

Strathbogie Shire Council

2024-2034 Play and Open Space Strategy



Strathbogie
SHIRE COUNCIL

Acknowledgement of Country

Strathbogie Shire Council acknowledges the traditional custodians of the lands on which we strive, the peoples of the rivers and the hills of the Strathbogie Shire region who walked these lands for generations.

We pay our respects to the elders of the past, and the speakers of the first words, who lived in harmony with this country.

We acknowledge the elders of the present, who seek to regain their culture and to teach the elders of the future their law, their history and their language.

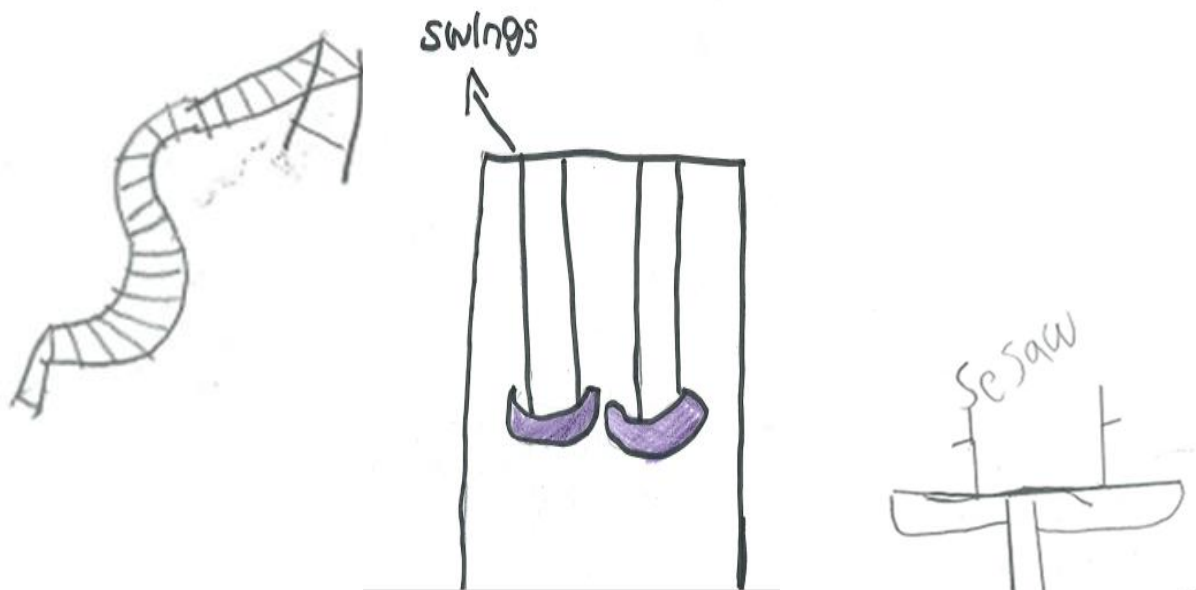
We pay our respects to them and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

We honour their spirit – and the memory, culture, art and science of the world's oldest living culture through 60,000 years.

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PLAY AND OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

1.0 INTRODUCTION

In response to the increasing focus on recreation, community engagement, and environmental sustainability, the Council has created the Play and Open Space Strategy. This strategy aims to meet the community's diverse needs by improving access to play areas and open spaces, promoting active lifestyles, encouraging social interaction, and preserving our natural environment.

The strategy includes guiding principles for play and open spaces, such as dog parks and exercise stations, reflecting the Council's commitment to these assets and future investments.

1.1 PURPOSE OF THIS STRATEGY

The purpose of the strategy is to guide the future of play and open spaces in Strathbogie Shire, identifying what's needed to meet the evolving needs of our communities over the next 10 years. Greater focus is required in planning these spaces to ensure they fulfill both current and future demands.

The strategy aims to:



1.2 STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Our Community Vision:

The Strathbogie Shire is a region of natural beauty with vibrant communities who are respectful, optimistic and inclusive. We have a strong sense of belonging and of our collective history. We care deeply for Country and First Nations people. We are bold. We embrace opportunities. We welcome you.

The vision outlines Community aspirations and priorities to guide the Council's four-year plan with a view towards 2040. Six strategic focus areas were identified and guide Council's strategies, initiatives & actions over this four-year period.

