



Ballarat Open Space Strategy



Cuthberts Road Reserve, Ballarat

Volume 2 – Supporting Document

March 2008

Volume 2



Lawrie Linear Reserve

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Doug Dean Reserve

Introduction

Volume Two of the Open Space Strategy provides the background documentation that supports the strategic directions and actions of the Strategy.

This volume includes:

- The literature and research of relevant documents that inform the development of the Open Space Strategy. The documents reviewed are not an exhaustive list, however were identified as the most relevant to the Open Space Strategy.
- Details of the consultation and community engagement process. This includes a summary of consultations with relevant people and organisations, results from the surveys undertaken with the schools and random households.



Llanberris Athletics Reserve

Literature and Research Review

Summarised below are the relevant findings from documents and research that are related to the Ballarat Open Space Strategy.

Document – Summary of Major Issues and Recommendations for Open Space Policy Development (1998)

Author – City of Ballarat (Internal Document)

Background:

- A document (for internal purposes only) which identifies major issues and assists discussions with regards to the future provision of the open space network.
- This document identifies the need to place a 'value' on parcels of open space areas to assist Council with a fair and equitable method of rationalisation of the open space network. The 'value' of open space is ultimately an assessment of the individual characteristics of an open space asset against a 'standard' model that allows us to determine its 'value'.

Key Information/Findings:

- Previous attempts by Council to dispose of certain parcels of open space have been met with strong community opposition.
- Council recently adopted a 'Subdivision Open Space Financial Contributions' policy. The policy does not assist Council in determining if Council should take land or a monetary contribution as part of the subdivision.
- Under Section 18 of the 1988 Subdivision Act, Council, in consideration of a planning permit application for subdivision, may require the provision of up to 5% of site area for public open space or to request up to 5% of the site value as a monetary contribution. (Note: this does not relate to the Developer Contributions Act as the Act does not relate to open space provision).
- One of the main issues in requesting 5% of the site area for open space is that once the land has been provided, the developer has fulfilled the requirements of the Act. Council is often left with the burden of finding funds to actually develop the open space to an acceptable community standard.
- Currently there are several practices occurring with the management and maintenance of the municipality's open space network. Expectations to increase the current maintenance regimes for Council's open space have

- been challenged by residents and sporting clubs which causes an issue for Council from a financial perspective and to ensure an equitable service across the municipality.
- The maintenance of open space by tenant groups is reflective of the restrictive access the broader community has to the open space area and is also reflected by the fees and charges.
 - There are some efficiencies to be gained from the review of maintenance regimes and maintenance contracts with contractors of open space, particularly urban streetscapes.
 - It is appropriate to review the role of advisory committees with regards to workloads on Council officers and clarifying maintenance and development responsibilities.
 - There has been an observation of the reduced and sometimes removed services of the State Government authorities, including the difficulties in obtaining 'one off' grants, to assist Council, as Committee of Management, with the management and maintenance of Crown land. Council recently resolved that *'Council seek formal meetings with representatives of the Department of Natural Resources and Environment to discuss these issues and to report back to Council as appropriate'*.
 - Identifies clear principles, including that any future development must be in the best interest of the public's use and enjoyment of open space. Basically any proposal to use a portion of parkland must be contingent upon an equal or greater area of land being added to the park in a position where it can be successfully integrated into the design.

Relevant outcomes and actions for open space include:

- The Open Space Strategy needs to address the issue of rationalisation which considers many aspects including land acquisition or disposal, land swaps, assessing the appropriateness of management and ownership arrangements of open space which endeavours to increase public use, improve the efficiencies associated with managing the asset, and to justify existing and proposed levels of expenditure.
- The principle for the successful disposal of open space being that; for rationalisation to appear to be strategic, open space cannot be taken away without giving open space of equal or greater value back.
- The most likely scenario is that very few, if any, large areas of semi-developed open space should even be considered for disposal. Alternatively the priority should be to dispose of small local parks or other undeveloped reserves that have low values, and only in areas where the standard provisions will be met in their absence.
- Allowing for local factors and variations, the standards recommended for open space provision should be consistent with the Ministry for Planning and Environment's 'Planning Guide for Urban Open Space' 1989, and by the Department of Planning and Housing's 'Victorian Code for Residential Development'.

- Opportunity to negotiate with the Crown to take over the management of its land by removing Council's Committee of Management status (for example, Mount Buninyong, Winter Swamp, etc.) or seeking financial compensation where we continue to maintain the asset.
- In the absence of a detailed local survey, Ballarat's open space network and recreational priorities should continually reflect upon the trends identified as part of the consultation process of Open Space Strategies from that of other Councils. Generally these trends indicate that the community is looking for non structured (passive) open space areas as opposed to provision of active sporting reserves. The provision of open space should cater for diversified recreation opportunities including untraditional recreational pursuits.
- Council's recreational planning role should determine what recreational activities and open space issues are emerging, and what Council's position should be in relation to them.
- To minimise the financial burden on Council in regards to the developers' requirements to allocate 5% land as part of open space, Council should consider certain expectations of the developer, including the development of professionally prepared landscape/Master Plans, the deposit of security bonds and the maintenance of the land for a certain period of time.
- Consider the most productive working model for advisory committees. The establishment of the Recreation Advisory Committee (currently being proposed by Council's Family and Leisure Section) is a possible option. An alternative or additional concept could be for Council to establish one centralised Recreation and Open Space Committee with strong Councillor and officer representation.

Document – Open Space Reserves Signage Policy

Author – City of Ballarat

Background:

- This policy has been developed to regulate the use and application of signs appearing in public open space reserves and applies to all signs on 'Public Open Space' including land classified by the City of Ballarat's Planning Scheme as 'Public Purpose' or 'Recreational Reserve', provided that the land is owned or managed by the City of Ballarat. It shall also apply to 'Road Reserve' areas immediately adjoining 'Public Open Space'.
- This policy assists Council to manage and assess signage applications in a co-ordinated, consistent and efficient manner.
- The policy shall be read in association with the City of Ballarat's Planning Scheme sections 52.05-3,4,5 and The City of Ballarat's 'Parkland Identification Signage Standards Manual, 1996.

Key Information/Findings:

- All signs require a planning permit unless specifically exempted in Section 52.05-4 of the City of Ballarat Planning Scheme.

- Irrespective of exemptions under the City of Ballarat Planning Scheme Council approval is required (some exemptions for Council approval exist).
- Applications are assessed based on one of five main signage categories including 'Advertising' (Permanent), 'Identification' (Permanent), 'Management' (Permanent), 'Special Event' (Temporary) and 'Other'.

Relevant outcomes and actions for open space include:

- This policy will influence the general amenity of Council's open space through the approval of a range of different types of signage across the municipality.

Document – Recreation Strategy (2005)

Author – City of Ballarat

Background:

- The Recreation Strategy outlines the principles that guide the planning and decision making with respect to the provision of recreation services and facilities. It also outlines Council's key priorities for recreation provision and the actions it will take over the next 10 years to achieve these priorities.

Key Information/Findings:

- Linear links/trails routes are heavily concentrated in the east and south of the City where opportunities have been provided by creek reserves. By comparison, there appears to be almost no off-road route provision in the north, west or north-west of the City, despite the availability of large reserves and wide road verges (e.g. along Ballarat-Maryborough Road). The provision of developed routes and linkages should be mandatory in all new residential areas.
- Many of the trails which have been established are discontinuous in that they can only be used at a local level. The standard and width of the trails varies substantially, to the extent that various sections could not be used by the frail, aged or people with disabilities.
- With respect to the rural areas of the municipality, consideration should be given to:
 - Constructing a trail loop around the Invermay Reserve and along the Burumbeet Creek tributary.
 - A safe bike path should also be constructed into the Ballarat built-up area.
 - A cycle path from Central Ballarat to Learmonth.

Relevant outcomes and actions for open space include:

- The provision of suitable open space to satisfy the outdoor recreation and leisure needs of local communities and sporting associations.
- The provision of appropriate public open space in the newly developing areas.
- Council's capacity to resource the development and maintenance of Crown land reserves managed by Council and Committees.
- The future of active sporting fields which are considered surplus to need (from Outdoor Playing Fields Strategy).
- The future of passive recreation spaces which have little community value.
- Policies for the assessment and disposal of surplus land.
- The development of a linked, safe, accessible and cohesive trail network.
- Several site specific recommendations were identified for open space areas across the municipality.

**Document – Mount Buninyong Scenic Reserve Management Plan
(November 1997)**

Author – City of Ballarat

Background:

- The Management Plan and concept plans are a planning tool that provide guidance for the development and management for specific areas around Mount Buninyong.
- This report provides a brief review of the creation of the Mount Buninyong Scenic Reserve, its significance and the reserve management aims. The report is then divided into five main sections, each of which deals with a different aspect of the reserve. These sections are: resource conservation; reserve protection; the reserve visit; community awareness and involvement and other issues. For each, the report provides an overview of the key features or elements and then establishes a set of aims and recommended management strategies. A timetable of implementation priorities was provided at the conclusion of the report.
- Mount Buninyong has a high natural and cultural significance in the Ballarat region. The report does not present any of the findings of the detailed research on which its recommendations are based. Yet, the significance of the venue would suggest that the recommendations warrant implementation and they are thus endorsed by the present Study.

Relevant outcomes and actions for open space include:

- Recommendations of Open Space Strategy to be consistent with this Management Plan.

Document – Victoria Park Management Use and Development Framework Aug 2004

Author – City of Ballarat

Background:

- The Victoria Park Management, Use and Development Framework (MUD) assist Council to make decisions for the future management, use and development of Victoria Park.
- The MUD has been developed in the absence of a Management/Master Plan for Victoria Park.
- Victoria Park is approximately 130 hectares consisting of significant vegetation in the form of gently curving tree lined avenues, large open spaces, native grasslands, clumps of single species trees and numerous facilities and features to promote both active and passive recreational uses.
- Several Council departments are responsible for the day-to-day management and long-term planning of Victoria Park.
- The Ballarat community rates Victoria Park as the most popular park next to Lake Wendouree.
- Victoria Park is a significant historical and cultural piece of open space and is managed by the City of Ballarat as a Committee of Management under a restricted Crown grant *for the purpose of a public park and offices and convenience connected therewith and for no other purpose whatsoever*. Any use, occupation or development of Victoria Park that does not comply with the Grant requires the consent of the Crown through parliament.
- The Crown grant carries with it very little, if any, responsibility upon the Crown to be involved in the funding of development, the granting of leases, or any insurance claims against Council.
- City of Ballarat's Open Space Inventory has classified Victoria Park as a regional asset.
- Victoria Park is used for a range of activities including formal structured sporting competitions, major events, and less formal recreational activities.
- Also refer to the Victoria Park Outline Development Plan.

Key Information/Findings:

- The principle objective is to increase and improve the public's use and enjoyment of Victoria Park whilst retaining and enhancing the historical characteristics of the established parklands and conserving the areas of significant native grasslands.
- Community reputation as an 'unsafe' park. Further highlighted by the unkempt appearance of the southern end of the park.
- The City of Ballarat Heritage Study states that *"the present day layout of the Park is historically significant, as it has remained substantially intact from the time it was first designed and planted between 1890 and 1910"*.

- The current tenancy agreements with user groups are not clearly defined in relation to the tenant's responsibilities for development or maintenance of their infrastructure, their use and rights of access to Victoria Park.
- The tenant groups are looking to develop and improve the existing facilities.
- The current number of sports fields at Victoria Park is underutilised. Any rationalisation or requests for further development of sports fields within Victoria Park itself should also consider opportunities for use or development of nearby sports fields located at schools and the army land.
- It has become apparent that passive users, particularly residents exercising dogs, are using Victoria Park in increasing numbers as it is one of the only safe reserves in Ballarat where dogs are permitted by Council to be let off a leash.
- Victoria Park has historically hosted some significant major events. The potential for this to continue is high, however improvement of infrastructure and management structures, including appropriate resources, should be addressed to enhance the success of major events.
- Council has undertaken significant development works at Victoria Park over a period of time, however additional development proposals are not funded as the proposals are not seen to be a priority. Tenant groups assist with maintenance of their respective areas.
- The sheep holding yards and the residential property in the southern precinct are non conforming uses under the Crown grant and do not comply with other Council policies for the legitimate use of public open space.

Relevant outcomes and actions for open space include:

- The process of requesting a change of status to Committee of Management is a lengthy one that can easily take two or more years. The Department of Sustainability and Environment are currently undertaking their own review of legislation which could simplify tenures, however in the interim, the Department recommend that licences be issued to Council approved tenants, as licences do not imply exclusive use.
- Other actions include:
 - Subject to the above, formalise an interim short-term licence agreement with the Ballarat Pony Club and formalise a long-term license agreement where considered necessary.
 - Assess the current proposal for a riding facility for the disabled in Victoria Park, and the current option for the Ballarat Showgrounds relocation to Victoria Park.
 - Remove the residential property and sheep holding yards as soon as conforming alternative uses are found for their respective areas.
 - Once adopted by Council, incorporate the framework into the City of Ballarat Planning Scheme.

- Undertake a review of current usage by sporting clubs to determine the need for, and cost of, redevelopment of playing surfaces and facilities in Victoria Park.
- Maintain and regularly review existing three-year tenancy agreements.
- Investigate the feasibility of expanding and redeveloping the existing clubrooms on Military Drive for multi-functional uses for all tenant groups with activities in the northern precinct.
- Encourage passive users with common activities or uses to form a representative group.
- Develop a “Conditions of Use” policy.
- Develop a standard “User Agreement” for major/annual events.
- Develop maps for Victoria Park that clearly indicate all existing facilities, public amenities and locations of services including access to roads, water and electricity.
- Assess the needs of potential major events users to determine what improvements to amenities and services (for example, water, power) would help to attract them to Victoria Park.
- Assess the exercise track and identify works that improve visibility, security and personal safety particularly through the southern precinct.
- Develop maintenance programs for Victoria Park.
- Maintain the existing entrance arches on Sturt Street and construct appropriate entrance features with associated signage to all major entrances.
- Prepare a signage strategy for Victoria Park with reference to identification of major visitor facilities and amenities, park features and history, local laws, etc.
- Establish a regular program of visitation by Council's local laws officers and as necessary by the Ballarat Police.
- Consider establishing hours of legal access and use of Victoria Park and close roads accordingly (for example, open during daylight hours only).
- Encourage tenants, user groups and local residents to play a more active watchdog role in promoting appropriate behaviour and reporting misuse or illegal behaviour.
- Prepare a program of overall tree management.
- Develop a program for the removal of juvenile and established trees from areas of significant vegetation where the growth or retention of the trees is likely to decrease the diversity of flora in native grassland areas.
- Determine an appropriate program and timeframe for the removal of the senescent pine plantation in the south-eastern corner of Victoria Park and establish appropriate alternative development proposals for the site.

- Continue negotiations with relevant stakeholders to determine if urban forestry is a viable economical and environmental use for designated sections of Victoria Park.
- Undertake a detailed assessment of the extent of native grasslands and install interpretive signage identifying the native grasslands.
- Request the Crown to assist Council in developing a maintenance program for the native grasslands in Victoria Park that is based upon current best practice.
- Undertake a detailed review of the road network to determine patterns of use, carrying numbers, opportunities for new roads and opportunities for road closures.
- Establish a prioritised program of works aimed at implementing the outcomes of the road network review.
- Develop an annual program of works and recurrent budget bid for the maintenance of road surfaces, drains and car parks throughout Victoria Park.
- Assess the public value and aesthetic contribution of the rotunda on Cedar Avenue, and ensure that it is either maintained and restored using materials and finishes consistent with those used on the original structure, or alternatively remove it entirely.
- Encourage redevelopment of the recreational facility currently shared by the Soccer Club, the Lucas Cricket Club and the Ballarat Dog Obedience Club to increase its multi-functional utilisation, and to improve its external appearance.
- Develop the area of Victoria Park occupied by the sheep holding yards in accordance with uses suitable for the southern precinct.
- Develop a walking path to the top of Mount Holled Smith, maintain a weed removal program and manage vegetation to enhance the views at the lookout area.
- Monitor recent works at the old velodrome area to prevent further illegal rubbish dumping and undertake remedial works as required.
- If possible retain capacity for Council to continue to use the old velodrome area for disposal of silt green waste subject to permits as required.

**Document – Victoria Park Precinct Outline Development Plan - Volume 1
(Draft - March 2007)**

Author – Planisphere

Background:

- The Victoria Park Precinct Outline Development Plan (ODP) was developed to build on the directions of the *Victoria Park – Management, Use and Development Framework* (MUD Framework) and provide guidance in relation to development pressures affecting the area.

- The ODP contains two reports. Volume 1: The main volume and contains the guiding principles, objectives, strategies and actions of the ODP. It includes the key outcomes of the consultation, background research and provides details of how the ODP will be implemented, monitored and reviewed. Volume 2: Background Report is a separate volume which provides further detail and analysis of the study area, issues and opportunities, the strategic context, and further detail on the outcomes of community consultation. Volume 2 of the ODP has not been reviewed.
- The ODP primarily covers the southern part of Victoria Park and the Ballarat Livestock Selling Centre (BLSC) to provide strategic direction for the future use and development of this land, via statutory implementation through the Ballarat Planning Scheme. While the primary study area includes these two key sites and makes recommendations primarily for these areas, the ODP also considers the areas at the interface, in particular the business activity centre and the northern part of Victoria Park.
- The ODP outlines a set of guiding principles for both sites including:

Southern Precinct of Victoria Park:

- ◆ Integrate with the remainder of the Park and improve linkages between the Park and nearby residential areas, schools, open space, and future uses on the BLSC site
- ◆ Recognise the primary function of the Park as a regional open space resource
- ◆ Cater for a variety of recreation based uses: passive and active, informal and organised
- ◆ Provide increased opportunities for hosting major events (through promotion, provision of infrastructure, etc.)
- ◆ Enhance its tourism potential, particularly for visitors passing through Ballarat.
- ◆ Conserve and enhance environmentally sensitive aspects and retain an element of 'wildness' or semi-rural character as well as protect and extend the indigenous and native vegetation
- ◆ Preserve and enhance heritage aspects: layout, historic relics, trees and avenues
- ◆ Manage the Park as a vehicular destination rather than a thoroughfare
- ◆ Promote cyclist and pedestrian access, movement and priority over vehicles
- ◆ Enhance views into and out of the Park, endeavour to provide a safe environment for Park users, and protect public assets
- ◆ Provide improved public access and use, and minimise exclusive use of the Park by individual groups or commercial activities
- ◆ Ensure that future use, development and landscaping is designed with regard to the changing climatic conditions, in particular reduced water resources.

Ballarat Livestock Selling Centre Site:

- ◆ Contribute to the economic health of Ballarat
- ◆ Support and consolidate the role and function of the adjoining business activity centre
- ◆ Incorporate high quality design and present an attractive built form interface to street spaces and Victoria Park including improved landscaping
- ◆ Be ecologically sustainable
- ◆ Protect identified BLSC heritage values in future development
- ◆ Address traffic management issues
- ◆ Make best use of existing infrastructure.

Key Information/Findings:

- Feedback from Stage One of the consultation (70 submissions received) indicated varied responses from the community. General themes from the community consultation included, but not limited to:
 - Low impact activities requiring low scale developments such as picnic areas, path networks for informal activities, playgrounds etc. (however there was also support for more intense use such as Ballarat Show, Trash and Trivia Market, sound shell and equestrian activities).
 - Encourage more use of the park.
 - Concerns with the undesirable vehicular activities in particular speed.
 - Exclusive use of the Park should be limited to facilitate broader community access.
 - Mixed support for the relocation of the showgrounds.
 - Community generally values the natural assets of the Park and noted the low-level maintenance.
 - There were mixed views about the buildings on the BLSC site ranging from the removal of existing buildings to retain elements of the historical buildings
 - Improve accessibility and movement around the Park through signage, separating vehicles and pedestrians, better path networks for all abilities and seating.
- Subject to public feedback and Council adoption of the ODP, it is likely that a Planning Scheme Amendment will be required.
- Victoria Park is a regional open space asset accommodating a wide variety of land uses, most of which relate to the purpose of the applicable Public Park and Recreation Zone, as well as uses which are not appropriate within a parkland setting and do not accord with the zone or the purpose of the reservation.
- The increase in residential development within the surrounding area has led to increased pressure for land use and development within the

- relatively lower utilisation of the southern precinct of Victoria Park, including by the Pony Club, Riding for the Disabled, the Ballarat Agricultural and Pastoral Society (Showgrounds development), and Urquhart Park Primary School.
- Victoria Park is managed by Council as Committee of Management under the Crown land (Reserves) Act 1978.
 - The ODP highlighted the need to increase the involvement of the community and Park tenants and user groups in the management and maintenance of the Park as one means of improving the appearance and use of the Park. This would require further resources to enable Council to assist with coordination of committees.
 - The EPA recommends that a comprehensive site assessment be undertaken prior to making any decisions regarding future uses due to the possibility of contamination due to previous land use. In order to progress the development of the ODP, it is recommended that an environmental audit be undertaken prior to any change of use to a sensitive land use (such as residential, primary school or pre-school) occurring on these sites.

Relevant outcomes and actions for open space include:

- The Ballarat Open Space Strategy needs to consider the directions of this ODP. Likewise, this ODP may need to be updated in a future review of the document to incorporate the key directions of this new Open Space Strategy.
- The issue of appropriate levels of resources for the maintenance, capital development and ongoing management of the Park should be addressed (and is not necessarily isolated to Victoria Park).
- The Open Space Strategy to identify opportunities to seek and utilise cash contributions from developers for public open space within Victoria Park, and introduce appropriate tools into the Ballarat Planning Scheme for the Ballarat West growth corridor to achieve this.
- ODP proposes as part of the Landscape and Open Space map to strengthen the pedestrian and cyclist links to the neighbouring areas in particular the Ballarat West train station and residential corridor.

Document – Ballarat Entrances Strategy (August 2006)

Author – THA Landscape Architects Pty Ltd

Background:

- This strategy is the City's principle document establishing a vision for the future development of Ballarat's gateways and guiding a staged and coordinated program of improvement and upgrade.
- The strategy focuses on Ballarat's eight main entrances, and the Ballarat Bypass section of the Western Freeway.

Key Information/Findings:

- The need to improve the presentation of Ballarat's entrances has been identified in a number of strategic documents and community consultation processes undertaken by Council and has been identified as a priority project by Council.
- Strategy outlines the vision and key design principles for each gateway leading into Ballarat.

Relevant outcomes and actions for open space include:

In particular the key design principles of the strategy include, but not limited to:

- Plant large street trees as key elements in all the entries wherever practical and within clear zone guidelines.
- Incorporate and encourage the development of bicycle lanes, bike paths and connections to other bike paths (on-road and off-road wherever possible).
- Plant large street trees as key elements in all the entries wherever practical and within clear zone guidelines.
- Define clear planting themes that reflect the local landscape character (i.e. exotic / native).
- Consider rationalising signage along all the entries but especially within the vicinity of Gateway Features.

