

Skate and Tween/Teen Facilities Framework



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1. Executive Summary

1.1 Introduction

Playce was engaged in September 2014 to undertake a review of the current and future provision of skate spaces across the municipality as well as the consideration of broader public recreation and play spaces for young people to enjoy. This review builds upon the existing recently updated Ballarat Play Space Strategy 2016 and Active Ballarat Strategy.

To achieve this plan Playce reviewed the above documentation in detail and engaged with local stakeholders. This engagement process included undertaking a comprehensive survey to determine the specific needs of those stakeholders, as well as a more municipal-wide review and demographic distribution and on site assessment of possible new available sites. A review of Ballarat's existing skate facilities was also undertaken.

The main focus was ensuring that the City of Ballarat had a clear strategic plan to appropriately provide accessible, inclusive and relevant skate, scooter and BMX spaces and broader activity spaces for tweens and teens in line with current practice for the next ten years. When referring to tweens, we are referring to the age group approximately between eight and 12 years of age (according to the Cambridge English Dictionary) who generally are not independently mobile and still interested in play.

The key recommendations to achieve the above plan are outlined below and focus on both new facilities and upgrades to existing parks to give the City of Ballarat a clear strategic direction.

1.2 Recommendations

The following recommendations are based on the key outcomes from the strategic plan and focus on both skate facility provision and providing spaces for young people more broadly.

1.2.1 High priority

- In lieu of the GovHub project, it is recommended replacing Ballarat Civic Hall Skatepark with a new urban tween focused activity space. This space would focus on provision of plaza style skateboarding, while also becoming a social hub and recreation space attractive and relevant to tweens and teens. The intention is for use by the entire community.

1.2.2 Medium priority

- Replace existing Delacombe Skatepark as identified in Doug Dean Recreation Reserve Masterplan.
- Undertake design and implement new local skate/tween activity space for Miners Rest
- Undertake design and then implement new local skate/tween activity space for Wendouree
- Extension of Len T Fraser Skatepark with large street plaza and transition areas
- Undertake design and implement new local skate/tween activity for Alfredton

1.2.3 Low priority

- New local skate/tween activity space for Mount Clear/Mount Helen
- New local skate/tween activity space for Ballarat North/Invermay Park
- Possible new local skate/tween activity space for Lucas

1.3 Summary of recommendations

The online surveys undertaken in 2014 confirmed the need for upgrades and new facilities to cater for the young population of Ballarat and surrounds. This included not only skate spaces but other community spaces for socialising and other active recreation opportunities. This was reconfirmed with surveys undertaken on-site with users in 2018.

The strategy recommends not only upgrades to existing facilities but advocates for careful consideration for future sites in new development areas to include both skate and recreation spaces which actively include young people as part of the broader community.

The City of Ballarat has the tools to ensure comprehensive planning of new developments to appropriately cater for the social and recreational needs of young people within the municipality. The implementation of this strategy for any future planning will ensure the needs of Ballarat's young people are met to create a more active and inclusive community.

2. Confirming Demand

2.1 Introduction

Given that skateboarding, BMX and scootering are undertaken as informal unstructured recreation activities, it is difficult to quantify participation unlike organised sports which have clubs and members to determine use and popularity. Therefore the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) undertakes a three-yearly survey/research that includes data on children's participation in bike riding, skateboarding, rollerblading and scootering. This information is invaluable as it enables us to see the significant popularity of these activities, particularly compared against traditional popular organised sports and activities. This is summarised in table 2.1.

2.2 Participation comparison

The following table shows how significant the popularity of both bike riding and skate-wheeled sports (skateboarding, scootering and rollerblading) are across Australia when compared to the most popular organised sports for both boys (soccer, swimming and AFL) and girls (dancing, swimming, netball). It is important to note these figures pick up all bike riding and do not distinguish BMX from other bike usage.

The figure for the skate-wheeled sports is also general and does not break numbers down into detail for each sport. Given the current popularity with young children for scooters for informal play and transport, this will no doubt have contributed to the significance of these numbers.

Having said that, given the numbers for both bike riding and skate-wheeled sports have grown or been relatively steady and are on average three times the participation rate of the nearest organised sports, they still represent a significant level that needs acknowledgment when considering both current and future provision of skate, scooter and BMX spaces for the Ballarat region.

Whilst the ABS has data up to 2012, there is other data from the Australian Sports Commission that is dated April 2018 (https://www.clearinghouseforsport.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0012/796827/AusPlay_focus_Children_Participation.pdf). This data provides the following information around the current trends for out-of-school activities. It surveyed over 20,000 people, so while not comprehensive, provides some trends.

Girls in the 12-14 age bracket are participating in netball (30.6%), basketball (12.4%), dancing (11.8%), swimming (11.7%) and football/soccer (9.1%). Boys in the similar demographic are participating in football/soccer (27.4%), AFL (22.1%), basketball (18%), cricket (17.4%) and tennis (11.5%).

Table 2.1: Children's Participation in Selected Physical Recreation Activities compared with top three organised sports, By sex - 2006, 2009 and 2012 (ABS 2012)

	2006		2009		2012	
	number		number		number	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
MALES						
Bike riding	1003	73.4	922.5	66.1	999.8	69.9
Skateboarding or rollerblading or scootering	780.4	55.9	857.8	60
Soccer (outdoor)	268.5	19.6	277.8	19.9	309.7	21.7
Swimming/Diving	225.7	16.5	240.1	17.2	235.2	16.5
Australian Rules football	188.5	13.8	223.7	16	212.7	14.9
FEMALES						
Bike riding	803.2	61.9	721.1	54.4	770.6	56.8
Skateboarding or rollerblading or scootering	562.2	42.4	640	47.2
Dancing	300.1	23.1	348.5	26.3	367.4	27.1
Swimming/Diving	236.8	18.2	262.8	19.8	256.9	18.9
Netball	224.1	17.3	225	17	220.4	16.2

2.3 Facility comparison benchmarking

Given the information in table 2.1, it is clear that skateboarding, BMX and other wheeled sports have remained popular over the last six years and there is no evidence of this reducing in the foreseeable future. Therefore it is important to review the current supply of facilities within Victoria that have been built to meet this demand and where Ballarat sits in comparison to both metropolitan and regional municipalities.

Table 2.2 provides a snap shot of population and numbers of skateparks to get an understanding of current provision throughout Victoria.

Importantly, given this strategy is looking both at skatepark provision and broader youth activity opportunities, and given most play spaces realistically only cater for children under 10 years of age, Table 2.2 also highlights the numbers of play spaces the sample of Victorian municipalities each have in comparison with skate spaces. Whilst skateparks are not specifically designed for teenage use, they are often seen as important spaces for teenage social and recreation activities and are a good starting point in understanding current broader provision of spaces for young people.

Table 2.2 outlines that generally most municipalities, no matter what location, all have at least one skatepark and almost all have a facility of at least a district scale, if not regional.

Ballarat, when compared to other municipalities, and in particular with other regional councils, has a similar provision of skateparks to other councils sampled in this table.

Outwardly, it could be said that Ballarat is in line with most regional centres regarding skate provision, however this table does not assess the quality, age or functionality of these parks or where they are located within their councils. It only shows that Ballarat is comparable with numbers. The existing skatepark assessments outlined later within this strategy show that there are some significant issues with these existing facilities that require consideration moving forward to ensure Ballarat has high quality facilities to cater for current and future demand. This is also relevant with the closure of the Civic Hall Skatepark as this will raise the ratio by population of skateparks to 25,421 which is significantly higher than all the other regional centres, so its replacement is critical moving forward.

Table 2.2: Benchmarking of existing skateparks with sample of Inner City, Outer

COUNCIL/SHIRE	REGIONAL SKATEPARK	DISTRICT SKATEPARK	LOCAL SKATEPARK	SKATEPARK TOTAL	TOTAL POPULATION	PEOPLE PER 1 SKATEPARK
INNER CITY						
MELBOURNE	1	1	1	2	135,959	67,979
HOBSONS BAY	0	1	3	4	88,778	17,755
MARIBYRNONG	0	1	2	3	82,288	27,429
MOONEE VALLEY	0	0	3	3	116,671	29,167
YARRA	0	2	0	2	86,657	43,328
PORT PHILLIP	1	0	1	2	100,863	50,431
MORELAND	1	1	0	2	162,558	81,279
BOROONDARA	1	1	2	4	167,231	41,807
GLEN EIRA	0	1	0	1	140,875	140,875
BAYSIDE	0	1	2	3	97,087	32,362
OUTER CITY						
WYNDHAM	0	3	1	4	217,122	43,424
HUME	1	2	5	8	197,376	24,672
NILLUMBIK	0	2	0	2	61,273	20,424
WHITEHORSE	1	0	1	2	162,078	81,039
MAROONDAH	2	1	1	4	110,376	27,594
MONASH	0	1	1	2	182,618	91,309
GREATER DANDE-NONG	1	0	1	2	152,050	76,025
CASEY	1	0	4	5	299,301	59,860
FRANKSTON	1	0	3	4	134,143	33,535
REGIONAL						
GREATER GEELONG	1	1	10	12	233,429	19,452
GREATER BENDIGO	1	1	3	5	110,477	22,095
GREATER SHEPPARTON	1	1	1	3	63,867	21,289
WODONGA	1	2	2	5	39,351	19,675

2.4 Comparison of skateparks against playspaces

Given a key part of this strategy is considering the provision of spaces that cater for the broader needs of teenagers, it is important to get an understanding of what is currently provided for teenagers in our public domain.

Whilst there are few examples of tween/teen activity areas, a starting point is looking at skatepark provision versus broader play provision for younger children. Whilst skateparks are not necessarily spaces specifically for teenagers (outlined later), the fact exists when considering the needs of this age group, skateparks are the only spaces provided for them. This then enables us to get a feel for the level of current provision.

Table 2.3, of the same Victorian sample of municipalities, looks at skatepark provision against play space provision. It shows very clearly that there is a major discrepancy between the provision of play spaces, (generally for 0-8 year olds) and skateparks. Across all councils there is on average at least 25 play spaces for every skate facility. For Ballarat this is slightly lower and sits at 16 play spaces for every skate space. Whilst we could also include other sporting areas, ovals, basketball half courts etc, in this assessment, the discrepancy is still significant.

