



murray river  
council

*Parks and Open Spaces*

**STRATEGY  
2024-2034**



Murray River Council acknowledges Aboriginal people as the traditional custodians of the land on which our offices and services are located.

We pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.  
We acknowledge the stories, traditions and living cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples on this land and commit to building a brighter future together.





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**T**his Parks and Open Spaces Strategy will guide how we sustainably manage, protect and invest in the open space network across Murray River Council.

It covers management of council-owned parks, open spaces, sportsgrounds, cemeteries, drainage reserves and road reserves.

The Strategy outlines different categories of open space, along with the corresponding hierarchies and inclusions. It provides a framework for the ongoing monitoring and management of existing spaces, as well as clear guidance for future open space development.

A detailed Service Delivery Plan will sit underneath this Open Space Strategy.





## Mayor's Message with Frank Crawley

I am pleased to introduce our new Parks and Open Spaces Strategy, a document that serves as a compass for the planning, management, and delivery of public open spaces within our council.

Our towns and villages are blessed with diverse landscapes and open spaces that hold significant aesthetic, social, economic, and recreational value. With over 380 land parcels under our management, including 205 hectares of parks and sportsgrounds, and 322 hectares of bushland reserves, we have a responsibility to ensure these spaces meet the evolving needs of our growing communities.

We recognise that our towns are expanding, the climate is changing, and new recreation trends are emerging. Therefore, it's imperative that we manage our open spaces equitably throughout the council to provide high-quality amenities for all residents.

We also need to do this in a financially responsible manner. Council's current financial position and 10-year outlook present challenges in maintaining our existing assets to meet community expectations. We need to employ a revised methodology for open space provision, to ensure we are not over servicing in some areas and under serving in others. We need to rationalise our approach to open space management to ensure it is sustainable over the longer-term.

Ultimately, good planning is essential to the creation of public open spaces that allow our community to gather, play, and thrive.

Our goal is clear: to sustainably create and maintain safe, accessible open spaces that promote healthy living and active lifestyles while fostering a strong sense of identity and belonging.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank Crawley'.

Frank Crawley  
MAYOR

Our region, our community.

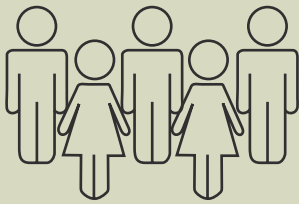
Murray River Council is home to a vibrant mix of riverside communities where relaxed country living and modern-day indulgence collide.

We are just over 3 hours from Wagga Wagga and only 2.5 hours from Melbourne.

Our population is estimated to be approximately 12,330 with most of our residents residing in one of our seven townships, Moama, Barham, Wakool, Moulamein, Murray Downs Tooleybuc and Mathoura or our smaller villages of Bunnaloo, Womboota, Caldwell, Burraboi, Koraleigh, Speewa and Goodnight.



## Our people...



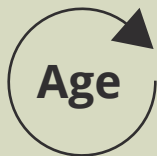
**13,326**  
people in  
Murray River Council



**4 875**  
occupied household  
dwellings



**2.4 people**  
average number  
per household



**49 years**  
median age



**3.8%**  
of our population identify  
as Aboriginal or  
Torres Strait Islander



**55.8%**  
workforce employed  
full time

## Our economy...



**\$1.86 billion**  
Economic output  
(0.12% of \$1.6T for NSW)



**4,860**  
jobs in  
Murray River Council LGA



**1454**  
registered businesses



**\$80.99m**  
value of  
building approvals



**\$891.47m**  
gross regional product



**Top 3 industries**  
Agriculture, forestry & fishing  
Accommodation & food  
Construction

# NSW Government Strategic Planning

The Public Open Space Strategy for NSW (NSW State Government) and the Everyone Can Play Guidelines (NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI)) are the key NSW Government strategic documents that guide the development of this Strategy.

## NSW Public Open Spaces Strategy (2022)

The Public Open Space Strategy for NSW provides a framework for implementing policies across the Government and seeks to deliver a more connected approach to public open space planning and delivery.

The strategy also looks at open space planning from a regional context: highlighting that the challenges experienced in regional towns and communities are not always the same as those in Sydney and across the different regions of NSW.

The State Government also calls for a simpler, more unified, and fiscally responsible way for agencies to realise their shared commitment to creating quality public open space. In this way, agencies can coordinate and fulfil objectives of existing plans for open space delivery and management.

It also recognises the need for greater support for local Government to plan, deliver and manage public open space. The NSW Government has an essential role in enabling this by providing greater investment, tailored guidance, and thought leadership. Through better coordination, every dollar invested in public open space can be more effectively used — leveraging greater outcomes by sharing expertise and resources.

## NSW Everyone Can Play Guidelines (2023)

'Everyone Can Play' is a best practice resource for councils, community leaders, landscape architects and passionate local residents. It is a reference guide for creating world-class playspaces, designed to include everyone in the community.

### The Five Key Objectives of the Everyone Can Play Guidelines NSW are:

1. Better recognition for public open space
2. Stronger First Nations involvement
3. Coordinated planning governance, policy and funding.
4. Greater social, environmental and economic value.
5. Better outcomes for Regional NSW.

The document outlines the key principles of inclusive playspaces and provides the tools to convert ideas into improvements.

'Everyone Can Play' is not a new standard, but is a set of best practice recommendations designed to encourage local authorities to create more inclusive playspaces based on three simple questions: 'Can I get there? Can I play? Can I stay?'

## Local considerations

Whilst the strategic and collaborative approach from the State Government is critical for public open space development and management across the whole of NSW, Murray River Council must also look towards its long-term financial sustainability in any future open space planning.

Over many years, Council has accumulated and acquired an overabundance of open space. This has led to both over and under-servicing, and difficulty in managing community expectations right across the footprint.

Therefore, when considering council's future provision of parks and open spaces, this strategy will offer a more strategic approach. It will be a guide to rationalising existing open spaces which offer little recreational value, whilst also looking at opportunities to create new or improved open spaces that are well-maintained and financially sustainable.





Our play-planning and provision is based on the NSW Government's world-recognised play planning guidelines "Everyone can Play". These guidelines present three simple questions to play-planners:  
Can I get there? Can I play? Can I stay?





# Scope of the Open Space Strategy

This strategy will focus on the Open Spaces owned or managed by Council which are available for use by community members, stakeholder groups and visitors. The open spaces may be used for various activities including recreation, events, leisure and experiences.

Council's open space land falls into the following classifications: Community, Operational and Council-managed.

## Community land

-parks and sportsgrounds

Community land is land Council makes available for use by the general public, such as parks, reserves and sports grounds. Community land cannot be sold, exchanged or otherwise disposed of by a Council. It can be leased, but there are restrictions on the grant of leases and licences and the way Community land can be used. A plan of management, adopted by Council, is required for all Community land, and details the specific uses and management of the land.



## Operational land

-urban and infrastructure property

Operational land refers to land that is used by statutory undertakers for the purpose of carrying out their functions. Statutory undertakers are public bodies or companies that provide essential services, such as water, gas, electricity, or transport. Operational land typically includes land intended as an investment, land that facilitates the carrying out of a council's functions, or land that may not be open to the general public such as Council's works depot or water filtration plants.





## Council-managed land

-Crown Land managed by Council



Crown land or reserves are land set aside on behalf of the community for a wide range of public purposes, including environmental and heritage protection (cultural and European), recreation and sport, open space, community halls, special events and government services.

Where Crown land is set aside for a public purpose, it can be either 'reserved' or 'dedicated', which makes it available only for a use that will deliver public benefit or good.

The use of Crown land depends on the type and the purpose of the land. Generally, the use of a reserve must be consistent with or support the purposes stated in the reservation or dedication.

Where possible, multiple uses of reserves are encouraged, where those uses are consistent with the purpose of the reserve. For example, a reserve for public recreation could be used by various sporting groups, by the public for recreation and with ancillary commercial activity such as a kiosk or café to improve users' recreational experience.

Murray River Council plays a part in the management of 122 Crown reserves, consisting of 63 sites, as an appointed Crown Land Manager (CLM). Together, councils manage around 6,500 Crown reserves across NSW. CLMs have a crucial role to play in the care, control and management of Crown reserves and need to consider a range of legislation.

All community land managed by a Council and used by the community must have a Plan of Management as required under the Crown Land Management Act 2016 (CLM Act) and the Local Government Act 1993 (LG Act).

**Other types of infrastructure, such as public halls, urban footpath connections and Council operational land not used for recreational purposes, are not specifically covered in the scope of this Strategy.**

Recreational land and facilities not managed by Council will also be recognised as a valuable contribution to the broader recreational experience for the community and the region's visitors.

# Strategic links

Projects contained within Councils Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program provide a direct link to community feedback and connection to Parks and Open Spaces. Three of the seven themes Council is working towards delivering are:

- A place of environmental sensitivity
- A place of liveable communities
- Connected communities

## **Other strategic documents and projects which have significant influence**

Murray River Council prepared and endorsed strategies that relate or interlink with this Strategy:

- Murray River Council Community Strategic Plan (CSP)
- Revenue Task Force Actions and Outcomes
- Murray River Council Open Space Asset Review and Management Plan
- Economic Development and Tourism Strategy
- Murray River Council Arts and Culture Strategy

Subsequent planning instruments and planning documents that provide regulations and/or requirements for Public open spaces including:

- Murray River Council Local Strategic Planning Statement
- Murray River Council Local Housing Strategy Council (Part 2 implementation)
- Draft Employment Lands Strategy
- Murray and Wakool Local Environment Plans (Murray LEP)
- Murray and Wakool Development Control Plans
- Murray and Wakool Developer Contributions Plans

Other plans and documents that help plan and guide the development of this Strategy include:

- Murray River Council's Operational Plan and Capital Budget
- Sustainable Murray River Council Project
- Urban Master plans (various locations)
- Meninya Street Precinct Project
- Parks and Open Spaces Service delivery plan

Our Community Strategic Plan outlines our Community Vision and Council Mission. These statements assist in driving the strategic direction of the Parks and Open Space Strategy.



# Community Vision



Murray River Council has vibrant, diverse and cohesive communities. We are supported by strong local business and primary industries. We value our beautiful waterways and natural surrounds.

This means that:

- The communities of the Murray River Council area are productive, inclusive, and growing based on a strong tourism economy and thriving primary industries, all underpinned by the natural assets of our region;
- The Murray River Council area offers a quality lifestyle with affordable living, working, recreation and cultural opportunities for all ages.

# Our Mission



To work with each of our unique communities to foster economic growth and prosperity, support community health and wellbeing, and protect and enhance our environment.

While planning effectively for the future to ensure appropriate infrastructure and services that will support quality lifestyles and provide recreational opportunities for our Murray River community (for all ages).



# Methodology

## How was this strategy developed?

Between 2020-2023, Murray River Council (MRC) undertook a detailed 'Needs and Demands' analysis of its sports and recreation assets to determine current provisions and required future provisions.

CT Management Consulting was engaged to assist staff to undertake community surveys, via QR codes and website feedback (YourSay). As part of the brief, the consultant was to identify all land that MRC owns or maintains then further assess the condition of all the assets. This included buildings and park assets such as furniture, structures, play equipment and general infrastructure.

The final report from CT Management (Needs and Demand Assessment for Sport and Recreation Facilities 2021) clearly identified the high number of assets MRC owns. Unfortunately, the report also identified the over abundance of assets in certain areas than need to be maintained. This is no longer sustainable due to Councils current financial position and outlook for the next 10 years (the life of this strategy).

The final draft Revenue Taskforce Report (Resolution 070323) identified that Council has a significant amount of land and building assets which are surplus to current and future needs. It also supports the disposal of these surplus assets which would in turn would offer a significant reduction in longer-term operational expenditure (maintenance and servicing).

At the Extraordinary meeting of Council on November 15 2023 the Council decided not to proceed with community consultation to investigate a Special Rate Variation (SRV) to increase rating income to assist with the offset of operational costs. This decision has had a direct influence on the direction, recommendations and actions of this Strategy.

Our Teams reviewed and considered current and future service delivery standards for Council's Parks and Open Spaces, with a view to become financially sustainable into the future with the current resourcing levels. Workshops were run with our Parks and Gardens staff to determine current service levels and to determine future service levels under the adopted Open Space hierarchy and provisions.

Commenced early draft of the Strategy, referencing past consultation and/or feedback over the prior four years, including:

- Feedback from the Community Strategic Plan public consultation program (2021)
- Meetings and direct feedback from community groups and Section 355 committees (volunteers)
- CT Management Needs and Demands Assessment project and final report
- Customer complaints and requests for service
- Housing Strategy feedback and recommendations
- Population growth projections
- Sport and recreational participation trends

Develop an action plan taking into consideration:

- Open Space Asset Management Plan
- Outcomes and recommendations from the Public Consultation related to this strategy,
- The Housing Strategy
- Revenue Taskforce Strategy,
- Future Delivery Programs and Community Strategic Plans and inclusion of recommendations and outcomes from this strategy.



# Community and stakeholder engagement

Murray River Council (MRC) engaged the services of CT Management Group Pty Ltd (CTMG) in July 2020 to conduct a 'Needs and Demand Assessment' for the provision of sport and recreation facilities throughout the region. The assessment was undertaken to identify opportunities for improvement or consolidation of resources, and to ensure that the level of facility provision is suitable for the current distribution of residents across all communities, both now and into the future.

As part of the assessment exercise, and with the aid of MRC officers, CTMG conducted a future demands survey (referenced below) with the community to help inform the assessment findings and to assist with understanding the future needs and desires of the community.

The primary elements of the 'Needs and Demand Assessment' project were as follows:

- Assess the current suitability of recreation and sporting facilities to meet the needs of the population now and into the future
- Identify key stakeholders and engage and consult regarding future needs
- Identify trends and demand for sports facilities across the region based on the evidence collected for the growth of individual sports across the region
- Identify opportunities for MRC to promote new recreational activities currently not provided for at existing sites
- Assessment and analysis of current use, projected future use, community levels of service and cost for service
- Projected growth planning based on population thresholds/lots per year
- Analysis of current risk, use and budget allocation for each site/area
- Review current and future water demands for the provision of sport and recreational facilities
- Assessment of current water usage and projected future water requirements and associated costs
- Provide a list of priority actions and recommendations.

## Needs and demands survey response

In 2022 we ran the 'Open Spaces Needs and Demands Survey' via a QR code link placed at all of Council's local park spaces. The survey had specific questions around usage levels and activities. It also sought information about how respondents felt about the condition of our parks and the facilities within them.