Recommendations:

- Develop bicycle paths / lanes and pedestrian paths where appropriate along each of the entrances and ensure provision of facilities for bicycle parking etc. at significant activity nodes along each entrance.
- Continue to implement and monitor the success of Council's litter reduction program along the City entrances.
- Develop a cyclical maintenance program to ensure all roadside infrastructure, (in particular barrier railing, lighting, street furniture) is well maintained and upgraded to maintain a well presented and consistent entrance.
- Liaise with Alstrom / VicTrack to remove current Colorbond fence and to open up views to the railway land and yards and provide landscaping if possible (see notes on plan).
- Establish a lineal park along the eastern side of Creswick Road between Coronet and Howitt Streets (northern gateway entrance) with improved landscaping and infrastructure, such as a shared trail, (storm)water feature and community art (see notes on Plan).
- Develop adequate planning controls for the showgrounds site, including consideration of a Design and Development Overlay, to achieve appropriate and visually interesting presentation of any future development.
- Upgrade the small reserve on the corner of Macarthur Street.
- Develop a roadside park in the large road reserve at the corner of Airport Drive, with safe entry / exit road and parking, shady feature trees, park

tables and benches etc. (see notes on plan). Sculptural elements may be included to denote the entrance to the airport.

Document – Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS) – Ballarat Planning Scheme

Author – City of Ballarat

Background:

- This document provides a framework for the future development of the City of Ballarat. It outlines Council's vision, objectives and the strategies/actions for the development of the municipality.
- It is a vision of the MSS that by 2022 Ballarat will be a Municipality where lifelong learning, improved community health and cultural enrichment creates wellbeing and community infrastructure meets changing community needs with high quality accessible social services for all stages of life.

Key Information/Findings:

Key objectives of the MSS are:

- To maintain and enhance the waterway values of the City.
- To recognise, enhance and facilitate the functions of the Ballarat Central Business District as the dominant administrative, commercial, financial, cultural, recreational, tourist and entertainment centre within the municipality.
- To make services and facilities available and accessible to support the needs of the City's existing and future community.
- To identify and accommodate community leisure needs.
- To deliver a range of quality cultural development opportunities.

Relevant outcomes and actions for open space include:

- Improve safety for cyclist by developing dedicated bicycle paths within road reserves.
- Develop and implement Master Plans for key areas of open space.
- Require a monetary contribution in relation to open space as a condition of approval of new residential subdivisions in areas where the supply of open space meets community needs.
- Ensure that recreation and sports assets are used and maintained efficiently and effectively.
- Dispose of surplus open space in order to fund the further development of existing open space.
- Consider the changing population base and concepts of work and leisure when planning for new sporting and recreation facilities and programs.

- Provide recreation paths and trails through the connection of linear reserves to forest blocks and other natural features such as lakes and wetlands as well as to formal recreational facilities where possible.
- Identify and purchase land to complete paths and trails along linear reserves.

Document – Ballarat West Local Structure Plan (April 2007)

Author – Tract Consultants Pty Ltd

Background:

- The draft Ballarat West Local Structure Plan (LSP) provides a framework to guide the short-term and long-term urban growth for the suburbs of Alfredton, Delacombe and Sebastopol. It is a guide only and more detailed development plans for this Ballarat West corridor will follow.
- The LSP will be a reference document in the Ballarat Planning Scheme to provide guidance for the consideration of planning scheme amendments, rezoning and more detailed planning of the area for urban purposes to ensure areas are planned and developed in a co-ordinated way.
- The Plan proposes a three-staged development approach while recommending standards for the provision of physical and social infrastructure such as roads, open space, community centres, schools etc.
- The LSP is consistent with the Ballarat Municipal Strategic Statement which identifies Ballarat West as the principal residential growth area.
- Existing recreation opportunities in localities adjoining the study area include: Victoria Park (cycling, multi-sports ovals), the Doug Deane Reserve in Delacombe (an oval and walking track), the Marty Busch Reserve, Sebastopol (two ovals, a velodrome and a BMX track) and Morsehead Reserve, Bray Raceway (harness racing, greyhounds), Trekardo Park (soccer), Western Oval, Ballarat Golf Course, Prince of Wales Park (baseball, oval), Lake Wendouree (walking cycling, botanic gardens) and a golf driving range located on Learmonth Street.
- Key open space areas in the LSP area are Alfredton Recreation Reserve and MP Power Reserve. MP Power Reserve is largely undeveloped but includes an equestrian area.
- Victoria Park is a major underutilised open space which is in close proximity to the LSP area.

Key Information/Findings:

- The LSP framework accommodates for residential growth in the order of over 14,000 new households which should accommodate a population of 35,000 to 40,000 for over the next 30 years.
- The LSP provides for new town centres at Alfredton and Delacombe, including community infrastructure, recreation and sports grounds.

- Some key elements of the LSP include an open space network that aims to provide a dispersed network of large local parks, a sports reserve distribution that collocates sports grounds with schools and allows for higher order sports facilities to be developed in Victoria Park and opportunity to utilise the floodways, creeks and watercourses as linear open space.
- Prior to development in the LSP, flora and fauna studies will be required.
- The Ballarat West area interfaces with three major entrances / gateways leading into central Ballarat from the west and south. There is an opportunity to replicate the treatment provided on Remembrance Drive (for example Avenue of Honour, Arch of Victory, etc.) for the Glenelg Highway entrance to better define the entry into Ballarat.
- General opportunities exist to improve the streetscapes and the overall visual enhancement of residential development and interface with areas adjoining the Ballarat West corridor.
- Local parks provided in existing residential developments lack variety of character and visual quality. Opportunities could include Winter Creek which could be enhanced through responsive design and incorporation into the public open space network.
- The “Landscape Guidelines for Development in the City of Ballarat” (revised Sept. 2000) indicate that most of the Ballarat West area would be landscaped with native species being new residential, commercial and industrial areas.
- There a buffer / setback requirements for certain industries within the Ballarat West / Alfredton industrial precinct particularly for sensitive areas such as residential development.
- The concept of “Ecologically Sustainable Development” (ESD) is to create urban communities that are as environmentally sustainable as possible.
- Cycling and walking tracks will contribute towards the efficient, equitable, and sustainable access as part of the movement networks for Ballarat West.
- One of the drivers of the LSP is to provide for a range of open space within accessible locations while recognising the proximity of existing open space assets.
- The Subdivision Act 1988 allows for a maximum of 5% of developable area to be allocated as open space as part of the approval of subdivisions.
- Clause 56 of the Ballarat Planning Scheme provides only limited direction on open space provision with a guideline for provision of local parks (of one hectare minimum area) to be within a walkable catchment of 400m from all new dwellings. Only a notional direction on active open space is provided.
- The LSP presents a hierarchy of open space reserves from notional locations of one hectare local parks, higher order open space and sports fields to utilisation of floodway and undeveloped areas with some recreational opportunity.

- The City of Ballarat has no specific standards for the provision of active open space. There are however standard practices in siting areas for future sports facilities. A common practice is that the site must be large enough to accommodate sports fields and ancillary uses e.g. tennis courts, club house facilities car parking, etc. This usually requires a minimum site area of 3.5ha for a football / cricket oval without any major embellishments. Facilities should be central to their catchment population.
- Where possible sports grounds should be co-located with schools.
- Ratio of Provision – Outdoor Sports Facilities Standards of provision throughout Australia and even Victoria are variable with standards currently being applied to different growth fronts within metropolitan Melbourne varying considerably. For example football / cricket oval provision varies from 1:2,500 population to 1:5,450 population.
- VicUrban have proposed ratios of provision as indicated in table 9 (page 61 of LSP) which identifies the ratio of provision of facility to population and the number of facilities required for the forecast population in the Ballarat West growth area. Victoria Park could be utilised or an additional dedicated regional facility be developed.

Relevant outcomes and actions for open space include:

- Opportunities to link the LSP area to Victoria Park should be identified such as along the disused rail reserve.
- Opportunities to expand the Alfredton Recreation Reserve South and develop a linear reserve along Winter Creek and develop the railway line as a linear reserve.
- Investigate the retention basin constructed as part of the Lawrie estate (at the head of Winter Creek) to be reverted to public land. This has potential as a key open space node along a future Winter Creek open space corridor.
- The Yarrowee River potentially provides a regional open space asset convenient to the south eastern portion of the LSP area.
- Potential exists to improve access to both the former Skipton Rail Trail and Winter Swamp as part of an enhanced open space network to serve the new development front.
- At the time of preparation of this Structure Plan, Council is undertaking a review of open space needs which may result in a specific standard for open space.
- Consider locating sports parks within a local catchment of 1km to encourage walking in line with ESD principles.
- Many small playground parks should be distributed across the urban areas such that at least one small park is within a five-minute walk of virtually all residences.
- Major existing reserves close to the plan area such as Victoria Park have the capacity to be enhanced to accommodate some of the recreational needs of the Ballarat West corridor.

- Council sports fields should couple with schools for shared usage and vice versa.
- Large regional sports facilities should be highly accessible to the user population and when available, be located in flood plains without significant environmental constraints, as such a use need not compete with urban development for land.
- Significant creeks should become public parkways, wherever viable, and fronted generally by small streets and/or foot / cycle paths, and overlooked by development.
- Passive surveillance of public open space should be achieved by means of residential development overlooking open space. Public open space should not be bordered by rear fencing or blank walls. This can ensure safety for individuals within the parks, generally according to the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) Guidelines.
- The LSP identifies the provision of two new residential neighbourhoods (Delacombe North and South) which are in excess of 7000 population each, north and south of the Glenelg Highway. Central to each neighbourhood will be higher order active open space facilities, primary school and Pre-School based community centres.
- As part of the planning for Ballarat West, it is important that clear direction is provided for the provision of: major parks and sports facilities; local parks as well as method of acquisition and land assembly.
- In planning for the significant growth forecasts in the Ballarat West LSP, consideration should be given to: the need to provide local parks close to all residents; the need for sports facility provision to be close to the catchment community; reducing the need for all active open space to be provided as part of development by co-locating and sharing sports grounds with schools; recognition that much of the existing open space in Ballarat is not within close proximity of the plan area; and much of the existing open space consists of large, passive parks.
- In attempting to provide adequate distribution of open space, each stage in the planning process will need to specify, in increasing detail, how open space will be provided. Contributions to open space will need to be managed to ensure the distribution identified in the LSP is realised.
- The provision of local parks should be consistent with Clause 56 of the Ballarat Planning Scheme which identifies that parks should be approximately one hectare in area within 500m of all residents, although standards currently being provided in new developments vary widely (e.g. from 0.7ha to 2+ha). Parks should have regard to any natural features on the site including remnant vegetation (including exotic plantings) that may enhance them in design and appearance.
- The open space policy should review the ratio of facility to population.
- The most notable reserves for enhancement include the Power Reserve to the west of Sebastopol and to the east of the plan area. Specific function of these reserves is best determined by local needs as the surrounding areas develop.

- In meeting criteria for the siting of sports reserves, an appropriately sized reserve should be created to allow for at least the optimum football / cricket oval (which could be utilised for soccer or rugby, etc.) with enough space to allow for possible siting of tennis courts, outdoor hard courts, car parking and clubhouse facilities or a combined football and social facility. A passive open space component with possible links to open space trails, should also be provided to enhance the amenity of the park and provide easier non-car access.
- The provision of five hectare reserves, co-located with the primary schools in conjunction with some enhancement, and development of new facilities in Victoria Park and Power Reserve should meet the criteria outlined in the standards.
- The LSP has prepared an Open Space Plan (page 62) which should be a consideration of the Open Space Strategy.
- Winter Creek has been designated as a main north-south pedestrian/cycle route through the Ballarat West corridor and the construction of a bicycle path on a reserve outside the flood area has been identified as development infrastructure to be funded through development contributions.
- The provision of a linear reserve of approximately 20 metres in reservation creates an opportunity to separate residential and industrial land use and create a landscape buffer opportunity.
- Utilising the open space contribution of 5% of developable land from the industrial area should provide a reservation of 12m to 13m for the main north south section of the reserve, requiring only minor augmentation from the residential area to reach the 20m width.
- A visual buffer treatment should be provided for the Sturt Street frontage, similar to the precedent set within Alfredton, such as trees or an enhanced reservation which could be utilised for replacement screen planting and linear trail.
- To facilitate proper open space and indoor recreation facilities both direct land contributions and cash in lieu contributions are to be made available to developers. This will enable Council to consolidate larger open space and recreation areas where required.
- When specific locations for the local parks are determined they should reflect what is presented in the LSP and should seek to identify additional open space where this can better serve the community. This could be supported with more defined standards for the provision of local parks and the design of subdivisions to integrate with parks.
- From an urban design perspective distinct themes for major streets should be developed. Refer to page 71 for more details.

Document – Miners Rest Outline Development Plan Community Infrastructure Needs Assessment (2006)

Author – ASR Research Pty Ltd

Background:

- To develop a plan for the provision of community infrastructure in the Miners Rest area based on an analysis of current and projected community needs, current facility and service provision and the service and facility development priorities of Government, key non-Government agencies and the Ballarat City Council.

Key Information/Findings:

- Community infrastructure is defined as indoor and outdoor facilities providing for emergency services, health, education, recreation, cultural and community support services.
- Council is currently preparing an Outline Development Plan which will identify land use and guide the future expansion of the township.
- Current pressure on Council from residents and groups in Miners Rest to upgrade local facilities or provide new facilities.
- The projected residential growth in Miners Rest is predicted to increase from the current figure of 2,400 to around 5,500 over the next 15/20 years.
- Key Characteristics of Miners Rest:
 - Located 15kms from the Ballarat CBD and 7kms from Wendouree.
 - Highly accessible by road to northern and central Ballarat and the rural townships of Learmonth and Creswick.
 - A public transport service is scheduled to commence in 2007 from Miners Rest to Ballarat.
- Miners Rest currently has approximately 2,400 residents and has a primary school and hall.
- Through the community consultation process, the following infrastructure was identified as important to the local community:
 - Improved public transport services;
 - Completion of the walking track and other facilities at the wetlands;
 - Walking paths in new development areas which connect to the centre of Miners Rest and important destinations in the town;
 - Public toilets;
 - More shade, shelter, picnic and play facilities in Miners Rest Park;
 - Play facilities for children and youth including skate and BMX facilities;
 - Multipurpose community centre with preschool, M&CH Centre and activity spaces;
 - Sports precinct with oval and tennis courts;
 - Expanded primary school
 - Upgraded facilities that have heritage value (where feasible);
 - Indoor recreation facility.

- There is no competition standard sports field in Miners Rest. There is only a small field at the Miners Rest Primary School which is not suitable for competition but could be used as a junior training venue.
- Miners Rest residents who play cricket, netball, football, soccer, hockey etc. are currently involved in clubs outside of Miners Rest.

Relevant outcomes and actions for open space include:

- Provision should be made for a football oval/soccer field. The size and associated facilities should be suitable for senior competition. A location close to the school, enabling the schools oval to be maximized, would be ideal.
- Three tennis courts should be provided and located near the sports field.
- One outdoor netball court should be provided, not necessarily for competition but as a training venue for Miners Rest teams playing in the Ballarat Association.
- A skate park / BMX facility should be provided in Miners Rest and located at the sports field.
- It is recommended that land be provided for the development of a joint facility either in or adjacent to the school for an indoor multipurpose (i.e. basketball, dance, martial arts, volleyball, netball, indoor soccer) court for training purposes and general activities.
- Due to the significant heritage of the community hall (more than 100 years old), it would be preferable to retain it, however there are constraints for the development of this site which is surrounded by houses. The preferred location for a community centre would be near the school and the active recreation reserve.
- The regional park needs of Miners Rest residents will be adequately catered for by Lake Wendouree, Victoria Park and Lake Learmonth, all of which are within a 20-minute drive.
- The district park needs will be met through the proposed active recreation reserve.
- Burumbeet Creek provides an opportunity to establish a linear park and wildlife corridor through the township.
- The neighbourhood park needs of the community could be satisfied by the provision of suitable spaces in the active recreation reserve, the wetlands and the linear park. Play facilities could be provided in these spaces where suitable.
- The report outlines the proposed size, timing and cost estimates for the above community infrastructure.

Document – Miners Rest Outline Development Plan

Author - THA Landscape Architects, Ross J Goyne Consulting, ASR Research.

Background:

- Miners Rest township has been shaped by historical influences and physical parameters.
- The local community is active, involved and interested in developing the township and its community resources.
- The community is strongly linked to the racing industry.
- The Burumbeet Creek is a significant local influence and proposes a significant flood risk.
- Miners Rest has had a 4.4% residential growth rate per annum over the past five years and this is forecast to continue at a projected rate of 6.8% over the next census period.
- The demographic profile shows an even spread of population numbers across the age groups and that this will be a characteristic of the Miners Rest community for the foreseeable future.

Key Information/Findings:

- There is a strong community interest in the development of off-road trails utilising road reserves and reserves proposed along waterways.
- Recommends for amendments to the Ballarat Planning Scheme in particular the Environmental Significance Overlay to enhance the landscape around Burumbeet Creek and Mount Pisgah and to rezone vacant land affected by the 1:100 year flood plain predictions.
- Burumbeet Creek is in a degraded state yet considered a significant feature of the Miners Rest township.
- The current settlement pattern of the township is dispersed with residential areas divided by such physical features such as Burumbeet Creek, the Ballarat-Maryborough Road (Howe Street) and the former Miners Rest quarry.
- Recommends residential development to accommodate residential growth up to 2031. Residential development is based on a preferred development pattern including variation on lot sizes, site constraints, Environmental Sustainable Design (solar orientation) and proximity to the town centre.
- The ODP provides for an integrated pattern of roads and off-roads trails, in particular horse exercise trails network utilizing existing road reserves within the racecourse precinct.
- Next to road and traffic issues, the lack of community facilities has been the topic of most interest to the community.
- The proximity of Miners Rest to Greater Ballarat creates a type of isolation for the community because Miners Rest is considered as being too close to Ballarat to justify provision of many community services.

Relevant outcomes and actions for open space include:

- Consider acquisition of land as required to provide suitable reserves and protection of the Burumbeet Creek environment.
- Enhance the characteristics of the Burumbeet Creek with appropriate planting and appropriate placement of recreation trail.
- Recommends developing landscape design guidelines for public spaces including the township's major entrances, major roads, open spaces and the trails network.
- Desired community facilities include:
 - Primary School (negotiations with DOE are current);
 - Active sports reserve comprising of oval, soccer field, tennis courts, BMX track, outdoor netball court, skate park and play facilities;
 - Indoor recreation centre (part of a shared school / community facility);
 - Multipurpose centre with preschool, activity spaces and consulting rooms;
 - Fire station;
 - Neighbourhood parks;
 - Library;
 - Residential aged care facility.
- Provide linking cycle footpaths to Mitchell Park / Wendouree as part of the implementation of the Miners Rest trails network.
- Link the northern and southern sectors of the township through the proposed town centre.

Document – Canadian Valley Outline Development Plan (June 2005)

Author – Research Planning Design (RPD) Group with Land Design Partnership and Andrew O'Brien and Associates.

Background:

- The ODP provides an overall framework for the future planning and management of the Canadian Valley area.
- The Canadian Valley area comprises the Mount Clear, Mount Helen and Buninyong areas with a total area of about 30 square kilometres.
- The Canadian Valley ODP is based on limiting future residential development to land currently zoned for residential purposes (R1Z) and infill development in suitable locations within existing developed residential areas.
- The urban growth boundary is based on the zoning pattern, the non-urban breaks and areas of land completely covered by native vegetation.
- Provision will be made for an expansion of the Ballarat Technology Park to the north of the current site. Expansion of the Park should be strictly limited to the intended purpose of the zone as set out in the Local Planning Policies.

- The focus for future development will be at the rear of the Midvale Shopping Centre at Mount Clear and for infill development at Buninyong township.

Key Information/Findings:

- The Ballarat Planning Scheme and the Municipal Strategic Statement should be amended to include the Canadian Valley ODP as an incorporated document.

Key Objectives:

- To confine future residential development to existing zoned residential areas (R1Z) and protect non-urban breaks, native vegetation and landscape features from urban development.
- Prevent further clearing of native vegetation and fragmentation of habitat areas.
- Protect and enhance existing native vegetation, biodiversity, habitat and landscape values.
- Provide for improved habitat linkages.
- Improve safety for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians along Main / Geelong Road.
- Increase opportunities for cycling, high speed cycling and walking between destinations
- Upgrade and extend shared trails and rehabilitate their surrounding environment.
- New urban development to protect and enhance native vegetation, habitat areas, landscapes, local character, heritage values and open space linkages
- New urban development to contribute to the ecological sustainability of the area.
- Consolidate residential areas and townships by encouraging high quality infill residential development in appropriate locations and a wider diversity of housing to meet changing needs.

Design principles include:

- Further develop open space trails and a pedestrian, bicycle and equestrian pathway system as an interconnected network along creek valleys and ridgelines, with new residential development approvals required to contribute to extending and upgrading the open space trail system.
- The existing Geelong Road linking Mount Clear and Buninyong will be progressively upgraded in respect to improved traffic, pedestrian and cyclist safety at key locations such as intersections and pedestrian crossing places without compromising the rural character of the road.
- Council will investigate the potential for a new north-south road link between Buninyong and Mount Clear which will also link to the Western Freeway to the east of Ballarat.

- Council will support and promote the provision of increased and more frequent bus services and provide for more bus shelters for the Canadian Valley community.
- Protect and enhance heritage features including historic buildings, streetscapes, significant exotic trees, stonewalls, and other heritage elements.

Relevant outcomes and actions for open space include:

- Council must ensure the co-ordination of subdivision development in the Canadian Valley area. This co-ordination should include works along creeks and waterways, development of the open space trail system, providing for walking, cycling and equestrian movement and development of wildlife corridor and habitat areas.
- Further strategic planning would involve the development of the Canadian Valley walking and cycling Master Plan.
- Improve the signage within the township of Buninyong – including directional signage to points of interest as well as signage for open space trails and improve the directional signage to the township of Buninyong from major highways.
- Explore a range of funding opportunities to assist in upgrading, rehabilitating and extending the open space trails along the Canadian Creek between Mount Clear and Buninyong.
- Start a Tracks and Trails Subcommittee' to plan, develop, map, publicise and maintain the walking and cycling trails within the Canadian Valley area.

Document – Health and Wellbeing Plan (2007- 2009) (Municipal Public Health Plan)

Author – City of Ballarat

Background:

- A legislative requirement in accordance with the Health Act (1988).
- Provides a strategic direction through identifying the priority issues and needs for health and wellbeing of the Ballarat community. It outlines Council's plan of action for the next three years in response to these needs and actions.

Key Information/Findings:

- Developed from an evidence based framework underpinned by a sound understanding of the social and environmental determinants of health.
- Seventeen priority areas. A few of the priority areas include “participation in recreational and leisure activities”, “community connectedness and strength”, “citizen engagement” and “economic activity”.

- The Health and Wellbeing Plan recognises that the City of Ballarat's open spaces such as parks, gardens, sporting ovals, wetlands, tracks and trails provide places for social gatherings, recreation, physical activity and relaxation and are important to the community's wellbeing and health.
- The Health and Wellbeing Plan also recognises that open space can also include squares, malls, neighbourhood footpaths, streetscapes, city entrances and boulevards. The Plan identifies that there is a capacity to design and use these spaces in a way that can enhance social interaction and promote active living.