This difference is compounded when we consider that most skateparks do not even adequately cater for the significant number of teenagers who don't actively participate in wheeled sports, particularly girls.

Therefore, across Victoria, the needs of young children (0-8) are actively being met (from a number perspective at least) whilst provision of spaces for older children (twens) and teenagers are significantly under represented.

Table 2.3: Benchmarking of existing skateparks, playspaces with sample of Inner City, Outer City and Regional Councils in comparison to Ballarat (ABS 2016 and information compiled from individual council websites).

COUNCIL/SHIRE	SKATEPARK TOTAL	PLAYSPACE TOTAL	PROPORTION OF PLAY/SKATE	TOTAL POP.	PEOPLE PER 1 SKATE-PARK	PEOPLE PER 1 PLAY SPACE
INNER CITY						
MELBOURNE	2	33	17		67,979	4,119
HOBSONS BAY	5	86	17	88,778	17,755	1,032
MARIBYRNONG	3	42	14	82,288	27,429	1,959
MOONEE VALLEY	4	93	23		29,167	1,254
YARRA	2	42	21	86,657	43,328	2,063
PORT PHILLIP	2	48	24		50,431	2,101
MORELAND	2	108	54		81,279	1,505
BOROONDARA	4	97	24		41,807	1,724
GLEN EIRA	1	28	28		140,875	5,031
BAYSIDE	3	49	16	97,087	32,362	1,981
OUTER CITY						
WYNDHAM	5	36	9		43,424	6031
HUME	8	195	24		24,672	1,012
NILLUMBIK	3	68	34	61,273	20,424	901
WHITEHORSE	2	170	85		81,039	953
MAROONDAH	4	34	9		27,594	3,246
MONASH	2	124	62		91,309	1,472
GREATER DANDE-NONG	2	102	51		76,025	1,490
CASEY	5	275	55		59,860	1,088
FRANKSTON	4	91	23		33,535	1,474
REGIONAL						
GREATER GEELONG	12	256	21		19,452	911
GREATER BENDIGO	5	115	23		22,095	960
GREATER SHEPPARTON	3	47	16	63,867	21,289	1,358

3. Demographic Review

3.1 Introduction

Further to the information provided earlier regarding both strong participation in action sports and a lack of spaces generally for teenagers across Victoria, it's important to then assess Ballarat's demographic profile, with a focus on young people and their distribution around the municipality to then assist in determining gaps in current and future provision.

3.2 Review

Ballarat's population for 2018 was estimated at 110,030, with a prediction to 114,193 by the end of June 2019 (<http://www.population.net.au/ballarat-population/>).

This represents an approximately 3.78 per cent growth rate over the last either (8) years. Population projections forecast Ballarat will grow to 144,108 by 2036 (<https://forecast.id.com.au/ballarat>), an increase of just over 31 per cent. Ballarat also has a higher percentage of 10-19 year olds than the state average of 11.7 per cent (ABS 2016).

This signals the importance of providing spaces and places for younger people in the municipality over the next 10 years, both given the rise in population and current lack of existing facilities to provide for current demand.

More specifically, it is important to see where the highest concentration of young people currently live and will be living in the next 10 years to understand which parts of Ballarat are most important to focus on for localised skate provision.

Table 3.1 summarises the population of children from 10 to 19 by suburb. It includes younger children as these 10 year olds surveyed at the time will be teenagers over the coming years. This enables the City of Ballarat to plan for future needs, as well as meeting current demand for tweens.

While older people also participate in skate and BMX, a significant proportion of users are within this 10 to 19 age bracket. Older users are also more likely to drive to facilities as required, so location is not as critical to them.

The distribution of children by suburb is a good indicator of where new facilities and spaces should go, particularly given young people predominantly have to either walk or use public transport to move throughout the municipality. Providing spaces that are central and in close proximity to where larger numbers of young people live will assist in maximising opportunities to frequent the facilities accordingly.

Key points from table 3.1 are as follows;

- Alfredton has both the current highest number and also percentage of young people in the entire municipality. Lake Wendouree and Rural West have high percentages but low actual numbers.
- Sebastopol/Redan, Ballarat Central and Wendouree have slightly lower percentages but still have high actual numbers behind Alfredton.

Table 3.1: Demographic overview of Ballarat by suburb (ABS 2016 and information compiled from <https://profile.id.com.au/ballarat>).

10-19 YEAR OLDS BY SUBURB/AREA	2016			2011			Diff. in 5 years	Existing facility?
	No.	%	diff. in VIC average (11.7%)	No.	%	diff. in VIC average (12.5%)		
Alfredton	1472	15.85	4.15	1267	17.59	5.01	205	
Ballarat Central	1214	12.80	-1.1	1344	14.02	-3.57	-130	YES
Ballarat East - Eureka - Warrenheip	594	11.00	-0.7	662	12.71	-1.31	-134	
Ballarat North - Invermay Park	747	12.99	1.29	787	13.60	0.89	-68	
Buninyong - Rural South	614	13.69	1.99	588	14.48	0.88	26	YES
Delacombe	948	14.24	2.54	870	16.27	1.79	78	YES
Golden Point - Mount Pleasant - Canadian	878	11.05	-0.65	939	12.53	-3.74	61	
Lake Wendouree (North) - Lake Gardens	375	15.04	3.34	320	15.09	2.56	55	
Lucas				n/a				
Miners Rest - Mitchell Park	536	12.32	0.62	485	13.09	-1.99	51	
Mount Clear - Mount Helen	854	13.47	0.77	909	15.93	2.84	-54	
Rural East	300	12.51	0.81	302	15.75	-0.18	-2	
Rural West	638	14.93	3.23	430	14.70	-1.05	208	
Sebastopol - Redan	1387	10.66	-1.04	1508	12.16	-2.54	-121	
Soldiers Hill - Black Hill - Nerrina (South) - Brown Hill (West)	991	10.72	-0.98	1064	11.90	-0.26	-73	
Wendouree	1226	11.69	-0.01	1440	13.52	1.63	-214	

3.3 Discussion

Based upon a review of Ballarat's demographics and in particular children aged 10-19 years, there is a relatively even spread of young people across the municipality. However, the provision of existing facilities does not adequately cover all areas appropriately. Therefore as part of the implementation strategy we will ensure that those gaps in provision will be prioritised, as well as facilities and existing spaces that require repair/ redevelopment.

4. Strategic Support

4.1 Introduction

The above broader benchmarking and demographic review confirms there are significant numbers of young people and yet real discrepancies in provision for spaces provided for them. This is reinforced by the City of Ballarat's Play Space Strategy which acknowledges the importance of teenage play and the gap in provision both in Ballarat and throughout Victoria.

Based on this information, this strategy aims to give greater clarity on firstly distinguishing the differences in both skate specific facilities and broader youth activity spaces so that Ballarat can ensure it adequately meets the needs of both skaters and other action sports users whilst also implements processes and creates broader spaces for young people in general, particularly females.

4.2 Ballarat Play Space Strategy (2017)

This document reviews the provision for play throughout the City of Ballarat's 132 facilities for their quality, quantity, location and suitability, as well as providing a long-term plan for future provision of spaces. Its purpose is to guide planning for this over the next 10-15 years. With the largest projected age group by 2026 to be 15-19 years, planning is essential for this age group.

The strategy assists in clarifying why spaces for young people are so important. Following consultation with both adults and the younger community, it highlights the importance of spaces and the value of play in the community. Some of the activities, which were away from traditional skate/BMX areas include general socialisation, climbing, hanging out with friends, both organised and solo sport, cycling and skating, ball games, performance, running, risky play (play that involves exposure to danger) and technology.

Consultation and engagement of young people is important in the ongoing planning process. It empowers them in decision-making about the types of spaces that are developed. A play space's environment and diversity of play formed part of the issues arising from consultation. The intermingling of social, physical, creative and cognitive elements allows young people to grow and develop in places they feel comfortable. Classification of spaces into neighbourhood, district and regional areas allow for relevant

"For children and young people, parks and open space are not just the stereotypical place to play, but also provide a place to socialise, be physically active, explore, have fun, 'hang out', be in contact with nature, escape from indoors, or just be free from the encumbrances of an increasingly adult world"

(Action for Young Australians Report, Australian Research Alliance for Children & Youth, 2009)

4.3 Ballarat 2018 Active Women and Girls' Strategy

Most recently, the 2018 Active Women and Girls' Strategy aims to provide a tailored response to priority issues identified within the municipality that may be constraining women and girls' involvement in sport or physical activity, either as leaders or participants.

Key outcomes relevant to this strategy include:

- Enhance the suitability of facilities for women and girls – formal sport and informal recreation through using Universal Design principles within design;
- Investigate strategies to support increases in female participation in informal and non-club-based physical activity opportunities;
- Current infrastructure provides a higher level of support for initiatives that encourage traditional male dominated activities ahead of activities targeting women and girls.

As part of the design and implementation of any new skatepark or tween active space, opportunities for females to participate and engage in the space will be paramount. Whether this is through active sporting areas or a focus on social gathering opportunities or play and fitness options relevant to young women.

"Public spaces can include areas like streets, malls and squares, parks, bushland, watercourses, shopping centres and public buildings. Tensions can exist when groups of young people gather in public space in ways that adults in the community see as 'anti-social', unsafe or annoying"

5. Community Engagement

5.1 Ballarat Youth Strategy Consultation (2009)

The City of Ballarat's Youth Strategy was developed in consultation with young people through a number of forums and methods. One of the clear trends that emerged was the importance of thorough and genuine engagement with young people in the development of effective and safe community spaces that are welcoming for young people.

More specifically, the feedback from young people that is relevant for the development of youth activity spaces is:

- Ballarat Skate Park at Len T Fraser Reserve is considered 'youth friendly'
- Young people value having places for meeting friends and socialising – e.g. parks
- More spaces for young people are needed
- Need to consider innovative ways to provide spaces for young people, not necessarily segregation of age groups and users
- Need to seek opportunities to engage all age groups in the development of public spaces
- Provide better casual recreation opportunities
- Skateparks are popular – could be improved and more of them
- Some young people seek better playgrounds
- Suggest engagement with young people about and review of the effectiveness of

5.2 2014 Online surveys

The City of Ballarat undertook online community engagement asking participants a range of questions over two separate surveys;

- Ballarat Skate Survey
- Ballarat Youth Activity Spaces Survey

The response was very high with 91 participants for the skate survey and 92 for the youth activity spaces survey. The following pages outline the key findings from this significant engagement.