Key response statistics include:

- **1,095** visitors to the QR Code/survey website
- **627** community members responded via the QR code of the 689 responses. The others were directly via the website.



Town/Village	Number of responses	Percentage of responses
Moama	386	56%
Barham	119	17.3%
Tooleybuc	52	7.5%
Mathoura	33	4.8%
Wakool	11	1.6%
Moulamein	54	7.8%
Womboota or Bunnaloo	1	0.1%
Calimo or Caldwell	17	2.5%
Murray Downs	10	1.5%
Old Noorong or Merran Creek	3	0.4%
Koraleigh	3	0.4%
	<b>689</b>	<b>99.9%</b>

## Top-5 most valued aspects of our open spaces



Trees



Paths



Play equipment



Landscaped areas



Accessibility

## Top-5 most popular activities in our open spaces



Walking



Playing with kids



Walk the dog



Quiet relaxation



Exercise

## Top-5 suggested open space improvements



Toilets



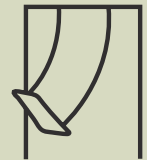
Seats



Shelter



Bins



Play equipment

## Other provisions the community would like:

- Splash park/water play park for children
- More seats in parks and along walking tracks and more shelters over seats
- Multi-purpose indoor stadium for netball, basketball, squash, indoor cricket, heated pool. All these facilities would accommodate all age groups
- Public toilets
- More play equipment
- More information about the Indigenous history of the area
- More waking paths that connect to significant areas or new developments
- Further facilities available for children over the age of 7 and for teenage-aged children
- Pump tracks
- Skate parks
- Increased lighting along paths and areas to discourage antisocial behaviour.



# Guiding principles for open space management

**To achieve our Community Vision and Council Mission, the following guiding principles will assist us to plan, design and manage Open Spaces across our region.**

## **Character and Economic Benefit**

- Towns and villages are aesthetically pleasing, blended with an abundance of green open spaces that encourage people to want to live, work and play in Murray River Council.
- Local housing opportunities provide a mix of small to larger residential allotments, with future developments released at predetermined times, where available lots will have access to raw water and should be blended with operational and community land that inspires investment and population growth.
- The Murray River Local Housing Strategy vision is to create vibrant, diverse and cohesive communities. This strategy supports Council's ongoing investment in quality open space networks and supports the continued greening and development of our communities in towns and villages.

## **Quality**

- Open spaces are appealing, welcoming, accessible and inclusive for everyone.
- High quality, fit-for-purpose open spaces are delivered in new and existing communities.
- Open spaces are serviced according to the classification within the hierarchy within to encourage use.
- Open spaces are designed within the provision standards, and hierarchy.
- Inclusions and assets are relevant for their type.

## **Diversity**

- A range of open spaces that support quality lifestyles and provide recreational opportunities for our Murray River community (for all ages).
- Reflect and celebrate cultural diversity.
- Plan multi-purpose spaces that can deliver a range of benefits.

## **Health and well-being**

- Encourage all residents, visitors and community members to live active and healthy lifestyles.
- Promote a sense of community, happiness and well-being.
- Ensure the safety of the community through good design of open spaces.
- Support opportunities for social interactions and community connections.

## **Accessibility**

- People of all ages, abilities, health, gender and cultural backgrounds feel welcome and can easily access our open spaces.
- Open spaces are within walking distance of where people live (within the hierarchy).
- Universal design principles are applied when planning and designing open spaces to improve access for everyone.

## **Equity**

- Quality open spaces are equitably distributed and funded across the region taking into account population projections.
- Sportsgrounds are maintained based on needs and demand assessment, population projections and sporting standards required for the level of relevant code played at each location.

## Connectivity

- An open space network that is well connected by way of pathways, streetscapes and natural corridors.
- Shared pathway infrastructure that is accessible to all.
- Open spaces are connected to key community destinations.
- Opportunities exist for people to connect with the natural environment.

## Environment protection and conservation

- Protect and enhance local biodiversity and ecosystems.
- Develop connections and infrastructure with environmental considerations .
- Strengthen and celebrate our diverse Indigenous and non-Indigenous heritage.
- Encourage people to experience natural and cultural heritage without compromising biodiversity, heritage and scenic values.

## Sustainability

- Adopt an evidence based strategic approach to the planning of open spaces.
- Ensure open space inclusions are within their required hierarchy classification.
- Incorporate sustainable design and maintenance practices.
- Implement Operational Service Delivery Plan.
- Mitigate the impacts of climate change where possible.
- Build partnerships with others to ensure an integrated approach to open space management for better outcomes for the community and the environment.
- Ensure sustainable financial management of the open space network.





# Facility sustainability and a multi-use approach

A key requirement when considering the supply of sport and recreation facilities within Murray River Council is the avoidance of resource duplication (where possible). Planning of future sport and recreation developments needs to be mindful of the broader regional context (and cross-border) as well as Council's long-term sustainability, and the sustainability of each facility in general.

From this perspective it is recommended that Council closely scrutinise future project requests that have the potential to duplicate what may already exist in part, or fully, in other locations or add a depreciation cost.

**Consideration of facility utilisation levels is key as part of this approach. If evidence suggests that utilisation rates are below acceptable standards, then there is a strong justification to not develop further facilities, and simply seek to increase the utilisation and functionality of the existing assets.**

Where there are reasonable grounds to create multi-use hubs that contain a mix of identified and suitable facilities - as opposed to having several of the same and potentially diluted and substandard quality facilities available throughout the region - this outcome should be pursued.

In some instances, open spaces have been inherited by Council without forward planning to resource them. Through efficient use, management, acquisition and disposal of open space, Council's objective will be to provide a financially sustainable long-term open space network for all users and all communities with balance across the region.

## Considering environmental factors

The Murray River Council Developer Contributions Plan and Local Housing Strategy will seek to align raw water security for future open space development. This strategy also considers environmental factors such as water usage throughout the region within open space areas. It provides guidance, through the hierarchy structure on locations that present reasonable opportunity for the cessation of irrigation in an effort to reduce water consumption levels. Through the rationalisation and/or lowering of service levels, Murray River Council can work towards reducing overall water usage.



**Council must closely scrutinise future project requests that have the potential to duplicate what may already exist in part, or fully, in other locations, or add a depreciation cost.**







## Service Provisioning Framework

**A service provisioning framework outlines the minimum level of service an area will be accustomed to.**

It is based on land area available, population of the catchment (people that the space will service) and characteristics of the land (shape, size, gradient of the land, road frontage, flood immunity). The type of embellishments available at each site are also dependent of classification.

**After reviewing the data, including undertaking a comparative review of existing standards from our neighbouring councils, Councillors adopted Service Provisioning Standard classifications, which are detailed on the following pages. All parks and sportsgrounds must fit within these hierarchies and be classified as Community Land.**

In addition to parks, open spaces, sportsgrounds and courts, there was a need for classifications to be developed for road reserves, drainage basins and cemeteries. These are not covered via the Service Provisioning Standards rather, in the Hierarchy and Parks Service Delivery Plan.

The general target for Murray River Council to aim towards when it comes to the provision of open space is:

- **4 hectares per 1,000 population**

This target is generally suggested to consist of:

- 1.5ha of park/open space area per 1,000 population
- 2.5ha of sportsground area per 1,000 population

## Provisioning standards

The provisioning standards, when it comes to the desired standards and levels of service for the parks and sportsgrounds areas are as follows:

### Parks and open spaces

Category	Land Area provision (ha per 1000 people)	Minimum park Size	Accessibility (population catchment)	Land Characteristics
Community	0.6ha	6ha of useable space	1,000m (population above 1,500)  Central location (population below 1,500)	Shape: Square to rectangle with sides no greater than 2:1  Gradient: Average 1:20 for main use areas, 1:50 for kickabout area, variable for remainder of the park  Road frontage: 30-50% of the perimeter to have direct frontage on a collector road.  Flood immunity: at least 50% of the total area above the 50-year-level, with main activity areas above the 100-year-level.
Neighbourhood	0.5ha	1-2ha of usable space (Population above 1,500)  0.25 -1ha of usable space (population below 1,500)	400m (population above 5,000)  500m (population between 5,000 and 1,500)  Central location (population below 1,500)	Shape: Square to rectangle with sides no greater than 2:1  Gradient: Max 1:10 for 80% of the park.  Road frontage: 30-50% of the perimeter to have direct road frontage on a collector road.  Flood immunity: 25% of the area above the 50-year-level with main activity areas above the 100-year-level.
Passive / Ornamental	0.4ha	0.5ha of usable space	1,000m (Population above 1,500)  Central location (Population below 1,500)	Shape: Square to rectangle with sides no greater than 2:1  Gradient: Max 1:10 for 80% of the park.  Road frontage: 30-50% of the perimeter to have direct road frontage.  Flood immunity: 15% of the area above the 100-year-level and free of hazards.



## Sportsgrounds and courts

Category	Land Area provision (ha per 1000 people)	Minimum park Size	Accessibility (population catchment)	Land Characteristics
Regional	1ha	6ha (10ha + desirable)	Where possible centrally located	<p>Shape: Square to rectangular</p> <p>Gradient: Max 1:100</p> <p>Road frontage: approx. 25% of the perimeter to have direct road frontage.</p> <p>Flood immunity: at least 90% of land above 20-year-level with fields and courts above 50-year-level. Built facilities to be above the 100-year-level.</p>
District	0.8ha	3ha	Preference of 5 minutes' drive for majority of residents within the urban area.	<p>Shape: Square to rectangular</p> <p>Gradient: Max 1:80 for all playing surfaces.</p> <p>Road frontage: approx. 25% of the perimeter to have direct road frontage.</p> <p>Flood immunity: at least 20% of land above 20-year-level with fields and courts above 50-year-level. Built facilities to be above the 100-year-level</p>
Local	0.7ha	3ha	Preference of 5 minutes' drive for majority of residents within the urban area.	<p>Shape: Square to rectangular</p> <p>Gradient: Max 1:80</p> <p>Road frontage: approx. 25% of the perimeter to have direct road frontage.</p> <p>Flood immunity: at least 20% of land above 20-year-level with fields and courts above 50-year-level. Built facilities to be above the 100-year-level</p>



# Hierarchies

The features and subsequent maintenance levels of our open spaces directly correlates with each open space 'hierarchy'.

A hierarchy helps us determine the need and purpose of open space within an area and is generally based on the catchment of users, the size of the space and the actual facilities provided.

Murray River Council's approved hierarchy levels relate to our parks and sportsfields, and are defined over the following pages.

## Park hierarchy



NOTE- Bushland Reserves and cemeteries not included in above however some Road Reserves and drainage reserves are based on location and community significance.

## 1. COMMUNITY PARK

A high level of maintenance is required for community level parks.

Let's explore a few aspects of community parks:

### 1. Size and Purpose:

- A community park will generally comprise an area up to 6.0 hectares and has a catchment area of the whole town for population under 1,500 or approx. 1km radius for populations over 1,500.
- A community park is a public outdoor space designed to serve the recreational needs of residents within a community.
- Community parks vary in size but are typically larger than neighbourhood parks. They serve a broader population and offer a wider range of amenities and inclusions.

### 2. Features and Facilities:

- Playgrounds: Play structures, swings, and other equipment for children.
- Skate Parks: Designed for skateboarding, rollerblading, and BMX biking.
- Structures and shelters that host events, classes, and community gatherings.
- Picnic areas including BBQs, furniture and water access.
- Natural shade.



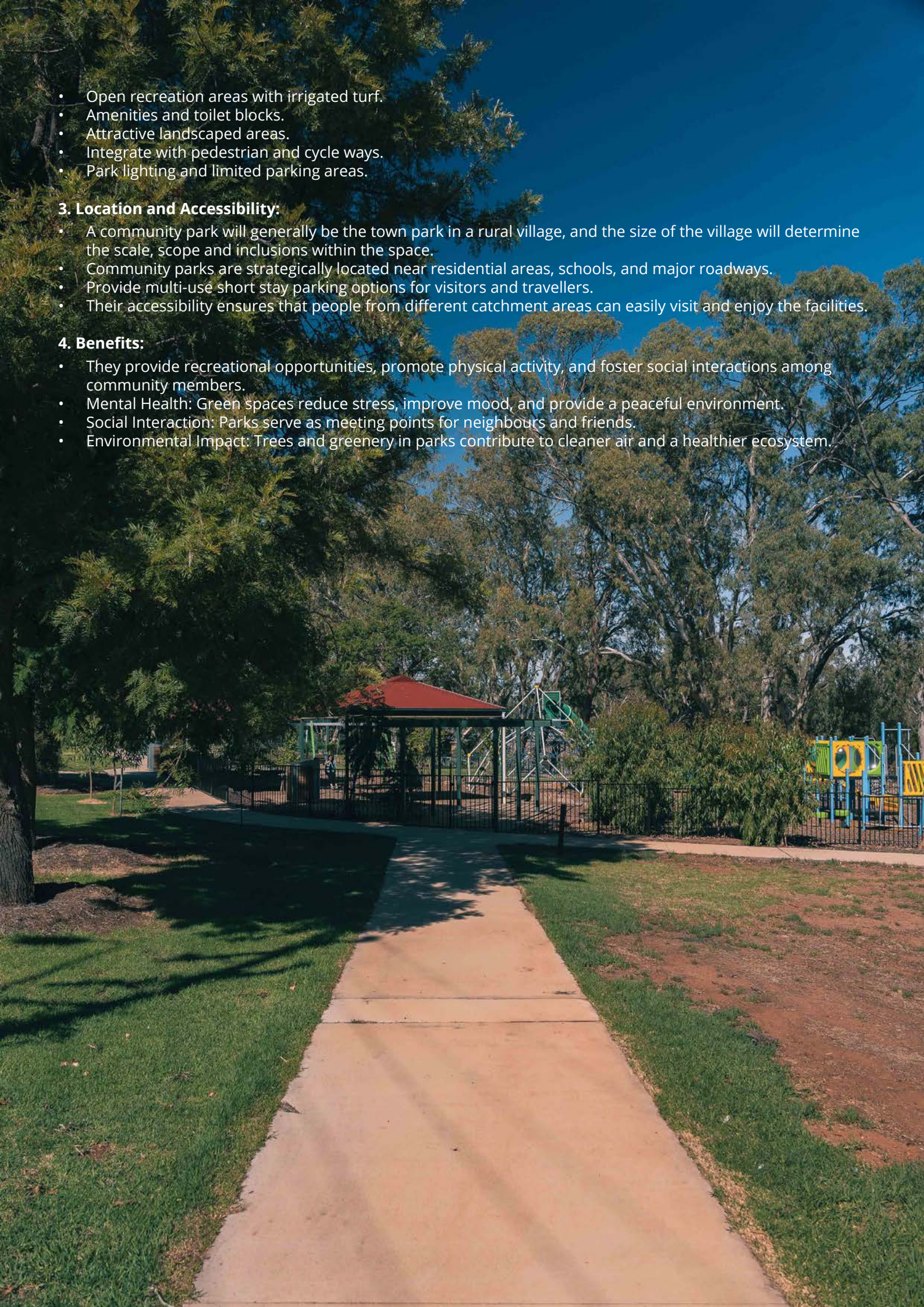
- Open recreation areas with irrigated turf.
- Amenities and toilet blocks.
- Attractive landscaped areas.
- Integrate with pedestrian and cycle ways.
- Park lighting and limited parking areas.

