



SPORT AND RECREATION POLICY COMMITTEE

AGENDA

9 JULY 2024

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 that a **SPORT AND RECREATION POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING of ORANGE CITY COUNCIL** will be held in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC CENTRE, BYNG STREET, ORANGE** on **Tuesday, 9 July 2024.**

David Waddell

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

For apologies please contact Executive Support on 6393 8391.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS, SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

The provisions of Chapter 14 of the Local Government Act, 1993 (the Act) regulate the way in which Councillors and designated staff of Council conduct themselves to ensure that there is no conflict between their private interests and their public role.

The Act prescribes that where a member of Council (or a Committee of Council) has a direct or indirect financial (pecuniary) interest in a matter to be considered at a meeting of the Council (or Committee), that interest must be disclosed as soon as practicable after the start of the meeting and the reasons given for declaring such interest.

As members are aware, the provisions of the Local Government Act restrict any member who has declared a pecuniary interest in any matter from participating in the discussion or voting on that matter, and requires that member to vacate the Chamber.

Council's Code of Conduct provides that if members have a non-pecuniary conflict of interest, the nature of the conflict must be disclosed. The Code of Conduct also provides for a number of ways in which a member may manage non pecuniary conflicts of interest.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Committee Members now disclose any conflicts of interest in matters under consideration by the Sport and Recreation Policy Committee at this meeting.

2 COMMITTEE MINUTES

2.1 MINUTES OF THE SPORT AND RECREATION COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING OF 5 JUNE 2024

RECORD NUMBER: 2024/1077

AUTHOR: Ben Keegan, Sport and Recreation Coordinator

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Sport and Recreation Community Committee met on 5 June 2024 and the recommendations for this meeting are provided to the Sport and Recreation Policy Committee for adoption.

LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy “2.1. Deliver sport and recreation facilities to service the community into the future”.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

Nil

RECOMMENDATION

- 1 That Council acknowledge the reports presented to the Sport and Recreation Community Committee at its meeting held on 5 June 2024.**
- 2 That the minutes of the Sport and Recreation Community Committee from its meeting held on 5 June 2024 be adopted.**

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Consideration has been given to the recommendation’s impact on Council’s service delivery; image and reputation; political; environmental; health and safety; employees; stakeholders and project management; and no further implications or risks have been identified.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 SRCC 5 June 2024 Minutes
- 2 SRCC 5 June 2024 Agenda, D24/65128 [↓](#)

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE

SPORT AND RECREATION COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

HELD IN COMMITTEE ROOM 3, CIVIC CENTRE, BYNG STREET, ORANGE

ON 5 JUNE 2024

COMMENCING AT 5:30 PM

1 INTRODUCTION

ATTENDANCE

Cr T Greenhalgh (Chairperson), Cr M McDonell, Mrs Cynthia Jarratt, Mr Stephen Martin, Ms Jodie Kelly, Mr Ken McCarron, Mr Liam Dillon, Sports and Recreation Coordinator

1.1 Apologies and Leave of Absence

RESOLVED

Mrs C Jarratt/Mr L Dillon

That the apologies be accepted from Cr G Floyd, Mr Gary Norton, Mr Fred Maw, Mr Peter Jarick, Mrs Catherine Lawrence, Mr Chris Doucas, Mr Brendan Stuart, Mr Tony Kay, Ms Shahreen Alford and Mr Matthew Chisholm for the Sport and Recreation Community Committee meeting on 5 June 2024.

1.2 Acknowledgement of Country

The Chairperson conducted an Acknowledgement of Country.

1.3 Declaration of pecuniary interests, significant non-pecuniary interests and less than significant non-pecuniary interests

Nil.

2 PREVIOUS MINUTES

RESOLVED

Mr K McCarron/Cr M McDonell

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Sport and Recreation Community Committee held on 28 February 2024 (copies of which were circulated to all members) be and are hereby confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of the Sport and Recreation Community Committee meeting held on 28 February 2024.

3 GENERAL REPORTS

3.1 DRAFT ORANGE PLAY STRATEGY

TRIM REFERENCE: 2024/888

RECOMMENDATION**Cr M McDonell/Ms J Kelly**

That the report on the draft Orange Play Strategy be noted.

3.2 SPORT AND RECREATION COMMUNITY COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN

TRIM REFERENCE: 2024/886

RECOMMENDATION**Mr S Martin/Mrs C Jarratt**

That the Sport and Recreation Community Committee Action Plan be reviewed and updated.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 6.15PM.



SPORT AND RECREATION COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

AGENDA

5 JUNE 2024

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 that a **SPORT AND RECREATION COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING of ORANGE CITY COUNCIL** will be held in the **COMMITTEE ROOM 3, CIVIC CENTRE, BYNG STREET, ORANGE** on **Wednesday, 5 June 2024** commencing at **5:30 PM**.

David Waddell

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

For apologies please contact Ben Keegan on 6393 8535.

AGENDA

EVACUATION PROCEDURE

In the event of an emergency, the building may be evacuated. You will be required to vacate the building. The Committee Clerk will now identify the emergency muster point.

Under no circumstances is anyone permitted to re-enter the building until the all clear has been given and the area deemed safe by authorised personnel.

In the event of an evacuation, a member of Council staff will assist any member of the public with a disability to vacate the building.

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SPORT AND RECREATION COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**5 JUNE 2024**

1 INTRODUCTION**MEMBERS**

Cr T Greenhalgh (Chairperson), Cr G Floyd, Cr M McDonell, Mr Gary Norton, Mrs Cynthia Jarratt, Mr Fred Maw, Mr Peter Jarick, Mr Stephen Martin, Mrs Catherine Lawrence, Mr Chris Doucas, Ms Jodie Kelly, Mr Brendan Stuart, Mr Tony Kay, Mr Ken McCarron, Mr Liam Dillon, Ms Shahreen Alford, Mr Matthew Chisholm, Director Community, Recreation and Cultural Services, Manager City Presentation, Recreation Planner, Sports and Recreation Coordinator

1.1 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**1.2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

I would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today, the people of the Wiradjuri Nation. I pay my respects to Elders past and present, and extend those respects to Aboriginal Peoples of Orange and surrounds, and Aboriginal people here with us today.

1.3 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS, SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

The provisions of Chapter 14 of the Local Government Act, 1993 (the Act) regulate the way in which Councillors and designated staff of Council conduct themselves to ensure that there is no conflict between their private interests and their public role.

The Act prescribes that where a member of Council (or a Committee of Council) has a direct or indirect financial (pecuniary) interest in a matter to be considered at a meeting of the Council (or Committee), that interest must be disclosed as soon as practicable after the start of the meeting and the reasons given for declaring such interest.

As members are aware, the provisions of the Local Government Act restrict any member who has declared a pecuniary interest in any matter from participating in the discussion or voting on that matter, and requires that member to vacate the Chamber.

Council's Code of Conduct provides that if members have a non-pecuniary conflict of interest, the nature of the conflict must be disclosed. The Code of Conduct also provides for a number of ways in which a member may manage non pecuniary conflicts of interest.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Committee Members now disclose any conflicts of interest in matters under consideration by the Sport and Recreation Community Committee at this meeting.

SPORT AND RECREATION COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**5 JUNE 2024**

2 PREVIOUS MINUTES**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Sport and Recreation Community Committee held on 28 February 2024 (copies of which were circulated to all members) be and are hereby confirmed as a true and accurate records of the proceedings of the Sport and Recreation Community Committee meeting held on 28 February 2024.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Minutes of the Meeting of the Sport and Recreation Community Committee held on 28 February 2024

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE

SPORT AND RECREATION COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

HELD IN COUNCILLORS WORKROOM, CIVIC CENTRE, BYNG STREET, ORANGE

ON 28 FEBRUARY 2024

COMMENCING AT 5.30PM

1 INTRODUCTION

ATTENDANCE

Cr T Greenhalgh (Chairperson), Cr G Floyd, Cr M McDonell, Mr Gary Norton, Mr Fred Maw, Mr Stephen Martin, Mrs Catherine Lawrence, Mr Brendan Stuart, Mr Ken McCarron, Director Community, Recreation and Cultural Services, Sport and Recreation Coordinator

1.1 Apologies and Leave of Absence

RESOLVED

Cr M McDonell/Mr S Martin

That the apologies be accepted from Mr Peter Jarick, Mrs Cynthia Jarratt, Mr Chris Doucas, Ms Jodie Kelly, Mr Liam Dilon and Ms Shahreen Alford for the Sport and Recreation Community Committee meeting on 28 February 2024.

1.2 Acknowledgement of Country

The Chairperson conducted an Acknowledgement of Country.

1.3 Declaration of pecuniary interests, significant non-pecuniary interests and less than significant non-pecuniary interests

Nil.

2 PREVIOUS MINUTES

RESOLVED

Cr M McDonell/Cr G Floyd

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Sport and Recreation Community Committee held on 27 September 2023 (copies of which were circulated to all members) be and are hereby confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of the Sport and Recreation Community Committee meeting held on 27 September 2023.

MINUTES OF SPORT AND RECREATION COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

28 FEBRUARY 2024

3 GENERAL REPORTS

3.1 SPORT AND RECREATION COMMUNITY COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN

TRIM REFERENCE: 2024/206

RECOMMENDATION

Mr S Martin/Mr G Norton

That the Sport and Recreation Community Committee Action Plan be reviewed and updated.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 6.40PM.

SPORT AND RECREATION COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**5 JUNE 2024**

3 GENERAL REPORTS**3.1 DRAFT ORANGE PLAY STRATEGY**

RECORD NUMBER: 2024/888

AUTHOR: Ben Keegan, Sport and Recreation Coordinator

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A draft Play Strategy has been developed for the City of Orange to provide direction for playspace provision for the next 15 years.

It is proposed to place the draft strategy on public exhibition for broad community comment and input.

LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy “2.1. Deliver sport and recreation facilities to service the community into the future”.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That the report on the draft Orange Play Strategy be noted.

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Consideration has been given to the recommendation’s impact on Council’s service delivery; image and reputation; political; environmental; health and safety; employees; stakeholders and project management; and no further implications or risks have been identified.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Council has developed the Orange Play Strategy to plan the direction of play provision in Orange to 2040, with the aim of best practice in play provision. The strategy references the best practice research and guidelines to enhance play facilities for the children of the City.

The research for this Strategy has found that Orange is well catered for, with a diversity of play hierarchies well distributed around the urban area of the City, however additional play spaces should be provided, particularly as population grows.

Current provision of playspaces in Orange includes 38 parks which is comparable with supply in other regional cities and towns, however the number of playspaces still needs to grow if the City is to achieve planning best practice.

SPORT AND RECREATION COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**5 JUNE 2024****3.1 Draft Orange Play Strategy**

The strategic approach of this document will ensure new provision is focussed where needed most and provides the best mix of amenity, while being cost effective for Council to provide and maintain.

The Strategy analyses existing playspace provision and requirements for future provision. Targets are set along with timeframes for delivery and all playspaces are costed to standardised hierarchy models. A detailed mapping exercise has resulted in a matrix for delivery over the next 15 years.

A report has been provided to the next meeting of the Sport and Recreation Policy Committee on 4 June 2024, recommending that the draft Orange Play Strategy be placed on public exhibition for a 28 day period to provide opportunity for community feedback and input. Following a review of submissions, the draft Play Strategy will be reviewed, amended as required and refer to Council for adoption.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 FOR EXHIBITION - Orange Play Strategy, D24/54056



Cover page photograph: Jaeger Reserve, Orange City Council

prepared by:

sala4D

Landscape architecture.
Urban design.
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Document issue:	Revision:	Date:	Review Sign-off:
Draft Strategy	-	10.12.23	SAlford
Draft Strategy	A	19.03.24	SAlford
Draft Strategy	B	10.05.24	SAlford
Final Strategy	C	15.05.24	SAlford

Orange City Council Play Strategy 2024

Executive Summary

Orange City Council (OCC) has developed this Strategy to plan the direction of play provision in Orange to 2040, with the aim of best practice in play provision. The strategy references the best practice research and guidelines to enhance play facilities for the children of the City.

Play is extremely important for the healthy development of children, in physical, mental, social and emotional terms. The increase in obesity throughout our society and the tendency for children to be drawn to 'screen time' over outdoor play, highlight the importance of encouraging our children to be active. Providing for play is one key service a local government can offer to encourage outdoor activity and to promote better health outcomes.

Play provision needs to cater for the complete range in age of children and provide stimulation for all aspects of their development (physical, mental, social and emotional), all in an equitable distribution throughout the Local Government Area (LGA). As such, a play resource within an LGA should provide a diverse range of play opportunities within a range of setting types. These include playspaces of different hierarchies (local, district and regional) and a variety of themes and play types. To be effective and engaging, play provision also needs to provide a degree of challenge and risk so children can grow and learn in a safe environment.

It is also important that play provision recognises differences in the abilities of users and provides for people of all abilities. The NSW Everyone Can Play Guidelines provides best practice recommendations for inclusive playspaces. The development of each playspace should reflect upon what level of inclusive play is achievable and seek to achieve a space that incorporates the principles based on: "Can I get there? Can I play? Can I stay?"

The research for this Strategy has found that Orange is well catered for, with a diversity of play hierarchies well distributed around the urban area of the City, however additional play spaces should be provided, particularly as population grows.

Current provision of playspaces in Orange includes 38 parks, which is comparable with

ORANGE PLAY STRATEGY 2024-2040

supply in other regional cities and towns, however the number of playspaces still needs to grow if the City is to achieve planning best practice. Council staff maintain existing equipment to a high standard and there is an ongoing schedule of maintenance, repair and upgrade. The strategic approach of this document will ensure new provision is focussed where needed most and provides the best mix of amenity, while being cost effective for Council to provide and maintain.

The vision for the Orange Play Strategy, based on the Strategy focus, is to:
'provide a Community focussed city-wide play network.'

The risk assessment performed as part of the Strategy, identified the following top three risks for implementing/not implementing the Strategy:

Service Delivery	Not providing opportunities for healthy childhood development within community, potentially resulting in poor children's health, anti-social behaviour, disenfranchised youth, and a less cohesive society
Corporate Governance	Non-compliance with Department of Planning and Infrastructure open space guidelines; Disability Discrimination Act; Building Code of Australia; Kids Safe NSW Best Practice Guidelines; Australian Standards 4685 (Playground Equipment) and AS/NZS4486 (Playground and Playground Equipment - installation, inspection, maintenance etc.)
Corporate Governance	Not delivering on Community Strategic Plan (2023-2032), namely key objectives of: providing community open spaces, social and healthy childhood development opportunities

The analysis provided in Part 4 shows that Orange City Council should continue to increase the number of playspaces provided throughout the City; to ensure adequate coverage of local and district level playspaces. The value to society of quality open space within safe walking distance of children's homes has been studied extensively. This doesn't mean all spaces need to include formal equipment, in fact provision of a wider range in diversity of play types has been identified as a critical determiner of playspace quality that Council should focus on in the future.

This Strategy analyses existing playspace provision and requirements for future provision. Targets are set, along with timeframes for delivery, all costed to standardised hierarchy models. A detailed mapping exercise has resulted in a matrix for delivery over the next 15 years.

The resultant network of playspaces is expected to support and enhance childhood development throughout the City, achieving best practice within a regional context and helping to develop healthy and engaged citizens that value the City and its open space.

The recommendations of this Strategy are:

1. That OCC continues to increase the number of playspaces throughout the city.
2. That OCC recognise the value of playspace provision to children and young adults (of all ages).
3. That OCC maintain a high degree of diversity throughout its playspace asset.
4. That an existing playspace is fenced, to assist carers.
5. That shade be a key consideration in the establishment of playspace locations and where possible, tree planting to occur beforehand.
6. That sufficient budget be allocated on an annual basis to the ongoing repair and replacement of existing playspaces, and the establishment of new playspaces per this Strategy.

ORANGE PLAY STRATEGY 2024-2040

Glossary of Terms

Term	Definition for the purpose of this document
Accessibility	An accessible playspace ensures that the facilities provided are usable by as many people as possible, to the greatest extent possible.
Amenities	Features that make a playspace a more pleasant place to be and can increase the visitation timespan, such as seats, tables, shade, water, barbeques and toilets
Children's Independent Mobility	Children's independent mobility is defined as the ability of children and adolescents to walk or cycle around their neighbourhood without adult accompaniment.
CPTED	Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) includes a range of initiatives employed in the design and management of a space to minimise the potential for a site to support criminal behaviour. These include clear sight lines, passive surveillance, lighting etc.
Deep Play	Play which enables children to access risky experiences and helps them develop survival skills and experience the conquest of fear; it requires deep concentration on behalf of the child.
District Park	Serves a number of neighbourhoods and may have a catchment extending beyond the LGA that hosts it.
GIS	Geographical Information System
Hazard	A situation that poses a threat to life, health, property or environment. Hazards should be eliminated from playspaces.
Local Park	Serves one neighbourhood and is located close to or within residential areas.
LGA	Local Government Area
Nature Deficit Disorder	A term coined by Richard Louv in his 2005 book Last Child in the Woods to describe the growing disconnect between children and the natural environment due to a dominance of electronic play and parental desires for supervision and control.
OCC	Orange City Council
Playground	Play environment that consists of infrastructure, complimentary facilities and landscapes

Term	Definition for the purpose of this document
Playspace	Playspaces are public spaces that encourage and facilitate play. A playspace can include a local park/ open space, or natural setting and may or may-not include play equipment. Playspaces include playgrounds, which refer specifically to spaces containing equipment designed to facilitate play. Use of the term “playspace” reinforces that play can occur both informally and formally, actively and passively and on both traditional equipment or on natural landscape elements.
Play equipment	Manufactured elements designed specifically for use for play and impact absorbing surfacing.
Play value	Play value is the extent to which a child’s development is assisted in a playspace.
PRAV	Playgrounds and Recreation Association of Victoria
Regional Park	Serves whole cities or metropolitan subregions, or multiple towns and settlements in non-metropolitan regions.
Risk	The potential for a negative outcome from a given action. In play the actions are often termed challenges and the risks impede the challenge from being reached, such as falling. It is important for children to learn about risk-taking in a healthy way and to become risk-aware as opposed to risk-averse.
Structured play	Structured play restricts the play experience to achieve desired outcomes, such as the completion of a puzzle, climbing to the top of a structure or taking part in a game with rules.
Structured play	Self-directed play stimulating imagination and creativity, utilising found objects in any space, either individual or in groups.
Universal design	Principles employed during the planning, design and provision of environments to ensure equity of access for people with disabilities, the aged and people without disabilities.

