Country Music Festival time. An outdoor concrete courtyard could be utilised for dance performances (which is difficult on grass) whilst being available for other recreation activities during other times of the year (e.g. giant chess board).
- current play facilities for young children are lacking. It was felt that a centre the size of Tamworth should be able to provide a significant playground facility. The lack of shade (a problem for most play areas) makes many facilities too hot for a child to touch. Ants are a problem in many of the parks and facilities are often unappealing.
- the learn to ride bicycle facility on Robert Street is a valued asset in the community, however there is no shade and its condition is deteriorating.
- several people noted that *"things keep getting taken away"* from parks and recreation areas, rather than being repaired or replaced.
- maintenance in some parks is not good enough. Residents identified a number of parks that are starkly lacking in facilities
- there is some concern that open space at Victoria Park may be continually eroded with ad hoc developments (with regard to the miniature railway area)
- toilets in public parks are dated and not up to a reasonable maintenance standard.

Communication

- community members do not necessarily know what activities or programs sporting clubs offer
- community members felt that whilst Council often delivers good outcomes, community views are sometimes disregarded.

6.6.2 Sport Forum

Financial Considerations: It is perceived that sport is one of the large industries for the region. However, there is a concern that Council is tying up a large proportion of available funds in a small number of large-scale projects (e.g. Australian Equine and Livestock Events Centre, indoor sport facility and aquatic facility) that will restrict Council's ability to support additional sport projects in the area.

Clubs are not well informed of the local and state government grants that are available. It would be beneficial if a dedicated Grants Officer position was established within Council to identify suitable grants for Clubs and to, subsequently, guide them through the application process.

Further, while Council has been acknowledged for its detailed planning, Clubs are keen to see financial commitment toward these plans.

Sports 'Voice': The Sports Working Group has worked well to lobby the position (importance) of sport. The proposed Sports Tourism Study is likely to further assist sport planning and funding by highlighting the economic benefits of sport in the region.

Sport Collaboration: With increased overlap between the traditional summer and winter seasons, communication between sports is important. In smaller towns (e.g. Barraba), executive members from clubs communicate regularly via their positions on various committees. However, currently in Tamworth, sporting groups only collaborate when an issue arises. For instance, athletics, hockey and gymnastics came together to discuss the likely impacts caused by the development of the nearby Australian Equine and Livestock Events Centre. This joint approach resulted in further detailed discussions with Council.

To decrease the likelihood of event clashes, the group believes Council should coordinate an events calendar.

Stadium: There are only two field sports venues within Tamworth capable of hosting crowds of up to 5,000. Some believe that Tamworth could attract higher level events if a larger stadium-like facility was available. It is suggested that with a facility with seating capacity up to 10,000, Tamworth could host a pre-season National Rugby League game or pre-season A-League football match.

If the Riding for the Disabled was to be relocated, opportunity exists for development of an additional rectangular field precinct. This site may also be suitable for the proposed stadium development.

Additional upgrades (e.g. playing standard lighting and clubhouse advancements) are proposed for No. 1 Oval so that it can become a premier round field facility.

Volunteers: It is becoming increasingly difficult for clubs to attract volunteers. As a result, a number of sport peak bodies are considering following cricket, touch and basketball by appointing paid administrators.

Regional Sports Complex: One field at the Riverside Sporting Complex is currently used for hockey training five afternoons each week and junior fixtures on Saturday morning. With the planned relocation of football and rugby league to the Riverside Sporting Precinct, use by hockey will cease. *(The use of an oval by hockey may still be available with Council's recent decision to relocate football to Gipps Street Park rather than Riverside Sporting Complex).* The Tamworth Hockey Association is keen to see additional fields developed at the Regional Sporting Complex to accommodate relocation from the Riverside Sporting Complex. However, Council must first gauge the impact on the sporting groups within the Regional Sports Complex caused by events at the Australian Equine and Livestock Events Centre.

Play Opportunities: A petition prepared by a local community member is currently being circulated around playgroups and pre-schools. The proposal included in the petition is for Council to develop a significant play facility within Bicentennial Park.


Parks and Open Spaces: Council works hard to develop parks and open space areas but often fails to allocate suitable resources for adequate ongoing maintenance. Additionally, Council relies too heavily on volunteer groups to pick up the maintenance 'slack'.

6.7 Major Facilities

6.7.1 Coledale Community Centre

The Coledale Community Centre focuses on the older people in the community, with services/ programs for young people delivered by the youth centre. Many of the older people are on low incomes, isolated, indigenous or new migrants.

The managers of the Centre believe that there are a number of good programs for youth and "they were doing ok". It is the older people that are most in need.



The Centre's current priority is establishing a "Men's Shed" as a place for older men to socialise, interact, learn new skills and to pass them on. The Centre has a small shed at the back of the Community Centre that, with some work, could be the starting point for the program. The shed needs power, relining, a security door and painting.

6.7.2 Police Citizens Youth Centre

Council's support of the youth drop-in centre, "Youthie", located at the PCYC, is appreciated. This is a joint program between Council and the PCYC. The support has been on-going since 1999 and this has allowed the centre and its programs to build trust with local youths. Too often programs have a finite length and finish just when results are starting to be achieved. The centre can offer "direction" that is not always to be found in the users' homes.

The "Youthie" is a drop-in youth centre servicing young people aged 12—18 years of age. The Youthie is operated by the Tamworth Regional Council and offers a variety of recreational and arts/ music based activities. During the school holidays a comprehensive program of activities are organised that young people can become involved.

Facilities at the Youthie are quite extensive and include:

- three pool tables with organised competitions
- free internet computers (Broadband ADSL)
- movies on the big screen and six televisions
- musical instruments
- basketball court with organised competitions
- computer games
- areas to relax.

The Centre's facilities are well used. Gymnastics runs five nights each week and boxing has restarted. Karate and dance are well attended. Skate programs, using the skate park across Peel Street are run from time-to-time.

The PCYC once encouraged the youths into team sports. Now though the emphasis is more on individual activities. Resourcing team sports was difficult as was logistics, including transport.

The PCYC's development priorities are:

- cover the external basketball court so that it can be used in summer—currently it is too hot. Initially, a roof over the existing court with lights for night play. In the long-term, the facility may be enclosed, and
- general maintenance issues in the existing building because of its age—but no plans to leave the facility.

As a general comment, PCYC management recognises that there are some areas in Tamworth that have greater youth delinquency issues than others (e.g. Coledale and Oxley Vale), and perhaps are in the greatest need. Any new initiatives should consider the needs in these areas.

6.7.3 Tamworth Olympic Swimming Pool

This pool's future is uncertain. It was originally intended that the pool would close after the completion of the Stage 1 expansion of the South and West Tamworth War Memorial Swimming Pool. This intention though, is no longer certain.

This pool is no longer the major pool in Tamworth. Its visitation is only a little over half of the South and West Tamworth War Memorial Swimming Pool (40,000 visits versus over 75,000 visits per season at Scully

Park). This decline is in part due to the westward growth of Tamworth combined with a lack of free parking in the CBD.

The swimming club is struggling at the pool and the triathlon club has relocated its base to the Kootingal Pool. However, some triathlon events are still conducted from the Olympic Pool. No major capital upgrades are planned at this time. The role of this pool in providing aquatic experiences is being reconsidered. Initially it will be used to relieve demand for swimming training and competition space at Scully Park, however the cost vs benefit of such an arrangement should be monitored and evaluated over time.

6.7.4 South and West Tamworth War Memorial Swimming Pool (Scully Park)

Widely known as Scully Park Pool, the South and West Tamworth War Memorial Swimming Pool is now the region's busiest pool—and is Council's preferred site for aquatic facilities. The swimming club and water polo club operating from this venue are very strong. This can cause some tension with casual swimmers, with lack of availability of space due to training and event requirements.

Council has a plan in place to upgrade this complex. At the completion of a two stage process, the ultimate aquatic facility will include an indoor 50m pool, indoor 25m pool and indoor leisure water, program pool and toddler's pool. Additional "dry" facilities will include a gymnasium, program room, multipurpose room and sauna. To service the activity areas, a range of ancillary facilities will be developed including café, change rooms, administration area, crèche, first aid area and bleacher seating.

Stage 1 involves enclosing the main pool with a Tension Fabric Structure along with the refurbishment of the entrance and ladies change rooms. Leisure water is also being sought in the first stage. The development is expected to happen over the next three years.

6.7.5 Australian Equine and Livestock Events Centre

The Australian Equine and Livestock Events Centre is an international standard equine event centre. In addition to events, there will be a number of related activities including stud sales, training and education, veterinary and feed.

The centre will have a capacity of 3,500 people initially, expanding to 5,000 later. This facility will be available for events that require a "dirt" floor such as bmx racing.

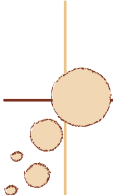
The Australian Equine and Livestock Events Centre is being well-planned. Additional Master Planning will soon be undertaken that will investigate opportunities to expand the current scope of the facility to incorporate a range of additional equine and livestock-related disciplines.

Given the level of planning, the Australian Equine and Livestock Events Centre does not require anything from this Plan except to recognise the profound influence that it is likely to have on horse sports in the Tamworth region and the need to consider the impact of the Centre on surrounding land uses. Further discussion is included in the equine summary in section one.

6.8 Tamworth Sporting Clubs and Associations

6.8.1 Pirates Rugby Union Football Club

This four team club based at Ken Chillingworth Oval continues to grow well. The Club has a 20 year lease over the facility and a bore is located on site. Volunteers conduct all maintenance activities except that Council is 'contracted' to carry out line marking throughout the season.



The field is heavily used throughout the rugby season. The Club trains at the facility three times each week and matches are played on alternate weekends. The Tamworth High School also uses the field for regular school sport and the field is used every Friday night during the local school rugby union competition.

The Club was recently successful in attracting a Community Water Grant to harvest and store water off the adjoining shopping centre roof. Buoyed by these works, the Club has invested significant resources into field upgrades (drainage works, topdressing, fertilising and aerating).

Additionally, the Club will oversow the field with a winter grass species to try and maintain a decent covering during the colder winter months.

The field lighting is poor. Only high school aged matches are played under lights. While the Club only conducts training at night. One of the Club's key priorities is to upgrade the field lighting to allow for club standard night matches.

6.8.2 Tamworth Gun Club

The Tamworth Gun Club has a facility capable of hosting the State Tiles—an event that will be held at the Club this August.

The facilities include five trap ranges and four skeet ranges. The Club owns the land. It is sufficiently remote that development pressures are unlikely to be an issue.

A number of carnivals are held at the facility in addition to normal members' shoots.

The Club does not need any assistance from Council. Its development priorities include some additional showers for campers (who stay on-site during events) and appropriate steps into the skeet towers.

6.8.3 Oakburn Park—Motor Sports Precinct

Oakburn Park is home to five motor sport clubs:

1. Tamworth Speedway Club
2. Tamworth Kart Racing Club
3. Tamworth Drag Racing Association
4. Tamworth Sporting Car Club
5. Tamworth Motorcycle Club

Council Support: The Park is Council owned land and the site is managed by an overarching body. The Park's operations are independent of Council and there little contact about the complex. The Management Committee would like more contact with Council and assistance in managing this large complex as well as in promoting it to potential hirers.

The Management Committee believes that there are agreements in place, as a result of Council resuming some of the site, that Council has not honoured e.g. sealing the entrance road from the highway to the entrance gate and assisting with negotiations concerning the upgrade of power to 3-phase to assist with lighting.

Council has provided funding of \$120,000 that is being repaid by the five clubs.

Tenure: While the Clubs exist on the land through a lease, the Management Committee is uncertain of the terms of the lease. Council has been asked numerous times for a copy of the lease but the Management Committee has not received it. The lease was varied because of an excise of land and the Management

Committee has not received a copy of the revised lease. The Management Committee would now like to renegotiate the lease, preferably for a 25-year timeframe.

The Club also has some concerns that encroachment into the space by incompatible activities may be the cause of a relocation in the future. Council appears to be actively managing this by locating other “unpleasant” industries within the precinct. Protection through the Local Environmental Plan should be considered to provide long-term protection to all these land uses.

Facilities: Facility improvements planned or envisioned by the Clubs include:

- seal entrance road to gate
- lift speedway fencing to the required standard
- upgrade electricity so that lighting can be improved on the speedway and motorcycle tracks
- a drag strip as shown on the master plan
- the ability to access council land as a safety runoff for a drag strip (nothing is to be built on the land)
- extend the kart track to 1km so that it can attract the State Titles
- enhance the appearance of the bund and adjoining road side.

6.8.4 Northern Inland Academy of Sport

The Northern Inland Academy of Sport (NIAS) is a community based organisation established to identify and prepare talented sportspeople in the Northern Inland region to reach their maximum potential both on and off the field.

NIAS recently won the rights to host the 2008 to 2010 Clubs NSW Academy Games. These games will be attended by representatives from the eleven NSW Regional Academies of Sport with the 2007 event attracting more than 800 athletes across seven sports. NIAS conducted an internal feasibility study of the locations within the Northern Inland area with the capacity to host such a large multi-sport event. While Tamworth had appropriate areas for field sports, the lack of suitable indoor facilities (particularly for netball—the largest sport played at the games) has seen the games allocated to Armidale.

Through its position on Council's Sports Working Group, NIAS is keen to encourage the development of a large multi-use indoor sports facility in Tamworth.

NIAS has a close working relationship with Council. As a Major Partner, Council provides office accommodation for the administration base of NIAS. Additionally, Council field bookings for NIAS events are, generally, free of charge.

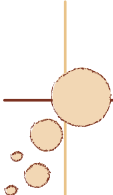
6.8.5 Tamworth Rugby Football Club

Tenure: The Club recently signed a 25 year lease over its home at Rugby Park.

Maintenance: The Club conducts all maintenance at Rugby Park. In fact, the existing fence was erected to stop Council mowers from mowing the field too short. Council maintains the facilities at Viaduct Park.

Viaduct Park: The Club has contributed significant funds into field lighting at Viaduct Park to ensure adequate fields are available for the Friday night schools rugby competition. The fields are also used by the Club for regular club training. Occasional conflict arises with Oztag also using the fields (and field lighting) during the winter season.

Parking: Limited car parks are available at both Viaduct and Rugby Parks. During training and matches, parking becomes a large issue.



Tamworth Junior Rugby Club: As the only junior rugby club in Tamworth, this Club acts as a feeder club to the two senior clubs operating in the City. The juniors currently train two times each week at Rugby Park.

Council Support: The Club believes that Council should conduct a forum/ workshop on sporting organisation governance with a particular emphasis on forward planning and leading with a professional business approach.

Development Initiatives: The current lighting at Rugby and Viaduct Parks does not meet competition standard (despite regular Friday night school matches being played). The Club hopes to raise funds to upgrade the lighting at Rugby Park in the short-term.

The new clubhouse has been designed to allow for future extensions to the rear of the building and back toward the entrance to Rugby Park. These extensions remain a priority for the Club.

With the development of the new modern clubhouse, the function of the original clubhouse will change. The Club hopes to offer this building as an office space for sports administrators. The outside of the building will be clad with colourbond to match the new clubhouse while the inside will be repaired and converted to office space.

Fundraising: The Club's primary fundraising activity is hiring out Rugby Park as a site for caravans and motor homes during the Tamworth Country Music Festival. With the new clubhouse opening, the Club is looking to expand the services it offers campers. In addition, the Club has applied to Council to also offer camping at Viaduct Park.

6.8.6 Tamworth Touch Association

The Tamworth Touch Association bases all operations at the Gipps Street Sports Complex. The facility includes a large clubhouse and twelve playing fields (nine of which are lit).

Usage: The fields are heavily used. Four competitions are conducted year round, while an additional primary school aged competition is also conducted in the warmer months. Unfortunately, the Association can not attract carnivals as the facility has been poorly planned with light posts located too close to fields.

Maintenance: Council maintains the playing fields. The Association contracts Council to undertake line marking (\$1,895 for each of the summer and winter seasons) while Council's player levy contributes toward field maintenance and lighting costs.

Whilst Council's field staff are helpful and, generally, tend to smaller issues at the facility, the Association is disappointed in Council's response to larger issues such as uneven fields with poor grass cover.

Development Initiatives: The key priority for the Association is to see the fields brought up to a quality standard. They are uneven with significant rutting along field lines. Most fields need to be top dressed and 'started again'. Additionally, the irrigation system at the complex is poor. The sprinklers do not provide adequate coverage and Council tends to offer bandaids solutions rather than repair the entire system.

The existing field lighting needs to be upgraded as there are a large number of black spots across the facility. Once lighting upgrades have occurred, the Association would be keen to see lighting erected on the remaining three unlit fields.

6.8.7 Tamworth and District Minor Rugby League

Minor League has been in a 'holding pattern' since it was informed thirteen years ago that Minor League Park would be sold as an industrial site and the club would be relocated. Council has informed the group that they will be given two years notice before they need to be relocated—they are yet to be given this final notice (*Minor League has recently been made aware of the soon-to-be realised move to Plain Street sport fields*). A perception exists that other sports are 'moving ahead' of rugby league as they can offer juniors (and their parents) new upgraded facilities (e.g. baseball, softball and hockey) whereas Minor League has only completed the bare minimum upgrades in preparation for their move.

Minor League Park is leased by Minor League with Council conducting all field maintenance. A total of 6 full size and 4 mini fields are located at the facility.

Usage: Throughout the winter season, the facility plays host to training five afternoons each week (five clubs train at the site) with matches played all day on Saturdays. During the summer season, Oztag use the facility three nights each week. With limited watering, this use is considered by Minor League to be above capacity and the fields are visibly struggling.

Development Initiatives: While Minor League discussed a number of upgrade requirements for Minor League Park, the inevitable relocation to Plain Street supersedes these requests.

6.8.8 Tamworth AFL

Usage: No.1 Oval is the home of AFL in the Tamworth area. This facility is used for matches every week and training twice each week throughout the winter sporting season.

As the facility is also the home of cricket, the grass is often mown too low for AFL purposes and the centre square (that includes the turf wicket area) is also very hard and causes safety concerns for players and umpires.

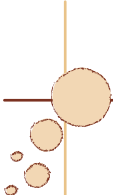
Development Initiatives: To allow night matches to be played, Tamworth AFL would like to see field lighting installed on No.1 Oval. Also, the shower facilities (and water pressure) in the change rooms needs to be upgraded.

6.8.9 Tamworth Baseball Association

Baseball in Tamworth is focussed around the two quality international diamonds at the Riverside Sports Complex. The upgrade of these diamonds and recent development of a large clubhouse has seen the sport overcome dwindling player numbers with a healthy and steady membership base now evident.

Usage: With all baseball played at the Riverside facility, the complex is heavily used each weekend. Seniors play on the two international diamonds while juniors utilise the two main softball diamonds. Additionally, C grade fixtures are played on the fields across Carter Street on a rotation basis. As none of the diamonds are lit, limited training options are available. Presently, batting training is conducted in the lit batting practice cage, while limited fielding practice is conducted under natural light.

Each year, the Association hosts New South Wales' largest baseball event at the Riverside Sports Complex over the June long weekend. This event requires up to 15 diamonds. Additionally, a baseball carnival is conducted annually as part of the Tamsac Games, while the New South Wales Country Championships are also conducted at the facility every 2-3 years.



Council Support: The Association shares a good relationship with Council with Council conducting maintenance at the complex. However, Council does not have the man power to keep all the baseball fences cleared so the Association does the grass maintenance around the fences on the two international diamonds. Council is contracted to conduct all the baseball line marking (approximately \$2,500 each year).

Development Initiatives: The Association has recently invested in the development of a scorer's boxes, batting tunnels and the clubhouse. As a result, most of the available funds are being directed to reduce incurred debt. However, the Association is seeking Baseball NSW support to fund the purchase and laying of electrical conduit around Diamond 1 as a precursor to lighting the field in coming seasons.

Additional formalised car parking is required and the Association is concerned that the introduction of soccer and rugby league (winter sports competing with baseball) to the site will create further car parking 'nightmares'. Also, the Association tries to avoid baseball matches being played near to car parking areas (where stray flying baseballs can cause damage to vehicles). However, this may be inevitable with future soccer and rugby league developments (*footballs move to Gipps Street will reduce car parking pressure at Riverside Sporting Precinct*).

6.8.10 Tamworth Softball Association

The Tamworth Softball Association is currently working their way through a rebuilding phase. Large membership losses were endured during 2007 and overall interest in the sport waned. In fact, the Association recently conducted four separate Annual General Meetings before a nomination for President was received.

Usage: Given softball is played during summer (when daylight savings is in affect), all fixtures are conducted mid week in the early evening. In 2008, only senior female teams competed in fixtures with junior softball being restricted to school sport.

Two diamonds are currently used for mid-week fixtures. Club training is conducted in Diamond 2, with only representative school training allowed on Diamond 1.

Council Support: Overall, the Association believes that Council's maintenance of the diamonds is poor. Mowing is infrequent and the skinned areas are all but covered in grass.

Development Initiatives: While the Association's key priorities are to re-establish the position of the sport within the community and to rebuild junior and senior playing ranks, the need to light Diamond 1 to playing standards is also acknowledged.

6.8.11 Tamworth Cricket

Tenure: Tamworth Cricket currently has a 22-year lease (7 years old in 2008) over the clubhouse footprint.

Usage: With Tamworth Cricket enjoying steady increases in player numbers, the existing facilities are heavily used. It is fortunate that every school with an appropriate cricket pitch also offers their school oval for club fixtures.

Council Support: Council mows, line marks and prepares all of the Council-owned cricket fields including 9 turf, 3 synthetic and 5 concrete wickets. Tamworth Cricket describes the maintenance standards achieved by Council as 'fair'. Tamworth Cricket would prefer that those staff maintaining the turf wickets held formal qualifications to help ensure conformity across the facilities.

Development Initiatives: Tamworth Cricket, Tamworth AFL and Council are looking to light No. 1 Oval to full competition standard for both AFL and cricket. This project is expected to cost up to \$300k with funds being sought from NSW Country Cricket, Tamworth AFL, Council and New South Wales Sport and Recreation. This field has the potential to host one-off first class matches such as Domestic 20-20 games. While the field is slightly skinnier than that recommended by Cricket Australia, it is similar in width to fields such as the Adelaide Oval and Allan Border Field that regularly attract first class (and international) matches.

Tamworth Cricket would like to see the Carter Street clubhouse remain the focal point for cricket in the region. To achieve this, significant upgrades to the clubhouse are required. In addition, the fields at the Riverside Sporting Precinct require levelling and top-dressing.

Outside of school facilities, there is currently only one Council-controlled (public) cricket practice facility in Tamworth (Chaffey Park). A quality, lit practice facility with up to 5 nets is required at Riverside Sporting Precinct near the clubhouse area. The facility at Chaffey Park also needs to be demolished and replaced. A better practice facility could be built, with greater capacity, in the vicinity of the existing facility with excavation carried out to bring the practice facility down to field level.

The future of cricket facilities in Scully Park and at the Regional Sports Complex are uncertain at this time, due to development of the aquatic and equestrian centres respectively. Alternative venues will be required if these facilities are lost. Access to school facilities needs to be maintained in the long term to support the current level of participation in cricket.

6.8.12 Tamworth Netball Association

Tenure: The Netball Association 'owns' the twelve asphalt courts at the Riverside Sporting Complex while the thirty grass courts are leased from Council. The twelve asphalt courts are lit for night matches.

Usage: Netball is played year-round in Tamworth. During summer, a twilight mid-week competition is conducted. In winter, fixtures are conducted on Saturday afternoons. In addition, a number of schools and representative teams conduct regular training at the complex.

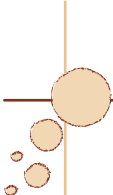
Development Initiatives: Additional car parking is required to cater for Saturday fixtures. The car parking dramas are expected to be exacerbated when soccer and rugby league are also based at the facility *(footballs move to Gipps Street will reduce car parking pressure at Riverside Sporting Precinct)*.

The Association has previously considered hard-surfacing an additional 12 grass courts. However, with the proposed development of the indoor sports centre (and the likelihood that netball will have a number of permanent and shared court opportunities), this work has been placed on hold.

During winter fixtures, formalised car parking is used to capacity. Overflow car parking is required during large events. The Association is concerned that car parking will become a 'nightmare' if soccer and rugby league are relocated to the complex and netball car parking is used by other sports patrons.

The Association is excited at the proposed indoor sports centre development. With a number of courts likely to be available for netball use, opportunity exists to host high-level carnivals and one-off events, representative training, mid-week competitions and stepball (walking netball).

In 2007, Tamworth was given the opportunity to host a Commonwealth Bank Trophy netball match (Australia's highest level interstate open competition at that time). Discussions were held with representatives from netball, Council and Tamworth Regional Entertainment and Conference Centre



(TRECC). However, it was deemed too expensive to host the event at TRECC and this high-profile match was transferred to Grafton.

6.8.13 Tamworth Basketball Association

Tenure: The Tamworth Basketball Association enjoys a 99-year lease over the existing facility. The Association has owned the original facilities for 30 years, while a third court extension was completed in 1983. All funds used to develop the complex were raised by the Association and local businesses.

Usage: The facility is used year-round and every day of the week. Senior fixtures are conducted Monday and Tuesday nights, secondary school fixtures are conducted on Wednesday afternoons and evenings, primary school fixtures are conducted Thursday afternoons and evenings, while representative training and matches are conducted on Friday afternoons and evenings and over the weekend. In addition, school sport is played during school hours Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, a mini-ball competition is conducted on Monday afternoons, and club training is conducted on Tuesday afternoons.

The senior men's and women's teams play in the Northern Division of the State Basketball League. Home matches are regularly played as double-headers with games played on Saturday night and Sunday during the day. The Association is hoping to draw on the successes of last year's season and draw larger crowds to matches during 2008.

With only three courts, the Association cannot currently bid for school, country or state championships, nor can they host any of the State League Finals weekends.

Development Initiatives: The Association and Council are committed to developing a 7-court indoor sports centre together in the short term. At this stage, the plan is to develop a facility with 4 courts with sprung timber floor and 3 courts with synthetic floors. The two main courts will have seating for 1500 and 200 spectators respectively. The facility will also include a multipurpose program room, office areas, main entry and foyer, ample storage, change rooms and a kitchen area. There is also a desire to develop a small commercial leased facility within the complex that offers opportunities such as a physiotherapist and shopfront.

The facility is likely to be led by a new management body that is comprised of representatives from each user group. The management group would look to employ a Stadium Manager, while the Basketball Association would employ a Basketball Co-coordinator to oversee the development of the sport.

6.8.14 Tamworth Tennis Club

The North Street tennis facility has fallen into a state of disrepair in recent years, with ongoing maintenance of the five ant bed courts beyond the capacity of the club. North Tamworth Tennis Club is not renewing their lease when it expires. There is still demand for tennis courts in this area, evidenced by court lines scratched in the dirt.