### **3. Location and Accessibility:**

- A community park will generally be the town park in a rural village, and the size of the village will determine the scale, scope and inclusions within the space.
- Community parks are strategically located near residential areas, schools, and major roadways.
- Provide multi-use short stay parking options for visitors and travellers.
- Their accessibility ensures that people from different catchment areas can easily visit and enjoy the facilities.

### **4. Benefits:**

- They provide recreational opportunities, promote physical activity, and foster social interactions among community members.
- Mental Health: Green spaces reduce stress, improve mood, and provide a peaceful environment.
- Social Interaction: Parks serve as meeting points for neighbours and friends.
- Environmental Impact: Trees and greenery in parks contribute to cleaner air and a healthier ecosystem.





## 2. NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK

A medium level of maintenance is required for Neighbourhood level parks.

Let's explore a few aspects of Neighbourhood parks:

### 1. Size and Purpose:

- A neighbourhood park will generally comprise an area of 0.25 to 2.0 hectares that predominantly serves a town, village or neighbourhood.
- They usually cater for a catchment area of on average 500m radius, which provides a suitable walking distance for community members.
- They provide recreational opportunities, promote physical activity, and foster social interactions among community members.

### 2. Features and Facilities:

- Playgrounds: Basic play structures, swings, and other equipment for children.
- Furniture including tables, seating and water access.
- Natural shade.
- Open recreation areas with optional irrigated turf.
- Attractive mixed landscaped areas.
- Integrate with pedestrian and cycle ways.
- Limited parking areas.
- Outdoor fitness equipment.

### 3. Location and Accessibility:

- Neighbourhood parks are strategically located within residential areas.
- A neighbourhood park is usually used by residents within the immediate vicinity.
- Connected by local walkways for short stay visitation.

### 4. Benefits:

- Physical Health: Parks encourage physical activity, which contributes to better health and well-being.
- Mental Health: Green spaces reduce stress, improve mood, and provide a peaceful environment.
- Social Interaction: Parks serve as meeting points for neighbours and friends.
- Environmental Impact: Trees and greenery in parks contribute to cleaner air and a healthier ecosystem.
- There is considerable evidence that living within walking distance of parks in neighbourhoods with more green public open space is linked to greater use of these areas and positive health outcomes.





### 3. PASSIVE / ORNAMENTAL PARK

Maintenance provision will generally reflect that of the Neighbourhood or Community level parks however depending on location and use some sites will only require low level maintenance.

#### 1. Size and Purpose:

- A passive/ornamental park will generally comprise an area of 0.5 hectares and upwards depending on location and use.
- A passive/ornamental park will be a well-developed, formal and may require higher service levels to maintain with a specific theme.
- They can be spaces of local importance or significance within the community.
- They provide more passive recreational opportunities and foster opportunities for social interactions among the community.

#### 2. Features and Facilities:

- Furniture including seating.
- Natural shade.
- Small to large passive open areas with optional irrigated turf.
- Attractive simple landscaped areas.
- Memorials and Cenotaphs
- Boat ramps.
- Dog off-leash areas.
- Community Gardens: Spaces where residents can grow plants and vegetables.

#### 3. Location and Accessibility:

- Passive spaces including high profile road and drainage reserves (Operational Land).
- Natural areas and bushland.
- Passive links within and around urban areas.
- Crown Land (managed by Council)

#### 4. Benefits:

- Physical Health: Parks encourage physical activity, which contributes to better health and well-being.
- Mental Health: Green spaces reduce stress, improve mood, and provide a peaceful environment.
- Social Interaction: Passive/Ornamental Parks serve as meeting points for neighbours and friends.
- Environmental Impact: Biodiversity and wildlife habitats.





# Sportsground hierarchy



## 1. REGIONAL SPORTSGROUND

### 1. Size and Purpose:

- A regional sportsground will preferably comprise an area of at least 6.0 hectares and has a catchment area that generally extends outside the Murray River Council area.
- Regional facilities cater primarily for training and competition, and generally have a range of recreation/ social areas and support facilities built, maintained and serviced to a high standard.
- Regional sportsgrounds provide for more than one sporting code, to maximise efficiencies from shared infrastructure.
- Regional facilities should also be capable of hosting a major recreation or sporting event/tournament, such as a country championship.
- Regional sportsgrounds focus on improving sport facility access between regional cities and centres giving communities and athletes access to quality facilities, coaching and training

### 2. Features and Facilities:

- Regional sportsgrounds contain a higher level of fit-for-purpose inclusions.
- High quality turf supported by drainage, irrigation systems and higher-level turf management practices.
- Lighting to relevant recommended Australian Standards that allows for night competition and training, generally 100Lux minimum.
- Hardcourt synthetic sports surfaces.
- Amenities and pavilions universally designed and centrally located. Often co-located with grandstand seating and other associated infrastructure such as social and administration space.
- Multi-use facilities for all types of sporting codes.
- Fencing to separate spectators from player areas.
- Provision of scoreboard.
- Covered spectator seating with adequate spectator circulation.
- Car parking to accommodate the proposed use. This will vary based on the sport and scale of facility.
- Integration with other community infrastructure such as community centres and informal outdoor recreation opportunities.

### 3. Location and Accessibility:

- This catchment area often covers multiple local government areas, primarily provide facilities for competition and events.
- They should be fully accessible, with links to transport and other supporting commercial and community facilities.
- Their accessibility ensures that people from different catchment areas can easily visit and enjoy the facilities.
- Consideration of integration with other community infrastructure such as community centres and informal outdoor recreation opportunities.

#### 4. Benefits:

- a. They provide recreational opportunities for multiple sporting disciplines, promote physical activity, and foster social interactions among community members.
- b. Health: People who participate in sport and active recreation enjoy better physical and mental health. A child participating in sport and active recreation early in life is more likely to maintain active and healthy behaviours throughout their life. Participation in sport and active recreation can improve life expectancy and can reduce the rate of non-communicable diseases. It can also play a significant role in the management and prevention of mental health conditions. Research also shows that participation in sport and active recreation contributes to better cognitive function and academic achievement.
- c. Social: Sport and active recreation are an important part of the fabric of our communities. It reaches across age, cultural background and demographic groups. Whether it's performed at grassroots or elite level, it can be a vehicle for community identity and pride. Sport and active recreation strengthens social networks and builds a sense of belonging for participants. It contributes to community character and gives us local role models that inspire and unify us.
- d. Environmental: Trees and greenery in recreation reserves contribute to cleaner air and a healthier ecosystem.
- e. Economic: Sport and active recreation create jobs and opportunities for investment. Hosting sporting events contribute to regional and local economies. Voluntary work enables many sport and active recreation events and activities and makes a large contribution to the economy. Volunteering also helps to develop and reinforce skills and build social networks that can lead to economic as well as social and health outcomes.

Location	Regional Sportsground
Moama Recreation Reserve	Main Oval Jack Eddy Oval





## 2. DISTRICT SPORTSGROUND

### 1. Size and Purpose:

- A district sportsground will preferably comprise an area of at least 3.0 hectares and has a catchment area that generally attracts people from within the Murray River Council area.
- District facilities cater primarily for training and competition, and generally have a range of recreation/social areas and support facilities built and maintained by the local community.
- District sportsgrounds generally provide for more than one sporting code, to maximise efficiencies from shared infrastructure.
- District sportsgrounds should also be capable of hosting local finals and non-recreational community events.
- District sportsgrounds in smaller towns and villages are generally built, maintained and serviced to a medium standard consistent with district facility classification.

### 2. Features and Facilities:

- District sportsgrounds cater for multiple sporting codes and recreational activities.
- Medium level service delivery, irrigation systems and medium level turf management practices.
- Lighting to relevant recommended Australian Standards that allows for night competition and training, generally 50-100Lux minimum.
- Hardcourt synthetic sports surfaces
- Amenities and pavilions universally designed and centrally located that cater for multiple sports, events and meeting spaces for community.
- Fencing to separate spectators from player areas. (mainly AFL)
- Minimum standard spectator seating
- Car parking to accommodate the proposed use. This will vary based on the sport and scale of facility.

### 3. Location and Accessibility:

- This catchment area typically services the local town and surrounds.
- They should be fully accessible where possible.
- Their accessibility ensures that people from different catchment areas can easily visit and enjoy the facilities.
- Integration with other community infrastructure such as community centres and halls and informal outdoor recreation opportunities.

### 4. Benefits:

- They provide recreational opportunities for multiple sporting disciplines, promote physical activity, and foster social interactions among community members.
- Health: People who participate in sport and active recreation enjoy better physical and mental health. A child participating in sport and active recreation early in life is more likely to maintain active and healthy behaviours throughout their life. Participation in sport and active recreation can improve life expectancy and can reduce the rate of non-communicable diseases. It can also play a significant role in the management and prevention of mental health conditions. Research also shows that participation in sport and active recreation contributes to better cognitive function and academic achievement.
- Social: Sport and active recreation are an important part of the fabric of our communities. It reaches across age, cultural background and demographic groups. Whether it's performed at grassroot or elite level, it can be a vehicle for community identity and pride. Sport and active recreation strengthens social networks and builds a sense of belonging for participants. It contributes to community character and gives us local role models that inspire and unify us.
- Environmental: Trees and greenery in recreation reserves contribute to cleaner air and a healthier ecosystem.
- Economic: Sport and active recreation create jobs and opportunities for investment. Hosting sporting events contribute to regional and local economies. Voluntary work enables many sport and active recreation events and activities and makes a large contribution to the economy. Volunteering also helps to develop and reinforce skills and build social networks that can lead to economic as well as social and health outcomes.

Location	Sportsfield
Moama Recreation Reserve	Brick Alley
Barham Recreation Reserve	AFL Main Oval
Moulamein South Recreation Reserve	Oval
Tooleybuc Recreation Reserve	Main Oval 1



**District facilities cater for training and competition, and generally have a range of recreation/social areas and support facilities built and maintained by the local community.**





### 3. LOCAL SPORTSGROUND

Local sportsgrounds primarily cater for training and competition. Local sports facilities are generally built, maintained and serviced to a lower level when compared to District facilities. Local sportsgrounds are generally used by groups identified within a town or village.

#### 1. Size and Purpose:

- a. A local sportsground will preferably comprise an area of at least 3.0 hectares and has a catchment area that generally attracts people from within the local town or village.
- b. Local facilities cater primarily for training and competition, and generally have a range of recreation/social areas and support facilities built and maintained by the local community.
- c. Local sportsgrounds generally provide for more than one sporting code, to maximise efficiencies from shared infrastructure.
- d. Local sportsgrounds should also be capable of hosting minor finals and non-recreational community events.
- e. Local sportsgrounds in smaller towns and villages are generally built, maintained and serviced to a lower standard compared to District sportsground classification.

#### 2. Features and Facilities:

- a. Local sportsgrounds cater for multiple sporting codes and recreational activities.
- b. Lower-level service delivery, irrigation systems optional and lower level turf management practices, dependent on use.
- c. Lighting to relevant recommended Australian Standards that allows for night competition and training, generally 50-100Lux minimum, dependent on use.
- d. Hardcourt synthetic sports surfaces preferably.
- e. Amenities and pavilions universally designed and centrally located that cater for multiple sports, events and meeting spaces for community.
- f. Basic fencing to separate spectators from player areas. (mainly AFL)
- g. Minimum standard spectator seating
- h. Car parking to accommodate the proposed use. This will vary based on the sport and scale of facility.

#### 3. Location and Accessibility:

- a. This catchment area typically services the local town or village.
- b. They should be fully accessible where possible.
- c. Their accessibility ensures that people from different catchment areas can easily visit and enjoy the facilities.
- d. Integration with other community infrastructure such as community centres and halls and informal outdoor recreation opportunities.

#### 4. Benefits:

- a. They provide recreational opportunities for multiple sporting disciplines, promote physical activity, and foster social interactions among community members.
- b. Health: People who participate in sport and active recreation enjoy better physical and mental health. A child participating in sport and active recreation early in life is more likely to maintain active and healthy behaviours throughout their life. Participation in sport and active recreation can improve life expectancy and can reduce the rate of non-communicable diseases. It can also play a significant role in the management and prevention of mental health conditions. Research also shows that participation in sport and active recreation contributes to better cognitive function and academic achievement.
- c. Social: Sport and active recreation are an important part of the fabric of our communities. It reaches across age, cultural background and demographic groups. Whether it's performed at grassroot or elite level, it can be a vehicle for community identity and pride. Sport and active recreation strengthens social networks and builds a sense of belonging for participants. It contributes to community character and gives us local role models that inspire and unify us.
- d. Environmental: Trees and greenery in recreation reserves contribute to cleaner air and a healthier ecosystem.
- e. Economic: Sport and active recreation create jobs and opportunities for investment. Hosting sporting events contribute to regional and local economies. Voluntary work enables many sport and active recreation events and activities and makes a large contribution to the economy. Volunteering also helps to develop and reinforce skills and build social networks that can lead to economic as well as social and health outcomes.



LOCATION	Sports field
Moama Recreation Reserve	Moama Velodrome
Barham Recreation Reserve	Show/Cricket Oval
Mathoura Recreation Reserve	Oval
Tooleybuc Recreation Reserve	Oval 2 (Tribucs)
Bunnaloo Recreation Reserve	Oval
Wakool Recreation Reserve	Oval





### Other Sportsgrounds

These facilities often represent spaces where population levels have declined, and the sites are no longer required to be maintained and serviced at high or medium levels. The facilities provide important community connections or meeting spaces such as a hall, with limited opportunities for recreation activities in generally smaller villages or communities.