The Play and Open Space Strategy fits within and assists Council in achieving the following key strategic focus areas:



Engage. Create. Unite:

*We are inspired by our creatives and celebrate art and culture
We create welcoming social spaces where people can connect*



Protect. Enhance. Adapt

*We are minimising harmful impacts on our natural environment
We are reversing biodiversity decline
We are championing best-practice environmental strategies*



Inclusive. Productive. Balanced

*We have empowered locals to make decisions
We care, support, and listen to each other
We partner with our community to achieve great things*



Strong. Healthy. Safe

*We have protected 'the vibe' we love
We are working together to share knowledge and get things done
We are encouraging health and wellbeing activities*

The goals to be achieved include:



Our sporting and recreation facilities, whether they be passive or active spaces, continually adapt to meet changing needs and maximise participation by all sexes, ages and abilities



We have a range of strategies and initiatives in place to help our community adapt to minimise adverse impacts on health and wellbeing caused by climate change



Our open spaces cater for all generations and all abilities

The vision and goals of the 2021-2025 Council Plan have guided the preparation of this strategy.

The Play and Open Space Strategy does not sit in isolation from other Council programs and strategies. It is integrally linked with, and supports, other Council plans and strategies these can be found in Appendix 1.

2.0 TYPES OF SPACES

For this strategy, a play space is defined as an area offering various play experiences, including play equipment, natural elements, and open areas for running. Open spaces refer to publicly accessible outdoor areas without built structures.

Open Spaces: The strategy includes open spaces managed by Council, primarily designated for outdoor recreation, nature conservation, passive play, and public gatherings. This includes all public, freely accessible open spaces, natural reserves, and community use areas. The strategy will guide the future provision, design, and management of the public space network, defining the hierarchy of existing open spaces in our communities.

This strategy will not be looking at Council's recreation reserves or walking and cycling spaces, these will be considered in separate strategies namely:

- Strathbogie Shire Council Active and Connected Cycling and Walking Strategy 2024 – 2034
- Strathbogie Shire Council Draft Sport and Recreation Strategy 2024-2035

Encumbered open spaces, such as easements for utilities, road reserves, and conservation areas, are excluded from this strategy. These will not be considered public open space and contributions under the Planning & Environment Act 1987 and the Subdivision Act 1988 will not be a required. However, Council may occasionally accept encumbered open space if it offers community benefits and can be maintained to a safe standard.



Play Spaces: The strategy includes three types of play spaces: playgrounds with equipment primarily used by children and families, skate parks, and exercise stations suitable for adults and seniors. It defines the hierarchy of existing playgrounds, identifies those due for renewal, and recommends new playgrounds to be developed over the next 10 years.



Off-leash Dog Park: The strategy identifies dedicated open outdoor space to allow off leash exercise for dogs. Parks are required to meet Council's off-leash dog park policy and site selection criteria.

3.0 DESIGN AND PRINCIPLES FOR PLAY AND OPEN SPACE

Council's play and open spaces will be designed based on five key principles. These principles will guide the development and renewal of spaces by Council, community groups, and developers within the Shire. They set the minimum design standards for all new and upgraded play and open spaces and will support the management and maintenance of these spaces over the next 10 years.

PRINCIPLE 01

BE SAFE, ACCESSIBLE AND INCLUSIVE

Our Play and Open Spaces aim to:

- Be accessible, safe, and conveniently located, allowing a range of users to enjoy the space at all times without public access restrictions.
- Ideally be within a 400m walking distance from homes, workplaces, schools, and shops in township areas.
- Connect to the pedestrian and cycling network, with entry paths offering clear views of other exits and logical routes through the space.
- Apply best practice design principles, including Safety by Design.
- Create intergenerational spaces that all community members will want to enjoy.
- Provide equitable, safe, and accessible equipment, facilities, and landscaped areas.
- Comply with Play Standards to ensure maximum safety.
- Adhere to current Access Standards to support accessibility for all abilities.
- Connect skateparks, exercise stations, tracks, and trails for use by older children, adults, and seniors.

PRINCIPLE 02

HIGH QUALITY AND WELL PLANNED

Spaces will:

- Feature high-quality equipment and products that encourage use and access while reflecting the unique character of each site.
- Be well-planned, considering environmental risks such as heat, flood, drought, climate change, and the need to create habitat corridors.
- Use contemporary design practices that offer a variety of unstructured, stimulating, challenging, and fun experiences for a range of ages and abilities.
- Provide dynamic and flexible areas for both active and passive recreation.
- Include supporting amenities like seating, paths, shade structures, trees, garden beds, and drinking fountains as needed, in line with our hierarchy.
- Be developed based on the strategy's recommendations and community input, including that of traditional landowners.
- Be upgraded and maintained through the Council's maintenance and renewal program to ensure continuous functionality and product longevity.
- Encourage social activities through design, promoting interactions in various recreational areas.
- Support community bonds by facilitating both passive and active recreation in each space.

- Enable community groups to participate in managing and maintaining open spaces, fostering a sense of belonging, social identity, and fulfillment.