Two privately owned courts on Bligh Street are very likely to be lost as the land is redeveloped for commercial interests. Together with the loss of the North Street courts, this decline in availability of tennis courts is causing concern for clubs and coaches, as facilities are reportedly reaching capacity. The mix and quality of available surfaces is also a concern, with junior development requiring access to a range of clay, hard and synthetic grass surfaces.

An opportunity exists to work with tennis clubs, coaches, schools and peak bodies for the sport to review the range and availability of surfaces available, and upgrade North Street courts with an appropriate mix of

surfaces to service needs for competitive development, sport tournaments and informal physical activity needs of residents.

6.8.15 Tamworth Cycle Club

The Tamworth Cycle Club has approximately 65 members with the majority being seniors.

The Club uses the velodrome and has no issues at all with this facility. The Club's main interest is in securing a facility that caters to all levels of cyclist (beginner to advanced) and many different types of cycling e.g. BMX, road criterium, 4-cross and mountain bike. The Club also wants to see the facility used by wheelchair bound people as a safe place for exercise.

The Club's preferred location for the facility is at the Tamworth Common and has begun discussions with the Department of Lands to secure some tenure to the area.

6.8.16 Tamworth Dressage Club

The Tamworth Dressage Club uses the Moonbi Showgrounds twice a month and is reasonably happy with the facility. The only issue stems from a lack of organised car parking. The lack of appropriate parking sees other groups parking on the arena (on the Dressage Club's off-weekend) leading to severe compaction.

When two or more clubs are using the facility on the same weekend, car parking arrangements can also be problematic.

Tamworth Showgrounds redevelopment will remove a horse event centre from the district—it will not be replicated at the Australian Equine and Livestock Events Centre. As such there will be no covered sand arenas outside of the Australian Equine and Livestock Events Centre. The Club did ask what would happen to the improvements on the Showgrounds—in particular the stables. It was wondered whether they could be relocated to Moonbi Showgrounds as the stables there are old and tired.

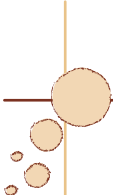
With the development of the Australian Equine and Livestock Events Centre it is not obvious how the local level clubs will link to, or interact with, the Centre. It is assumed that the facility will be too expensive for the local clubs to access regularly so there needs to be a focus on venues for the clubs operating at a lower level.

Moonbi Showground will be better utilised when the Tamworth Showgrounds is removed and as Clubs grow in membership as a result of the likely growth in horse sports, given the influence of the Australian Equine and Livestock Events Centre. Management of this reserve will need to be addressed. There are no leases and or certainty of tenure. The scope for multiple events to conflict with each other will grow as there is no overarching management or communication to address these potential issues. There is also no plan to direct development. Ad hoc developments could result without the clear direction of a master plan for the site.

6.8.17 Tamworth Pistol Club

The Tamworth Pistol Club, Tamworth Rifle Club and Tamworth Shotgun Club have recently amalgamated to form the Peel Valley Sporting Shooters Branch.

Tenure: The Club owns its facility at Daruka Road. The complex includes seven ranges (from 10m to the soon to be completed 200m range), amenities, scoring and catering facilities.



Usage: The complex is open seven days each week and is available to both members (who each have a key) and for hire to the general public. With increasing membership (currently 185) and regular hire from the police, correctional centre and security firms the facility is highly used.

Development Initiatives: The Club was recently unsuccessful in a State Government funding application to develop an indoor pistol and rifle range and clubhouse facility. (The club is going to reapply in the next funding round). If this development comes to fruition, the complex will be able to host up to International events across all pistol and rifle disciplines. Additionally, the facility would be one of only three in regional NSW with the capacity to host State and National titles. The clubhouse would be used as a base to fundraise and support local shooters attending higher level events.

With significant assistance from a local excavation company, the Club has almost completed the development of a 200m range. While this construction has taken some time (having commenced in 1996), the Club would consider extending other existing ranges in the future if the need arises.

The Club has recently purchased six rifles. To promote enthusiasm for shooting, these rifles are being lent to a local Air Cadets group and to a group of interested females.

6.8.18 Tamworth Hockey Association

Tenure: Despite the fact that the first artificial hockey field (there are now two) was constructed at the Regional Sports Complex in 1992, the Tamworth Hockey Association does not currently have any form of tenure over the venue. Before moving to the Regional Sports Complex, hockey was based at the Riverside Sports Complex using the fields and clubhouse now occupied by Tamworth Cricket (and the artificial surface subsequently removed).

Usage: In Tamworth, hockey is predominantly a winter sport. The artificial fields are used for training or competition every afternoon and every evening mid-week and all day each weekend. In addition, the grass fields at the Regional Sports Complex (and one field at the Riverside Sports Complex) are used for training each afternoon mid-week, for junior competition on Saturday mornings and for regular carnivals. School groups also use the artificial fields irregularly for training throughout school hours mid-week.

In summer, competitions are played on Friday afternoon (primary school age development competition) and Sunday evening (adult social competition).

Development Initiatives: The club is looking to develop an additional lit artificial field at the current site. While the Association currently attracts a number of championships, this additional artificial field would allow the Association to bid for all carnivals and championships. Additionally, the Association would like to see the development of further grass fields between the existing facility and the Longyard Golf Course to see three artificial fields and four grass fields available at the complex. The grass fields would be multipurpose space shared, in part, with cricket (one oval).

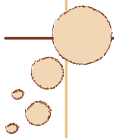
Hockey's future at the Regional Sports Centre should be secured for the long term, given the substantial investment in existing facilities. Once a third artificial field has been developed, the Association will look to extend the clubhouse toward TRECC.

Current car parking opportunities are adequate for club fixtures. The Association and TRECC work well together to ensure that large events do not clash. There is some concern that the development of the Australian Equine and Livestock Events Centre will cause serious parking difficulties during events.

6.8.19 West Tamworth Leagues Club

The West Tamworth Leagues Club has the largest fenced ground capable of hosting higher level representative games of rugby league, rugby union, football (soccer), touch football and similar. The ground holds approximately 3,000 people and the lights are appropriate for television coverage. It is believed that a NRL pre-season game would require a ground capacity of about 5,500 people.

The Club has developed plans to allow an expansion of the grounds to be near that required for NRL games. The expansion would require a push slightly into the Council owned land to the east. However, this project is not a priority for the Club at present.



7. Open Space Framework

In order to assess open space it is important to understand the type of values it contains and the opportunities it provides for residents. Not all open space areas have the same level of benefit for people. Public open space provides many functions, from environmental benefits, flood mitigation, visual and scenic amenity to physical activity, play, health and wellbeing opportunities for communities.

Understanding a public open space network requires a Framework. This consists of:

- objectives and guiding principles for recreation and open space provision
- classifications and definitions describing the:
 - function
 - size and scale (hierarchy)
 - appearance (setting)
 - typical facility provisions within the park (embellishments).
- assessment tools by which future community needs and suitability can be assessed.

7.1 Objectives and Guiding Principles

Objectives

The following key objectives for open space and recreation provision are summarised from a number of Council documents:

- ensure adequate provision and distribution of public open space in convenient locations and of a quality to meet the recreational needs of the community
- provide and facilitate access to a diverse range of accessible, safe, enjoyable and equitable recreational facilities
- encourage opportunities to link open space networks, community facilities and public services with dwellings, contributing to the legibility and character of neighbourhoods
- protect, preserve and enhance natural habitat and environmental processes through retention of existing vegetation and integrating land use planning.

Guiding Principles

Sustainability: Provision and management of parkland will contribute to the health and well being of individuals and the community while maximising environmental, social and economic outcomes over the long term. Land use planning will be integrated to encourage multiple use of land and maximum benefit to the community.

Access: Council aims to provide a network of parkland that allows safe and convenient access for all residents of Tamworth Regional Council, regardless of geographic location. Recreation and sporting parkland will be accessible by public transport, walkways and cycle ways, as well as by car, where practical to do so.

Equity: Council aims to have a parkland network which provides opportunities for all residents, regardless of age, gender, income, culture or ability. In providing equity of opportunities parkland provision will, as far as possible, reflect local needs and preferences.

Diversity: Council aims to provide a diverse range of parkland opportunities to enable individuals and the community to make a choice relative to their own needs and interests. By providing diverse settings within the parkland network, and a variety of activity spaces, Council will enable residents to realise a range of

physical, social, cultural and mental benefits and experiences appropriate to the setting values present in the parkland.

Safety and security: User safety and security will be implicit in the planning, design, development and maintenance of parkland. The principles of crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) will be applied wherever practical.

7.2 Classifications and Definitions

Table 15 details the classifications that have been applied to public open space in Tamworth Regional Council (Council owned or managed).

Table 15: Functions and Definitions of Public Open Space

Primary Function	Definition/Description
Recreation	Public open space areas used to promote and facilitate cultural, social, educational and a variety of informal or unstructured recreational pastimes (e.g. picnics, social gatherings, walking, cycling, relaxing and playing). These parks provide a range of opportunities and facilities for informal or unstructured activities and enhance the visual and scenic amenity, and identity of the community.
Recreation Corridor	Public open space areas developed primarily for paths and trails, creating recreational connections or circuits. The land contains infrastructure to facilitate the recreational use including a formed path or defined trail, and offers an attractive recreational setting. These parks provide connectivity, access and mobility between residential areas and community destinations such as schools, shopping centres, sport parks, recreation parks and the public open space network.
Outdoor Recreation	Land for outdoor recreation activities such as bush walking, mountain biking, horse riding, trail biking and camping that are generally undertaken in larger tracts of land, and have a direct connection to, and dependence on, the rural, natural or resource value of the land.
Sport	Parks that primarily provide open space for a variety of structured or formal sport opportunities such as team competitions, physical skill development and training. These parks are characterised by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • large flat open areas that meet formal sporting code parameters • facilities specifically for undertaking competitive, organised sport • ancillary facilities for clubs or organisations to support sporting activities (such as canteens, amenities blocks, clubhouses, storage facilities, car parks).
Specialised sport	Open space areas provided for sporting activities where: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the nature and/or level of the activity, and subsequent land requirements result in provision on a regional basis (i.e. catchments are significantly greater than city/shire-wide level) • the nature of the activity and/or facilities precludes free, unrestricted access to members of the public when not in use for formal sport activities/events (generally as a result of risk management or commercial interests). Specialised sports may include motocross/motorcycling, equestrian, golf, shooting, car/kart racing, model aeroplanes, lawn bowls, croquet, field archery/bow hunting and velodrome cycling.
Major facility	Aquatic and indoor centres.

Primary Function	Definition/Description
Undeveloped	<p>Land gazetted or dedicated for local recreation but does not contain recreational infrastructure/embellishments. Undeveloped parks may provide opportunities for local informal recreation in the way of a kick-about space but are not developed or managed for anything other than occasional mowing and weed treatment.</p> <p>There are two types of parks that will typically appear in this category.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • parks that are particularly constrained by poor access, poor visibility, small size, irregular configuration, and/or are too closely surrounded by residential housing. Increased recreational use is likely to be undesirable for safety, maintenance or nuisance reasons. These areas may present opportunities to rationalise the open space network to improve overall quality. • parks that are suitable for increased recreational embellishment and may represent a land stock for meeting future demand resulting from population growth in an area.
Bushland	<p>Open space which is primarily intended to conserve or protect ecological values. This open space protects and enhances biodiversity by providing habitat for flora and fauna and includes environmental corridors. These reserves are planned and managed to protect environmental values, but may also include some outdoor recreational use where this does not compromise the values for which the land is being managed.</p>
Amenity	<p>Parks that primarily protect and/or enhance an area's scenic or visual amenity value and landmarks/signature points. These parks have no or very limited recreational value or use. These open space areas include land that has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memorials and monuments • Steep slopes/topography • Natural features such as escarpments, rock outcrops • Small size or lacks access • Cultural heritage
Public Utility	<p>Open space areas necessary for the provision of general services and infrastructure (e.g. power, water, sewerage) and/or to assist in management of other land values. These open space areas may contribute to scenic and visual amenity of areas, but have limited functionality for recreational use. These open space areas include land for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drainage reserve Land associated with waterways, creeks, drainage lines and stormwater infrastructure such as detention basins • Infrastructure reserve Land for utility infrastructure such as electricity transmission, telecommunications, water and sewerage • Access linkage Land/laneways that do or could enable pedestrian/cycle access between the road network and other land uses, such as residential or commercial areas. Characterised as small and/or narrow parcels of land, these laneways have no recreational function, but may facilitate transport/access • Buffers Vegetation buffers between different land uses. • Cemeteries

In relation to the Local Government Act 1993, and requirements to classify all land vested in a Council (except a road or land to which the Crown Land Act 1989 applies) as either operational or community, the following applies:

Local Government Act Park Class	Local Government Act Category	Planning Framework Function
Community Land	Park	Recreation
		Recreation Corridor
		Outdoor Recreation
	Sportsground	Sport
	General community use	Specialised Sport
		Undeveloped
		Amenity
	Natural Area	Bushland
Operational		Public Utility

7.3 Recreation Park Hierarchy of Provision

Following its initial classification at the functional level, recreation parks are further defined under a hierarchy category. The hierarchy is the second level of classification and is used to describe the size and scale of parks.

Using the hierarchy, resource allocation would be prioritised towards establishing higher development and maintenance of facilities to the regional and district level parks and medium to lower levels of development in local parks. As part of this, it is proposed to utilise Section 94 funding to help develop facilities at regional and district parks after an assessment of the local area is made.

7.3.1 Local Parks

Local parks are smaller parks that provide a limited range of recreational opportunities for local residents. They are usually part of residential areas and contain facilities that cater for short visits only.

Local parks provide for the immediate surrounding community and ought to be adaptable and flexible to changing demographic and local resident needs. The level of facility provision will be standard and also recognise and include supporting infrastructure such as seating, shade and good levels of access and connectivity.

Catchment

- main visits are from within 'local precinct' (500m radius or 5-10 minutes walk)

Visits

- generally caters for visits lasting about 30mins—2hrs

Facilities/features

- limited range of 'park' facilities including a play space, seating, trees/ shrubs (as a minimum)
- may have 'minor' special feature
- space for 'informal' games/ sports
- medium level maintenance

Recreation opportunity and benefits

- at local precinct level need to provide parks to allow participation/ utilisation by the local community
- the facilities within each park will be shaped by the demographics of the local area but will aim to provide opportunities for a broad cross-section of the local community

- variety in the types of play elements, settings and target age groups is provided across a number of local parks servicing a population (i.e. reduce duplicate of similar embellishments in parks within close proximity to each other)

Distribution

- aim to provide access to 95% of the residential area (500m radius or 5-10 minutes walk)

7.3.2 District Parks

District parks are mid-sized and provide a range of facilities and activity space for recreation. These areas have facilities to cater for large groups and are appealing to a range of users. They service several neighbourhoods/ suburbs and are fairly well known destinations for those people living within their catchment.

District parks should provide multiple play experiences. The level of experience will vary and depend on building on 'natural surrounds', such as bushland, waterways, scenic views, etc. Where appropriate, themes or natural values can be incorporated into the design to increase the sense of identity and community ownership. Theme development requires sympathy with park settings and surrounding land uses.

Catchment Size

- attracts visits from within district (approximately 10-15 minute drive) based on amount and variety of facilities/ features

Length of Visit

- able to cater up to around 2 hours+ based on features and facilities

Facilities/features

- combination of 'minor' special features
- mix of activity spaces to cater to broad cross sections of the community (e.g. dog off-leash areas, pathways/ fitness circuits, cycle learn-to-ride area, play areas for a range of age groups, informal sports such as tennis, basketball, handball)
- number of ancillary facilities (amenities, connecting paths, seating, picnic/ barbecue, information)
- large open space (may be linked to/by other areas)
- high level maintenance

Recreation opportunity and benefits

- at district level (including regional) need to provide for a broad range of recreation opportunities/settings
- attracts family and groups gatherings
- bushland, large developed parks, riverside, flora (formal gardens), 'natural' interaction,
- walking/cycling tracks, playgrounds, social interaction, large space for range of activities/games/unstructured sport

Distribution

- approximately 1 per 10,000 population.

7.3.3 Regional Parks

Regional parks are major recreation areas that offer a wide variety of opportunities to a broad cross-section of the local population. These parks tend to be large in size, well known amongst residents and are major destinations within the local government area and for tourists.

Due to popularity, promotion and significant features or attractants (e.g. Marsupial Park) these parks are likely to cater for the higher-level needs of regional, national and international visitors/tourists, as well as local residents. Users are prepared to travel to visit these parks and recreate for longer periods. Such parks are a community asset and can create a ‘sense of place’ particular to Tamworth which will in turn promote a sense of community spirit and local ownership.

Catchment Size

- attracts visits from within region (up to 1hr drive) based on specific (significant/ special) feature(s) (e.g. animals at marsupial park, view at lookout, nature at Oxley Park)
- attracts visits by tourists (as secondary attraction) based on specific feature(s)

Length of Visit

- able to cater for around half day or longer based on features and facilities

Facilities/features

- significant special or unique feature(s)
- full and substantial ancillary facilities (e.g. amenities, paths, seating, picnic, information, parking)
- high level maintenance
- high level of landscaping, supporting amenities, public art, information and signage

Recreation Opportunities and Benefits

- all regional level facilities need to provide a wide range of opportunities, combination of (special and fundamental) for a range of backgrounds, e.g. flora, fauna, scenic/aesthetic appreciation, sensory stimulation, play (structured and/or unstructured), education, nature, physical activity, social interaction.

Distribution

- two to three for the LGA.

7.4 Park Setting and Diversity

7.4.1 Park Setting Diversity












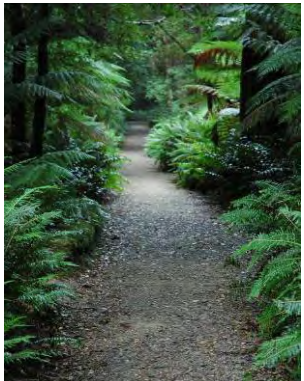
The third level of classification applicable to the recreation parks is typically the setting. This is used as a measure of diversity within the recreation park network. This type of classification recognises people’s needs and expectations for achieving a variety of experiences from recreational participation.

The underlying principle of setting diversity recognises that variations in the perceived physical, social and managerial elements affect people’s recreation experiences in open space. It attempts to answer the question *“if I was standing in the middle of this park, what type of experience would be available to me?”*

Table 16. Setting Descriptions and Example Photographs

Setting	Description
Urban	Predominantly open, mown grass areas or hardened sites (paved). There may be a few trees providing shade and limited landscaping/garden beds. Adjacent built infrastructure dominates view lines.



	  
Semi-urban	<p>Substantial mature tree canopy over most of the park with predominantly mown grass areas underneath. Recreation activity areas may include some paving, but only in small amounts. Some parts of the park may have understorey, particularly on the boundaries screening adjacent land uses. View lines still include adjacent built infrastructure. However, these no longer dominate.</p>   
Semi-natural	<p>Substantial mature tree canopy over most of the park with large areas of the park covered by understorey vegetation. Recreation occurs in developed nodes which are likely to be mown, and along highly accessible pedestrian/cycle paths.</p>   
Natural	<p>The park is covered with bushland (canopy and understorey) with recreation activities occurring in small nodes and along tracks/ trails with some accessible pedestrian/ cycle paths. Recreational activities tend to focus on nature enjoyment and interpretation. These areas are also Outdoor Recreation parks.</p>   

7.4.2 Play Opportunity Diversity

Parks with recreational facilities were also assessed in terms of the range of play opportunities provided. This assessment categorised the play facilities in terms of the age bracket/ development stage for which equipment was suitable. These are:

- toddlers (preschool)
- children (primary aged)
- teens (secondary aged)
- general community.

All play facilities have then been categorised according to the type/ level of play opportunity they offer, including:

- basic: these tend to have a swing only but may include a spring rocker or other small basic element. Although basic in nature, these facilities are providing some level of opportunity to most aged groups and the general community, as swings tend to be universally appealing. They also provide a visual indicator and reason to enter many parks
- toddler: these play areas typically have a basic combination play unit (climbing structure with slide), a swing and one or two spring rockers.
- young child: these areas also tend to have a combination play unit, but with more challenging elements (e.g. higher platforms, structures for hanging and swinging)
- teens: facilities for high level physical activity, specifically basketball courts, skate park, cricket practice nets and bmx tracks. These areas promote coordination, skill development and can encourage social interaction. They may also be used by other age groups, adults and families.

Support facilities to play have also been reviewed, namely:

- picnic: containing barbecues and tables. These areas often appeal to families and groups, or provide convenience for travellers
- pathways: contain recreational walk/ cycle paths and promote physical activity across all age groups in the community.

The following are indicative images of play opportunity categories.

Basic



Toddler



Young Child



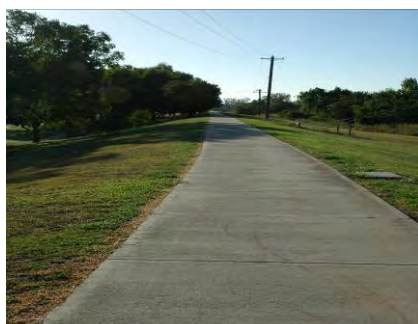
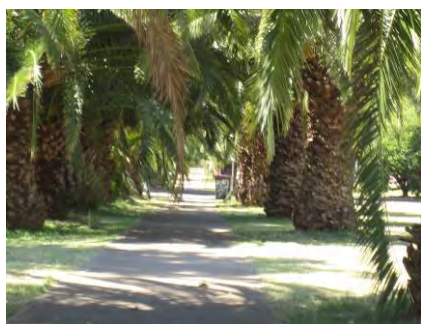
Teen



Picnic



Paths



7.5 Indicative Park Embellishment Levels

As described above, parks differ in their desired function, hierarchy and setting. This is achieved by embellishing parks to different levels. Local parks have fewer embellishments (i.e. equipment, facilities and improvements) than district or regional parks. The standard of facilities in regional parks will be higher than in other parks, and will often include custom finishes to reflect the unique characteristics of a place. Within semi-natural and natural areas, embellishments should focus on providing opportunities to engage with and enjoy nature (e.g. walking trails, viewing platforms), choosing colours and finishes that blend with and complement the natural surroundings.

Table 17 provides an indication of the type and number of typical embellishments provided in recreational parks. It is not intended as a definitive list, but is provided as a guide to appropriate levels of embellishment. Table 18 provides details of indicative embellishment for future sport grounds.

Table 17: Indicative Embellishments for the hierarchy of Recreation Parks

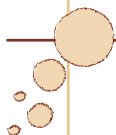
Park Element	Local Recreation Parks	District Recreation Park	Regional Recreation Park
Recreation activity areas. Elements selected will be sensitive to the setting of the park (urban to natural) and provide a mix of opportunities across communities.	Mix of up to 2 to 3, (e.g. toddlers, kick-about, children, active youth space, free to use courts).	Mix of 4 to 6, clustered in two or more nodes (e.g. mix of toddlers, children, youth, picnic & BBQ area, dog off leash, skate park, meeting area, older adults, pathway systems)	Mix of 8 or more, as required, dispersed across well defined nodes of activity focus (e.g. a mix of toddlers, children, youth, older adults, major picnic & BBQ area, dog off leash, skate park, meeting areas, trail network, event area, nature appreciation area).
Fencing/bollards, lock rail	Yes	Yes	Yes
Landscaping	Shade trees, landscaping to enhance amenity and screen boundaries. Significant revegetation required for more natural settings.	As identified by relevant master plan	As identified by relevant master plan

Park Element	Local Recreation Parks	District Recreation Park	Regional Recreation Park
Irrigation	Ideally in high use areas	Yes in high use areas	Yes
Feature paving/ concrete stencilling	No	Small areas around entrances	Entrance statement areas and other key park locations
Lighting	Roadside lighting only, picnic nodes as demanded	Yes, picnic nodes and possibly some key pathways	Yes, picnic nodes and key pathways
Pedestrian pathway access network (Surface material will reflect the park setting and desired degree of accessibility (e.g. natural settings are enhanced with grass or gravel paths and board-walking))	Access paths, 1.2m width min.	Access paths. May contain walk/ cycle circuit within park, 2m width min.	Entrance and access paths, walking/ cycling network. Minimum 2m width, but up to 3.5 to 4m in key, high use areas.
Bike racks	Ideally	Yes	Yes, one at each key activity area
Signage	Park name sign, located at main entrance. Generic 'Local Park' street signage where entrances are on cul-de-sacs	1 to 3 as required, located at key entrances. Possibly interpretive signage (for nature appreciation areas) or trail signage (e.g. distance markers on recreation corridors)	2 to 4 as required, located at key entrances. Interpretive signage and/or trail signage (e.g. distance markers on recreation corridors). Signage theme reflecting key features of the park.
Shade structures (over playgrounds)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tap/ bubbler	Ideally	Yes, one at each activity node and servicing picnic areas	Yes, one at each activity node and servicing picnic areas
Bench seating	1 to 2 (if no other seating is provided), positioned for supervision of any play area, or for views/ appreciation of the surrounding park/ area	3 to 4, depending on need. Located for supervision of any play area (if not otherwise serviced by sheltered tables), and/or along recreational corridors to provide rest stops.	Yes, as identified in master plans. Located for: supervision of any play area (if not otherwise serviced by sheltered tables); along recreational corridors to provide rest stops; and/or enjoyment of views/ amenity.
BBQ	No	Minimum 1, with potential to expand if demand increases	Yes, as identified in master plans. Multiple double BBQ's located to service picnic nodes for individuals, families and large groups

Park Element	Local Recreation Parks	District Recreation Park	Regional Recreation Park
Shelters/ gazebo with tables and seating	May be provided as an activity area (e.g. a scenic viewing area)	1 to 3	Yes, as identified in master plans.
Rubbish bins	1 min, located near activity area, or at key access points on recreation corridors	2 or more as required to service activity area/ picnic nodes and any recreation corridors	Yes, as required to service activity areas, picnic nodes, key access/ egress areas and pathway systems
Toilet	No	Yes	Yes
Public artwork	If available	Possible	Yes
Internal roads	No	No	As required to service car parking and access requirements
Bus pull-through	No	Ideally	Yes
Car parking	On-road only	Yes, 10 to 20 spaces with additional on-road parking	Yes, minimum of 50 spaces, with additional provision available within close proximity
Bus parking	No	No	Yes

Table 18: Indicative embellishment for Sports Grounds

Park Element	
Courts/fields	2 rectangular fields minimum, with capacity for additional facilities/ courts as required
Goal posts/line marking	Yes
Irrigation	Main field as a minimum
Field/court lighting	Ensure lighting is possible if demand emerges
Spectator seating	Earth mounds, or as required
Tap/bubbler	Yes, located near activity areas and canteen/ clubhouse area
Club facilities	Yes, minimum of toilet/ change room, canteen, storage and administrative/ office space.
Landscaping	Trees/ shade provision for spectators, landscaping of boundaries to buffer noise/ light spill to any surrounding properties
Feature paving/ concrete stencilling	Possibly at key entry areas or high use zones
Internal roads	Yes
Bus pull-through	Yes
Bus parking	Yes
Car parking	Yes, minimum of 100 spaces for a 2 field complex or 12 per netball court (training only).
Bike racks	Yes
Fencing/bollards, lock rail	Yes



Park Element	
Lighting	Yes
Pedestrian pathway access network	Yes
Public artwork	Possibly
Signage	Yes
Recreation activity areas (e.g. play spaces, fitness circuits, hit up walls, pathway networks, active youth facilities)	Depending on the size of the park and proximity to adjacent residents. Minimum level of provision equivalent to that of a local recreation park.