ORANGE PLAY STRATEGY 2024-2040

SPORT AND RECREATION COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

5 JUNE 2024

Attachment 1 FOR EXHIBITION - Orange Play Strategy

ORANGE PLAY STRATEGY 2024-2032

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1.1 Purpose of the Strategy

The Orange City Council Play Strategy 2024 provides Council and the community with a clear strategic direction for the ongoing planning, design, management and maintenance of Council playspaces throughout the Orange LGA, over the next 15 years.

Orange City Council currently manages has 38 parks with play equipment (39 play spaces in total). The playspaces are well maintained and valued by the community. However, they are a continually aging asset and there is potential to enhance the suite of playgrounds with more innovative play opportunities. This Strategy provides strategic direction and specific directions to guide the development and management of playspaces in the LGA to increase the potential of existing playspaces and to broaden play opportunities over the next 15 years.

The Strategy has been developed utilising an extensive literature review, site visits and the Comprehensive Playground Audit of 2022.

1.2 Policy Context

The community goals and aspirations of the Community Strategic Plan underpin the direction of the outcomes this Strategy aims to achieve, having their origin in the City Vision:

The Vision for Orange, as set out in the Orange Community Strategic Plan 2022-2032 is broken into four themes, being:

Live: A healthy, safe, inclusive and vibrant community.

Preserve: Balancing the natural and built environment.

Prosper: A smart, innovative and resilient economy.

Collaborate: Leadership and partnership.

This Strategy is based on and is consistent with other strategic documents, including the Orange Community Strategic Plan 2013-2023 and Council's Plans of Management for Parks.

Why is a Strategy Needed?

Access to play is a right of our whole community, so a strategy is required to provide

SPORT AND RECREATION COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

5 JUNE 2024

Attachment 1 FOR EXHIBITION - Orange Play Strategy

ORANGE PLAY STRATEGY 2024-2040

an holistic, equitable approach rather than reacting to individual approaches from the community to upgrade or provide new facilities in a piecemeal way, nor solely as a result of new growth.

1.3 Summary of Principles and Objectives

Through the adoption of this Strategy, Council adopts the following Principles that underpin the objectives and approaches within it:

The **Need to Play** – All children and young people need to play and the impulse is innate. Play is a biological, psychological and social necessity and is fundamental to the healthy development and well-being of individuals and communities.

Equity of Access – Ideally, playgrounds should be distributed evenly throughout the LGA, with consideration given to barriers such as large roads and railway lines.

Child/Teenager Development – Diversity in play amenity has been shown to enhance the physical and mental development of children and teenagers.

Health – Good playgrounds are places where children voluntarily choose to take part in physical activity and sufficient outdoor play is a proven way of improving children's health

Social Inclusion – Playgrounds serve as spaces of inclusion, where children are united in play, spending positive time together, being physically active and connecting with others. If designed to meet the needs of older children as well as younger children, playgrounds can positively influence physical activity, social interaction and a sense of community ownership, and can lead to a decrease in vandalism.

Provision of Quality – The quality of playgrounds is key to ensuring increased and more satisfying play opportunities and enhanced amenity for visitors.

Provision of Carer Amenity – Facilities which support the needs of carers encourage extended use and create a safer play environment.

Based on these Principles, the following Objectives are sought to be achieved through the implementation of the Strategy.

Orange City Council will develop a play network that is:

Equitable – playspaces are distributed throughout the LGA in an equitable manner, catering to the needs of the community at a range of ages and providing reasonable proximity to all residents.

Accessible – playspaces are accessible via safe and convenient walking and cycle paths, vehicle and public transport; including the provision for access for people with a range of abilities.

Diverse – playspaces offer a diverse range of play opportunities ranging from nature based to highly developed, in a variety of locations, catering to all ages and abilities.

Stimulating – playspaces offer a variety of stimulating activities throughout the LGA, catering to a range of learning opportunities within a play context.

Healthy – playspaces encourage children to be physically active and assist in the development of physical skills and abilities in children

Social - playspaces are attractive and valued by their community and encourage interaction between children and a variety of user groups in a positive manner.

Accommodating – visitors to playspaces are catered for through a range of amenity infrastructure consistent with the hierarchy of the playground and in accordance with open spaces guidelines.

High Quality – playspaces reach a minimum standard of provision for each hierarchy.

Safe – playspaces are developed, managed and maintained to a safe standard, in accordance with relevant guidelines and regulations.

Sun Safe – playspaces are designed to include summer shade areas either through appropriate landscaping and tree selection, built structures or shade sails.

Adaptable - playspaces are designed to complement their location, to be flexible if local needs change and to be usable in different ways by different age groups

Cultural – where appropriate playspaces will incorporate the built, social and natural history or culture of its locality

Sustainable – the ongoing provision and maintenance of playspaces is sustainable throughout the LGA within the forecasts of Council's resourcing and management strategies.

Collaborative – partnership opportunities will be supported where it is in the best interests of the community and where it supports the principles of the Strategy.

A Summary Objective that encompasses these specific objectives is:

Orange City Council will develop a play network that is equitably distributed, diverse, and meets the needs of the community.

1.4 The Strategy Focus

The Play Strategy is focussed upon '*providing a Community focussed city-wide play network*'.

The Strategy has been developed through setting guiding Principles for play in a local government context and applying these to derive Objectives that will be meaningful when assessed against current provision. The Objectives are then applied to develop Strategies for playspace provision and maintenance. Strategic actions include: planning for new playspaces in urban release areas; development control actions for new development; policy development for use within Council; capital works in the Council Delivery Plan; and, adjustments in maintenance procedures.

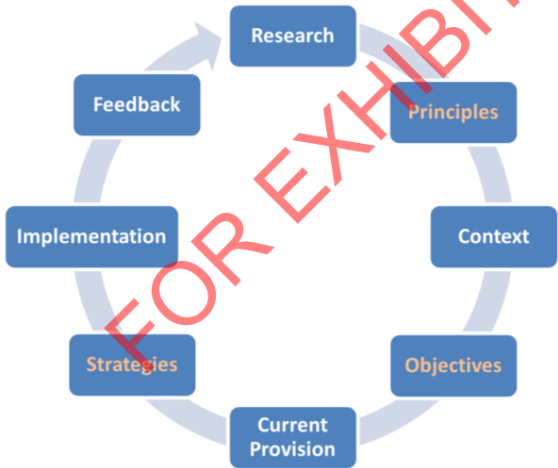
ORANGE PLAY STRATEGY 2024-2040

Management actions of the strategies are aimed at setting:

- A clear hierarchy for provision
- Future provision goals
- Improvements, through innovation, diversity, greater accessibility and better design
- Risk management procedures

Feedback for the continued implementation of the Strategy comes through the ongoing Community Strategic Planning process of assessing Community Satisfaction; through changes in maintenance costs and through the database of the Council Customer Request System. These systems should be used on a regular basis to assess the effectiveness of the Strategy and to adjust it as necessary. A review of the Strategy should be initiated every four years in line with the review of Integrated Strategic Planning process and Council documents.

Figure 1.4: Strategy Process



1.5 Strategy Risk Assessment

The risks associated with implementing or not implementing this Strategy have been assessed through Council's Enterprise Risk Management toolkit with the following achieving the Risk Level of 1 or 2, indicating that implementing the Strategy is of relatively high importance to Council.

Risk Category	Risk Description	Likelihood	Consequence	Initial Risk Level (1-5 rating)
Corporate Governance	Non-compliance with Department of Planning and Infrastructure open space guidelines; Disability Discrimination Act; Building Code of Australia; Kids Safe NSW Best Practice Guidelines; Australian Standards 4685 (Playground Equipment) and AS/NZS4486 (Playground and Playground Equipment - installation, inspection, maintenance etc.)	3 - Possible	2 - Major	1
Corporate Governance	Not delivering on Community Strategic Plan (2022-2032), namely key objectives of: providing community open spaces, social and healthy childhood development opportunities	2 - Likely	3 - Moderate	2
Service Delivery	Not providing opportunities for healthy childhood development within community, potentially resulting in poor children's health, anti-social behaviour, disenfranchised youth, and a less cohesive society	1 - Almost certain	2 - Major	1
Financial Man.	Cost of installation, repairs and maintenance in providing new playspaces - not being budgeted for	2 - Likely	3 - Moderate	2

ORANGE PLAY STRATEGY 2024-2040

Risk Category	Risk Description	Likelihood	Consequence	Initial Risk Level (1-5 rating)
Image & Rep	Negative media attention surrounding Council playspaces - notably inadequate provision, inadequate variety, vandalism	2 - Likely	3 - Moderate	2
Health & Safety	Acts of crime committed against children in playspaces (eg. assault)	4 - Unlikely	2 - Major	2

1.6 Implementing the Strategy

The strategies and their priorities will provide direction for the next ten years. The works recommended should be reflected in the Community Strategic Plan and its framework, with some elements being able to be addressed within existing budgets, recurrent expenditure and Section 7.11 funds.

Some works will however, require a commitment of capital funds and as such it is recommended that projects are submitted for funding each year based on priorities identified in the Strategy and that grant funding should also be sought to contribute to achieving projects. Collaboration with community groups and service clubs should be sought for the provision of new assets where possible.

1.7 Vision

The vision for the Orange Play Strategy, based on the Strategy focus, is:

‘To provide a Community focussed city-wide play network.’



Kerr Reserve Playspace, Orange City Council

PART 2 - Playspace Development

2.1 Play Context

What is Play?

Play is an intrinsic activity of recreational pleasure and enjoyment. It is generally associated with children but can equally be applied to adults.

Play England, in their Charter for Play, defines play as: 'what children and young people do when they follow their own ideas and interests, in their own way, and for their own reasons; it is: what children and young people do when they are not being told what to do by adults.' (2020)

The Importance of Play

It is well understood that play is essential to the cognitive, physical, social and emotional development and well-being of children. Play is the means by which a child understands the world and tests their position in it. More so, it has been understood for some time that 'play has an impact on the architectural foundations of development such as gene expression and physical and chemical development of the brain' and 'these foundations influence the child's ability to adapt to, survive, thrive in and shape their social and physical environments' (Play England, 2008), more recently, pediatricians have recognised that play "supports the formation of the safe, stable, and nurturing relationships with all caregivers that children need to thrive" and that pediatricians should write play prescriptions, showing "the importance of playful learning for the promotion of healthy child development" (Yogman, M et al, 2018).

The importance of play to optimal child development has been recognised by the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights in Article 31 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which states that 'play is a right of every child'.

The International Play Association states that play:

- Develops independence and self-esteem;
- Encourages social interaction and respect for others;
- Supports well-being and healthy growth and development;
- Increases knowledge and understanding; and,
- Promotes creativity and capacity to learn.

"It has never been more important to restate the importance of play. Fundamental, essential, vital – the words in this Declaration reflect IPA members' message to the world that play is an essential part of childhood. All children have a right to experience play which, in the words of the Declaration, is free, open, boundless, sometimes chaotic, sometimes transformative. Play is a right which all adults have a responsibility to uphold.

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The IPA Declaration highlights the growing evidence of the effects of lack of time and space for play and the serious and life-long effects on children's bodies and minds. IPA wishes to alert the wider community to this evidence and call for action to address this deprivation before the affects cause lifelong damage to more children." -Theresa Casey, President, IPA 2023

Playspaces

Playspaces are public spaces that encourage and facilitate play. A playspace can include a local park/ open space, or natural setting and may or may-not include play equipment. Playspaces include playgrounds, which refer specifically to spaces containing equipment designed to facilitate play. Use of the term "playspace" reinforces that play can occur both informally and formally, actively and passively and on both traditional equipment or on natural landscape elements.

Local government provides playspaces because the community values the benefits which come from play and recreation.

For the purpose of this Strategy a Playspace is a designated area that:

Is on public land that is owned or managed by Council

May include a variety of play features, such as play equipment, ball play areas and natural play elements.

Play Australia noted in their paper Play Area Development Policy for Local Government (July 2001) that "the role of the public playgrounds should be to offer experiences not otherwise available to children in their everyday situation." The different types of play behaviour and how children make use of a variety of spaces are important elements to understand in developing a Play Strategy. These principles continue to be recognised as more and more literature is developed by government and non-government organisations.

2.2 Providing Quality Playspaces

The Sport and Recreation Victoria Good Playspace Guide (2011) recommends three essential factors in developing successful public playspaces. These are:

Play value;

Accessibility and inclusion; and,

Safety.

Although this reference is over 10 years old, it is regarded as a well-founded, current, resource. Some of the most thorough publications of this type, continue to be actively cited and practically used today, and include:

Design for Play: a Guide to Creating Successful Play Spaces (Play England, 2008)

Elements of a Successful Playspace (Project for Public Spaces, 2008)

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The most recent Australian publication focussed on playspace design is the NSW Government "Everyone Can Play" guideline, which provides a set of best practice recommendations designed to encourage the creation of more inclusive playspaces.

The methodology of this strategy uses the information contained in all the above references.

Maximising Play Value

Play value is the extent to which a child's development is assisted in a playspace. To assess the level an individual playspace may assist in children's development we can look at the types of play the space offers and the range of children it offers these play opportunities to.

Play Categories

Play is varied and interlinked in its process and outcome with some researches nominating up to 16 specific types. For the purpose of this Strategy, four specific groupings of play will be used to encourage specific developmental outcomes.

Cognitive Play

Play including activities that challenge and develop the intellect of the child, including games of strategy, exploration, observation or that use and develop language. Also, play which includes sand play, water play, play in dirt, play with loose and found objects, play with art material, making music and cubby building and construction activities.

Provision to support this type of play includes:

- Labyrinths
- Sand equipment, diggers, sifters
- Water rills, creeks, reflecting pools
- Moveable equipment, natural areas with branches for moving and building
- Musical equipment, pipes for yelling down, echoing tunnels

Social and Emotional Play

Social Play enhances social development through learning and exploring with friends, such as role-play, imaginative play, small and large group activities, togetherness and talking, and traditional games.

Playing and interacting with other children, as well as some adults, provides opportunities for friendships, social interactions, conflicts and resolutions.

Provision to support this type of play includes:

- Theme equipment
- Equipment requiring sharing, taking turns or working together
- Games with rules such as hopscotch, ball games
- Cubby building

Physical Play

Play which develops skills of movement, including the control of small muscle groups (hands and fingers), large muscle groups (legs and torso) and the ability to relate to space. These activities include running, hanging, climbing, experiencing height, agility/ gymnastic activities, sliding, jumping, balancing, swinging, crawling, bouncing, spinning, rocking, ball games, skipping, pushing/pulling etc. Adequate space is required in a suitable environment where other users will not be disturbed.

Provision to support this type of play includes:

- Climbing nets or walls
- Balance beams, slides, swings
- Tunnels
- Kick-about areas

Communicative Play

Play which assists in a child's ability to use and understand language. This includes the ability to use correct terminology as well as developing skills in self-expression (thoughts, feelings, ideas, frustration).

Provision to support this type of play includes:

- Theme equipment
- Moveable and multi-use equipment
- Equipment requiring sharing, taking turns or working together
- Specific language equipment with letters, words or pictures

Age Specific Play

Toddlers (0 to 3 years)

Playspaces can cater for this age group by focussing on the development of balance, creativity and social role play, with very simple settings for:

- Crawling and walking in well maintained grass
- Running up and rolling down gentle slopes
- Swinging in very low baby swings
- Climbing up and down very low level changes
- Rocking with an adult on a gentle rocker
- Play in a small sand pit
- Hiding between very low shrubs

Junior Children (3 to 6 years)

Playspaces should provide opportunities for young children to extend their physical development through practicing and honing skills in:

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- Climbing
- Running
- Agility skills
- Skipping and ball play

It should also provide settings for dramatic play where children can play in small groups with sand and water, and build cubbies.

Older Children (6 to 12 years)

Playspaces for older children should continue the graduated challenge offered by equipment. These children are likely to use equipment for activities such as:

- Fine tuning gymnastic skills, such as on agility items, turnover bars and chin up bars
- Swinging in pairs

Extending physical challenge, such as hanging from one hand only, jumping further and from higher levels, somersaulting from platforms and climbing onto roofs and other high points, and riding bikes down accessible slopes. [Note: this behaviour will test equipment to its limit, and may not be what the equipment was designed for but is foreseeable and must be anticipated.]