PRINCIPLE 03

LOW MAINTENANCE AND SUSTAINABLE

Ensure longevity and sustainability of materials, ease of maintenance, and innovative practice. Be delivered in accordance with the three tier play and open space hierarchy, ensuring an appropriate level of amenity and service at each identified location, whilst being financially responsible for Council.

The design and management of play and open spaces must:

- Preserve remnant vegetation, maintaining and enhancing it where possible.
- Select plant species with appropriate environmental tolerance to ensure survival and provide positive impacts under climate change and extreme weather events.
- Choose materials for furniture and fixtures that are durable, weather-resistant, and sustainable.
- Utilise low-maintenance materials, fixtures, and furniture.
- Include play equipment that is durable, supports whole-of-life use, and is easily replaceable when renewal is needed.
- Ensure that play space design aligns with Council's sustainability policies and climate change action plans.

PRINCIPLE 04

CONSISTENT WITH THE UNIQUE CHARACTER OF THE AREA AND INFORMED BY THE COMMUNITY

Design and amenities will enhance and celebrate the unique qualities of each play and open space, incorporating community ideas and inputs.

This will be achieved by:

- Inviting and integrating community input for the planning, design, and renewal of play and open spaces.
- Selecting high-quality furniture and fixtures that meet relevant standards.
- Choosing play equipment that complies with relevant standards.
- Collaborating with local environmental groups to promote and increase biodiversity in open spaces.
- Selecting planting and landscape elements that support the area's existing or desired future character and engage the senses.
- Incorporating locally relevant, interactive public art for all to enjoy.
- Working with the Traditional Owners of our lands to build partnerships and protect

cultural heritage in open spaces.

PRINCIPLE 05

INTEGRATE ARTWORK AND CELEBRATE THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Spaces will:

- Recognise and celebrate First Nations connections to the land with appropriate signage and artwork.
- Provide opportunities for artwork installation in play and open spaces in new and renewed locations.
- Provide opportunities to integrate natural and art elements with play space design including, but not limited to, custom equipment design, paving design, sculpture, wayfinding design, mural design, etc.
- Celebrate natural elements in play and open space to enhance experiences for all senses and connect with nature, both passive and actively.

4.0 THE IMPORTANCE OF PLAY AND OPEN SPACES


Open spaces provide social, health and wellbeing, environmental and economic benefits for the whole community. They also help cool our towns, build resilience to climate change, and create and maintain healthy biodiversity across our environment. As our communities grow and change, greater attention must be placed on planning our open spaces to ensure that they meet our current and future needs.

Play is crucial for the development of both children and adults. It helps children acquire essential skills for adulthood and offers numerous benefits, especially in outdoor settings. Well-designed play spaces support emotional, cognitive, and physical development while encouraging socialisation, exploration, risk-taking, and enjoyment.

Access to both structured and unstructured play spaces foster healthy, resilient adults. Since children have varied preferences and developmental needs, providing a range of play opportunities is essential.

Outdoor play is increasingly recognised as fundamental to children's healthy development. Children are naturally inclined to engage with nature, and spending time outside supports emotional, cognitive, and physical growth, as well as socialisation, exploration, resilience, and fun.

The relationship between play and the three major childhood developmental elements - cognitive/emotional, physical, and social is explored further below.




 		
<p>Cognitive development refers to how children think and process information, solve problems and make decisions. It is the development of knowledge that helps them understand their environment. Cognitive play provides an opportunity for exploration, manipulating objects, problem, solving, imaginative play and building on what is already known to interpret new experiences. The following features in a play space will contribute to cognitive development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Elements that encourage language development and communication e.g. speaker tubes ✚ Sensory play experiences including access to sand, water and vegetation ✚ Mechanical equipment that teaches cause and effect ✚ Interactive panels and musical instruments ✚ Natural areas for exploration and observation of living things ✚ Spaces/materials for outdoor games e.g. hopscotch ✚ Loose parts and unstructured informal play to foster creativity ✚ Provides an opportunity for 	<p>Physical development is achieved through movement, supporting the development of both fine motor skills – smaller movements like picking things up and gross motor skills – large movements like running and climbing as well as hand eye coordination, agility and balance. Physical movement also utilises stores of energy and improves a child's eating and sleeping habits. Features that support physical development are often well provided for in play spaces including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Play equipment that requires gross motor skills such as monkey bars, climbing frames and ladders ✚ Break out spaces that encourage running and kick about areas ✚ Equipment that promotes agility such as balance beams, experiencing height, sliding, balancing, swinging, crawling, bouncing, spinning and rocking ✚ Paths and connectivity that encourage scooters, bikes and hard surface games such as hopscotch 	<p>The development of social skills through play comes about through communicating and interacting with other children. Learning to cooperate, take risks, compromise, establish self-control and become aware of the feelings and needs of others. The following features in a play space will contribute to social development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Providing space for group activities and semi enclosed seating areas ✚ Hard surfaces that support ball games and competition ✚ Sharing, taking turns, friendships ✚ Elements that encourage cooperation and sharing ✚ Role play elements and props such as boats or cars, steering wheels, shops and cubbies ✚ Equipment that caters to group use such as large spinners ✚ Activities that require sharing and taking turns

appropriate risk taking, self-direction and self- regulations		
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5.0 DOG PARKS