5.3 Summary: Ballarat Skate Spaces Survey

The following pages outline the key findings from the survey undertaken as part of the consultation phase for the City of Ballarat's Skate and Youth Activities Spaces Strategic Plan.

Questions relate to use and evaluation of current facilities, participation frequency and duration, suitability to age and skill level. It also outlines current users of these spaces and gathers their input on improvements they would like to see in the future.

The skate spaces survey demonstrated that the skate parks in Ballarat are poorly used with 56 per cent of participants stating that they mainly skate in spaces other than the seven local skate parks. The skate parks were largely rated as poor to average.

Skate parks in Ballarat were seen as being more appropriate for a higher skill level and for users over 15 years. Amenities and additional or alternative activities to skating were rated highly as ways to improve skate parks.

WHO ARE WE?

91 PARTICIPANTS



63% FEMALE
(57)



37% MALE
(34)

WHAT AGES?



UNDER 10
(1)



10-12
(8)



13-15
(50)



16-17
(16)



18-20
(5)



21+
(8)

WHAT WE DO?



CYCLIST
(28)



BMX RIDER
(24)



SCOOTER
(19)



SKATERBOARDER
(18)



INLINE SKATER
(8)



PARENT
(6)

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN SKATING/RIDING FOR?

5 OR MORE YEARS 55% (46)
3-4 YEARS 12% (10)
1-2 YEARS 15% (12)
LESS THAN 1 YEAR 18% (15)

HOW OFTEN DO YOU GO SKATING/RIDING?

DAILY 21% (17)
2-3 TIMES A WEEK 32% (26)
ONCE A WEEK 15% (12)
ONCE A MONTH 14% (14)
LESS THAN ONCE A MONTH 18% (15)

HOW LONG DO YOU SKATE/RIDE FOR?

MORE THAN 2 HRS 29% (26)
1-2 HRS 20% (19)
30 MINS-1 HR 23% (21)
LESS THAN 30 MINS 14% (13)

RATE HOW APPROPRIATE EXISTING SKATE SPACES ARE FOR...?

MALE USERS
50% VERY APPROPRIATE
FEMALE USERS
30% VERY APPROPRIATE

WHERE DO YOU USUALLY GO SKATING /RIDING?

LEN T FRASER 15% (14)
BUNINYONG 12% (12)
WENDOUREE 12% (11)
LEARMONTH 9% (8)
DELACOMBE 25% (23)
CIVIC HALL 17% (16)
SEBASTOPOL 10% (9)
OTHER 56% (51)

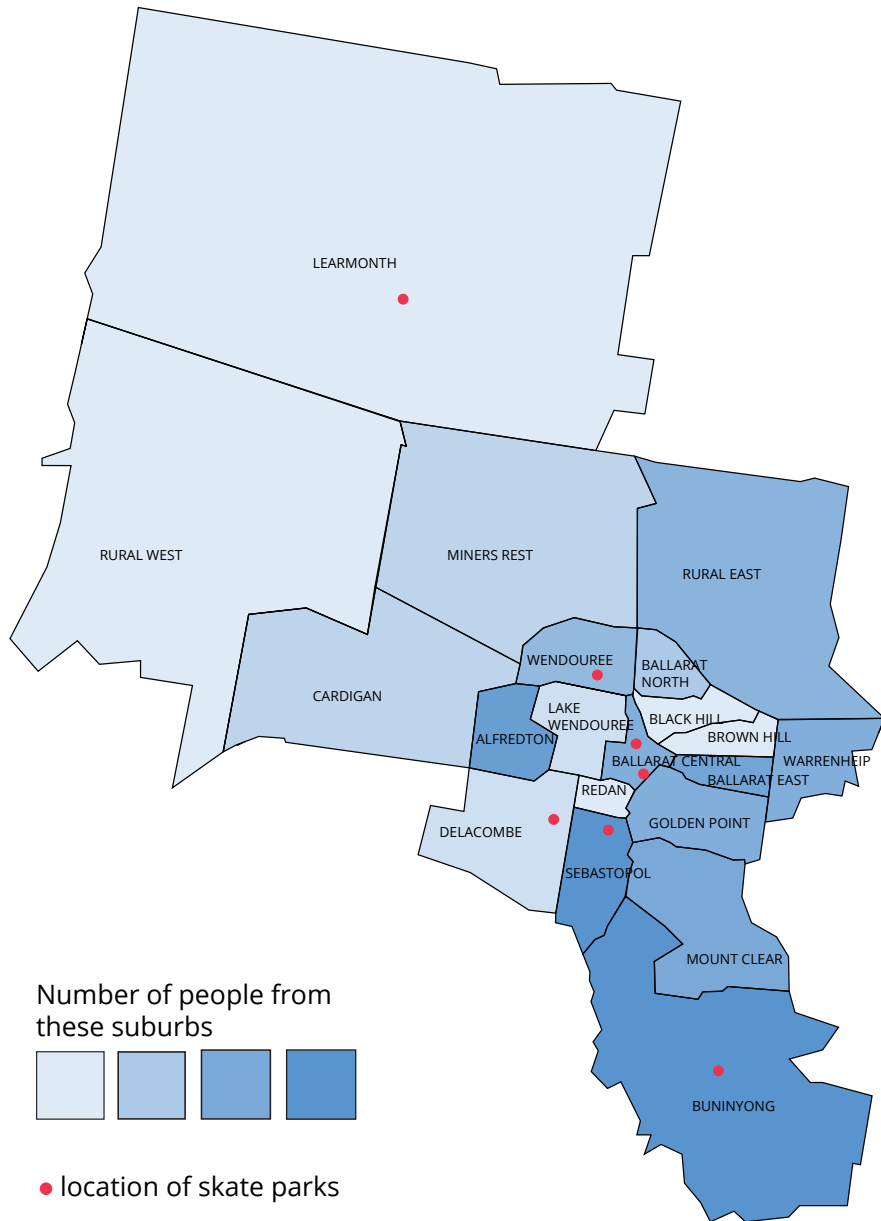
AVERAGE RATING OF SKATE SPACES IN BALLARAT?

LEN T FRASER ★★★★★
BUNINYONG ★
WENDOUREE ★
LEARMONTH ★★
DELACOMBE ★★★
CIVIC HALL ★★★
SEBASTOPOL ★
Poor ★
Fantastic ★★★★★

RATE HOW APPROPRIATE EXISTING SKATE SPACES ARE FOR...?

BEGINNER SKATER/RIDER UNDER 10 YEARS
INTERMEDIATE SKATER/RIDER 10-14 YEARS
ADVANCED SKATER/RIDER OVER 15 YEARS
SKILL LEVEL APPROPRIATE
VERY

WHERE ARE YOU FROM?



WHAT COMPONENTS ARE MOST IMPORTANT FOR SKATE SPACES?

CLEARLY DEFINED BEGINNERS AREA

43% (39)



FEATURE BOWL

35% (32)



MINI RAMPS

34% (31)



VERT RAMPS

34% (31)

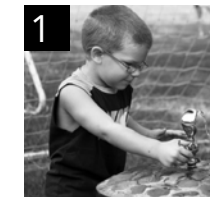


STREET OBSTACLES

30% (28)



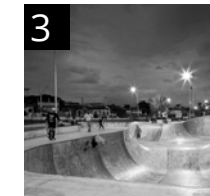
MOST IMPORTANT AMENITIES FOR SKATE SPACES?



DRINKING FOUNTAIN



PLACE TO BUY FOOD



IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR SKATE SPACES?



REST AREAS



BASKETBALL/NETBALL



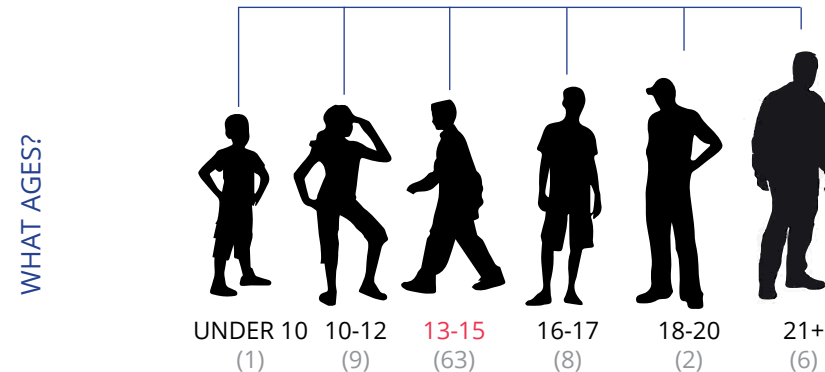
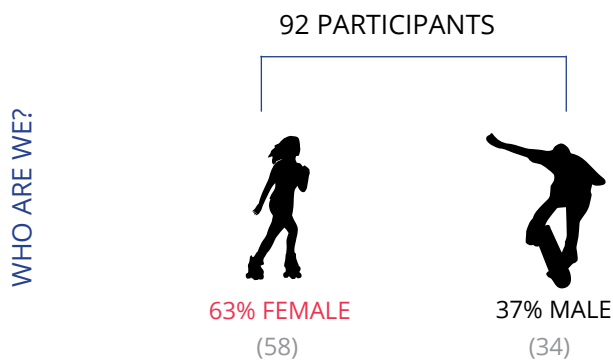
SITE MANAGEMENT/ PROGRAMS



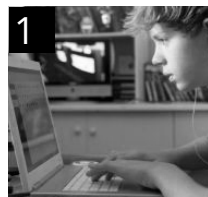
5.4 Summary: Ballarat Youth Activity Spaces Survey

From the Ballarat Youth Activity Survey it became clear that socialising and hanging out with friends is central to how those surveyed spend their spare time.

Centrally located spaces such as shopping strips, cinemas and shopping centres are the favoured places for youth to spend their spare time. Access to these spaces via public transport proved an important factor. Lack of transport is cited as one of the main factors in preventing people from using these spaces, along with not feeling welcome or safe in these spaces.