Older children also need spaces for:

- Ball games including grass area and hard court area
- Riding bicycles and skateboards
- Hiding and running
- Traditional small group games, such as marbles and hopscotch

Youth (12 years and older)

Playspaces are likely to be used for activities such as:

- Demonstrating skill (eg. Parkour, skate tricks)
- Competing (boys in particular)
- ‘Hanging out’ away from parents
- Play when not observed (girls in particular)

Colour should be used to a minimum in these spaces. High levels of graffiti in play equipment for younger users may indicate the need to provide youth equipment as they are bored and need a positive outlet. Co-locating these facilities with other facilities such as basketball courts and skate parks increases the likelihood of high use and better surveillance.

Equipment that combines computer gaming technology with traditional equipment may draw children and youth out of their houses and back into parks for physical activity. For the less athletic among our youth this type of equipment may provide the exercise outlet not currently available in competitive team sport, without the perceived risk factors of skate parks.

The Elderly

Adult-sized equipment for exercise or for fine motor skills in a non-confronting setting has not been considered as part of this Strategy but is an area of play provision receiving greater attention due to the aging population and the value seen in co-locating resources and young/elderly interaction.

In many cases the equipment that is useful for the aged in retaining motor skill is equally useful for children and for those in society with disabilities.

Accessibility and Inclusion

Quality playspaces are accessible and inclusive; where children of all ages and abilities are equally valued and have the same opportunities for participation. The application of principles of universal design and of Australian standards for accessibility will ensure equitable delivery at site specific applications, while planning for distribution of provision on a City-wide basis ensures fair delivery of the resource.

Application of the principles of accessibility, inclusion, participation, equity and dignity include:

Provision of playspaces throughout the LGA, in all communities;

Accessible paths of travel to playspaces;

Inclusion of amenity items, such as tables in the shade, that are accessible;

Welcoming signage including all potential users;

Inclusion of accessible play elements; and,

Accessible toilets wherever toilets are provided.

Everyone Can Play

The NSW Government published guidelines to assist in the creation of more inclusive playspaces. The inclusive playspace is promoted as a place where the community can come together and where everyone can feel welcome. Therefore, these playspaces include a high level of amenity for all abilities and need to ensure that play amenity is supported by the provision of carer amenity, such as seats, bbqs, toilets, adult change tables, fencing and shade.

When developing a play amenity network for a regional city such as Orange, it is important to remember to provide a range of play experiences throughout the city, and to consider how each space is likely to be accessed by those with highest needs. Therefore, an all abilities playspace should be a destination playspace of either District or Regional level, providing adequate car parking, path networks and other amenity.

In addition, the removal of access impediments in playspaces in general can be transformative for wheelchair users. If budget allows for an accessible soft-fall option to an accessible swing, then that amenity should be provided. Similarly, always choosing picnic tables with wheelchair accessible ends or BBQ facilities with roll-under sides are simple changes that provide positive impact.

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Carer Needs

The provision of amenity for carers is seen to be a critical factor in increasing the duration of visits to playspaces, and the positive interaction between carers and children. Toilets, seating, picnic tables, bubblers and adequate shade all make the experience of a park more comfortable and enjoyable.

Recent play designers have recognised the importance of providing seating elements within playspaces for adults accompanying children, particularly toddlers and junior children. This is particularly important for grandparents supervising children and can provide a means for positive social interaction between all user groups.

A need for fenced play equipment has been highlighted by the Children's Services section of Council, due to the dominance of parks in close proximity to creek-lines in Orange and regulations for paid carers. Parks should be assessed for their potential use by childcare organisations and the benefit that may be gained by installing fencing. It must be noted however, that by their design, child-proof fencing precludes use of that play equipment by children without a carer present (they can't get in). For this reason, only parts of playspaces should be fenced and these should only be in district or regional level parks to ensure equity of access to all.

Safety

The prevention of serious injury is an important consideration in the provision of playspaces, however a balance needs to be achieved between safety and children's needs for play. Extensive research exists for the benefits to children of play environments which provide risk and challenge and that 'risk free' playspaces diminish learning and development opportunities.

Children need to be able to take calculated and graduated risks at play so that they can learn about their strengths, abilities and limitations; as well as learning about how to assess risk, problem solve, communicate, collaborate and get on with others.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents states that "safety and risk education in childhood both assists in keeping a child safe while they are growing up and also helps to prepare for adulthood through equipping them with important life-skills". They promote the idea that design should aim for "as safe as necessary, not as safe as possible" as it is important to be risk aware, not risk averse and this starts with children.

Australian research about the importance of risk-taking in play concluded that "... while safety issues need to be addressed; avoiding all risk is not the solution, as doing so limits children's participation in worthwhile experiences that promote their optimal health and development. On the contrary, failure to provide children with stimulating and challenging experiences through which they can engage in positive risk-taking exposes them to different risks that compromise their health and development. The ultimate aim for parents, teachers and other play providers should be to provide outdoor play environments where the risks of serious injury are reduced, but creativity, challenge and excitement are maintained." (Little & Wyver, 2008)

Hazards in playspaces are those elements with potential for harm and therefore they need to be eliminated altogether. Hazards include sharp objects, faulty equipment and

inadequate soft-fall. Most hazards are well known and easy to prevent; compliance with current Australian Standards for example makes it less likely that children will be exposed to these kinds of dangers.

Unintended access to hazards occurs when, by providing challenge for some children, providers of play equipment open an opportunity for less able users to be exposed to a hazard, such as fall heights or openings. Designers should assess these risks and address them where possible but they should not be used as an excuse to avoid providing challenges in a playspace.

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) includes a range of initiatives employed in the design and management of a space to minimise the potential for a site to support criminal behaviour. These include clear sight lines, passive surveillance, lighting etc. Maximising use of parks surrounding playspaces through greater provision of amenity and co-locating facilities for amenity sharing ensures surveillance of those playspaces is maximised and opportunities for criminal behaviour limited.

2.3 Healthy Neighbourhoods

City Planning

Extensive research has been conducted into disease control and the promotion of better health through improved planning and design of our cities. This research shows that significant health benefits are realised when:

- The built environment supports physical activity (walking and cycling paths, open space for recreation, quality public transport, streets designed to encourage people to walk);
- The built environment connects and strengthens communities (safe and attractive streets and public spaces, residential development that encourages a sense of community); and,
- The built environment provides equitable access to healthy food (reducing exposure to fast-foods in the vicinity of schools, retaining peri-urban agricultural lands as a source of healthy food, encouraging farmer's markets and community gardens).

Research also shows that habits that affect an individual's health are learnt throughout childhood and influence decisions for the rest of their life. Therefore, provision of a city that encourages children and families to actively use their neighbourhood or to choose alternative modes of transport, will have health benefits for our community for years to come.

Children's Independent Mobility and Implications for Park Provision

Increasing levels of supervision of children in recent years has led to a significant body of research into the needs of children for freedom to explore their neighbourhoods without parental supervision.

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Increased levels of supervision are of concern due to the inhibiting effect it has on children psychologically and because of its potential links to sedentary behaviour and increased time watching TV or playing on computers (screen time). Increased sedentary behaviour has direct links to obesity, vitamin D deficiency, poor motor and muscle development and a decrease in social ability.

Play England, in their Charter for Children's Play, state that "Children should be able to play freely in their local areas. Children have the same right to use and enjoy public space as others. Local streets, estates, green spaces, parks and town centres should be accessible for children and young people to move around in safety and offer places where they can play freely, experience nature, explore their environment and be with their friends".

Play England also highlights the over-programming of children's time does not equate to play for play's sake; "the opportunities for children and young people to play outside and become familiar with their locality are narrowed by restrictions to their mobility, a heavy promotion of adult agendas that focus on play for particular purposes, prohibitions and constraints on the use of space..." (2008).

The Deakin University Centre for Physical Activity and Nutrition Research's paper on children's independent mobility shows that in addition to the developmental benefits of independent mobility, freedom of movement unaccompanied by an adult is "significantly associated with physical activity among children" (Carver et al, 2007).

Connectivity, through linear open space, pedestrian friendly streets, adequate bicycle paths and safe streets for riding, along with the provision of small parks throughout the LGA designed to be accessible are all means by which our neighbourhoods can be safer and more beneficial to our children. Parents are also more inclined to allow children independent mobility in areas with low traffic speeds; speed humps and pedestrian crossings have been demonstrated to increase children's independent mobility, particularly for girls (who tend to have less independent mobility than boys).

Free Play

The over-programming of children's time by well-meaning parents has been highlighted as contributing to children's inability to handle risk and with development of anxiety when presented with free time. The provision of a quality built environment that fosters community and a sense of safety is an important positive contributor to parental sense of ease in allowing their children to programme their own free time. Free play is the type of play that children engage in when they are left to their own decisions and is a vital component of healthy development.

Effects of Non-provision

The term Nature Deficit Disorder was coined by Richard Louv in his 2005 book Last Child in the Woods to describe a range of behavioural problems he attributed to spending less time outdoors. A rise in childhood obesity levels is used as additional evidence for the problem.

Local hierarchy parks are integral to ensuring children have a reason to get outside away from the TV and computer games.

Children are the group to whom the provision of local open space is most important because of their inherent inability to travel independently. They are also the group with least ability to impact on their surrounding environment and must trust adults to care for their needs when making provision decisions. Unfortunately, however, most adults do not appreciate the same values in open space as do children.

Limiting play provision to only district or regional level parks effectively restricts children's options for when they can play and whom they can play with. Worse than this however, is that it restricts who can play to only those who can be taken to a playspace.

In a society that prides itself on caring for all members of society and in providing an environment where children can develop to their full potential, the provision of playspaces at all hierarchies of park is extremely important.

2.4 Opportunities for Youth

The recreational needs of youth are often left unmet as they appear more difficult to discern. The results can be disenfranchisement and boredom, which can lead to antisocial behaviour.

"Young people resent being seen as a problem and often consider themselves as the victims. They complain about a lack of facilities and often wish to be involved in finding solutions to the problems. 'Hanging out' is part of the natural process of growing up, an intermediate stage between the comfort and protection of a child's home environment and the complete independence of adult life. If we do not cater for this need by offering (in consultation with young people) suitable locations and structures, then young people will continue to use places not intended for this purpose. This may then result in confrontations and complaints. ...in cases where young people have been asked, their requirements are often surprisingly modest – just somewhere dry where they can meet their friends."

Hampshire, R. and Wilkinson, M., Youth Shelters and Sports Systems – A Good Practice Guide 2nd Ed., Thames Valley Police 2002

Youth are keen to not be seen as children, however they still seek to be outside with their friends away from adults. To ensure amenity provision for youth that caters to their needs while not being child-like, it is important to provide some spaces designed specifically for them. There are a few key elements that should be considered in the provision of youth spaces:

- Keep colour to a minimum
- Use robust equipment designed for larger, stronger bodies
- Provide hang-out space
- Provide quick to get-off elements for girls that want to play but don't want to be seen playing

Providing Parkour equipment throughout the LGA and areas for teenage girls to "perch and watch" would assist in diversifying the age group provision of playspaces.

PART 3 - Planning for Play

3.1 Planning Process

Play spaces which vary in size, play value and accessibility serve different types of users, all with different needs. Users do not expect each playspace to provide the same experiences everywhere and enjoy discovering new things in difference locations. Providing a diverse network of playspaces throughout the LGA is Council's most effective means of ensuring equity and access for all.

The delivery of this network of playspaces requires a clear, systematic planning process, based on a good understanding of the community and the open space network.

The Community Strategic Plan and any community surveys provide a useful guide to the direction of a Strategy such as this; and, the NSW Department of Planning and Environment provides guidelines in assisting in the planning of open space as does the NSW Government Architect. These elements combine to form the basis of the playspace planning process.

The community is integral in the implementation of playspaces at each site and should be engaged wherever possible in the process to ensure appropriate design and therefore maximum use and 'ownership'.

Park Types and Hierarchy

The Government Architect New South Wales has produced a guidance document for quality planning of open space. For Local Government managers, each parcel must also be classified according to their functions. Each parcel of land (or part of parcel of land) in Council's Asset Register should be allocated to one of the open space types, which are listed in Table 3.1 below.

Table 3.1: Types of open space (Local Government Act 1993)

Type of Open Space	Description	Commonly used alternative terms
Parks	Reserves which have had their physical character and/or vegetation modified to support community recreation, community development and wellbeing uses. Includes ornamental gardens, play facilities, community gardens and informal lawns.	Passive open space
Outdoor sports areas	Venues designed to support team sports training and competition.	Active open space

Type of Open Space	Description	Commonly used alternative terms
Urban public space	Street and road reserves, lanes and town plazas and squares which accommodate walking, cycling, social gatherings or outdoor dining.	The public domain
Conservation and heritage	Reserves created to protect and enhance natural and cultural resources.	Bushland or environmental conservation as defined by the Growth Centres Development Code
Landscape and amenity	Reserves created for their attractiveness and to add to or protect the character of an area. Includes reserves adjoining residential and industrial areas, ridge lines, river flats and sections of road reserves.	
Linear and linkage	Small pathways linking residential streets in urban areas to municipal and regional trails using former rail and water race reserves and dedicated land. Includes creek and river reserves and floodways.	May be described as 'green corridors' or 'greenways'.
Utilities and services	Land reserved for urban and rural infrastructure and support services.	
Undeveloped	Land acquired or zoned for open space purposes to protect its assets, or to meet assessed community needs once development of an area proceeds.	
Proposed	Land proposed to be zoned or acquired for open space purposes to protect assets or to meet assessed community needs once development of an area proceeds.	

Each parcel of land can then be planned for according to the different sized catchments which their facilities serve, the guidelines define these as:

Regional – serves whole cities or metropolitan subregions, or multiple towns and settlements in non-metropolitan regions. Because of the extent of the catchment regional open space often requires State agency management.

District – serves a number of neighbourhoods and may have a catchment

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extending beyond the LGA that hosts it.

Local – serves one neighbourhood and is located close to or within residential areas.

In the context of playspace provision the following are guidelines for the elements that should be including with each hierarchy of playspace.

Regional Playspaces

In the last Play Strategy Council had 6 (2 at Lake Canobolas) playspaces designated as regional, however five have since been redesignated to better reflect the level of play amenity provided. There are a number of Regional level parks that have a playspace within them but the playspace does not provide regional level play amenity, and a higher level of provision isn't appropriate. An example of this is Cook Park, which provides swings only.

Of the 39 playspaces managed by Council, 1 is designated as Regional; the Orange Adventure Playground, it has been designated as the Regional Playspace for the LGA. This focus ensures adequate funding is directed toward the play space and there is clarity of service provision.

Regional playspaces often attract people from all over the LGA as well as from outside the LGA. Regional open spaces are often destination venues where visitors spend prolonged periods, perhaps even all day. Consequently, playspaces located in regional open spaces are often expected to retain children's interest for the longest periods.

The Government Architect NSW standards for regional parks are that they are 5+ha in size and are within 5-10km of most dwellings.

Service level provision for Orange City Council Regional Parks:

- Visitor and caregiver amenities
- Car parking
- Toilets
- Shelter/shade for caregivers and over play equipment
- Picnic tables and seats (multiple sets)
- BBQ's (multiple)
- Drinking water
- Security lighting

Formal play areas (based on type of Regional Park)

- Play amenity for toddlers (0-3 years)
- Play amenity for junior children (3-6 years)
- Play amenity for older children (6-12 years)
- Play amenity for youth (12 years and older)
- Consideration to all categories of play

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Regional Level Playspace, Orange Adventure Playground, Orange City Council

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- Seating adjacent toddler and junior equipment for carer/child support
- Informal play areas
 - Kick about areas (with goal posts where appropriate) - at least the size of half a soccer pitch ie.2500 m2 to allow multiple informal ball games or end to end kicking
 - Skate and cycling areas
 - Natural landscape features such as creeks and mounds to be retained and enhanced
- Accessibility
 - Access for people with disabilities to park amenities
 - Access for people with disabilities to accessible play amenity
- Service Level
 - Weekly routine visual inspection
 - Monthly operational inspection
 - Annual comprehensive inspection
- District Playspaces

Of Council's 39 playspaces five are designated as district level; two of which are located at Lake Canobolas and one at Gosling Creek, so these 3 are destination parks, outside of the residential areas of the City; the final 2 (Elephant Park and Glenroi Oval), cover the majority of the southern residential areas of Orange.

District parks are large pieces of open space used by people from across the LGA and are accessible by motor vehicle, public transport or bicycle. The Government Architect NSW standards for district parks are that they are 2-5ha in size and are within 2km of most dwellings.

District parks often include sporting field complexes and, with their associated facilities, the co-location of a playspace within the park is a logical addition to increase amenity and extend use. Due to their size and amenity provision district level parks cater for larger numbers of visitors.

In general, people spend longer periods of time in district level open spaces than they do in local open spaces. As a consequence, the playgrounds within them often have to retain children's interests for longer periods of time and should be designed to cater to a wider variety of needs.

Service level provision for Orange City Council District Parks:

Visitor and caregiver amenities
 - Car parking to cater for normal demand or adequate on-street parking
 - Toilets
 - Shelter/shade for caregivers and over play equipment
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District Level Playspace, Elephant Park, Orange City Council

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- Picnic tables and seats
- BBQ's
- Drinking water
- Security lighting where appropriate
- Formal play areas
 - Play amenity for at least three age groups
 - Seating adjacent toddler and junior equipment (where provided) for carer/child support
- Informal play areas
 - Kick about area (at least 1500m2 to allow one informal ball game or end to end kicking)
 - Cycling areas
 - Natural landscape features such as creeks and mounds to be retained and enhanced
- Accessibility
 - Access for people with disabilities to park amenities
 - Access for people with disabilities to accessible play amenity
- Service Level
 - Weekly routine visual inspection
 - Monthly operational inspection
 - Annual comprehensive inspection
- Local Playspaces

Of the Council's 39 playspaces 33 are designated as local. The Government Architect NSW standards for local parks state that they are 0.5-2ha in size and are within 400m of most dwellings.