Off-leash areas have become a recognised amenity catering for the health and wellbeing of both dogs and their owners. When properly established and managed off-leash areas represent a valuable asset providing physical and mental health to the community derived from physical exercise, social interaction and pet kinship. Strathbogie Shire Council recognises the importance of amenities such as these and aims to establish them against a consistent set of principles and manage them in a safe and environmentally sustainable manner.

A recently published list of benefits for off-leash areas includes the following.

 Benefits for dogs	 Benefits for people	 Benefits for the community
<p>Physical and mental exercise for dogs by providing opportunities where dogs can get physical and mental exercise. Well exercised dogs are less likely to behave in a destructive or annoying way such as excessive barking.</p> <p>Socialisation for dogs by providing opportunities for dogs to have frequent interaction with other dogs and people. Dogs that are well socialised and exercised are healthier and happier as well as less likely to be aggressive.</p> <p>Safe environment for dogs to play by providing a secure environment where dog owners can exercise their dogs off-leash and not</p>	<p>Outlet for dog owners to socialise by providing a public space where dog owners can interact with each other and form community bonds. It has been established that pets act as a lubricant for social contact and pet owners are more likely to exchange favours with neighbours, to be involved in community issues and to have higher levels of social capital.</p> <p>Seniors and disabled owners have an accessible place to exercise their dogs by providing people with limited access, such as the elderly and disabled, with opportunities to exercise their dog and provide ongoing social contact.</p>	<p>Responsible dog ownership reduces the likelihood of conflict with other users of open space through dog owners letting their dogs off-leash in other recreational areas, and provide opportunities to educate dog owners about animal health and welfare.</p> <p>Affordable recreation option, off-leash area is a free, outdoor activity where the family can take both their children and their pet.</p> <p>Resting place for travelling community by providing a safe resting spot for those owners travelling with their pets, pet friendly holidays.</p>

encounter cars, bikes and other obstacles. Dog parks can provide an outlet for natural dog behaviours such as running, chasing, playing and barking with the result that the dog is less likely to engage in such nuisance behaviour at home.	Places for people to connect by providing a space where dog owners can feel connected with other community members improving their mental and emotional health.	
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6.0 PLAY SPACE HIERARCHY

The strategy identifies three levels of play spaces: Regional, District, and Neighbourhood. These classifications are based on factors such as population, transportation, existing facilities, and the scale, variety, and number of play activities available in each town.

Table 1. outlines the characteristics of each play space level, guiding their classification across the Shire.

Table 2. details the features associated with each hierarchy level.

Table 1. Play space hierarchy characteristics

		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Largest sized play space ✚ A 'destination' play space that services the whole region ✚ Provides for all ages and abilities, offering a range of unique play experiences ✚ Includes facilities such as barbecues, carpark, toilets and amenities to support long stays of many hours ✚ Has a catchment of over 5km or greater and often attracts visitors from other regions ✚ Often located in close proximity to open space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Medium sized play space ✚ Provides a broad range of play experiences ✚ Caters to a broad range of age groups ✚ Services a wider catchment of 500m-2km (Can be walked to in less than 30min or driven to in less than 10min) ✚ Provides a range of amenities to support longer visits ✚ Provides access and some play equipment for all abilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Smallest of the three tiers ✚ Caters to the local residents ✚ Should cater for a couple of different age ranges with varied play experiences ✚ May cater for all abilities with access and some play equipment ✚ Open grass areas for free play and runabout space ✚ Provides basic amenities such as seating and shade ✚ Used for short visits up to an hour

and other recreational facilities


































































 Has a catchment of approx. 500m or a 10 minute walk

Table 2. Play space features across each hierarchy level

Type	Feature	Regional	District	Neighbourhood
General Facilities	Lighting			
	Planting – trees			
	Planting/garden beds			
	Drinking fountain			
	Seating			
	Car parking			
	Bike station			
	General waste/recycled bins			
	Paths			
	Signage			
	Green space			
	Drainage			
	Shelters			
	Trails/bike path			
	BBQ			
	Picnic tables			
	Toilets			
	Sports fields			

	Hard surfaces/pump track			
	Open space			
	Variety of play equipment			
	Community buildings located adjacent			
	All ages			
	All abilities			
	Various play type			
	Universal access path			
	Accessible parking			
	Custom designed equipment			
	Themed play equipment			
	Public art			
	Nature play elements			
	Sun protection			
	Wind protection			

6.1 FUTURE RECOMMENDATIONS - PLAY SPACE

Council currently manages 25 play spaces including 17 playgrounds, 3 skate parks, 5 exercise stations. The Strathbogie Shire Playground Audit was conducted in 2021, the auditing results have been reviewed and integrated into this strategy to guide the future improvement and development of play spaces in Council's Capital Investment Program over the next 10 years.