Relevant outcomes and actions for open space include:

Actions from the Health and Wellbeing Plan include:

- Enhance & support community events that emphasise community connectedness and wellbeing themes in particular engaging special needs groups and enhancing participation in physical activity.
- Formalise a Developer Contributions policy to guide Council and the development industry regarding the development of essential infrastructure to meet the recreation and community needs of residents in new developments.
- Develop an Open Space Strategy that:
 - Articulates link between access to open space and community wellbeing;
 - Considers 'walkability' of open space and linear links to open space that promotes access via walking and cycling;
 - Provides a clear and concise policy framework for the management, use and development of Ballarat's open space assets;
 - Determines the appropriate provision and development standards of open space;
 - Caters for Ballarat's existing and projected growth;
 - Provides a sustainable public landscape and planting vision aimed at responding to the impact of climate change;
 - Outlines the use of developer contributions to fund the development of new open space and the upgrade of existing open space.
- Barriers to encouraging a greater use of open spaces include:
 - Public spaces that are not pedestrian friendly (such as busy and noisy roads).
 - Spaces perceived to be unsafe / unpleasant (by vandalism and litter).
 - Spaces not accessible to pedestrians, older people or people using mobility aides.
- Factors that enhance the use of open spaces and active living include:
 - Parks and recreation facilities that are multipurpose and can support a mix of less 'structured' sport and recreation alongside

- structured sport and recreation activities (for example, parks for skateboarding, adult playgrounds and walking).
- Spaces that openly invite pedestrians and people using mobility aides by providing a strong sense of 'walkability.'
- Spaces friendly to children and youth.
- Parking availability / access for disabled and older people.
- Access to toilets, drinking water, seating, and shelter in recreation and park areas.
- Parks designed for intrinsic appeal, waterways, water features, and trees for shade.
- The Plan also identifies that connectivity of off-road paths for commuting is an important factor that enhances pedestrian and bicycle travel in Ballarat.
- Continue to facilitate and produce the annual Arts in the Park Summer Music Festival to provide active and passive participation in high quality arts and cultural activity free of charge.
- Review and continue to implement the Recreation Strategy 2005.
- Continue to provide and promote recreation facilities based on key guiding principles articulated in the Recreation Strategy (especially that of access and equity).

Document – Water Action Plan (2005)

Author – City of Ballarat

Background:

- The City of Ballarat is located within the uppermost portions of three major river basins. These are known as the Barwon, Hopkins and Loddon River catchments with each being managed by the Corangamite, Glenelg Hopkins and North Central Catchment Management Authorities respectively. From these, water flows into the ocean at Barwon Heads, Warrnambool and Goolwa in South Australia (via the Murray River) respectively.
- Central Highlands Water (CHW) is the responsible water authority for the region and harvests water predominately from the Moorabool River system which has been identified as one of the most stressed rivers in Victoria.
- The importance of the social aspects associated with water as well as the economic value of water, including where associated with community activities and major sporting, cultural and tourism events, needs to be raised.
- The City of Ballarat resolved to participate in the Water Campaign™ Australia program on 26 May 2004. The Water Campaign™ is an international program that assists local governments to improve water management through reduced consumption and water quality improvement. In Australia the program is delivered by the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI). The Water

- CampaignTM consists of corporate (i.e. Council operations), community and catchment components.
- A partnership was formed between the City of Ballarat and Central Highlands Water in May 2004.
 - Five milestones were developed as a result of the City of Ballarat's involvement in the Water CampaignTM.
 - The purpose of the Plan is to act as a strategic document that provides direction for sustainable water management within Council operations and the Ballarat community. The Plan is a requirement of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) Water CampaignTM Program for Milestone 3.

Key Information/Findings:

- Approximately 70% of total water consumption is for residential use and 30% for commercial activities.
- Improving water quality within Ballarat is extremely important due to its location at the headwaters of three catchment areas and our impact upon downstream water quality.

The City of Ballarat has set two water consumption reduction goals:

- Council will reduce its corporate water consumption by 40% based upon 1999/2000 levels by 2008.
- A community goal of 20% reduction based upon 1999/2000 levels by 2008.

Relevant outcomes and actions for open space include:

The proposed actions from the Water Action Plan are generally for the conservation of potable water and improvements in water quality.

- "In consultation with Central Highlands Water investigate the potential for the re-use of treated wastewater for use in Councils open space facilities."
- "Prepare a Water Conservation Plan for Council's open space facilities to include priorities for use of groundwater and irrigation."
- "Install rainwater tanks at Council facilities where appropriate for use in toilets, small open space areas or cleaning of plant and equipment i.e. Child Care Centres, Depot, Nursery."
- "Work to challenge community expectations of green parks and sports fields in light of limited water supplies."
- "Develop an internal, cross-functional Water Action Group to take responsibility for oversight of the Water Action Plan."
- "All new council facilities to have water savings fixtures installed as standard."
- "Review lease agreements on Council owned properties to include payment for water and/or requirements for lessees to meet water conservation requirements."

- “Review council swimming pool backwash water discharge activities and implement best practice.”
- “Review herbicide, pesticide and fertiliser use.”

Document – City of Ballarat Wildfire Management Plan

Author – City of Ballarat

Background:

- There is a Wildfire Management Overlay (WMO) used to identify areas where the fire intensity level of wildfire is likely to pose a threat to life and property. It ensures that development within Bushfire Prone Areas (BPAs) includes specified fire protection measures and does not significantly increase the threat to life and property from wildfire.

Key Information/Findings:

- The WMO is a risk management tool.

Relevant outcomes and actions for open space include:

- Recommendations should be consistent with this policy.

Document – Native Vegetation Framework.

Author – Department of Sustainability and Environment

Background:

- *Native Vegetation Management: A Framework for action* (the Framework) was released in 2002. It was developed to implement the objectives of Victoria’s Biodiversity Strategy and the National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia’s Biological Diversity.

Key Information/Findings:

- ‘The framework’ is the State Government’s strategy to protect, enhance and revegetate Victoria’s native vegetation.
- The Framework’s main goal is *to achieve a reversal, across the entire landscape of the long-term decline in the extent and quality of native vegetation, leading to a net gain.*
- **Net gain** is where overall gains in native vegetation are greater than overall losses and where individual losses are avoided where possible. This recognises that although it’s better to retain existing native vegetation, it is possible to partially recover both amount and quality by active work and therefore improve the result as a whole. Net gain will be achieved as a result of landholder and government-assisted efforts to protect and improve native vegetation. In addition, permitted clearing

- must be offset in a way that adequately addresses the future impacts of such clearing.
- In applying the policy, there are three key steps to address when considering vegetation clearing:
 1. **Avoid** adverse impacts, particularly through vegetation clearance;
 2. If impacts cannot be avoided, **minimise** impacts by careful planning, design and management; and
 3. If clearing must occur, the clearing must be **offset**.
 - A planning permit is required to remove native vegetation and the three-step approach is an integral part of the decision making process relating to such permits.

Relevant outcomes and actions for open space include:

- Recommendations should be consistent with this policy.

Document – Information and policies concerning the use of Crown land held by the Department of Sustainability and Environment.

Author – Department of Sustainability and Environment.

Background:

- The powers and responsibilities of a Committee of Management is outlined under the *Crown land (Reserves) Act 1978*. This Act allows the Minister of Environment and Conservation to appoint Committees.
- The Department of Sustainability and Environment has prepared the “Responsibilities and Good Practice Guidelines” for Committees of Management of Crown land.

Key Information/Findings:

- The Committee’s obligations under the Act must be met and is also bound by other laws that govern the wider community on matters such as employment, liquor license, contracts and tenancy.
- The powers of the Act allow the Committee of Management to:
 - Manage and develop the reserve;
 - Undertake financial transactions and enter contracts;
 - Enter tenure agreements, such as leasing and licensing, for part or all of the reserve (subject to the Minister’s approval);
 - Employ people, and;
 - Enforce regulations.

Relevant outcomes and actions for open space include:

- Recommendations should be consistent with this policy.

Document – City of Ballarat Council Plan 2007 – 2012

Author – City of Ballarat

Background:

- The Council Plan is a legislative corporate document structured around the *Blueprint Ballarat* Vision for the municipality – the Blueprint Ballarat Vision is also the Vision for this Council Plan.

Key Information/Findings:

- Council realises that rate increases and borrowing more money will not provide all of the funding required to maintain the Council's significant assets. The Council Plan identifies ways the Council can secure more funding from the State and Federal Governments, the possibilities of increasing developers' contributions and joint ventures with the private sector to finance the upkeep of the City's infrastructure assets.
- The strategic direction for Council is determined by vision, the strategic plans required under legislation and key strategies that shape the management of our economic development, our environment, communications, risk and our resources and assets. Six key strategies underpin the Council Plan and include:
 - **Municipal Strategic Statement** (a legislative requirement for Council to produce a document that identifies the land use planning considerations for the municipality, and is reviewed every 3 years);
 - **Municipal Public Health Plan** (a legislative requirement for Council to produce a document that articulates the plan for the health and wellbeing of the community, and is reviewed every 3 years);
 - **Environment Sustainability Strategy** (sets strategic direction for managing biodiversity, waste, water and energy);
 - **Economic Development Strategy** (sets strategic direction for business attraction, business development, workforce skills provision and investment);
 - **City Marketing Strategy** (sets strategic direction for tourism, events, marketing the destination and managing our cultural attractions); and
 - **Managing Our Business** (sets strategic direction for Council's financial management, human resources management, asset management and risk management).
- Demonstrate a major commitment to public transport and walking / cycling as alternative travel modes.

Relevant outcomes and actions for open space include:

- Implement the Lake Wendouree Master Plan.
- Research ways to achieve water sustainability with a view to supplying treated wastewater to major sports precincts.

- Implement Ballarat West and Canadian Valley Outline Development Plans
- Undertake discussion with VicRail (now VicTrack) to facilitate purchase of former saleyards railway line.
- Upgrade the presentation of Ballarat's Central Business Activity.
- Prepare Developer Contributions Plans for major growth areas.
- Develop a Tree Management Plan (TMP).
- Develop and implement a plan to improve the main entrances to Ballarat in regards to signage at four gateways.
- Develop monitoring systems for land development, vegetation protection and heritage conservation.
- Prepare a Tracks and Trails Plan to include an audit of all existing walking and bike networks in the City with a view to connecting them and upgrading them.
- Finalise Open Space Strategy and once adopted by Council initiate a planning scheme amendment to implement findings.
- Progressively implement the infrastructure requirements of the Ballarat Trails Plan and Ballarat Bicycle Strategy including works on Yarrowee and Canadian Creek trails and the connection of Lake Wendouree with Ballarat Skipton Rail Trail.
- Develop and implement a Ballarat Walking Strategy.
- Implement recommendations of the Ballarat Recreation Strategy.
- Undertake and implement the Environmental Sustainability Strategy.
- Implement the Linear Network of Communal Spaces (LINCS) Strategy to create linear corridors of natural bushland to provide protected habitats for threatened flora and fauna of the Ballarat region.
- Undertake the Miners Rest Outline Development Plan in conjunction with the Miners Rest Social and Recreational Needs Study.

Document – Policy for ‘Landscapes Installations’ in Public Open Spaces

Author – City of Ballarat

Background:

- Applies to all new additions / extensions to landscape installations managed or owned by the City of Ballarat. Landscape installations include, but are not limited to, temporary or permanent public memorials, statues, sculpture, interpretative trails and public art.
- To be applied with other relevant Council policies, strategies or master plans.

Key Information/Findings:

- Landscape installations can be initiated by Council or non Council group.

Relevant outcomes and actions for open space include:

- Recommendations should be consistent with this policy.

Document – Landscape Guidelines for Development in the City of Ballarat (1999, Revised 2000)

Author – City of Ballarat

Background:

- Guidelines to assist developers and applicants to prepare landscape plans required for planning permits.

Relevant outcomes and actions for open space include:

- Recommendations should be consistent with this policy.

Document – Blueprint Ballarat 2004

Author – City of Ballarat

Background:

- 'Blueprint Ballarat' is one of the most important strategic documents developed by the Ballarat community. 'Blueprint Ballarat' shapes the community's vision for the City of Ballarat and the strategy to achieve this vision.
- The contents are derived from an extensive community consultation process.

Key Information/Findings:

- In the community feedback sections, it states that the community wants an increase in the number of street trees and walking / cycling paths.
- In the vision, it indicates that the community will have thought imaginatively and intelligently about the ageing of its population and will be providing programs which will enable older residents to continue to be active contributors to the community. It also says that Ballarat will be seen as a hub that offers a rich variety of opportunities.
- With respect to its people, it indicates that Council, community groups, sporting groups and churches will work together to develop programs that support new residents and help them to be involved in the community.
- With respect to services and infrastructure, it states that Council will aim to plan social infrastructure well in advance and in partnership with the community. It will undertake an audit of major infrastructure needs, implement the Master Plan for Lake Wendouree and undertake an assessment of the infrastructure needs of the rural areas of the City.
- With regard to health services, it states that Ballarat residents will be active, fit and well. It says that Council will work with sporting groups and other community groups to increase the community's physical exercise

levels. It says that Council will also audit all existing walking and bike networks and ensure they are connected.

- One of Blueprint Ballarat vision is for the City of Ballarat to be a leader in the management of the natural environment.
- Ballarat wants to attract new residents at a rate that enables the local economy to compensate for it's rapidly ageing population and low birth rate, ensuring it has the right population mix to thrive as the region's hub, while allowing Ballarat to retain its character and strong sense of community.

Relevant outcomes and actions for open space include:

- Establish a Blueprint Ballarat Community Committee with members drawn from council, business, academia and the community with the role of identifying and responding to key challenges for Ballarat, and coordinating activities that advance the city.
- Partner with DSE to ensure that the Ballarat Corridor Sustainable Growth Strategy is developed in line with the vision for Our People as detailed in Blueprint Ballarat.
- The community emphasised the need to plan for and fund maintenance of Ballarat's physical infrastructure (including open space) particularly the substantial elements of which are considered to be rundown at present.
- To identify Council's infrastructure priorities in order to plan, lobby and advocate for them as effectively as possible.
- To ensure that infrastructure planning addresses priority needs, given that concepts in some areas are likely to be less well-developed than in others e.g. it may be less easy to quantify emerging public transport needs than to quantify the needs and costs for major freeway construction; there is a need to prioritise the implementation of the City's existing master plans for its key public spaces and to develop priorities for master plans and development and use policies where they currently do not exist for the remaining open space asset.
- To demonstrate major commitment to public transport and walking / cycling as alternative travel modes.
- Undertake an audit of street trees for age and condition and commence a replanting program, including within the Central Business Area.
- Develop a plan to improve the main entrances to Ballarat, and determine the timeframe and funding for implementation.
- Review and implement Council's Ballarat Bicycle Strategy.
- Implement the Master Plan for the future of Lake Wendouree, address the issue of maintaining its water supply at adequate levels, and undertake community consultation to determine the principles that will guide any future development at the lake.
- In conjunction with Central Highlands Water, continually research ways we can secure sufficient water for the future needs of the Ballarat community whilst ensuring this does not place an undue or unreasonable financial

- burden on the community, or on any of the other municipalities who are dependant on the same water supply.
- Seek additional funding from State and Federal Governments to aim to match spending on roads with spending on, and promotion of, public transport, and walking and cycling, as alternative transport modes.
 - Identify and implement future needs and potential uses for the Ballarat Airport in partnership with the business sector.
 - Build more public toilets in locations where people need them e.g. skate park.
 - In line with the City's Recreation Strategy, prepare a tracks and trails plan. This will include an audit of all existing walking and bike networks in the city with a view to connecting them and upgrading them. Promote their use and affordability in ways that specifically target the everyday requirements for travel, such as going to work, school, shopping, the library and visiting friends.
 - Review and selectively upgrade existing recreational facilities to facilitate: multiple uses; more and different user groups; more and different needs; and affordability. Do this in partnership with community groups, particularly those whose constituents record low physical exercise levels, and market the availability of the facilities to the community.
 - Continue to implement the LINCS Strategy to create linear corridors of natural bushland to provide protected habitats for threatened flora and fauna of the Ballarat region.
 - In partnership with the Great Dividing Trail Association, improve the walking / bike trail from Ballarat to Bendigo in a way that: uses voluntary labour for its construction; draws on voluntary support from communities along the route; and opens up tourism opportunities along its path, including eco-tourism.
 - Identify the need for, and develop a strategy to, install more public seating and bike racks in the Ballarat Central Business Area and other areas.

Document – Environmental Sustainability Strategy (2007)

Author – Centre for Environment Management, University of Ballarat, THA Landscape Architects, National Centre for Sustainability, University of Ballarat.

Background:

- The Environmental Sustainability Strategy is the framework, through a set of key directions and actions that will help to deliver Blueprint Ballarat's environmental and sustainability vision. The Strategy focuses on the following key areas: Biodiversity (flora and fauna); water quality and quantity; energy; waste, recycling and reuse; and air quality.

Key Information/Findings:

- Guided by international, national and state sustainability frameworks and strategies, local governments are increasingly investigating local

- sustainability issues and developing their own policies, strategies and frameworks.
- In 1991 the City of Ballarat produced the Ballarat Region Conservation Strategy. This Strategy initiated some very successful long-term projects such as the LINCS (Linear Network of Community Spaces) program, Ballarat Environment Network (BEN) and the Ballarat Regional Seed Bank and saw a review in 1999.
 - The development of the Environmental Sustainability Strategy builds on the work achieved through the previous conservation strategies, including Blueprint Ballarat (2004) and the Municipal Strategic Statement (City of Ballarat 2005a).
 - Travel to and from work is heavily car based. Over 70% of people travelling to work use a car (census 2001).

Relevant outcomes and actions for open space include:

- Develop and implement biodiversity management regimes for all sites on land managed by the City of Ballarat containing native biodiversity.
- Develop biodiversity interpretative sites in the botanic gardens / lake to promote local and regional plant and animal values and sites.
- Develop and implement a Triple Bottom Line (TBL – Social, Environmental and Financial) management and reporting framework for Council which incorporates sustainability into all levels of decision making and action.
- Clearly define and communicate Councils vision regarding sustainable development to developers, including developing a Sustainability checklist to assist developers to achieve sustainability outcomes.
- Develop guidelines for sustainable renovation of heritage buildings (partnership with Heritage Victoria and DSE).
- Develop a Sustainability Incentive Program to encourage and assist landholders and developers to undertake environmentally sustainable practices.
- Work with relevant authorities / agencies to ensure a coordinated approach to protecting and managing the City's natural environment (MSS).
- Undertake a land condition assessment of land managed by Council to identify areas of land degradation requiring treatment (could be integrated with the biodiversity assessment – see action 70). Develop management prescriptions to address identified land degradation sites.
- Prevent, minimise and offset native vegetation removal.
- Ensure that land degradation issues are addressed in Outline Development Plans.
- Identify and map riparian zones and wetlands and update Schedule 2 of the ESO to protect all relevant waterways and wetlands within the municipality.
- Continue improvement and management of public reserves, frontages and wetlands of the Yarrowee River and its tributaries by continuing to implement the LINCS program.

- Create more multipurpose wetlands in urban areas where appropriate. Ensure wetlands have a variety of benefits including flood management, water quality protection, provision of wildlife habitat, visual and open space values (MSS). Undertake a study to identify key appropriate locations and a developer's contribution scheme.
- Maintain the environmental health of Lake Wendouree through the adoption of the Lake Wendouree Water Supply Investigation recommended water supply options ensuring supply options consider the current and future impact of water diversion on other waterways and wetlands.
- Ensure wetlands and waterways are protected from development by inclusion in schedule 2 of the Environmental Significance Overlay.
- Undertake biodiversity inventory of land managed by Council and develop a biodiversity benchmark.
- Develop Environmental Information System to manage biodiversity information for planning and management activities.
- Develop and implement biodiversity management regimes for all sites on land managed by Council containing native biodiversity.
- Through the LINCS program identify opportunities for further revegetation of council managed land with native species and undertake planting at suitable sites.
- Undertake environmental impact assessments on all new council projects and developments where natural values exist on the site.
- Develop an Integrated Transport Strategy (incorporating the Road Transport Plan, Public Transport Strategy, City Parking Strategy and the Ballarat Bicycle Strategy).
- Design and construct all new Council facilities based on waste wise principles, including minimising material use, use of durable and recycled materials and providing waste minimisation infrastructure, e.g. recycling bins.

Document – LINCS (Linear Networks of Communal Spaces) April 1996

Author – Tim D’Ombrain (formerly Ballarat Region Conservation Strategy, Sustainable Development Officer and LINCS Coordinator for the City of Ballarat)

Background:

- LINCS is a program of linking agencies and the community together in the management of linear reserves with the aim of enhancing recreational and conservation values.
- Linear reserves include roadsides, rail lines and waterways.
- LINCS covers all of the City of Ballarat and parts of the Shires of Golden Plains, Hepburn and Moorabool which corresponds to the Ballarat Region Conservation Strategy. The entire length of the Ballarat Skipton Rail Trail is included in the scope of the project.

Key Information/Findings:

- Linear reserves have a number of values including flora and fauna.
- A large range of authorities and agencies have an interest in the management of linear reserves.
- The Yarrowee River was identified as the most complex (in terms of ownership, issues and location) linear reserve in the region. It is also the most accessible and therefore important to the City of Ballarat community.
- The Ballarat Skipton Rail Trail has high value from a recreational, ecotourism, historical and vegetation perspective and needs to be appropriately managed.

Relevant outcomes and actions for open space include:

- Enhanced connection is required between reserves and remnant vegetation to allow the safe transfer of wildlife, particularly in the urban area.
- Management of linear reserves can be enhanced through the transfer of management to fewer authorities. A clear understanding of the roles of each authority involved will assist the development of the reserve.
- Management practices should include litter and pollution control, feral animal and weed control, revegetation and regular burning where applicable.
- Re-establishing native vegetation species can be a cost-effective method of reducing annual maintenance costs and protect the values of linear reserves.
- Path networks should be kept in good condition and where possible accessible for people of all abilities, cyclists, prams etc. Access points should be clearly marked on signs and maps and relevant facilities provided for users where appropriate.

Document – Land Conservation Council Ballarat Study Area – Final Recommendations (April 1982)

Author – Land Conservation Council

Background:

- The Land Conservation Council was established by the Land Conservation Act 1970. One of its functions is to make recommendations to the State Government to the balanced use of public land.
- The study area of this report is not aligned to the municipal boundary for the City of Ballarat.
- Public land is broken up into approximately 23 different categories (and sub categories) including, but not limited to: Parks; Bushland Reserves; Lake Reserves; Wildlife Reserves; Flora and Fauna Reserves; Recreation; and Scenic Reserves.

Key Information/Findings:

- This report focuses on the recommendations of use of public land in the Ballarat area.
- Each primary use of public land has a number of compatible secondary uses.
- Recommendations consider the most appropriate form of tenure for the land and the management authority.
- Recommendations of the Land Conservation Council are based on the assumption that sufficient resources will be provided for the appropriate managing authority.
- The document recommends that the present legal status and management of public land in each case be retained until the recommended authorities have the capacity to manage each area.