It is important that local playgrounds are accessible by pedestrians and those on bicycles as these are often a child's first options for expressing their 'independent mobility'. Major roads, railway lines, creeks without crossings and natural boundaries should be recognised as potential restrictions to pedestrian access.

In general, people spend relatively short periods of time in local open spaces therefore the playgrounds located within them do not have to retain children's interests for long periods. These playspaces may only cater for one age group with the 'older children' (6-12 years) group key as these children may be beginning to explore their 'independent mobility' options.
- Visitor and caregiver amenities
 - Shelter/shade for caregivers and over play equipment

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Local Level Playspace, Sullivan Reserve, Orange City Council



Local Level Playspace, Brooklands Playspace, Orange City Council

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- Seating in shade overlooking play equipment
- Formal play areas
 - Play amenity for at least one age group
- Informal play areas
 - Kick about area (at least 200m2 to allow ball games for young children)
 - Natural landscape features such as creeks and mounds to be retained and enhanced
- Accessibility
 - Access for people with disabilities to accessible play amenity when possible
- Service Level
 - Monthly routine visual inspection
 - Three-monthly operational inspection
 - Annual comprehensive inspection

3.2 Design Considerations

An LGA such as Orange will benefit considerable from the development of a network of playspaces designed as quality individual spaces that combine with the whole to create a well-integrated resource that caters for all.

This Strategy sets a staged development schedule for playspaces throughout the LGA to ‘fill in the gaps’ of provision both in terms of location and types of spaces offered. It makes suggestions for the age groups to be provided for at key sites, based on the greatest need expected in that area, and to compliment the whole.

Themes are an important element in playspace provision, especially when catering to toddlers and junior children as they role play and stretch their imagination. The opportunity to design a theme into a playspace for these age groups should be considered from the outset; often this can be the binding element that can take a space from being just a few pieces of equipment to a special space loved by the community.

This Strategy also recommends the establishment of a suite of signage that links all playspaces throughout the LGA, to better inform carers of the location of other spaces and what they offer. The use of digital media should be used to optimise the effectiveness of the signage network and mapping that has been developed as part of the Strategy.

Site Specific Design Guidelines

A playspace should be designed from the ground up; ensuring that accessibility and maintenance issues are avoided through rigorous planning. In this regard, it is often wise to engage the services of a professional for the design, documentation and

construction of the space. A landscape architect will be able to ‘think outside the box’ when planning each space and should assist in cost reduction through clever design.

Some playspace design guidelines recommend a ‘playspace development model’, which prescribes the need in each playspace for the following elements:

- Active Play
- Open Space
- Creative/Explorative Spaces
- Special Features
- Adult Supervision

This is a good check-list to refer to in the design process.

The inclusion of planting throughout a playspace has been shown to be beneficial to children’s play experiences; the aesthetic appearance of a space can be lifted and the longevity and capacity of wood chip soft-fall can also be increased. Soft native grasses have been extensively tested for their use in playspaces and the benefits far out-weigh any increased cost in establishment or maintenance. The elimination of raised timber edges in favour of a planted edge can aid in the accessibility of a space and the sense that the playspace extends throughout the park; it also eliminates a potential trip-hazard.

Retrofitting exiting spaces for accessibility can also be achieved through the elimination of some raised timber edges and the establishment of poured rubber paths through the playspace.

Shade provision should be planned in the design of a playspace and appropriate tree species used to establish shade as quickly as possible.

Community Participation

Community participation during the planning and design of a playspace is essential for understanding the specific needs of the local community and in establishing community ownership of the space. If key groups are engaged and brought on-side early in the process they can be a key conduit in positive information flows and community pride, effecting future vandalism and anti-social behaviour. Establishing a link with the community also increases the likelihood of early reporting of issues in a space; minimising the need for scheduled inspections and assisting in risk management.

The level of community consultation should be based on the hierarchy of the space with the following as a recommendation:

- Local Playspace**
 - Community Workshop
 - Community Planting Day
- District Playspace**
 - Community Workshop

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- Presentation of Draft Plan to community for comment
- Opening Ceremony and Fun Day
- Regional Playspace**
- Community Workshop
- Presentation of Draft Plan to community for comment at a workshop
- Presentation of Final Plan
- Opening Ceremony and Fun Day

3.3 Playspace Operation

Risk Management

Councils are required to conduct routine, operational and comprehensive inspections on a regular basis and these are a useful tool for identifying issues before they become a problem. Routine inspections are currently conducted on a weekly basis for all playspaces, irrespective of hierarchy; operational reporting is currently conducted on a monthly basis and comprehensive inspections have been conducted on a roughly biannual basis by an external consultant. All inspections are conducted by accredited inspectors so that they understand the intricacies of applying the safety standard.

Current inspection procedures:

Routine inspections are visual only with no record produced; obviously breakages, litter and safety concerns are the focus.

Operational inspections result in a paper record for each playspace which are saved as part of the asset management process. Items of concern are noted and acted upon.

Comprehensive inspections have most recently been conducted by Kico Playground Inspectors, resulting in a comprehensive report for maintenance priorities and cost implications.

A method for feeding inspection reporting into Council's Asset and Risk Management systems so that risks are highlighted would assist staff and management in resourcing repair and rectification work, minimise double-handling of data input and reduce the opportunity for error.

Conducting weekly inspections on all local playspaces may be considered 'over servicing'. More commonly, a frequency of inspection is applied based on the hierarchy of the playspace, as these hierarchies are a good indicator of frequency of use and therefore wear and tear. Signage at each playspace asking users to call Council's customer request system to report issues that require attention may be found to achieve the same outcome as weekly visits.

Development of a Playspace Management Policy and Procedures for the actions contained within that Policy will be priority internal developments to formalise Council's

risk management with regard to playspaces.

AS/NZS4486, discussed in the next section, provides guidelines for a safety management system, including the frequency of inspections, maintenance timetables, inspection checklists and policy guidelines.

Legislation and Safety Standards

Playspace provision is governed in Australia by a number of legislative requirements, codes and practices, including:

- Disability Discrimination Act 1992
- Building Code of Australia (BCA)
- Duty of Care and Due Diligence
- Best Practice

A range of Australian Standards (AS) also relate directly or indirectly to the provision and management of playspaces. It is important to note that Australian Standards are not mandatory, but are legally recognised as the minimum acceptable standard required in a particular subject. Therefore a person or organisation that does not meet the relevant standards is more likely to be found liable if a claim is made. Where ambiguities arise it is always important to ensure due diligence is applied, ensuring adequate duty of care has been used.

Currently the most relevant Australian Standards include:

Standard	Application
AS1428	Design for Access and Mobility
AS/NZS4360	Risk Management
AS ISO 31000	Risk Management
AS4685.1	Playground Equipment – General safety requirements and test methods
AS4685.2	Playground Equipment – Particular safety requirements and test methods for swings
AS4685.3	Playground Equipment – Particular safety requirements and test methods for slides
AS4685.4	Playground Equipment – Particular safety requirements and test methods for cableways
AS4685.5	Playground Equipment – Particular safety requirements and test methods for carousels
AS4685.6	Playground Equipment – Particular safety requirements and test methods for rocking equipment
AS4685.11	Playground Equipment – Particular safety requirements and test methods for spatial networks
AS2555	Supervised Adventure Playgrounds - Guide to Establishment & Administration

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Standard	Application
AS4685.0	Playgrounds & Playground Equipment - Development, Installation, Inspection, Maintenance & Operation
AS4422	Playground Surfacing - Specifications, Requirements & Test Methods

AS4685.0 – Playgrounds and Playground Equipment: Development, Installation, Inspection, Maintenance and Operation is particularly relevant for council in relation to the long-term operational management of playspaces.

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Local Level Playspace, Wiare Reserve, Orange City Council

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PART 4 - Play Provision in the Orange LGA

4.1 Current Provision - Quantity

Spatial Analysis

There are two methods commonly used to assess the adequacy of provision of playspaces within an LGA. The first assesses the spatial supply, based on catchment criteria for each hierarchy of park. The second is rate of supply per population.

A combination of these assessment tools, including a comparison with similar LGAs provides some guide as to the adequacy of provision, but should be tempered with an understanding of the intricacies of each LGA, which may affect both the figures, and desired outcomes.

The maps on the following pages show the current supply of playspaces at Local, District and Regional level, throughout the Orange LGA, indicating the corresponding catchment size for each hierarchy indicated. A good level of coverage would see 95% of the urban residential population covered by each hierarchy of catchment.

Although the catchment for regional playspaces misses the south of Orange, in principle the provision of the Orange Adventure Playground, with its high level of amenity provision, is adequate for a city of this size. This is a playspace that is most likely accessed by children being driven there.

It is evident from the mapping however, that the supply of both district level and local level playspaces does not reach the recommended coverage, despite the great improvements made by Council in the last ten years. The problematic aspect of the type of urban sprawl that Orange accepts on its outer fringes makes playspace provision more difficult.

It is the local and district playspaces that are most important in providing children with the many benefits of playspaces discussed earlier in this report. A regular distribution throughout the residential areas of the LGA ensure equity of access for all, particularly children who do not have the opportunity to be taken to a park by a carer.

It should also be noted that where playspace catchment is impacted upon by roads, railway lines and other elements that block access by children, then additional supply is required to fulfil the need, particularly with local and district level parks as these are key in creating a walkable, equitable city. Major infrastructure causing these types of barriers to access in Orange are the Northern Distributor Road, Southern Feeder Road and the rail-lines running north-south and east-west.

Figures 4.1.4 and 4.1.5 show the evaluation of coverage of play spaces as a proportion of urban residential area. The 400m radius is an accepted simple standard used for assessment of open space adequacy; Orange achieves 49% coverage using this method. The 750m radius is quoted in the Orange Community Strategic Plan, however has no recognised planning basis; Orange achieves 95% coverage using this method. The implication of using the much larger distance is the expectation that children walk considerably further to reach a playspace.

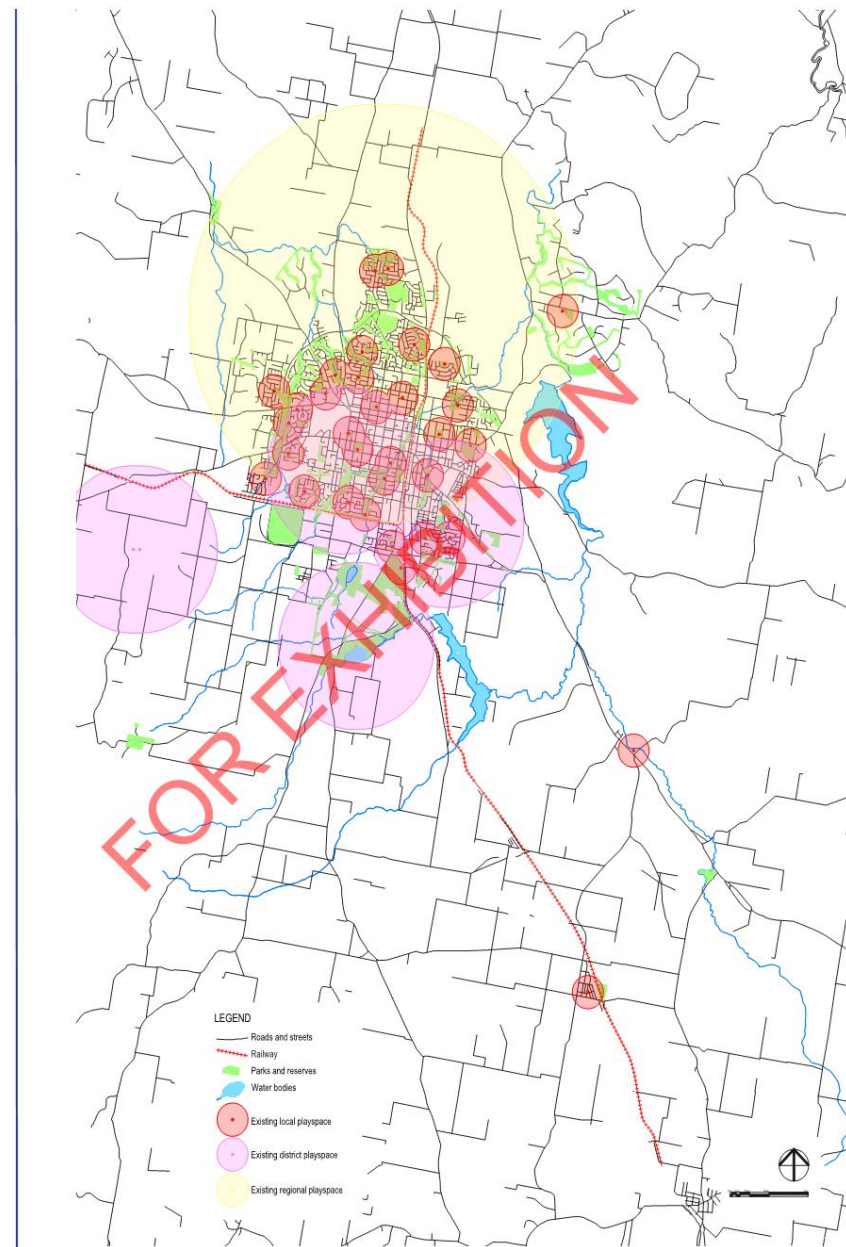


Figure 4.1.1 Playspaces throughout the Orange City Council LGA, shown with their respective catchment size

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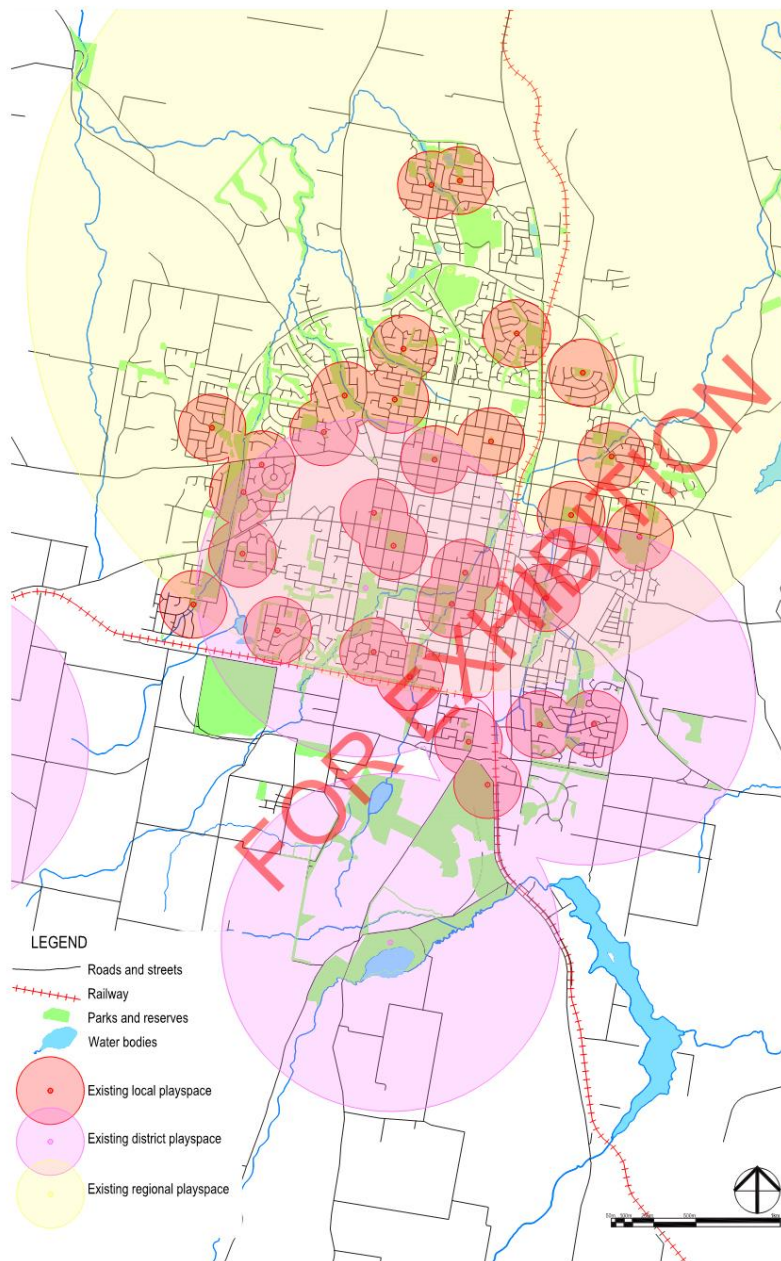


Figure 4.1.2 Playspaces within the urban area of Orange, shown with their respective catchment size