Each play space has been identified as requiring one or more of the following four actions be undertaken and are outlined in Table 3:

New – Entirely new play space required if:

- The park has no existing play space
- The existing play space is not suitable and/or cannot be modified or improved

- In some instances, it has been recommended entirely new play spaces be developed, these have been located in areas with a gap in play amenities.

Upgrade existing – Existing play space to be retained but modified, consider:

- Further assessment of each individual play space must be undertaken to identify what can be improved
- The play space audit table (Appendix 2) can be used to identify the play elements each site provides, as well as any deficiencies or areas needing improvement.
- Renewal of existing play spaces is an opportunity to increase diversity of play equipment, accessibility and provision for different age groups.

Maintain/Renew - No changes currently required, Council to:

- Continue to maintain play space to current standard
- Renew play provision as required upon condition report failure, with consideration of design guidelines

Decommission – Play spaces recommended for decommission are;

- Located in areas that will be adequately serviced by other surrounding play spaces when removed
- Currently providing very little or no additional play amenity to the community
- Equipment is old and will require replacement or repair in the near future at a cost to Council, redistribute capital investment to aid in the improvement of other play spaces Decommissioning will occur when equipment is deemed at the end of its life and notification to the community will be made at that time

Table 3. Future play space recommendations and hierarchy classification

Play Space Type	Hierarchy	Recommended Action				Priority Level	Installation Year	Compliance Year	Renewal Year
		New Space	Upgrade Existing	Renew/Maintain	Decommission				
Avenel Jubilee Park Exercise Station	Neighbourhood			x		LOW	2021	2051	2051
Avenel Jubilee Park Play Space	District			x		LOW	2023	2038	2038/39
Avenel Skate Park	District			x		LOW	2019	2048	2048

Creightons Creek Recreation Reserve Play Space	Neighbourhood			x		LOW	2023	2033	2033
Euroa Lions Park Exercise Station	Neighbourhood			x		HIGH	2019	2049	2049
Euroa Lions Park Play Space	District			x		MED	Varies	2025	2025/26
Euroa Rotary Bicentennial Park Play Space	Neighbourhood			x		LOW	2024	2034	2034
Euroa Rotary Park Play Space	Neighbourhood			x		LOW	2003	2030	2030/31
Euroa Nature Play Space	Regional	x				HIGH	2025		
Euroa Skate Park	District				x	LOW	2005	2030	2030
Euroa Spencer Street Reserve Exercise Station	Neighbourhood			x		LOW	2019	2049	2049
Longwood Community Centre Play Space	Neighbourhood				x	MED			2027/28
Longwood Nature Play Space	Neighbourhood	x				MED	2026		2026/27
Moglonemby Hall Play Space	Neighbourhood			x		HIGH	2004	2026	2024/25
Nagambie - Whroovale Estate Play Space	Neighbourhood			x		LOW	2022		2031/32
Nagambie Blayney Lane Exercise Station	Neighbourhood			x		LOW	2016	2046	2046
Nagambie Blayney Lane Play Space	Regional			x		LOW	2003	2031	2029/30
Nagambie Park River Street Reserve Play Space	District			x		MED	2003	2028	2026/27
Nagambie Recreation Reserve Play Space	Neighbourhood				x	MED	2003	2030	2030/31
Nagambie Skate Park	District			x		LOW	2021	2050	2050












Ruffy Community Centre Play Space	Neighbourhood			x		MED			2027/28
Strathbogie Recreation Reserve Play Space	District			x		HIGH	1992	2025	2024/25
Violet Town Lions Park Play Space	District			x		MED	2003	2029	2027/28
Violet Town Recreation Reserve Play Space - near Swimming Pool	District			x		MED	Varies	2028	2028/29
Violet Town Recreation Reserve Play Space - near Tennis Courts	District				x	HIGH	N/A	N/A	2023/24
Violet Town Recreation Reserve Skate Park	District		x			LOW	2002	2031	2031

7.0 OPEN SPACE HEIRARACHY

The strategy identifies three tiers of open spaces - Regional, District and Neighbourhood, aligning with the play space hierarchy. These classifications are determined by the population, transportation, existing facilities, the scale, variety and number of activities available at each location. These characteristics guide the classification of open space across the Shire for this strategy Table 4 Outlines the characteristics of each hierarchy of open space..