Relevant outcomes and actions for open space include:

- Identifies Flax Mill Swamp as a freshwater marsh providing a diversity of habitats for wildlife. There is potential to improve the wildlife habitat for a range of waterbirds.
- The document recommends that various Bushland Reserves are used to maintain the local character and quality of the landscape and for passive recreation such as picnicking and walking. The Bushland Reserves should be permanently reserved under section 4 of the Crown land (Reserves) Act 1978 and be managed by the Department of Crown lands and Survey.
- Union Jack Reserve is classified as an 'Education Area' and is recommended to be managed by the Forests Commission.
- 'Lake Reserves' should be used for: recreation; wildlife conservation; scientific study; water supply; and drainage. They should be permanently reserved under Section 4 of the Crown land (Reserves) Act 1978 and be managed by the Department of Crown lands and Survey. Lake Burumbeet is classified as a 'Lake Reserve' and it is recommended that the management authority investigate the perimeter of the lake with a view to determine suitable areas for the reestablishment of native plant species. Lake Learmonth is classified as a 'Lake Reserve'.
- There are several reserves classified as 'Recreation Reserve' and that these reserves should continue to be available for a wide range of recreational uses where these can be accommodated without detriment to other values and that land management authorities aim at controlling the types, levels, and patterns of recreational use according to the capability of particular areas to sustain such use without irreversible change or significant conflict with the primary purpose of the area. Generally the 'Recreation Reserves' should be used for organized sports (football, horseracing, golf etc.) and informal recreation (picnicking, camping etc.) as permitted by the managing authority. Recreation Reserves should be

- permanently reserved under section 4 of the Crown land (Reserves) Act 1978 and be managed by the Department of Crown lands and Survey.
- 'Scenic Reserves' are set aside to preserve scenic features and lookouts of particular significance. Scenic Reserves should be permanently reserved under Section 4 of the Crown land (Reserves) Act 1978 and be managed by the Department of Crown lands and Survey. Mount Buninyong is classified as a Scenic Reserve.

Consultation

A comprehensive consultation process was developed to engage with the broader community and relevant stakeholders and authorities. The consultation process involved several elements to capture the comments of the community and relevant stakeholders.

The consultation process was widely advertised through the City of Ballarat's website, the community publication *My Ballarat*, a direct mail-out and telephone interviews.

The consultation process included:

Community Focus Groups

The community was invited to attend one of three focus groups. Each focus group had a specific theme to attract a diverse range of participants from the broad community and to focus on particular issues. Although each focus group targeted a specific topic, participants were provided an opportunity during the focus group to talk about other themes if interested.

The themes for the three focus groups included:

Management, Use and Promotion of Open Space

This theme included discussion around: Who is Responsible for Open Space; Presentation and Maintenance of Parks; Managing Use and Conflict in Open Space; Signage and Promotion in Parks, and Education and Community Involvement.

Local Parks, Linear Parks and Linkages

This theme included discussion around: The Role of Open Space and Parks in Communities; How to Create Friendly and Useable Spaces; Priorities for Linkages and Pathways; Significance of Creek Corridors and Linear Parks; the Importance of Walkable Access to Parks, and How Can Open Space Link Communities.

Environment and Conservation

This theme included discussion around: Community values relating to the Environment; Balancing Conservation with Public Access; Roles of State Government, Council and the Community; Significance of Heritage Areas and Habitat, and Water as an Integral Part of Open Space.

Household Survey

A household survey was undertaken by telephone of 300 households throughout the City of Ballarat.

Walk and Talk Session

This session provided the community with an opportunity to meet with the project consultant for a leisurely walk around Lake Wendouree to talk about any issues relating to open space.

Written Submissions

Interested residents or community organisations were encouraged to forward a written submission on any ideas, concerns or opportunities on any open space or parkland areas in the City of Ballarat. Submissions could be either sent in by mail, fax or email.

Meetings

A series of meetings or presentations were held with a range of people who have an interest or directly involved with open space in the City of Ballarat. Those people included:

- Relevant Council Officers from across the organisation
- Ballarat Open Space Steering Committee
- City of Ballarat Councillors
- Executive Management Team
- Ballarat Environment Network
- Blueprint Ballarat Committee

Steering Committee Meetings

A number of discussions regarding the strategic directions for the Open Space Strategy were discussed at meetings of the Steering Committee.

Phone Interviews of Relevant Authorities

Relevant authorities were interviewed by telephone for a greater understanding of issues or directions within their respective organisations that may have an impact on open space in the City of Ballarat.

Youth Workshop

A youth workshop was conducted to gather information from a youth perspective. With the support of the City of Ballarat youth services team, the youth including the Splinta Youth Council and relevant youth agencies were invited to attend a workshop at a mutually convenient time for participants.

School Surveys

School surveys were emailed to the school administration of all state and public primary and secondary schools in the City of Ballarat. A follow-up phone call was also made to encourage the return of the surveys.

Opportunity to Speak to Project Consultant Team

The community was encouraged to contact the Council to arrange a call-back from the project consultant to speak about any particular aspects of open space.

A summary of the feedback and findings from the consultation process is outlined in the following section.

SUMMARY OF WORKSHOPS

Executive Meeting

An Executive Meeting with Councillors and SGL was held and the discussion included the following issues surrounding water and open space.

- Identifying areas of open space which do not require irrigation.
- How should Council deal with excess open space given the challenges of irrigation.
- Developer models for maintenance agreements and developer guidelines.
- Implementation of Master Plans to be undertaken in consideration of alternate irrigation practices.
- Emphasis regarding contribution for sub division.
 - Often land will be more valuable than cash in lieu for open space in new areas.
 - Cash in lieu may be preferred in CBD area.

Steering Committee Meetings

The following notes were taken from discussions at three Steering Committee Meetings.

- Planning scheme implications to be determined with planners.
- Developers worked with Council to set a good benchmark for open space acquisition. Landscape architects are aware of expectations.
- Open Space Strategy will largely be an internal document for Council decision-making.
- Council has not funded an Open Space Strategy for 15 years therefore the 1998 paper became an adopted tool.
 - Council sold some blocks of land and developed better open space.
 - Appears to be a perception that this paper is an Open Space Strategy.
- Climate change issues – definition about open space that should be irrigated and developed.
- Best Value document – consultation results.
- Blueprint Ballarat document – consultation results.
- Ballarat Media
 - Council has a regular page in the daily newspaper
 - Nightly news – WIN (Western district)
 - Radio station
 - Monthly newsletter – “My Ballarat”
 - “Emerging Issues” bulletin
- Crown Land Improvement Program (CLIP)

- Council requested funding from DSE but was unsuccessful.
 - Community management groups are targeted for this funding program.
- Council Health Plan – underway.
 - Private land owners have an issue with the role they play with biodiversity and wildlife corridor and look to the Planning Scheme for guidance.
 - Question the value of linkages that are to be considered.
- DVC – Go For Your Life.
- Schools
 - Consider open space needs for schools planned to be closed (e.g. Midlands).
 - Issues as to why Council should acquire open space that is surplus and of little value.
- Municipal Strategic Statement
 - Review beginning in June, 2008.
 - Community to be informed about the implementation of the Strategy as it is proceeding.
- DSE
 - To coordinate a future vision for open space.
 - Concerned about exclusivity of land.
 - Interested in groups working together for multi-use.
- Victoria Park set to become a central park in Ballarat.
- Parks Access
 - Community may not agree with Council regarding the disposal of land.
 - Council needs to identify environmental values.
 - Could look at an alternate land manager.
 - Native Title may prevent land from being sold.
 - Land sold by Treasury and Finance has not provided any contribution for other open space areas.
 - E.g. Power Reserve, Sebastapol has income potential through leasing for approved use.
 - Suggest Council looks at land that is surplus after the completion of the Open Space Strategy.
 - Investigate Native Title status of Crown land that is surplus.
 - Determine public interest in both government and public land.
 - Planning consideration and zoning.
- Determine how to treat native vegetation off-set areas.
 - Subdivision in Mount Helen
 - Regrowth areas could have up to 25% open space in vegetation off-set and steep areas.
 - Test case for native vegetation framework.
- Potential separation of open space for specific purposes
 - Retarding basin
 - Native vegetation

- Conservation
- Water
- Stormwater

Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) Meeting

A meeting was held with representatives from DSE and the following issues were discussed:

- Role of linkages, biodiversity, connections, management.
- Partnership with Ballarat City Council can be ad hoc
 - Council has a number of planning documents with no overall context for directions.
 - What should land be used for?
 - What are the demands for open space?
 - Victoria Park – ODP about to be released as a draft and it incorporates saleyards.
 - Different people have different perspectives about public land.
- DSE looking for a logical basis on which to make decisions.
 - The majority of open space in Ballarat is DSE land which is highly modified.
 - DSE is not the direct land manager.
 - Identify DSE open space that is managed by Council.
 - Identify open space managed directly by DSE or other Committees of Management.

Ballarat Environment Network (BEN) Meeting

A meeting with the Executive Officer from BEN was held and the following items were discussed:

- 1991 - Ballarat Regional Conservation Strategy.
- Through recommendation in 1994 an Environmental Umbrella Group was formed (BEN).
- BEN is a network, not a peak group, and incorporates the following attributes.
 - Members consist of groups and individuals who focus on environmental management.
 - Their major role is communication which includes
 - Applications for funding.
 - Assistance with applications.
 - Auspicing and holding funds for projects.
 - A website auspiced by BEN is www.bird.net.au
 - The Running Postman is a current newsletter distributed on a quarterly basis.
 - Conferences relating to biodiversity, e.g., “Weaving the Web” have been held over the past 12 years.

- BEN has a contract with Ballarat City Council to run LINCS projects and for the past three years they have been involved in:
 - Community revegetation, education and training e.g., catchment management, biodiversity and water quality.
 - The Green Schools Program
 - Partnership in 90 schools
- BEN has over 1,000 volunteers.
- Promote environment message in the City
- Received funding and implemented a Stormwater Action Plan
- Has interest in Skipton Rail Trail
- LINCS is primarily concentrating on waterways, specifically Yarrowee River.
- Ballarat City Council input through parks team is crucial.
- LINCS has gone from environmental restoration to community development. Benefits include
 - Health and wellbeing
 - Transport
 - Recreation (paths and trails)
 - Interest in VicRoads
- Concern regarding loss of biodiversity as a result of the change of government.
 - Biodiversity Services Pty Ltd owned by BEN
 - Flora and fauna assessment.
 - Weed control.
 - DSE appointed BEN as a Committee of Management for up to 50 reserves.
 - Biodiversity Services extends from Wimmera to the coast to Bannockburn through to Daylesford and Ararat.
 - The influence of BEN has expanded.
 - If requested to manage reserves, they will only become involved if invited by the community and provided there is no opposition from the community.
 - BEN chooses reserves that have good biodiversity values
 - Signs installed but no facilities.
 - Can be used for excursions to run LINCS.

Parks Staff Meeting

A meeting was held with Parks Staff and the following issues were discussed.

- Consultation.
- Geographic areas.
- Concerns regarding OH&S for open space development in new areas – need to ensure that slopes and facilities can be maintained by Council
 - E.g., slopes to have native grasses or trees rather than grass.
- There are limited additional resources to maintain new parks.
- Building a case for more resources for maintenance.
- Staff submissions need to be presented to Council.

Sport Planners Meeting

A meeting was held with Sport Planners and the following items were discussed.

- Soccer academy has proposed six synthetic courts - looking for locations.
- How many sports precincts should be developed?
- Central Highlands Water
 - Bore water has use in the short term, but not long term.
 - Bore use is currently being investigated by a hydrologist to ascertain long term sustainability.
- Water supply could be:
 - Treated waste
 - Stormwater (grey)
 - Bore
- Council promised to deliver lower water use.
- Council to show leadership.
- All 40 turf sports facilities are challenging.
- Need to consider the irrigation needs of passive open space.
- Concern regarding Sturt Street streetscape.
- Link between projects
 - Multifunctional facilities beyond sports fields and passive parks.
- Hierarchy for development standards
 - State level
 - Some state level standards
 - Regional
 - District
 - Neighbourhood
- Two croquet clubs are selling off land at City Oval and private land in order to build at Prince of Wales Park.

Walk 'N' Talk, 14th July, 2007

A small group of seven adults (and two children) met at Lake Wendouree on Saturday, 14th July at 10am and walked around the lake discussing various issues relating to open space provision. The walk took two hours and the following summary covers the issues that were discussed:

In General

- City Oval Master Plan – query about its status.
- Lake Burumbeet / Learmonth not as important as Wendouree as a facility and attraction.
- 140 swans counted last Sunday on the lake now that water had returned.
- Barbecues are only used three months of the year and are only at one major attraction
- Ballarat Centre – can walk to big regional facilities but not a local park!!
- Net loss of open space – should be reviewed on a case by case basis.
- Community Garden is where Queen Street School was – Community Health Centre – not council.
- It is important to support and preserve local heritage.
- Ballarat West Structure Plan
 - ◆ What type of open space is needed to complement larger spaces?
- The Lake Foundation used to exist – history??
- Bird Conservation (BOCA) is an active group.

Paths

- Lake Wendouree used to have bluestone.
- Runners prefer granitic sand to sealed pathways.
- Granitic surface is more aesthetic.
- Not much connectivity throughout Ballarat, but it is very important.
- Crossings are also important across main roads.

Local parks

- Offering a place for the local community to gather.
- Maintenance – condition of park needs to be considered, particularly high wear areas.
- Local park – playground, seats, shade. Fewer facilities are better. No bins.
- Botanic Gardens don't showcase local and significant trees – could do better to educate local community.

Signage

- Good (Steve Moneghetti signs excellent!)
- E.g., Lake Esmond has good signs, especially signage for native vegetation / environmental values, information about historic connections.
- For commercial enterprises e.g., Pilates, cafés, etc., need consistent rules.

- Advertising not okay, but accept that it is the way it is – perhaps keep it internal to reserve fence.
- Accept that rules might be different for sports ovals and passive parks.

Bins/Rubbish

- If food is consumed, must have bins.
- Bins where tables are. Don't need bins for seats only.
- Bird Observers Club pick up rubbish along section of track – Fairyland.

Seating/Furniture

- Seat design is good.
- Timber – back and arms.
- Need maintenance to be regular to keep seats in good condition.
- Bequests to provide park furniture okay, but maybe introduce guidelines about locations, etc.
- Some seats with plaques from special people – few good ideas.

Trees/Plants/Garden Maintenance

- Pockets of exotics separately defined.
- Native trees better.
- Section where paddleboats used to go, Fairyland, is overgrown. Need to maintain better while lake is dry.
- Palms near Pipers
 - ◆ Clearing of undergrowth has taken away habitat.
- Bridges near Pipers - 'water lilies' horrible! Paint them green instead!
- Natural water lilies were removed.
 - ◆ Swan pool used to be great for birds – now cleared.

War Memorial

- Visitation has stabilised. What about other park facilities.

Schools/ Open Space

- School stadiums okay for formal use.
- Lakers play netball at Ballarat College.
- Pleasant Street School – gates open and seem to be welcoming people.
- Doug Dean reserve
 - ◆ Delacombe environmental learning opportunities.
 - ◆ Low lying land could be developed as wetland?

Public Toilets (Lake Wendouree, at end of rowing course)

- Don't remove – but change to new design model – accessible and safe.

Dogs

Victoria Park and other parks for off leash.

- Management works well.
- People are quite responsible.
- Dog dispensers are good and should be provided.

Lake

- Water from treatment works by 2008.
- People still walk, more people are walking.
- Generally – no cars in open space.
- Encourage more use of steamer side of lake. History of steamer and memorial poorly maintained.
- Original tram stops are good.
- When Bungle Dam was opened, promised that Ballarat would not have water problems – not planned for development.
- Bollards – problem, too far apart, i.e., cars can go through - alternative would be kerb and channel.

Car Parking

- Lake Wendouree Yacht Club parking excellent.

Community Forum
Local Parks, Linear Parks and Linkages
Monday 23rd July 2007

Focus of Topic

The community forum was focusing on local parks, linear parks and linkages although there would be an opportunity to talk about any aspect of open space.

Summary of Forum Discussion:

- There was some discussion about the entrances / gateways to the City of Ballarat in respect to the overall appearance and aesthetics. In particular there was a reference to the Victoria Street entrance which is grassed on either side. It was noted that rubbish is not collected prior to mowing of the grass and consequently the mower then cuts up the rubbish with the grass which leaves a poor image of litter along the entranceway.
- There was also a comment on the general aesthetics of the entrances and how the Victoria Street entrance looks inappropriate as motorists are directed through Bakery Hill precinct and then into the harshness of the concrete environment near the supermarket. There was a point raised that the Gateways are generally focused around vehicles and not pedestrians.
- The skate park is quite messy with rubbish.
- There was further discussion in regards to the placement of rubbish bins. While it was recognised that Council does not install rubbish bins in all parks in an attempt to encourage park users to 'take their own rubbish home,' it was determined that the provision of rubbish bins in open space areas where infrastructure or services that generate rubbish is appropriate and necessary.
- It was noted that rubbish is an issue at Victoria Park, however this is not necessarily generated by users of Victoria Park but rather due to cars transporting trailer loads of rubbish to the nearby tip. Also there is rubbish generated by nearby schools as students use the park as a thoroughfare.
- It was noted that Sports Clubs are generally responsible for their own bins and rubbish generated from their activities and Council will be responsible for rubbish bins for litter generated by the broader community.
- A broad example was provided that it is appropriate to provide bins in parks where a café / restaurant is operating close by. A general principle

- was discussed that the type of use (i.e. skate park), frequency of use and rubbish generating infrastructure / services should be considered when assessing the appropriateness for the provision of rubbish bins in open space. In this instance it would be appropriate for bins to be provided where the sport ovals are located, however not throughout the reserve. It was considered that providing bins where the sports fields are located in Victoria Park and not elsewhere would not create confusion for park users.
- There was significant discussion on the current aesthetics and overall presentation of Council's open space not being acceptable (i.e. rubbish / litter, maintenance of vegetation – long grass). There was a clear message for the existing open space to be maintained to an acceptable standard.
 - It was noted that Council previously (15-20 years ago) employed an officer to monitor parks including litter management.
 - There was concern expressed that the Strategies in the past (not necessarily by the City of Ballarat) have been driven by a financial perspective rather than reflecting the community's vision. It was suggested that the Strategy should be driven by vision.
 - There is a perceived hindrance (not just from the sporting but the environmental representatives) of Council when it comes to support and development of community clubs. It was discussed that there is significant resources (both financial and voluntary) within the community, however the experience when dealing with Council is extremely hard and difficult to make things happen. Several examples were raised that included Council's expectations for plans, or Clubs to spend dollars on preparing proposals and situations where a delay with Council prevented a funding application being submitted to the State Government. Mount Clear Junior Football Club also indicated that they would like to install floodlighting but Council requested that the Club demonstrate how they would "assure" that water would irrigate the reserve. Attendees acknowledged that there were processes and protocols to follow, however believed they were often onerous, sometimes unnecessary and did not encourage partnerships with the community.
 - There was a reference from one participant that his closest park is approximately 800 metres away which is too far for his family with young children. He considered 400m is a more appropriate walking distance for his family.
 - There was a general discussion that parks and reserves need to have a diversity of infrastructure to attract users.

- There was concern expressed in reference to loss of open space through the sale for residential development. It was mentioned that more needs to be done to retain open space rather than selling it for any type of development. In particular there was an example of where it was believed that Crown land (located near no.155 on the Open Space Plan) had recently been sold for residential development.
- In regards to open space providing connections, it was suggested that the land on the verge of Ballarat Golf Course would provide a west – east connection along the City’s gateway. It is thought that this land is road reserve. It was generally considered that it is important for east-west connections of open space.
- The value of Lake Esmond was raised as an important piece of open space.
- There was also value placed on path networks that are circular (rather than linear) or could link up with other path networks.
- It is important for open space connections and path networks to be linked to infrastructure such as shops, health services etc. particularly at the local level.

There were several challenges identified when it comes to the current provision of open space in particular:

- It is difficult to commute and access from Victoria Park to Lake Wendouree. It was discussed that the path networks are not “connecting”, poorly maintained or there are significant physical barriers in the form of roads.
- There was acknowledgement and support that there needs to be better and improved connectivity of the path networks. It was mentioned that some paths suddenly stop and lead nowhere creating confusion for the users on where they need to go. Example: from Loretto High College the pedestrian path leads into a grass swale. Also it is not clear where the cultural / indigenous path network starts, finishes or leads anywhere in between.
- There was concern with general maintenance of the path networks and in particular the Ballarat Skipton Rail Trail network and suggestions there could be a possibility to connect to the Lake Wendouree (just past the caravan park).
- Invermay Park (north of crematorium) does not have very good path networks.

Management, Use And Promotion Of Open Space Forum Monday 16th July 2007

Long-term plan – many years ago, the early Councils came up with plans for:

- Ballarat Open Space?
- Buninyong Open Space?

LINCS plan is important.

Environmental impacts are important to consider in any open space provision.

Consider linkages and pathway to create a “ring” around Ballarat like Bendigo Bushland Track.

Roads that have been identified as roads under zoning but never constructed.

- Disappears into private land, e.g., Strawberry Glen Road in Buninyong.
- Would come up on remnant vegetation surveys.
 - ◆ E.g. Blackberry Lane Buninyong
 - ◆ Mount Ballarat Road → Lal Lal Street
- Consider designating as walking tracks / shared pathways.

Rail Lines

Opportunity – disused rail lines – potential as linkages.

Ballarat BUG (Bicycle User Group)

- Use of decommissioned rail corridors for shared pathways.
- Linkage down to Victoria Park.
- Any development should consider connection through neighbourhoods.
- Some trail lines go through private property.
- Access to rail station will be important in the future.
- BMX humps alongside rail line not a huge problem.

Section 86 COM for working / multi-use tracks / trails in other municipalities – could consider here.

Trails

Rail Trail – Ballarat to Buninyong – lost opportunity.

Maintenance is an issue for trails and long-term parks.

Great Dividing Trail

- Spine to connect.
- Has used a number of volunteer schemes.
 - ◆ Land Care groups/Green Corps, etc.
- Experience of Great Dividing Trail
 - ◆ All tracks need to be dual purpose to accommodate bikes.

Willingness in community to get involved

- Great involvement at Yarrowee Creek
 - ◆ Community fought hard to keep Yarrowee intact to the north – Bird Observers.

Ballarat Council concerned about financial commitment to tracks / trails – should set up a good structure and okay to have a long-term view.

Work on trails

- Connections
- Link to Great Dividing Trail
- Nature based trail

Signage

Need for standard signage

- Reminder of responsibility
- Interpretation

Maps

Yarrowee Trail Map disappeared early after release.

- Council should have all maps on website if possible.
- 10,000 maps – commuter map – all have been distributed – very popular.
 - ◆ Information Centre, Town Hall, Railway Station, Bike Ride and Ballarat Autumn Day Ride.
 - ◆ BUG worked with Council, VicRoads in partnership.
 - ◆ Paid for by VicRoads in kind, Council, Outdoor Club \$2,000.

Website

- Tourism decision by visitors are being made based on website.
- Important economic benefit.
- Ask Council about hits on website for open space?
 - ◆ Need to be pulled together on website.
 - ◆ 'Tracks and Trails' button on website.

Waterways

Need to preserve area along waterways.

- Also Flaxmill Swamp up from Lake Wendouree takes water into Winter Swamp near 'golf course'.
- Working with DSE to make sure channel stays
- Who should look after it?

Clubs

Mountain Bike Club

- Significant growth in mountain biking.
- DSE: motorbikes are a big problem.
- BUG – 100 on mailing list.

- Ballarat Bushwalking and Outdoor Club is also active.
- Cycling
 - ◆ Yarrowee Creek used by mountain bikes.
 - ◆ Some riders going too fast and are dangerous.
 - ◆ Multi-use trail areas should be limited.