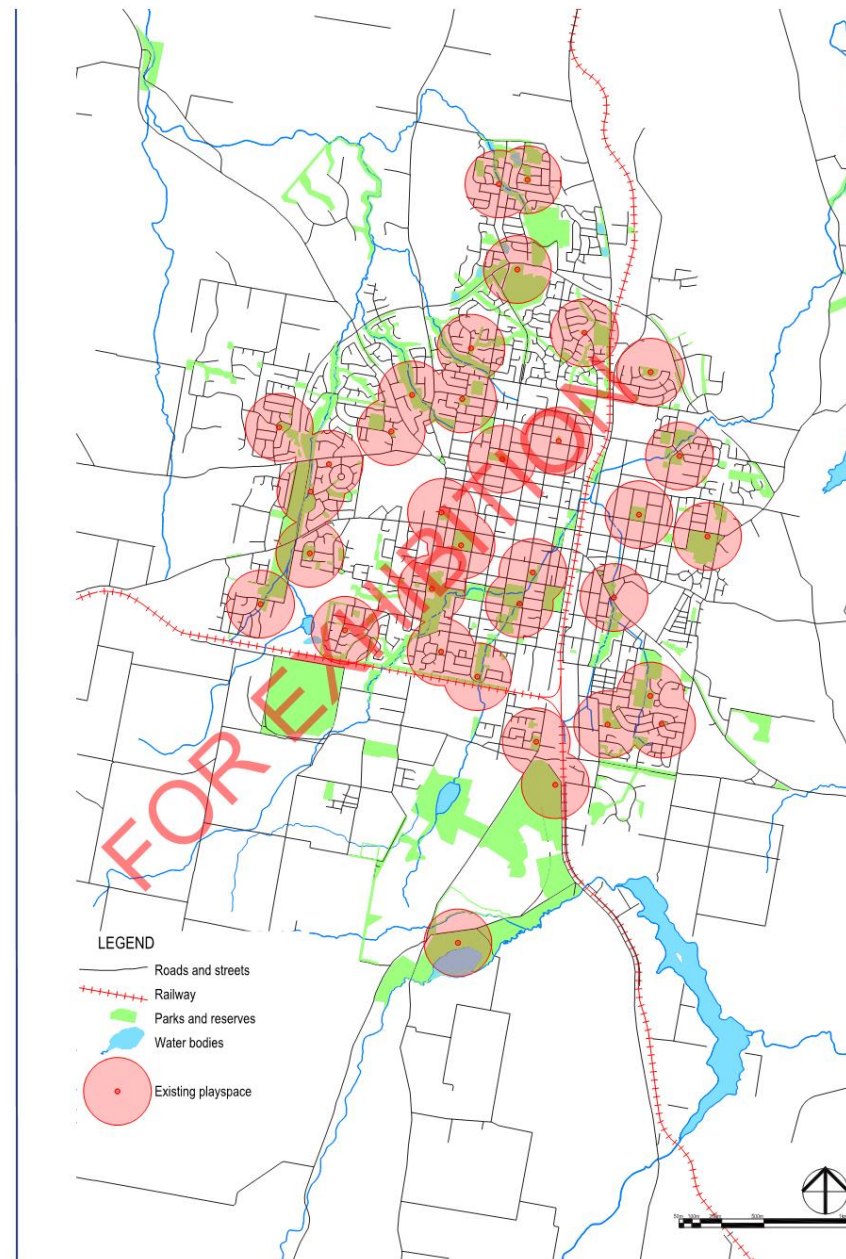


Figure 4.1.3 Playspaces within the urban area of Orange, shown with a Local Level playspace catchment size

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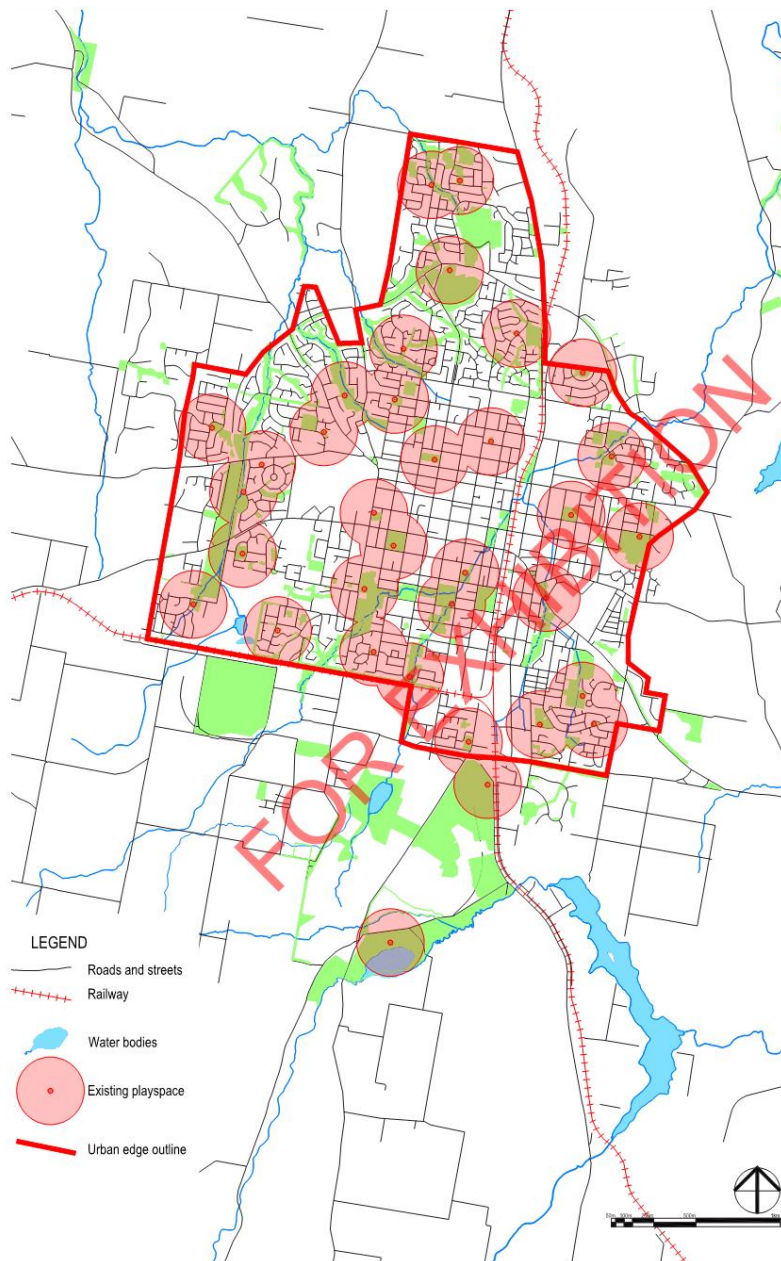


Figure 4.1.4 Playspaces within the urban area of Orange, shown with a 400m catchment, 49% coverage

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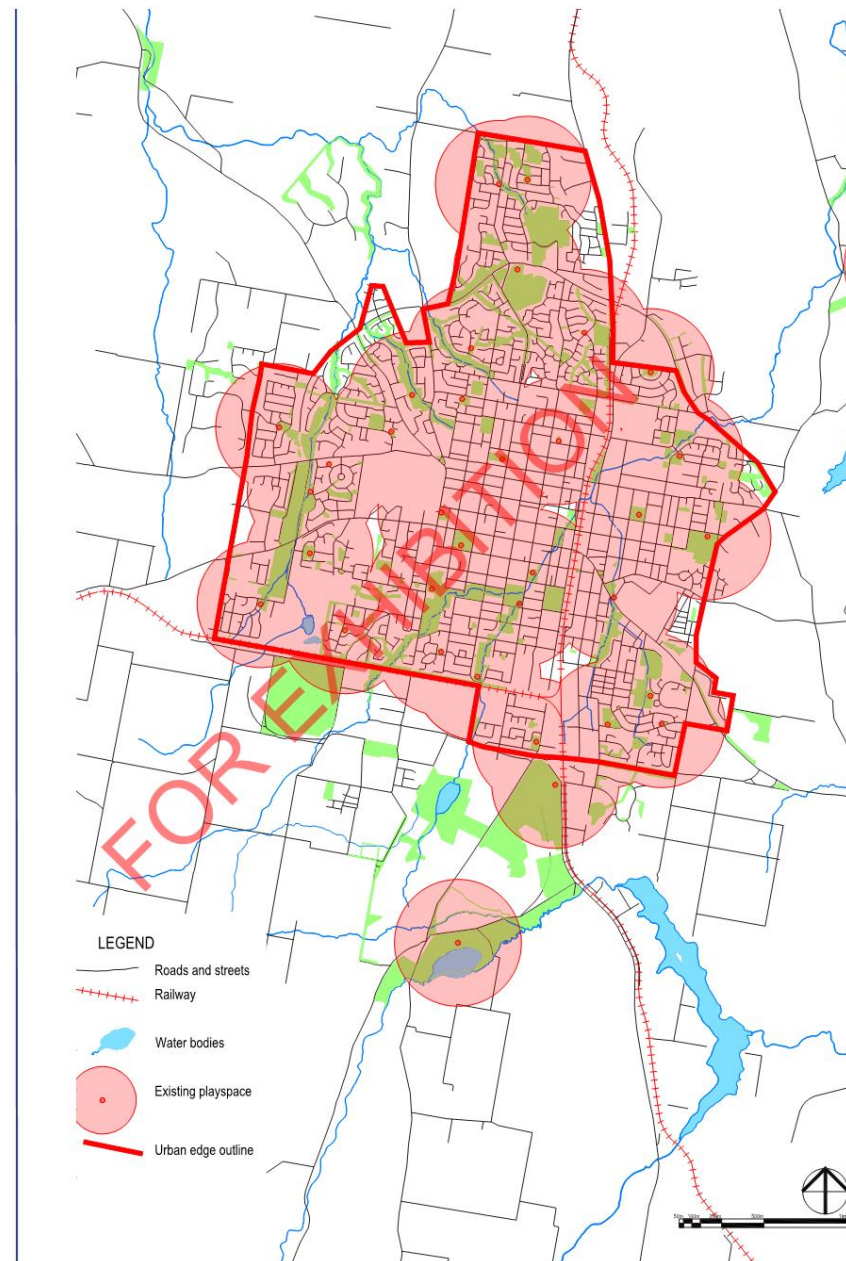


Figure 4.1.5 Playspaces within the urban area of Orange, shown with a 750m catchment, 95% coverage

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Rate of Supply

When assessing the rate of supply per population, Orange City Council currently provides and maintains 37 playspaces (within the urban area plus 2 at Lake Canobolas) which, when measured against the 2021 population of 43,512 results in a rate of provision of 1 playspace for 1,176 people.

Rate of supply is a less reliable method of assessment as it varies markedly between LGAs; every LGA is different however and one community may have different aspirations than another. A comparison with similar cities can provide a guide to measure against.

The following table provides a comparison of the rates of playspace provision between Orange and other LGAs in regional NSW. A review of the figures shows that Orange provides playspaces at an average level of the other LGAs.

	Pop.	No. of Children (under 15 yrs)	Approx. Urban Area	Play-spaces	Rate Per Pop.	Rate Per Children	Rate Per Area
Albury	56,093 (2021)	10,571	63km2	90	1 per 623 people	1 per 117 children	1 per 0.5km2
Bathurst	43,567 (2021)	8,169	32km2	30	1 per 1,452 people	1 per 272 children	1 per 1km2
Dubbo	54,922 (2021)	11,512	26km2	23	1 per 2,388 people	1 per 501 children	1 per 1km2
Lithgow	20,842 (2021)	3,417	26km2	41	1 per 508 people	1 per 83 children	1 per 0.6km2
Orange	43,512 (2021)	9,384	29km2	37*	1 per 1,176 people	1 per 254 children	1 per 0.78km2
Tamworth	63,070 (2021)	12,704	28km2	49	1 per 1,287 people	1 per 259 children	1 per 0.6km2
Average (not incl. Orange)					1,252	246	1 per 0.74km2

Table 4.1: Rates of Provision of Playspaces; Regional City Comparison

*Orange provides 39 playspaces total with 2 provided outside of the LGA (at Lake Canobolas).

The Hornsby Shire Play Plan quotes an average rate of supply across Australia as 1:1,000 (however their source cannot be verified).

Areas of Use

In assessing the distribution of playspaces throughout the LGA it is understood that the need for playspaces is not necessarily related to where children live. Many children are cared for by people in different areas of the City, and by those with different degrees of mobility. Some children are allowed to roam some distance from home, others not far at all. For the purpose of this strategy, it has been accepted that there should be an equitable distribution of playspaces throughout the urban areas of the Orange LGA.

A key consideration is that local playspaces are an important part of children's growth through providing them destinations close to home and in encouraging them to exercise in their neighbourhood. Local playspaces are designed to be short-stay places and are an important part of the urban environment and healthy neighbourhoods. In addition, these spaces often provide trees and habitat for native animals so should be regarded as assets to the community.

Accessibility to playspaces is however, an important factor in providing that equitable distribution. As discussed previously, where there are major impediments to access by walking, such as a busy road, then the provision of playspaces within walking distance either side of the road should be considered.

There are certain areas around the fringes of the City that, although they are considered urban, it is difficult to justify the provision of playspaces at the same rate as other urban areas. This is due to their extremely low density, and the implications of providing playspaces within 400m of residences: the rate of provision per child in these areas would be much higher when compared to other parts of the city and, with few footpaths and very large yards in these areas it could be argued that usership would be further reduced. These areas include Clifton Grove, Ammerdown and the North-west of the city around Gorman Road and Murphy Lane.

4.2 Current Provision - Quality

The assessment of quality in a playspace can be made based on a number of factors. For example, the Comprehensive Playground Audit conducted by Kico in 2022 assigned play ratings to each playspace as an indication of their state of repair, location and expected use. This Strategy aims to go beyond maintenance requirements for the supply of equipment and therefore must consider the range of elements discussed in Part 2 to achieve a well-rounded assessment.

Appendix A1 contains a matrix of existing playspaces, scored based on their provision of a range of play categories, a range of age-appropriate play value and the amount of amenity also provided. The resultant scores are then assigned a Play and Community Value.

The values assigned to the existing playspaces, compared to their score in 2013 are below:

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Play Space Name	2013 Score	2023 Score	Play and Community Value
Orange Adventure Playground	22.0	22.0	Very High
Cook Park	15.5	16.5	High
Elephant Park	17.0	16.0	High
Glenroi Oval	10.0	16.0	High
Gosling Creek Reserve	18.0	18.0	High
John Lomas Skate Park	17.5	17.5	High
Lake Canobolas Reserve Area 1	22.5	22*	High
Lake Canobolas Reserve Area 2	22.5	20*	High
Sir Jack Brabham Park		20.5	High
Alf Reed Park	12.5	12.5	Medium
Alua Playground	9.0	10.0	Medium
Anzac Park Skatepark		10.0	Medium
Beech Cr	12.5	12.5	Medium
Brooklands Playground		13.0	Medium
Clifton Grove Mud Hut	14.0	13.0	Medium
Esoo Park	11.5	13	Medium
Jaeger Reserve		13.5	Medium
Keith Thomas Park	12.0	13.0	Medium
Kerr Place	12.0	12.0	Medium
Lady Cutler Playground		14.0	Medium
Larance Park		15.5	Medium
Leonie Healy Park	12.5	11.5	Medium
Margaret Stevenson Park - Equipment	10.0	11.0	Medium
Matthews Park		15.0	Medium
Memory Park	12.0	11.0	Medium
Mulga Bills	13.0	13.0	Medium
Nelson Park		13.5	Medium
Newman Park	14.0	14.0	Medium
Ratcliffe Park	13.5	13.5	Medium
Sir Neville Howse Park	9.5	11.5	Medium
Somerset Park	14.5	14.5	Medium
Stirling Park		12.0	Medium
Sullivan Reserve		13.0	Medium
Webb St Park		13.0	Medium
Wentworth Mine Site	14.0	13.0	Medium
Wiare Reserve	14.0	13.0	Medium
William Maker Playground		11.0	Medium
Elonera Playground	8.5	8.5	Low
Riawena Oval	7.5	11.0	Low

*Lake Canobolas Reserve Area 1 and 2 were previously scored together, achieving a higher total score, however separately they score less, as they have different types of provision. These playspaces could achieve higher scores if they were more accessible and if they provided greater play diversity.

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Generally, the Play and Community Value for playspaces in Orange are as expected. Regional and District level playspaces should score High or Very High and Local playspaces should be Medium.

The matrix also provides a means to assess overall current provision of types of play, amenity and age group provision. It shows that about half of all playspaces provide some play opportunities for Toddlers, most for 3-6 year olds and all but two provide for 6-12 year olds.

Youth (over 12 year olds) are provided for in 9 playspaces, including the two skate parks, the two playspaces at Lake Canobolas and Gosling Creek Reserve. This leaves 4 playspaces around town where youth are catered for. It would be beneficial to consider more provision for this age group in locations around the urban area, particularly as this age group is most likely to be the most mobile close to home, and therefore seeking recreation opportunities.

Active Play and Social Play are well provided for within the existing equipment provided, however Cognitive and Creative play, along with Communicative Play are not well catered for. Cognitive and creative play is a cornerstone of play provision; the British National Children's Bureau paper 'Play, creativity and emotional and social development' (2004) states that, "Unlocking creativity is perhaps one of the most important tools we have for creating an integrated and inclusive society..."

Most playspaces are inaccessible to those confined to a wheelchair or requiring a smooth surface for movement. Only 6 playspaces provide for some level of accessible play and there is no playspace currently nominated as an accessible playspace. The provision of a fully accessible playspace with fencing and appropriate change table amenities would be an asset to Orange and surrounding areas. The renewed Adventure Playground is largely fenced and includes accessible play amenity, however the gate is not closed and there isn't an adult change facility, which is considered a requirement by Variety/Livvies Place when designing accessible playspaces.

Nine playspaces currently provide an adequate level of shade, with a further 15 spaces with tree planting that will become good shade. Although the final 15 have no shade immediately adjacent the playground, there is generally trees in the park nearby, which is important for carer amenity.

Diversity of equipment provision throughout the City's playspaces has grown significantly over the last 10 years, however most still cater for active play.