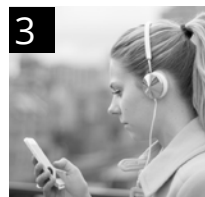
WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME?



1 USING THE INTERNET



2 HANGING OUT AT SOMEONES HOUSE



3 LISTENING TO MUSIC



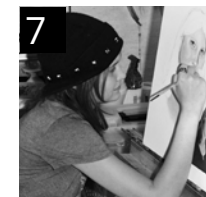
4 GOING TO THE MOVIES



5 HANGING OUT IN URBAN CENTRES



6 ORGANISED SPORT



7 ART PAINTING/DRAWING



8 HANGING OUT IN PARKS

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO MORE OF IF IT WAS AVAILABLE IN BALLARAT?



1 GOING TO THE MOVIES



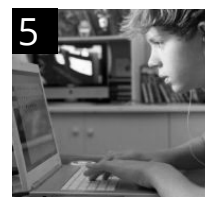
2 HANGING OUT IN URBAN CENTRES



3 ADVENTURE PLAY PARKOUR/ROPES



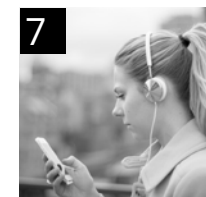
4 HANGING OUT AT SOMEONES HOUSE



5 USING THE INTERNET



6 ORGANISED SPORT

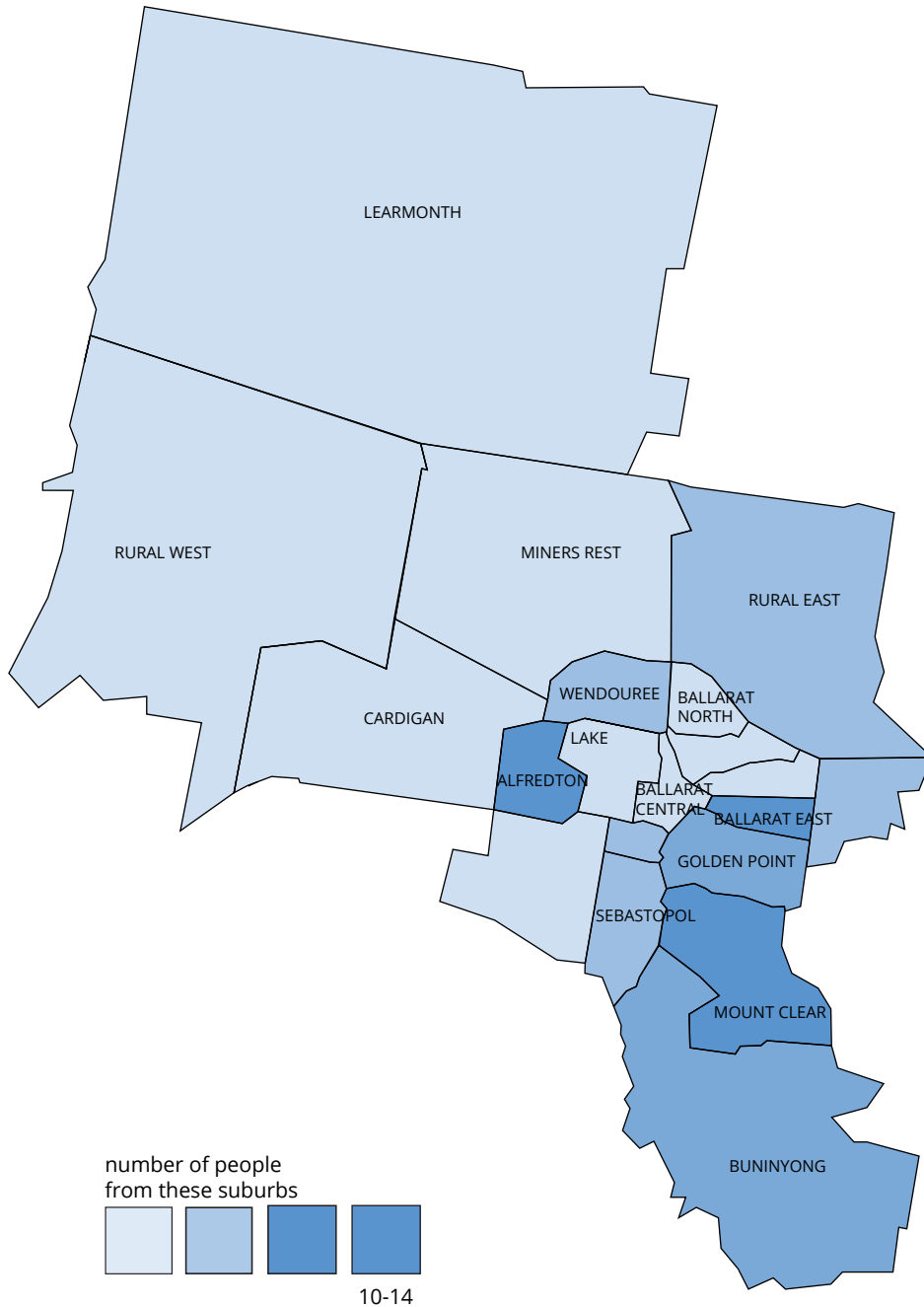


7 LISTENING TO MUSIC



8 PLAYING MUSIC

WHERE ARE YOU FROM?



TOP 5 PLACES TO VISIT IN SPARE TIME?

- 1 **STREETS: FOOD/** (57)
- 2 CINEMA (55)
- 3 (41)
- 4 OUTDOOR SPORT (27)
- 5 PARKS (26)

TOP 5 PLACES YOU WOULD USE IF AVAILABLE?

- 1 (55)
- 2 TEENAGE PLAY EQUIPMENT (38)
- 3 OUTDOOR PERFORMANCE (37)
- 4 CENTRALLY LOCATED SEATING & SOCIAL SPACE (29)
- 5 INDOOR SKATEPARK (24)

TOP 5 REASONS FOR NOT USING PLACES YOU ENJOY?

- 1 (35)
- 2 PARENTS WON'T LET ME (31)
- 3 LACK OF (29)
- 4 NOT FEELING WELCOMED BY OTHER USERS (26)
- 5 NOT FEELING SAFE (23)

5.5 Discussion

The online surveys undertaken confirmed the need for new and upgraded facilities to cater for the young population of Ballarat and surrounds. This included not only skate spaces but other community spaces for socialising and other active recreation opportunities.

The strategy recommends not only upgrades to existing facilities but advocates for careful consideration for future sites in new development areas to include both skate and activity areas which actively include young people as part of the broader community.

5.6 2018 Skate Stakeholder Survey information

A more recent survey was also undertaken at Len T Fraser Reserve in February 2018 to get a more up-to-date feel for what the local users are thinking about current and future skatepark provision across the municipality. The results are summarized below.

WHAT LEVEL ARE YOU AT IN YOUR PREFERRED ACTIVITY?

NEVER BUT INTERESTED	5
BEGINNER	15
INTERMEDIATE	32
PRO	7

WHERE DO YOU CURRENTLY SKATE/RIDE? (NOTE MULTIPLE ANSWERS FOR THIS QUESTION)

LEN T FRASER	49
BUNINYONG	10
CIVIC HALL	9
OTHER	9

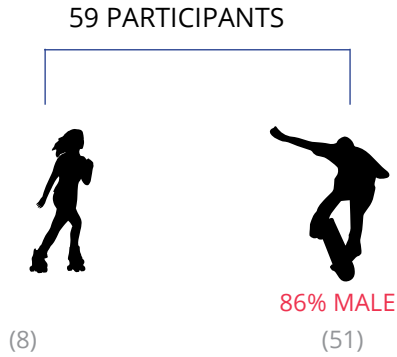
WHERE WOULD BE YOUR PREFERRED LOCATION FOR A BEGINNER SKATEPARK IN BALLARAT?

LEN T FRASER	16
ALFREDTON	8
CBD	11
OTHER	15

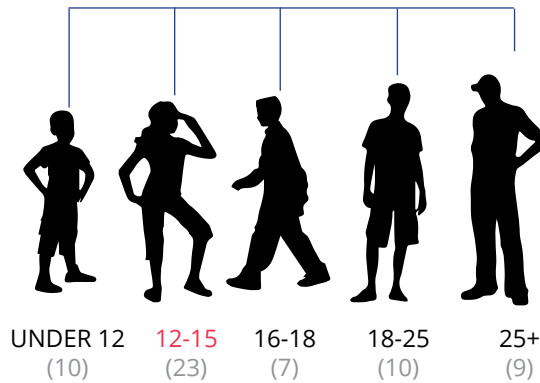
WHAT ELEMENTS ARE MISSING FROM BALLARAT SKATEPARKS THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SKATE, SCOOT OR RIDE ON? (NOTE MULTIPLE ANSWERS FOR THIS QUESTION- SELECTION OF SINGULAR RESPONSES ALSO SHOWN)

POLE JAM	11
MANUAL PAD	27
SKATEABLE SCULPTURE	20
KICKERS	44
FLATBARS	32
HIPS	2
LOTS OF FLAT GROUND	2
OTHER ITEMS	22

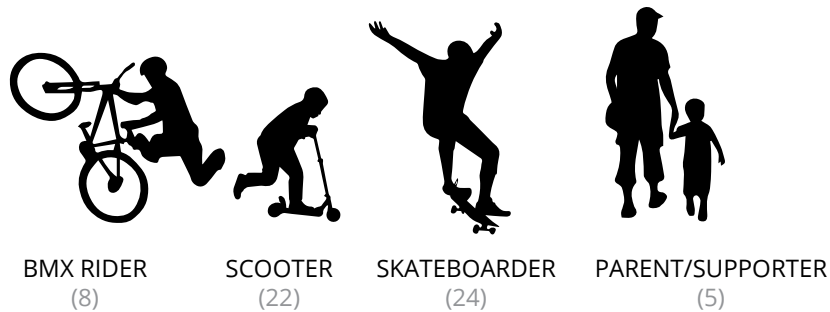
WHO ARE WE?



WHAT AGES?