8. Open Space Assessment

To avoid the pitfalls of standards-based approaches, ROSS Planning undertook a qualitative assessment of the supply of parkland. Every parcel was assessed in terms of:

- functionality of the space and facilities to support use
- accessibility and visibility (layout within surrounding streets, accessible to the community they are intended to serve)
- safety and security
- size and configuration
- scenic and visual amenity
- diversity of setting and recreation opportunity
- evidence of use (desire lines, wear areas, intercept discussions with users).

This information has been collated in a map layer. This enables spatial comparison between different catchments and against other spatial data.

Information in this section includes:

- details of land classifications
- quantitative assessment of the amount of land available (supply assessment)
- assessment of the current rates of provision, compared to population estimates
- details of the amount of land required to meet current and future needs
- identification of gaps in the open space network, in terms of the amount of land, its distribution across the city and rural areas, the quality of facilities provide and diversity offered.

8.1 Land Classification

The series of maps below show how land has been classified according to its function, hierarchy and setting in key locations across the Region. This Recreation and Open Space Plan is supported by a GIS map layer that provides full detail on classification of all land (including remote areas that are not readily visible below). Further detail is provided in Appendix Four.

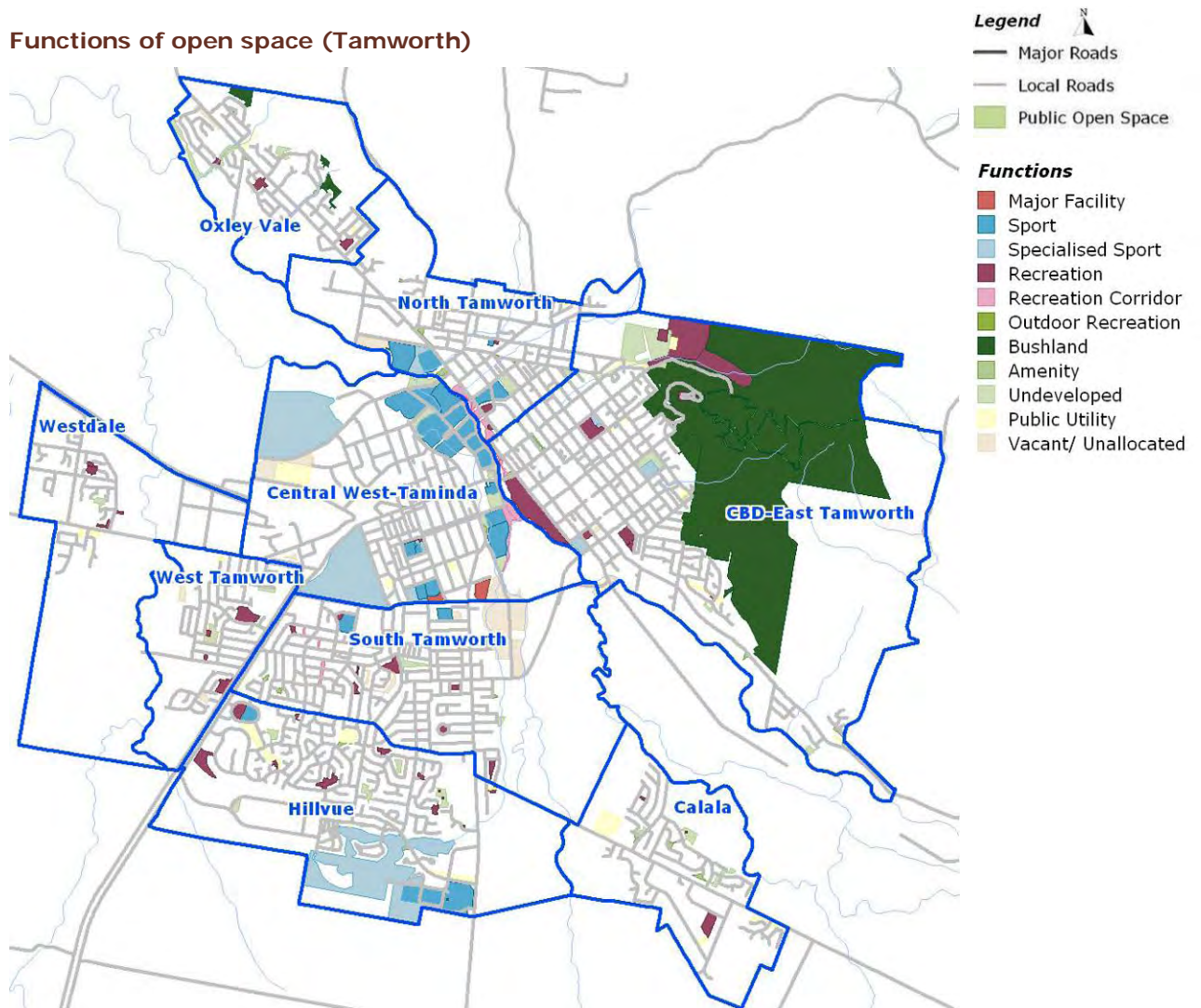
The first three maps for each area show the:

- function of all public open space, taking into consideration current decisions regarding relocation of soccer, minor league and indoor basketball
- hierarchy of recreation parks
- setting of recreation parks.

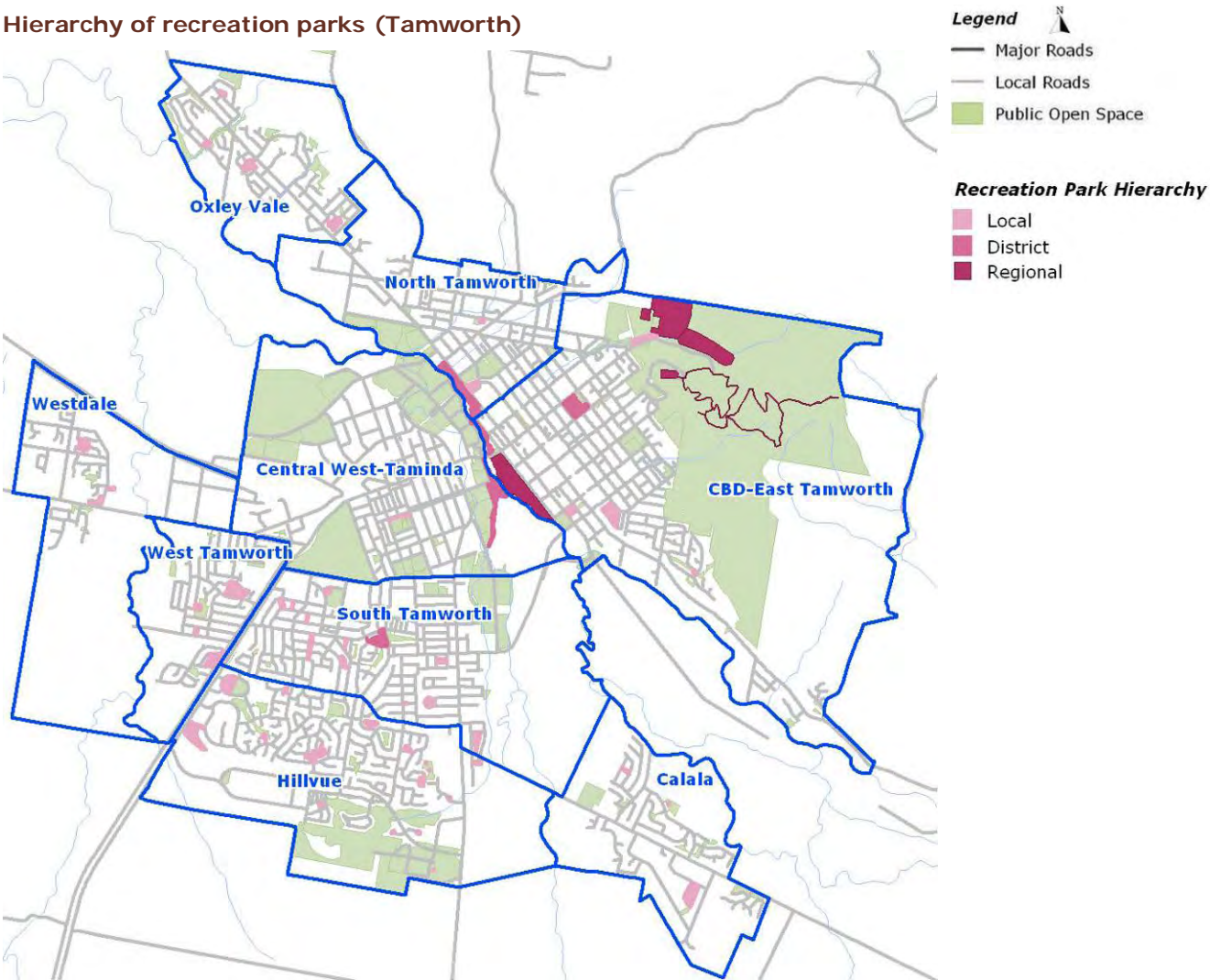
The next series of maps for each area show the location of different types of play opportunity.

8.1.1 Tamworth

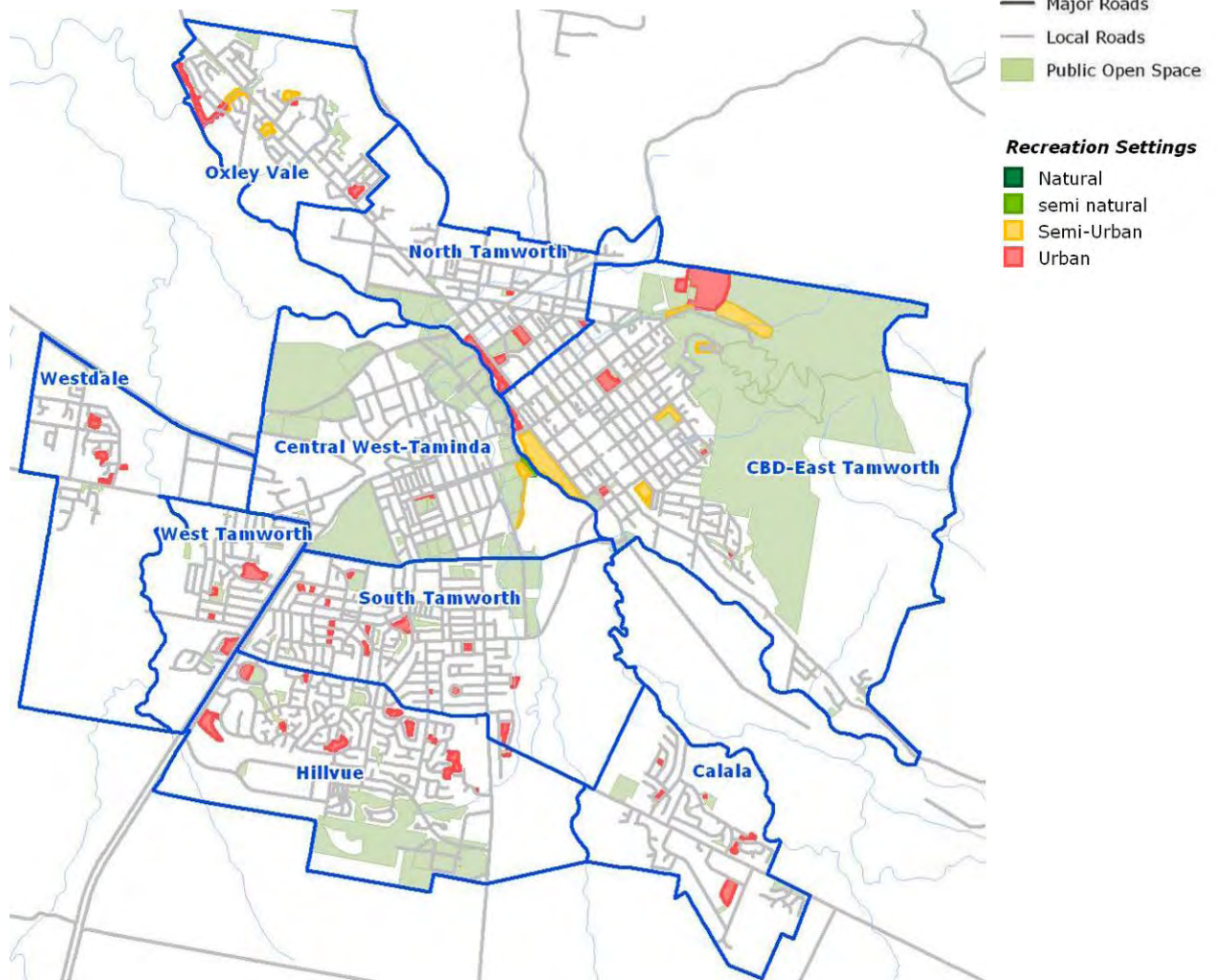
Functions of open space (Tamworth)



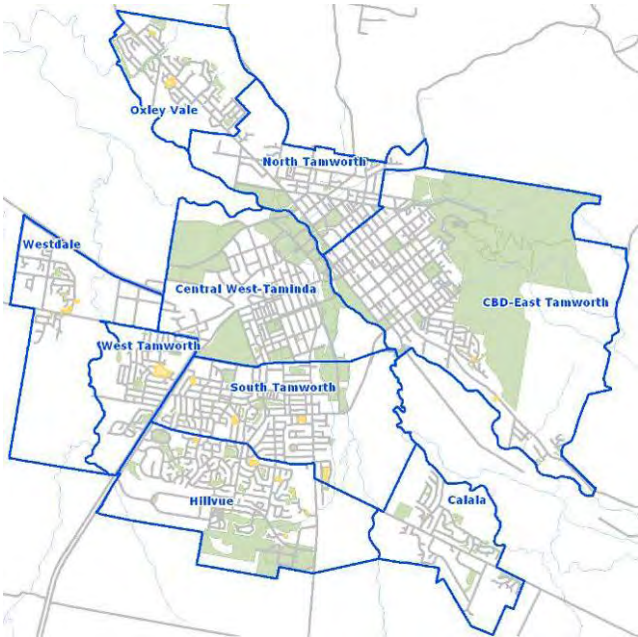
Hierarchy of recreation parks (Tamworth)



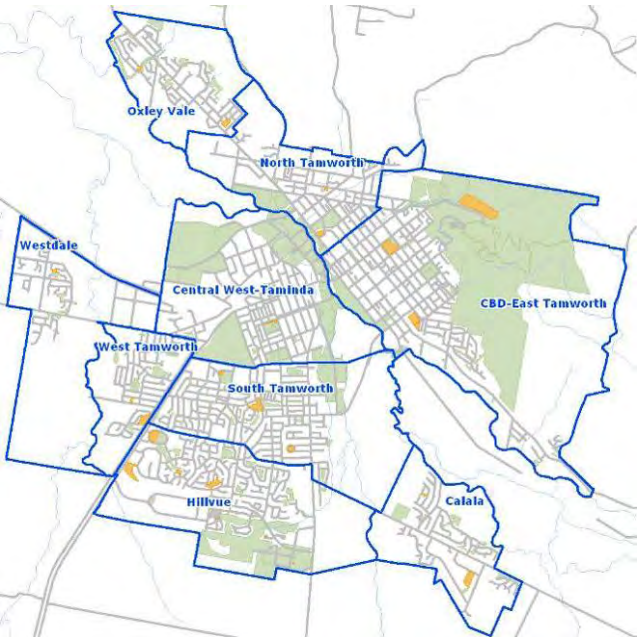
Recreation settings (Tamworth)



Location of basic play facilities (Tamworth)



Location of play facilities for toddlers (Tamworth)

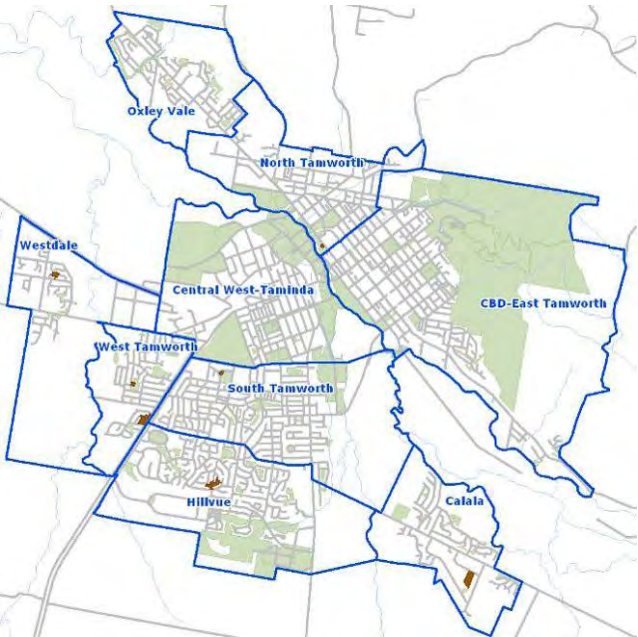


Category of Play Opportunity
Basic Toddler Young child Teens

Location of play facilities for young children (Tamworth)



Location of play facilities for teens (Tamworth)



8.1.2 Barraba

Functions of open space (Barraba)



Functions



Hierarchy of recreation parks (Barraba)



Recreation Park Hierarchy



Recreation settings (Barraba)



Legend

Major Roads

Local Roads

Public Open Space

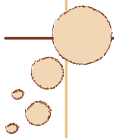
Recreation Settings

Natural

semi natural

Semi-Urban

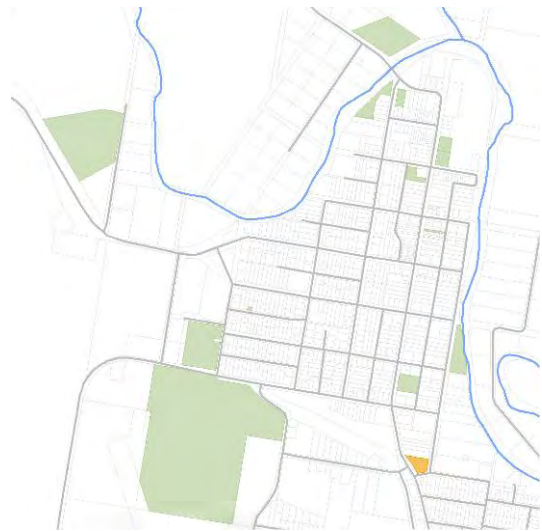
Urban



Location of basic play facilities (Barraba)



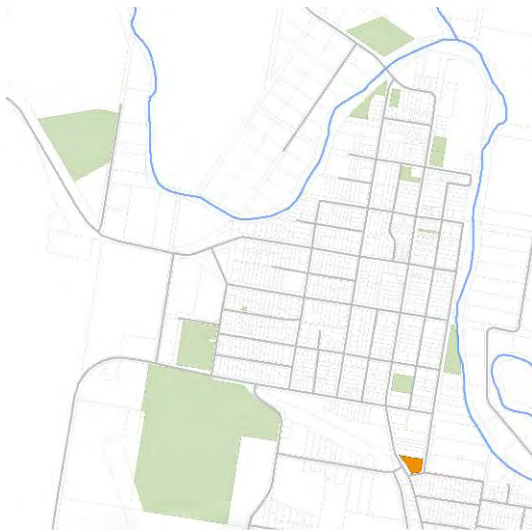
Location of play facilities for toddlers (Barraba)



Category of Play Opportunity

Basic Toddler Young child Teens

Location of play facilities for young children (Barraba)



Location of play facilities for teens (Barraba)

Nil

8.1.3 Manilla

Functions of open space (Manilla)



Hierarchy of recreation parks (Manilla)



Recreation settings (Manilla)



Legend

- Major Roads
- Local Roads
- Public Open Space

Recreation Settings

- Natural
- semi natural
- Semi-Urban
- Urban

Location of basic play facilities (Manilla)



Location of play facilities for toddlers (Manilla)



Category of Play Opportunity
Basic Toddler Young child Teens

Location of play facilities for young children (Manilla)



Location of play facilities for teens (Manilla)

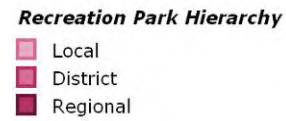


8.1.4 Kootingal

Functions of open space (Kootingal)



Hierarchy of recreation parks (Kootingal)



Recreation settings (Kootingal)



Legend

Major Roads
Local Roads
Public Open Space

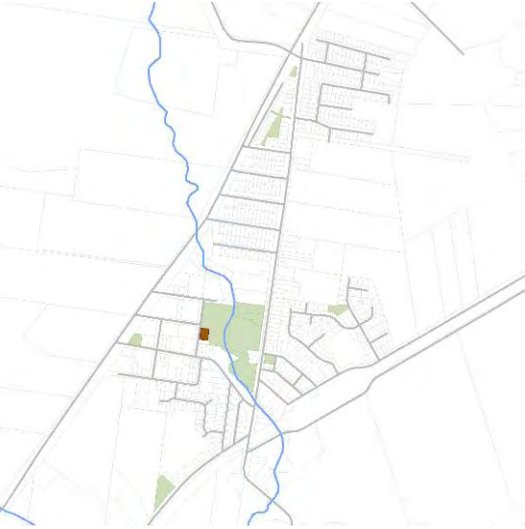
Recreation Settings

Natural
semi natural
Semi-Urban
Urban

Location of play facilities for toddlers (Kootingal)



Location of play facilities for teens (Kootingal)



Category of Play Opportunity

Basic Toddler Young child Teens

8.1.5 Nundle

Functions of open space (Nundle)



Legend

- Major Roads
- Local Roads
- Public Open Space

Functions

- Major Facility
- Sport
- Specialised Sport
- Recreation
- Recreation Corridor
- Outdoor Recreation
- Bushland
- Amenity
- Undeveloped
- Public Utility
- Vacant/ Unallocated

Hierarchy of recreation parks (Nundle)



Legend

- Major Roads
- Local Roads
- Public Open Space

Recreation Park Hierarchy

- Local
- District
- Regional

Recreation settings (Nundle)



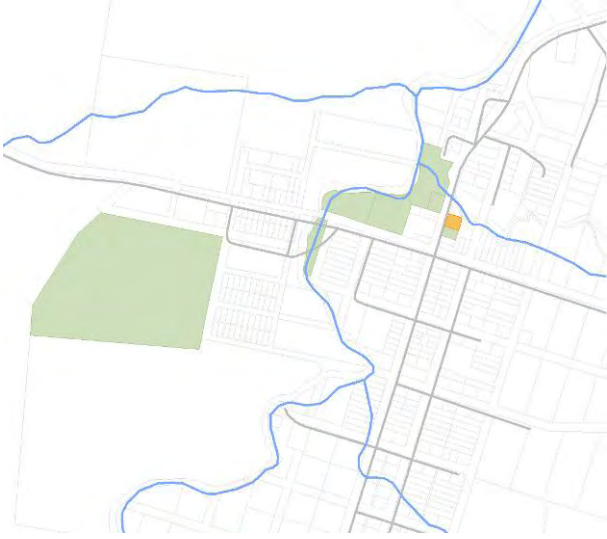
Legend

Major Roads
Local Roads
Public Open Space

Recreation Settings

Natural
semi natural
Semi-Urban
Urban

Location of play facilities for toddlers (Nundle)



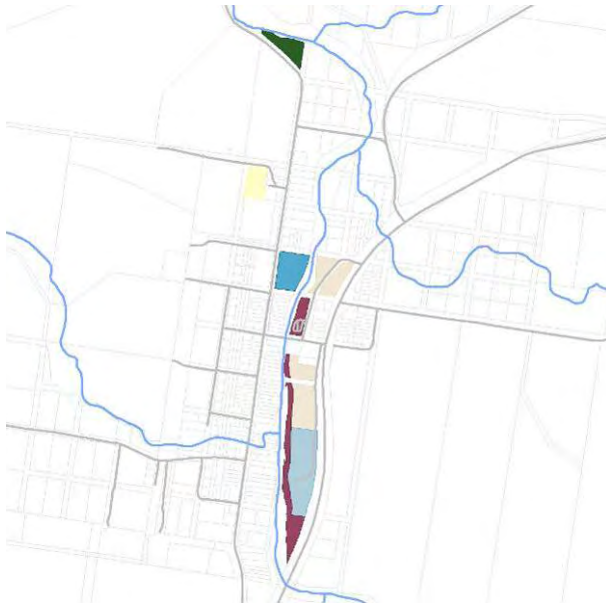
Category of Play Opportunity

Basic Toddler Young child Teens

There are no play facilities suited to primary or secondary aged children in Nundle.

8.1.6 Other Rural centres

Functions of open space (Bendemeer)



Functions of open space (Attunga)



Functions of open space (Moonbi)



Legend

- Major Roads
- Local Roads
- Public Open Space

Functions

- Major Facility
- Sport
- Specialised Sport
- Recreation
- Recreation Corridor
- Outdoor Recreation
- Bushland
- Amenity
- Undeveloped
- Public Utility
- Vacant/ Unallocated

8.1.7 Issues and Opportunities

Asset Maintenance and Replacement

During inspection of the open space network the following issues and opportunities were identified:

- lack of regular maintenance on softfall
- branches/ dead vegetation requiring removal
- grass/ weed encroachment on bitumen paths
- dilapidated seating/ tables
- missing park signs or signs in poor condition

- broken play equipment (a number of handles from flying fox elements missing, leaving these play elements unusable; broken slides and swings)
- lack of shade over most play equipment, although there is often shade in the parks
- regulatory/ directional signage in poor condition (crooked, rusted, unreadable, facing the wrong way).

A number of facilities have passed their useful life and require replacement. Whilst some areas would benefit from removal of unsightly elements, Council must be careful to ensure elements are replaced. Failure to replace them will result in a slow and continual erosion of open space and community values. However, there does not appear to be any capital replacement budget (or the budget is under-funded).

A detailed audit of park facilities is required. This should assess the safety, condition and the remaining useful life of each park asset. A schedule of maintenance should then be developed to address the backlog, with priorities, timeframes and reporting processes established. Funding should then be allocated for asset replacement. Council would also benefit from an asset management system for park assets, ensuring funding is allocated for capital replacement over the life of the assets.