Increasing diversity of play provision through landscape design, incorporating mounds, planting and opportunities for free (unprogrammed) play should be considered.

Nature play is a currently over-looked type of play provision within formal playspaces throughout the LGA, although there are numerous examples of opportunity for this type of play, such as safe creek-lines and trees within parks. Opportunities could be expanded by incorporating nature play elements through planting areas using boulders and logs.

Water play can be a valuable asset in play provision, providing an exciting attraction to children and lots of active play when the weather is warm. Water play can also provide an additional opportunity for cognitive and creative play, and social play, when it incorporates a simple a simple creek with sluices and integrated sand play.

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PART 5 - Play Management

5.1 Maintenance

Ongoing maintenance and risk management assessments are required as part of the Standard for provision of playground equipment AS 4486.1 and is discussed in Section 3.3. A recommendation of this Strategy is that all routine, operational and comprehensive inspection procedures be reviewed with reference to the Standard and to agreed service levels by park hierarchy. The Standard provides check-lists that can be adapted to integrate with Council's Risk Management system, to provide live reporting of maintenance issues. A handheld device for maintenance staff to use integrated with the Council system is integral to stream-lining the system.

Graffiti and Vandalism

Graffiti 'tagging' and vandalism can be minimised by ensuring equipment is appropriate to the age groups of an area and by working with community members to create a positive sense of ownership for what happens in the park.

In parks where conflicts are seen to arise between two user groups, it may be beneficial to work with the local community to enhance the park so that it is attractive for use by a broader cross-section of the community beyond the two groups and to help establish multiple areas for 'hanging-out' within the park to eliminate conflict of use.

The benefits of higher levels of park user-ship are physical (lower rates of vandalism) and social (interaction of users and user groups yields positive community and psychological effects).

5.2 Design

Each new or renewed playspace should undergo a comprehensive design process the year before implementation is planned. Sites should be assessed for:

- Ease of access
- Slope
- Shade
- Views into the park for passive surveillance
- Proximity to roads
- Natural/existing features that can be utilised in the design

The surrounding community should be considered as part of the design process as well, utilising any significant cultural elements where possible to engender originality in the site and provide a sense of ownership. This is best achieved through a community consultation forum.

Section 3 of this Strategy provides clear guidelines for consideration during the design of a playspace and, to assist this process, a works programme has been developed (Appendix A4: Playspace Works Programme) recommending the theme, age groups and play types that should be included as a minimum for each park.

The hierarchy of the park also determines what amenity should be provided within each park and how extensive each playspace should be.

Incorporating Planting

Rocks and natural features have been used extensively throughout nature based playspaces for years and are accepted as valuable elements in providing diversity. Studies over recent years have focussed on the value of providing planting within playspaces, with particular attention drawn to the effects of planting within fall zones. Apart of the aesthetic improvements gained from the incorporation of planting, preliminary results of the research is showing that native grass species have a high impact attenuation value and help preserve the lifespan of wood chip soft-fall. For this reason, this Strategy recommends the incorporation of native grasses such as Poa sp. and small forms of Lomandra (such as Tanika) within playspaces where practical.

Fencing

Orange City Council currently provides one playspaces with child-proof fencing. Some user groups, such as child-care providers are required to only use playspaces with child-proof fencing and therefore request it's provision in more playspaces. However, the provision of fencing potentially removes the incidental use of a space by children in their neighbourhood. Therefore, parks where children are most likely to arrive at the space with a carer are the only appropriate spaces for fencing.

This Strategy recommends the installation of fencing at selected District level playspaces. The playspace at Sir Jack Brabham Park is an appropriate location to select for fencing and elevating to District level (as toilets and car parking are already present). This space could then be enhanced as an accessible playspace. It is unlikely that this space is walked to by local children, so the inclusion of fencing may not inhibit incidental play.

Shade

Shade is one of the most important pieces of infrastructure that parks and playspaces provide. It increases the well-being of users (and carers) and makes spaces more attractive for use. Natural shade is far more attractive, and more effective at cooling, than man-made alternatives, such as shade sails. However, trees can take years to establish.

Given that, tree planting should be considered a priority in parks where playspaces are planned for the future. Playspaces should also be sited in parks with established shade.

The provision of shade sails should be prioritised for Regional and District playspaces, due to cost and because people spend longer in these playspaces. Tree planting for shade should be a priority in all playspaces.

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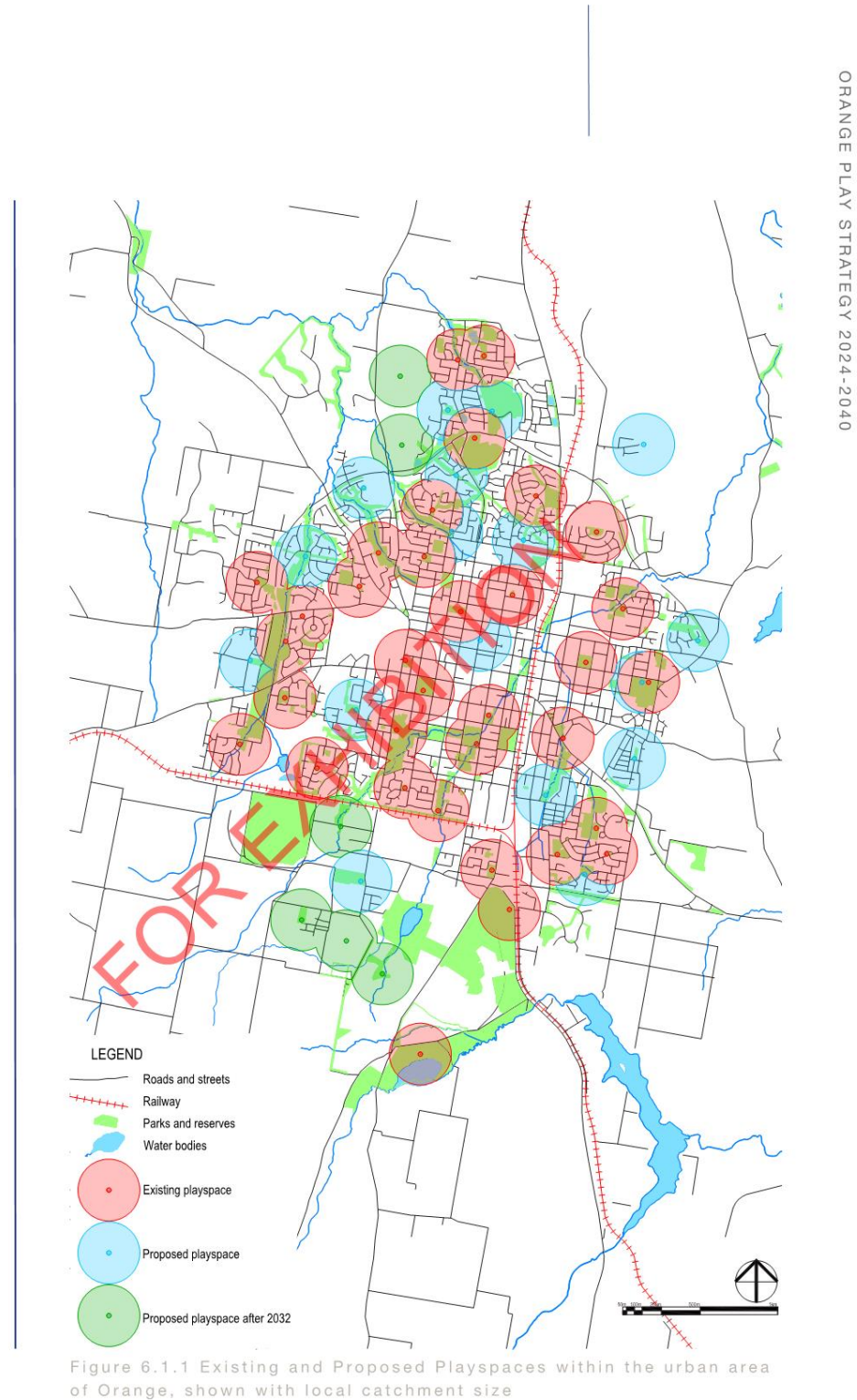
5.3 Marketing/ Promotion

An important element in ensuring a community focussed network of play throughout the City is communicating with potential users about the network; where it is and what it offers.

This Strategy recommends creating a communications plan for the network of play which includes the following:

- Enhance the existing on-line platform providing information about the play network
- Signage linking to the on-line information and brochure

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PART 6 - Priorities and Action Plan**6.1 Play Planning****Reclassification of Existing Playspaces**

This Strategy has revised the existing hierarchy of playspaces within the LGA to more closely fit the actual playspace level of service, rather than that of the whole park.

Of the 39 playspaces reviewed in the Comprehensive Playground Audit there were 6 listed as Regional (2 at Lake Canobolas), 1 as a District level and 32 as Local level playspaces.

Following this reclassification of existing playspaces, the resulting number of playspaces is 1 Regional, 5 District and 36 Local, currently supplied by Orange City Council.

Future Supply

The analysis provided in Part 4 indicates that Orange City Council may wish to increase the number of playspaces provided throughout the City; particularly at the Local level, if it is to come close to the accepted norm of supplying a playspace within 400m radius of 95% of residents.

Both a spatial and a rate of provision analysis can be used to determine how many playspaces the City should seek to provide.

Figure 6.1.1 is a spatial analysis of existing and proposed future playspace provision throughout the City (including current urban release areas). It illustrates Council providing a total of 62 playspaces (with 400m radius). Additional playspaces are recommended in areas where provision is below industry standards and where Council owned land is available. The additional playspaces bring the spatial coverage to 65% coverage (Figure 6.1.2).

Six of the additional playspaces are shown indicatively in urban release areas so are shown as developed after 2032. For the purpose of our rate of provision analysis below we will assume the need for 56 playspace in the life of this plan.

The NSW Department of Planning projections suggest the population of Orange will be 50,809 in 2040. For a rate of provision analysis of playspace provision, we use the population projection and the figure for the 2022 proportion of the population that was under the age of 15 (21.5%), and extrapolate that to the future population. This results in an estimate of approximately 10,924 children in the city in 2040. To provide 62 playspaces results in a rate of supply per projected population of 1 per 820 residents and 1 per 176 children.

Albury currently provides playspaces at a rate of 1 per 623 residents and 1 per 117 children, while Lithgow provides them at a rate of 1 per 508 residents and 1 per 83 children. To contrast regional provision versus metropolitan provision, Hornsby Shire Council is aiming to supply 1 play space per 1,148 people by 2035. The higher rate of

usership per playspace is accommodated through providing play spaces of a higher quality, such as a District level play space rather than a Local level space.

Therefore, this Strategy recommends providing the 62 playspaces identified in the spatial analysis, by the year 2040.

6.2 Priorities and Action Plan

Due to the current state of repair and forecast budget for playspaces, the Comprehensive Playground Audit stated that "the rationalisation and upgrade of existing playgrounds should be the priority over the development of any further new playgrounds" (Kico, 2022). This was based on analysis by Kico of the value of the existing asset, repair costs, a forecast replacement schedule and estimated replacement values for the equipment, to establish cost. This cost schedule was then compared to existing recurrent expenditure budgeting by Council.

The position of only maintaining the existing playspace provision at current levels is incompatible with the Vision of this Strategy and therefore it is clear that additional funding must be sought to provide for the development of new spaces. It is also clear that the installation and replacement values of playspaces should be reviewed along with other cost saving measures, such as grant application and (potentially) rationalisation of some impractical portions of open space.

Repairs

Recurrent expenditure on repair of play equipment is currently approximately \$34,000 with most works completed by staff, accounting for 80% of one staff member's time.

The Comprehensive Playground Audit identified a range of repairs for the year 2023/24, ranging from Priority A: requiring attention within 1 week, to Priority D: to be attended to when there is a sight upgrade or replacement of equipment. Orange City's playgrounds had no Priority A requirements, 59 priority B, 18 Priority C and 33 priority D repairs recorded at that time. The estimated cost of those repairs is shown in Figure 6.2.1 below.

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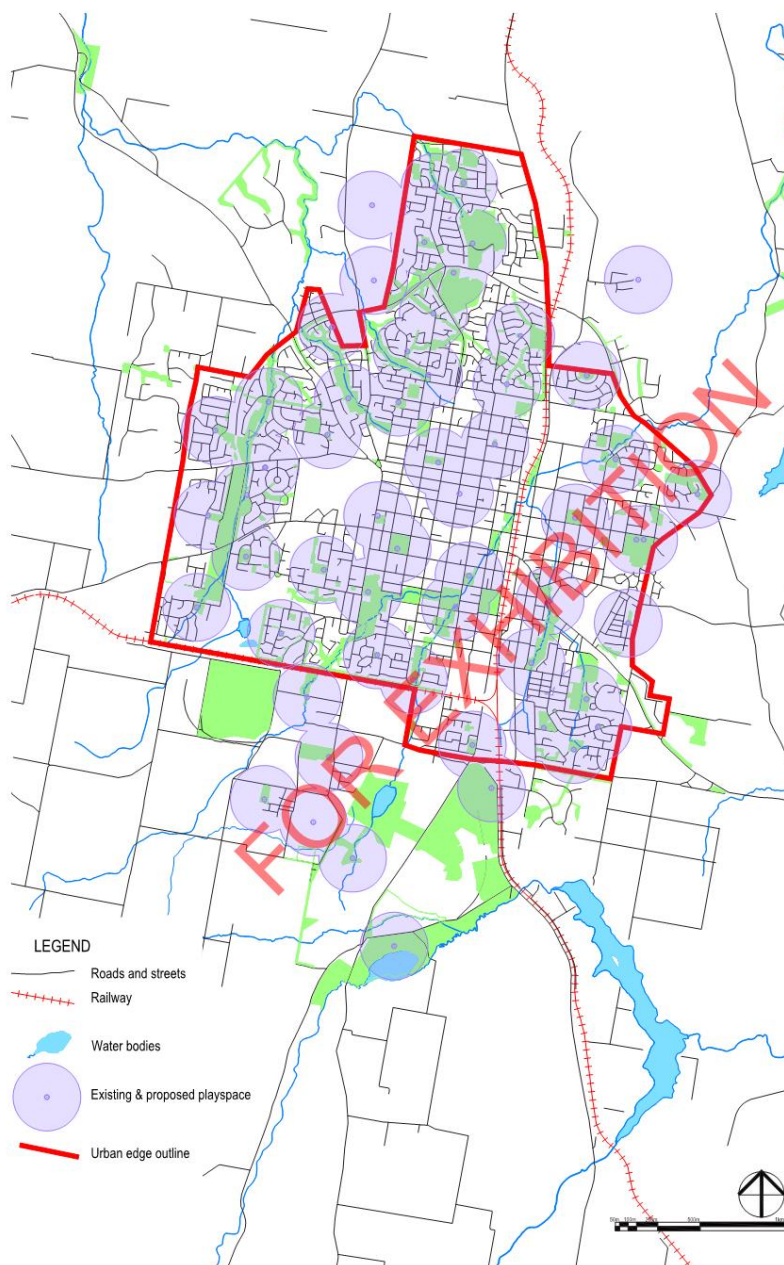


Figure 6.1.2 Existing and Proposed Playspaces within the urban area of Orange, shown with local catchment size



Figure 6.2.1: Estimated Cost of Repairs by Priority 2022 (Kico, 2022)

As the playspace resource expands it can be expected that the cost of repairs will expand also. The installation of well-constructed new equipment that is suitable to the community it serves and is completed through a design process that engages the community to achieve some sense of ownership, should however, see a reduction in repairs proportionally.

The tracking of repair works through the asset management system should also yield some cost benefits due to the reporting and analysis of defects and repairs throughout the play network.

Kico Recommended Replacement Forecast

The Comprehensive Playground Audit also recommended a list of equipment replacements based on a variety of factors including age and location of the playground, usage and compliance with Australian Standards. The audit sets an annual replacement forecast from 2023 to 2042 with a minimum annual spend of \$80,000 to keep the base asset at its current standard. This forecast is shown graphically in Figure 6.2.2 below.

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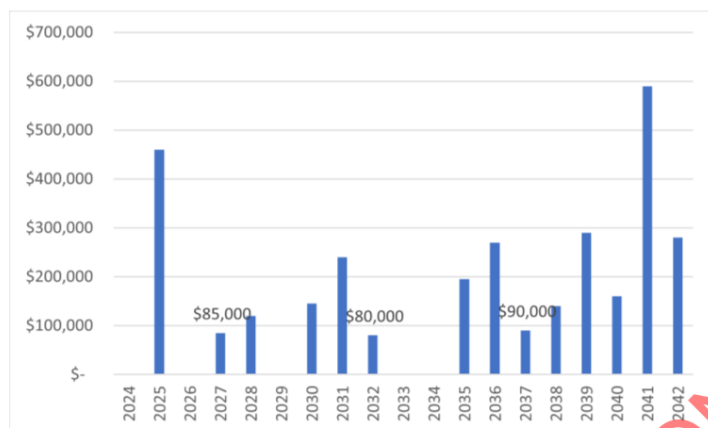


Figure 6.2.2: Kico Forecast for Recommended Park Replacement/Upgrade to Maintain Current Asset (Kico, 2022)

New Playspaces

The Strategy recommends a total of 62 playspaces throughout the City by the year 2040, including 15 new Local playspaces and 2 new District level playspaces.

Planning the location and priority of additional playspaces has been conducted using the following approach:

- Spatial analysis of existing playspaces, Council managed land and opportunities for new spaces; and,
- Review of barriers such as large roads and rail-lines and their impact on playspace location and accessibility.