WHAT WE DO?



"more hips"

"lots of flat ground"

"half or quarter pipe and flat space"

"kicker to kicker, under cover space, square flapper and slalom run"

"mini-ramp"

"hand rails"

"down ledges and stair set rails"

"manual pad, box with rail on top, street"

"bowls"

"stairs"

6. A Two Pronged Approach

6.1 Introduction

When people talk about 'skatepark' and 'youth space' provision, there is a lot of confusion both within the industry and broader public and an overall lack of clarity on what each of these are and what purpose they have.

Firstly, it is really important to understand that there is a diverse mix of different requirements for skateparks to cater for different sports (skateboarding, BMX, scooters etc) as well as the different interest/specialisation within each of the sports themselves (bowl riders, street skaters, vert skaters, etc). People also skate and ride for different reasons, some for example take a structured sporting approach where it's about participating in competitions and events, while others enjoy the freedom of more informal sessions or social connection. The needs and spatial requirement of skate spaces for all of these different considerations will differ greatly and importantly one size or typology definitely does not fit all.

Secondly there is also a growing acknowledgement that the social and play needs of older children are not adequately catered for in the provision of public recreation space. Traditionally, given that many skaters are teenagers, there has been an incorrect assumption that a skatepark is a 'youth' space.

"a popular approach by local government is often to provide a skatepark and/or BMX mounds, in the belief that such facilities will meet the needs of young people. However, facilities for young people are much more than skate and BMX facilities, especially when the needs of young females are considered as well as young males (who tend to dominate participation trends in skate and BMX activities)." Ballarat Play Space planning Framework 2014

This simplistic view has created more problems than it has solved. Many young people do not simply skate and so are not being catered for in 'skateparks'. Skaters and riders, however, can also react against being in a 'youth space'. To broaden opportunities for 'non skater' teenagers within a 'youth space', traditional sporting components are added, which again, do not cater for those who do not participate in active recreation.

The following section for the purpose of this strategy clearly defines what a skatepark is and what spaces should be considered for young people so that the City of Ballarat can strategically implement appropriate and relevant spaces for them throughout the municipality.



6.2 A skatepark or tween/teen play or activity space?

The following section explains at a strategic level the different types of skatepark and youth space provision. It does not go into detail on specific components or layout, but rather outlines the broader typology that then are defined in greater detail as part of the implementation plan.

6.2.1 The sporting model - a skatepark

Over the last 20 years there has been a significant growth in the interest and participation of action sports including skateboarding, scootering and BMX.

To cater for this need, government authorities across the world have provided purpose built 'skateparks'. These skateparks were contrived facilities that contained elements based on replicating or refining of adaptively reused spaces originally found in the public domain. Bowls and transition ramps were developed in response to 'empty pool' skating. Banks and full pipes reflect drainage infrastructure found throughout our cities, while park and plaza components found in skateparks capture public infrastructure found in our streets such as rails, barriers, ledges, stairs and seats. The key to this was to allow these users to enjoy their chosen sport or recreation pursuit in a purpose-built facility, rather in these other spaces that could both be potentially risky (eg: drains) or impacting on other users (eg: public plazas or streets).

This approach has proven to be highly successful and thousands of skateparks have been created across the globe that cater for these users. With this regulation of facilities, there has been a growing emphasis on competition. Events like X-Games, Maloof Money Cup, Dew Tour and the like have been established to meet significant spectator interest as well as providing greater opportunities for organised competition for professional and amateur athletes.

This 'skatepark' provision approach we are defining as a traditional sporting model. While skateparks are not standardised as much as traditional sports like basketball with set court dimensions etc, there are still expectations of certain quality of finish and tolerances of riding surfaces, standard heights of components, radiuses, set out of coping and components designed appropriately to ensure effective use. Importantly due to the design and scale and layout of these spaces, they also have a very defined function.

6.2.2 Summary of the skatepark model

- Skateparks generally sited in recreation reserves with other sporting infrastructure
- Designed primarily for a sports focus (action sports and associated amenity)
- Generally important to be accessible by public transport
- Generally not specifically important to be close to City of Ballarat services and commercial activity
- On-site management rare
- Configuration and layout often consider training and competition requirements
- Little attraction for those that don't participate in action sports



6.3 The social model - teen/tween activity spaces

While many skaters and riders enjoy skateparks and use them frequently, there are others who are simply not interested in going to a facility to participate. Skateboarding and BMX are not just a sport, they are also a form of transport and as outlined above, a key component of the evolution and interest in these pursuits have been the appropriation of existing public spaces and places. This has driven trends, created new tricks and ensured skate and BMX use continues to evolve and innovate. Importantly a key part of this appropriation is in locations that are relevant and exciting to those that use them. Central civic spaces, transport nodes and streets have generally been the focus of use as they are accessible, close to transport and other relevant services (food, commercial activity etc). It does cause concerns regarding conflict with other users and so it is difficult to accommodate appropriately.

This conundrum can be solved somewhat by acknowledging that on a broader level, many young people who don't skate or ride generally are also attracted to these central spaces and places for other reasons. They come to shop, to hang out, to meet with friends and socialise. They also still play and enjoy adventurous or challenge play and fitness elements like parkour and climbing. Therefore there is a synergy and opportunity to create new urban spaces that can both accommodate incidental skating while also becoming a place that privileges the needs of other tweens and teens. We call this the social model of provision.

Importantly this social approach is all about location. We need to acknowledge that tweens and teenagers are attracted to town centres, commercial precincts, food outlets and are not going to travel great distances to hang out in parks or gardens that aren't readily accessible. It is not what is contained within a space, it is where the space is located that is the driving factor in use. In a perfect world, young people would be seen as just another user of public space, as any other age group, and embraced accordingly and we would not need to create more age specific spaces to cater for their specific requirements. We do not live in such a world, and instead at a broader level, young people are often chastised for loitering or causing trouble in public spaces and told to move on.

Youth inclusive activity spaces also have a far greater role to play in urban design. While they can accommodate some skate, it should not be their focus, rather it should also consider (but not be limited to) components such as parkour, scooter loops, three-on-three courts, as well as more broadly focus on inclusion, programs and social interaction, particularly with providing inclusive facilities for both females and males.

6.3.1 Summary of social model (teen/tween activity spaces)

- Activity spaces sited adjacent to youth services, major public transport and town centres and commercial precincts
- Very easily accessed by public transport
- High natural surveillance
- High capacity to provide centralised programs and events
- Attractive to other young people that don't participate in action sports with additional facilities and spaces to encourage greater broader participation (particularly girls.)
- Participation opportunities by broader community
- Consideration of play, art, music and other activities that are not just sports focused
- Skate can occur but is not focus of space



7. Geographical Implications of Skatepark and Tween/Teen Activity Space Distribution Models

The following brief section outlines the types of model distribution by geography to determine the best opportunity for Ballarat.

7.1 Different municipalities require different models

The first major consideration of any skatepark or tween/teen activity space provision is looking at the unique geographical nature of the specific municipality. The model changes significantly between councils given significant public transport and access, the distribution of population and the clustering of like services and facilities. To summarise the different council types are outlined as follows;

7.1.1 Metropolitan

These are generally inner city municipalities with good public transport, (Eg: Yarra, Boroondara). In this instance, we recommend a hierarchical model of provision that focuses on a central regional facility and then complimented with single use sub regional facilities in conjunction with local spaces as applicable.

7.1.2 Townships

These are outer metro and semi-rural municipalities, such as the Shire of Yarra Ranges and Mornington Peninsula Shire where there are few large centralised population centres, with smaller townships making up the majority of the population. This model is based on smaller multi-use sub-regional facilities to compliment these smaller, more isolated population centres. This is the only time we recommend using the smaller multi-use subregional-facilities given the issues they can create (refer 3.3 for detail).

7.1.3 Country centres

These are major townships servicing surrounding smaller rural neighbourhoods (Eg: Shepparton etc). The recommended model is for a single central regional facility with local facilities to compliment the main space as applicable. This is applicable to Ballarat.

7.1.4 Suburban areas

The final type are outer city municipalities with significant urban development but more limited public transport. For the purposes of this study, this model is also applicable to Ballarat given the significant growth occurring at in the western suburbs of Ballarat.

7.1.5 Ballarat

Historically, like most other public sporting facilities, councils around Australia have looked at providing a range of different scaled skateparks distributed across the municipality to meet a predetermined hierarchy.

This is in line with councils Recreation Strategy to ensure that there is an equitable and accessible spread of facilities across the municipality in line with population catchment.

The City of Ballarat also has adopted a hierarchy as part of its Open Space Strategy (August 2014). It looks at six levels;

- National and International,
- State
- Regional,
- District,
- Neighbourhood
- Local

Ballarat, given it's a major country centre with a public transport network that primarily services its CBD, we believe that as outlined above, it should adopt a model that focuses on regional scale facilities and complement these with a range of local/neighbourhood spaces (both sporting and social). Given the current outer suburban growth, we believe this model is also applicable for these newer areas.

8. Model Definition

8.1 Definition of sports models

The following sections provides a more detailed definition of both the social and sporting spaces proposed for Ballarat. Refer to Table 8.1 for detailed key requirements.

8.1.1 Regional

Regional level skateparks are defined within this study as a purpose-built sporting facility providing ample space and components to enable a variety of different skilled skate and BMX users to frequent the space on a daily basis.

Regional facility will also be the main focus of skateboarding and BMX in a municipality that other smaller facilities will complement. It therefore needs to be easily accessible by public transport and cars, including available parking for parents and older users.

While not area dependent, they need to be large enough to accommodate a significant amount of rideable terrain for a range of BMX and skate users from beginner to advanced level. Within this may be specific zones for different user types to minimise conflict (e.g. plaza area, transition zone).

Regional facility examples include:

- Frankston Skatepark, 2070m² (Frankston City Council)
- Riverslide Skatepark, 1630m² (City of Melbourne)
- Len T Fraser, 1600m² approx (City of Ballarat)



FIGURE 8.1: Len T Fraser skate park

8.1.2 Local/Neighbourhood

Traditionally smaller facilities are considered ‘beginner’ facilities due to their overall scale. Smaller however does not necessarily mean beginner. For example, a 300mm high ledge can be used successfully by highly-skilled skaters of all ages. A small ramp for BMX beginner use can be upwards of 1.2m high.