Design and Facilities

A successful play area, which children and adults alike can enjoy and cherish, relies as much on the space in which the play experience is located to create a 'sense of place', as it does on the facility design. During open space inspections the following general observations were made:

- a number of play facilities are poorly situated due to inadequate site planning. Most noticeably, play elements tend to be scattered across a park area, with little or no relationship between them. This creates a sense of disjointedness, and fails to capture a 'sense of place'
- a number of parks have significant capacity for increased development
- the majority of parks have attractive mature trees
- seating and playgrounds often do not make use of natural shade
- many seats are poorly positioned, with little consideration for the potential comfort or actions of users (amenity, views, child supervision requirements)
- in some parks there is an excessive number of signs (or sign frames where the sign itself has disappeared)
- some park access points are narrow laneways, not conducive to promoting or encouraging entry
- in newer subdivision areas, park access tends to be provided from cul-de-sacs, drastically reducing opportunities for casual surveillance and limiting awareness of opportunities.

A number of playgrounds inspected did not meet or were very poor in meeting a range of criteria, such as access and connectivity, safety and surveillance and various principles of design. It is suggested that the listed playgrounds be reviewed in relation to their role in the City's park experience provision, suitability of location, appropriateness to local community needs and demographic characteristics.

Maximising Assets

Tamworth Regional Council is blessed with an abundance of natural features that create attractive and scenic backdrops for recreation and open space experiences.



The stunning vistas, rich natural features, expansive and connected open space, and variety of spaces all contribute to many high quality parks across the Region.

Council should ensure that natural features are embraced in future park developments and form the backbone for design of spaces. Concept plans/ master plans should be developed prior to any upgrade of district or regional parks. These should provide a vision and guide the logical and timely development and/ or redevelopment of each site so recreation opportunities are provided to meet community needs in the next 10 years. It will also enable Council to prioritise, seek funding and budget for implementation over time.

8.2 Supply and Demand Assessment

8.2.1 Supply of Public Open Space

Table 19 shows the amount of sport and recreation land in each catchment area within the urban area of Tamworth City and the key rural centres.

In addition to the amounts listed, across the Regional Council, there is:

- 13.3ha Amenity parks
- 65.4ha Undeveloped parks
- 94.9ha Public Utility land and reserves
- 123.4ha Vacant land
- 169.8ha Unallocated (intended use has yet to be determined)
- 561.4ha Outdoor Recreation, being large tracts of land in rural/ remote areas. The areas developed for recreation use in these areas is very small in comparison to the total land holding
- 953.6ha Bushland

Table 19: Supply of recreation and sport parks (ha)

Planning District	Supply in Hectares
Local Recreation Parks	
Oxley Vale	2.92
North Tamworth	1.04
CBD-East Tamworth	4.61
Central West-Taminda	0.33
South Tamworth	4.86
Hillvue	9.66
Calala	2.64
West Tamworth	5.46
Westdale	1.95
<i>Subtotal Local Parks Tamworth Catchments</i>	33.47
District Parks (Tamworth city urban area)	14.97
Outdoor Recreation Parks	5.94
Regional Parks (whole of Tamworth region)	47.94

Planning District	Supply in Hectares
Rural Centres—Recreation Parks	
Barraba	2.98
Manilla	11.47
Kootingal	0.72
Nundle	1.04
<i>Subtotal Parks Rural Centres</i>	16.22
Total Recreation Parks	112.59
Sport Parks	
Tamworth Urban Area	101.82
Barraba	10.95
Manilla	13.86
Kootingal	2.13
Nundle	1.96
Total Sports Parks	130.71

There are additional local recreation parks and sporting facilities in a number of small rural communities (e.g. Bendemeer, Niangala, Attunga). These parks service the needs of the small number of people living within the towns and surrounds.

8.2.2 Current Rates of Provision Compared to Population Estimates

A standard measure of open space supply is used to determine the amount of parkland provided per 1,000 people. This enables a comparison of the equity of supply, and aids in identifying gaps in an open space network.

Population estimates have been established from 2006 census figures for each catchment area.

Tamworth Regional Council has an adopted Desired Standard of Service for recreation parkland of 2.66ha per 1,000 people and sport land of 2.55ha per 1,000 people. Table 20 provides a comparison of these standards for a number of local government authorities.

Table 20: Comparative Desired Standards of Service

Local Government Authority	Total Recreation Parkland (ha/ 1,000 residents)	Total Sport Land (ha/ 1,000 residents)
Caboolture Shire Council	4.0	2.0
Dubbo City Council	5.0	2.8
Gold Coast City Council	3.5	1.4
<i>Tamworth Regional Council</i>	<i>2.66</i>	<i>2.55</i>
Toowoomba City Council	3.0	2.0

Even allowing for regional parks and outdoor recreation areas within close proximity to the Tamworth city urban population, the rate of current provision of recreation parkland is below the desired standard, at 2.41ha per 1,000 people. Some key aspects of this provision include:

- 35% of recreation parks are provided at the local level
- only 15% of recreation land is provided at the district level, although there are existing parks that could be embellished to a higher level to service this level of demand
- 50% of recreation parks are regional in land area
- catchments with a particularly low level of local park provision are:
 - North Tamworth
 - Central West—Taminda
 - South Tamworth
 - CBD—East Tamworth
- sporting land is provided at a rate of 2.55ha per 1,000 people on average in the city area.

In the rural centres:

- provision of local recreation land in Barraba and Manilla is relatively high, whereas Nundle is in line with the City average
- Kootingal is notably lower in recreation land provision
- Barraba and Manilla have a high rate of sporting land provision, especially given their older populations
- Nundle's sporting land provision is lower, but probably suitable for the demographic profile
- Kootingal's level of provision of sporting land is relatively low and will need addressing as the population expands. Coupled with a low level of recreation land, there is significant impetus to further develop and improve public open space areas.

Table 21: Current Rates of Park Provision (ha per 1,000 people)

Planning District	Population Estimate 2006	Current Provision Rate (ha per 1,000 people)
Local Recreation Parks		
Oxley Vale	2,919	1.00
North Tamworth	3,543	0.29
CBD-East Tamworth	5,792	0.80
Central West-Taminda	2,792	0.12
South Tamworth	6,687	0.73
Hillvue	5,852	1.65
Calala	2,174	1.22
West Tamworth	2,989	1.83
Westdale	1,394	1.40
<i>Subtotal Tamworth Local Catchments (average)</i>	34,142	0.84
District Recreation Parks	39,973	0.37
Regional Parks (including outdoor recreation)	53,774	0.89
Rural Centres		
Barraba	1,722	1.73
Manilla	3,135	3.66

Planning District	Population Estimate 2006	Current Provision Rate (ha per 1,000 people)
Kootingal	1,589	0.45
Nundle	1,221	0.85
Average Provision Rate (all recreation parks)		2.45
Sport Parks		
Tamworth Urban Area	39,973	2.55
Barraba	1,722	6.36
Manilla	3,135	4.42
Kootingal	1,589	1.34
Nundle	1,221	1.60

8.2.3 Population Growth Assumptions

Table 22 provides an estimate of the population change to 2016. This enables future demand for recreation and sporting land to be determined. Population projections are based on the following assumptions:

- growth across Tamworth Regional Council is 0.65% per annum
- growth in the Tamworth Urban Area is 1.0% per annum
- some urban areas are essentially fully developed and population change will be negligible.

Table 22: Population Change Estimates to 2016

Planning District	Population Estimate 2006	Estimated Growth Rate	Estimated Actual Change	Population Estimate 2016
Oxley Vale	2,919	1.0%	305	3,224
North Tamworth	3,543	0.0%	0	3,543
CBD-East Tamworth	5,792	0.0%	0	5,792
Central West-Taminda	2,792	0.0%	0	2,792
South Tamworth	6,687	1.0%	700	7,387
Hillvue	5,852	1.0%	612	6,464
Calala	2,174	1.0%	227	2,401
West Tamworth	2,989	1.0%	313	3,302
Westdale	1,394	1.0%	146	1,540
<i>Subtotal Tamworth Local Catchments</i>	<i>34,142</i>		<i>1,998</i>	<i>23,886</i>
Fringe areas (Hills Plain/ Moore Creek)	5,831		1,879	7,710
<i>Subtotal Urban Area</i>	<i>39,973</i>	<i>1.0%</i>	<i>4,182</i>	<i>44,155</i>
Barraba	1,722	0.0%	0	1,722
Manilla	3,135	0.0%	0	3,135
Kootingal	1,589	1.5%	255	1,844
Nundle	1,221	0.0%	0	1,221

Planning District	Population Estimate 2006	Estimated Growth Rate	Estimated Actual Change	Population Estimate 2016
Other rural areas	6,134			5,296
Whole of Tamworth Regional Council	53,774	0.65%	3,599	57,373

The Hills Plain and Moore Creek areas are expected to undergo significant population and land use change in coming years. Demand for recreational and sporting land in these areas has been calculated on the expected ultimate population, enabling sufficient land to be identified early in the development process, and reducing the likelihood of deficiencies in the long term. The ultimate population in this area (based on 2.6 people per dwelling) is 11,820 people.

8.2.4 Current and Future Demand for Recreation and Sport Parks

Table 23 shows the amount of land required to service the existing population. It also contains the area of additional land that will be required over the next 10 years to service new residents' needs.

Demand is determined using the following desired standards of service:

- Local parks in urban residential areas = 1ha/ 1,000 people
- District parks within the Tamworth Urban Area = 1ha/ 1,000 people
- Regional parks across the whole LGA = 0.66ha per 1,000 people
- Recreation parks in rural centres = 2ha/ 1,000 people (assuming 0.66ha/ 1,000 is met by regional parks provided across the LGA)
- Sports parks = 2.55ha/ 1,000 people.

Table 23: Current and Future Demand

Planning District	Current Demand (based on 2006 population) (ha)	Additional Parkland required to meet needs of NEW residents 2016 (ha)
Local Recreation Parks		
Oxley Vale	2.92	0.31
North Tamworth	3.54	0.00
CBD-East Tamworth	5.79	0.00
Central West-Taminda	2.79	0.00
South Tamworth	6.69	0.70
Hillvue	5.85	0.61
Calala	2.17	0.23
West Tamworth	2.99	0.31
Westdale	1.39	0.15
<i>Subtotal Tamworth Local Catchments</i>	34.13	2.30
District Parks (Tamworth urban area)	39.97	4.18
Regional Parks	35.49	2.38
Rural Centres		
Barraba	1.72	0.00

Planning District	Current Demand (based on 2006 population) (ha)	Additional Parkland required to meet needs of NEW residents 2016 (ha)
Manilla	3.14	0.00
Kootingal	1.59	0.26
Nundle	1.22	0.00
Total Recreation Parks	124.94	9.12
Sport Parks		
Tamworth Urban Area	101.93	10.66
Barraba	4.39	0.00
Manilla	7.99	0.00
Kootingal	4.05	0.65
Nundle	3.11	0.00

Table 24 provides an estimate of the amount of land required to service the Hills Plain and Moore Creek areas at ultimate population. The estimate is based on:

- local park provision of 1ha per 1,000 people
- District/ regional demand of 1.66ha per 1,000 people
- Sport park provision of 2.55ha per 1,000 people, in line with the current provision rate.

Table 24: Future Parkland Demand in Hills Plain/ Moore Creek area

Planning District	Parkland areas required to service the Ultimate population (hectares)
Local Recreation Parks	11.8
District/ Regional Recreation Parks (1.66ha/1000 people in total)	19.6
Sport Parks	30.1

8.3 Gap Analysis

This section provides an analysis of gaps between the supply of parks and the identified community need (demand). There are two dimensions to this analysis:

- deficiencies in the quantities of land available for sport and recreation
- deficiencies in the spatial distribution of recreation land, where residents do not have appropriate access to local recreation opportunities.

The following sections provide details of adequately-supplied areas versus under-supplied areas (in hectares) and maps of the spatial deficiencies for each park type.

8.3.1 Quantity of Land

Table 25 provides details of adequate/ under supply based on the needs of the current population and the projected population in 2016. Positive values (in black) indicate the supply is adequate to service resident's

needs. Negative values (in red) indicate a shortfall in the amount of appropriately embellished land available, and provides a guide as to the amount of land required to bring provision up to the desired standards.

Table 25: Areas of adequate supply vs deficiencies in parkland (in hectares) for current and future population

Planning District	Current Adequacy/ Deficiencies (2006)	Future Adequacy/ Deficiencies (2016)
Local Recreation Parks		
Oxley Vale	0.0	-0.3
North Tamworth	-2.5	-2.5
CBD-East Tamworth	-1.2	-1.2
Central West-Taminda	-2.5	-2.5
South Tamworth	-1.8	-2.5
Hillvue	3.8	3.2
Calala	0.5	0.2
West Tamworth	2.5	2.2
Westdale	0.6	0.4
<i>Subtotal Tamworth Local Catchments</i>	-0.7	-3.0
District Parks	-25.0	-29.2
Regional Parks	12.4	10.1
Recreation Parks—Rural Centres		
Barraba	-0.5	-0.5
Manilla	5.2	5.2
Kootingal	-2.5	-2.7
Nundle	-1.4	-1.4
Sport Parks		
Tamworth Urban Area	0	-10.8
Barraba	6.6	6.6
Manilla	5.9	5.9
Kootingal	-1.9	-2.6
Nundle	-1.2	-1.2

The following areas show deficiency in the current amount of land developed for local recreational use:

- North Tamworth
- CBD-East Tamworth
- Central West-Taminda
- South Tamworth.

Other areas are adequately supplied with recreation parkland. With expected population growth, Oxley Vale would experience lower levels of service by 2016 if no additional land for local recreation is developed.

Overall, there is a deficiency in the recreation network, based on the historic standard of 2.66ha/ 1,000 people. This has been attributed largely to district parks.

The amount of land appropriately embellished for district parks is substantially under supplied, however this is somewhat off-set by the high level of regional park provision. There is currently a 12ha deficiency in the recreation park network, based on the desired standard. This will extend to almost 19ha by 2016, given projected growth in the region.

This requires a higher level of embellishment of some existing parks within Tamworth City area, but should include a district scale park in the Hills Plain area.

Within the rural centres the following is observed:

- Manilla is well catered for in terms of recreation and sporting parkland
- Barraba has a slight deficiency in recreation park provision, but a high level of sporting land provision.
- Nundle and Kootingal both show deficiencies in the amount of land developed for recreation and sport. However, with Nundle's older demographic, the undersupply of sporting land is not of concern.

Future population growth will continue to put pressure on sporting facilities within the city area. Whilst there is spare capacity in rural centres, the nature of sport delivery will continue to focus on a centralised model. It is expected that an additional 11 hectares of sporting land is required by 2016 to maintain the current level of service. This could be achieved through expansion of the central sporting area (Gipps St, Cross Park, Riverside Park), but with additional training fields provided in the Hills Plain area (approximately 3ha).

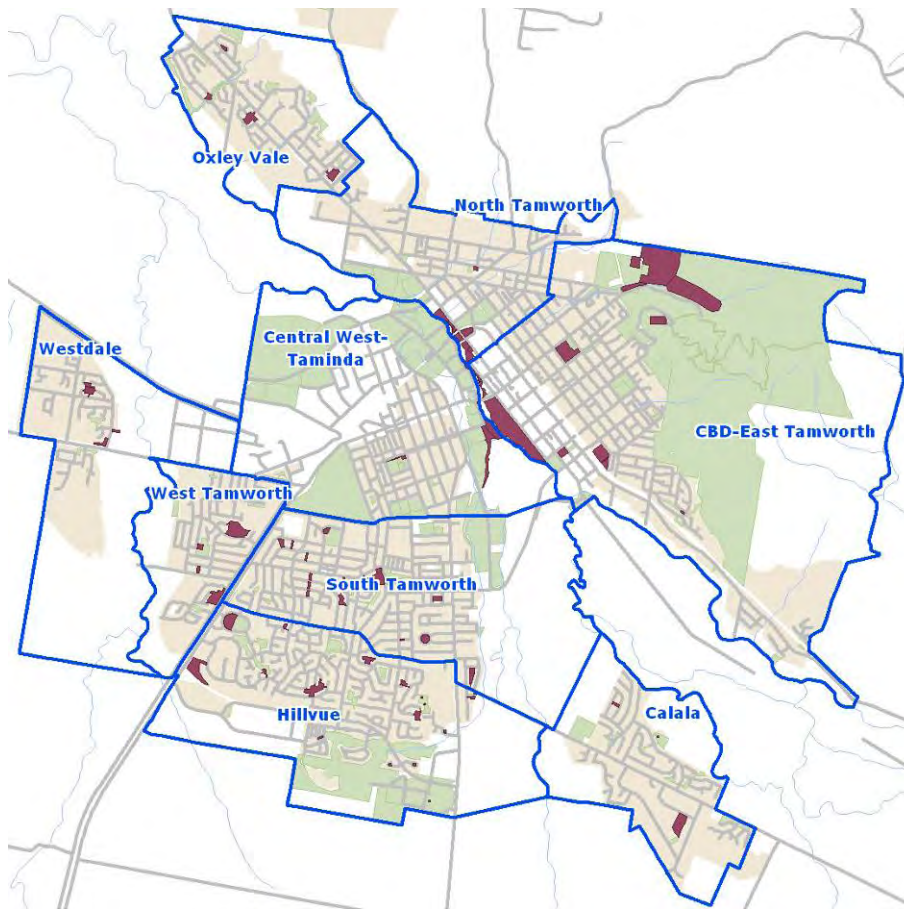
8.3.2 Spatial Deficiencies

Assessing deficiencies in the spatial arrangement of parks highlights areas where there are lower levels of access to recreation opportunities. Accessibility is assessed based on the desired standard of:

- 90% of urban residents are within 500m of a recreation park.

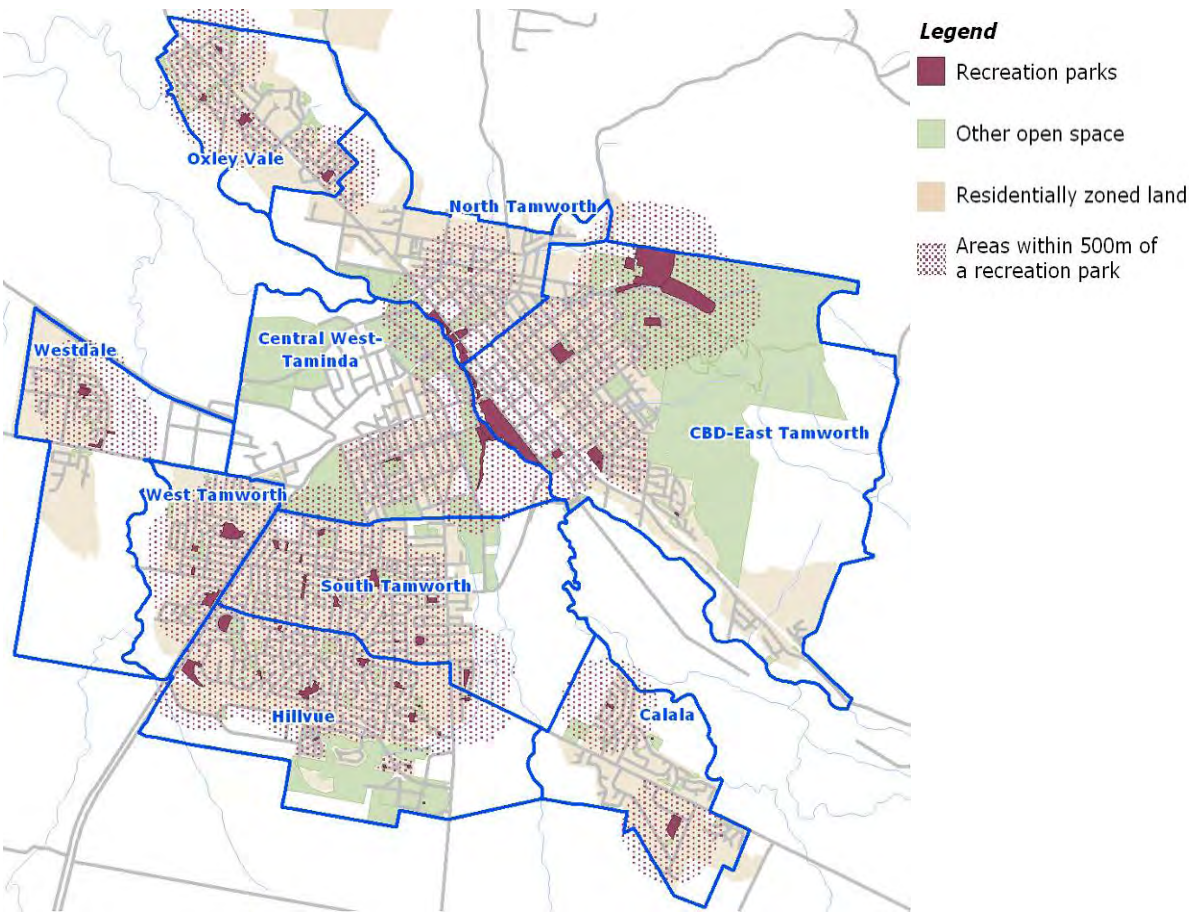
Rural and rural residential areas are excluded from this analysis due to the population density being too low to justify provision of local parks, and lot sizes being of sufficient size to provide ample private open space for recreation needs. Map 3 shows the Tamworth urban area and land zoned for residential use.

Map 3: Location of recreation parks and land zoned residential



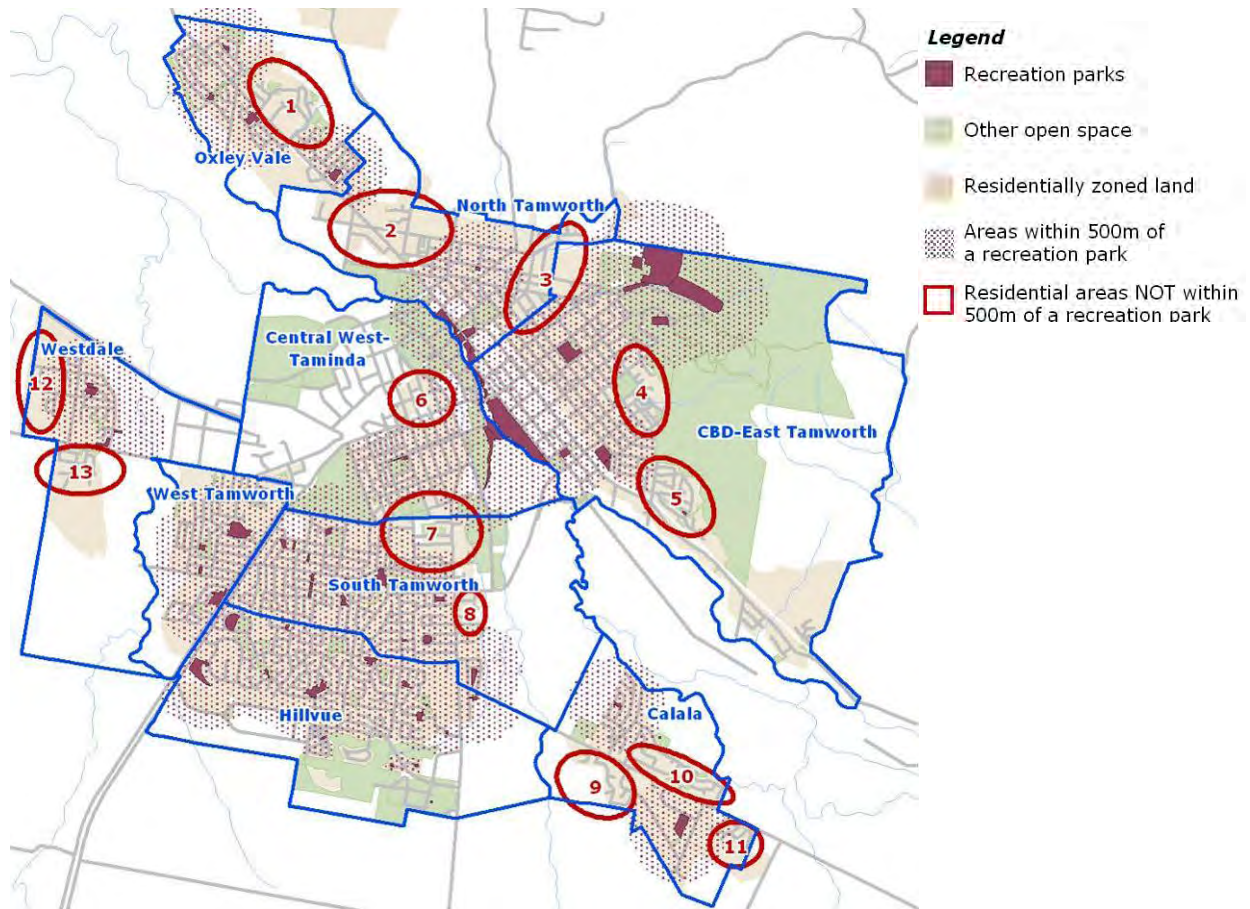
Map 4 shows areas that are within 500m of a recreation park. This takes into account physical and cognitive barriers to park use, such as major roads and topographical features that limit accessibility.

Map 4: Areas within 500m of a Recreation Park



There are a number of areas across the urban area of Tamworth City that have low levels of accessibility to recreational parkland. These are highlighted in Map 5. Addressing these spatial deficiencies is important for the physical activity, health and well-being of communities. Recommendations to address these deficiencies are provided in section 8.4.

Map 5: Deficiency Areas where residential land use is not within 500m of a recreation park



8.3.3 Play Opportunity Assessment

Of the parks across Tamworth Regional Council, 64 were identified as containing facilities to promote play for children and youths.

- 38% consisted of basic play facilities
- 50% provide play facilities suitable for toddlers
- 14% contain play facilities suitable for young children (primary aged)
- 14% provide facilities suitable for teens (secondary aged)

This is in stark contrast to the actual proportion of children in these ages. 2006 ABS census figures show that, of the 14,000 children and young people aged 17 and under in Tamworth Regional Council:

- 25% are aged 0 to 4 (toddlers)
- 37% are aged 5 to 11 (young children)
- 38% are aged 12 to 17 (teens).

This indicates that facilities for primary and secondary aged children are under-catered for; a sentiment borne out during consultation with youth and other residents across the local government area.

Most notable, is the absence of a significant play area across the local government area. Each park tends to have facilities for one or two target groups only, often with elements scattered within the park. This restricts the users to those to which the space will appeal.

There is a priority need for additional facilities to cater for school aged young people. This should be targeted to regional and district level parks in the first instance, specifically:

- develop a regional scale play facility within the central parkland areas of Bicentennial Park through to the skate park. The existing elements that are scattered along the walkway (as a fitness trail) are more suited to establishment of an active and challenging space for children. These should be relocated. A master plan of the area is required in advance of any development.
- develop active recreation spaces in several parks to bring the park standard up to a district scale facility. These include, at a minimum:
 - Chauvel Park
 - Hyman Park
 - Powerhouse Park.