As previously noted, even with this level of development, it is evident that there are still some areas throughout the LGA that fall outside of the standard catchment zones. This is a demonstration of the effects of low-density development on local councils ability to provide services. Higher density metropolitan areas have the capacity to generate more rate revenue which may be invested in play spaces to enable them to be built within 400m of all residences. Conversely, due to the higher densities they will also have a rate of supply figure per child that appears worse than less dense areas.

The delivery of a range of types of playspaces that cater for all ages is an important theme of this Strategy. A focus on provision for older children (6-12 years old) is a priority for Local hierarchy playspaces, however, as this is the group exercising their free roam opportunities and therefore most likely to benefit from appropriate provision within walking distance. More teen amenity is also recommended.

The establishment of nature based playspaces includes a very different type of provision

to the traditional playspaces found throughout the city. This type of playspace relies more on careful design than expensive play equipment. Use of specialist playspace designers may be of cost benefit in the initial stages of implementing these elements of the Strategy until staff are well versed in how this can best be provided.

Broader open space planning is of great significance in ensuring the success of Playspaces; specific considerations include:

- High quality connectivity through the provision of paths throughout parkland
- Pedestrian crossing points with blisters on roads between parkland
- Provision of basic amenity such as drinking water, seating for carers and shade
- Co-location of amenity where possible to increase park use
- Minimisation of backs of houses bordering open space
- Maintenance of sight-lines through open space, through judicious placement of tree and shrub planting and maintenance of undergrowth

6.3 Playspace Cost

Increasing the number of playspaces throughout the LGA could potentially result in significant increases in expenditure by Council, both in installation and maintenance. This Strategy aims to determine the key factors in Playspace design and delivery and therefore to realise cost savings through focussing on need.

Hierarchy

An essential element of recognising hierarchy in playspace delivery is that each level is fulfilling a different need and therefore the provision requirements in each is quite different. In Section 3.1 the elements included in parks at each hierarchy were listed, demonstrating these critical differences. As such, the delivery of playspaces at each level will have significantly different cost implications.

Suggested replacement/installation values for each hierarchy are:

Local playspace	\$80,000-\$100,000
District playspace	\$170,000-\$250,000
Regional playspace	\$2mill

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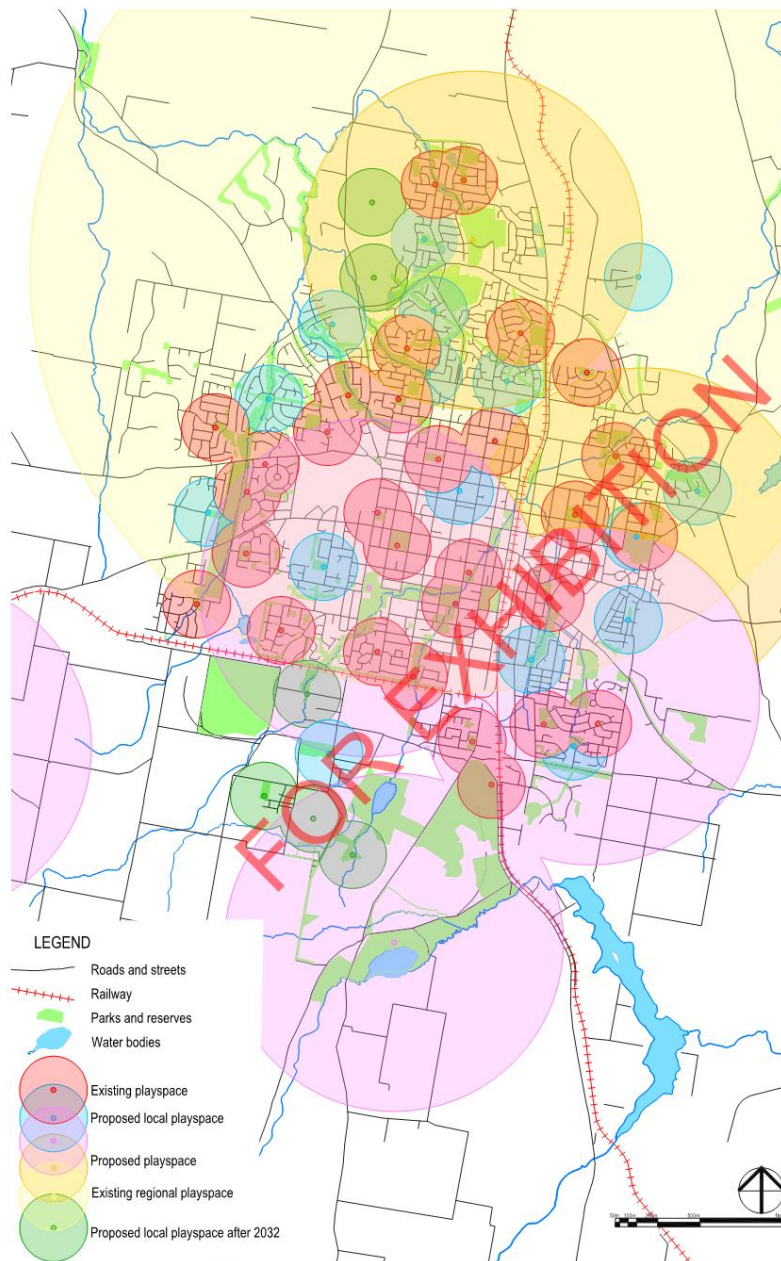


Figure 6.2.3 Existing and Proposed Playspaces within the urban area of Orange, shown with their relative catchment size

Budget Allocation

This Strategy provides a Playspace Works Programme (Appendix A3), recommending an annual budget allocation of at fromt \$80,000 to \$290,000 per annum over the next 15 years.

Figure 6.3.1 Illustrates the cost implication of the delivery schedule proposed, based on the cost estimates above. Scheduling of expenditure is based on Kico's renewal recommendations for existing playspaces and managing construction of new playspaces to maintain a consistent year on year budget.

The Kico schedule for urgent renewals creates a backlog of work that inhibits delivery of new playspaces; these may need to be spread across the next few years to be achievable.



Figure 6.3.1 Expenditure Forecast for Playspace Provision to 2040

Life Cycle Planning

The currently used Kico replacement forecast for play equipment is based on a standard equipment life span of 15 years. This strategy sees no reason to diverge from this figure however, it may be found that with less reliance on off-the-shelf play equipment, life spans of elements of playspaces may well exceed this figure. It is also important to note that spaces that experience particularly high usage levels are likely to wear at a faster rate than others.

Staging

The Playspace Works Programme in Appendix A3 recommends a staging programme for replacement of existing spaces and provision of new spaces based on existing need, anticipated growth and demographic considerations.

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6.4 Management Action Plant

The actions and works programme provided in this Strategy will become part of the management and operational plans used by Council to develop long-term budgets and works schedules. Strategies recommended are designed to assist the Asset Management process and provide more stream-lined management.

Community Involvement

It is clear from the existing play resource that community and service club involvement in the establishment of playspaces throughout the city has been an important element in their delivery. An aim of this Strategy is the re-engagement of the community in partnering with Council for a new era in playspace development in the City. It should be an aim for the provision of future playspaces to seek to partner with community groups wherever possible.

Play Strategy Review

This Strategy is designed to be a 'living' document that should be referred to regularly and progress assessed against schedules etc. A four year review is recommended.

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Figure 6.4 Cook Park, Orange City Council

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PART 7 - References

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Appendix

- A1 Play Strategy Risk Assessment
- A2 Play and Community Value Matrix
- A3 Playspace Works Programme
- A4 Playspace Works Programme - Play Values for New Installations

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A2 Play and Community Value Matrix (page 2)

No.	Play/Space Name	Address	Existing Intensity	Proposed Intensity	Condition (0=poor 4=good)	Replacement Forecast (Years)	Builder (0-3 Years)	Other Children (0- 12 years)	With C2 Play	Creative Active Play	Community Active Play	Stake Provision	Associated Facilities	Equipment Intensity	Equipment Description	Score Play and Community Value	
24	Scoring Park	Stirling Avenue, Wood Orange	Local	Local	5	2039	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	Volleyball, Dodge Ball, Netball, Softball, Tennis, Soccer, Badminton, Table Tennis, Snooker, Pool, Darts, etc.	120	Medium
25	Silver Reserve	Silver Creek East, Orange	Local	Local	5	2042	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	3	Volleyball, Dodge Ball, Netball, Softball, Tennis, Soccer, Badminton, Table Tennis, Snooker, Pool, Darts, etc.	120	Medium
26	Webb's Park	Webb Street, North Orange	Local	Local	5	2041	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	3	Volleyball, Dodge Ball, Netball, Softball, Tennis, Soccer, Badminton, Table Tennis, Snooker, Pool, Darts, etc.	120	Medium
27	Westworth Mine Site	Ludlow Village	Local	Local	3	2030	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	Volleyball, Dodge Ball, Netball, Softball, Tennis, Soccer, Badminton, Table Tennis, Snooker, Pool, Darts, etc.	120	Medium
28	Valley Reserve	Chapel	Local	Local	3	2032	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	Volleyball, Dodge Ball, Netball, Softball, Tennis, Soccer, Badminton, Table Tennis, Snooker, Pool, Darts, etc.	120	Medium
29	William Miller Pavilion	Orange	Local	Local	3	2038	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	4	Volleyball, Dodge Ball, Netball, Softball, Tennis, Soccer, Badminton, Table Tennis, Snooker, Pool, Darts, etc.	120	Medium

Notes:
Condition has been rated as a 1-5 range (1=poor, 5=good) based on the age of the equipment.
Scored provision has been scored 0-3 (0=poor, 3=good) based on the age of the equipment.
No. of equipment pieces has been scored out of 5 (0=none, 5=all pieces present).
Play and community value (0-25 possible range).

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A3 Playspace Works Programme

No.	Play Space Name	Address	Existing Hierarchy	Proposed Hierarchy	Forecast Replacement/ New Install	New/ Renewal	Total Cost
25	Mulga Bills/Sieben Park	Belair	Local	Local	2024	Renewal	\$80,000
N01	Anzac Park Playspace	East Orange		District	2024	New	\$170,000
1	Alf Reed Park	Spring Hill Village	Local	Local	2025	Renewal	\$80,000
2	Alua Playground	Westlea	Local	Local	2025	Renewal	\$30,000
9	Elonera Playground	Orange	Local	Local	2025	Renewal	\$30,000
N03	Ridley Oval Park	Glenroi		Local	2025	New	\$100,000
N13	Teamsters Walk Park	Orange		Local	2025	New	\$50,000
16	Kerr Place	Rosewood	Local	Local	2026	Renewal	\$50,000
24	Memory Park	Orange	Local	Local	2026	Renewal	\$50,000
33	Somerset Park	Orange	Local	Local	2026	Renewal	\$50,000
N05	Frost Park	East Orange		Local	2026	New	\$70,000
21	Leonie Healy Park	Glenroi	Local	Local	2027	Renewal	\$100,000
29	Ratcliffe Park	Bletchington	Local	Local	2027	Renewal	\$50,000
N15	Cutcliffe Park	West Orange		Local	2027	New	\$100,000
N06	Mulhall Place Park	East Orange		Local	2028	New	\$80,000
N07	Leeds Parade Subdivision	North Orange		Local	2028	New	\$80,000
N11	Botanic Way Park	North Orange		Local	2028	New	\$80,000
12	Gosling Creek Reserve	South Orange	Regional	District	2029	Renewal	\$250,000
N12	Olympic Drive Park	Orange		Local	2030	New	\$80,000
N14	Sale Street Apartment Park	Orange		Local	2030	New	\$100,000
N16	Carwoola Drive Playspace	West Orange		Local	2030	New	\$80,000
10	Esso Park	Orange	Local	Local	2031	Renewal	\$30,000
15	Keith Thomas Park	Bletchington	Local	Local	2031	Renewal	\$100,000
N10	Haywood Drive Park	Northwest Orange		Local	2031	New	\$80,000
30	Riawena Oval	Calare	Local	Local	2032	Renewal	\$80,000
N04	Edye Park	Glenroi		Local	2032	New	\$80,000
N17	Shiralee Town Centre Park	South Orange		Local	2032	New	\$100,000
6	Clifton Grove Mud Hut	Clifton Grove	Local	Local	2033	Renewal	\$50,000
27	Newman Park	Bowen	Local	Local	2033	Renewal	\$100,000
N09	Stevenson Way Park	North Orange		Local	2033	New	\$60,000
N08	Waratah Sportsgound	North Orange		District	2034	New	\$250,000
37	Wentworth Mine Site	Lucknow Village	Local	Local	2035	Renewal	\$100,000
38	Wiare Reserve	Calare	Local	Local	2035	Renewal	\$100,000
N02	Coogal Park	West Orange		Local	2035	New	\$50,000
4	Beech Cr	Orange	Local	Local	2036	Renewal	\$80,000
8	Elephant Park	Orange	District	District	2036	Renewal	\$200,000
5	Brooklands Playground	Orange		Local	2037	Renewal	\$10,000
14	John Lomas Skate Park	Orange	Regional	Local	2037	Renewal	\$100,000
22	Margaret Stevenson Park - Equipment	Bowen	Local	Local	2038	Renewal	\$80,000
3	Anzac Park Skatepark	East Orange	Local	Local	2039	Renewal	\$100,000
23	Matthews Park	Central Orange		Local	2040	Renewal	\$80,000

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A4 Playspace Works Programme - Play Values for New Installations

No.	Play Space Name	Address	Play Theme	Access	Play Equipment	Amenity Provision	Other	Toddler (0-3 Years)	Junior (3-6 Years)	Other Children (6-12 Years)	Young Adults (12 years and older)	Cognitive and Creative Play	Active Play	Social Play	Communicative Play	Access	Existing Shade Provision
1	Alfred Park	Spring Hill Village	Active	1	Gym, Tennis Courts, Cricket Square, Balance boards x2	Seating, shade		1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0.5
2	Alva Playground	Westlea	Quiet Play		Swing, Boulders, Handball wall and court	Seating		0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1
3	Archer Park Skatepark	Archer Park, East Orange	Active	0	Skate Park	Seating, Shelter		0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0
4	Beach C	Orange	Tractor	0				1	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0.5
5	Broadlands Playground	Orange	Active children	0	Next swing, slides, spinner, rockers, small fort, activity walls			1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0
6	Chilton Grove Mini Hub	Chilton Grove	Climb and swing	0				0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
7	Cook Park	Orange	Swing	1	Swings	Shade, picnic		1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0.5
8	Edgewart Park	Orange	Cricket	1	Soft, swings, climbing, net play, trampoline, boulders, play walls			1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
9	Elmiers Playground	Orange	Swings	0	Swings, rockers	Seating, shade		1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0.5
10	East Park	Orange	Old style park		Swing, toddler play	Seating		1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0.5
11	Greenhill Oval	Greenhill		0				0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0
12	Griffin Creek Reserve	South Orange	Climb and swing	1				1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0
13	Jangle Reserve	Orange		0				0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0.5
14	John Thomas Skate Park	Orange	Active	1	Skate Park	Seating, Shelter		0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0.5
15	Keith Thomas Park	Blenkington	Nature	1	Manual skills, equipment, boulders, climbing, paths			1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
16	Kerr Place	Neusewood	Swing and rock together	0	Double swing, see saw, spinners			1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
17	Lake Creek Playground	Jonathan Drive, West Orange		1				1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0
18	Lake Canabolas Reserve Area 1	Lake Canabolas Reserve, Towns Valley		0				0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0.5
19	Lake Canabolas Reserve Area 2	Lake Canabolas Reserve, Towns Valley		0				0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1
20	Lance Park	Crescent, South Orange		1				1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	1
21	Lucas Park	Greenhill	Climbing	0	Lookout Tower, slide, nets	Seating		1	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	0.5
22	Margaret Stevenson Park - Equipment	Brown	Basic	0	Net play, swings	see equipment, tree planting		0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
23	Matthews Park	Amson Street, Orange	Tennis	1	Tennis, slides, rockers	tree tables, shade seats		1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0
24	Memory Park	Orange	Active	0	Swings	Seating		1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
25	Mulga Bill/Silver Park, Belair	Nature	0	Slide, round, tunnel, boulders, rockers	Seating			1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
26	Nelson Park	Orange		0				0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0.5
27	Reynard Park	Brown	Cubby House, Netplay	1	Cubby house, youth basketball net and climbing	Seating		0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
28	Orange Adventure Playground			1				1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
29	Ratcliffe Park	Blenkington	Slide and swing	0	Slide, swing	Seating		1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0.5