Table 4. Open space features across each hierarchy level

Type	Feature	Regional	District	Neighbourhood
General Facilities	Lighting			
	Planting – trees			
	Planting/garden beds			
	Drinking fountain			
	Seating			
	Car parking			
	Bike station			
	General waste/recycled bins			
	Paths			
	Signage			
	Green space			
	Drainage			
	Shelters			
	Trails/bike path			
	BBQ			
	Picnic tables			
	Toilets			
	Sports fields			
	Hard surfaces/pump track			
	Variety of play equipment			
	Community buildings located adjacent			
	All ages			

	All abilities			
	Universal access path			
	Accessible parking			
	Public art			
	Sun protection			
	Wind protection			

7.1 FUTURE RECOMMENDATIONS - OPEN SPACE

Open space plays an important role in our society by providing places for gathering, exercise, quiet reflection, passive recreation and children's play.

We honour the deep spiritual connection, belonging and identity our First Nations people and Traditional Owners have with open space. We recognise the Taungurung and Yorta-Yorta people as the traditional owners of the land and waterways of the Shire.

The strategy acknowledges that our open spaces occupy the ancestral lands of the Taungurung and Yorta-Yorta people. The development of this strategy represents an opportunity to show a deeper level of respect for the land within our open spaces. Our goal is to further integrate Traditional Owner philosophies and perspectives into the way we utilise, manage, plan, and maintain our open spaces. We acknowledge that embedded within our First People's culture is collective responsibility of caring for Country, and we look to their long-standing history of land custodianship as an outstanding example of sustainable practice for Strathbogie Shire to adopt in this Strategy.

The open and play space principles outlined in Section 3.0 of this strategy will guide the future development of Council's open spaces. Each open space has been audited and the following three possible actions are scheduled to be undertaken and are outlined in Table 5 future open space recommendations.

New – Entirely new open space required if:

- Inadequate open space for free play is available for community
- The existing open space is not suitable and/or cannot be modified or improved

Upgrade existing – Existing open space to be retained but modified, consider:

- Further assessment of each individual open space must be undertaken to identify what can be improved
- The open space audit table (Appendix 3) may be used to identify things each site is providing the community and what it is lacking or require improvement
- Renewal of existing open spaces is an opportunity to increase diversity of play, accessibility and provision for different age groups.

Maintain/Renew - No changes currently required, Council to:

- Continue to maintain open space to current standard

Table 5. Future open space recommendations

Open Space	Hierarchy	Recommended Action			Priority Level	Renew/Upgrade Year
		New Space	Renew/Upgrade	Maintain		
Avenel Jubilee Park	District			x	LOW	
Avenel Kent/Scobie St Reserve	Neighbourhood			x	LOW	
Avenel Stewart Park	Neighbourhood			x	LOW	
Euroa Apex Park	Neighbourhood			x	LOW	
Euroa APEX Walking Trail and associated reserves Seven Creeks Park	District		x		MED	2025
Euroa Charles Kemp Park	Neighbourhood			x	LOW	
Euroa Dr Dunn Reserve	Neighbourhood			x	LOW	
Euroa Outdoor Space (Youth Corridor)	Regional	x			HIGH	2025
Euroa Parker Street Reserve	Neighbourhood			x	LOW	
Euroa Scott Street Reserve	Neighbourhood			x	LOW	
Euroa Seven Creeks Park	Regional			x	MED	
Euroa Telegraph Park	District			x	LOW	

Euroa Yiiro Community Garden	Neighbourhood			x	LOW	
Kirwans Bridge Picnic Area	Neighbourhood			x	LOW	
Longwood Pub Paddock	District			x	LOW	
Nagambie Apex Park	Neighbourhood			x	LOW	
Nagambie Blayney Reserve	Regional			x	LOW	
Nagambie Buckley Park	Regional		x		MED	TBC on completion of master plan
Nagambie Church Street Reserve	Neighbourhood			x	LOW	
Nagambie Glass Square	Neighbourhood			x	LOW	
Nagambie Goulburn Street Reserve	Neighbourhood			x	LOW	
Nagambie Jacobsons Outlook	District		x			TBC on completion of master plan
Nagambie River Street Reserve	Neighbourhood			x	LOW	
Nagambie Sandy Coves	Neighbourhood			x	LOW	
Ruffy Tablelands Community Centre Open Space	Neighbourhood			x	LOW	
Violet Town Baird Street Reserve	Neighbourhood			x	LOW	
Violet Town Hurt Street Reserve	Neighbourhood			x	LOW	
Violet Town Shadforth Reserve	Neighbourhood			x	LOW	

Council will work towards the development of masterplans for the below Tier 1. Regional open spaces

- Seven Creeks

- Jacobsons Outlook
- Buckley Park

8.0 FUTURE RECOMMENDATIONS - DOG PARKS

Off leash dog areas can be defined as follows:

Enclosed

A constructed barrier provides separation between off leash dogs and other reserve users.