Future park developments should be cognisant of redressing some of this imbalance by providing a greater range of play equipment within local parks.

Picnic Nodes: Twenty parks containing picnic/ barbecue facilities were identified. Some basic observations of these spaces include:

- tendency for tables and seating to be too far from the barbecue area, resulting in tables/ seats being moved within the park
- significant barbecue facilities provided in traveller rest stop parks (e.g. Rotary Park, Armidale Rd and Lions Park, Duri Rd)
- few tables provided under shelters
- insufficient tables to support multiple users or large groups
- picnic nodes established with little relationship to play areas. This makes it difficult for adults to prepare food whilst maintaining safe supervision of children.

Future picnic/ barbecue facility provisions should be considered within the entire landscape of a park. Lights, water taps, sheltered tables and toilet amenities should support picnic nodes. Shelters should cater for families and, in key parks, larger groups.

Pathways within parks: Of the ninety-four recreation parks identified across Tamworth Regional Council, nine of them can be classified as recreational corridors. The Kamilaroi Track also provides a recreational walking experience within an outdoor recreation environment. These ten areas provide important opportunities for physical activity and health benefits.

In addition, another thirteen recreation parks contain pathways. These provide access within and through the park environment and act as an 'invitation' to enter the park. The pathways in these parks contribute to the overall recreation experience and help facilitate utilisation.

Twelve parks were identified as having desire lines; seven in established recreation parks; another five in drainage areas or otherwise undeveloped open space. Desire lines are worn areas resulting from continual, high level use. They are an indication of community need for access, and are prime locations for exploring ways to encourage and further promote walking, biking or other forms of play in that area.

In addition to pathway development suggested as part of greater park upgrades (e.g. district parks), additional pathways could be developed to facilitate access and use of many local parks. Priority should be given to areas displaying desire lines.



8.3.4 Setting Diversity Assessment

A common mistake in park development is in the assumption that a local park requires extensive lawn areas and a kiddies playground. In fact this represents only one type of park setting. A local park can also be entirely vegetated, with a nature walk and seats to enjoy the cool shade and listen to birds (semi-natural setting).

The vast majority of parks in the Tamworth city area have an urban setting (94%). Rural centres and other parts of the Tamworth Regional Council area display much greater levels of diversity, with only 59% of parks categorised as urban.

Given the higher level of importance placed on natural areas and places with lots of shady trees and vegetation by residents (refer section 6.1), park improvements and future parks developments include more substantial landscaping and revegetation. Recreation corridors along riverside areas are an ideal location to establish a variety of settings, building on the natural assets already present. This also has benefits for water quality, fauna corridors and riparian vegetation protection.

8.4 Recommended Park Network Improvements

The following recommendations are a summary of key improvements across the public open space network. A detailed list of itemised actions for each park is provided in Appendix Four.

Underlying the recommendations, are some key drivers for improvement. These include:

- addressing spatial deficiencies as identified in section 8.3.2 and shown on Map 5.
- improving the equity of supply in areas with lower levels of recreation provision, as identified in section 8.3.1 (refer Table 25)
- increasing the range of play opportunities and providing for a broader cross-section of the community
- providing for future population growth
- increasing opportunities for physical activity, walking and cycling
- building on and maximising use of existing assets.

Map 6 shows the locations of key recommendations in Tamworth City area. These are explained in Table 26.

Rural Centres: Scarcity of land tends to be less of an issue in rural centres with the predominant concern being the ongoing maintenance of facilities and funding of improvements where there is a low rate base and/ or growth. Kootingal however will require additional park developments to service its growth and maintain equitable provision of opportunities.

Recreation and sport infrastructure in rural centres caters for the town-based residents and the collective needs of surrounding rural residents. Tamworth Regional Council rural centres tend to have made provision for tourist needs (e.g. rest areas and amenities). Planning for recreation and sport infrastructure in these areas should focus on:

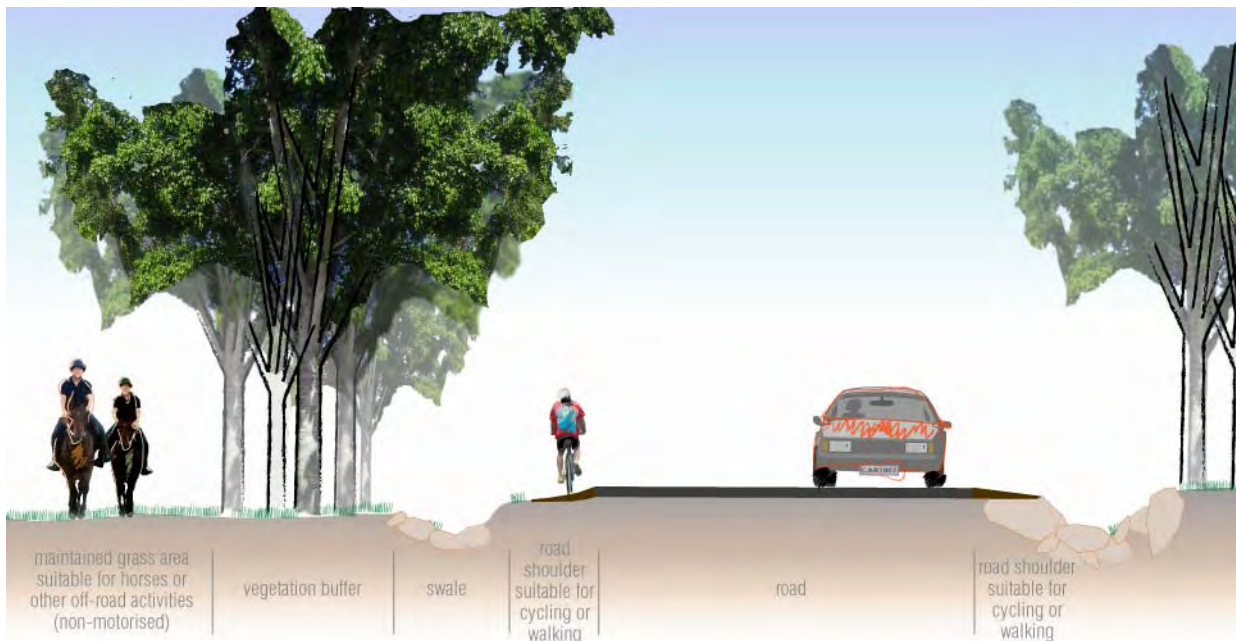
- creation of a community focus point within the open space network that provides a higher-quality informal space for community gathering
- multi-use of sporting facilities and consolidation of resources such as shared use with schools and collocation
- provision of physical activity facilities that can be used by individuals or small groups (e.g. tennis courts, rebound walls)
- demand from tourism/drive-by traffic for amenities and rest stops, including car parking for caravans, trucks.

Rural Residential areas: As people move into new developments in the Hills Plain/ Moore Creek area, demand for safe places to walk, ride horses and cycle will emerge. With a low population density it is difficult to provide cost effective parkland to services these needs, especially as most allotments will have significant private open space that urban areas do not have. Roads will become places not just for vehicles, but for physical activity and recreation. Reliance on the road network for access and connectivity will become critical.

Tamworth Regional Council can avoid significant future issues in this area, by adopting a road design that anticipates residents' needs for safe recreational trail activities. It is significantly more cost effective to allow for this prior to development, than attempting to retrofit access after a road is developed.

Such a design needs to allow for people/ rider movements within the road reserve, especially considering access and safety at bridges and creek/ drainage crossings. The interplay of recreational trail and road drainage areas (swale drains) must be considered in the design stage. This ensures people and vehicles can have some degree of separation (refer Figure 7).

Figure 7: Indicative road reserve



Map 6: Location of key open space recommendations

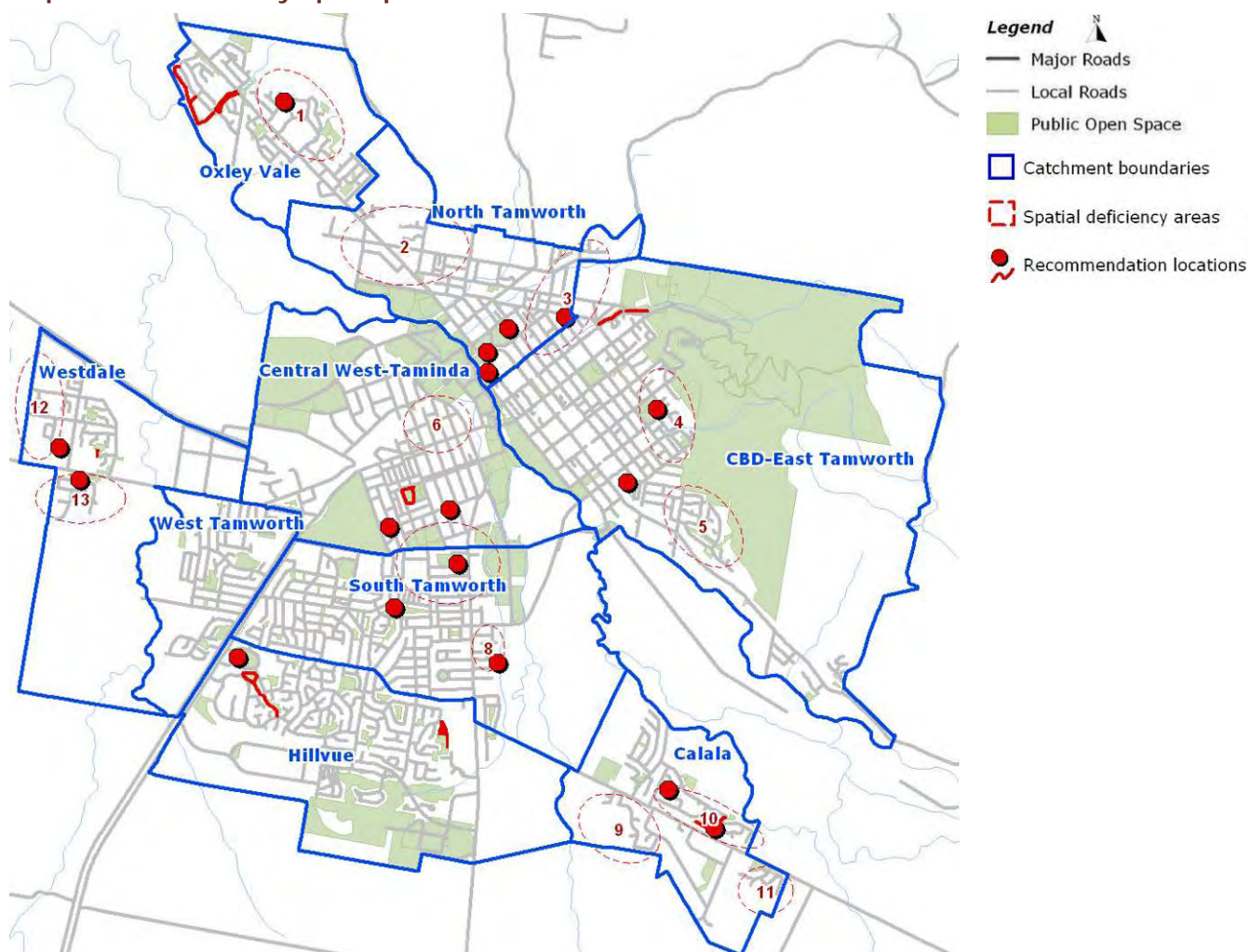


Table 26: Key park improvement recommendations

Deficiency Area/ Catchment	Recommended Improvements
Local Recreation Park Improvements	
1—Oxley Vale	<p>Opportunities exist to develop a recreation area within Acacia or Citiriodora Park—existing undeveloped parks.</p> <p>There is also a significant opportunity to develop a pathway system connecting existing parks, including John Ives Park and drainage reserve areas along Glengarvin Drive. This area already receives reasonable use (when maintained).</p>
2—North Tamworth	<p>The existing Peel St Lions Park could provide for increased recreation, but is highly impacted by the busy road network and difficult intersections. Future opportunities should be sought in any development/ redevelopment to improve access to this park, or provide new parks. Connection along the river area should be investigated</p>

Deficiency Area/ Catchment	Recommended Improvements
3—North Tamworth	Recommended park improvements within the North Tamworth area include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angora Park—develop for recreation • Burgess Park—develop for recreation • Viaduct Park—upgrade • Long Gully Park to Arthur Emblan Park—develop recreation corridor to enhance walking opportunities and access to regional park areas
4—East Tamworth	Develop recreational elements in Treloar Park. Include a pathway system within and around the park, and a scenic viewing/ play area near the corner of Raglan and Roderick Streets
5—East Tamworth	Few opportunities exist to redress deficiencies in this area. An attempt has been made in Valley Park, but this small play area is unappealing. No other suitable land is available in the vicinity. A higher level of embellishment should be considered in Powerhouse Park to offset this. A system of meandering paths and increased play elements should be provided. The Park would benefit from development of a concept plan prior to improvement, to eliminate ad hoc development.
6—Central West/ Taminda	This area is essentially fully developed. There are very limited opportunities to address deficiencies in this locality. Some improvements should be investigated including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improved connections to the riverside area • investigate a recreation pathway around Belmore Park cricket oval to create a circuit within the Park • reconsider the role of Kings Hill and Parry Park (water reservoirs) within the parkland network.
7—South Tamworth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain the site of the current basketball centre as open space once the centre is relocated. • Augment Baringa Park as development occurs to the west, ensuring improved road frontage and access is obtained.
8—South Tamworth	Develop recreation facilities within the existing reserve on Olma Street
9—Calala	Acquire additional land for local recreation park within any future subdivision of this area.
10—Calala	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relocate play equipment from the reserve at the northern end of Harrier Parade to the existing park in Windhover Crescent (greater visibility) • Develop a local park in existing parkland on Hibiscus Way/ Warrah Drive. Provide pathway connections to all adjacent park areas
11—Calala	In the first instance investigate options to establish a pedestrian link from this area to the Monk Park area. This is likely to require land acquisition, in addition to street scaping to create a visual link. Alternately, if a link cannot be established, acquire land for a local recreation park within any future subdivision of this area.
12—Westdale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide signage to existing embellished parkland located at ends of cul-de-sacs to increase community awareness of location • Augment existing parkland as development occurs, ensuring adequate road frontage is obtained.

Deficiency Area/ Catchment	Recommended Improvements
13—Westdale	Acquire appropriate land for a recreation park south of Gunnedah Road if further development occurs. Ensure it is not impacted by transmission lines or other infrastructure. Alternately, consider a small recreation node close to Cunningham Street. However, the extent of recreation is limited by proximity to houses (only 35m total width). Only pursue this if no other recreation option can be found south of Gunnedah Road.
District Recreation Parks	
Skate Park—Peel Street	Create a hub of active youth activities. Include improvements for the skate park, but also additional elements like basketball courts (cater for flat land skating) and hit up walls. Ensure shade and drinking water is available.
Hyman Park—Learn to ride cycle park	Master plan this park to increase recreation facility provision. This should include recreating a link between the areas divided by Jean St. Develop and build on the cycling theme, establish picnic and play facilities that will cater for larger groups and families and connect the park area with pathways. Ensure the available space is maximised, by moving recreation elements away from the road area.
Chauvel Park	Develop as a district recreation park. Connect with a recreation corridor through drainage reserves to the south, creating a highly active precinct. Introduce recreation facilities for older children, picnic and play options for groups and families. Develop a concept/ master plan for this Park, with emphasis on creating a community gathering/ focus point.
Rural Centres	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist the communities in Kootingal and Nundle to establish concept plans for parkland development. These should focus on connecting and maximising use/ functionality of existing parkland, including trail/ pathway systems along waterways. The concept plans should then guide progressive improvement of the parks, eliminating the likelihood of ad hoc development. Continue to work with the Manilla community to establish a skate park/ active youth space. Work with communities in other rural centres to address youth needs. Explore opportunities for extending and connecting riverside walks, either within the riparian zone, or through the street networks through use of tree planting to create visual connections (e.g. boulevards).

Deficiency Area/ Catchment	Recommended Improvements
General Recommendations	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a regional playground within the Bicentennial Park area • Ensure play facilities for older children are included in park developments • Establish family-oriented spaces, by ensuring the comfort of parents/supervisors is provided for in park design • Establish areas for physical play, including free to use courts, hit-up walls, cricket practise nets • Ensure landscaping and revegetation is provided for in park design—landscaping should be considered a recreational embellishment • Ensure highly accessible spaces by connecting activity areas within parks to footpath systems • Develop a concept/ master plan for the connecting sporting and recreational areas along the river. This should embrace the river as a feature and focus on connecting different zones, including circuit opportunities with the Scott Road pathway. The area should provide a range of experiences and settings through which residents and tourists can traverse. • Ensure recreation and sporting land is provided in Hills Plain and Moore Creek areas in line with desired standards of service. Ensure the design of future roads considers pedestrian and horse accessibility along the roadside, especially at intersections with creeks and drainage lines.

Appendix One: Sport and Recreation Organisation Survey

The Tamworth Regional Sport and Recreation Organisation Survey was distributed to 127 sport and recreation organisations providing sport and recreation opportunities in the Region. The survey included a cover letter from Council, explaining the study, the importance of clubs' involvement and follow-up consultation opportunities.

Providers that had not returned their surveys by the due date were reminded of the survey's importance via email, letters and/or follow-up telephone calls.

Seventy surveys were completed and returned giving a 55% return rate.

The purpose of the survey was to identify:

- membership details and trends
- club planning
- current usage of facilities
- levels of satisfaction with existing facilities
- essential facility needs
- issues affecting the organisation
- training and development needs.

Membership of Sport and Recreation Groups

Sporting and recreation organisations were asked to indicate the current numbers of members (senior and junior) as well as membership in 2004. The results are depicted in Table 27 (note the senior and junior memberships have been combined).

While most of the traditional sports (e.g. cricket, rugby league, rugby union and AFL) have experienced steady growth, a number of sports have noted membership decreases. Many of the equine sports have noted large membership drop-offs due to the recent equine influenza.

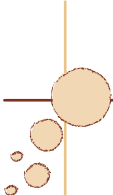
Oztag and gymnastics have experienced rapid growth in recent years.

Organisations were also asked to predict their membership trends over the next three years, with 53% of respondents expecting their numbers to increase, while 8% expect to remain the same. Alarming, 39% note an expected decrease in membership.

Table 27: Participation trends from 2004 to current

Organisation	Current Membership (2007/08)	Membership (2004)	Change in Membership
Banoon Sporting and Progress Association	n/a	n/a	
Barraba Aero Club	25	25	0
Barraba Bowling Club (carpet bowlers)	20	0	20
Barraba Golf Club	105	150	-45
Barraba Military and Civilian Rifle Club	42	30	12

Organisation	Current Membership (2007/08)	Membership (2004)	Change in Membership
Barraba Netball Association	100	100	0
Barraba Pony Club Inc	60	82	-22
Barraba Rugby League Football Club	40	45	-5
Barraba Sportsground Committee	n/a	n/a	
Barraba Town & District Tennis Club	95	110	-15
Barraba Women's Bowling Club Inc	24	0	24
Bendemeer Rugby League Football Club	30	0	30
Bendemeer Women's Bowling Club	18	16	2
Dungowan Recreation Ground Management Committee	n/a	n/a	n/a
Duri War Memorial Tennis Club Committee	42	34	8
Kootingal and District Soccer Club	150	150	0
Kootingal Moonbi Rugby League Football Club	45	50	-5
Lake Keepit Sailing Club Inc	62	74	-8
Lake Keepit Soaring Club Inc	81	101	-20
Manilla Bowling Club	1200 (incl. social)	800 (incl. social)	400
Manilla Minor Rugby League Football Club Inc	65	50	15
Manilla Sky Sailors Club Inc (Manilla Paragliding)	394	468	-74
National Cutting Horse Association	1330	1130	200
New England Quarter Horse Association	0	48	-48
Niangala Tennis Club	10 families	5 families	5 families
North Tamworth Rugby League Football Club Inc	150	125	25
North West Junior OZTAG	325	173	152
Nundle Amateur Swimming Club	20	45	-25
Nundle Pony Club	123	100	23
Oxley Vale Attunga Football Club	300	300	0
Scully Park Amateur Swimming & Life Saving Club	220	110	110
Tamworth & District Cricket Association	1185	1100	85
Tamworth & District Endurance Club	730	940	-210
Tamworth & District Junior Tennis Association	80	0	80
Tamworth & District Minor Rugby League	920	769	151



Organisation	Current Membership (2007/08)	Membership (2004)	Change in Membership
Tamworth & District Polo Club	0	5	-5
Tamworth & District Water Polo Inc	450	340	110
Tamworth and Peel Valley Rifle Club	57	43	14
Tamworth AUSSI Masters Swimming Inc	5	15	-10
Tamworth Australian Football League	245	210	35
Tamworth Basketball Association	1034	1200	-166
Tamworth City BMX Club Inc	16	?	?
Tamworth City Swimming Club Inc	100	135	-35
Tamworth Clay Target Club Inc	75	82	-7
Tamworth Croquet Club	23	20	3
Tamworth Cycle Club Inc	65	54	11
Tamworth Darts Association	150	250	-100
Tamworth Dressage Club	70	68	2
Tamworth Field Archers	70	35	35
Tamworth Gymnastics Club	360	210	150
Tamworth Indoor Sports Centre	1200	1080	120
Tamworth Jockey Club	134	75	59
Tamworth Junior Baseball	107	60	47
Tamworth Junior Rugby Union Club	100	?	?
Tamworth Little Athletics Club	130	150	-20
Tamworth Motor Cycle Club	110	400	-290
Tamworth Netball Association	1295	1205	90
Tamworth Oztag	965	663	302
Tamworth Rugby Union Football Club	200	75	125
Tamworth Softball Association	35	90	-55
Tamworth Speedway Car Club	30	45	-15
Tamworth Tennis Club	340	350	-10
Tamworth Touch Association	1410	1300	110
Tamworth Triathlon Club Inc	160	160	0
West Tamworth Tennis Club	225	250	-25
Westside Boxing Club (Tamworth Boxing Club)	n/a	n/a	n/a

Status of Club Planning

To gain an understanding of the level of forward planning, organisations were asked whether they had a club development or business plan and in the case where they did not, were they intending to develop one in the next twelve months.

As Figure 8 highlights, 31% of responding organisations have a club development or business plan. Additionally, 26% of responding organisations were looking to develop a plan in the next 12 months. Assistance to these groups will help give them direction and provide Council and the community with knowledge of future needs and development requirements. Many organisations (43%) currently operate without any forward plan or guide.

Figure 8: Club development or business plan

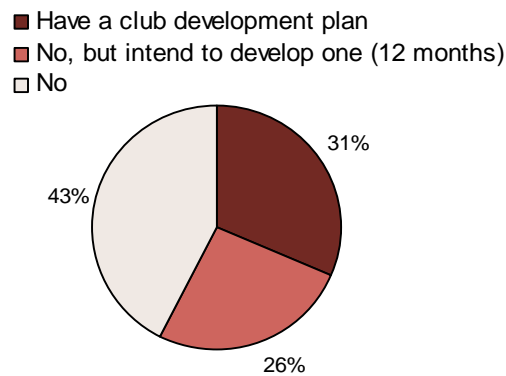
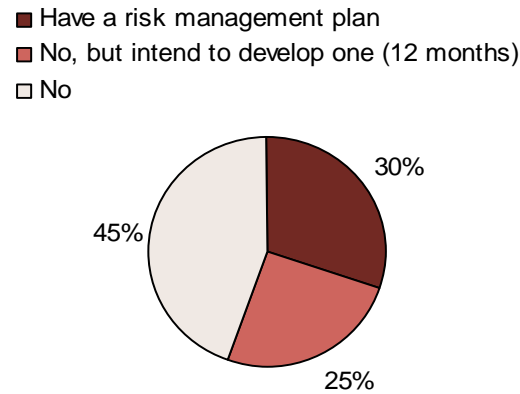


Figure 9: Risk management plan



Clubs were also required to indicate whether they had a risk management plan or intended to develop one in the next twelve months. As Figure 9 depicts, currently, 70% of organisations do not have a risk management plan. While it is encouraging that 25% of respondents intend developing one in the next twelve months, Council must further encourage all sport and recreation organisations to develop a risk management plan. Risk management plans can help to ensure a safe and effective operating environment and address physical, financial/ administrative, moral/ ethical and legal risks.

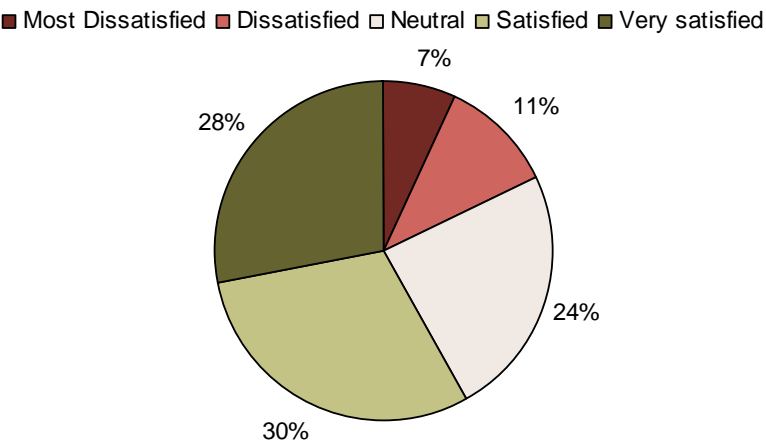
Facility Satisfaction

Organisations were also asked to specify:

- facilities used
- usage rates
- satisfaction with facilities
- issues with facilities.

A high level of satisfaction was demonstrated by organisations with 82% of respondents indicating they were either neutral, satisfied or very satisfied with their facilities (refer Figure 10).

Figure 10: Satisfaction with facilities



Facility usage, level of satisfaction and description of issues with facilities are shown in Table 28.