Beginners should be in areas where there is easy access, clear seating and viewing areas for parents and have elements that enable progression. While municipal parks will provide partially for this, regional parks are considered the best facilities to cater for beginners. A local facility for the purposes of this strategy is a small scale space that caters for users of a local catchment only. These facilities will provide an informal localised recreational experience for users that live/work near to the skatepark. They should contain a mix of elements at a level which can be used by all skill levels without necessarily having the more challenging elements found at precinct parks. There also needs to be provision for appropriate entry and safety signage, refuge and seating however these items may be consolidated with other existing surrounding park infrastructure. The facility should also consider its context and have the necessary landscaping to integrate/complement its surroundings. The availability of toilets nearby is also preferable. Given the local catchment, public transport and parking are not as important for a local facility. Pedestrian and bicycle connections are more critical to enable users easy access to the skatepark.

It is suggested that for communities with 5,000 – 10,000 residents, one local facility will be provided to provide some opportunities throughout each neighbourhood.



FIGURE 8.1: Left to right, Lara Skatepark, Beaconsfield Skatepark

8.1.3 Incidental

Many urban spaces contain infrastructure or sculptural components that can be designed to accommodate skate function. Any pathway that is used by skateboarders/cyclists as a thoroughfare has the possibility to have sections of it widened to accommodate skateable items or undulating terrain to create an 'incidental' skatepark.

Whilst the focus may be on other activities or recreational needs, an incidental skate element can add value and increase overall function or recreational opportunity to an existing space (such as a basketball court or existing urban square).

Given the incidental skate element is not facility based, or aimed at any specific skill level, there is no set size constraint. So while managing activity is still important to avoid conflict with other users, there are opportunities to create these incidental elements in areas previously considered either inappropriate or too small for a skate facility.

Incidental skate spaces are already occurring across municipalities (potentially dangerous) with local skaters appropriating existing urban infrastructure due to their unique skate function. Examples include seats, walls and stairs. With appropriate design and management, incidental skate spots can be developed that are significantly safer and more functional to users whilst not impacting significantly on the broader community.

Incidental skate elements are focused more on where young people want to be so that a recreational opportunity is added to existing interest areas. Access, public transport and ancillary requirements will already be available in most instances given the potential centralised location of these elements.

Figure 8.2/8.3: Examples of Incidental skate spots including the Docklands "Numbers", seating at the museum, the seating area outside the Northcote Town Hall and State Library Sculpture.



FIGURE 8.2: Docklands "Numbers"

FIGURE 8.3: From top, Northcote Town Hall, State Library of Victoria, Melbourne

8.2 Definition of social model

The following sections provides a more detailed definition of both the social and sporting

8.2.1 Major Tween/Teen Focussed Activity Space

A Major Activity space is a designated public space that facilitates older children (tweens and teens) to congregate, socialise and engage in positive, passive and active recreation pursuits.

Importantly whilst not size specific, it is designed to be large enough to cater for a diverse range of programs and activities that will attract a diverse range of different young people across the municipality. As such, it will become a focus for youth events and activities at a municipal level such as National Youth Week or FReeZA events. The activity space will have key areas to accommodate skateboarding and other active recreation opportunities; however these will be shared with other cultural and social activities. These may include art exhibition spaces, music and band opportunities. There may also be play and other sporting/play opportunities such as climbing, fitness or parkour or ball sports. The other key component is an equitable distribution of social and seating spaces that provide opportunities for social gathering and simply 'hanging out'. Shelter and shade is also critical.

The key to the success of an activity area is location. They need to be in high-profile central locations where older children will congregate and easily access. Therefore town centres, major shopping precincts and transport interchanges are key locations that should be sought out. Location is critical as tweens and teens will simply not participate or congregate in areas that are difficult to access. Another key to the success of the space is if possible, providing opportunities for co-locating the plaza near youth services or other City of Ballarat community service buildings. This allows opportunities for City of Ballarat to effectively manage and program the space, run events whilst also enabling access and assistance to at-risk youth in an environment that the youth are already appropriating freely.

Municipal plaza examples include:

- Geelong Youth Activities Plaza Skatepark, 2500m² (City of Greater Geelong)



FIGURE 8.4: Geelong Youth Activities Plaza Skatepark

8.2.2 Local Tween/Teen Activity Space

A local tween/teen activity space is essentially a freely-accessed public area within a local catchment that has a shelter where possible, seating, social spaces, art or some minor play, recreation, fitness or sporting infrastructure that is relevant for older children to enjoy. This may be within a local park, along a street or at the local shopping precinct.

The focus though is not large scale events or activities but rather spaces that provide older children the opportunity to 'hang out' and socialise within the local neighbourhood. A good example of an informal space that could be expanded with more relevant seating configurations and opportunities for other older children recreation opportunities is a bus shelter.

Community centres also provide opportunities to ensure older children are welcomed and feel valued through the provision of activity spaces both within the built structure as well as providing social gathering spaces and skateable elements in the outdoor areas.

There are no specific examples currently created although many sites across Ballarat are already serving this function informally, including bus interchanges, commercial shopping centres and near schools.



FIGURE 8.5: Outdoor stage at Croydon Y-Space, Skateable basketball area at Alison

HIERARCHY	PRIMARY REQUIREMENTS	SPORTS MODEL			SOCIAL MODEL	
		REGIONAL	LOCAL / NEIGHBOURHOOD	INCIDENTAL	MAJOR ACTIVITY SPACE	LOCAL ACTIVITY SPACE
		approx 1000-2000+ sq/m (large enough to accommodate all sports & all levels of proficiency)	approx 50-400 sq/m (mostly quite small)	approx 40+ sq/m	approx 600-1500+ sq/m (large enough to accommodate local tween/teen focused community events & some skate/action play or sports use)	approx 50-200+ sq/m (varies significantly subject to available space, large enough to accommodate seating, social spaces, recreational activity - sport, art, play, multimedia)
SITE CONDITION & SCALE						
1	Ability to accommodate space for skate events	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green
	Ability to accommodate space for other youth events	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green
	Ability to accommodate space for broader community events	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green
	Consider context and landscaping to integrate/complement surroundings	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Blue
	Contain a mix of social seating - passive and active recreation opportunities (music, sport, art, multimedia, skate) to ensure locally relevant	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green
	Has an adopted operational events activation plan	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Blue
LOCATION / ACCESS TO TRANSPORT						
2	Close proximity to major commercial/community centre	Green	Blue	Blue	Green	Green
	Close proximity to public transport/access	Green	Blue	Blue	Green	Green
	Proximity to youth interest areas (shopping areas, schools, other recreation)	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Green
	Close proximity to community/service based organisation that can actively assist in programming the space	Blue	Green	Yellow	Green	Blue
SAFETY / SECURITY						
3	Good natural surveillance	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
	Appropriate safety and entry signage	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green
	Emergency vehicle access	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green
	Adequate carparking/dropoff	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Blue	Green
AMENITIES						
4	Shelter/shade	Green	Green	Yellow	Blue	Blue
	Drinking fountain	Blue	Green	Yellow	Blue	Blue
	Rubbish bins	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green
	Toilets (close proximity)	Blue	Green	Yellow	Blue	Blue
	Night time sports level lighting	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Blue	Green
	Designated seating and viewing areas	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Blue	Blue
LEGEND						
CRITICAL TO FUNCTION APPROPRIATELY		HIGHLY PREFERABLE TO FUNCTION APPROPRIATELY		PREFERABLE TO FUNCTION APPROPRIATELY		UNNECESSARY TO FUNCTION APPROPRIATELY

9. Existing Provision

9.1 Introduction

Having confirmed the need for both social and sporting spaces and defined the typologies of each, the following section assesses current provision in line with this new approach to confirm what is currently provided for and where are the gaps.

9.2 Ballarat Skatepark existing facility definitions

NAME	SIZE	TYPE	HIERARCHY
Buninyong	250 m2	Sporting	Local
Learmonth	60 m2	Sporting	Incidental
Delacombe	Approx. 190 m2	Sporting	Local
Victoria Park Modular Pump Track	Approx. 500 m2	Sporting	Local
Len T Fraser	Approximately 1200 m2	Sporting	Regional