LOCATION	AREA
Moulamein Centennial Reserve	Race Track & Polocrosse, Amenities
Mallan Recreation Reserve	Synthetic Tennis Courts, Amenities
Goodnight Recreation Reserve	Tennis courts, Playground, Amenities
Kyalite Recreation Reserve	General surrounds
Koraleigh Recreation Reserve	Synthetic Tennis Courts

In some locations it is beneficial for the local sportsground to also contain informal or passive recreation opportunities as part of their setting. This approach can produce efficiency of provision without duplication and provide suitable amenity for locals and visitors alike.

The co-location of sportsgrounds and passive open spaces will provide Council the opportunity to rationalise the provision of some parks which are located around dual-purpose reserves.



# Service delivery inclusions by hierarchy

To further support the service delivery standards for open space provisioning, the following inclusions and assets are provided to guide Murray River Council's development of those areas. These standards will also assist with any new open space developments or changes to classification of existing open spaces.

The following inclusions and assets are generally provided at each level of the hierarchy:

- ✓ Included at this Hierarchy level
- Optional at this Hierarchy level
- x Not included at this Hierarchy level

Inclusions/ Asset type	Level within Hierarchy					
	Community	Neighbourhood	Ornamental	Regional Sportsground	District Sportsground	Local Sportsground
Recreation activity area	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓
Bollard fencing	x	✓	✓	x	x	✓
Post & Rail Fencing	✓	x	x	✓	✓	x
Park Trees	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bike Rack	✓	x	x	✓	✓	✓
Small Park Location Sign	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Large Park Location Sign	✓	✓	x	✓	x	x
Water Station/Bubbler	✓	✓	●	✓	✓	✓
Bench Seats	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Picnic Tables	✓	●	x	x	x	x
Structure/ shelter (with table & chairs)	✓	x	x	✓	✓	●
Bins	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Park Lighting	✓	x	x	✓	✓	x
Barbecues	✓	x	x	✓	x	x
Shade Structure	✓	x	x	✓	✓	x
Irrigation	✓	●	●	✓	✓	●
Amenity/Toilet block	✓	x	x	✓	✓	●
Spectator seating	x	x	x	x	✓	✓
Pathway/footpaths	✓	●	●	✓	✓	✓
Carparking	✓	●	x	✓	✓	●
Playground	✓	●	x	✓	●	●

## NOTES:

- Optional items may differ between a High and Low classified space within the service delivery plan, dependent on site context and local needs.
- Lighting provision is either via sustainable LED lighting or solar powered lighting.





## Our other Open Spaces

Murray River Council has a large and diverse variety of Open Spaces.

In addition to our sportsgrounds, recreations reserves and parks, we also have cemeteries, road reserves, drainage basins and bushland reserves, as well as Crown Land that we management on behalf of the State Government. In most cases, these additional types of open spaces are treated as per the hierarchy, in other cases they are treated as per their intended use. Further information on each type of open space is identified over the following pages.

A number of other land management agencies are responsible for the provision, management and maintenance of open space, sport and recreation facilities within Murray River Council. The key agencies include National Parks and Wildlife Service, NSW State Forests, public and private sporting organisations such as, but not limited to, Rich River Golf Club, Murray Downs Golf and Bowls Resort and cluBarham.

The Open Space Strategy does not apply to open spaces managed by these agencies. However we acknowledge the possible use of these open spaces, sport and recreation facilities by the community and these have been taken into account in determining overall provision, level of community access and amenity within the catchments.



## Drainage reserves, road reserves and land for utilities

These locations include open space areas which are set aside for the specific purpose of supporting local area infrastructure, such as flood management (drainage easements and retarding basins), fire control, road development and utilities' easements. Only limited capacity exists for the development of these spaces for improved recreational value, which varies depending upon what is permissible in the context of the primary use.

Although often constrained based on the primary use of the space, some do offer opportunities for recreation and open space provision, if designed and serviced appropriately. Murray River Council is responsible for many of these spaces that are included in the Parks hierarchy at differing levels depending on their location, inherited assets and maintenance requirements.

It is important to note that in the context of the designated primary use, council will only maintain the majority of drainage basins at lower servicing levels within the hierarchy structure. Given the often-necessary development of these locations, combined with the limited value that they generally serve from a recreational/sport perspective, they have been excluded from the provisioning standards. These spaces are often not desirable or functional parcels of land for recreation purposes.

**Road reserves are typically town entries, urban streetscapes and transports assets such as median strips and roundabouts. Servicing of these spaces is generally assessed based on their location, intended use, visibility and profile, as such they are included in the hierarchy to provide guidance to operational staff on servicing requirements in the Parks Service Delivery Plan.**





## Bushland Reserves or Natural Areas including wetlands and watercourses

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

Typically, natural areas provide the basis for developing a linear park system throughout a township and adjoining areas, using shared paths, boardwalks, viewing platforms, picnic point bird hide (such as Horseshoe Lagoon or Barham Boardwalk).

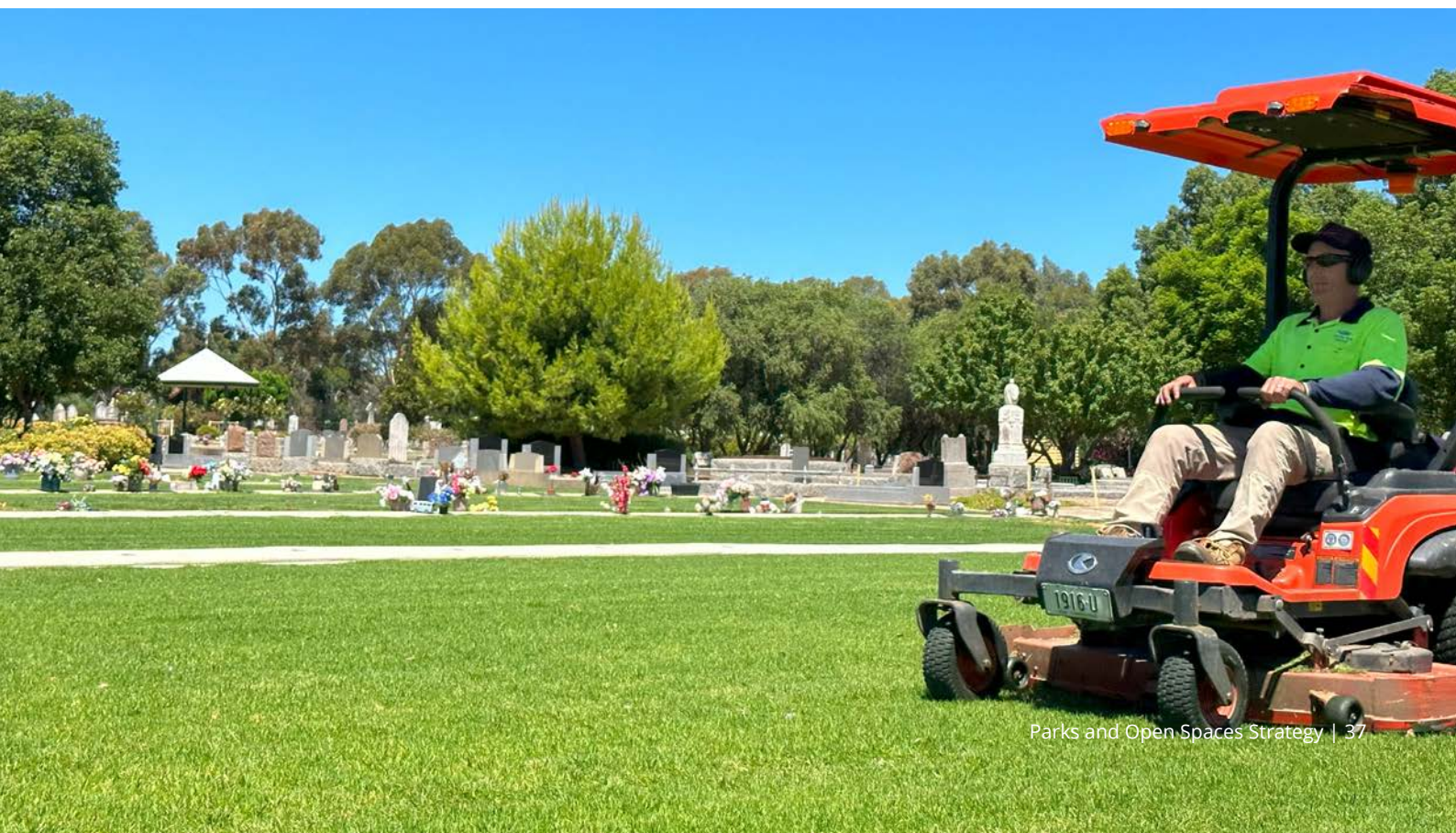
Many of our towns and villages contain rivers, creeks, other waterways and linear reserves which can also perform a more local role, connecting to local attractions and destinations. It will be important to ensure that the design of new subdivisions and developments, as well as designs for and improvement of existing locations, provides for adequate pedestrian and cycling access within and along these corridors so that these important connections can be achieved.

Given the generally compulsory way in which these locations come into the care of Council (i.e. Crown Land under the control and care of Council) they are not specifically identified for inclusion in future provisioning standards. The value which these areas serve from a recreational/sport perspective can vary greatly. Existing locations which fall into this category have not been factored into the hectare provisioning figure calculations, although the majority of these areas do provide general recreational benefits to the community.

## Cemeteries

Murray River Council is responsible for the provision and maintenance of various cemeteries, although not directly related to the provisioning standards within this strategy. Current industry standards and guidelines released by the NSW State Government highlight these locations as important public areas or green open spaces.

**Murray River Council seeks to maintain the cemeteries in line with the standards applicable for open space areas throughout the region, for this reason, Cemeteries have been included within the parks Hierarchy structure as ornamental/passive locations for inclusion in the Parks Service Delivery Plan.**







## Travelling Stock Routes (TSR)

The TSR network was established more than 150 years ago to allow livestock to move to and from markets. It is believed that many of these routes followed pathways used traditionally by Aboriginal people to travel across country. TSRs are important to Aboriginal people for access and connection to Country, cultural practices, and the protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage. Many are next to or follow tracks and rivers.

While TSRs are still important for travelling and grazing stock, they are also widely recognised for playing a key role in landscape connectivity and biodiversity conservation across NSW. This is because they form corridors of Crown Land between other landholdings.

The agricultural and economic value of TSRs is important to agricultural industries and communities, particularly in times of extreme weather and other emergencies.

TSRs are important recreation spaces in many regional communities. TSRs are used as access points for many activities including fishing, birdwatching and bushwalking.

Many TSRs support high levels of biodiversity, threatened species, threatened, and endangered ecological communities, and provide critical habitat for many species. TSRs are widely recognised as playing a key role in landscape ecological connectivity and biodiversity conservation across NSW.





## Open Spaces and Sportsgrounds by Location

The following pages provide a break down, town by town, of the open spaces, sportsgrounds, amenities, number of halls or community facilities owned by Council and number of Council owned buildings (as at 1 January 2023) in each town.

There is also mapping provided to illustrate the provision of open space and hierarchy catchment areas covered within each township or village.

# Our open spaces across the footprint....

**380**

total land parcels  
(Council-owned  
and Crown)

**121**

community land  
spaces

**131**

operational land  
spaces

**122**

Crown Land spaces  
-63 sites

**55**

park spaces

**39**

playgrounds

**322**

total hectares of  
bushland reserves

**13**

sportsgrounds

**205**

total hectares  
of parks &  
sportsgrounds /  
open space







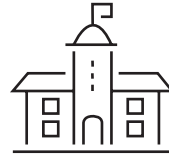
**Parks**  
26 including  
playgrounds



**Skateparks**  
1



**Swimming pools**  
1



**Halls &  
Community  
Facilities**  
2



**Buildings**  
83  
including  
operational



**Community  
Land Parcels  
(Council-owned)**  
94



**Cemeteries**  
1



**Road reserves**  
town Entries,  
estate entries,  
other urban  
roads and  
streetscapes



**Drainage  
reserves**  
Various  
locations



**Sportsgrounds**  
1 reserve  
3 x ovals  
1 x rectangular  
field  
1 x velodrome  
2 x netball courts  
1x dog park  
1x Adventure  
Playpark  
Botanic Gardens



**Public amenities**  
3



Due to the amount of growth in Moama, the fourth fastest growing regional town in NSW, there is an abundance of Open Space, road reserves and drainage basins for Council to manage.