Environment Forum 26th July 2007

- Where concentrated development is planned for the future, important to preserve and set aside open space. Assume that 3-5ha blocks might be subdivided.
- Subdivision development is compromising provision of open space. Council is the biggest culprit. Lake Blitz – removing vegetation. Victoria Park – trying to over develop. Open space can exist that doesn't cost lots of money to maintain.
- Open space has degenerated as a result of mining and other activities. Need buffers along waterways – revegetate but not manicured parks. Make sure that passive open space is set aside.
- NEPA look after a 40 acre site. Aim is to restore it back to natural bushland – successful with DSE support and community passion. Return of birds and fauna. People using for walking, walking dogs, cycling through. Fantastic habitat for wildlife.
- Concern about up Nerina Road. Trying to maximise corridor of open space – a shame to lose corridor for koalas, etc. East side of Ballarat is home for koalas.
- Reinforced importance of corridor for koalas – can't 'redirect' wildlife. Flood plain is example of area where development happens without thought to environmental impacts. Flaxmill Swamp to Winter Swamp – channel must stay!! More thought needed as to where residential development happens. Compromising wetlands or other environment significant areas.
- Maintenance – If trees were planted correctly, they would grow better and wouldn't need to be maintained.
- Growing food – community garden type concept but not the same. Would like to see community garden concept done differently.
- Small vegetable plots around city, like in Europe.
- Blueprint Ballarat and Child Friendly City document. Query about what is open space?? Some are unpleasant, along rail lines, etc. General improvement of amenity in public realm, e.g., behind buildings, in laneways. Interested in utilising public space in central city area – try to eradicate use of herbicide sprays, local native vegetation – can Council

provide local nursery. Frustrated at poplars – ugly and out of place. Who decides what goes in??

- BREZE – Ballarat Reduction Energy and Zero Emissions Group – has an interest in food.
- BEN – work with other groups, e.g., Winter Swamp, Windermere Land Care Group.
- Work – more community project rather than environment project. Doing more work with ‘at risk’ groups. Planning to do user survey.
- Contractor LINCS project.

Trails project is very under-recognised!! Concerned about loss of biodiversity in city. Canadian Forest – under utilised and wasted – under resourced.

Agree that open space doesn’t need more money to maintain.

- More cost
 - ◆ Botanical Gardens, Sturt Street displays
 - ◆ Football / Cricket ovals
- Less cost
 - ◆ Mount Buninyong and other passive areas

Role for both ‘neat’ and ‘bushy’ types of open space.

Acknowledge that gold rush obliterated native vegetation – now dealing with regrowth.

Eureka Trail – interested to know who is involved in plantings.

Community involvement:

- DSE reluctant to have small groups as COM.
- BEN as big group – can provide assistance to network groups.
- BEN about at capacity to support groups – need to sustain work with contracts with little support from grants.

NEPA

- In touch with other environment groups – great support.
- Responsible use of sprays.
- Sense of community through growing, sharing, cooking food, etc.

Summary of Written Submissions

Submissions received for the development of the Draft Strategy:

As part of the community engagement process interested residents and organised groups were encouraged to forward a written submission to Council on any ideas, concerns or opportunities for any open space or parkland areas in the City of Ballarat.

A total of four feedback sheets were received and are summarised below.

Submission One:

Location

The comments provided were general, however there was reference to specific open space areas including Victoria Park, Ballarat West Common and Winter Swamp.

Comments

- There is adequate open space with a natural environment that can be used for passive recreation and that existing publicly owned open space such as Victoria Park and the Ballarat West Common are not diminished.
- With appropriate plant species, open space areas should be able to be maintained with modest expense to Council and such areas should not need a large workforce. It is unnecessary to consider that all public open spaces need to be groomed garden areas with mowed lawns.
- Concerned that reserves such as wetlands like Winter Swamp and stream reserves have an adequate buffer to private land and development to protect the area and provide for public access.
- There seems to be a small amount of public land west of Ballarat. It is hoped that this provision can be addressed as industrial and residential development extends in this direction. When development occurs, land of sufficient area should be retained as passive use open space. The open space retained should be large enough that it does not need 'Botanic type' maintenance. Such areas should provide for the establishment of reserves that encourage birds and other native species.

Submission Two:

Location

The comments provided were in reference to the sporting precinct including CE Brown Reserve, Austar Arena and the showgrounds.

Comments

- CE Brown Reserve provides a valuable sporting facility to the area and potential to become a major sporting hub.
- State of facilities at CE Brown Reserve is poor, in particular the dilapidated state of the change rooms and the need to upgrade the two sports ovals.
- The netball court is only 12 months old and the social rooms are very well presented.

Submission Three:

Location

The comments provided were in reference to the Mount Clear Recreation Reserve.

Comments

- Highly valued multipurpose year round sporting reserve servicing the local community in the south eastern corridor of Ballarat.
- The community values the reserve for the recreational opportunities it provides and the catchment it serves.
- Community groups have a long history of financial and voluntary contributions towards the facilities at Mount Clear.
- Residential growth in areas such as Canadian, Mount Clear and Mount Helen as well as the proposed relocation of the Damascus College junior school to the Mount Clear College will increase demand for a properly maintained sporting facility.
- Seeking Council support on the Club's proposal for water saving initiatives.
- Club/s have further plans for the development of infrastructure at the Reserve.

Submission Four:

Location

The comments provided are general and applicable to all open space areas.

Comments

- The open space network has various uses and values for the community, often with a mix of these values and uses evident within one parcel of land. Uses and values include active recreation (sports grounds), passive recreation (parks, playgrounds), Environmental Values (natural bushland), waterway reserves (streams, lakes, wetlands), scenic reserves (lookouts,

- scenic features), historical purposes (historic site protection). Yarrowee River Reserve is an example of open space land which exhibits all of these uses and values.
- The Network has a particular interest in advancing the protection of the Ballarat region's own biodiversity assets, it is acknowledged by the Network that this needs to occur with the support and understanding of the community and in line with other priorities that have been identified for the management of the City's open space and in relation to the development of the City community in general.
 - The City's inventory of community open spaces, in all its variety, is a major asset of the City.
 - The development of the City's community open space asset has a long and illustrious history of commitment to that development by the community. Today that commitment is evident in programs such as LINC'S.
 - The involvement of the community in the development of the City's open space assets is vital to community health, helping to develop social networks, engagement with local neighbourhoods and a strong sense of ownership of community assets.
 - The City continues to need to provide areas of open space that are accessible to the general community and which offer a variety of experiences, both in terms of use and opportunities for the community to be involved in the development and management of that open space.
 - Community use of open space is vital for good human health. This applies not only to the use of open space for active sports, but also to the use of parks and bushland reserves. As people continue to move away from involvement in organised sports for various lifestyle reasons, the emphasis on maintaining good health through informal, passive recreational pursuits, such as walking, cycling and bushwalking are becoming more and more important. It is noted that the City's Recreation Strategy has as its number one priority the development of the City's tracks and trails network. The provision of paths and trails is supported by programs such as LINC'S providing an incentive for people to be physically active. It is noted for example, that Ballarat has an especially high level of heart disease relative to the rest of Victoria and that regular walking (30 minutes a day) has been identified as the most effective way to combat the disease.
 - Open space that has high environmental values engenders improved mental and spiritual wellbeing. Increasingly it is being acknowledged that a pleasant (even beautiful), well-managed, accessible and safe open space environment is extremely important in providing places where people can go to think, take in the beauty, converse with friends, get away from the noise and hustle and bustle of city life and generally feel at peace. It is no accident that the Lake Wendouree and Yarrowee River walking trails are frequented by so many residents and all for little cost, relative to the provision of other community services and forms of entertainment and amusement.

- Open space with high environmental values provides excellent opportunities for learning about the importance of the City's and the regions natural environment. As concerns increase about issues such as climate change and the mega loss of species, the areas that are repositories of native plant and animal species will become of increasing importance - both for their inherent values and as learning environments.
- The City is acknowledged as having an unusually large total area of open space for the size of the City's population. This total amount includes areas managed by the City, the Department of Sustainability and Environment, Parks Victoria and the Ballarat Environment Network. It needs to be recognised, however, that much of this area, because of the bushland character or because it includes large water bodies, does not require high levels of maintenance expenditure in comparison to open space areas such as the Ballarat Botanical Gardens (high horticultural quality) or sports ovals, particularly those having a turf wicket. This situation needs to be considered in light of the move to much greater involvement of the population towards passive recreational pursuits as compared to the more capital intensive activities, most notably associated with organised sport.
- The development of the Ballarat Open Space Strategy is praised in terms of the need to consider the distribution and manage requirements and acknowledges the environmental and community development values of the City's open space.

Submissions received for the finalisation of the Open Space Strategy:

Council released the draft Open Space Strategy in November 2007 for public exhibition and comment. Submissions were invited and accepted until March 2008. A total of nine submissions were received from:

- ✓ Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE);
- ✓ Ballarat Environment Network (BEN);
- ✓ Field Naturalists Club of Ballarat;
- ✓ Australian Koala Foundation;
- ✓ Three residents;
- ✓ Roadcon Group; and
- ✓ City of Ballarat Council Staff

As a result of these submissions, a number of amendments have been made to the Ballarat Open Space Strategy and the following table summarises the comments and responses.

Summary of Feedback Sheets

As part of the community engagement process individuals were invited to provide feedback on a pro forma. The feedback sheet encouraged the community to have their say about all types of open space (i.e. parkland, lakes, reserves, gardens, linear parks, playgrounds, sports grounds, creek corridors, natural areas, plazas and other community public spaces). In particular the feedback sheet requested comments in regards to the following open space issues:

- Location of parks, playgrounds, sporting reserves and natural areas;
- Linkages and pathways that connect community parks and facilities;
- The appearance of open space;
- Improvements you would like to see, and;
- Any additional comments.

A total of one feedback sheet was received and is summarised below.

Feedback Sheet 1

Location

The comments provided were general, however there was reference to specific open space areas including Lake Western Oval, Bridge Mall Playground, Victoria Park.

Comments

- The open space locations do not provide for a neighbourhood space as they cater for the 'regional' visitor.
- Connection between these open spaces is difficult with a pram as there are sections of the footpath missing (e.g. Behind oval at the rear of Victoria Park). Users are required to walk on the road, cross drainage swales or walk on a 'bike only' path to get from Victoria Park to the Lake.
- The appearance of the open space is very one dimensional – turf, deciduous trees, limited garden beds of a few common shrubs.
- The new signage is good.
- Maintenance of parks is generally ok.
- Appears to be a greater emphasis on regional needs rather than local community needs.
- Amount of open space is good with many high quality facilities within walking distance which is great.
- Provision of open spaces (for two to three year olds) could be better (a local space that was designed for local needs).
- Greater diversity of vegetation could greatly enhance the appearance of parks and streets especially in winter – the bare branches are becoming overwhelming.

Suggested improvements include:

- The provision of a local space within walking distance.
- Connectivity between open spaces especially road crossings (safety).
- Diversity of vegetation.

Summary of Phone Calls

As part of the community engagement process individuals were invited to speak directly with the Project Consultant Team. A total of two phone calls were received and are summarised below:

Phone Call 1

Resident seeking old wooden playground removed from a local reserve (Len T Frazer Reserve). Current equipment targeted at older children. Would like equipment to be installed for younger children.

On an 'everyday' basis the resident would be prepared to walk approximately three minutes or 400 metres to a small park. However, would also be prepared to walk up to 20 minutes to a larger park.

Park facilities that are important include:

- Variety of play opportunities;
- Toilet facilities;
- Seating and tables;
- Bitumen/hard surfaced tracks are good for young children to ride their bikes; and
- Access should be safe – Safer points to cross major roads - maybe pedestrian refuge. Len Frazer Reserve has roundabouts. Reference to the track leading down to Canadian (through Ballarat Lodge) has difficult crossing points.

Phone Call 2

Resident interested in conservation and the environment.

Concerned with the growth of Ballarat University particularly Technology Park (Mount Helen campus) impacting on the environmental corridor and the flora and fauna.

Resident was of the belief that a 'Vegetation Overlay' - C95 amendment over the University site was to be considered but not aware whether this has occurred. Would like conditions on the type of development allowed at Mount Helen campus.

Would like the areas of Gear Avenue, East Terrace and Bell Avenue (eastern end) near the State Library of Archives and Bell Avenue area (north of residences and backs on to Green Hill Road) to have limited development.

Summary of Household Survey

300 households across the City of Ballarat were randomly contacted by telephone and completed a Household Survey between the 20th and 25th August 2007 during the evening and weekend. The following is a summary of the Household Survey with observations where appropriate.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Table 1 – Geographic Distribution

Geographical Area	Suburbs / Townships / Localities	Number of Survey Responses	% of Survey Responses
Wendouree	Wendouree, Lake Gardens, Lake Wendouree, Newington	72	24%
Alfredton – Delacombe	Alfredton, Delacombe, Smythes Creek, Bonshaw	46	15.3%
Golden Point to Mount Helen	Golden Point, Mount Pleasant, Canadian, Mount Clear, Mount Helen	45	15%
Ballarat South	Redan, Sebastopol	41	13.7%
Inner North East	Invermay Park, Ballarat North, Soldiers Hill, Black Hill, Eureka, Ballarat East	31	10.3%
Buninyong – Rural South	Magpie, Scotchmans Lead, Buninyong, Durham Lead, Scotsburn	23	7.7%
Rural East	Chapel Flat, Wattle Flat, Invermay, Glen Park, Nerrina, Brown Hill, Gong Gong, Warrenheip	19	6.3%
Rural West	Waubra, Mount Bolton, Glendaruel, Tourello, Glendonell, Addington, Coghills Creek, Ascot, Creswick, Ercildoune, Weatherboard, Learmonth, Blowhard, Bald Hills, Burumbeet, Windermere, Cardigan Village, Bo Peep, Cardigan, Bunkers Hill	9	3%
Miners rest - Mitchell Park	Miners Rest, Sulky, Mitchell Park, Mount Rowan	9	3%
Ballarat Central	Ballarat Central, Bakery Hill	4	1.3%

Table 2 - Gender Split

	% of Survey Responses
Female	61%
Male	39%

Table 3 - Age Split

Age	% of Survey Responses
15 – 19	3%
20 – 24	4%
25 – 29	5%
30 – 34	7%
35 – 39	9%
40 – 44	10%
45 – 49	12%
50 – 54	12%
55 – 59	11%
60 – 64	9%
65 – 69	6%
70 +	11%

CURRENT USE OF OPEN SPACE

Participants were first asked whether they use open space areas such as parks, gardens, parklands along creeks or lakes within the City of Ballarat. If they answered 'yes' they would then be asked about the different types of activities that they do in the different types of parks as indicated below.

Table 4 – Different Types of Activities Undertaken in Different Types of Open Space

	Activity	Total No. of Undertaking Across Each Location	Large Parks			Parks with Lakes			Parks along Creeks / Linear Parks			State Parks / National Parks			Local & District Parks			Do not do that activity		
			% doing at this location	% Males	% Females	% doing at this location	% Males	% Females	% doing at this location	% Males	% Females	% doing at this location	% Males	% Females	% doing at this location	% Males	% Females	% doing at this location	% Males	% Females
1	Walking	478	30	42	58	59	38	62	17	42	58	13	49	51	32	33	67	4	62	38
2	Picnicking / BBQs	323	21	38	63	54	36	64	5	57	43	19	43	57	9	35	65	16	42	58
3	Meeting family and friends	321	23	46	54	58	34	66	3	56	44	8	39	61	16	35	65	14	63	37
4	Relaxing	292	17	35	65	42	35	65	6	26	74	16	43	57	16	40	60	20	40	60
5	Exercise	277	17	47	53	42	38	62	8	36	64	4	23	77	21	32	68	27	44	56
6	Taking children to play	267	15	39	61	39	36	64	3	44	56	4	45	55	29	26	74	35	46	54
7	Using a playground	246	12	23	77	40	33	67	1	0	100	1	0	100	28	35	65	36	48	52
8	Riding a bike	195	12	56	44	27	36	64	11	61	39	4	55	45	12	29	71	50	38	62
9	Ball games / casual sport	169	16	43	57	10	48	52	1	50	50	1	50	50	28	39	61	51	38	63
10	Conservation activities	116	3	38	63	7	65	35	9	46	54	9	26	74	11	36	64	68	40	60
11	Organised sport	94	10	52	48	2	33	67	1	100	0	1	50	50	18	31	69	71	39	61
12	Equestrian	18	1	0	100	0	0	0	1	0	100	3	38	63	1	25	75	95	40	60

Observations:

- By far the most popular activity across all the different types of open space was walking. Other popular activities were picnicking/BBQs and meeting friends and family.
- These activities were most popular at parks with lakes.
- The most popular type of open space for any activity was parks with lakes, and then Local & District Parks.
- The majority of respondents do not undertake the following activities at any type of open space: equestrian, organised sport, conservation activities, ball games / casual sport or riding a bike.

Table 5 – Frequency of the Use of Open Space

	Frequency	Large Parks			Parks with Lakes			Parks along Creeks / Linear Parks			Local & District Parks		
		% frequency of visits	% Males	% Females	% frequency of visits	% Males	% Females	% frequency of visits	% Males	% Females	% frequency of visits	% Males	% Females
1	Most days	8	52	48	8	43	57	3	30	70	14	37	63
2	About twice a week	22	36	64	26	36	64	10	39	61	30	37	63
3	About once a fortnight	19	51	49	16	34	66	5	47	53	12	40	60
4	About once a month	23	33	67	25	45	55	14	38	62	14	36	64
5	No more than 3 or 4 times a year	25	33	67	23	38	62	27	41	59	17	44	56
6	Don't visit	2	57	43	3	56	44	40	39	61	13	45	55

Observations:

- For large parks and parks with lakes, the majority of respondents visit between once a month and no more than 3 or 4 times a year.
- 40% of respondents don't visit parks along creeks or linear trails at all, while the majority of those that do will only visit between once a month and no more than 3 or 4 times a year.
- Local and district parks are visited multiple times a week by 44% of respondents.

Table 6 – Reasons people choose the type of open space they use

	Reason	Total % of Responses	% Females	% Males
1	Close to home, easy to get to	35%	62%	38%
2	Layout, landscaping, vegetation, etc	25%	65%	35%
3	Escapism	23%	53%	47%
4	Good quality park facilities	11%	59%	41%
5	A wide range of facilities	11%	73%	27%
6	Safe park	9%	82%	18%
7	Large open areas, fresh air, peaceful	9%	74%	26%
8	Take kids there / playground	7%	76%	24%
9	Exercise, sport	6%	58%	42%
10	Clean, well maintained park	6%	71%	29%
11	Walk the dogs	5%	69%	31%
12	Easy to access, in terms of car parking and path networks	5%	71%	29%
13	Good park to meet friends / other people	4%	69%	31%
14	To relax	3%	70%	30%
15	Birds, wildlife	3%	78%	22%
16	Is a thoroughfare to get to a destination	2%	33%	67%
17	Close to shops / other activities	1%	67%	33%
18	Have no other choice	1%	50%	50%
19	Walk / use walking trails	1%	50%	50%

Observations:

- The most popular reason people chose the type of open space they use is that it was either close to home or easy to get to. Other popular reasons were the layout / landscaping / vegetation and for escapism.

Table 7 – Method usually used to get to open space

	Reason	Total No. of Responses	% Females	% Males
1	Drive	217	63%	37%
2	Walk	167	60%	40%
3	Ride bike	43	49%	51%
4	Other	2	50%	50%

Observations:

- Driving and walking are the most common methods of arriving at open space.

FUTURE OPEN SPACE

Table 8 – Levels of Importance and Satisfaction of Park Components

Park Component	Importance										Satisfaction									
	Very Important			Important			Not Important			Do Not Know (%)	Very Satisfied			Satisfied			Not Satisfied			Do Not Know (%)
	% Total	% Females	% Males	% Total	% Females	% Males	% Total	% Females	% Males		% Total	% Females	% Males	% Total	% Females	% Males	% Total	% Females	% Males	
Vegetation	60	62	38	37	60	40	3	38	63	1	22	66	34	69	58	42	9	68	32	0
Shelters	34	69	31	41	57	43	24	54	46	1	11	55	45	62	61	39	21	56	44	7
Picnic Tables	42	67	33	42	65	35	15	36	64	1	13	65	35	59	59	41	23	68	32	5
Seating	42	67	33	42	62	38	16	45	55	1	11	78	22	61	60	40	25	59	41	3
Public Toilets	69	63	37	23	57	43	6	47	53	2	8	52	48	51	58	42	37	65	35	4
Playgrounds	49	69	31	25	49	51	21	54	46	5	28	65	35	54	60	40	7	64	36	11
Car Parking	39	64	36	43	65	35	16	44	56	1	25	70	30	63	58	42	9	56	44	3
Sporting Facilities	32	58	42	26	70	30	33	54	46	9	18	58	42	58	60	40	6	56	44	19
Pathways	55	73	27	37	46	54	8	39	61	0	18	65	35	63	59	41	18	67	33	1
Lighting	43	66	34	21	57	43	24	51	49	11	3	60	40	38	60	40	31	61	39	27
BBQs	23	65	35	46	60	40	29	59	41	2	9	63	37	62	65	35	19	50	50	10
Recycling Bins	63	66	34	30	52	48	8	48	52	0	11	53	47	36	57	43	48	63	37	5
Natural Environment	72	64	36	26	55	45	1	100	0	0	18	69	31	69	58	42	12	69	31	1
Views	39	69	31	44	61	39	16	44	56	1	25	78	22	66	55	45	5	63	38	3
Dog off-leash areas	29	70	30	25	55	45	39	61	39	7	5	71	29	45	60	40	26	60	40	24
Open parkland for playing ball games	46	63	37	35	58	42	17	58	42	2	20	64	36	65	59	41	8	65	35	7

Observations (Table 8 – Levels of Importance and Satisfaction of Park Components):

- The most important park components for respondents were:
 - Natural Environment
 - Public Toilets
 - Vegetation
 - Pathways
 - Recycling Bins
- The park components that respondents were most satisfied with were:
 - Views
 - Car Parking
 - Vegetation
 - Open parkland for playing ball games
 - Playgrounds
 - Natural Environment
- The least important park components for respondents were:
 - Dog off-leash areas
 - Sporting Facilities
 - BBQs
- The park components that respondents were least satisfied with were:
 - Recycling Bins
 - Public Toilets
 - Lighting
 - Dog off-leash areas

Table 9 – Statements of Importance (Agree / Disagree)

No.	Statement of Importance	Strongly Agree / Agree	Strongly Disagree / Disagree	Not Sure
1	I am very happy with the range of parks in the City of Ballarat.	91%	8%	1%
2	I am very happy with the maintenance standards of parks in the City of Ballarat.	68%	32%	0%
3	Council should improve the accessibility to and within open space.	65%	32%	3%
4	More information is needed about open space within the City of Ballarat.	73%	25%	2%
5	Council should maintain existing park areas better rather than develop new ones.	76%	21%	3%
6	Council is currently providing enough playgrounds.	59%	26%	15%
7	Council should create a safer environment in open space areas.	65%	32%	3%
8	Council should reduce the amount of open space so it can put the money to other things.	8%	92%	1%
9	Council should focus its investment to create fewer local parks of a high quality rather than many local parks of a lower quality.	44%	50%	6%
10	Underused open space should be rationalised and the money put into other open space facilities, so that the community's resources are better used.	56%	40%	5%

Observations:

- The vast majority of respondents are very happy with the range of parks in the City of Ballarat.
- Most respondents disagreed that Council should reduce the amount of open space so it can put the money to other things.