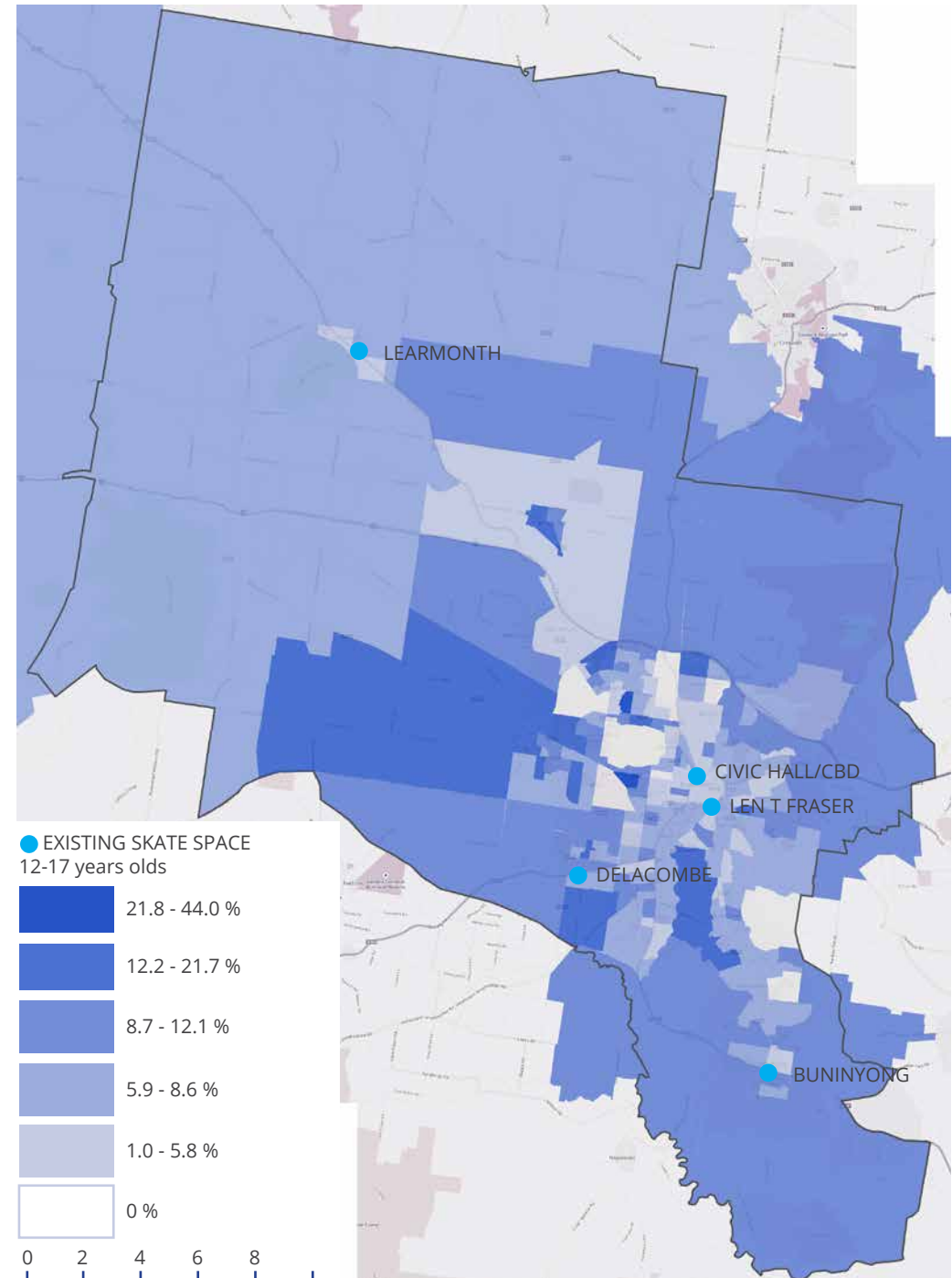


FIGURE 9.1: Ballarat skatepark distribution

9.3 Ballarat Skatepark existing facility conditions review

BUNINYONG



Existing skate space assessment

LIST OF SKATE FEATURES	GENERAL CONDITION	SURFACE CONDITION	OBSTACLE/ PARK LAYOUT	AMENITY	MAINTENANCE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> concrete skatepark and half court BMX Pumps Track Parkour area 	E	F	E	F	G

E = Excellent G = Good F = Fair P = Poor

Why:

This 500sqm skatepark as been recently upgraded with a new skatepark and ball court area, a BMX pumps track and parkour space. It is in excellent condition and appears to get lots of ongoing use. The different active areas have been placed around the site and could really benefit from a more formalised path network connecting the space and providing more formalised seating and viewing opportunities.

Recommendation:

Monitor the condition of the skatepark and other components as part of an ongoing maintenance program. Consider implementing additional paths, landscape and amenity as part of the Action Park Masterplan within next five years.



Existing skate space



Existing skate space

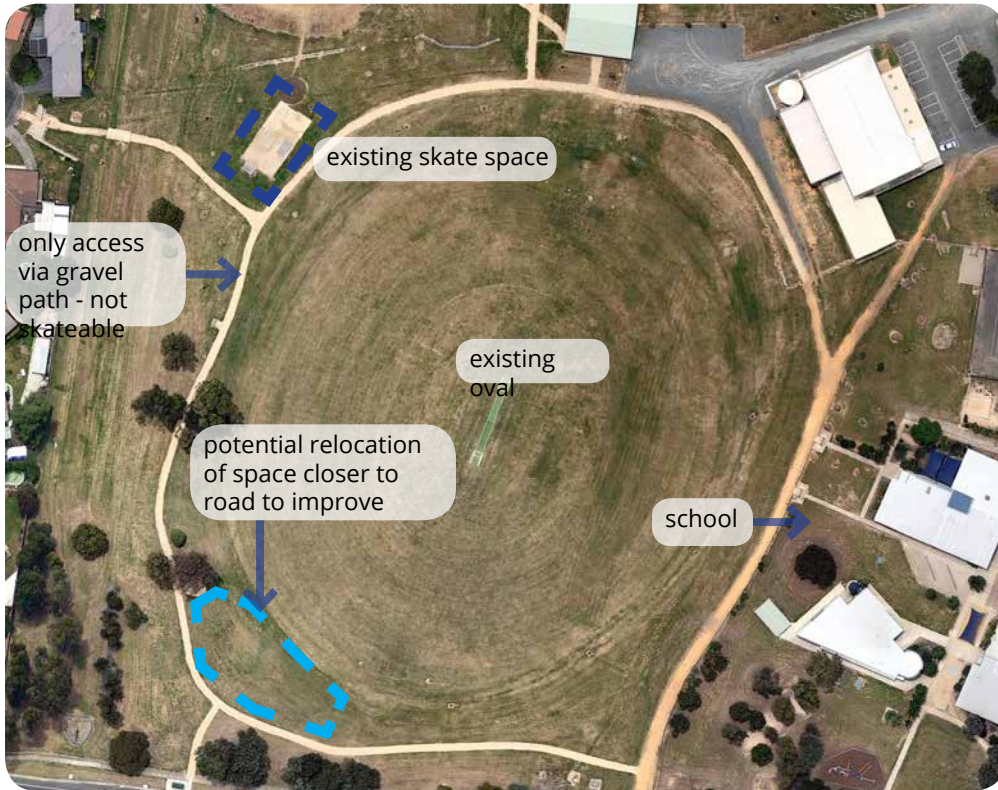


Existing Parkour space



Existing pumps track

DELACOMBE



Existing skate space assessment

LIST OF SKATE FEATURES	GENERAL CONDITION	SURFACE CONDITION	OBSTACLE/PARK LAYOUT	AMENITY	MAINTENANCE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> pyramid steel quarterpipe steel spine concrete wave 	F	F	P	P	G
E = Excellent G = Good F = Fair P = Poor					

Why:

This small skate area and ball court area has a range of obstacles that whilst in relatively good condition, are not placed appropriately to maximise use. Their scale and size is also no longer in line with current skatepark best practice. The park is also centrally located within the existing reserve and accessed by granitic sand paths that limits natural surveillance and access (particularly for skateboarders).

Recommendation:

Demolish skatepark and replace with new skate space containing new elements and layout that is more in line with current best practice in new southern location closer to existing bus stop.

This has been identified within current Doug Dean Recreation Reserve Masterplan.



Existing steel ramp



Overall site view



Existing basketball ring



Existing ledge

LEARMONTH



Learmonth skate site

Existing skate space assessment

LIST OF SKATE FEATURES	GENERAL CONDITION	SURFACE CONDITION	OBSTACLE/PARK LAYOUT	AMENITY	MAINTENANCE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> steel rail steel ramps and manual pad 	F	G	P	F	G
E = Excellent G = Good F = Fair P = Poor					

Why:

This relatively new park is overall in good condition. There is one jump box and a flat bar rail. Whilst the rail is located appropriately and is in line with current best practice, there are issues with the jump box as there are no opposing ramps to provide and capture speed when using the box. Additional opposing ramps and a realignment of the box would improve function significantly.

Recommendation:

Reconfigure and add to the park to improve function.



Existing basketball ring



Existing steel rail



Existing steel ramp



Overall site view

VICTORIA PARK PUMP TRACK



C.B.D skate site



3d view of proposed facility

Existing skate space assessment

LIST OF SKATE FEATURES	GENERAL CONDITION	SURFACE CONDITION	OBSTACLE/ PARK LAYOUT	AMENITY	MAINTENANCE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> modular pump elements 	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
E = Excellent G = Good F = Fair P = Poor					

Why:

This park has yet to be built and is based on a modular suite of elements that will create an overall experience and track.

Recommendation:

None as the park is under new planning and design stage.



Existing skate space assessment

LIST OF SKATE FEATURES	GENERAL CONDITION	SURFACE CONDITION	OBSTACLE/ PARK LAYOUT	AMENITY	MAINTENANCE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • two bowls • spine • fun box • fun channel • flat bars • euro gap • vert extension • beginners section 	G	G	G	G	G
E = Excellent G = Good F = Fair P = Poor					

Why:

This major skatepark, built in 2006, is overall in really good condition and serves as the main skatepark for Ballarat. It is still relevant and popular with users. There are some small items that need actioning including the need for a drink tap, the bin at the far end is attached to the ledge making it only skate-able in one direction, a wider straight-on run up for the big rail, improving the four high-curved ledges in the new section of the park to have better run up and access.

Recommendation:

Repair minor cracks and consider extensions and improvements to the park as per the action plan at the end of this report.



View to street



Existing angled ledge



Concrete cracking



Existing stairs & bowl

10. Planning For Growth

10.1 Future provision

Just as play spaces, parks and gardens are critical in the planning of new developments, it is equally as important to ensure the development of spaces that can accommodate the needs of tweens and teenagers.

These spaces could be a combination of either youth activity spaces or skate areas and should have similar characteristics to those outlined previously in Section 6.

Future community centres can play a critical role in ensuring the needs of young people are met in a relevant and meaningful way. As the survey results indicate, key factors such as access to public transport, proximity to commercial hubs and other amenities are important to consider in the provision of new skate or youth activity spaces.

Council have commenced a strategic approach testing potential sites using a new modular pump track solution. As indicated, the initial site identified is Victoria Park.



11. Implementation Strategy

11.1 A new major tween/teen activities space

This new facility is yet to be determined, however needs to be centrally located and ideally:

- is currently available and underutilised open space
- has good street frontages and passive surveillance
- has strong connection to Lake Wendouree active recreation precinct
- has strong connection to young people through Ballarat Clarendon College, St Patrick's College and primary schools within 1 km radius of the City Oval site
- is in close proximity to shops.

As well as having street skate elements, it will also include the delivery of broader recreation elements, including adventure play, parkour, scooter loops and three-on-three basketball courts that has an increased mixed gender appeal to tween population cohorts (ages 8 -14). By placing this new space at this location, it also provides a balanced approach to tween/teen focused recreation and skate provision for the city by providing a new space in this western region by the municipality which is experiencing such growth whilst still being part of the CBD.