Community Park	Neighbourhood Park	Passive / Ornamental Park
Brian Sharp Reserve	Highlands Park	Perricoota Run*
The Range	Dhungala Reserve (West)	Lake View (Perricoota Rd) (Fountains)*
Moama Skate Park	Lake View Playground	Dhungala East Drainage Reserve*
Moama Recreation Reserve (Adventure Park Botanic Garden)	Langwell Park	Moama Business Park (Median)*
River Gums Drive (old Winbi)	Regent Street Park	Barber Paddock Natural Reserves
	Horseshoe Lagoon Entry/ Wharf/Walkway	Moama Beach
	Salmon Gums Reserve	Lions Park
	Meninya Street CBD*	Kerrabee Soundshell
	Apex Park	Nicholas Park
	Moama Pool*	Cobb Hwy/Meninya Entries*
	Murray Banks	Moama Main Office (Rec Res)*
		Moama Old Office / Cenotaph*
		Moama off Leash Area
		Martin Street Community Center*
		Ruby Court
		Ivo Ham
		Hickey Park
		Lawry Park
		Berryman Park
		Two Parks- MS Reserve East & West
		Martin Street Sporting Complex*
		Perricoota Parklands

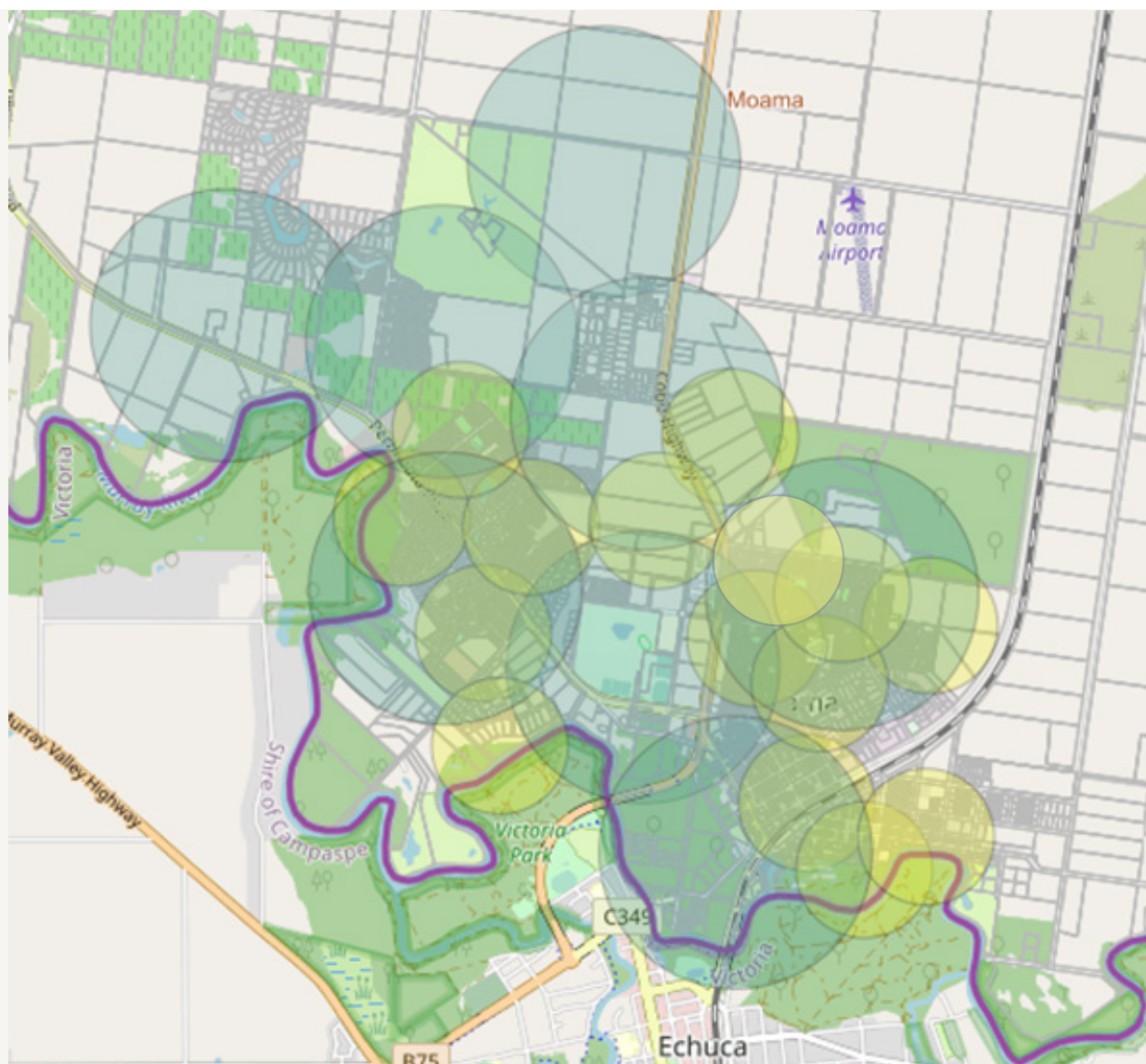
\*denotes Road Reserve or Operational Land that is serviced according to hierarchy.

Sportsground Regional	Sportsground District	Sportsground Local
Main Oval - Moama	Brick Alley	Moama Velodrome
Jack Eddy Oval		

Cemetery	Road Reserve	Drainage Basin
Moama Cemetery	2731 Entry	Barbers Paddock
	Chanter street	Dhungala (Eastside)
	Medians Moama	Moama West Corridor (Lakeview to Dhungala)
	Roundabouts Moama	
	Riverstrip	
	Horseshoe lagoon	



Cemetery	Road Reserve	Drainage Basin
	Perricoota Rd (Roadside)	
	Nicholas Drive	
	Kildare Ave	
	Winbi Road Reserve (Landscaped)	
	All Estate Entry landscape	
	Barbers Paddock	
	Cobb Hwy Moama	
	Jacana Avenue	
	24 Lane & Beer Rd Buffers	
	Murray Banks	
	Lakeview	





Moama drainage basins and road reserves – Mapping as at 1 June 2023





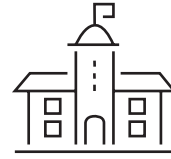
**Parks**  
7 including  
playgrounds



**Skateparks**  
1



**Swimming pools**  
1



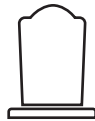
**Halls &  
Community  
Facilities**  
2



**Buildings**  
49  
including  
operational



**Community  
Land Parcels  
(Council-owned)**  
4



**Cemeteries**  
2



**Road reserves**  
Cobb Hwy 2kms  
urban streets



**Public amenities**  
3



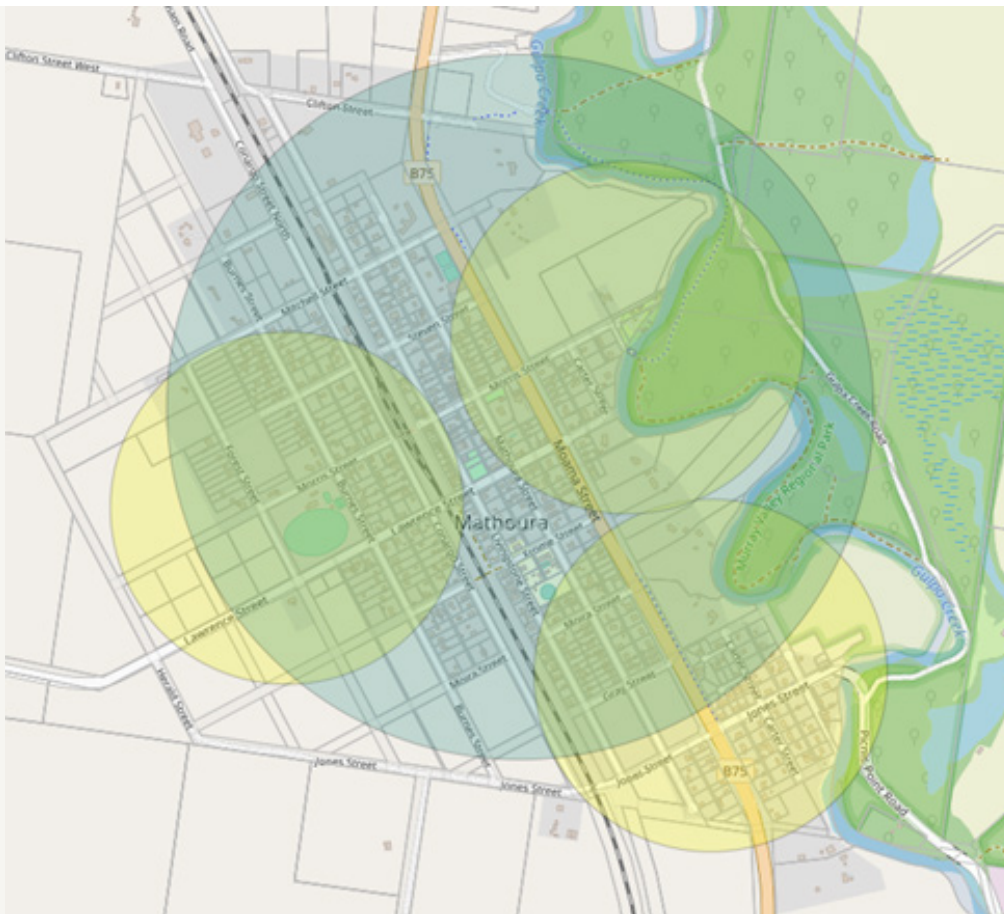
**Sportsgrounds**  
1 reserve

Community Park	Neighbourhood Park	Passive / Ornamental Park
Harry McCormick Arboretum / Skate Park area	Opitz Park	AE Murthy Park
	Livingston Street CBD*	Soldiers Memorial park
	Mathoura Pool*	MRC Office / Depot*
	Liston Park	Polly's Bridge
		Greg Graham Reserve (Calimo Boat Ramp)

\*denotes Road Reserve or Operational Land that is serviced according to hierarchy.

Sportsground Regional	Sportsground District	Sportsground Local
		Main Oval - Mathoura

Cemetery	Road Reserve	Drainage Basin
Mathoura Lawn Cemetery	Cobb Hwy Mathoura	
Mathoura Pioneer Cemetery	Urban streets Mathoura	
	Livingston Street CBD	
	Medians Mathoura	



**Mathoura Community and Neighbourhood Open Spaces**





**Parks**  
5 including  
2 playgrounds



**Skateparks**  
1



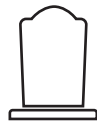
**Halls & Community Facilities**  
3



**Buildings**  
42  
including  
operational



**Community Land Parcels (Council-owned)**  
2



**Cemeteries**  
1



**Road reserves**  
town entries



**Public amenities**  
4



**Sportsgrounds**  
2

Community Park	Neighbourhood Park	Passive / Ornamental Park
Howard Park	Moulamein CBD*	Flottman Park
		Moulamein Lake Frontage
		Tulka Terrace*
		The Triangle*
		Moulamein Main Office*
		Lorenzen Park
		Water Tower Park*
		Cork Junction (Boat Ramp)
		South Town Entry (Shelter area) Big Tree Car Park*

\*denotes Road Reserve or Operational Land that is serviced according to hierarchy.

Sportsground Regional	Sportsground District	Sportsground Local	Sportsground other
	Main Oval - Moulamein South		Moulamein Centennial Reserve

Cemetery	Road Reserve	Drainage Basin
Moulamein Cemetery	Town Entries Moulamein	Moulamein Lake (General Area)
	Urban Streets Moulamein	



**Moulamein Community and Neighbourhood Open Spaces**





**Parks**  
6



**Skateparks**  
1



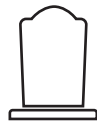
**Halls & Community Facilities**  
4



**Buildings**  
38  
including operational



**Community Land Parcels (Council-owned)**  
6



**Cemeteries**  
1



**Road reserves**  
town entries,  
Punt Road &  
other



**Public amenities**  
5



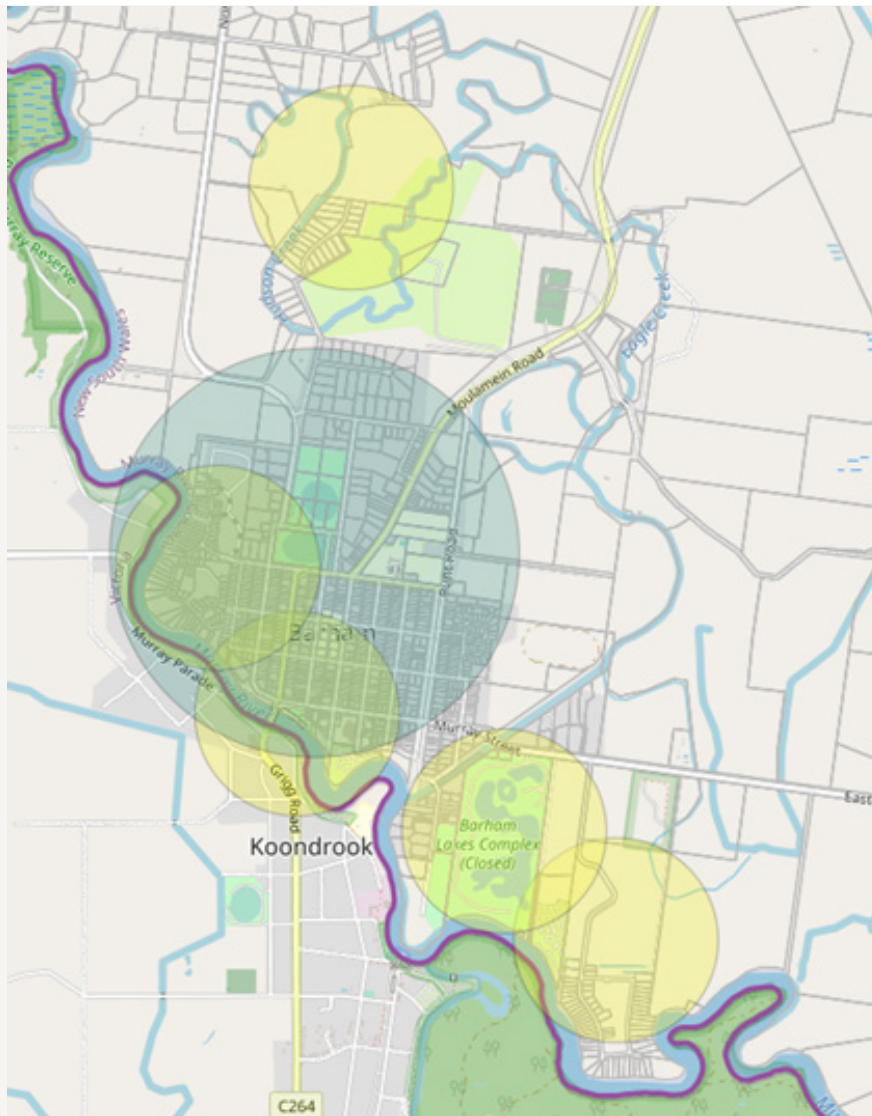
**Sportsgrounds**  
1 reserve

Community Park	Neighbourhood Park	Passive / Ornamental Park
Barham Recreation Reserve	Riverside & Lions Park	Teddy's Lane
	Riverview Drive (Future)	Barham Community Center*
	Barham CBD*	Punt Road South (Caravan Park East)*
	Barham Beach & Boat Ramp	Linton Park Drive Reserve
		Riverview Drive (East Barham)
		ANZAC Park Noorong St Rest Area

\*denotes Road Reserve or Operational Land that is serviced according to hierarchy.