No.	Park Name	Address	Play Theme	Access	Play Equipment	Amenity Provision	Other	Tendered by's Name	Oldest Children Youth (12 years and above)	Cognitive and Motor Skills	Active Play	Social Play	Communitarian Play	Access	Existing Provision
N0	Play Space Name	Address	Play Theme	Access	Play Equipment	Amenity Provision	Other	Tendered by's Name	Oldest Children Youth (12 years and above)	Cognitive and Motor Skills	Active Play	Social Play	Communitarian Play	Access	Existing Provision
30	Reverie Oval	Cherry	Fair Play	0		Seats			1	0	0	1	0	0	0.5
31	St Jack Stadium Park	Orange				Seats		1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0.5
32	St Nicholas House Park	Forest Road, South Orange				Seats		1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0.5
33	Sorrento Park	Orange	Nature	0	Balanced beams, bridges, climbing rock	Seats		1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0.5
34	Striding Avenue,	West Orange						1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
35	Sullivan Reserve	Sullivan Circuit, East Orange	West Orange					0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0
36	Wells St Park	Mobg Street, North Orange	West Orange					0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
37	Westonville Mine Site	Lidkown Village	Mining	0				1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
38	Water Reserve	Cadell	Recreational play	0				1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
39	William Malar Playground	Orange						1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
N01	Azura Park Playspace	East Orange	Moonlit	1	Tunnels, Climbing, Slides	Seats and tables		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0.5
N02	Coclell Park	West Orange	Hugeport	0	Next swing, climbing rocks	Tree Planting, seating		1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1
N03	Railway Oval Park	Glenoli	Red Play	0	Activity Panels, Rockery, Next Swing	Sitting, shade with front	Exercise equipment	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1
N04	Edge Park	Glenoli	Active Team	0	Slide, Handball Wall and Court	Seating		0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0.5
N05	First Park	East Orange	Nature	0	Slide tunnel, tunnel, boulders, rockers	Tree Planting, seating		1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0.5
N06	Michael Place Park	East Orange	Swing and slide		Swing, slides, toddler	Tree Planting, seating		1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0.5
N07	Leeds Parade Schoolhouse Leids Parads Field	Bowling		1	Children and boulders toddler	Tree Planting, Developer?		1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0.5
N08	Waratah Sportsground	North Orange		1	Play base, rockery, apparatus, activity panels	Three tree planting, seating and paths		0	1	0	1	1	1	1	0.5
N09	Shearwater Way Park	North Orange	Nature	0	Boulders, trails	Seats		1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0.5
N10	Haywood Drive Park	Northwest Orange	Birds	0	See saw, rockers, carousel	Seats		1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0.5
N11	Heaton Way Park	North Orange	Hanging out	0	Concrete blocks and rails	Seats, tree planting		0	1	1	0	1	1	1	0
N12	Olympic Drive Park	Orange	Classic Play	0	Swing, rockar	Seats, tree planting		1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0.5
N13	Sherrin Villa Park	Orange	Teenagers	0	Activity Panels, Rockery, Next Swing	Seats, tree planting		1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0.5
N14	Sub Street Apartment Park	Orange	Times	1	Carousel Swing, activity panels	Seats, tree planting		1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0.5
N15	Castle Park	West Orange	Fountains	0	Swing, rockar	Seats, tree planting		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0.5
N16	Caravans Drive	West Orange	Bats	0	Next swing, climbing rocks	Seats, tree planting		0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0.5
N17	Shuteria Town Centre Park	South Orange	Nature	1	Next swing, boulders, climbing net	Seats, tree planting		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0.5

SPORT AND RECREATION COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**5 JUNE 2024**

3.2 SPORT AND RECREATION COMMUNITY COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN

RECORD NUMBER: 2024/886

AUTHOR: Ben Keegan, Sport and Recreation Coordinator

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Attached for information and discussion is the Sport and Recreation Community Committee Action Plan.

LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy “2.1. Deliver sport and recreation facilities to service the community into the future”.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That the Sport and Recreation Community Committee Action Plan be reviewed and updated.

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Consideration has been given to the recommendation’s impact on Council’s service delivery; image and reputation; political; environmental; health and safety; employees; stakeholders and project management; and no further implications or risks have been identified.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Sport and Recreation Community Committee Action Plan - 2022, D22/23235

SPORT AND RECREATION COMMUNITY COMMITTEE
Attachment 1 Sport and Recreation Community Committee Action Plan - 2022

5 JUNE 2024

D22/23235

Sport and Recreation Community Committee
Action Plan

No	Action	Who	Delivery/ Operational Plan reference	Cost implications	Resourcing implications	Start	End	Update/Completed
1	Pedestrian/Cycle connection between Machin Park north and south (Franklin Road and Gardiner Rd)	Brendan Stuart						A flag has been placed on the property file of 79 Gardiner Road so when the property is placed on the market for sale, Council will have the opportunity to consider purchasing.
2	Installation of Bike Maintenance Stations	Tony Kay						Bicycle maintenance station installed at the Lake Canobolas Mountain Bike Park and Moulder Park Velodrome.
3	Installation of fixed net tennis court on the old Moulder Park netball courts https://www.flex-i-link.com/products/flex-i-link-woven-metal-tennis-net	Tony Kay						Consideration to be given to developing a tennis court on one of the old Moulder Park netball courts. The condition of the court surface, fencing requirements, linemarking and cost for install will need to be investigated as part of the process.
4	Installation of half/quarter court basketball at various locations throughout the City	Tony Kay						Consideration to be given to installing half or full basketball courts in the north (possibly Brendon Sturgeon Oval) and western areas of the City.

Sport and Recreation Community Committee

Action Plan

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SPORT AND RECREATION COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

5 JUNE 2024

Attachment 1 Sport and Recreation Community Committee Action Plan - 2022

No	Action	Who	Delivery/ Operational Plan reference	Cost implications	Resourcing implications	Start	End	Update/Completed
								Multi-purpose sports court at Moulder Park includes a full-size basketball court which has provided a new option in Orange.
5	Expansion of the Orange Hockey Centre to include an additional artificial turf field (water based) on the existing cricket field.	Ken McCarron						Orange Hockey recently received \$300K from the State Government to upgrade Smith Field. The Association now has over \$800K for the project but will require an additional funding to ensure it can be completed. Council financial support to be considered as part of the 2024/2025 budget process.
6	Extension of Sir Neville Howse Stadium (PCYC) to accommodate continued growth of user groups	Liam Dillon						Concept plan completed in 2020. Next phase will be the preparation of DA documentation for the project.
7	Review and update Orange Play Strategy	Council				October 2022	June 2023	Draft completed – report to Council meeting on 4 June 2024 recommending the draft strategy be placed on public exhibition for community comment and input. Committee provided a copy and encouraged to provide feedback.
8	Review and update Active Travel Plan including the continued development of the City's shared path network	Shahreen Alford				May 2024	Dec 2024	Council finalising the scope of works for the Active Travel Plan review which is expected to be advertised in the next quarter in conjunction with the Open Space and Recreation Strategy (see below).

Sport and Recreation Community Committee

Action Plan

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SPORT AND RECREATION COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

5 JUNE 2024

Attachment 1 Sport and Recreation Community Committee Action Plan - 2022

No	Action	Who	Delivery/ Operational Plan reference	Cost implications	Resourcing implications	Start	End	Update/Completed
9	Review Open Space Plan/ Recreation Needs Study	Shahreen Alford				May 2024	Dec 2024	Scope of works for the development of the Open Space and Recreation Strategy has been developed. The new Strategy is to provide the evidence base to support the ongoing planning of Orange's public open space and recreation network. The Strategy is to support Council by providing strategies and actions that can support Council in developing contributions plans, negotiating planning agreements, and provide an implementation plan that can support Council's Delivery and Operational Plans. Council staff have been actively applying for grants to fund the report and awaiting outcome. The report can be funded under Section 7-11 Contributions Plan if the grant is unsuccessful.
10	Investigate the implementation of an exercise trail for the elderly.	Shahreen Alford						Project to be considered as part of the Orange Space and Recreation Strategy.
11	Additional amenities at Brendon Sturgeon Oval	Cr Greenhalgh						Council to investigate options for possible expansion of existing amenities building or constructing a separate building at the venue.
12	Orange Regional Sporting Precinct	Council		State Government has allocated		Ongoing		Stage 1 of Civil Works completed. Project was placed on hold during a State Government review during which no new

Sport and Recreation Community Committee

Action Plan

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SPORT AND RECREATION COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

5 JUNE 2024

Attachment 1 Sport and Recreation Community Committee Action Plan - 2022

No	Action	Who	Delivery/ Operational Plan reference	Cost implications	Resourcing implications	Start	End	Update/Completed
				\$59.5M to the project.				contracts could be entered into. Tenders for construction of the 8 multi-purpose playing fields (drainage, irrigation, growing medium and seeding) are currently being assessed by NSW Public Works and Council. State Government has determined that the football stadium shall be completed before the athletics facility.
13	Mt Canobolas Mountain Bike Trail Centre	Council				Ongoing		Council submitted an independent environmental assessment to the State Government and has been advised of the detailed requirements that need to be supplied for further consideration. Council to consider options as part of future budget discussions.
14	Orange Adventure Playground redevelopment incorporating water play	Council		\$1.9M Budgeted – Funded by State Government's Resources for Regions, Places to Play and Stronger Country Communities Fund		Qtr 1 2022/2023		Contract for construction has been awarded to Daracon Landscaping. Works to commence Monday, 2 June 2024 Council has been communicating process for returning engraved pickets from the existing playground that were purchased by community members. Anticipating completion by the end of 2024 or early 2025.

SPORT AND RECREATION COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

5 JUNE 2024

Attachment 1 Sport and Recreation Community Committee Action Plan - 2022

No	Action	Who	Delivery/ Operational Plan reference	Cost implications	Resourcing implications	Start	End	Update/Completed
15	Glenroi Oval Masterplan Implementation	Council		\$450,000 has been allocated to the Skate Park project which has been funded by the State Government (\$241,000), Council and Cadia (\$209,000).		July 2022		Playground project has been completed. Stage 1 of the Glenroi Oval Skate Park has been completed and proving popular with users.
16	Wade Park Amenities Upgrade and Renewable Energy Solutions	Council		\$890,000 received under State Government's Regional Sports Facility Fund				Project completed with works including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solar panel installation on Cricket Centre roof along with a storage battery. Full refurbishment of the grandstand changerooms and public toilets. Field lighting upgrade.
17	Sir Jack Brabham Park – additional amenities building that will include two female changerooms, referees changeroom and first aid room	Council		Council received \$493,708 from the NSW Government under the Stronger County Communities Fund.		October 2023		Construction commenced in October 2023 and is due to be completed mid June 2024. Original design modified slightly to ensure the project can be completed within budget however key project components have been retained.

SPORT AND RECREATION COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

5 JUNE 2024

Attachment 1 Sport and Recreation Community Committee Action Plan - 2022

No	Action	Who	Delivery/ Operational Plan reference	Cost implications	Resourcing implications	Start	End	Update/Completed
18	Multi-Purpose Sports Court at Moulder Park	Council		Budget being finalised		February 2023		Project completed and officially opened as the Bob Russell Sports Court.
19	Playground Shade Structures	Council		Funded through NSW Government's Stronger Country Communities Fund				Projects completed. Shade structures installed at Lady Dorothy Cutler Playground, Cook Park and the playground in Newport St
20	Canteen upgrade at Sir Jack Brabham Park (Huntley Road)	Cr Greenhalgh						Item included for discussion.
21	Playground projects 2023/2024	Council		Lake Canobolas playground \$223,000 funded under the State Government's Places to Swim Program. Anzac Park playground received \$100,000 from the State Government.				Lake Canobolas playground completed in December 2023. Council received \$100,000 from the State Government for a new playground at Anzac Park. Combined with existing funding from Council's playground renewal budget Council will install the Anzac Park playground and replace the 30 year old playground in Sieben Park. Contracts have been awarded for both projects with works to commence at the end of June or early July.

Attachment 1 Sport and Recreation Community Committee Action Plan - 2022

No	Action	Who	Delivery/ Operational Plan reference	Cost implications	Resourcing implications	Start	End	Update/Completed
				Council has allocated a further \$150,000 for playground projects				
22	Future squash court provision in Orange	Cr Greenhalgh						The Orange Squash Club continues to use 3 squash courts that have been retained by the owners of One Strength (gym) in Moulder St however it is unclear if this facility will remain a long term option for the Club.
28	Orange Sporting Hall of Fame	Cr Greenhalgh						Item included for discussion.

3 GENERAL REPORTS

3.1 ESTABLISHING A BICYCLE PUMP TRACK IN ORANGE

RECORD NUMBER: 2024/921

AUTHOR: Kate Shepherd, Executive Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In September 2023 Council resolved for a feasibility study to be undertaken to investigate the design and costings associated with constructing a bicycle 'Pump Track' in Orange. Council staff have liaised with Orange Mountain Bike Club and compared other Regional town constructions of similar tracks to provide the information contained in this report.

LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy "2.2. Provide recreational activities and programs that are inclusive and meet the needs of the community".

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil aside from staff time in adopting the recommendation of this report.

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council proceed with a request for quotation to develop a design and cost of a Bicycle Pump Track for the purpose of seeking grant funding options for the project.

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

The recommendation of this report has been assessed against Council's other key risk categories and the following comments are provided:

Service/Project Delivery	Should the project proceed, delivery will be required to fit in with existing delivery program across Council projects and standard Council work schedules.	
Financial	Pump Track project is not currently included in any budget, Grant funding would have to be applied for.	
Environment	Potential Environmental risk could exist depending on the selected location should project progress.	
Compliance	Consideration would need to be given to meet the regulatory requirements applicable for project.	
People & WHS	Consideration would need to be given to meet the required guidelines applicable for project.	

3.1 Establishing a Bicycle Pump Track in Orange

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Interests in cycling activities are rapidly growing in popularity within the Orange community. These activities include, road cycling, mountain bike trails and pump/tracks. Locally there has been a high level of support from the community for Council to provide a pump track facility to assist in the increase of physical activity and healthy and active living in Orange.

The delivery of a Bicycle Pump Track would meet the following Community Strategic Plan Objectives. Objective 2 – A health and active community that is supported by sport and recreational infrastructure. *Particularly 2.1 Deliver sport and recreation facilities to service the community into the future, 2.2 Provide recreational activities and programs that are inclusive and meet the needs of the community and, 2.3 Ensure the sporting and recreational facilities, programs and activities are accessible and affordable to support health lifestyle choices.* Objective 7: More for young people to do *specifically 7.1 Provide play parks and spaces that meet the needs of a broad range of ages.* Objective 12: Sustainable tourism, events and visitor experiences, *specifically 12.2 Develop and attract a variety of events, festivals, venues and activities for locals and visitors ensuring accessibility for all.*

A pump track is generally defined a continuous track/loop of banked turns and rollers that can be ridden without pedalling. Riders use their body weight and gravity to “pump” their way around the track and maintain speed and momentum. Pump tracks can come in an array of different shapes and sizes.

Early on, pump tracks were constructed of compacted earth, however dirt pump tracks require constant maintenance and can only be used by cyclists. In recent times more and more pump tracks are lined with asphalt or constructed out of precast concrete and/or fibreglass which has a continuously smooth surface that can be utilised by a greater variety of users such as scooter riders, skaters as well as cyclists.

The construction timeline for a pump track will vary based on its size, complexity and construction composition. Smaller tracks may take a few weeks, while larger ones could require several months.

Design

Design would be dependent on the final location and budget/costings of the Pump Track, but of consideration for any design is:

Progression: The trail should cater to all skill levels, starting with gentle rollers for beginners and gradually incorporating larger rollers and berms for intermediate riders. An advanced section with high steep features resembling jumps could also be incorporated to meet the needs of advanced riders.

Variety: A diverse range of track features would provide a richer experience and cater to a wider range of riders.

Zones: To ensure safety and enjoyment, the trail should have distinct areas for different skill levels. While riders should have the option to transition between intermediate and advanced sections, the beginner section should be isolated, particularly for the safety of small children.

3.1 Establishing a Bicycle Pump Track in Orange

Some Location Options for an Orange Pump Track

1. **Glenroi Oval** - In 2018, Council moved a motion to develop a Master Plan for Glenroi Oval. In 2021 a Master Plan was adopted. Works identified within this Master Plan included a bitumen pump track in the south-west corner of Glenroi Oval. Such a facility could be approximately 1,800 m² and complement the existing amenity with the recently constructed skate park and basketball courts and is in close proximity to the Youth Hub.

Extract from current Master Plan for Glenroi Oval.



Aerial of Glenroi Oval



2. **Anzac Park** is an established and well utilised community sporting precinct with the four multiuse indoor sports courts, 10 outdoor netball courts, the cricket/football oval and existing neighbourhood skatepark and car parking and toilets facilities . can be located in the existing PCYC facility. However, the addition of a pump track would be in contrary to the existing Master Plan. Anzac Park has also previously had a BMX track constructed from compacted earth, located on the eastern side of the park which was demolished in 2021 due to the lack of used and the cost of continuous maintenance.



Extract of current Master Plan for Anzac Park



Aerial of Anzac Park

3.1 Establishing a Bicycle Pump Track in Orange

3. **Moulder Park** (old netball courts) – An unofficial youth precinct, with close proximity to Orange's CBD, John Lomas skate park, the velodrome, children's bike track and the new Multiuse Sports Court. Courts 7 and 8 may be another viable location, for a smaller scale pump track, however Moulder Park is subject to flooding therefore special consideration to the design and how it is construction is required. Courts 7 and 8 have also been an identified possible location for a future parkour installation.



Cost

Costs will vary depending on the design, size, and composition of the track. Small modular fibreglass tracks that can be found in holidays parks can start from \$100 000. Construction costs for asphalt tracks are approximately \$300 per square metre (noting smaller tracks are more expensive per lineal metre).

Despite a more permanent construction composition such as asphalt or concrete, any pump track requires ongoing maintenance and costs associated with the maintenance including regular inspections to ensure rider safety and ongoing maintenance works should be considered when budgeting for such a community facility. Other considerations for potential locations are supporting infrastructure such as toilet facilities, shade, seating and carparking.

Examples of recent community Pump tracks.

Lithgow Pump track – completed 18 December 2021 at a cost of \$572 000, is approximately 1890m²



3.1 Establishing a Bicycle Pump Track in Orange

Cudal Pump track – completed October 2022 at a construction cost of \$233 000



Suffolk Park Track opened July 2021 at a cost of \$506 300 to construct and is approximately 1680m²