Summary of School Survey

CITY OF BALLARAT – OPEN SPACE STRATEGY – RESULTS FROM SCHOOL QUESTIONNAIRE

The following information summarises the results of the “Open Space Strategy - School Questionnaire” that was sent to all schools in the City of Ballarat.

SCHOOL SPORT / RECREATION FACILITIES

School	Sports Oval	Base-ball/ Softball	Hockey Field	Soccer Field	Outdoor Courts	Cricket Nets	Play-grounds	Athletic Track	Indoor Sports Hall/Gym	Other	Available for Community Use
St. Patrick's College	2, VG, 1FS, 1Jnr	-	-	1 FS	6 Tennis, AC, FS	6, GC	-	-	-	-	Yes, sports oval, tennis courts (staff/ students 1 st preference), 6 practice cricket nets
Ballarat Christian College	1, PC, Other	0	0	0	2, Basketball, PC, FS	-	1, PC	-	-	-	No
Magpie Primary	1 Jnr,	-	-	-	Netball, AC, FS, Basketball, AC, FS	-	2	-	-	-	Yes, sports oval, netball and basketball courts
Warrenheip Primary School	1 GC Jnr,	-	-	1 Jnr, GC	1 Netball, GC, FS	1, PC, Jnr	2, VG & G, Jnr.	-	-	-	No
Glenvale School	-	-	-	-	Basketball Court, GC, FS	-	-	-	-	-	No
Buninyong Primary School	2 AC Small	-	-	-	Netball, GC, FS	2, GC, Jnr	3, VG, Jnr	-	Gym	-	Yes, sports ovals, netball court, cricket nets.
Damascus College	2 AC Other,	-	-	-	Tennis, GC, FS	2, GC, FS	-	-	-	-	Yes, cricket nets
Yuille Park Community College	2 AC FS	-	-	1 FS, AC	2 Netball and Basketball FS, AC	4, 3FS, 1Jnr, AC	2, 1FS, 1Jnr, AC	-	-	-	Yes, sports ovals, soccer field, netball and basketball courts, cricket nets and playgrounds
Ballarat High School	2, 1 VG FS , 1 AC Jnr	-	-	1, AC, FS	Netball/tennis, VG, FS	-	-	-	-	-	Yes, sports ovals, soccer field, netball/tennis court
Caledonian P.S.	2 PC Jnr	-	-	-	Tennis, FS, AC, Netball, FS, AC	-	1, VG	Walking track, GC	-	-	Yes, tennis court
Pleasant St. P.S.	1 AC Jnr	-	-	-	1 Netball/ basketball, AC	-	2, VG	-	-	-	Yes, sports oval, netball/basketball court, playgrounds
Delacombe Primary School	-	-	-	-	3 Tennis, AC, FS	-	3	-	-	-	Yes, tennis courts
Our Lady Help of Christians Primary School Wendouree	1, AC Jnr. (90m x 90m) Aussie Rules	-	1 AC Jnr.	1 AC Jnr.	Basketball/ Netball/ Tennis AC	-	1, VG	-	-	Outdoor chess, GC	Yes, sports oval, hockey field, soccer field, basketball/ netball/ tennis court, playground, outdoor chess.
Ballarat Grammar	3 VG, 1 FS, 2 Jnr	-	-	2 VG FS	Netball / Tennis PC, FS	4 AC FS	2 GC	-	-	-	Yes, sports ovals, soccer fields, cricket nets
Mount Blowhard PS	1 AC	-	-	-	3 Tennis VG	PC	VG	-	-	-	Yes, sports oval, tennis courts, playgrounds. The tennis courts and playground and open area for the oval are council-owned and not actually on our property.

Waubra P.S.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	Yes, playground
Mount Clear Primary School	1 AC, Jnr very small	-	-	-	Netball/Basketball GC	-	3 VG	-	-	-	Yes, sports oval, netball/basketball & playgrounds. Our facilities are only really available for incidental community use at weekends, etc. – not up to competition standard or size.
Ballarat Specialist School	1, GC Jnr	-	-	-	-	-	1 GC Jnr.	-	-	-	Yes, sports oval (shared with Ballarat High School)
Forest St. P.S.	1 PC Jnr	-	-	-	-	Yes	VG	-	-	-	Yes, cricket net, playground.
Miners Rest P.S.	1 PC Jnr	-	-	-	2 Tennis, 1 Basketball GC FS	-	2 GC Jnr	-	-	Asphalt area often used for roller-blading, etc.	Yes, sports oval, tennis courts, basketball court, playgrounds, asphalt area.
St. James' Parish School, Sebastopol	1 GC Jnr	-	-	1 AC Other	1 Netball, 1 Basketball GC FS	-	2 VG	-	-	-	Yes, sports oval, soccer field, netball & basketball courts
Glen Park PS	1 AC Jnr	-	-	-	PC Jnr	-	VG Jnr	-	-	-	Yes, playground.
St. Thomas More PS	1 AC Jnr	-	-	-	2 AC	-	1 GC	-	-	-	No
St. Aloysius PS	1, AC, Other	-	-	-	2 Netball, FS, 1 Basketball Jnr, GC	-	1 VG FS	-	-	-	No
Canadian Lead Primary School	1 PC, Jnr	-	-	1, PC Jnr	2 Basketball/netball, GC Jnr	2, GC Jnr	2 GC Jnr	-	-	-	Yes, sports oval, soccer field, basketball/netball courts, cricket nets, playgrounds
Sovereign Hill School	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	-	-	-	-
Learmonth Primary School	1 PC, very small	-	-	-	1 Basketball GC, Jnr?	-	1 AC Jnr	-	-	-	Yes, basketball court and playground
St. Francis Primary School	2 VG, Jnr	-	-	-	1 Netball GC, FS, 2 Basketball GC, FS	-	1 VG, Other	-	Gym GC, FS, PMP Room GC, Other	Undercover area GC, Other	Yes, sports ovals, netball and basketball courts, gym, PMP room & undercover area.

VG = Very Good Condition; **GC** = Good Condition, **AC** = Average Condition, **PC** = Poor Condition; **FS** = Full Size; **Jnr** = Junior Size

COMMUNITY SPORT / RECREATION FACILITIES USED BY THE SCHOOL

School	Community Facilities	Frequency	Type of Activity, Feedback, etc.
St. Patrick's College	Pleasant St. Soccer Pitch	Weekly term 2/3	Soccer
	Llanberris athletics track	Once a year	House Athletics Carnival
	Trekardo Park	2-3 times a year	Soccer
Ballarat Christian College	St. George's Oval	Weekly	Sport & PE
Magpie Primary	-	-	
Warrenheip Primary School	No		
Glenvale School	Pleasant Street Soccer Fields	Monthly	Soccer. Facility very good.
	Barkly Street Oval	Monthly	Cricket, Games. Very good facility.
	Marty Bausch Reserve	Monthly	Football. Excellent.
	Baseball Field near YMCA	Once a year.	T-Ball. Excellent.
Buninyong Primary School	No		
Damascus College	Russell Square	Monthly, depending on the Physical Education Curriculum	Soccer
	Prince of Wales	As above	Hockey
	Ballarat Soccer Club	As above	Soccer
	Kirks Reservoir/Mount Clear Forest	As above	Fitness training
	Eureka Pool	Weekly in first term	Swimming
Yuille Park Community College	Wendouree West Sporting Facility	Weekly	Will be used extensively upon construction of the new school at the old Grevillea Park P. S. site
Ballarat High School	ARCH Building	Every school week	Community facility.
Caledonian P.S.	Russell Square	Once a term	Whole school activity
	Brown Hill Progress Park	Once a term	Cross-country training, games, Christmas party.
Pleasant St. P.S.	City Oval	Monthly	-
Delacombe Primary School	Doug Dean Reserve	Every day Monday to Friday	Oval stadium
Our Lady Help of Christians Primary School Wendouree	Llanberris Athletics Complex	Once per year	Annual athletics carnival
	Lake Wendouree environs/Botanical gardens	Couple of times per year	Walk-a-thon, play in playground
	St. Patrick's College	Couple of times per year	Football carnivals
	Lake Burrumbeet	Couple of times per year	Tree planting, outdoor education
	Other primary schools' sports ovals	Ten times per year (mainly in second term)	Sporting competitions e.g. football, soccer
	Hollioake Park	Couple of times per year	Sporting competitions e.g. tennis, basketball, lawn bowls
	War Memorials e.g. Arch Statues e.g. Sturt St Precinct	Couple of times per year	Civics & Citizenship studies
	Sovereign Hill	Couple of times per year	Studying History, Art, etc.
	Camp Street precinct (outside Ballarat Fine Art Gallery)	Couple of times per year	Studying History, Art, etc.
	Wetlands of Ballarat e.g. North Gardens, Wetland – Pauls Wetland – Nerrina Wetland	Couple of times per year	Studying SOSE, History, Art, etc.

	Eureka Stockade Park	Once per year	Play, after swimming at Eureka Pool
Ballarat Grammar	YMCA Sports Centre YMCA Hockey field	Weekly	
	Ballarat Basketball	Weekly	
Mount Blowhard PS	No.		
Waubra P.S.	No		
Mount Clear Primary School	-		
Ballarat Specialist School	No		
Forest St. P.S.	Fitness equipment / playground	-	-
Miners Rest P.S.	No		
St. James' Parish School, Sebastopol	Marty Busch Reserve No. 2 footy oval	Bi-weekly , Term 2	Interschool sport – footy
	Marty Busch Reserve Netball Courts	Bi-weekly , Term 2	Interschool sport - netball
Glen Park PS	No		
St. Thomas More PS	Alfredton Oval	Annually	School Sports
St. Aloysius PS	No	-	-
Canadian Lead Primary School	Lake Esmond	Weekly	Running, walking, fishing, environmental studies
Sovereign Hill School	-	-	-
Learmonth Primary School	Information not received	-	-
St. Francis Primary School	Ballarat East Recreation Centre	Once a week for a term	Sports electives for our Year 4/5 children. Very sound.
	Mount Xavier Golf Course	6 days a year	Golf Clinics and a Tournament. Excellent.

USER GROUPS (for usage of school facilities)

School	User Group	Facility	Frequency	Type of Use	Training or Competition	Fee Structure	Special requirements
St. Patrick's College	Ballarat Football League	Ovals	-	Casual	Training/ competition	-	
	Various Cricket clubs	Ovals, cricket nets	-	Casual	Training/ competition	-	
Ballarat Christian College	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Magpie Primary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Warrenheip Primary School	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/a at this stage.-
Glenvale School	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Buninyong Primary School	Buninyong Football/Netball	Gym	-	Casual	-	Fee	
	Karate	Gym	-	Permanent	-	Fee	No
Damascus College	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yuille Park Community College	Karate	School multi purpose room	-	Lease	Training	A hire fee	Not at this stage. Ballarat Cricket Association used to use the oval. They may do this season. The oval maintenance is jointly paid for by the school and the council in terms of mowing costs.
Ballarat High School	Ballarat Basketball	ARCH Building	Every day	Permanent	Training/competition	See Ballarat Basketball Ass.	Yes, rental rate – user pays. – depends on availability of ovals, etc. as we run extensive after-school sports programs. We do make sure facilities are in good condition for our school program.
	Independent Schools Sports Association	Ovals for football/ soccer/ hockey/ cricket		Permanent	Competition	-	
	Some football clubs	Main oval				User pays – local agreement \$30 per night	
Caledonian P.S.	Parents and children	Tennis court	One hour once a week after school	Casual	Training	No cost	No
Pleasant St. P.S.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Delacombe Primary School	Delacombe Tennis Club	Tennis courts	Saturday during tennis season	Casual	Training/ competition	No cost	No
Our Lady Help of Christians Primary School Wendouree	OLHC School	Sports Oval and courts	Mon to Fri (during school term) 8.30-3.30	Permanent	Education, training and competition	-	Yes, user groups negotiate with school or Church to hire facilities, which include indoor basketball court, large multipurpose room and outdoor facilities. Fees vary slightly, depending on whether or not the group is connected to our Church. This fee covers maintenance,
	City of Ballarat After School Program	Sports Oval and courts	Mon to Fri (during school term) 3.30 – 6.00	Permanent	Training	Hire from our school	

	OLHC Active After School Communities	Sports Oval and courts	Wed & Thurs (during school term) 3.30 – 4.30	Casual	Training	-	cleaning, gas, electricity, insurance, etc.
	OLHC Church Groups e.g. families after Mass, mourners after a funeral	Playground, Sports Oval or courts	Sat evening & Sunday morning	Permanent	Entertainment	Hall and playground can be hired on weekends	
	Visiting community groups e.g. other schools, gym clubs, soccer teams, basketball teams	Playground, Sports Oval or courts	Sat evening & Sunday morning	Permanent	Entertainment, training	Community groups, schools, Church groups often hire part of our school/church complex	
	OLHC Playgroup	Playground	Tuesday morning	Permanent	Entertainment	Free	
Ballarat Grammar	Coronet City CC	Oval		Permanent	Training/competition	Fee	Insurance cover, risk management policies, staffing supervisor (high staff/student ratio), professional cleaners required known to school
	Ballarat Football Club	Oval		Casual	Training/competition	Fee	
	Soccer	Soccer Fields	Annual Tournament		Competition	Fee	
Mount Blowhard PS	Mount Blowhard Tennis Club	Tennis courts			Practice	-	No
Waubra P.S.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mount Clear Primary School	-	-	-	-	-	-	No
Ballarat Specialist School	No	-	-	-	-	-	-
Forest St. P.S.	-	-	-	-	-	-	No
Miners Rest P.S.	Tennis Club	Tennis courts		Casual	Training/competition	Nil	Contribution and subject to own public liability insurance.
	Auskick	Oval	-	Casual	Training	Nil	
	Junior Cricket	Oval	-	Casual	Competition	Nil	
St. James' Parish School, Sebastopol	Auskick	Footy oval	-	Casual	Training	No charge	No, but is considering developing a user agreement.
Glen Park P.S.	Just local families						Just ask first.
St. Thomas More P.S.	-	-	-	-	-	-	No, areas are not available to groups beyond school community members.
St. Aloysius PS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canadian Lead Primary School	-	-	-	-	-	-	No
Sovereign Hill School	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Learmonth Primary School	Information not received	-	-	-	-	-	-
St. Francis Primary School	Active After Schools Program	Ovals and Gym	-	Casual	Training	-	No

COMMUNITY ACCESS

School	Policy / position re: community use of school sporting facilities	Willingness to expand current level of community access	Assistance that would be useful in expanding community access	Role Council could provide the school to increase community access	Barriers that prohibit community access of facilities (experience of any management or operational issues)	Access to recycled/ treated water for irrigation of open space facilities and opportunities this provides
St. Patrick's College	Yes	No	No, our facilities are used enough through our own school use – although we provide assistance to the major players in Ballarat – i.e.. BFL, VFL, BCA etc. – opening it up to other groups will lead to the facilities being overused.	Not sure.	No	Yes, bore water, this is used to water our 2 ovals and to maintain the 2 turf cricket wickets that are already used by the BCA.
Ballarat Christian College	No	Yes, once they are improved.	We would appreciate any help available in improving our open space to bring it to a standard that the community could safely use.	Assistance with machinery to level and grade our "oval".	Security is an issue. We have fairly constant vandalism. Liability is also an issue as our facilities are not of the same standard as council owned and managed facilities.	We are increasing the availability of tank water for irrigation of open space. Need a pump.
Magpie Primary	No	Yes	-	Coordinate and maintain a data base.	-	No
Warrenheip Primary School	No	This is a matter for School Council.	Insurance coverage and possible supervision.	Demonstrated need and advice re the two prior concerns.	Liability, security and maintenance are all potential issues.	The school has no such facilities.
Glenvale School	Yes	No	-	-	Security.-	
Buninyong Primary School	No	Yes	-	-	Could be liability and security type issues	No
Damascus College	No	No		Assistance with maintenance of outdoor facilities.	Public liability of users. After-hours security and access.	No
Yuille Park Community College	Yuille Park C.C. is relocating to the old Grevillea Park P.S. site as from approx. Easter 2008. Our new school and community facility is currently being constructed. From the department view the	Yes.	This would be in the context of the new school at the Grevillea site and the decisions made by the Education Dept. about the old Yuille site. It would be highly encouraged to develop the health and well-	The continual maintenance of the Yuille P.S. school oval and a view to seriously look at the redevelopment of the Wendouree West sporting precinct to improve access and to improve the overall facility.	We do experience vandalism issues such as people driving cars and riding motorbikes on the ovals and doing burnouts. This affects the quality of the playing surface. Security considerations and vandalism have been an issue. Liability concerns are to	The Yuille P.S. site is located close to the sewerage treatment plant but we haven't pursued the possibilities of engaging the watering of the school grounds/oval due to the construction of

	decisions associated with the Yuille P.S. site are still being worked through.		being of the Wendouree West Community.		be taken into account in terms of the context of the use of the facility/facilities.	the new School. As for the new school, there will be underground tanks which will support recycled water. This may be used for some sporting ground usage at the school.
Ballarat High School	Yes. Difficulty meeting needs due to the large amount of use currently.	We consider any requests.	Possibly as we are going to apply for the greens voucher for water and this may increase our capacity to use (may ask for letter of support for this application)	We now have high usage, weekends ovals don't get much use.	Security and opening/closing facilities, securities – can require staff to do this on weekends.	We have a bore and will be applying for tenders and systems to support this.
Caledonian P.S.	No	No	Oval needs a lot of work, not accessible when it is really wet. Surfaces are very uneven.	-	Not good enough facility and small ovals.	No
Pleasant St. P.S.	No	Possibly			Grounds are limited and not really suitable.	No
Delacombe Primary School	No. Have some damage and vandalism issues - spasmodic	Yes, but not really possible except for tennis courts.	Improved surface of courts. Contracted arrangements.	Resurfacing the tennis courts (asphalt) – at the moment senior teams cannot use them because of their condition.	None.	N/a
Our Lady Help of Christians Primary School Wendouree	Yes, we consider our facilities to be a community asset managed by our local Church/school. As well as our core business of educating a wonder group of students, we regularly hire or allow our facilities to be used by many community groups, e.g. St. Vincent De Paul, City of Ballarat After School Program, Playgroup, Wendouree West Community Renewal, Centacre, Art Group, Australian Breastfeeding Association, Warrnambool Wolves Soccer Club, Active After School Communities	Yes.	Open and frank discussion, with how we can better support and enrich our community. Advice and tangible support to upgrade oval so community groups can access it in a safer way e.g. cricket clubs.	See above.	Not really, although over weekends we can experience a bit of unwarranted traffic through our facilities, with some minor damage, vandalism or littering. Our property is private property and trespassing laws apply to unauthorised use. However, we are flexible in encouraging authorised and appropriate access to our facilities.	We are about to access the Federal Government's grant of \$50,000 to help harvest and utilise water to irrigate oval and grass areas. These will be top-dressed and re-sown. Perhaps Council can give advice or support in these areas.
Ballarat Grammar	Yes	No	Will need to reduce external use.	Nil	Facilities are in great demand due to drought. This has over-stretched the conditions of spaces and will take two years to	No – looking to firm up discussions with children regarding recycled water use and availability.

					return to previous condition. Current overuse and capacity to adhere to school's standards regarding parking, alcohol, smoking and general expected code of behaviour.	
Mount Blowhard PS	No	Yes	-	--	-	Bore water and pump
Waubra P.S.	No	No	-	-	-	No
Mount Clear Primary School	No	No	-	-	-	No
Ballarat Specialist School	No	No	N/a	N/a	N/a	-
Forest St. P.S.	No	Yes	Forest St. is looking at replacing oval area with an artificial surface. - Looking for grants.	-	Security / damage at weekend	-
Miners Rest P.S.	Yes	Yes	Subject to specific agreement with groups.	Proposed community hub in ODP will address greater community owned facilities.	Uncontrolled after-hours access to facilities such as courts and oval as these are the only facilities available in the community. Issues such as vandalism and litter are an occasional issue. Liability, insurance, security.	No
St. James' Parish School, Sebastopol	No	Yes	Watering facilities	Helping solve the watering issue i.e. Mine water usage	Liability re: ground hardness. Access issues.	As above. Greater community usage in general.
Glen Park PS	No	No	-	We're in Moorabool Shire!	I don't like people up at the school when we're not there. (Vandalism and legal liability are issues in small isolated schools.)	Tank water (not used on grounds)
St. Thomas More PS	No	No	Funds to improve surfaces and resources. Liability insurance for external groups.	Financial and Management support.	Lack of water! Liability, security, access to facilities and amenities. Working with children. OH & S Act.	No
St. Aloysius PS	No	No	Access to watering of oval/grass surface – currently very hard and patchy.	Nil	No-one to supervise any Community Access. Insurance/liability, security issues	No
Canadian Lead Primary School	Yes, regards school open spaces as community facilities	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvement of surface Additional facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assistance in maintaining spaces to an acceptable standard. Support to increase 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintaining oval and grassed areas to an acceptable standard especially in relation to grass coverage and watering. 	No, but there is certainly a need for it to enable grassed areas to be maintained to an acceptable standard in the

				available facilities for community use e.g. fitness track and fitness stations.	• Some instances of vandalism, graffiti, broken glass and littering.	current and prolonged climatic conditions.
Sovereign Hill School	No	No	-	None	-	-
Learmonth Primary School	Information not received	-	-	-	-	-
St. Francis Primary School	No	Yes	Possible help with maintaining the facilities and/or updating them.	Promotion of facilities, qualified supervision of activities and upkeep of facilities	Liability, security and isolation of facilities.	No