Sportsground Regional	Sportsground District	Sportsground Local
	Main AFL Oval - Barham	Show/Cricket Oval - Barham

Cemetery	Road Reserve	Drainage Basin
Barham Cemetery	Town Entries Barham	Vinnicombe Lane
	Punt Road	
	Urban Streets Barham	
	Roundabouts Barham	
	Truck Stop Barham	
	Barham Landfill	



**Barham Community and Neighbourhood Open Spaces**



# MURRAY DOWNS



**Parks**  
2



**Community  
Land Parcels  
(Council-owned)**  
5



**Road reserves**  
Swan Hill Road  
& Murray Downs  
Drive approx  
4.8km

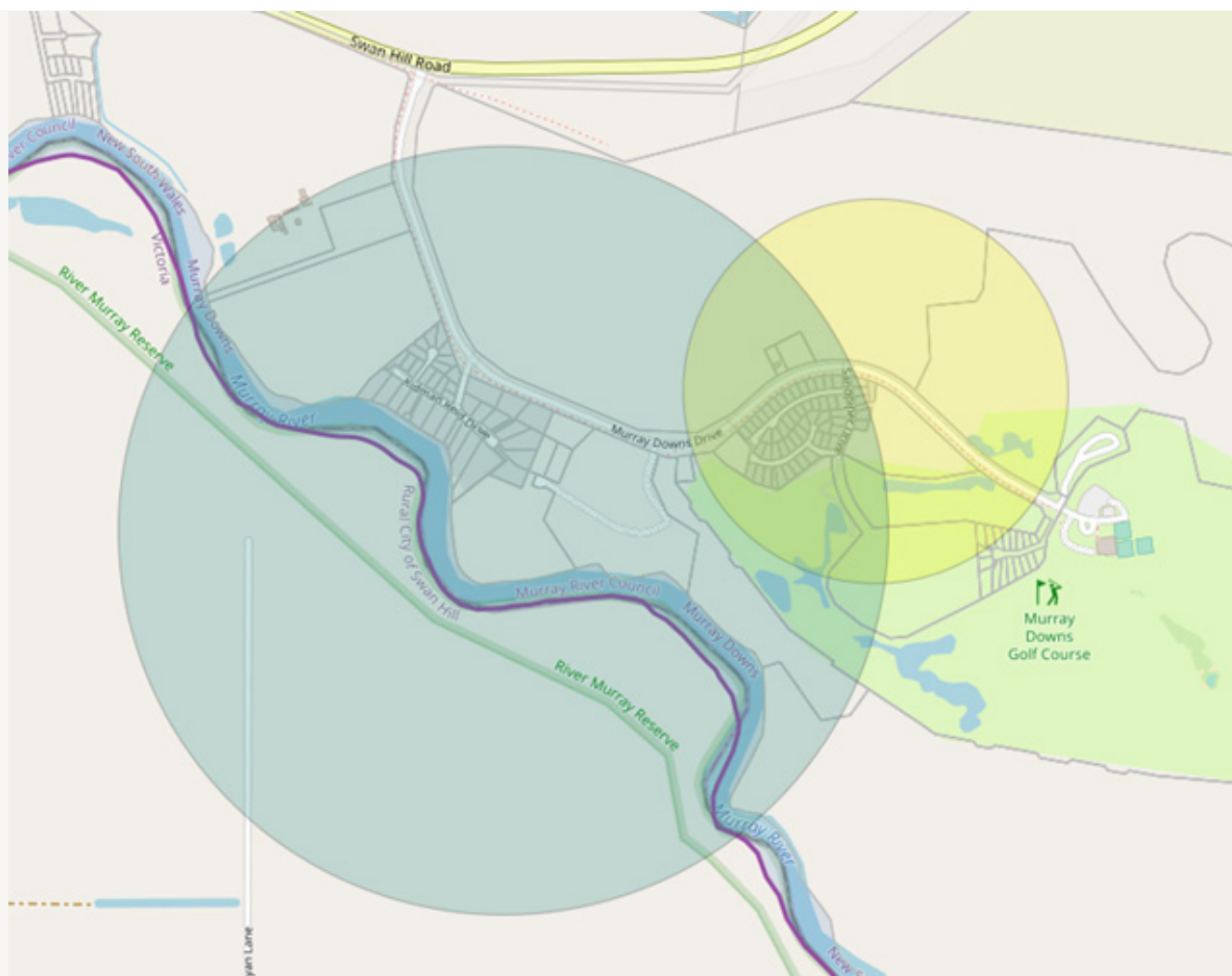


**Buildings**  
5  
including  
operational

Community Park	Neighbourhood Park	Passive / Ornamental Park
Yellymog Park	Pirate Park (Playground)	
	Murray Downs Drive Fitness Equipment	

\*denotes Road Reserve or Operational Land that is serviced according to hierarchy.

Cemetery	Road Reserve	Drainage Basin
	Swan Hill Rd entry to bridge	Goldfinch Crescent Reserve
	Murray Downs Drive	
	Sandpiper entry	
	Currawong Crt Reserve	



**Murray Downs Community and Neighbourhood Open Spaces**





**Parks**  
1



**Community Land Parcels (Council-owned)**  
1



**Road reserves**



**Sportsgrounds**  
1



**Halls & Community Facilities**  
1



**Buildings**  
8 including operational

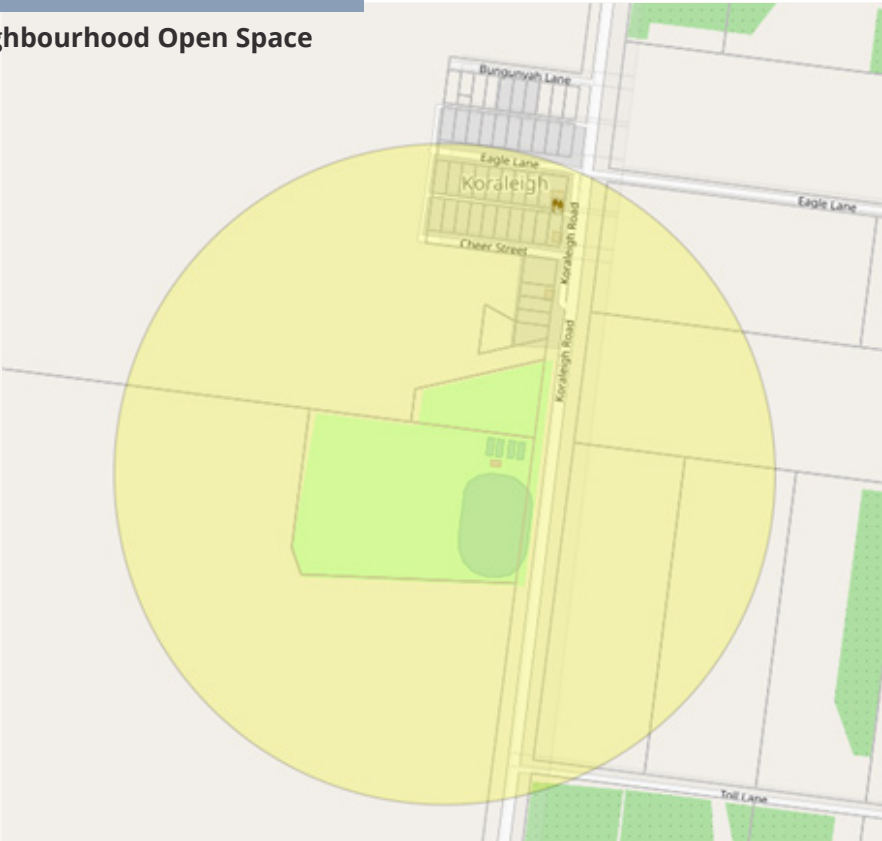
Community Park	Neighbourhood Park	Passive / Ornamental Park
	Koraleigh Rec Reserve (Future)	

\*denotes Road Reserve or Operational Land that is serviced according to hierarchy.

Sportsground Regional	Sportsground District	Sportsground Local	Sportsground other
			Main Oval - Koraleigh

Cemetery	Road Reserve	Drainage Basin
	Town entries Koraleigh	
	Urban Streets Koraleigh	
	Medians Koraleigh	

Koraleigh Neighbourhood Open Space



# PICNIC POINT



## Parks 1

## Boat ramp and carpark 1 (leased)



## Buildings Picnic Point Caravan Park (leased)

Community Park	Neighbourhood Park	Passive / Ornamental Park
	Picnic Point Boat Ramp Reserve*	
	Bert Dolan Reserve	

\*denotes Road Reserve or Operational Land that is serviced according to hierarchy.



## Picnic Point Neighbourhood Open Space

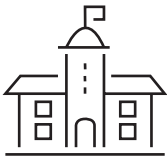




Road reserves



Sportsgrounds  
1



Halls & Community  
Facilities  
1

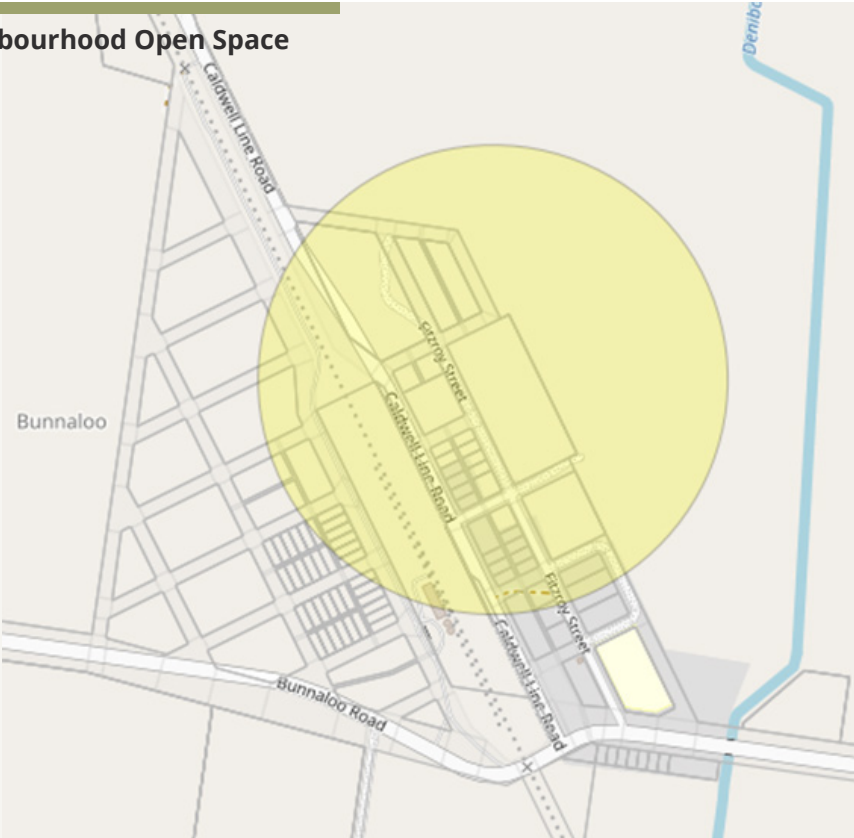


Buildings  
8  
including  
operational

Sportsground Regional	Sportsground District	Sportsground Local	Sportsground other
		Main Oval - Bunnaloo	

Cemetery	Road Reserve	Drainage Basin
	Town entries Bunnaloo	
	Urban Streets Bunnaloo	

Bunnaloo Neighbourhood Open Space





Parks  
1



Halls & Community  
Facilities  
1

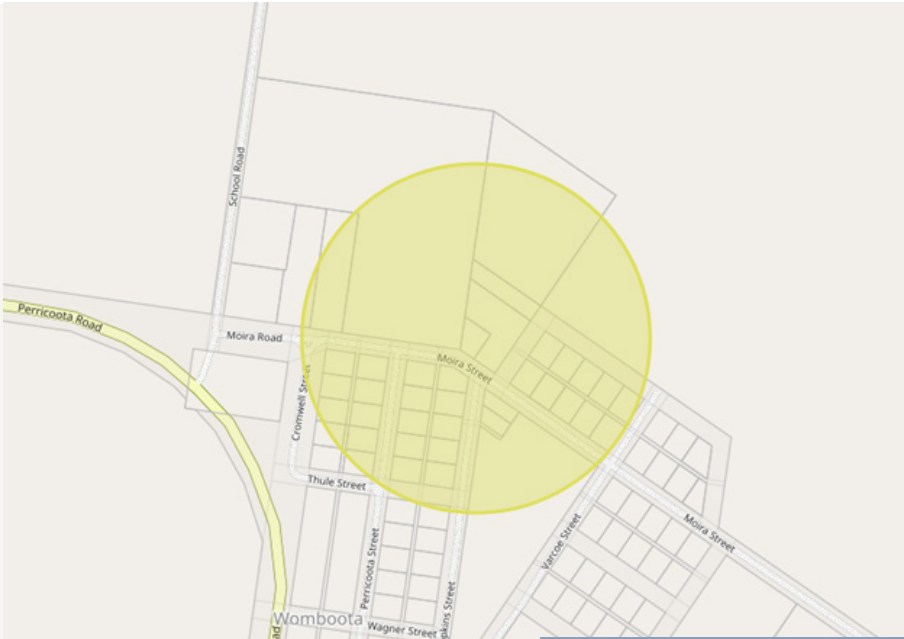


Buildings  
3  
including  
operational

Community Park	Neighbourhood Park	Passive / Ornamental Park
	Womboota Hall-Playground & Surrounds	

\*denotes Road Reserve or Operational Land that is serviced according to hierarchy.

Cemetery	Road Reserve	Drainage Basin
	Town entries Womboota	
	Urban Streets Womboota	



Womboota Open Spaces

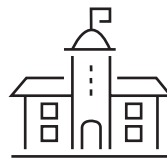




**Parks**  
1



**Community  
Land Parcels  
(Council-owned)**  
1



**Halls &  
Community  
Facilities**  
1

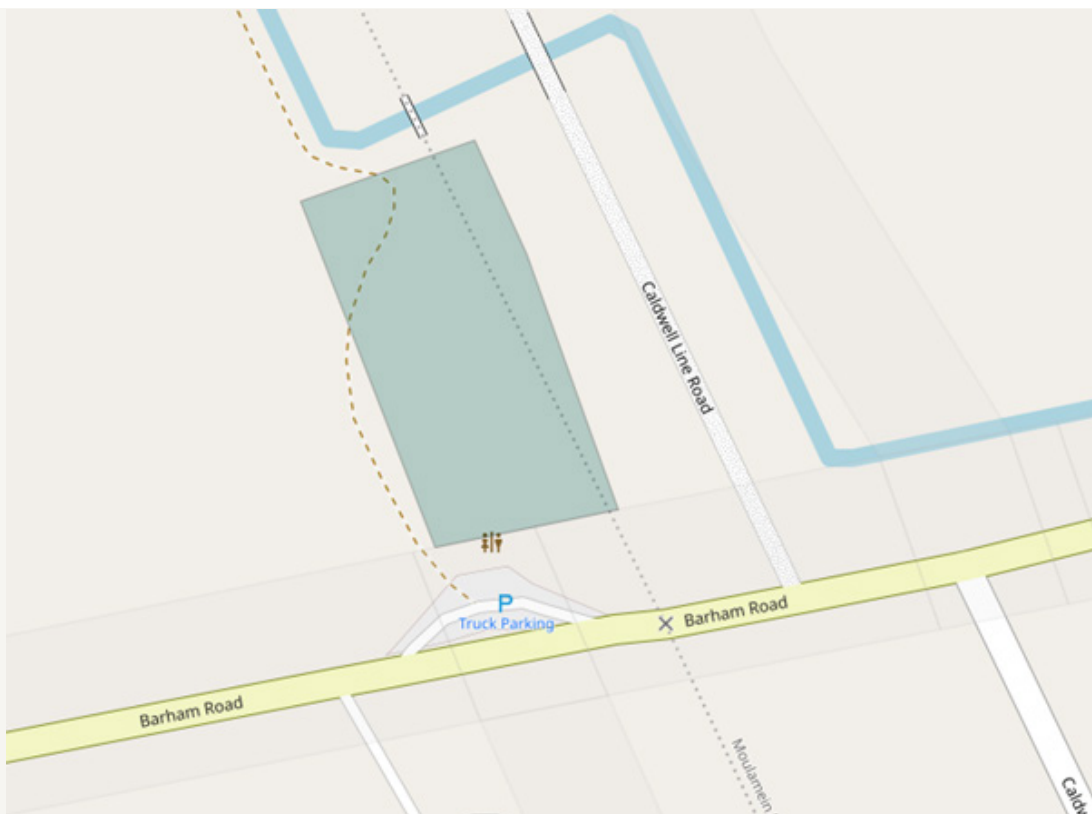


**Buildings**  
3  
including  
operational

Community Park	Neighbourhood Park	Passive / Ornamental Park
	Caldwell Hall - Playground & Surrounds	

\*denotes Road Reserve or Operational Land that is serviced according to hierarchy.