Open

No constructed barrier to provide separation from other reserve users.

Council currently has one declared off leash dog park located in Euroa. Dogs that are unleashed must still be under the effective control of the owner.

Enclosed dog parks in Strathbogie Shire Council will at a minimum:

- ✓ Be fenced with 6ft fences
- ✓ Have a double gateway entrance
- ✓ Have bin and dog waste bags
- ✓ Will have access to water bowls for dogs
- ✓ Will be predominately grassed but may have other suitable dog play surfaces
- ✓ Have appropriate amounts of parking for potential users, and
- ✓ Have seating

Open dog parks in Strathbogie Shire Council will at a minimum:

- ✓ Have a defined off leash area
- ✓ Have bin and dog waste bags
- ✓ Have appropriate amounts of parking for potential users, and
- ✓ Have seating

Prominent highly visible signage consistent with current corporate standards and branding requirements is to be placed at each entry point for both enclosed and open dog parks. The minimum information to be provided includes:

- ✓ Standard off-leash area use rules
- ✓ Site specific use rules where applicable
- ✓ Hours of operation where applicable
- ✓ Local Laws contact information
- ✓ Emergency contact information

The standard rules below are reflective of Community Local Law 2020 and applicable to all off-leash areas:

- ✓ An owner must carry a chain, cord or leash sufficient to bring the dog under control by placing the dog on a chain, cord or leash if the dog behaves in a manner which threatens any animal or person.
- ✓ An owner must remain ineffective voice and or hand control of the dog and be within constant sight of the dog so as to be able to promptly bring the dog under control by placing the dog on a chain, cord or leash if that becomes necessary or desirable to avoid any wandering out of control or to avoid any threatening behaviour or attack.

- ✓ An owner must carry a bag, receptacle or other means of picking up, and removing from the designated area, any of their dog's faeces.
- ✓ The owner must not allow their dog to worry or otherwise threaten any person or animal and must not allow the dog to attack any person or animal.

In Victoria, councils have a wide range of responsibilities for the management of domestic animals – primarily dogs and cats – pursuant to the Domestic Animals Act 1994 (DAA). These responsibilities include a requirement to prepare a Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) every four years. Additional off leash dog park locations will be considered post the adoption of Council's next DAMP iteration in 2026.

Stakeholder Engagement

Where the evaluation process recommends significant changes to, or potential closure of, an existing off-leash area, formal community engagement processes will be carried out in order to inform the final decision. This includes proposals from community of potential locations for new off leash dog parks.

Table 6. Council's current dog parks

Off Leash Dog Park	New Space	Upgrade Existing	Renew/Maintain	Priority Level	Installation Year
Euroa Dog Park			x	LOW	2022

Consideration for further enclosed and open dog parks is made through Council's DAMP. Consideration must be given to the ongoing costs associated with enclosed dog parks in a municipality with considerable open green space and parklands.

9.0 FUTURE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

The Local Government Act 2020, Strathbogie Shire Local Laws and Victorian Planning system provide requirements and guidance for how Strathbogie Shire plans, delivers and manages our open space.

According to the Local Government Act, "the role of a Council is to provide good governance in its municipal district for the benefit and wellbeing of the municipal community" (section 8 (1)). This aligns with the Vision of the Play and Open Space Strategy.

Council is committed to fostering development that enhances the value and wellness of local communities. The Public Open Space Contribution Policy was adopted in accordance with the requirements of the Subdivision Act 1988 (the SA 1988) and the

Planning and Environment Act 1987 (the P&EA 1987) as part of the subdivision process, to guide officers and developers in maintaining consistency and uniformity in public open space.

Under the Subdivision Act 1988, Council has a statutory obligation to apply and manage public open space contributions. These contributions can be either:

- Monetary public open space contributions
- Land public open space contributions

Occasionally, a combination of both land and monetary contributions may be required.

Clause 53.01 of the Strathbogie Planning Scheme directs when Council can require public open space contributions. However, it does not set a specific amount the Council can request. As a result, Council can request up to 5% of land value (pre development) under the Subdivision Act 1988. Council's public open space contribution policy states "Strathbogie Shire Council applies a public open space contribution rate of 5% for three lots or more".