Table 28: Facility usage, satisfaction and issues

Organisation	Facility Name	Frequency	Satisfaction	Description of issues
Barraba Aero Club	Barraba airstrip	As required	Satisfied	Runway to be sealed
Barraba Bowling Club (carpet bowlers)	Bowling Club	1/ week	Very satisfied	
Barraba Golf Club	Golf course	1/ week	Neutral	Lack of use
	Clubhouse	1/ month	Dissatisfied	Needs upgrade
Barraba Military and Civilian Rifle Club	Rifle range	1/ fortnight		
Barraba Netball Association	Barraba Bicentennial Centre	1/ week	Very dissatisfied (currently closed)	Drainage problem caused warped floor
Barraba Pony Club Inc	Barraba Showgrounds	2/ annum	Satisfied	Aging infrastructure
Barraba Rugby League Football Club	Barraba Recreation Grounds	3/ week	Neutral	
Barraba Town & District Tennis Club	Tennis courts	3/ week	Very satisfied	Tree root issues on court 5
Bendemeer Rugby League Football Club	Tamworth Touch fields	1/ week	Satisfied	Nil
Bendemeer Women's Bowling Club	Bowling Club	1/ week	Very satisfied	
Dungowan Recreation Ground Management Committee	Main arena	2/ week + games	Satisfied	Arena fence needs to be replaced
	Campdraft grounds	2/ annum	Satisfied	Showers need upgrade
	Camp grounds	2 weeks/ annum	Satisfied	Showers and laundry need attention
Duri War Memorial Tennis Club Committee	Tennis courts and clubhouse	1/ week	Satisfied	Need artificial grass
Kootingal and District Soccer Club	Kootingal Oval	4/ week	Dissatisfied	Field markings
Kootingal Moonbi Rugby League Football Club	Kootingal Oval	4/ week	Neutral	Irrigation

Organisation	Facility Name	Frequency	Satisfaction	Description of issues
Lake Keepit Sailing Club Inc	Lake Keepit Sailing Club	1/ week	Satisfied	Upgrade showers and toilets
Lake Keepit Soaring Club Inc	Lake Keepit Airfield	Daily	Satisfied	Increase mowing and spraying
Manilla Minor Rugby League Football Club Inc	Manilla Storage Sheds		Very dissatisfied	No security, regular break-ins
Manilla Sky Sailors Club Inc (Manilla Paragliding)	Mt Borah	Daily	Very satisfied	Access road substandard
	Town Hall	20 days/ annum	Very satisfied	High fees
National Cutting Horse Association	Tamworth Showgrounds	3-4/ annum	Very dissatisfied	Old, dated and too small
New England Quarter Horse Association	Moonbi Showgrounds	1/ month	Neutral	Stockyard and water upgrades required. General maintenance is poor
Niangala Tennis Club	Tennis courts	2-3hrs/ week	Very satisfied	Recently resurfaced
North Tamworth Rugby League Football Club Inc	Jack Woolaston Oval	3-4/ week	Neutral	Lighting, security, toilet facilities
North West Junior OZTAG	Minor League Park	1/ week	Neutral	Enhanced irrigation
Nundle Amateur Swimming Club	Nundle Pool	1/ week	Very satisfied	nil
Nundle Pony Club	Pony Club	1/ month	Very satisfied	
Oxley Vale Attunga Football Club	Federation Park	6hrs/ week + games	Dissatisfied	Poor surface quality
	Scully No.2 Oval	5hrs/ week + games	Dissatisfied	Poor surface quality
Riding for the Disabled NSW Tamworth Centre	Lot 16 (RDA)	Daily	Very satisfied	
Scully Park Amateur Swimming & Life Saving Club	Scully Park Pool	8 sessions/ week + 1 club night/ week		Not heated in winter, need to access indoor pool for winter, not enough lanes for training
Tamworth & District Cricket Association	No. 1 Oval	2/ week	Very satisfied	Access, small change rooms, no fencing for tickets sales, no large scoreboard
	Riverside 1	4/ week	Very satisfied	Flooding, spectator seating
	Riverside 2, 3 and 5	4/ week	Very satisfied	Need top dressing and irrigation
	Scully Park	4/ week	Very satisfied	Often double booked, future loss
	Chaffey Park		Satisfied	Toilets often locked, wicket upgrade, outfield needs top-

Organisation	Facility Name	Frequency	Satisfaction	Description of issues
				dressing, vandalism
	Regional Sports Complex Oval	2/ week	Satisfied	Shade, outfield needs top-dressing, future use as a car park for Equine Centre
	Belmore Park	4/ week	Very satisfied	Oval too small, toilets need upgrading, spectator seating, future loss
	Concrete and synthetic wickets	2/ week	Satisfied	Outfields need irrigation, concrete wickets needs to be replaced with synthetic, future loss of Minor League and Federation Parks
Tamworth & District Endurance Club	Manilla Showground	2/ annum	Neutral	Upgrade to showers and toilets
Tamworth & District Junior Tennis Association	Treloar Park Tennis Club	1/ week	Dissatisfied	Limited access for coaches and no hard courts
	West Tamworth Tennis Club	1/ week	Dissatisfied	Limited access for coaches and no hard courts
	Bligh Street courts	Nil	Very dissatisfied	Recently sold for redevelopment (loss of two hard courts)
Tamworth & District Minor Rugby League	Minor League Park	Daily	Neutral	Poor grass coverage
Tamworth & District Water Polo Inc	Scully Park Pool	7/ week	Neutral	Need indoor facility for year-round
	Tamworth City Pool	7/ week	Neutral	Too shallow, not wide enough, tiles need replacing
Tamworth and Peel Valley Rifle Club	Rifle Range	1/ week	Neutral	Maintenance
Tamworth AUSSI Masters Swimming Inc	Belmore Gym	1/ week	Very dissatisfied	Water too hot in summer and too cold in winter
Tamworth Australian Football League	No.1 Oval	2/ week + weekly matches	Dissatisfied	Insufficient lighting, ground hardness, lack of hot water in showers
Tamworth Basketball Association	Anne Street basketball	Daily	Very dissatisfied	Upgrading and extension
Tamworth City BMX Club Inc	BMX Club	2/ week	Neutral	Access to water, vandalism
Tamworth City Swimming Club Inc	Tamworth Olympic Pool	6/ week	Neutral	Improve starting blocks. Hot water in male change rooms
Tamworth Clay Target Club Inc	Clay Target Club	1/ fortnight	Vert satisfied	Steps to skeet trap houses
Tamworth Croquet Club	Croquet Club	4/ week	Satisfied	

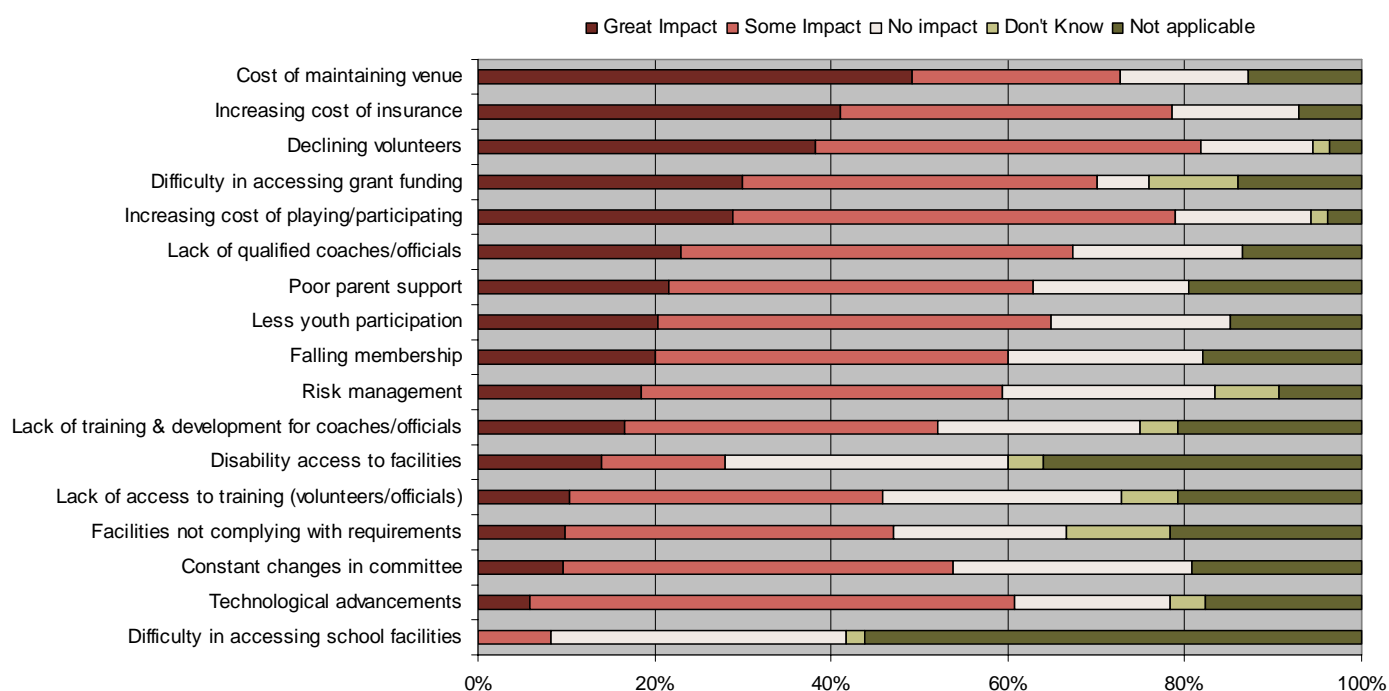
Organisation	Facility Name	Frequency	Satisfaction	Description of issues
Tamworth Cycle Club Inc	Velodrome	5/ week	Very satisfied	Nil
Tamworth Darts Association	Hotels and Clubs	1/ week	Satisfied	
Tamworth Dressage Club	Moonbi Sport and Recreation Grounds	1/ fortnight	Satisfied	Compacted ground, increased parking
Tamworth Field Archers	Old Workers' Club indoor archery	2/ week	Neutral	No security of tenure
	Attunga field archery	2-3/ month	Very satisfied	Flooding and condition of road
Tamworth Gymnastics Club	McGinnity Gymnastics Centre	Daily	Satisfied	Lack of spectator seating
Tamworth Indoor Sports Centre	Indoor Sports Centre	Daily	Very satisfied	Nil
Tamworth Jockey Club	Tamworth Jockey Club	Daily	Very satisfied	Maintenance costs (as owners)
Tamworth Junior Baseball	Tamworth Baseball Complex	4/ week		
Tamworth Junior Rugby Union Club	Rugby Park	1/ week	Very satisfied	Nil
Tamworth Little Athletics Club	Tamworth Regional Athletics Centre	2/ week	Satisfied	Shade
Tamworth Motor Cycle Club	Oakburn Park	1/ week	Satisfied	
Tamworth Netball Association	Netball facility	1/ week	Satisfied	Amenities block requires upgrade
Tamworth Oztag Association	Minor League Park	3/ week	Satisfied	Poor surface quality
	Viaduct Park	2/ week	Neutral	Too small, poor surface quality
	Gipps Street	1/ week	Satisfied	Poor surface quality
Tamworth Rugby Union Football Club	Rugby Park	3/ week	Satisfied	Full control of facilities
	Viaduct Park	2/ week	Neutral	Share with Oztag
Tamworth Softball Association	Carter St Softball Diamonds	1/ week	Dissatisfied	Fields unmarked and unmown. Fences not erected
Tamworth Speedway Car Club	Oakburn Park	1/ month	Dissatisfied	Front area is never mown
Tamworth Tennis Club	Tamworth Tennis Club	Daily	Satisfied	Constant repairs, additional lights and more courts required

Organisation	Facility Name	Frequency	Satisfaction	Description of issues
Tamworth Touch Association	Gipps St Playing Fields	3/ week	Dissatisfied	Poor surface quality, poor lighting
Tamworth Triathlon Club Inc	Kootingal Pool	1/ month	Satisfied	
	Tamworth City Pool	1/ month	Neutral	
	Carter Street criterium track	1/ month	Dissatisfied	Poor upkeep, unpatched pot holes
West Tamworth Tennis Club	Belmore Park tennis courts	10/ week	Very satisfied	More courts required

Issues Affecting Organisations

The sporting and recreation organisations were asked to respond to a number of statements to indicate the impact that a specific issue has on their club. The results are shown in Figure 11.

Figure 11: Issues affecting organisations



The major issues identified included:

- Cost of maintaining the venue—49.1% of sporting organisations highlighting this as a “great impact” with a further 23.6% identifying this as having “some impact”
- Insurance costs—41.1% of sporting organisations reported this as having a “great impact” with an additional 37.5% noting it as having “some impact”
- Declining volunteers—38.2% of respondents identified that this has a “great impact” on their organisation and a further 43.6% identifying it as having “some impact”

Four of the top five issues affecting organisations were related to financial resources.

Training and Development Needs

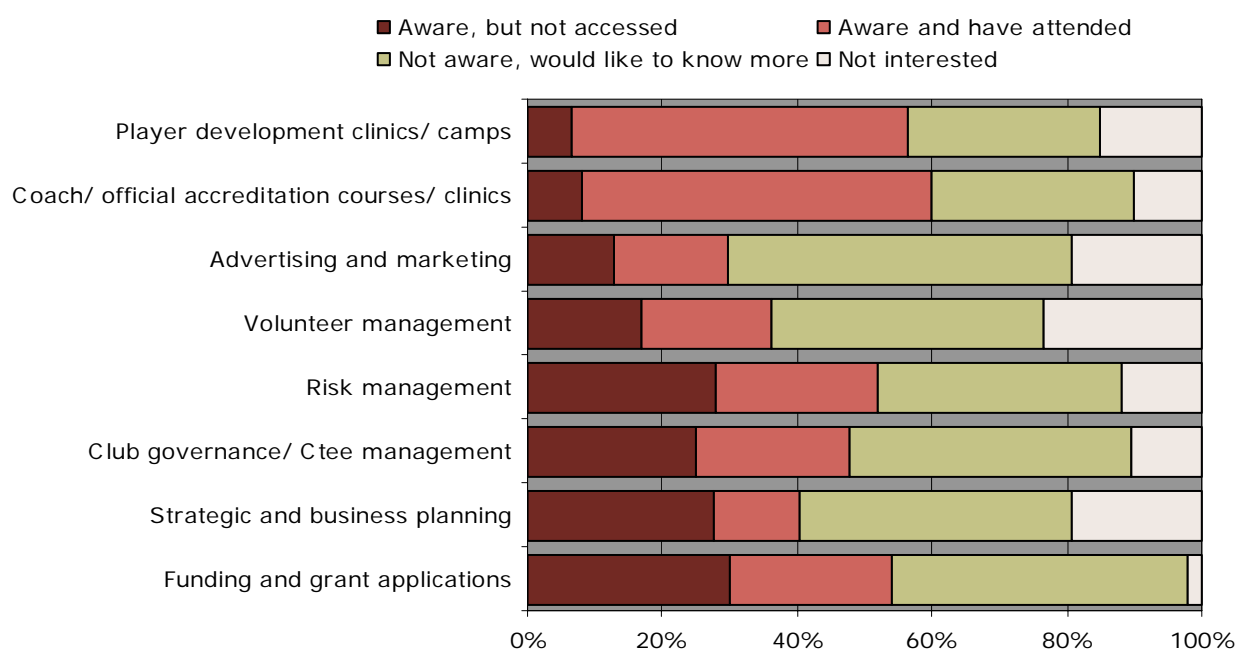
Organisations were asked to indicate their level of awareness of and attendance at training and development sessions. Groups chose the response that best describes their organisation from the following options:

- aware of opportunities and members have attended training
- aware of opportunities but have not accessed them
- not aware of opportunities, but would like to know more
- not interested.

Figure 12 shows the percentage of responding organisations that indicated their level of awareness and attendance within each training and development category. A significant number of respondents had attended training opportunities for Coach and Official Accreditation and Player Development Clinics/ Camps (52% and 50% respectively). Unfortunately, 25% or more of respondents were aware of training but did not attend in the areas of Funding and Grant Applications, Risk Management, Strategic and Business Planning and Club Governance/ Committee Management.

Organisations were least aware of training opportunities in Advertising and Marketing, Funding and Grant Applications, Club Governance/ Committee Management, Volunteer Management and Strategic and Business Planning. Perhaps coincidentally, these courses may well help clubs cope with some of their bigger issues as identified previously in Figure 11.

Figure 12: Awareness and Access of Training and Development Opportunities



Appendix Two: School Survey

School principals were given the opportunity to comment on sport and recreation issues as they affected their school and youth in the area. Often school principals, particularly in smaller communities, have a good sense of the needs of their local community. Eighteen schools responded. The following is a summary of the responses received.

School Use of Community Facilities

Every school that responded makes use of sport and recreation facilities outside the school.

Those community facilities that appeared to be accessed the most include the two pools in Tamworth and each of the pools in outlying towns, playing fields at Riverside, athletics and hockey facilities at the Regional Sports Complex, and the basketball stadium.

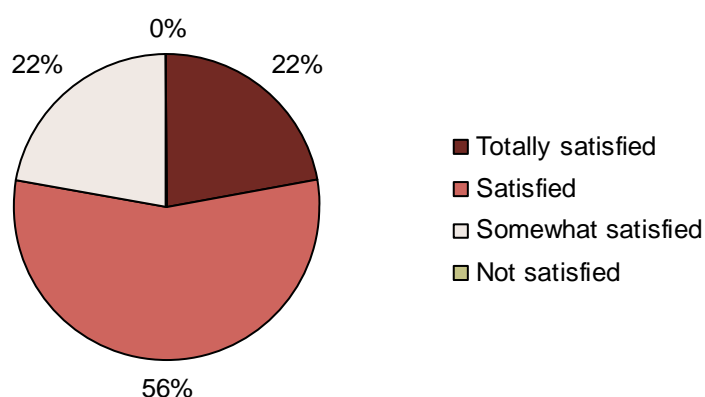
The swimming pools in Tamworth are used extensively by schools. Given the high temperatures during summer (and cold temperatures in winter), the pool is heavily used by schools during Terms 1 and 4. With a first-in first-served procedure, schools occasionally have difficulty accessing suitable times or face overcrowding at the pool.

Satisfaction Rating and Suggested Improvements

As depicted in Figure 13, not one of the schools were *not satisfied* with the level and quality of Council's sport and recreation facilities available. Suggestions to improve Council provided sport and recreation facilities/ programs included:

- enhancing shade and spectator seating at pools and field sport areas
- decreasing the fees charged to school groups hiring Council venues
- ensuring toilets are open on school sport afternoons
- enhancing the quality of the track at the Athletics complex.

Figure 13: Satisfaction of outside school facilities



Community Use of School Facilities

Fourteen of the eighteen schools that responded indicated that they made their sporting facilities available for community use. These facilities include tennis courts, cricket practice nets, outdoor basketball and netball courts, halls and sporting fields.

Concerns or barriers to public access and community use include public liability insurance issues, security,

supervision and past vandalism.

Opportunities for sport and recreation groups to access school facilities, particularly in rural towns, can help reduce the demand or need to duplicate certain infrastructure, such as cricket practice nets or fields. It is pleasing to note the large number of schools allowing community use. It may be opportune for Council to help assist community sport and recreation clubs to negotiate "community use of school facilities" agreements with additional local schools, thus, decreasing or delaying the need to provide particular facilities.

Proposed School Facilities

New sport and recreation facilities planned by schools in the next five years are shown in Table 29. Most indicated that the proposals were dependent on securing funding.

Table 29: Schools proposed facility development

School	Proposed Development
Bullimbal Public School	New school is being built with a hydrotherapy pool
Duri Primary School	Netball court to be upgraded
Kootingal Public School	Additional playground equipment to be installed
Liberty College	Native garden to be established
Manila Central Secondary	Multi-purpose centre will soon be air conditioned, water tanks to be installed on playing fields and fields levelled
Tamworth High School	Main oval to be upgraded
Tamworth West Primary	Covered play area to be installed
Timbumburi Public School	Oval to be resurfaced and irrigated
Westdale Public School	Playground to be installed, cricket nets upgraded and fitness circuit and outdoor play equipment installed

It is likely that each of these proposed develops could be made available for community use (with some requiring a formal agreement).

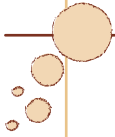
Student Travel Path Improvements

Schools recognise that safe dedicated paths are essential to encouraging student travel and recreational cycling. Schools nominated the following issues to be addressed:

- need for safe pedestrian/ cycle links between Manilla Central Primary and Secondary campuses
- upgraded crossing needed at Jewry Street and Manilla Road
- link required from Jewry Street along Manilla Road to Oxley Vale
- upgraded bike crossing at the roundabout on Bridge Street as it crosses the railway line
- link required along Mahoney Avenue between Kent and Bridge Streets
- link required along Gunnedah Road to Westdale School
- link required along Tintinhull Road
- direct access to Tamworth West Primary required
- Currabubula township requires pedestrian/ cycle paths.

Issues for Young People

School principals identified the following key needs for young people and the community:



- Currabubula—more facilities for youth (e.g. skate facility and oval)
- Manilla—more facilities for youth (e.g. skate facility, bike tracks, formed walkway along the river, basketball courts)
- Tamworth—expand skate park and develop additional free outdoor court facilities in parks.



Appendix Three: Potential Relevant Funding Opportunities

The details provided below are based on the most recent information available. As grant schemes are reviewed on a regular basis the information should be checked for currency before developing an application. Web addresses have been listed where possible to allow for ready checking of the latest details. Quite often application forms and other details can be downloaded from the websites.

Some of the more useful websites that host links to, or detail information on available grants are listed below:

- Our Community—www.ourcommunity.com.au
- Australian Government Grants Link—www.grantslink.gov.au
- Community Builders Grants Link—www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au/funding/programs
- The Australian Directory of Philanthropy is available as a hard copy or on-line and lists more than 420 trusts, foundations and corporate giving programs. Information on purchasing the directory can be found at: www.philanthropy.org.au.

New South Wales—NSW Sport and Recreation

Subsidy/ Grant	Aim/ Criteria
Capital Assistance Program www.dsr.nsw.gov.au/grants/cap.asp	Assists Local Government Authorities and not-for-profit sport and recreation organisations to develop community-orientated local sport and recreation facilities.
Country Athletes Scheme www.dsr.nsw.gov.au/grants/cas.asp	Assists talented young athletes from country areas of NSW to gain access to training, coaching and competitions similar to those enjoyed by athletes from the city.
Country Coaches and Officials Scheme www.dsr.nsw.gov.au/grants/ccos.asp	Assists coaches and officials from country areas of NSW access opportunities to participate in educational courses that assist them gain or maintain required accreditation.
Disability Sport Assistance Program www.dsr.nsw.gov.au/grants/awd_dsap.asp	Assists to increase regular and on-going participation opportunities for people with a disability by supporting community based organisations with the capacity to provide such opportunities.
Far West Travel Scheme www.dsr.nsw.gov.au/grants/fwts.asp	Assists to increase participation in regular sport and recreation activity by people living in the Far West and remote areas of NSW. The scheme offers financial assistance to not-for-profit sport and recreation organisations, and individuals, to help with the costs of travel to sports competitions and events.
International Sporting Events Program www.dsr.nsw.gov.au/grants/iseip.asp	Assists in attracting and supporting new international sporting events in NSW in an effort to provide high level competition opportunities for NSW athletes, coaches and officials.
International Travel Support Program for Athletes with a Disability www.dsr.nsw.gov.au/grants/awd_travel.asp	Assists athletes with a disability to access sanctioned international sporting competitions and also provides for those athletes who require assistance with their normal daily living on a full-time basis or athletes that require assistance to compete in their sport.
Pre-elite Development Program for Athletes with a Disability www.dsr.nsw.gov.au/grants/awd_pre.asp	Assists in the development of future elite athletes. As well as supporting athletes to further develop their talent and follow their sporting career dreams, the program aims to provide an opportunity to develop friendships and mentors with coaches and other athletes.
Race Club Facility Grant Program www.dsr.nsw.gov.au/grants/rcfg.asp	Assists rural and regional race clubs develop their facilities and recover from the Equine Flu crisis.
Regional Sports Facility Program www.dsr.nsw.gov.au/grants/rsfp.asp	Assists to enhance the range, availability and quality of sport and recreational facilities throughout NSW, that meet the needs of both talented and elite athletes and the general community.
Safe Shooting Grant Program www.dsr.nsw.gov.au/grants/ssp.asp	Assists not-for-profit shooting organisations to provide better and safer facilities for their sport.
Sports Development Program www.dsr.nsw.gov.au/grants/sdp.asp	Assists eligible State sporting organisations and peak industry bodies to work in partnership with the State Government to develop their sport and recreation activities at all levels in NSW.
Women's Sports Leaders Scholarships www.dsr.nsw.gov.au/grants/women.asp	Assists women to improve their management, leadership, coaching and officiating skills in the sport and recreation industry.

New South Wales—Other State Government Areas

Subsidy/ Grant	Aim/ Criteria
Community Development Grants Program (Community Relations Commission) www.crc.nsw.gov.au/services/grants	Assists participation of people from culturally diverse communities in all aspects of life in New South Wales.
Community Economic Development Program (Department of State and Regional Development) www.business.nsw.gov.au/community/Funding+Programs/	Assists local councils and local business organisations to help regional communities meet the challenges presented by economic forces and population shifts.
Regional Events Live—Event Funding www.regionaleventslive.com.au/bwWebsite/default.asp	Assists with in-kind promotional support of events and activities in Regional NSW.
Youth Participation Grants Program www.yapa.org.au/yapa/ypp/index.php	Assists young people to develop and implement community activities in their local area.
Catchment Protection and Improvement Grants www.sca.nsw.gov.au/about-sca/grants-and-sponsorships/catchment-protection-and-improvement-grants	Assists community groups to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and improve water quality through riparian and environmental restoration • Educate catchment communities about protecting catchments and water quality.

Walk and Cycle Grant Schemes

Subsidy / Grant	Aim/ Criteria
Cycling Promotion Fund www.cyclingpromotion.com	Funding for programs and projects that will increase cycling as a transport or health/ recreational option.
Federal—Roads to Recovery www.auslink.gov.au/funding/r2r/index.aspx	Funding for roads in rural, regional and metropolitan areas focusing on renewal of local roads as an element of social and economic infrastructure. Funding can include the construction of cycleways.
Federal—Australian Tourism Development Program www.ausindustry.gov.au	Funding for tourism projects in regional and rural areas. Cycling infrastructure such as paths and maps may be eligible. There are two separate categories: Tourism Projects and Integrated Tourism Development Projects.
Federal—Investing in Our Schools Program www.dest.gov.au/sectors/school_education#Investing_in_Our_Schools_Programme_2006	Funding for state and non-state school infrastructure according to school community priorities. The program looks at small scale projects that improve and enhance the infrastructure of schools in accordance with priorities identified by school communities, and as such end-of-trip cycle facilities may be eligible for funding under this program.
Federal—CycleConnect www.environment.gov.au/atmosphere/airquality/cycleconnect.html	Funding for the installation of secure bicycle parking at public transport nodes.

Australian Government: Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts¹⁸

This Department has a range of grants some of which can support community, cultural, environmental, heritage and recreation opportunities. A list of the current program is provided below, while further details can be obtained from www.environment.gov.au/programs/index.html.