Cemetery	Road Reserve	Drainage Basin
	Caldwell Roadside toilet	



**Caldwell Open Space**



Sportsgrounds  
1



Halls & Community  
Facilities  
1



Buildings  
2  
including  
operational

Sportsground Regional	Sportsground District	Sportsground Local	Sportsground other
			Mallan Recreation Reserve







**Parks**  
1



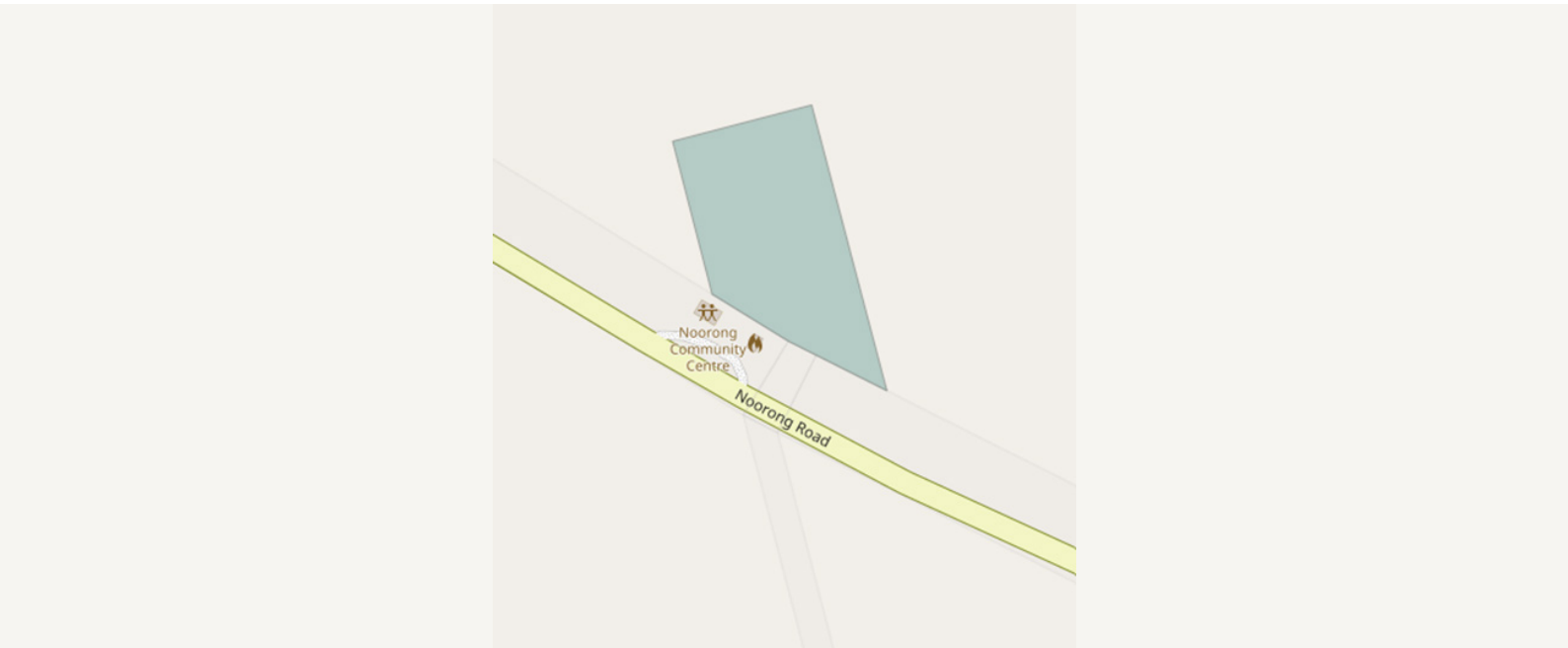
**Halls & Community Facilities**  
1




**Buildings**  
3  
including operational

Community Park	Neighbourhood Park	Passive / Ornamental Park
	Noorong Hall-Playground	


\*denotes Road Reserve or Operational Land that is serviced according to hierarchy.




**Noorong Open Space**



**Sportsgrounds**  
1



**Community Land Parcels (Council-owned)**  
4



**Halls & Community Facilities**  
1



**Buildings**  
3  
including operational

Sportsground Regional	Sportsground District	Sportsground Local	Sportsground other
			Goodnight Recreation Reserve


\*denotes Road Reserve or Operational Land that is serviced according to hierarchy.

Cemetery	Road Reserve	Drainage Basin
	Town entries Goodnight	
	Urban Streets Goodnight	




Goodnight Open Space

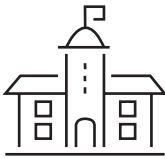





**Sportsgrounds**  
1



**Community Land Parcels (Council-owned)**  
1

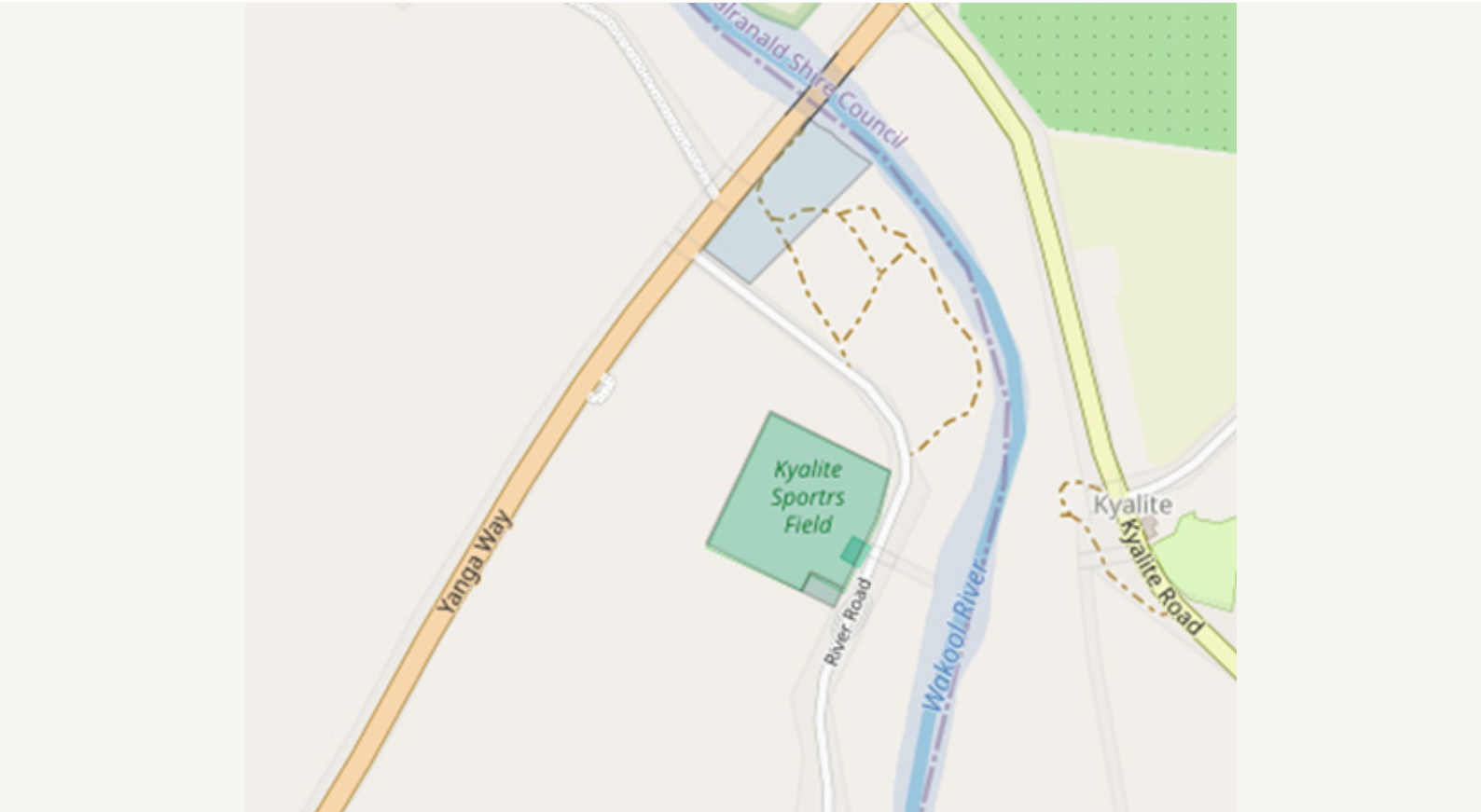


**Halls & Community Facilities**  
1



**Buildings**  
2 including operational

Sportsground Regional	Sportsground District	Sportsground Local	Sportsground other
			Kyalite Recreation Reserve



Kyalite Open Space



**Parks**  
1



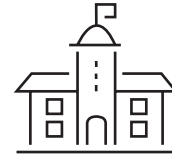
**Public amenities**  
3



**Road reserves**  
town entries,  
Cook Street



**Sportsgrounds**  
1



**Halls & Community Facilities**  
3



**Buildings**  
22  
including  
operational

Community Park	Neighbourhood Park	Passive / Ornamental Park
	Wakool CBD*	Darb & Tads Park*
	La Perouse Street park (playground)	DC Thomas Park*
		HJ Robinson Parks*

\*denotes Road Reserve or Operational Land that is serviced according to hierarchy.

Sportsground Regional	Sportsground District	Sportsground Local	Sportsground other
		Main Oval- Wakool	

Cemetery	Road Reserve	Drainage Basin
	Town Entries Wakool	
	Urban Streets Wakool	
	Medians Koraleigh	



**Wakool Neighbourhood Open Spaces**





**Parks**  
2



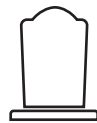
**Halls & Community Facilities**  
1



**Buildings**  
13  
including operational



**Community Land Parcels (Council-owned)**  
2



**Cemeteries**  
1



**Road reserves**



**Public amenities**  
5



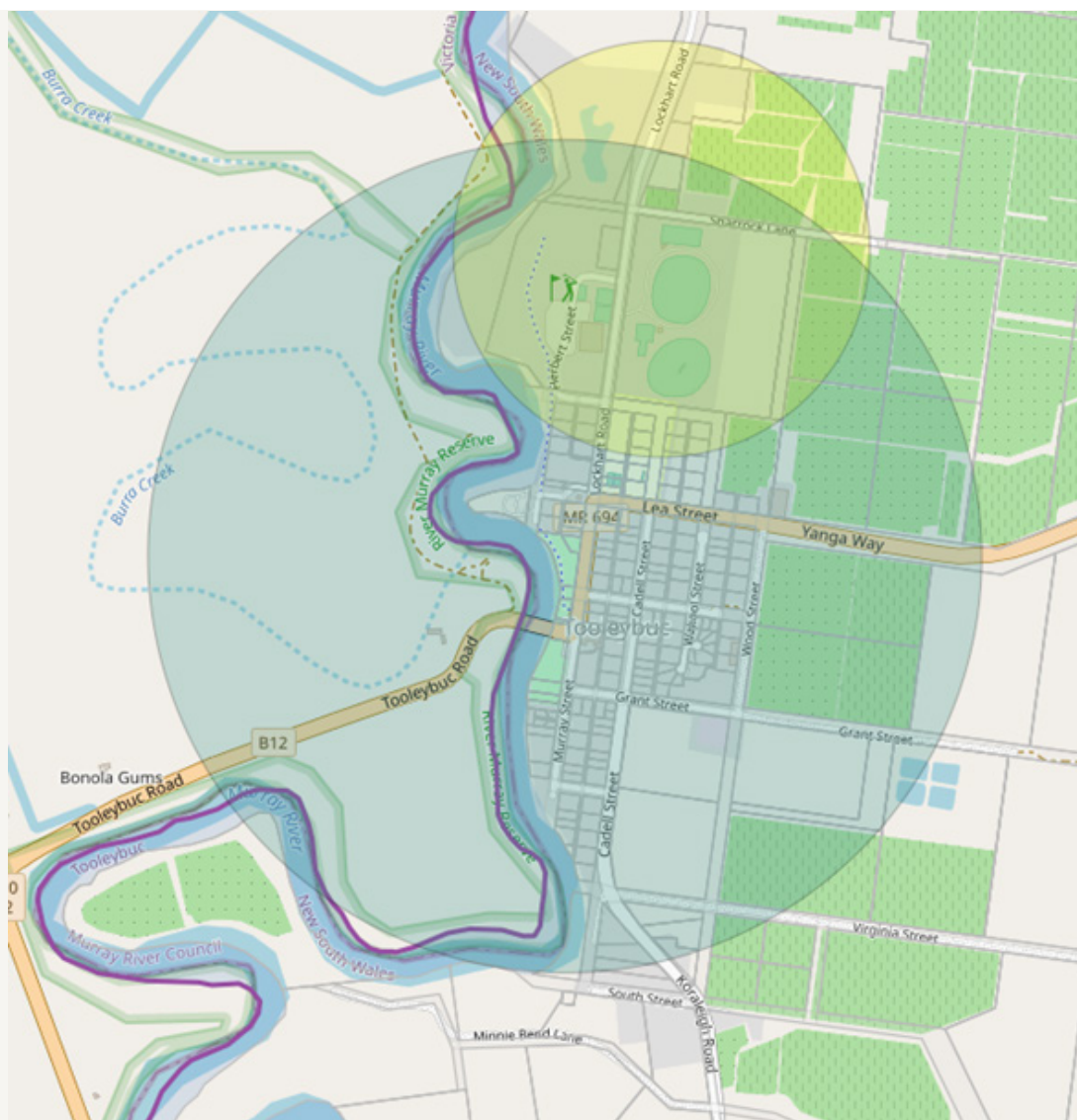
**Sportsgrounds**  
1 Reserve

Community Park	Neighbourhood Park	Passive / Ornamental Park
Mensforth Park	Harry Lacey Park*	River Street Reserve (Boat Ramp)*
		Caccaviello Reserve

\*denotes Road Reserve or Operational Land that is serviced according to hierarchy.