FUTURE PLANS / PARTNERSHIPS / OTHER COMMENTS

School	Future Plans	Current Partnerships or comments re partnership opportunities.	Other Comments
St. Patrick's College	¾ pitch synthetic hockey pitch	We have an agreement between SPC and the BCA (Ballarat Cricket Association).	No
Ballarat Christian College	We are working to level our playing fields. Currently awaiting a planning permit.	Being able to use St. George's Oval has been absolutely critical to our sports programme. We were able to use the spare oval for Sebastopol Primary School which adjoins our property. However, this didn't work out. The surface of the area was so rough that nearly every usage resulted in sprained ankles. If council could level and re-sow this oval, I'm sure both ourselves and the Sebastopol Primary School would make much better use of it.	-
Magpie Primary	Unknown at this stage.	Yes.	
Warrenheip Primary School	No	No such requests have ever been made.	-
Glenvale School	No	No	-
Buninyong Primary School	Synthetic turf	Open to discussions	-
Damascus College	No	No, have had bad experience.	-
Yuille Park Community College	The old Yuille P.S. sporting ground usage by the school still needs to be worked through. The new school/ community facility will incorporate the new sporting facilities and there is the intention to fully use the Wendouree West sporting facility as a school. The Wendouree West sporting facility will be consistently used by other community sporting organisations.	The new school will incorporate the following organisations who may be involved to varying degrees in the access or usage of the open space facilities: Education Dept., Dept. of Human Services, Wendouree West Renewal, Communities Victoria, Wendouree West Residents Group, BEST, United Care, St. Vinnies and the Smith Family. We have utilised both the Federal Government "After School Sport Program" and we have explored and involved certain employees at both McCains and Mars to help with sporting programs. This will be further pursued upon our moving to the new Yuille Park Community College site at the old Grevillea Park P.S. site in early 2008.	As stated we are in a position of change due to the merger of both Grevillea Park P.S. and Yuille P.S. to form Yuille Park Community College. With the construction of the new school at the old Grevillea Park site we are sorting through a lot of issues. As to the utilisation of the old Yuille P.S. sporting facilities, let alone the school, these issues will be explored via departmental decisions, processes and guidelines. We are very excited about the options available at the new school and the community in terms of planned sporting facilities. However a planned and strategic approach to the Wendouree West sporting facility upgrade would be

			extremely positive in terms of community wellbeing strategies, and would be inclusive of the school's priorities and vision.
Ballarat High School	Applying for federal government grant.	We have the ARCH Community Centre which does provide some challenges in management and maintenance of the facility. A good sharing experience this year with BFL and junior football. All clubs using our ovals respected them and did not cause us any issues.	At present, water is the main barrier and we have a plan in place and if successful will improve our ovals for our students and the wider community.
Caledonian P.S.	We would really like to have the oval upgraded but unfortunately funds don't stretch that far.	Students have been attending Brown Hill Senior Citizens to do activities and they have visited our school.	Upgrading of ovals would need to be done before any community access is allowed.
Pleasant St. P.S.	No	We have a very positive relationship with City Oval and are able to access those facilities when required.	Our open spaces are quite small and we have no capacity to extend them.
Delacombe Primary School	No	Delacombe Neighbourhood renewal – plans for Doug Dean Reserve.	-
Our Lady Help of Christians Primary School Wendouree	Yes, our School Board is completing a three year Master Plan, which incorporates a plan to maintain and improve our outdoor facilities. We have already invested over \$10,000 this year in expanding and improving our playground facilities, building an outdoor stage and re-shaping a moulded hill area, installing new outdoor furniture and updating our gardens.	Yes.	Our School community welcomes the opportunity for further dialogue and exploration of generating better alliances with City Council and other user groups, to create a better and more efficient utilisation of community open spaces and facilities.
Ballarat Grammar	Yes, further improvement of grass species enhance management of turf areas to allow optimum utilisation.	Yes with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BCA affiliated club. • Ballarat Football League • Soccer Current partnerships working well due to high level of management involvement.	Should be noted that the school is still the largest user of these spaces. As we have 1500 students and staff on-site, of which 285 permanently reside on site.
Mount Blowhard PS	No	No	-
Waubra P.S.	Further develop playground, maintain existing gardens and asphalt play areas.	No	-
Mount Clear Primary School	Possibility of oval levelling/upgrade.	-	-
Ballarat Specialist School	No	A partnership exists with Ballarat High School	-
Forest St. P.S.	New court areas	No	-
Miners Rest P.S.	Moving school to community hub as per ODP would mean loss of current facilities to community.	Yes, Community hub.	-
St. James' Parish School,	Yes, a new adventure playground and shade sails. Rebound wall.	Active After School Community Program involvement two evenings a week. This has exposed many children to various community sport and	-

Sebastopol		recreation groups.	
Glen Park PS	No	No	We are only a small isolated school. I have concerns about people up at the school on weekends and after hours.
St. Thomas More PS	Yes, garden improvement – grassed and shaded area.	No	-
St. Aloysius PS	No	No	-
Canadian Lead Primary School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement of surface of grassed areas • Inclusion of fitness track and fitness and activity stations • Planting out of some open spaces • Erosion prevention 	Yes, Ballarat Environment Network – environmental program and projects to enhance open spaces – planting of indigenous species in some open space areas, erosion prevention	The school would certainly welcome more community use of the school open space facilities.
Sovereign Hill School	No	Yes, our schools develop our playgrounds in partnership with Sovereign Hill.	-
Learmonth Primary School	Information not received	-	-
St. Francis Primary School	Yes, resurfacing of tennis, basketball & netball Courts. Extension and redevelopment of Gym and PMP Room.	Yes, Active After School Network where we have sporting clubs come into and run various sports e.g. Frisbee, Taekwondo, Hockey, etc.	

Summary of Relevant Research

Community Indicators Victoria Survey Ballarat Wellbeing Report (2007)

The Victorian Community Survey (VCS) is an important gap survey which will contribute to the Community Wellbeing report which contains a select number of community wellbeing indicators. These community wellbeing indicators are used to highlight important trends and issues in the community. The Community Wellbeing report provides a snapshot of the wellbeing of the City of Ballarat with comparisons to regional and State-wide results.

An additional sample size of 1200 households was purchased by the City of Ballarat together with partner organisations from the Primary Care Partnership providing a total sample size of 1500 households. The increase in the sample size allows for more meaningful inferences and comparisons between different population groups in Ballarat (for example men and women, young and old). The City of Ballarat also purchased four extra questions including:

- Type and frequency of physical activity
- Frequency of fruit and vegetable consumption
- Frequency of alcohol consumption
- Smoking status

At the time of preparing the Open Space Strategy, the analysis of the additional questions as described above was not available.

In addition the survey measured the following important determinants of wellbeing:

- Life satisfaction, self assessed health rating
- Perceptions of safety in the community
- Arts participation
- Reasons and impacts of transport restrictions/limitations
- Employment, financial hardship and work-life balance
- Trust in political institutions/processes
- Civic engagement
- Community as an accepting place for people from diverse cultures/backgrounds
- Demographic information

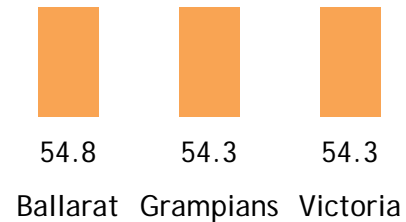
This data will be used to describe health & wellbeing in Ballarat.

The following survey results for the City of Ballarat were taken from the Community Indicators Victoria (CIV) website.

Self-Reported Health

Self-Reported Health was measured in the 2007 Community Indicators Victoria Survey. Respondents were asked to rate their health as excellent, very good, good, fair or poor.

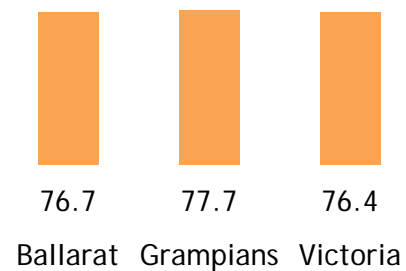
54.8% of persons living within Ballarat reported that their health was either excellent or very good as compared to 54.3% in the Grampians Region and the Victorian State average of 54.3%.



Subjective Wellbeing

Subjective Wellbeing was measured in the 2007 Community Indicators Victoria Survey using the Australian Unity Wellbeing Index (AUWBI). Respondents were asked to rate their satisfaction with their lives on a number of domains resulting in an aggregated Personal Wellbeing Index ranging between 0-100.

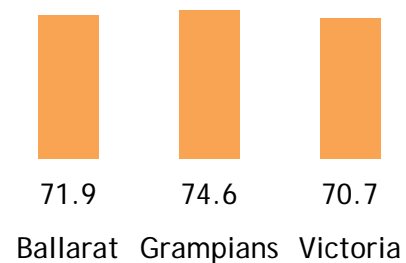
Normative data from the AUWBI indicates that the average Personal Wellbeing Index for Australians is approximately 75. In comparison, the average Personal Wellbeing Index for persons living in Ballarat was 76.7 in 2007, while the Grampians Region average was 77.7 and the Victorian State average was 76.4.



Feeling Part of the Community

Community Connection was measured in the 2007 Community Indicators Victoria Survey. Respondents were asked to rate their satisfaction with feeling part of their community and answers are presented according to a 0-100 range.

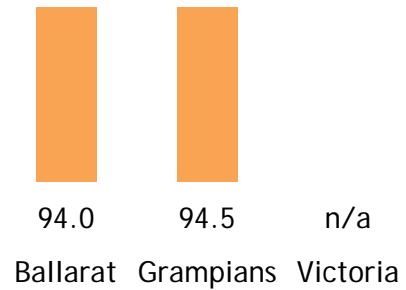
Normative data from the AUWBI indicates that the average Community Connection score for Australians is approximately 70. In comparison, the average Community Connection score for persons living in Ballarat was 71.9 in 2007, while the Grampians Region average was 74.6 and the Victorian State average was 70.7.



Social Support

Social Support was measured in the Department for Victorian Communities Community Strength Survey in 2006. Respondents were asked if they could get help from friends, family or neighbours when they needed it, either definitely, sometimes or not at all.

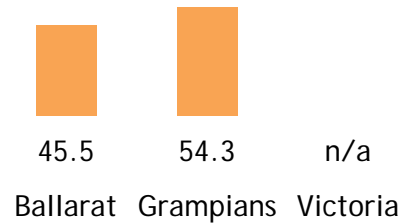
94.0% of persons living within Ballarat reported that they could definitely get help from friends, family or neighbours when they needed it, as compared to 94.5% in the Grampians Region.



Volunteering

Volunteering was measured in the Department for Victorian Communities Community Strength Survey in 2006. Respondents were asked if they helped out as a volunteer, either definitely, sometimes or not at all.

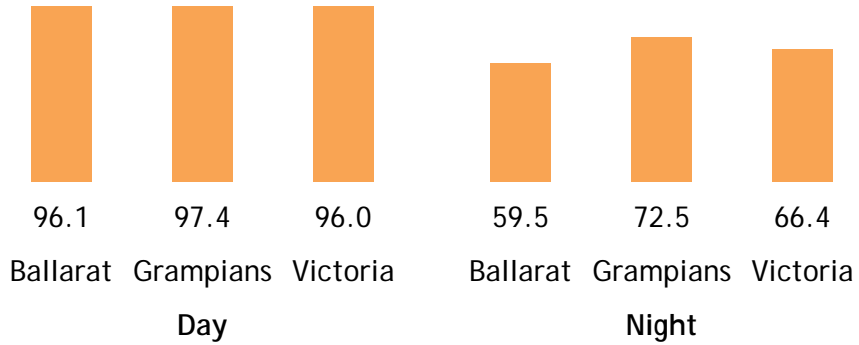
45.5% of persons living within Ballarat reported that they definitely helped out as a volunteer as compared to 54.3% in the Grampians Region.



Healthy Safe and Inclusive Communities - Personal and Community Safety

Perceptions of Safety

Perceptions of Safety were measured in the 2007 Community Indicators Victoria Survey. Respondents were asked to rate how safe they felt when walking alone in their local area during the day and at night.



When walking alone in their local area during the day 96.1% of persons in Ballarat felt safe or very safe, compared to 97.4% in the Grampians Region and the Victorian State average of 96.0%.

When walking alone at night 59.5% of persons in Ballarat felt safe or very safe, compared to 72.5% in the Grampians Region and the Victorian State average of 66.4%.

Respondents who stated that they were never alone in the particular situation were not asked to give their perception of how safe they might feel in the situation, and are excluded from the calculation of the proportions.

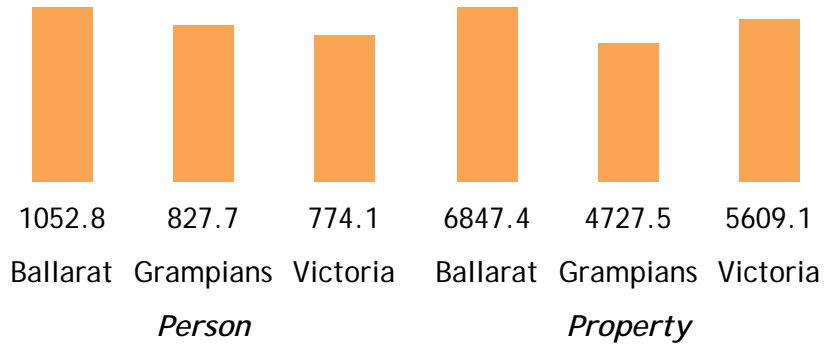
Healthy Safe and Inclusive Communities - Personal and Community Safety

Crime

Crime statistics are produced annually by Victoria Police. Summaries of offences are reported per 100,000 population to enable comparisons across different areas.

In Ballarat, there were 1052.8 recorded crimes against the person per 100,000 population in 2005-06, compared to 827.7 in the Grampians Region and the Victorian State average of 774.1.

In Ballarat, there were 6847.4 recorded crimes against property per 100,000 population in 2005-06, compared to 4727.5 in the Grampians Region and the Victorian State average of 5609.1.



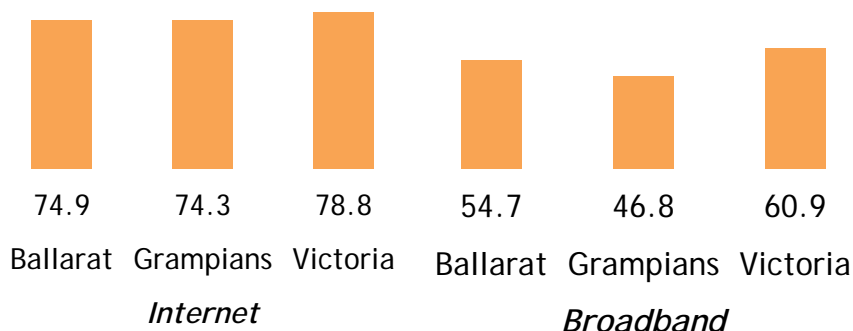
Healthy Safe and Inclusive Communities - Lifelong Learning

Home Internet Access

Home Internet Access was measured in the 2007 Community Indicators Victoria Survey. Respondents were asked to indicate if the Internet could be accessed from their dwelling, and if so, whether access was via a dial up or broadband connection.

In Ballarat, 74.9% of persons lived in households that had Internet access of any form at their dwelling, compared to 74.3% in the Grampians Region and the Victorian State average of 78.8%.

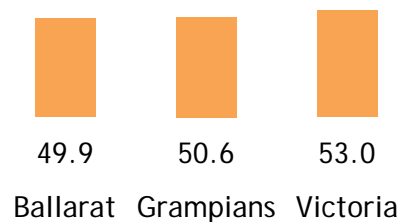
Of the total population of Ballarat, 54.7% lived in households that had home Internet access via a broadband connection, compared to 46.8% in the Grampians Region and the Victorian State average of 60.9%.



Adequate Work-Life Balance

Work-Life Balance was measured in the 2007 Community Indicators Victoria Survey. Employed respondents were asked whether they agreed that "their work and family life often interfere with each other".

49.9% of employed persons living in Ballarat disagreed or strongly disagreed that their work and family life often interfere with each other, and felt that they had a good balance of work and family. This is compared to 50.6% in the Grampians Region and the Victorian State average of 53.0%.



Sustainable Built and Natural Environments - *Transport Accessibility*

Transport Limitations

Transport Limitations were measured in the 2007 Community Indicators Victoria Survey. Respondents were asked if their day to day travel had been limited or restricted in the previous 12 months.

17.1% of persons living in Ballarat had experienced transport limitations in the previous year, compared to 20.3% in the Grampians Region and the Victorian State average of 20.4%.

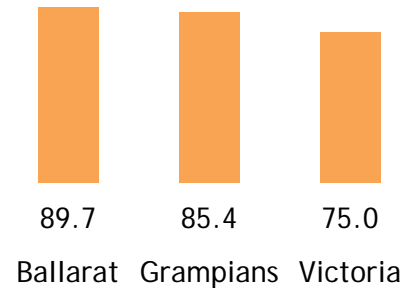


Sustainable Built and Natural Environments - *Water*

Waste Water Recycling

Household Water Conservation was measured in the 2007 Community Indicators Victoria Survey. Respondents were asked if their household had engaged in a list of water conservation methods, including the collection of waste water from washing machines, showers or sinks.

89.7% of persons living in Ballarat were in households that collect waste water, compared to 85.4% in the Grampians Region and the Victorian State average of 75.0%.

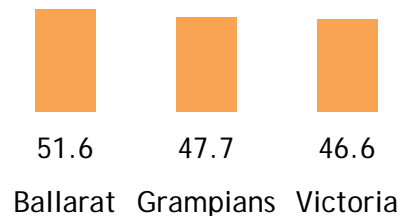


Culturally Rich and Vibrant Communities - *Arts and Cultural Activities*

Participation in Arts and Cultural Activities

Participation in Arts and Culture was measured in the 2007 Community Indicators Victoria Survey. Respondents were asked if they had participated in a range of activities in the previous month, including painting, drawing, art and craft, playing musical instruments, singing, writing and performing.

51.6% of persons in Ballarat had participated in at least one of the selected artistic and cultural activities in the previous month, compared to 47.7% in the Grampians Region and the Victorian State average of 46.6%.

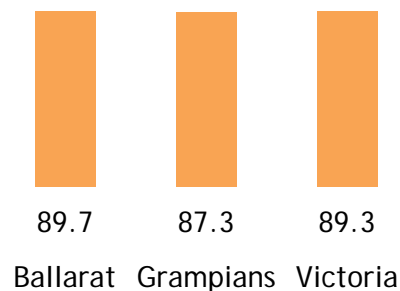


Culturally Rich and Vibrant Communities - *Cultural Diversity*

Community Acceptance of Diverse Cultures

Victorians' opinions on Cultural Diversity were measured in the 2007 Community Indicators Victoria Survey. Respondents were asked if they agreed that "it is a good thing for a society to be made up of people from different cultures".

89.7% of persons in Ballarat agreed or strongly agreed that cultural diversity is a good thing for a society, compared to 87.3% in the Grampians Region and the Victorian State average of 89.3%.

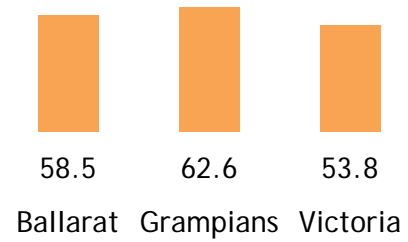


Democratic and Engaged Communities - *Citizen Engagement*

Participation in Citizen Engagement

Data on the participation of Victorians in selected forms of Citizen Engagement were collected in the 2007 Community Indicators Victoria Survey. Respondents were asked if they had attended a town meeting or public hearing, met, called or written to a local politician, joined a protest or signed a petition in the previous 12 months.

58.5% of persons in Ballarat had engaged in at least one of the selected activities in the previous year, compared to 62.6% in the Grampians Region and the Victorian State average of 53.8%.



Child and Family Friendly City Consultations

In late 2006, the City of Ballarat, in partnership with the Best Start Partners and parent representatives, commissioned a consultant, to work in partnership with the Best Start facilitator to undertake a community consultation into child and family friendliness in Ballarat.

The primary aim of the consultation process was to understand the community views on what child and family friendly means to them personally, and what it means for the Ballarat community.

In total, 1071 people participated in the consultation project either through completing the survey, participation in the community workshops or through the participation in the consultation forum. Responses were received from all age groupings within the community.

Project Outcomes:

- 1. The Ballarat community have clear views on what contributes to a child and family friendly city and what is important for Ballarat becoming child and family friendly.***

The Ballarat community indicated that a child and family friendly city actively engages in fulfilling the right of every citizen and their family to:

- Receive basic services such as health and education;
- Be protected from exploitation, violence and abuse;
- Walk the streets safely on their own;
- Drink safe water and have access to appropriate sanitation;
- Participate in family, community and social life;
- Be an equal citizen of their city, with access to every service regardless of ethnicity, religion, income, gender or disability; and
- Have green spaces for plants and animals.

These views were reinforced through additional comments provided by 46% of the respondents. These views indicated that a child and family friendly city is one that:

1. Has an attitude that embraces children and families and treats them as highly valued citizens;
2. Has access to and provides affordable services / facilities; and
3. Builds their environment considering children and family's needs.

2. *Ballarat rates well, but could do better in the child and family friendliness stakes*

Respondents considered Ballarat to be a child and family friendly city and also indicated there was room for improvement. Our under 12s appear to be the most satisfied with Ballarat's child and family friendliness, with our over 55s appearing to be the least satisfied.

Factors that appeared to influence respondent ratings, evidenced through the 278 comments provided, include:

1. Perceptions whether Ballarat had a child and family friendly atmosphere (Community Attitude);
2. Perceptions of the provision, access and affordability of services and facilities for children and families; and
3. Perception of Ballarat's built environment and how it meets children and family's needs.

3. *Ballarat community cites numerous examples of child and family friendliness within Ballarat and elsewhere*

679 people took the opportunity to share their observations of child and family friendliness in Ballarat. These examples predominantly centred on:

1. Ballarat's built environment / community facilities;
2. Specialist services;
3. Early childhood care / services;
4. Health services;
5. Youth services;
6. Participation in social cultural opportunities; and
7. Workplace environments.

344 people took the opportunity to share their observations of child and family friendliness elsewhere. These examples centred on:

1. Built environments / community facilities;
2. Early childhood care / services;
3. Participation in social cultural opportunities; and
4. Workplace environments.

4. *Ballarat needs to improve its child and family friendliness in regards to its safety; environment and services. Safety means a number of things.*

Whilst the Ballarat community indicated that Ballarat needed to improve all areas to become a more child and family friendly city (input into decision making; social cultural opportunities; services; environment; and safety), they did indicate Safety; Services and the Environment for living, working and playing as the top three most valued areas identified needing improvement.

In addition to suggested improvements in safety; services and environment, respondents also provided examples of new services needed, to improve Ballarat's child and family friendliness.

5. Development of 'child and family friendly' criteria

Whilst particular child and family friendly criteria has not been developed yet, five child and family friendly principles emerge from the Child and Family Friendly Consultation.

These principles need to be underpinning Ballarat's child and family friendly criteria, once developed and adopted, and include:

1. That has a community attitude / atmosphere / philosophy that actively engages in fulfilling the right of every child and their family, embraces children and families and treats them as highly valued citizens;
2. That enables and ensures that children and families have access to, and receive, affordable services such as specialist services; early childhood care / services; health; education; youth; dental; breastfeeding support; public transport; and aging persons services;
3. That builds its environment with children and families needs in mind particularly as they relate to participation in family, social and community life, and social cultural opportunities;
4. That provides workplace environments that are flexible in meeting child and family needs; and
5. That is safe in all dimensions.

6. Feedback provides a wealth of information to a number of stakeholders.

Feedback received from the Ballarat community is very rich, well considered, and specific and has potential relevance to a number of stakeholders. In particular, it relates directly to Ballarat Blueprint, Municipal Early Years Plan; and the Best Start Project. Of note is some of the specific community feedback from the Child and Family Friendly community consultation:

"Child and Family friendly city to me means easily accessible services for all citizens regardless of home-base, regardless of occupation or not; easy access to council

services; regular communication to and from council; friendly nature throughout retail sector; non-prohibitive events for child and family; friendly and safe neighbourhoods.”

“Community recognizing the socio - economic issues impacting on families and then impacting on their capacity to participate in community events / festivals etc;”

“I think increased exposure at a young age to social activity, multiculturalism and encouragement of healthy life styles are important.”

Child & Family friendly is when “Grandma plays with me in parks”.

“Long term vision for the future: sense of ownership of public assets and open spaces that fosters a love of Ballarat and its unique historical treasures”

“Long-term urban planning must incorporate needs of children/families, e.g. green spaces and trees, playgrounds/sports grounds, bike paths, walking paths, facilities and programs to promote active and healthy lifestyles ,as well as family activities e.g. picnic areas, peaceful zones abundant with wildlife/birdlife and devoid of traffic, noise, stress etc.....also ways to promote linkage of different generations and to rekindle a sense of family/community for those seeking it after becoming disconnected by age, separation or circumstance”

“Laybacks linking roads to footpaths for prams, scooters, wheelie walkers etc need to be easier to negotiate”

“Street lights, water quality could be improved. Playground equipment for older children in the park. A BBQ in the park would be good, the Eureka Street thing has them.”