Issue/ relevance	Grant/ Subsidy Title
Atmosphere	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean Air research Programme • CycleConnect • Experienced Persons Licence Transition Programme
Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining Australia's Biodiversity Hotspots Programme • National Reserve System Programme • Threatened Species Network Community Grants
Coasts and oceans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine Species Recovery and Protection Funding
Environmental education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Vouchers for Schools Programme • Environmental Education Grants Programme
Greenhouse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greenhouse funding programmes • Green Vouchers for Schools Programme
Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commemoration of Historic Events and Famous Persons Grants-In-Aid Programme • National Trusts Partnership Programme • Historic Shipwrecks Programme • Indigenous Heritage Programme • National Cultural Heritage Account • National Heritage Investment Initiative • Regional Natural Heritage Programme • Sharing Australia's Stories
Human Settlements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean Air Research Programme • CycleConnect • Product Stewardship for Oil Programme • Sustainable Cities Programme
Land, natural resource and park management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Government Envirofund • Indigenous Land Management Facilitators • Indigenous Protected Area • National Landcare Programme • National Reserve System Programme • Natural Heritage Trust

¹⁸ Australian Government website: www.environment.gov.au

Issue/ relevance	Grant/ Subsidy Title
Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Biological Resources Study • Commonwealth Environment Research Facilities Programme
Water Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Water Grants • Green Vouchers for Schools Programme
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental taxation concessions • Grants for Voluntary Environment and Heritage Organisations (GVEHO)

Australian Government: Other Departments

Subsidy / Grant	Aim/ Criteria
Australian Tourism Development Program (ATDP) www.ausindustry.gov.au	<p>This program aims to boost the growth of tourism across Australia. It supports initiatives that will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promote tourism development in regional and rural Australia • contribute to long term economic growth • increase visitation and yield throughout Australia • enhance visitor dispersal and tourism expenditure throughout Australia • increase Australia's competitiveness as a tourism destination.
Community Heritage Grants (CHG) Program www.nla.gov.au/chg	<p>Aims to preserve and provide access to locally held nationally significant cultural heritage collections across Australia. The program provides grant funding of up to \$10,000 for preservation projects, and preservation and collection management training through community based workshops.</p> <p>The Community Heritage Grants (CHG) Program is funded by the Australian Government through the National Library of Australia; the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts; the National Archives of Australia; the National Film and Sound Archive and the National Museum of Australia.</p>
Community Water Grants www.communitywatergrants.gov.au	To encourage better water use and to improve water health through practical on-the-ground works. Projects must incorporate with one of the following: water savings and efficiency; water recycling; and/ or water treatment.
Local Answers (part of Stronger Families and Communities Strategy) www.facs.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/aboutfacs/programs/sfsc-local_answers.htm	<p>The aim of the Local Answers Funding grant is to support community organisations, in disadvantaged areas, to develop and implement local small-scale projects. The focus of the projects should be to assist communities to build skills and capacity to identify opportunities and take action for the benefit of their members. Projects funded under the Federal Government's \$60 million Stronger Families and Communities Strategy Local Answers initiative include those that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • build effective parenting and relationship skills • build opportunities and skills for economic self reliance in families and communities • build partnerships between local services strengthening support to families and communities • assist young parents in particular, to further their education or access training and other services where they are seeking to make the transition into employment • assist members of the community to become involved in community life through local volunteering, the mentoring of young people or training to build community leadership and initiative.
Living in Harmony Community grants program www.harmony.gov.au/grants/index.htm	The Australian Government's Living in Harmony initiative is primarily a community based education program. The objectives of the program are to develop more harmonious community relations to improve communication and understanding between people from diverse ethnic, religious and indigenous backgrounds and the wider community, and to address the issues of racism in the community.

Subsidy / Grant	Aim/ Criteria
Regional Partnerships Program www.regionalpartnerships.gov.au/partnerships/index.aspx	The Regional Partnerships program funds projects that help communities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide opportunities for economic and social participation • improve access to services • plan their futures • make structural adjustments.
Sport Incentive Program www.asf.org.au/home	This Australian Sports Foundation program aims to increase opportunities for Australians to participate in sport, and/ or excel in sports performance. The program enables eligible organisations to register sport-related projects to assist with their project fundraising.
Volunteer Small Equipment Grants—Sport www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/aboutfacs/programs/sfsc-vseg_2007.htm	This program provides funding to assist not-for-profit volunteer organisations to cover costs such as sporting equipment and uniforms, volunteer training and travel.

Community, Foundation and Trust based funding

Subsidy/ Grant	Aim/ Criteria
ANZ Charitable Grants www.anz.com/aus/fin/trustees	Each year, funds are paid to charitable organisations or for charitable purposes in the community on behalf of Trusts administered by ANZ Trustees. Some are discretionary in nature whilst applications are accepted for others.
Besen Family Foundation www.besenfoundation.org.au	The foundation seeks to encourage, nurture and assist in both the maintenance and also development of important programs and projects and covers three broad areas of Arts and Culture, Health and Welfare, and Jewish Interests. It provides support mainly through financial grants. Some areas are restricted to Victorian projects though the Grants for Arts and Culture are open to not-for-profit organisations throughout Australia. Preference will be given to projects that are innovative and challenging.
Commonwealth Bank Staff Community Fund Local Grants Program about.commbank.com.au/group_display/0,1696,TS16848,00.html	This program supports initiatives that promote the health and wellbeing of Australian children by providing funding to local community groups.
Communityhelp Grants Program www.nrma.com.au/pub/nrma/community/help-program/index.shtml	Supports local organisations that are working to make communities safer. Community organisations can apply to receive a grant of up to \$5,000 in the areas of crime prevention, injury prevention, emergency services or the environment.
Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal—Small Grants for Small Rural Communities Program www.frrr.org.au	A small grants program for small rural Australian communities will offer approximately \$300,000 a year in grants to benefit people in rural and remote communities. Currently, applications that support the following areas of interest will be given preference: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • community hardship in drought affected areas • retention of young people in rural and regional Australia • resettlement of immigrants in rural Australia • community infrastructure.
Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal—Caring for Ageing in Rural Australia www.frrr.org.au	Not-for-profit organisations can apply for projects and activities that directly benefit the ageing population in their community. Projects that help redress disadvantage caused by remoteness. Grants may range from \$100 up to \$10,000. From time to time this Program may identify priority areas for support.
Holden Community Support Program www.holden.com.au	Support may consist of a partnership, cash donation, or a donation 'in kind'. Donations 'in kind' include materials for fundraising events such as stickers for show bags and items for raffle prizes. It also includes one-off donations of larger objects that serve to assist education and technological innovation.

Subsidy/ Grant	Aim/ Criteria
Honda Foundation (The) www.honda.com.au	<p>The Foundation provides financial assistance to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> deserving charities: approved bodies that focus their activities on the disadvantaged, disabled or those suffering from long-term, life threatening illnesses approved humanitarian bodies approved bodies that provide ad-hoc relief to victims of natural disasters approved bodies that promote inventions and the development of new technology approved bodies that promote the development and preservation of Australian culture <p>Applicants must have Deductible Gift Recipient Status to apply.</p>
Ian Potter Foundation (The) www.ianpotter.org.au	<p>The Foundation has seven areas of interest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arts Education Environment & Conservation Health Medical research Science Social welfare. <p>Applications for programs that cover more than one area are encouraged and it is not necessary for applicants to nominate the area(s) under which they wish their application to be considered.</p> <p>Quarterly closing dates: 1 February, 1 May, 1 August, 1 November.</p>
Ian Potter Cultural Trust (The) www.ianpotter.org.au	<p>In addition to the specific Arts priorities, small grants are made to support emerging Australian artists to pursue further studies and nurture their careers in their chosen cultural fields.</p>
Mercy Foundation www.mercyfoundation.com.au	<p>Funding priority is given to activities directed at identifying and addressing causes of poverty and injustice rather than those aimed at relieving its effects. Funds allocated twice per year: April and October.</p> <p>The range for Major Grants is normally \$2,000 to \$15,000.</p>



Subsidy/ Grant	Aim/ Criteria
<p>Myer Foundation (The) www.myerfoundation.org.au</p>	<p>Grants available for general charitable purposes in accordance with the vision to improve peoples' lives in lasting and positive ways. Applications accepted in the lead up to specified closing dates. No upper or lower limit to funding request amounts. Between 2006 and 2010, there is to be a stronger focus on achieving change by making larger grants over longer periods of time. The Large Grants Program will be targeted to fund strategies that help achieve responses in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Arts and Humanities • Australia in the Asia-Pacific Region • Education • Poverty and Disadvantage • Sustainability and the Environment. <p>The Small Grants Program will ensure funding of initiatives in response to community needs under the three areas of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Arts and Humanities • Education • Poverty and Disadvantage. <p>The Myer Foundation conducts a Special Grants Program known as G4. It represents the Fourth Generation of the Myer family, and funds projects in the areas of youth mental health and environmental education.</p>
<p>Perpetual—Philanthropic Services www.perpetual.com.au/philanthropy/applying_for_funding/default.htm</p>	<p>Perpetual manages more than 400 charitable trusts. Of these, over 140 are discretionary in nature, 100 of which accept applications from general funding rounds held twice annually closing 31 March and 30 September.</p>
<p>Scanlon Foundation (formerly Brencorp) www.scanlonfoundation.org.au</p>	<p>Its mission is to support the creation of a larger cohesive Australian society. Grants are made for general charitable purposes in Australia with the principal area of interest: "Population and Cultural Diversity". The Foundation is able to fund nationally but will continue to give preference to Victorian based applications during the early years of its operation. An expression of interest is the initial step in the application process.</p>

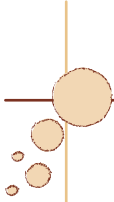
Other programs that may assist in undertaking projects:

Subsidy / Grant	Aim/ Criteria
Green Corps www.greencorps.gov.au	Green Corps provides young people aged between 17 and 20 years of age with the opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to preserve and restore Australia's environment and heritage. A voluntary, transitional youth development scheme designed to provide participants with personal and skill development and improved connections with their community. Community and environmental organisations are encouraged to submit a project proposal for environmental and/or heritage work.
Green Reserve www.greenreserve.com.au	Green Reserve involves Australian's between the ages of 40 and 65 who receive the full rate of Newstart allowance in local conservation projects. Working in small teams Green Reserve volunteers contribute 2 days a week for 26 weeks to the project.

Corporate Sponsorship

A number of organisations provide sponsorship to community groups, local governments and service providers to run programs or undertake projects. Approaching medium to large sized businesses to sponsor your project (especially those that may not meet available funding program's criteria or timeframes) may be another source of funding. Many businesses have pet projects that they are prepared to assist with funding.

Sponsorship can be via a monetary contribution or through in-kind donations. It is recommended that sponsors are chosen that align to the values of your organisation/ project. Sponsorship kits can be developed to provide a clear understanding of each party's roles and responsibility prior to establishing deals/ contracts. The sponsorship kits should include information about the project and provide information on what is in it for the sponsor. This may include but not be limited to: promotion opportunities, inclusion in events or display of information, or naming rights for the event.



Appendix Four: Park Classifications and Recommended Improvements

Park No	Park Name	Function	Hierarchy/ subtype	Setting	Basic Play Fac's	Toddler Play	Young Child Play	Teens Fac's	Picnic node	Paths	Comment/ description	Development Suggestion
85	Myrl Park	Recreation	Local	Urban		y					Well located, accessible, but relatively small park with limited capacity for additional recreation elements (proximity to houses, so can't introduce any ball activities). Contains a swing and small play unit. Play unit was blocked off at time of inspection	Ensure play elements are functional. Consider expanding play elements to a broader age group (conscious of noise generation). Consider a sheltered table/ seating,
86	Park - Harrier Parade	Recreation	Local	Urban							Poor visibility and little road frontage. Park lacks appeal. Small play area is poorly located for visibility, and appears to get little use (grass growth at base of slippery dip). Relocate playground to more suitable park. Park entrance is used for private vehicle parking	Relocate playground equipment to a more suitable park.
88	Monk Park	Recreation	Local	Urban		y		y		y	Large attractive park, contains a number of modern play elements including cricket practise net. Has street signage to park.	Ensure path connects thru to Panorama Drive. Play elements could be further developed, but low priority given other deficiencies across Tamworth.
25	Prince of Wales Park	Recreation	Local	Urban			y		y		Contains a variety of spaces/facilities, but appears to receive little use. Lacks appeal - is visually impacted by adjacent commercial land uses. Is segregated from any residential population and is in close proximity to far more appealing, higher order parkland	Reconsider role in open space system. Recreation facilities could be relocated to an area where they would be better utilised (e.g. Powerhouse Park).
28	Powerhouse Park	Recreation	Local	Semi-Urban		y				y	Small play area located in corner of large attractive green space. Seat and a table located near play area. Contains toilets and a narrow paved path (not connected beyond park boundary). Valued by community.	Improve recreation function as demand emerges. Progressively upgrade to district park level
29	Valley Park	Recreation	Local	Urban	y						The saddest swing in Tamworth. Poorly maintained and overlooking a transmission line. Various infrastructure elements detract from any amenity on site.	Remove swing and seat. Relocate to more suitable location
new	Arthur Emblan Park sign	Recreation	Local	Semi-Urban					y	y	Regional park due to relationship with Botanic Gardens. Contains wood-fired bbq and picnic tables, with pathway linking to Botanic Gardens	
56	Belmore Park	Recreation	Local	Urban		y				y	Attractive local park on corner, with shared use pathway along northern edge of park. Play ground area has an old tractor, a play structure and swings. Every corner has a sign	Remove unused signage frame. Consolidate signs at time of asset replacement. Consider landscaping (low vegetation beds) to provide a barrier between busy road and play area
72	Chauvel Park	Recreation	Local	Urban		y					Large attractive open space with high visibility. Has substantial capacity for further development	Increase recreation function to cater for broad age range. Include picnic/bbq and group gathering facilities. Enhance sense of community common. Develop pathway system around/ through site (integrate with cricket oval adjacent
73	Park - Kuloomba Street	Recreation	Local	Urban	y						One swing. Some mature trees. Could be further enhanced for a basic local park facility.	
79	Kamilaroi Park	Recreation	Local	Urban	y						Attractive park with mature trees and pleasant outlook. Good road frontage.	Develop further for local park. Include a range of play elements to cater for broader range of ages
81	Cedar Park	Recreation	Local	Urban	y						One swing, attractive mature trees. Could be developed further	
82	Baringa Park	Recreation	Local	Urban						y	Attractively planted community garden. Pathway between road ends (although the one from Stratford PI is not connected). Extremely limited road frontage.	Add some seats in shaded locations, and/or a gazebo with table/ seats, to facilitate enjoyment of space. Connect pathways.
82	Baringa Park	Recreation	Local	Urban	y						Two small play areas, isolated from each other (no functional connection). This area needs to achieve road frontage to improve accessibility and use. Lacks amenity.	
83	Boss Park	Recreation	Local	Urban						y	Contains old slippery dip/ swings and a table, bubbler and bbq (no evidence of use - grass growing under hot plate). Has gravel path to connect to Calala Lane. Entrance from Mullumbinby is restricted by large swale drain and vegetation planting that	Improve entrance landscaping to open play area to Mullumbinby CI. Create visual barrier to adjacent house. Connect path through park, and between play elements, and BBQ area. Alternately, consider removing BBQ
96	Park - Wahroonga Drive	Recreation	Local	Urban		y		y			Has potential for additional recreational development. Irregular shape presents some limitations	Create a recreation node, making a focal/ gathering point within the park. Include shelters/ tables
98	Reserve - Wilga Place	Recreation	Local	Urban		y				DL	Small play node located along drainage line. Amenity is low (few trees, poor grass cover). could be improved with vegetation screen of fence lines and pathway development	connect local play node with pathway along drainage line
100	Tamworth Lions Park	Recreation	Local	Urban		y			y		Highly developed with BBQ's and picnic tables. Includes play area and ample car parking visitors/travellers.	Limit further development. Monitor use of BBQ's and consider relocating some to other parks, if over-supplied in current location.
121	Park - Craigends Lane	Recreation	Local	Urban	y						Contains one swing. Extremely small, but has road frontage	
133	Park - Cobb & Co Circuit	Recreation	Local	Urban	y						Small play area and gazebo in a roundabout	Nil
134	Park - Eureka Place	Recreation	Local	Urban		y					Small play area and gazebo in roundabout. Serve the recreation needs of residents immediately adjacent.	Nil
135	Regional Sports Complex	Recreation	Local	Urban		y	Y				Small area at Athletics arena. Highly valued by youth (compared to other play areas), because of the variety offered by the climbing net.	Ensure the master plan for the equine centre retains and if possible expands the recreation area
159	The Boulevard Park	Recreation	Local	Urban		y					Has a bike stand! Adjacent to cafe, creates an attractive public domain and focal point. Play area is very small with no scope for expansion. Area surrounded by road network (busier area) introducing safety concerns for child use.	Nil
12	North Tamworth Tennis Club - Local Park	Recreation	Local	Urban		y					Small local play ground	Play facilities could be improved, including shade

Park No	Park Name	Function	Hierarchy/ subtype	Setting	Basic Play Fac's	Toddler Play	Young Child Play	Teens Fac's	Picnic node	Paths	Comment/ description	Development Suggestion
16	Viaduct Park	Recreation	Local	Urban		y			y		Play area with seating that looks unsafe, no shade. BBQ shelter has a cage on 2 sides, detracts from amenity (no obvious use). Seat has been dragged into shelter - may indicate the need for sheltered seating. May once have been an attractive park, but is currently run down	Upgrade area
33	Park - Somerset Place	Recreation	Local	Urban	y						Poor road frontage, with private gardening waste at the entrance. Back portion of park utilised as open space for Caravan Park guests, especially during Country Music Fest. Contains some historic play equipment.	Investigate alternative management of this park by the adjacent caravan park (e.g. leased). Public access should be retained.
105	Kingswood Park	Recreation	Local	Semi-Urban		y					Play area at back of cricket oval. Low visibility, no obvious entrance/ path	
1	Fraser Park	Recreation	Local	Urban	y					DL	Lovely outlook across Tamworth. Nice mature trees. Desire line thru park. Playground fill requires maintenance	Potential for scenic viewing, seating required.
2	John Ives Park	Recreation	Local	Urban		y					Attractive, developed local park along side creek. Well known and utilised by locals. Poor state of maintenance, signs missing, softfall worn. Only one table.	Upgrade play, develop path system, develop picnic node to create a community focal point
4	Milburn Park	Recreation	Local	Semi-Urban	y					DL		
9	Pages Park	Recreation	Local	Urban		y					Large open space, gentle slope. Good visibility. Desire lines to Brolga Cres connection (indicates use). Play equipment is damaged. Dead vegetation piled by roadside.	Recreation function can be further enhanced (greater range of age groups)
58	Chaffey Park	Recreation	Local	Urban		y		y			Attractive small play area with table, adjacent to cricket oval	Could be expanded (facilities for primary aged children) , but is functional as is. Cricket practise nets (at southern end of park) available for recreational use.
59	Electra Park	Recreation	Local	Urban	y						One swing, one seat, limited appeal. No shade or trees.	Tree planting and landscaping, as well as improvements to play opportunities
63	Altona Park	Recreation	Local	Urban	y						Contains a swing and a seat. Has good visibility and road frontage. Has the capacity for higher level of development	Improve local recreation
65	Karuah Park	Recreation	Local	Urban							Attractive community garden park. Contains seats and a sheltered table.	Limited additional facilities required. Space is quite small, so care should be taken to not over develop it. Possibly a pathway meandering through park and a gazebo or additional table/ shelter (ensure same theme with existing finishes)
67	Barsden Park	Recreation	Local	Urban	y						Attractive, larger space with some mature trees. Good visibility and connection between streets. Small play area stuck in one corner. Redevelop play facilities, expanding the age range	Improve recreation function, increase age range of facilities
71	Quota Park	Recreation	Local	Urban		y					Large mature trees. Small play area	Encourage a community project to enhance landscape. Consider some seating as a social gathering point.
76	Leo Park	Recreation	Local	Urban	y						Has potential for attractive local park - currently underdeveloped. Contains a swing and seat. Seat is poorly positioned to enjoy park amenity (looks at a tree/ road and is immediately adjacent to rubbish bin (smells).	Improve local park function. Expand/ upgrade range of play elements, utilise existing shade.
49	Lloma Park	Recreation	Local	Urban	y					DL	Contains a swing and tables with majority of area as a cricket oval (concrete wicket - elevated from road level and not immediately visible). Cricket oval not functional for sport (short boundary, significant desire line cuts through field)	
51	Centenary Park	Recreation	Local	Urban				y		DL	Contains dirt bike jumps	
52	Coledale Community Park	Recreation	Local	Urban		y				y	Attractive local park. New bark fill in play ground. Lacks shade on play area. No swing.	
95	Granny Munro Park	Recreation	Local	Urban		y	y	y	y		Well developed park with play areas for all ages. Recreation/picnic elements have been dispersed/ squeezed in around the field - lacks a sense of connection, with each element being isolated/ separate	Consider master plan to rearrange elements. Create more of a community common, rather than focus on the football field. Remove focus from immediately adjacent to road.
43	Westdale Memorial Park	Recreation	Local	Urban	y						Power line, flag pole, swing and a seat. Path through park, but goes nowhere (no destination, no continuance). Approx 25m wide, and close to residences on both sides.	Establish as an amenity park. Do not increase/ replace recreation elements. Develop as a quiet contemplative space, honouring the memorial status. Focus future recreation elements in more suitable parks near by.
101	Flinders Park	Recreation	Local	Urban	y						Attractive mature trees. Close proximity to major road impacts on recreation appeal (noise, perceived safety of children). Would lend itself to a meandering pathway connecting play area and seating.	Consider a meandering pathway through park. Keep recreation elements low key and ensure amenity value is maintained. Other parks in near vicinity provide better development options
107	Thomas Mitchell Park	Recreation	Local	Urban				y		DL	Contains dirt bike jumps (used). requires integration/amalgamation with adjacent Discovery Park. Poor access/ street frontage. Integrated, these park could serve as a district facility.	Amalgamate two park areas, ensure only one park name. Provide directional street signage to increase exposure at Flinders and Mitchell Sts. Requires Landscaping and tree planting to increase amenity. Pathway development and additional teen elements
123	Discovery Park	Recreation	Local	Urban		y	y				Developed play, seating, solar lights. Remaining park has low amenity (no trees/ shade). Poor access (off cul-de-sacs), very poor road frontage (behind houses). Encroachment (car parking) Adjacent to Thomas Mitchell Park (effectively one park, not two	Amalgamate two park areas, ensure only one park name. Provide directional street signage to increase exposure at Flinders and Mitchell Sts. Requires Landscaping and tree planting to increase amenity. Pathway development & additional teen elements
125	Peel Picnic Spot - Tamworth Skate Park	Recreation	District	Urban				y			Skate park	Improve skate park, consider adding additional youth elements to create a hub of activity spaces

Park No	Park Name	Function	Hierarchy/ subtype	Setting	Basic Play Fac's	Toddler Play	Young Child Play	Teens Fac's	Picnic node	Paths	Comment/ description	Development Suggestion
62	Hyman Park	Recreation	District	Urban		y	y				Excellent visibility and road frontage. Has potential for a high quality district scale park but is currently poorly developed. Learn to ride facility, several isolated play areas. Toilet. Needs master planning.	Master plan-district scale recreation. Build on the cycling theme. Upgrade play areas, pathway around outside, linking access points and play nodes, picnic/bbq node, substantial landscaping, older youth facilities (climbing net, basket ball court, rebound wall). Additional car parking may be required as use will increase with appropriate improvement.
20	ANZAC Park	Recreation	District	Urban		y			y	y	Attractive, well maintained park, highly valued by the community. Includes a small toddlers play structure and swings. BBQ facilities provided, but with limited seating (2 portable tables). Shelters suitable for large groups are slightly separated from the bbq area	Expand play elements to reflect a broader age range, either improve amenity at back of Bowls club or visually screen area. Develop picnic node to include more seating and tables and integrate with group facility shelters. Could benefit from a master plan prior to further development
22	Oxley Lookout	Recreation	Regional	Semi-Urban					y		Scenic look out. Contains toilets and picnic nodes. A number of elements in poor state of repair - lacks amenity. General appearance is incongruent with regional classification	
23	Marsupial Park	Recreation	Regional	Semi-Urban		y			y	y	Highly valued nature experience with appeal to residents and visitors of all ages. Improvements over recent years are a pleasant 'surprise' to people spoken to there.	Continue developments, provide information and promotion to the community. Investigate alternate pathway solutions to ensure access for all.
37	Bicentennial Park	Recreation	Regional	Semi-Urban			y		y	y	Master plan required	Integrated use, encourage greater utilisation, variety of recreation opportunities
143	Tamworth Regional Botanic Gardens - Gardens	Recreation	Regional	Urban					y	y		Investigate alternate pathway solutions to ensure access for all.
143	Tamworth Regional Botanic Gardens - Victoria Park and model railway	Recreation	Regional	Urban						?	Model railway area (underdevelopment)	
23	Oxley Park	Outdoor Recreation								y	Kamilaroi Walking Trail area	
60	Park - Anthony Road	Recreation Corridor	Local	Urban						Y	Pathway through park, mature trees on one side.	Amenity could be improved by additional tree planting to create an avenue effect, as well as vegetation screening along property boundaries
61	Park - Susanne Street	Recreation Corridor	Local	Urban						Y	Attractive shady pathway.	Additional landscaping along property boundaries would enhance a sense of natural environment (relief from urban form)
64	Calool Park	Recreation Corridor	Local	Urban						Y	Attractive, shady pathway, connecting several streets and providing opportunities for a lovely park-base walk/cycle opportunity.	Ensure it is retained as a quiet, contemplative pathway. Further vegetation planting (along similar themes to existing), will assist in reducing the urban influence. Shift rubbish bins so they are no directly in line of site along pathway
70	Pine Park	Recreation Corridor	Local	Urban						Y	Very small park with pathway through it, lined with pines. Also contains water infrastructure.	Nil
125	Peel Picnic Spot	Recreation Corridor	District	Urban						Y	Walkway along top of viaduct, Velodrome to Bligh St	
Nil		Recreation Corridor	District	Urban						Y	Walkway along top of viaduct, Velodrome to Bligh St	
Nil		Recreation Corridor	District	Urban						Y	Walkway along top of viaduct, Velodrome to Bligh St	
41	Gipps Street Sports Complex	Recreation Corridor	District	semi natural						Y	Riverside access, Gimps St car park and access to Gimps Foot Bridge.	
41	Gipps Street Sports Complex	Recreation Corridor	District	Semi-Urban						Y		
125	Peel Picnic Spot	Recreation Corridor	District	Urban						Y	Walkway along top of viaduct, Velodrome to Bligh St	
126	Park - Peel Street	Recreation Corridor	District	Urban						Y	Walkway along top of viaduct, Velodrome to Bligh St	
127	Bligh Street Reserve	Recreation Corridor	District	Urban						Y	Walkway along top of viaduct, Velodrome to Bligh St	
56	Belmore Park - tennis	Sport									Tennis, cricket	
58	Chaffey Park	Sport									Cricket Oval and practise nets (x2). Toilets don't appear to be open to the public	
72	Chauvel Park	Sport									Cricket	
115	Chillingworth Oval	Sport									Rugby Union	
40	Cross Park	Sport									Cricket	
new	Footy Field at Scully Park	Sport									Rugby League field, fenced.	
41	Gipps Street Sports Complex	Sport									Touch/ cricket	
147	Jack Woolaston Oval	Sport									Rugby League	
105	Kingswood Park	Sport									Cricket wickets/ bat/ball available from local shop, but not been used in 18months. Sign to equestrian area at rear, but no obvious entry (possibly along the drain)	Monitor condition of cricket pitch. Retain as community common.