Sportsground Regional	Sportsground District	Sportsground Local
	Main Oval - Tooleybuc	Oval 2 (Tribucs)

Cemetery	Road Reserve	Drainage Basin
Tooleybuc Cemetery	Urban Streets Tooleybuc	
	Town entries Tooleybuc	
	Tooleybuc CBD	



**Tooleybuc Community and Neighbourhood Open Spaces**

# Implementing the strategy

The Open Space Strategy 2024-34 provides the key information required to successfully manage and service Council's open spaces and provides key information for future open space development within the adopted 10-year Financial Plan.

Ongoing Community Strategic Plan consultation will contribute to future actions as identified across the region and will be actioned as part of the relevant Delivery Program.

## Identified challenges

- High number of assets in certain areas to be maintained, which is no longer sustainable for Murray River Council due to council's current financial position and outlook for the next 10 years, leading to potential asset rationalisation across the region.
- Cost shifting from various levels of government leading to uncertainty in financial sustainability for council and the need to consider price increases and the flow-on effects to community and customers.
- Inconsistency in operational service delivery in open spaces across towns and villages.
- Maintaining service levels with current resources and community expectations.
- Inherited open spaces from new residential developments and impacts on current resourcing levels and operational budgets.
- Developer contributions, either financial or through land set aside for open space, is appropriate in size and location for the local community.
- Timing of development of new open spaces to restrict over supply.
- Council owed land recorded as Community Land not Operational Land; need to reclassify as required.
- Ensuring management of council land and asset is undertaken with financially sustainable goals and objectives in conjunction with council's other strategic plans.
- Declining volunteer participation due to aged population and no community succession plans in place for future generation involvement.
- Community and stakeholder expectations for services higher than identified financially sustainable targets.
- Communities' existing connections to open spaces that may be considered for rationalisation resulting in controversy and difficult public consultation.
- Climate change, more frequent extreme weather events and natural disasters impacting on service levels, access to open spaces and assets.
- Reduction in opportunities to attain suitable external funding through federal and state government grants due to higher competitive applications, reporting requirements and funds available.



## Addressing the challenges

### **Determining existing assets, land reclassification and working toward financial sustainability:**

Council identified there was a lack of data around the expectations of our community relating to open spaces. To gain better understanding a 'Needs and Demands Assessment' was undertaken for council-wide services in our open spaces. This assessment provided the baseline data analysis of current levels of service, number of assets and their condition, current and future community expectations and needs at a strategic level.

After consultation, the final report from CT Management (Needs and Demand Assessment for Sport and Recreation Facilities 2021), has allowed council to consider a measured, sustainable and strategic approach for the provision of open spaces across Murray River Council LGA.

Outcomes and recommendation of this assessment was workshopped with Councillors and key staff, to determine the Open Space Hierarchy and inclusions list, which was adopted in March 2023 (Council resolution: 290323).

The report also provided detailed information relating to the excess land and building assets which council own or manage. This has since transpired into the 'Working Towards a Sustainable MRC' project which looks to create a more financially, socially and environmentally sustainable council moving forward. We are currently reviewing and reclassifying land to its correct classification - Operational or Community Land - with the intention to sell surplus land and assets. The sale of the surplus land and assets will provide necessary revenue, allowing council to reinvest in the improvement of the current open space network.

### **Define open space hierarchies and service levels:**

New open spaces will be developed according to the hierarchy requirements, catchment areas and need based on population projections to meet the requirements and expectations of our community and stakeholders. The Murray River Council Local Housing Strategy (Res 171023), and REMPLAN April 2024 data all support the future development of new open spaces, in identified locations. Further to this, they support the timing and level of development within the adopted hierarchy methodologies that determine catchment areas and inclusions.

The Parks and Biosecurity Business Unit has developed the Open Space Service Delivery Plan which documents the minimum service levels to be performed based on the hierarchy methodology adopted for open spaces. The plan will provide consistent, sustainable and equitable service delivery across the region with current resourcing levels, ensuring financial sustainability and cost-effective management of open spaces, whilst still meeting the needs and expectation of our communities.



## Future actions

**During the development of the Open Space Strategy, council has noted that not all challenges identified can be tackled immediately. Some of those challenges will require attention in the future through various projects, including but not limited to the development of the updated Developer Contributions Plan, 2025-28 Delivery Program and Land Conversion project (Sustainable MRC).**

Other identified challenges and considerations are listed below:

### **Addressing the declining volunteer participation.**

Council will need to develop a comprehensive succession plan to ensure a smooth transition of leadership and responsibilities from older to younger volunteers to assist with the management of community assets.

This plan should include training sessions and opportunities for hands-on experience that create diverse volunteering opportunities that cater to different interests, skills and time commitments. The plan could potentially attract a broader range of volunteers, including younger individuals who may have limited availability due to work or education. The development of a long-term strategy for sustaining volunteer participation beyond immediate needs may involve building a strong volunteer infrastructure, establishing clear roles and responsibilities, and fostering a culture of volunteerism within the community. By taking these actions, council and communities can address the challenges of declining volunteer participation and ensure the continuity of vital community services and programs.

### **Addressing the community's connections to open spaces that may be considered for rationalisation, resulting in controversy and difficult public consultation.**

Dealing with controversy regarding the rationalisation of open spaces requires a thoughtful and inclusive approach. Communication surrounding any open space considered for rationalisation must be open and transparent from the outset, with ample opportunities for community members to ask questions, express concerns, and provide feedback.

Engagement will need to be meaningful public consultation that involves the community in decision-making through public meetings, workshops, surveys, and online forums to ensure that all stakeholders, including local residents, businesses, and interest groups, have a chance to voice their opinions and contribute to the discussion.

It's important that council listen attentively to the concerns and perspectives of community members, even if they are critical of the rationalisation proposal and empathise with their attachment to open spaces and acknowledge the value these spaces hold for them.

Consideration of alternative options and compromises that address community concerns will also assist to minimise negative impacts. This should be supported by providing clear and accessible information about the benefits and potential drawbacks of any rationalisation proposal to help community members understand the broader context, including any legal or regulatory requirements, as well as the potential long-term consequences of different decisions.

The future engagement of external experts such as urban planners and community development specialists, would further assist to inform decision-making and address technical aspects of the rationalisation process. Expert input can lend credibility to the proposal and help reassure the community that decisions are based on sound evidence and analysis. By adopting these strategies, communities can navigate controversy and difficult public consultation processes associated with the rationalisation of open spaces in a manner that is transparent, inclusive, and respectful of diverse perspectives.

### **Addressing climate change, more frequent extreme weather events and natural disasters impacting on service levels, access to open spaces and assets.**

To mitigate the impact of weather events on service levels and open space accessibility, the council will need to develop plans and strategies to identify vulnerabilities and prioritize actions for risk mitigation. These plans must include strategies to safeguard critical infrastructure, like open spaces and community assets, from extreme weather and natural disasters.

Investing sustainably and designing projects to enhance the resilience of open spaces and natural areas through the creation of green corridors and spaces can offer protection against extreme weather and disasters. Additionally, these solutions yield benefits such as improved air and water quality, habitat restoration, and recreational opportunities.

Implementing adaptive management practices allows for flexible decision-making in response to changing environmental conditions. This involves regularly monitoring and assessing open spaces and assets, adjusting management strategies accordingly, and engaging in adaptation efforts like reducing greenhouse gas emissions, conserving water, and participating in community resilience initiatives.

### **Managing cost shifting from various levels of government leading to uncertainty in financial sustainability for council and the need to consider price increases and the flow on effects to community and customers.**

Cost shifting from various levels of government will continually compromise the financial sustainability of council. Furthermore, ongoing considerations of price increases and their potential impacts on the community will need to be considered through comprehensive financial planning and budgeting to accurately assess council's financial position.

By identifying areas of cost shifting, council can develop long-term financial strategies that prioritise sustainability and resilience and consider potential future cost increases and revenue fluctuations that will impact on council's ability to deliver essential services and maintain infrastructure. By better understanding the effects of indirect cost shifting council will need to continuously seek opportunities to improve efficiency and streamline operations within the council to reduce costs without compromising service delivery.

Future investment in the provision of open spaces will need to consider alternate revenue streams to reduce reliance on government funding and mitigate the impact of cost shifting. This may include further exploration of alternative sources of revenue, such as user fees, charges for services, grants, and partnerships with private sector entities, while ensuring affordability and fairness for the community and customers.

Council will need to implement cost containment measures to control expenditure and minimise the need for price increases by continually optimising staffing levels, and prioritising investments based on cost-benefit analysis and community priorities.

By taking these actions, council can navigate the challenges of cost shifting, maintain financial sustainability, and ensure that any necessary price increases are implemented in a fair and responsible manner.

### **Managing the reduction in opportunities to attain suitable external funding through federal and state government grants due to higher competitive applications, reporting requirements and funds available.**

Overcoming the challenges associated with a reduction in opportunities to attain suitable external funding requires a strategic and proactive approach. Council will need to reduce reliance on government grants by diversifying funding sources and by tapping into a variety of funding streams.

The future development of a comprehensive grant strategy that aligns with the council's priorities, goals and funding needs for open spaces will assist to identify grants with a high likelihood of success and strategic alignment with council objectives. Through the project management framework, Council can also ensure projects and initiatives focus on innovation, sustainability, and measurable outcomes that align with funding priorities and criteria. The project management framework helps develop clear and realistic project plans, budgets, and timelines that demonstrate council's capacity to deliver results and maximise the impact of funding investments.

The council can also continue to advocate for policy changes and reforms that address barriers to accessing government grants, such as overly competitive application processes or burdensome reporting requirements.



# Funding

Implementation of the strategy will require a commitment of funding and resources as well as the establishment of partnerships and attainment of grant funding. Funding opportunities include:

- Council revenue – operational and capital budgets. Priorities and actions will need to align with Council's annual budgets, Council's Long Term Financial Plan and Asset Management Plan;
- Through the new Murray River Council Developer Contribution Plan Council - which provides direction on land dedication for residential subdivisions - we currently acquire land for community open space by applying a percentage-based model. This is in accordance with Section 7.12 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. Moving forward, considerations for the provision of monetary contributions in lieu of dedicated open spaces as part of residential subdivisions will be considered, where high levels of existing open space within the provision methodology means that the open space is not required.
- The Environmental Sustainability Strategy once developed will support the ongoing implementation of the Open Space Strategy, supporting such items as climate change, natural disasters and extreme weather events;
- Government grants and subsidies which can be related to sport and recreation, health promotion, arts and culture, biodiversity, tree management, streetscape initiatives, climate change or infrastructure development;
- Community grants; and
- Landowner and partnership agreements. For example, facility sharing with NSW Department of Education, private land agreements for biodiversity conservation or voluntary planning agreements and bonds.

Accordingly, as work programs and budgets are developed along with the Operational Plan, Delivery Program and future Community Strategic Plans, some prioritised actions may be delayed, or others brought forward. Some actions may be reconsidered as circumstances change, new information is uncovered, asset management plans, asset lifecycles, weather events and review of the Open Space Strategy is undertaken.

It will also be necessary to allocate additional maintenance funding and resources to respond to new sportsgrounds, recreations reserves and parks, cemeteries, road reserves, drainage basins, bushland reserves, and Crown Land when required. Further to these, and after future rationalisation of open spaces has been completed, it may be necessary to invest in the improvement of existing parks and assets to ensure they are fit for purpose within the classified hierarchy and inclusions list.

# Reporting on the outcomes

The 2022-2026 Murray River Council Delivery Program and associated Monthly Operating Report will monitor and manage all actions and outcomes from the Open Space Strategy. The Delivery Program tasks identify community requests for open spaces across the region. The inclusion list was developed by Council following community consultation and feedback such as the Community Strategic Plan 2021, Revenue Task Force recommendations, CT Management Needs and Demands Assessment Final Report and recommendations including benchmarking of neighbouring and similar demographic council's, customer service requests and complaints as well as various other projects and general community consultation.

Future actions identified in this strategy will be included as projects to be undertaken as part of the 2025-28 delivery program.

# Operations Plan

The Parks and Biosecurity Business Unit have developed a Service Delivery Plan which encompasses the current services required for the successful management of each sportsground, recreation reserve, park, cemetery, road reserve, drainage basin, bushland reserve, or Crown Land that Council currently manages. Consideration has also been taken to account for identified future developments and rationalisation of Open Spaces.

The Service Delivery Plan provides an outline of the tasks to be undertaken and their frequency depending on their classification within the hierarchy.

## Review

It is anticipated that the Strategy will require review in line with the development of the 2026-2030 Delivery Program and a complete revision within 5 years.

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## References

- CT Management (Needs and Demand Assessment for Sport and Recreation Facilities 2021)
- Sustainable MRC
- Land Conversion and reclassification project
- Development Control Plan
- Development Contributions Plan
- Open Space Asset Management Plan
- Parks and Open Spaces Service delivery plan
- Sportsgrounds and Courts Service Levels
- Crown Lands Plans of Management
- Local Housing Strategy
- Local Environment Plans
- Community Strategic Plan
- Delivery Plan
- Revenue Task Force Report
- Everyone Can Play Guidelines NSW
- NSW Planning and Environment Open Space Guidelines
- Murray River Local Strategic Planning Statement 2020-2040

### **DISCLAIMER:**

**Council will make every effort to meet the schedules of maintenance as documented in this Strategy, however Council cannot guarantee that budgetary or staffing changes will not impact on our ability to meet the outlined levels of service. Section 42 of the Civil Liability Act.**





**murray river  
council**

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