Recommendations:

A range of recommendations have been developed as a result of the Child and Family friendly community consultation. The recommendations from the Child and Family Friendly community consultation the relevant to the Open Space Strategy include:

- All Council officers to consider the implications for family and children in all planning and project proposals as part of standard Council reporting and planning;
- Encourage opportunities that generate connection in local neighbourhoods;
- Encourage ongoing family fun activities that are affordable and relevant to all cultures;
- Form a partnership with other interested parties to develop an integrated transport system that includes walking, bike-riding and buses;
- Any new developments to take into account the need for adequate paths to ensure pram accessibility;
- Council to encourage the development of “family friendly” car spaces at all shopping centres and other strategic places around Ballarat;

- Undertake maintenance review / audit of all playgrounds in relation to the criteria developed for the child and family friendly framework;
- Work towards installing more seating and bins in public areas, particularly playgrounds;
- Encourage and support projects that involve community members / groups in environmental activities such as tree planting;
- Ensure that environmental sustainability is seen as a key element in Ballarat becoming a child and family friendly city;
- Develop a plan to install shade structures within public playgrounds;
- Review lighting in strategic places within Ballarat in conjunction with the Community Safety Committee to assist safety; and
- Encourage and support the development of more 'walk to school' projects.

Key Stakeholder Interviews

Councillor Interviews

19th June 2007

- Maintenance responsibility is a key role of Council and should be protected
- Open space is important
- Developers – not interested in community values
- Difficult to get space back once sold
- Need good linkages
- User friendly / sustainability
- Community ownership is important
- Expectations are high – need to respond
- Good capital budget infrastructure

Department of Planning and Community Development (Sport and Recreation Victoria)

Summary of points discussed:

Provision

Need to consider the role active playing fields provides for the community namely for formal competitive sport and informal play / recreation opportunities. Furthermore need to consider the standards required for the provision of these different roles in particular irrigation.

The provision of built infrastructure such as walking / bike paths would be supported by State Government initiatives such as Go For Your Life.

Partnerships

- Whole of Government approach to support physical participation and active communities.
- Sport and Recreation Victoria can support through the Community Facilities Funding Program. Also from time to time additional funding may be available which is focused at addressing emerging issues such as the drought relief program.
- There has been a conscious direction of the Government to be supporting partnerships to open up school facilities for the benefit of the broader community. Sport and Recreation could take the broker role to facilitate these partnerships.

Heritage Victoria

Summary of points discussed:

1st Representative:

Heritage Victoria would encourage the City of Ballarat to undertake an assessment of any open space that is considered to have heritage value if not already undertaken and consistent with the Council's Heritage Strategy.

For those sites that are considered to have heritage value, it would be worthwhile for Council to develop conservation plans. This would be considered good practice by Council as conservation plans are not a legislative requirement. Assistance in the form of guidance and advice would be available through Heritage Victoria.

2nd Representative:

- Heritage Victoria is particularly interested in the Heritage listed sites.
- Most relevant issue is climate change and associated challenges to irrigate open space areas with limited water resources. The irrigation of open space should be guided by highly valued (streetscape, visual, historical perspective) and significant trees such as Sturt Street. A way of prioritising which trees should be irrigated may include a hierarchy criteria i.e. National, State or Local significance which would be consistent with Heritage Victoria's funding allocation process.
- Disease (such as Elm Leaf Beetle) is also another significant issue which will impact on the value of natural landscape.
- Maintenance standards of the City of Ballarat are of a very high standard (comparable to the City of Melbourne), however need to be consistent with the challenges associated with climate change and sustainable practices (labour intensive).
- Need to minimise hard infrastructure such as car parks and where car parks do exist, for the visual amenity to be softened through appropriate landscaping.
- Opportunity to create good connections (i.e. paths and trails) as part of the open space network, in particular for accessibility and wildlife habitat.

Department of Human Services – Public Health unit

Summary of points discussed:

Promoting physical activity and active communities has been identified as one of the seven priority health promotion issues for Victoria for the period 2007 – 2012.

In response to physical activity being a priority the “Physical Activity and Active Communities Framework and Evidence Based Health Promotion Practitioner Resource” project is currently in progress. This resource is being developed to provide a framework for approaching physical activity participation. It will also provide evidence-based strategies that can be used to successfully promote physical activity within communities and across key population groups. The project will include an analysis of the social, economic, environmental and other determinants of physical activity. PDF Management Services Pty Ltd has been engaged to undertake the project.

It is anticipated that the project will be completed in early 2008.

VicTrack

Summary of points discussed:

- Confirmed that the Ballarat Skipton Rail Trail land had been disposed. Understands that this is now under Committee of Management for the Ballarat Skipton Rail Trail.
- VicTrack is currently undertaking strategic plans for a range of metro Local Government Authorities during the 2007/08 financial year. VicTrack are expecting to commence similar strategic plans for regional cities after 2007/08. The purpose of these Strategic Plans is primarily for the future use, management and partnerships for the rail infrastructure in those municipalities.
- VicTrack understands that the City of Ballarat is wishing to use the Ballarat Saleyards Rail extension as a rail trail. Council should identify the value of this land as part of the Open Space Strategy which would assist with any discussions with VicTrack. VicTrack would assess any request and determine whether the land should sit with VicTrack or whether the land should be disposed of. Prior to VicTrack confirming whether the rail trail that runs through Alfredton and stops south of Victoria Park is surplus to their requirements, they need to define the track and land in question.

- Current rail corridor through Ballarat is significant and highly valued for existing rail purposes.
- No other surplus rail network has been identified at the moment.
- For any use of VicTrack managed land Council would need to identify and value the land as part of the City's open space network prior to approaching VicTrack.
- VicTrack's primary business is to manage the rail network land.
- Strategic position of VicTrack is not to retain VicTrack land used by the community if considered surplus for rail network purposes. VicTrack is assessing their role as property manager of land used by the community.
- VicTrack would consider joint partnerships with Council for development of VicTrack land.
- The sale and value of any VicTrack land (once determined as surplus) would be in line with the Valuer General Victoria.

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

Summary of points discussed:

- Closure of schools would normally occur as a result of either: two schools merging and leaving a site vacant; or the enrolments are not viable for the school to remain open.
- A recent merger occurred between Grevillea Park Primary School and Yuille Primary School to form the Yuille Park Community College. This merger has provided an opportunity for a state-of-the-art life long learning centre.
- As part of the Wendouree West Neighbourhood Renewal Project a community hub was established consisting of a school component namely the Yuille Park Community College. The college delivers education in a very modern and different way and caters for children from prep to Year 8. The hub offers a range of services and facilities including a gymnasium and other community services such as a Children's Services Centre, which will house a kindergarten, child-care, occasional child-care and other services such as Maternal and Child Health.
- The 'neighbourhood renewal' project is an example of the partnership between government and the community.
- The community was involved as part of the approval process through a Committee of Management for the development of the community hub.

VicRoads (Western Region)

Summary of points discussed:

- Needs to be consistent with the City of Ballarat Road Transport Strategy.
- It would be left to the City of Ballarat to develop a Bicycle Strategy Plan, however VicRoads would be interested in being involved.
- There would be potential State Government funding towards bicycle tracks, however larger projects would be prioritised. Any proposal for Government funding would require strategic planning in the first instance.
- VicRoads manages an electronic database known as “Pards” (internal access only) which identifies land under their management and responsibility. From time to time parcels of land in this database are identified as to whether the land is surplus to VicRoads requirements.
- The City of Ballarat should approach VicRoads with suggestions about land that should be considered for additional open space.
- Plans for the duplication of the Western Highway will require a 30 metre extension of road reserve.
- VicRoads has noticed that some developers will offer their contribution towards road development in lieu of contribution towards open space.

Parks Victoria

Summary of points discussed:

1st Representative:

- The open space areas managed by Parks Victoria in the City of Ballarat are quite small in context to the Parks Victoria managed parks in the western region.
- The priorities in respect to development opportunities particular of recreational / conservation values and conservation values will be higher across the western region.
- Parks Victoria will seriously consider development opportunities of open space areas, which include Parks Victoria managed land, which has a broader community benefit and fits within a strategic framework (as opposed to development of a Parks Victoria managed park in isolation to the broader open space network).
- Parks Victoria is generally mindful of how the use of their parks is marketed to the community in respect to managing the community's expectation.

2nd Representative:

- Parks Victoria are currently managing the following open space areas in the City of Ballarat; Flax Mill Swamp, Union Jack Reserve, Nerrina Bushland Reserve, and Ballarat North Bushland Reserve.
- Relationships tend to be with the Local Government Authorities of Golden Plains, Pyrenees and Hepburn.
- Have dealt with Ballarat before and the Ballarat Environment Network, however there are more synergies with the other Councils.
- Union Jack Reserve has good path networks.

Some issues facing Parks Victoria include:

- Access from properties adjacent to their parks particularly from new residential development. Residents believe they can create their own pedestrian access into the park despite Parks Victoria requesting through the Ballarat planning process that no access from private property is permitted.
- The control of pest animals is made harder in regards to baiting and safety within the proximity of residential development.
- Managing the community expectation particularly in regard to fire management practices.

Opportunities for partnership with the City of Ballarat could include:

- Shared promotion of parks such as Union Jack Reserve and the linking of paths / trails.
- Working with Council to provide appropriate offsets at Flax Mill Swamp and improving the water quality through water movement and replanting.

No	Submission From	Details of Submission	Change/s to Plan?		Response
			Yes	No	
1	Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE)	<p>1. Maps should indicate where there is need for future key linkages.</p> <p>2. Mapping should be amended to show all Crown land.</p> <p>3. All references to DNRE should be changed to DSE.</p> <p>4. The OSS should acknowledge the ecotourism and walking opportunities offered by the Great Dividing Trail, including the potential to link the Great Dividing Trail with the Skipton Rail Trail and provide signage and maps to assist with such linkage.</p> <p>Clause 6.4.7 in Volume 1 should be amended to "... the retention <i>and conservation management</i> of remnant bushland ...".</p> <p>7.2: The category of 'Conservation Bushland' should be amended to 'Conservation (Bushland, Native Grassland and Wetland)'.</p> <p>9.4: Native vegetation offset sites should be shown in the 'Conservation (Bushland, Native Grassland and Wetland)' row rather than in 'Special Use'. Suggested amendment to 'Conservation' text in Open Space Model Matrix (see submission).</p> <p>Suggested amendment to 'Linkage (Major)' text in Open Space Model Matrix (see submission).</p> <p>A 'Drainage Function' row should be added in Open Space Model Matrix (see submission).</p> <p>9.5: The Conservation Parkland section in Development Standards should have the text</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>Mapping in the final report now includes opportunities for future open space and DSE sites that have been provided to Council for inclusion in the open space on the GIS system.</p> <p>All references to DNRE have been changed to DSE.</p> <p>A section of the Yarrowee River corridor is part of the Great Dividing Trail. The GDTA is a significant partner and is now mentioned in section 9.3.1 regarding Partnerships.</p> <p>Change made to 6.4.7</p> <p>Change made to 7.2</p> <p>An additional statement has been added to the Strategic Directions – 9.1, indicating the need for Council and DSE to resolve the issue of ownership and management of vegetation off-sets.</p> <p>Changes have been made to definitions of open space and management model as suggested</p>

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			Yes	No	
		<p><i>'locally indigenous vegetation'</i> added under 'should have'.</p> <p>The 'Conservation' section in 9.5 Development Standards should have all items under 'should have' transferred to 'might have'.</p> <p>Delete the phrase 'low key pathways for walkers and mountain bikes' in the 'Conservation' section in 9.5 Development Standards.</p> <p>The words 'but are unlikely to have' should be deleted from the 'Conservation' section in 9.5 Development Standards.</p> <p>12: Dot point 3 in the Precinct Analysis of Buninyong – Rural South under Improvements/Opportunities encourages residential development towards the open space areas of Mt Innes, Union Jack Reserve and Mt Buninyong. The department would not support the land adjoining these reserves being rezoned for residential purposes.</p> <p>Volume 2: Details of the key stakeholder interviews with DSE should be added.</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>		<p>Changes have been made to the Development Standards, accepted these suggestions.</p> <p>Analysis of open space in Buninyong has been amended to reflect DSE comments.</p> <p>Comments regarding meetings with DSE have been added.</p>
2	Ballarat Environment Network (BEN)	<p>No direction is provided on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Priorities for the development of open space (including implementation of existing master plans or the development of new plans); - Rationalisation of open space; - Whether or not Ballarat has too much public open space; - Financial planning required for setting aside 10% of newly developing areas of 	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>Master plan review, preparation and implementation has been added to the Strategy.</p> <p>The executive summary has been reviewed and changed to reflect the comments provided by BEN.</p> <p>Rationale for requesting 10% has already been included in the Strategy.</p>

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			Yes	No	
		<p>open space;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Making the artificial distinction between recreation and additional types of open space; - No mention of the LINCS strategy. 	✓	✓	<p>Council financial policies under Local Government determine financial procedures with collection and expenditure of funds</p> <p>There are a number of comments in the report that link open space to the uses and activities that take place – this strategy is focussed more on the provision of open space.</p> <p>An additional section has been added on linkages and trails, with reference to LINCS Strategy and also mention of vegetation corridors (both public and private)</p> <p>Additions have been made to the Executive Summary that outlines the character of Open Space.</p> <p>The Strategy outlines a local policy framework that has been provided by Council</p> <p>DSE has provided information about additional open space areas that have been included in the inventory and mapping.</p> <p>It was agreed that the primary category would be used – secondary categories have been identified and Council will have the information on the GIS system.</p> <p>Agreed that all photos will be labelled.</p>
		<p>Captures nothing of the character and importance of open space within the City.</p>	✓		
		<p>No vision for the asset and its purpose is provided.</p>			
		<p>Provision and management of open space is not put in the context of the overall development of the City according to the Municipal Strategic Statement or high order strategies such as Recreation Strategy or Municipal Public Health Plan.</p>		✓	
		<p>The strategy does not mention list or map the public land currently managed by BEN as Biodiversity Reserves.</p>	✓		
		<p>Categorisation of open space doesn't recognise that reserves often contain more than one category of open space.</p>		✓	
		<p>Photographs should have captions.</p>	✓		

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			Yes	No	
		<p>The maps are too large scale to properly identify individual parcels of land.</p> <p>References to the importance of partnerships, the growing preference for unstructured recreation, the importance of linking reserves and the value the community places on native vegetation in reserves are noted and welcomed.</p>	✓	✓	<p>Mapping has been produced on a GIS system that can be manipulated to provide any level of detail by Council.</p> <p>Noted</p>
3	Field Naturalists Club of Ballarat	<p>Need to ensure that existing publicly owned open space such as Victoria Park and Ballarat West Common are not diminished.</p> <p>With appropriate plant species, open space areas should be valuable areas for wildlife and be able to be maintained with modest expense to Council.</p> <p>Pleasing to observe that the range of open space types includes bushland reserves.</p> <p>The number of open space areas tagged as Conservation doesn't reflect the large number of survey responses that the natural environment is important or very important. This should be addressed by Council.</p> <p>Decisions about removing vegetation should only be taken after long and considered thought.</p> <p>Development and implementation of a balanced Open Space Strategy is important.</p> <p>Important that all open space be maintained and developed consistently with improvement to the natural environment.</p>	✓	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>Ballarat West Common – different type of land, combined with airport land. This is not part of the recognised open space network.</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>This has been resolved with DSE mapping.</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>

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4	Australian Koala Foundation	The Koala Plan of Management for Ballarat LGA is also an adopted management plan and could be used to determine what trees to plant in open spaces there they fit in with our planning and revegetation maps/plans.	✓		Additional words about Koala habitat has been added, noting that preferred vegetation species have been included in Planning Scheme through the Canadian Valley ODP, Wildfire Plan and Koala Management Plan.
5	Resident	<p>The development of a walking and cycling network will need appropriate signage and publication. Such a network would provide Ballarat with an opportunity to develop something lasting and unique.</p> <p>The significance of privately owned landscapes and open space in Buninyong area seems to have escaped attention.</p> <p>Wordage on the Cathcart St Reserve (precinct 3) and larger house blocks to preserve larger trees needs completion of text.</p>	<p></p> <p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>This was considered in the development of the plan – and will be further enhanced with comments about linkages / corridors and environment / landscape - not necessary to make any more specific statements about private open space. Changes have been made to the text in the precinct analysis.</p>
6	Resident	Opportunity to develop a number of sites in Mt Helen to improve the open space network.		✓	<p>The Mount Helen area is well provided for open space, with the clarification that checking specific sites of open space against development standards may reveal some priorities for improvements to parks.</p> <p>Given the rural nature of the area, addition of linkages would add significantly to the local and regional open space network – however, further development of open space as suggested in this submission would not be a priority for Council.</p>
7	Roadcon Group	<p>Supports the intent to improve the quality and presentation</p> <p>There are a number of definitions and categories that are inconsistent and hard to follow.</p>	<p></p> <p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Some changes have been made to definitions.</p>

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		<p>Commend an increase in developers' contributions to open space to 10%.</p> <p>Requests flexibility of standards to allow above minimum quantity and quality.</p> <p>Important for vegetation and tree species to be assessed on a case-by-case basis with some good examples of botanic / exotic species rather than native.</p> <p>Inconsistency with Ballarat West Structure Plan – particularly geographic boundaries and % requested for open space. For example Alfredton West should be indicated for future residential growth.</p> <p>Inequalities of irrigation for sports grounds instead of passive open space – reverse the trend to respond to higher use of passive open space.</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted. This strategy provides guidance for standards of open space – each site would be assessed on its merits. The concern with “over-development” is the lack of capacity of Council to maintain an over-supply of open space that has been developed to a high standard beyond Council’s maintenance levels.</p> <p>Comments about the flexibility of the policy have been added to the Strategy.</p> <p>Geographic boundaries were carefully selected for the OSS based on population analysis areas. Comments have been added about long-term growth areas within rural areas where specific planning applications might trigger higher levels of open space contributions. Council is planning to release a publication that combines all relevant information about Ballarat West for easy reference.</p> <p>Sporting areas and fields are specialised areas that have always been a higher priority for irrigation. While the long-term use of water on these open space areas is being reviewed with options for recycled water, the need for irrigated and safe sportsfields cannot be ignored.</p> <p>An irrigation matrix is proposed for page 56 that outlines use of irrigation for the various types of open space, consistent with the Development Standards.</p>

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		<p>Suggest further clarification about definition of drainage land, using Melbourne Water standards, and assess on a case-by-case basis for value of drainage land for linkages and unstructured recreation.</p> <p>Confusion between definitions in chapters 5 and 7. Suggest combining chapters 5,7 & 9 for ease of reading.</p> <p>Page 80 – Sturt St / Sturt Road</p> <p>Section 6.3.6: Capture of urban run-off for more beneficial purposes.</p> <p>Section 6.1.1: mention the specific areas that are targeted for future urban growth.</p> <p>Section 6.1.9 should indicate examples of non-traditional recreation pursuits</p> <p>Issue on page 83 about linear corridors as connections – could be part of open space contribution</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>Further clarification has been added.</p> <p>The structure of the document has been carefully considered and accepted by the steering committee.</p> <p>Sturt Street is now consistent.</p> <p>If drainage functions are incorporated into open space, the must be an associated recreation / amenity / environmental benefit. Water collection for re-use / recycling is generally a separate drainage / stormwater issue.</p> <p>Sufficient detail has been provided for the context of the document.</p> <p>Examples to be added. (Bocce, skating/BMX, etc)</p> <p>It is already noted that if defined as major linkage, it can be included as contribution</p>
8	Lisa Kendal Totally Sustainable	<p>Generally, well structured and a well considered assessment of open space.</p> <p>Include an overview of natural environmental context.</p>		<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>A context has already been provided outlining the open space network. Amendments to the Executive Summary as a result of other submissions has however addressed this point.</p>

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		More clearly articulated strategies for dealing with Climate Change	✓		Further detail has been added to 9.2.3: Environmental Values and Response to Climate Change
		Greater emphasis needed on sustainability of open space – response to natural values and assets, site conditions, stormwater management, resource conservation and energy efficiency.	✓		Further detail to be added to 9.2.3: Environmental Values and Response to Climate Change
		Should better integrate the principles of BluePrint Ballarat, MSS and Environmental Sustainability Strategy throughout OSS.	✓		The Strategic Directions and Implementation sections of the Strategy now make reference to implementing the LiveSmartBallarat Policy and Council's Environment Sustainability Strategy 2007 in the provision, development and management of open space.
		Review the document flowchart....		✓	Some additional words have been added in relevant sections to demonstrate a link between the OSS, the ESS and the MSS.
		Open Space Criteria – question how the ecological value of open space is to be assessed.		✓	The flow chart is the document is already correct as Council's strategic framework.
		Page 42, dot point 3 under Environmental Conditions – interchange “constraints” with “threats”. Include assessment of resource use.	✓		Council has committed to the preparation of a biodiversity mapping exercise through the Victorian Sustainability Accord. This is a partnership program with a number of key agencies and stakeholders, which will identify a number of gaps and protection strategies and will provide valuable knowledge using a regional approach.
		Principles – include a further statement about environmental / asset protection and resources / materials efficiency...	✓		Agree – change has been made
					Key words added to principle 4: “The sustainable provision, development and management of open space.....”

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		<p>Page 47 – 3rd para, also emphasise waterways have major significance for habitat corridors</p> <p>Page 51 – Direction 9(iv) – disagree with – planning should be based on natural values first.....</p> <p>Page 51 – Direction 9(v) – add habitat corridors</p> <p>Suggest adding 3 more points to 9.1 around climate change, environmental condition, stormwater management</p> <p>Page 53 – strengthen wording of 9.2.3</p> <p>Page 53 – Direction 9(x) – change wording from “support” to “require”</p> <p>Page 56 – add another direction for maintenance inputs with a view to minimising resource inputs.</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>Agree – change has been made</p> <p>Natural values are part of a more holistic approach to the provision of open space and the subsequent contributions by developers.</p> <p>Agree – change has been made</p> <p>These comments have been addressed in additional wording being provided in 9.2.3: Environmental Values and Response to Climate Change.</p> <p>Agree – changes have been made</p> <p>Additional comments to be added to the Development Standards section outlining recommendations for sustainable development and maintenance of open space.</p>
9	<p>Council Staff:</p> <p>Strategic Planners</p> <p>Open Space Planning</p>	<p>More detail in the Review section including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance for planning scheme and MSS • More detailed action plans that are better aligned with ODP’s, etc • Priorities, processes, etc • Guidance for areas of Council <p>Maps with future opportunities</p> <p>Incorporate some details into Exec Summary</p>	<p>✓</p>		<p>An Implementation section has been added to the strategy outlining key implementation directions.</p> <p>Recommendations will generally not be site specific.</p> <p>Relevant summary details have been added to the Executive Summary.</p> <p>It is important to emphasise that the OSS is not a planning scheme document and further work will need to be undertaken to prepare the relevant amendments and provisions for the planning scheme. The open</p>

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		<p>Replace 2001 census data with 2006.</p> <p>Change Vision to be a single statement</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>space strategy should however be a reference document to be used to guide and defend decisions for planning and determining open space contributions.</p> <p>Population data was the most up-to-date</p> <p><i>"Provide a sustainable network of accessible open space which meets the recreational, environmental, social and health needs of the community and connects Ballarat to its past present and future".</i></p>