Park No	Park Name	Function	Hierarchy/ subtype	Setting	Basic Play Fac's	Toddler Play	Young Child Play	Teens Fac's	Picnic node	Paths	Comment/ description	Development Suggestion
138	North Recreation Reserve - BMX and Soccer	Sport									BMX and Soccer	
12	North Tamworth Tennis Club	Sport									Tennis. In need of substantial upgrade. Evidence of use (lines marked in sand).	Upgrade tennis facilities. Liaise with tennis clubs across Tamworth to determine most appropriate mix and location of court surfaces (hard vs synthetic grass). Ensure some free access to courts for local residents
135	Regional Sports Complex	Sport									Cricket/ hockey/ athletics	Ensure the master plan retains and if possible expands the recreation area
39	Riverside Sports Complex	Sport									Baseball, cricket, netball, softball, future minor league, soccer, touch	
13	Rugby Park	Sport									Rugby Union - Fenced. High quality rugby union park with substantial club facilities. Facility established exclusively for sporting club use with grounds inaccessible for non-organised recreation	
114	Scully Park	Sport									Cricket	
16	Viaduct Park	Sport									Oztag, Rugby Union	
24	Treloar Park	Specialised Sport									Tennis	Liaise with tennis clubs across Tamworth to determine most appropriate mix and location of court surfaces (hard vs synthetic grass)
Nil	Bowls Club - Anzac Park	Specialised Sport									Bowls club	Improve visual amenity from Anzac Park, by improving rear of building or screening
84	Village Park	Amenity									Grassed area in front of shopping centre car park. No capacity for recreation function (too close to road and car park). Includes a footpath (transport and access, rather than a recreational pathway)	Reconsider role in open space given impact from adjacent commercial area and car parking encroachment into park area. Additional tree planting could help create a cool green space and increase amenity.
129	Park - Windhover Crescent	Amenity									Attractive trees. Grass mound in middle of park. No other facilities. Good visibility and road frontage, could support some recreation	Possible local park, if needed. consider removing play elements from some other hidden parks and relocating
19	Railway Park	Amenity									Substantially landscaped/ vegetated. Provides visual relief from urban environment. Narrow, limited appeal or capacity for increased recreational function.	Maintenance of visual amenity is required given it's prominent location and lack of other green space in the vicinity
36	CWA Park	Amenity									Aeroplane, war memorial	
130	Park - Woodside Drive	Amenity									Contains a shelter and bench seat. Attractive view over railway line and main road	Potential for recreation play area development.
131	Rotary Park	Amenity							y		Highly developed park for traveller rest stops. Has 2 electric BBQ's, multiple sheltered tables, toilets and a canteen. Contains an Id tractor to climb on - no other play.	nil
93	Reserve - North Street	Amenity									Small area, surrounded by road. Not suitable for much recreation development, but could be visually improved.	Improve amenity through landscaping. Provide seating for passive recreation and/or socialising.
110	Reserve - Bradley Place	Amenity									Small, inaccessible area. Located at end of cul-de-sac and down slope, so particularly poor visibility. No value for recn.	Augment park area during future adjacent development and retain as bushland. Encourage revegetation.
3	Ulmus Park	Amenity								y	Contains off road pathway connection	Too close to Manilla Road for any additional recreation development. Could be further enhanced to service cycling function (rest stop area), if part of a longer cycling circuit or popular training route
69	Doring Park	Amenity									No facilities. Has multiple street frontages so suitable for improved recreation. Small size and irregular configuration will still limit functionality for recreation.	Potential for local recreation park
91	Reserve - Bryan Street	Amenity									Two trees, no facilities. Location at end of cul-de-sac limits suitability for recreation development.	Retain for amenity. Encourage community improvement plan
23	Oxley Park	Bushland										Investigate mountain biking
122	Wattle Park	Bushland									Has attractive tree lined creek through it. Small area at road corner could be developed for recreation, but is largely steep bushland block, dissected by drainage line. Adjacent owners have developed private play area, also some rubbish dumping.	Possible recreation node on road frontage corner
42	Lawson Park	Public Utility	Buffer								Contains shared use path (Westdale to city). Recreation value is impacted by proximity to major road. Area near Cunningham Road may have potential, however	A small recreation area could be possible close to Cunningham Street. However, extent of recreation is limited by proximity to houses (only 35m total width). Only pursue if no other (better) recreation option can be acquired south of Gunnedah Rd through future subdivision.
117	Reserve - Armidale Road	Public Utility	Buffer								Area adjacent to railway line. Inaccessible and no recreation value	Reconsider role open space system. Investigate possibility for disposal.
75	Wilga Park	Public Utility	Buffer								Provides amenity and buffer between residential use and road.	Reconsider role within open space system. Investigate alternative land use.
18	Long Gully Park	Public Utility	Drainage								Substantial drainage line, open grassed swale, with large pipes to drainage easement at southern end. Attractive mature trees throughout.	Not suitable for any recreation equip, but could support recreation corridor
77	Skillshare Park	Public Utility	Drainage								Detention basin, attractive grassed area with some vegetation around edges	Develop pathway around basin and along drainage line to create an recreational corridor. Connect path to Chauvel Park to the north, to create a green space within the residential area

Park No	Park Name	Function	Hierarchy/ subtype	Setting	Basic Play Fac's	Toddler Play	Young Child Play	Teens Fac's	Picnic node	Paths	Comment/ description	Development Suggestion
98	Reserve - Wilga Place	Public Utility	Drainage								Significant swale drain, but could provide recreation corridor along side. Needs path development to better facilitate recreation experience	Develop pathway connection alongside drain
105	Kingswood Park	Public Utility	Drainage								Area could support bridle trails, if track is regularly mown. Evidence of some trails in area, but limited evidence of horse use.	Encourage community development/ maintenance of bridle trails if demand arises. Mown trails could encourage walking.
124	Reserve - Herden Road	Public Utility	Drainage								Area could support bridle trails, if track is regularly mown. Evidence of some trails in area, but limited evidence of horse use. Could be used for walking.	Encourage community development/ maintenance of bridle trails if demand arises.
88	Monk Park	Public Utility	Infrastructure								Water reservoir	Connect path from Panorama to Monk Park to ensure accessibility for local residents
152	Reserve - Calala Creek	Public Utility	Infrastructure								Pumping station	
8	Park - Ernest Street	Public Utility	Infrastructure								Bollards dissect park through middle, creating a disjointed space. Some vehicle parking in park (on edges). Largely sloping block, with power and water infrastructure.	Possible local park development, but low priority as near to other, more appealing park. Remove bollards to integrate park area (unless there is some purpose for them)
113	Reserve - Wylie Place	Public Utility	Infrastructure								Transmission line reserve	nil
11	Reserve - Monterey Street	Public Utility	Infrastructure								Steeply sloped area with only access via steps from Bernice Place. Some form of water infrastructure (pipes) within park. Constrained by lack of accessibility and slope, although an unformed road reserve connects from Monterey St to Janson St via the park.	Investigate suitability for pathway connection from Monterey St to Janson St, with the park area providing a scenic viewing/ resting area. If topography precludes pathway development investigate alternative land use for the site.
116	Tamworth Basketball Stadium	Unallocated - recommended for recreation	Basketball								Existing stadium will be dismantled. Future land use is yet to be determined, but with open space deficiencies in catchment, the land should be retained for recreation or sport use.	Redevelop as a local recreation park, complementing the adjacent sport ground. Alternately, develop additional rugby union training field/ junior field to expand capacity of Chillingworth Oval and ensure unstructured recreation/ physical activity opportunities are included within the greater park area.
25	Prince of Wales Park (northern portion)	Unallocated									Area is largely impacted by adjacent development and building works. Has little value as open space	Consider alternate use of site
48	Reserve - Cole Road	Unallocated									Ponds, shelters/ seats. Developed by school as a wetlands project, but no point of public entry. Access seems to be across private land, and access gate on Siana Close is locked	Review intended access and management to ensure the benefits from prior investment of resources is maximised.
47	Hathaway Park	Undeveloped									Lacks any appeal. Long and narrow, but has good road frontage	Review alignment of park and relationship to surrounding properties as part of development on adjacent land. Ensure integration of open space area within overall urban design.
35	Jewry Park	Undeveloped									Provides access to the river. Used for camping during CMF times. Has car parking on old road. Potential to be integrated into greater riverside parkland system	Integrate with riverside park system in the long term
2	John Ives Park	Undeveloped - recommended for recreation corridor								DL	Creek line area, mature trees, with desire lines along both sides. Used extensively for walking by locals. Locals are mowing mown by locals	Develop pathway system, connecting with reserve to southwest, to create 2.2km circuit of trails (including street)
104	Reserve - Glengarvin Drive	Undeveloped								DL	Long narrow park along creek, traverses at back of houses. Used by locals for walking, when mown	Develop a recreation corridor. Install and maintain path system
84	Village Park	Undeveloped									40m wide area in front of future residential lots. Adjacent to shopping centre. Has potential for recreational development, but will need landscaping and fencing to ensure amenity of neighbours and safety (close to road/ shopping centre car park entry	Possible location for a local park, if appropriately developed to safely buffer play zones from the road. As it has high level exposure close to commercial zone, this area could cater for active space for older youth (e.g. basketball court).
87	Reserve - Hibiscus Way	Undeveloped - recommended for recreation									Excellent road frontage and potential for local recreation development. Currently is unappealing with poor grass cover.	Develop local play. Connect to other parks with pathways
153	Reserve - Warrah Drive	Undeveloped									Area still under development and park is subsequently in poor condition (weeds, lack grass, vehicle access through park). Property adjacent to park (to north) is the access driveway to farmland at rear.	Integrate park areas with landscaping and pathways
24	Treloar Park	Undeveloped - recommended for recreation									Large attractive open space with mature trees and interesting undulations. Contains a significant drainage line. Includes a public toilet and feature vehicle entry point, but with no other infrastructure. Incredible views across Tamworth, but not utilised	Develop a path system through the park, including creek crossings and viewing areas. Develop a scenic viewing area near corner of Raglan and Roderick Streets, including a path to a rotunda with seating and table(s). Could include basic play area.
27	High Zone Park	Undeveloped									Adjacent to water infrastructure which impacts on amenity of reserve.	Could be developed for increased recreational function, however Treloar Park has better prospects
80	Kestrel Park	Undeveloped									Some mature trees, no facilities. Could be developed for recreation	
82	Baringa Park	Undeveloped									This area needs to achieve road frontage to improve accessibility and use. Contains two small isolated play areas in an otherwise barren landscape. Lacks amenity.	Has potential to provide local recreation function if road frontage is obtained through future adjacent development
15	Angora Park	Undeveloped - recommended for recreation									Large grassed area predominantly sloped. Excellent vantage point for views across Tamworth	Develop a recreation area within park, making use of the slope as a feature (e.g. slides built into the slope). Could be suitable for a more challenging physical activity space, with steps and sloped pathways.
17	Burgess Park	Undeveloped - recommended for recreation									One seat, old signage frame, some scenic outlook.	

Park No	Park Name	Function	Hierarchy/ subtype	Setting	Basic Play Fac's	Toddler Play	Young Child Play	Teens Fac's	Picnic node	Paths	Comment/ description	Development Suggestion
102	Acacia Park	Undeveloped									No facilities, but has rubbish bin and tap. 4WD track through park, possibly accessing private property. Lovely outlook. Landscaping on road frontage corner, but no sign	Include seating, prevent vehicle access
103	Citiriodora Park	Undeveloped - recommended for recreation									Attractive small park. Contains one seat, poor quality and poorly positioned (looks at fence).	Should complement and tie in with Acacia Park (over road) Develop one of these parks for local recreation. Design for a more natural setting.
68	Reserve - Olma Street	Undeveloped									Undeveloped park, with good road frontage and outlook across farmland. Has potential for recreation. Eastern half impacted by creek line (bollards in place to segregate). Creek/ ponds could be integrated. Adjacent residents possibly encroaching	Develop local park (probably). Bollards to prevent vehicle access. Consider integrating creek line into park, rather than segregating it (landscape/ vegetate for water quality)
139	Reserve - Blaxland Way	Undeveloped									Potential for local recreation park	
40	Cross Park	Undeveloped									Area used for car parking during CMF	To be master planned within the greater Riverside/ Bicentennial Park precinct
31	Reserve - Valley Drive	Undeveloped									Intended use is not obvious. Limited road frontage and surrounds residential housing. Proximity to houses eliminates any capacity for recreational function	Investigate for possible disposal
143	Tamworth Regional Botanic Gardens	Undeveloped									open space area prior to reaching the botanic gardens. Only contains the access road at this time	If additional demand for use of this space arises, undertake master planning and community consultation to prevent adhoc development
78	Park - Kurrajong Street	Undeveloped									Extremely constrained access/ road frontage (only 5m wide). Located at back of houses, but adjacent to primary school. Unsuitable for recreational development due to access, but is an attractive space. Has one seat.	Integrate with school site (Hillvue Primary school)
90	Reserve - Bylong Road	Undeveloped									Mowing practise and bus stop.	Improve as amenity/ entrance statement, or just retain as a land bank
62	Hyman Park	Undeveloped								DL	Vehicles accessing park for car parking. Used as a thoroughfare. Area should function as a district park, but is underdeveloped for this role. Excellent visibility and road frontage	Bollards to prevent vehicle access. Pathway development connecting to western half of park. Consider use as part of a master plan for Hyman park
51	Centenary Park	Undeveloped								DL	Large open space with no facilities. Has a number of desire lines connecting road ends	
46	Stewart Park	Vacant									Extremely poor access/ visibility. Is being used by adjacent residents to access rear of properties (looks like access for industrial rubbish bin, also used for parking cars/ trailers). Too small and inaccessible for recreation. Low amenity.	Investigate for possible disposal
149	Reserve - Marius Street	Vacant									Has potential to be master planned as part of a larger sporting precinct	
106	Reserve - Colwell Road	Vacant									Big paddock, not mown. No obvious use. Retain as a land bank for the future	Consider leasing to adjacent land owners for grazing/ adjustment (5year rolling lease)
151	Reserve - Manilla Road	Vacant									Unutilised parcels. Purpose not clear - may be for future road widening, or access restriction. Barren, unattractive. A number of vehicle tracks from adjacent landowners accessing private property through park	Landscaping, entry statement
62	Hyman Park	vacant									Irregular shape and narrow entry/egress point limit functionality for recreational use. Could form a recn corridor if pathway was developed and connected to main part of Hyman Park. Being accessed by vehicles	Consider pathways and landscaping as part of a master plan for Hyman Park. This could also consider road treatments to slow traffic and reconnect the park areas. Bollards required to prevent vehicle access.
66	Oak Park	Vacant									Unattractive and inaccessible park. Used by adjacent residents for vehicle access to rear of properties (clear vehicle tracks in park)	Nil - dispose if a use can be found. Inappropriate access and layout for any recreational use.
158	Reserve - Locks Lane	Vacant									Flood plain - potential for future sport	
new	Reserve - Kenny Drive	Vacant									Recent development contribution. Can provide local park opportunities in the future, but is very close to Granny Munro Park	Revegetate, retain as a land bank
Manilla												
M12	Pioneer Park	Amenity									Very small area that provides a break in the urban environment. Memorial values	Nil. Maintain as is
M14	Manilla War Memorial Swimming Pool	Aquatic										
M--	Manilla Ski Gardens	Outdoor Recreation									Not inspected as part of Recn and OS Plan. Assumed to provide some free camping and outdoor recreation opportunities.	
M13	Split Rock Dam	Outdoor Recreation										
M15	Manilla Cemetery	Public Utility	Cemetery									
M--	Pound Park	Recreation	Local	Urban							Dog off leash area. Open paddock with rubbish bin. No facilities. Visual amenity could be improved, but no specific demand identified.	
M1	Chaffey Park	Recreation	Local	Semi natural					y			
M1	Chaffey Park	Recreation	Local	Urban	y						Small playground area adjacent to sports fields	
M16	Park - Stoddard Street	Recreation	Local	Urban	y						Functional local park with good kick-about space and basic play facilities. Maintain as is	Nil

Park No	Park Name	Function	Hierarchy/ subtype	Setting	Basic Play Fac's	Toddler Play	Young Child Play	Teens Fac's	Picnic node	Paths	Comment/ description	Development Suggestion
M3	Rotary Park	Recreation	Local	Urban		y				y	Well developed park that forms a central focus point for locals. Contains bird aviary. Highly valued space, although some children are missing having a paved area to ride bikes around.	Nil, maintain as is
M5	Carinya Park	Recreation	Local	Urban		y	y		y		Attractive local park with seating and novel play elements. Clear evidence of use.	Play elements are somewhat disjointed with little relationship between their physical location in the park. Ideally play elements would be consolidated into one larger softfall area if upgraded in the future
M7	Coronation Park	Recreation	Local	Urban		y			y		Local play opportunity and travellers rest stop. Has sheltered seating and other tables, mature trees and toilets. Landscaping and trees planting. Proposed site for skate park.	
M--	The Junction	Recreation Corridor	Local	Semi-Urban						Y	Attractive riverside walking track. Area is road reserve and riverbed (i.e. not a property parcel). Community is working to extend gravel walking path through area.	Continue formation of gravel walking path
M2	Federation Park	Recreation Corridor	Local	Semi-Urban						Y	Attractive riverside area. Has vehicle tracks through it, but these provide quasi path for walking. Connects to Showground via riverfront.	
M--	Manilla Tennis Centre	Specialised Sport									Tennis	
M11	Showgrounds	Specialised Sport									Equestrian - Manilla showground and pony club areas	
M--	Brady Park	Sport						y			Cricket oval and cricket practise nets	
M1	Chaffey Park	Sport										
M11	Showgrounds	Sport									Football field within showground	
M8	Willows Parade Reserve	Undeveloped									Large area of park with some mature trees. Lower lying but is largely unaffected by drainage constraints. Has potential for recreational use in the future, but there is no specific demand evident at this time.	
Barraba												
B7	Australia Day Park	Amenity									Rest area. 2 tables and seats	
B15	Barraba War Memorial Swimming Pool Complex	Aquatic Facility										
B19	Glenriddle Reserve	Outdoor Recreation										
B20	Barraba Cemetery	Public Utility	Cemetery									
B1	O'Meara Park	Recreation	Local	Urban		y	y		y		Town feature park. New toilets, picnic table and BBQ. New good multi play equipment, steam train. Great shade. Open kick about space. Street light in middle of park??	
B4	Rotary Park	Recreation	Local	Urban	y						Swings, slide, tables and seats fair shade. Uninspiring play	
B5	Flynn Ave Park	Recreation	Local	Urban	y						Smallest park in the world.	
B6	Cherry Street Park	Recreation	Local	Semi-Urban	y						Tables and seats (old and in poor condition) swings. Poor access to river but beautiful setting	Develop as starting point for riverside walk. Upgrade Cherry Street Park with additional barbecues, gazebos and pathways
B8	Fitzroy Street Park	Recreation	Local	Semi-Urban							Tables and chairs. Entrance to pathway along river that heads away from the bridge to ward Savoy St (but stops dead).	Connect as part of river path way system.
B14	Showground	Specialised Sport									Equestrian - Barraba Showground	
B18	Barraba Tennis Courts	Specialised Sport									Tennis - 5 synthetic. Relatively new clubhouse in good condition. courts are all lit (quality unknown). Courts are locked	
B11	Sports Ground	Sport										
B16	Barraba Recreation Ground	Sport									Rugby League	
Nundle												
N16	Hanging Rock Lookout Reserve	Amenity				y					Scenic lookout	
N3	Swamp Creek Reserve	Amenity									Open area between creek and road. Attractive outlook	
N12	Nundle Swimming Pool	Aquatic Facility										
N1	Sheba Dam	Bushland									Contains both Sheba Dams as well as large bushland tract	
N15	Hanging Rock Lookout Reserve	Bushland									Includes outdoor recreation. Environmental connection with Hanging Rock State Forest area	Upgrade facilities and trails
N1	Sheba Dam	Outdoor Recreation							y		Attractive setting for picnicking, fishing and camping. Facilities for group and individual picnicking. Fishing pier.	Upgrade facilities
N13	The Old Chimney Fossickers Reserve	Outdoor Recreation									Gold panning area near camp ground	
N3	Swamp Creek Reserve	Outdoor Recreation									Camping and gold panning area	
N8	Teamsters Rest Campsite	Outdoor Recreation									Attractive creek side area used for camping during country music festival	
N4	Captain Cook Park	Recreation	Local	Urban		y			y		Park has a master plan developed by CDC	

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N5	Peel River Park	Recreation	Local	Urban					y		One BBQ and a table, not positioned near each other. Currently has road alignment through it. Could be enhanced more as a picnic spot if it stops being used for traffic.	Proposed by locals as a potential site for skate park, but lacks connection to other active areas. Future of road will determine future functionality for any recreation use
N9	Hanging Rock Cricket Ground	Recreation	Local	Semi-Urban							Used by locals for large community events (e.g. special games), when it will be mown specially. Generally just an unmown paddock. Has a cricket wicket but no other facilities.	
N--	Nundle Bowls Club and Golf Club	Specialised Sport									Ownership and tenure needs to be confirmed (crown/ council or private). Golf/ Bowls	
N6	Nundle Recreation Ground	Sport									Footy field area	
N6	Nundle Recreation Ground - WG Schofield Memorial Park	Sport									Tennis	
N6	Nundle Recreation Ground	Undeveloped									open area used for community event space	
Kootingal												
P18	Federation Park	Amenity									Entrance Park	
P22	Parry Park	Amenity									Entrance statement to Kootingal	
P24	War Memorial Park	Amenity									Contains seats war memorial, seats, table chair, shade.	Integrate with other adjacent parkland along creek line to create an attractive and varied landscape of park areas and walk/cycle paths. Enhance Sandy Creek in the area near the amphitheatre (clear the creek of weeds and develop footbridges and walking tracks along the creek bank). Upgrade the existing amenities facility
P50	Kootingal-Moonbi War Memorial Swimming Pool	Aquatic Facility										
P21	Somers Park	Recreation	Local	Urban		y				DL	Playground area adjacent to local shop.	Investigate possible disposal of this park
P26	Reserve Garden Street	Recreation	Local	Urban							Area attractively developed by local community.	Provide swings
P44	Reserve Chaffey Street (Kootingal)	Recreation	Local	Urban				y			Skate park. Remainder of reserve is undeveloped	Enhance Sandy Creek in the area near the amphitheatre (clear the creek of weeds and develop footbridges and walking tracks along the creek bank)
P23	Recreation Ground	Sport									Kootingal oval.	Integrate with other adjacent parkland along creek line to create an attractive and varied landscape of park areas and walk/cycle paths/ tracks
P20	Reserve Sandy Road	Undeveloped									Park area to be expanded through augmentation if adjacent block develops in the future.	
P44	Reserve Chaffey Street (Kootingal)	Undeveloped									Undeveloped bushland. Some trails are "bashed" through, indicating potential for a walk/ cycle track system. Has potential to be very attractive recreation setting	Potential to be integrated with other adjacent parkland along creek line to create an attractive and varied landscape of park areas and walk/cycle paths/ tracks
P19	Reserve Willow Tree Drive	Vacant	Constrained								Small, thin parcel. No ability to augment. Too small to develop for recreation (would cause nuisance to adjacent residents)	
P17	Reserve Privet Street	Vacant									Poor access and road frontage. Used for private vehicle access to rear of properties. Never/ rarely used	Investigate for possible disposal. Identify and develop an alternative area for a recreation park.
P23	Recreation Ground	Vacant									Vacant land to the rear and north of Kootingal pool	Integrate with other adjacent parkland along creek line to create an attractive and varied landscape of park areas and walk/cycle paths/ tracks
Other Areas												
P42	Attunga - Camping Ground	Amenity									Attunga Camping Ground and traveller rest stop area. Tables, toilets and landscaping.	
P41	Attunga Recreation Ground	Sport									Newish club house. Tennis courts, cricket nets (x2), field with footy goal in disrepair. Path mown around the outside (probably for walking	
P8	Bendemeer Football Ground	Sport			y						Rugby ground and tennis courts. Rural fire brigade station in front of park	
P7	Bendemeer - Fishing Reserve	Bushland									Attractive area on river bank with excellent access to the water for swimming etc.	Nil. Keep this treasure for the locals
P12	Bendemeer Recreation Reserve	Recreation	Local	Semi-urban							Attractive riverside walkway, developed with tables and bbqs. Used by walkers and horse riders. Also used as a camping area	
P12	Bendemeer Recreation Reserve	Specialised Sport									Equestrian - Bendemeer pony club area	
P11	Bendemeer War Memorial Park	Recreation	Local	Urban		y	y		y		Attractive recreation park and rest stop	Retain as is
P29	Dungowan Sports Ground	Recreation	Local	Semi-Urban							Attractive areas along creek. Has potential for camping	
P29	Dungowan Sports Ground	Sport									sporting field area	
P--	Dungowan Tennis Club	Sport									Tennis	
P48	Duri Recreation Ground	Recreation	Local								Not inspected as part of Recn and OS Plan. Assumed to provide local recreation. Use should be accurately determined	

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P15	Moonbi - Chook Park	Recreation	Local	Urban		y			y		Well developed local park and rest stop. Contains shaded play area and picnic facilities, mature trees and parking area.	
P16	Moonbi Showgrounds	Specialised Sport									Equestrian - Pony club, cutting horse and trotting track. Includes cross country jumps along river bank.	
P34	Nemingha Recreation Reserve	Specialised Sport									Model cars. Track in good condition, appears to have recently been upgraded/ developed	
P32	Niangala Recreation Ground	Recreation	Local								Not inspected as part of Recn and OS Plan. Assumed to provide local recreation. Use should be accurately determined	
P49	Niangala Tennis Courts	Specialised Sport									Not inspected as part of Recn and OS Plan. Tennis courts are assumed to be locked and available for fee for hire. Use should be accurately determined	
P13	Oxley Anchor	Amenity									Road side rest area. Contains a vehicle pull through and sheltered table. Features an anchor.	nil
P35	Recreation Reserve Piallamore	Sport										
P47	Woolomin Reserve	Recreation	Local	Semi-Urban					y		Attractive rest area/ picnic node beside creek	

DL = Desire Lines