The Len T Fraser Reserve will remain the main skatepark for the municipality by being retained as a regional 'sporting model' skatepark that will cater for more bowl/park and ramp style skate and BMX use. It will require additional redevelopment over time to ensure it remains relevant and in line with current best practice and meet the needs of the broader Ballarat population as befitting of a regional scale facility.

11.2 Infill local/incidental sporting and social spaces

With the implementation of the above new major activities area, Playce recommends more localised skate/BMX spaces and tween/teen inclusive spaces be rolled out on an as-needs basis in more remote or inaccessible locations in the municipality. Due to smaller scale and capital budgets of these local facilities, they can be more efficiently implemented and located, particularly in new development areas.

Given the facilities are really only catering for a local catchment, such as a half-court basketball court or small playspace, there is not the same need to engage and confirm the locations with local residents.

Ballarat has already adopted this approach informally in a number of locations and while the built parks have functional issues, the model itself is sound as these incidental small skate spaces provide localised use to complement other local play and active recreation needs.

Given the City's recent approach of implementing a modular pumps track Victoria Park, this approach can be adopted to identify and test other potential sites with these less permanent approaches to recreation provision.

11.3 Funding and roll out

Given the adoption of the above model, there is a need to look at ensuring there is adequate funding to enable its appropriate implementation. The following is a hypothetical funding model to assist in explaining a possible roll out. It would need to be adjusted to meet the City of Ballarat's specific capital works program and funding opportunities.

It is based upon a ten year roll out and includes;

- one tween/teen activities space
- repair and redevelop existing stake parks including prioritisation of Len T Fraser to ensure it continues to function as regional facility
- identify and implement new tween/teen activity/skate-spaces.

A detailed implementation plan is also outlined on the following page. It is consistent with the City of Ballarat's strategic approach to capital sport infrastructure programs and ongoing commitment to funding (2018). The Skate Tween Facilities framework capital funding should be allocated over the 10 year detailed capital infrastructure framework.

Table 11.1: Implementation Plan

ACTION ITEMS	YEAR 1 19/20	YEAR 2 20/21	YEAR 3 21/22	YEAR 4 22/23	YEAR 5 23/24	YEAR 6 24/25	YEAR 7 25/26	YEAR 8 26/27	YEAR 9 27/28	YEAR 10 28/29
EXISTING SKATEPARKS										
LEN T FRASER SKATEPARK										
Provide rectifications and improvements to existing park to ensure meets current best standards										
Provide additional extension to skatepark to ensure in line with current best practice including larger plaza and new transition areas as confirmed in a more detailed design process										
LEARMONTH SKATEPARK										
Provide rectifications and improvements to existing park to ensure meets current best standards										
DELACOMBE SKATEPARK										
Demolish and remove existing skatepark and replace with new facility in a location closer to bus stop to the south										
BUNINYONG SKATEPARK										
Add in amenity and paths according to Buninyong Action Park Masterplan										
NEW SKATE/YOUTH SPACES										
C.B.D MAJOR TWEEN/TEEN ACTIVITIES AREA										
Initial design and consultation, detailed design, tendering and construction administration STAGE 1										
Construction of activities area STAGE 1										
Initial design and consultation, detailed design, tendering and construction administration STAGE 2										
Construction of activities area STAGE 2										
LOCAL SKATE/YOUTH SPACE 1 FOR WENDOUREE										
Design services										
Incidental skate spot or youth inclusive space										
LOCAL SKATE/YOUTH SPACE 2 FOR SEBASTOPOL										
design services										
incidental skate spot or youth inclusive space										
LOCAL SKATE/YOUTH SPACE 3 FOR ALFREDTON										
design services										
incidental skate spot or youth inclusive space										
LOCAL SKATE/YOUTH SPACE 4 FOR MINERS REST										
design services										
incidental skate spot or youth inclusive space										
LOCAL SKATE/YOUTH SPACE 5 FOR LAKE WENDOUREE/NEWINGTON/LAKE GARDENS										
design services										
incidental skate spot or youth inclusive space										
LOCAL SKATE/YOUTH SPACE 6 MOUNT CLEAR/MOUNT HELEN										
design services										
incidental skate spot or youth inclusive space										

11. Examples of tween and teen play

Active spaces... a place to shoot hoops or get fit

Some examples could include...



Fitness



Parkour



Ball sports

Wheeled spaces and climbing opportunities

Some examples could include...



Scooter



Climbing spaces



Skate plaza elements

Fun spaces to be playful

Some examples could include...



Ping pong



Trampolines



Public foosball

or social spaces, a good place to hang out and engage with others
some examples could include...



Social seating

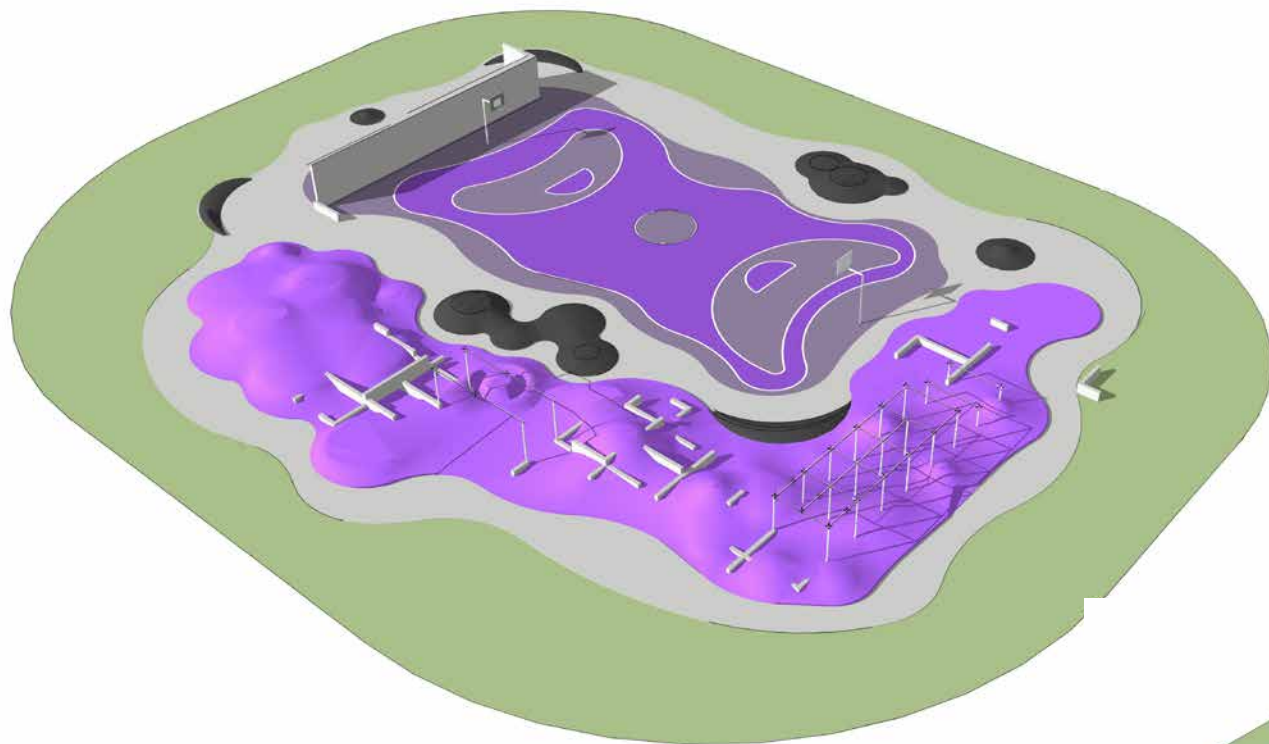


Stage for performance



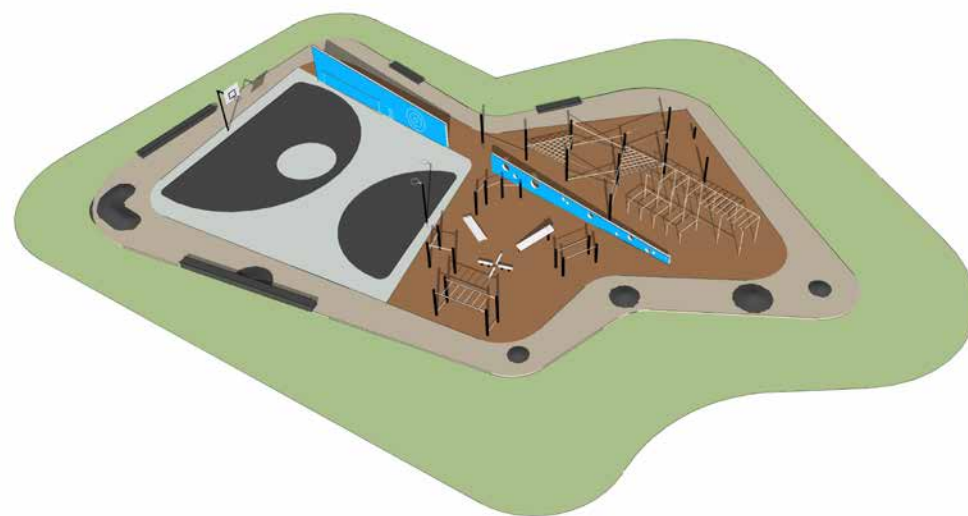
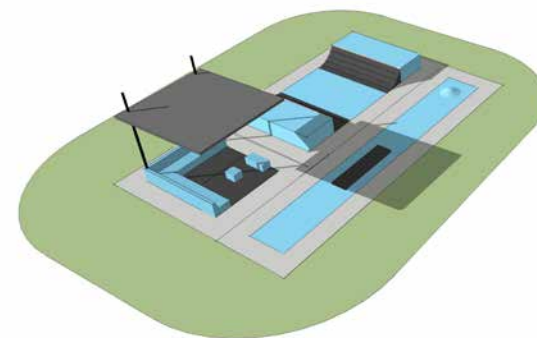
Outdoor movies

11. Examples of tween/teen recreation spaces



A larger space with a rebound/climbing wall, social space, scooter loop, ball court and major parkour and fitness area

A smaller local space with a skate focus such as a small mini and street obstacles



A medium space with a rebound/climbing wall, social space, scooter loop and both fitness and play options