If a new subdivision falls within the identified catchment area of the open space hierarchy at section 3.0 of this strategy, being Regional, District and Neighbourhood, a land contribution will not be required. In this instance, Council will require a 5% monetary contribution towards upgrades of the preexisting open space areas.

9.1 PROVISION OF NEW OPEN SPACE AS PART OF SUBDIVISION

The provision of new open space required through subdivision will be guided by a combination of planning scheme and Council policy requirements and will involve discussions between the Council's Community and Planning Directorate and the Sustainable Infrastructure Directorate. The primary goal is to ensure a net community benefit. New public open spaces must adhere to the five key principles of this strategy and must include:

- Public spaces with a minimum area of 0.4 hectares, demonstrated to be free from encumbrances.
- Pedestrian and cycle paths, as well as play equipment, to encourage active recreation.
- Design elements that facilitate visual surveillance and promote user safety, by encouraging active frontages.



APPENDIX 1: STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Strathbogie Shire Council Financial Plan 2022/23 - 2031/32	Playground Management Plan 2007
Arts and Culture Strategy - 12 Month Action Plan 2019 - 2023	Stormwater Management Plan Vol 1
Arts and Culture Strategy 2019 - 2023	Stormwater Management Plan Vol 2
Strathbogie Shire Council - 2022/23 Budget	Sustainable Strathbogie 2030
Strathbogie Shire Council - Community Engagement Policy September 2022	Strategic Resource Plan 2020/21 to 2023/24
Play and Recreation Framework for Children of All Ages	Financial Plan 2021-22 to 2030-31
Euroa Township Strategy July 2020	Gender Equality Action Plan 2021-2025
Avenel 2030 Strategy	Strathbogie Shire Economic Profile - Final Report
Council Plan 2021 - 2025	Tracks and Trails Strategy 2015-18 map
Euroa Structure Plan - Appendix A: Background Report	Tracks and Trails Strategy 2015 - 2018
Euroa Structure Plan - Appendix B	Heatwave Plan 2022
Euroa Structure Plan Final Report September 2010	Municipal Fire Management Plan 2020
Climate Change Action Plan 2022-2027	Nagambie Growth Management Strategy - Lake Access & Activities Framework- 2008
Public Open Space Contributions Policy	Violet Town and District Strategic Development Plan - 2010
Tree Management Plan: Urban and Rural Strategies	Euroa Neighbourhood Character Study 2008 and Guidelines
Asset Management Plan 2021/31	Strathbogie Shire Heritage Study Stage 1
Nature Strip Policy September 2014	Strathbogie Shire Heritage Study Stage 2 (Part 1)
Youth Strategy 2013 - 2015	Strathbogie Shire Heritage Study Stage 2 (Part 2)
Bicycle and Walking Path Strategy 2009	Naturally Cooler Towns In the Goulburn Murray Region Summary Report February 2022
2021-22 Annual Report	56.05 Urban Landscape, Strathbogie Planning Scheme
Euroa Post Flood Mapping and Intelligence Project	Euroa Outdoor Space Report
Technical Report Play and Open Space	Longwood Master plan 2023-2032

APPENDIX 2: SITE CONDITIONS AND AUDIT OF PLAY SPACES, EXERCISE STATIONS AND DOG PARK

The below table concludes the site conditions of all Council managed playgrounds, skateparks and exercise stations assessed against the Site Inspection Assessment Criteria identified in this strategy and play auditing results in Strathbogie Shire Playground Audits 2021. See Background Research Report of this strategy for detailed conditions at each site.

[illegible]

APPENDIX 3: OPEN SPACE SITE INSPECTIONS

The below table concludes the site conditions of open spaces assessed against the Site Inspection Assessment Criteria identified in this strategy. See *Background Research Report* of this strategy for detailed conditions at each site.

Overall Site Conditions of Open Spaces

Open Space Name	Shelter	Seating	Picnic Table	Drink Fountain	BBQ	General Waste Bins	Recycled Bins	Toilets	Signage	Lighting	Fence	Bollard	Wind Protection	Sun Protection	Cubby Play	BMX Track	Accessible Paths	Accessible Parking
Nagambie Active Space Hub/Glass St Reserve																		
Euroa Apex Park																		
Nagambie Apex Park																		
Avenel Stewart Park																		
Violet Town Baird Street Reserve																		
Euroa Bowling Club Reserve																		
Euroa Charles Kemp Park																		
Nagambie Church Street Reserve																		
Euroa Creek Drive Reserve																		
Euroa Dr Dunn Reserve																		
Seven Euroa Creeks Park																		
Nagambie Goulburn Street Reserve																		
Violet Town Hurt Street Reserve																		
Avenel Jubilee Park																		
Avenel Kent/Scobie St Reserve																		
Kirwans Bridge Picnic Area																		
Longwood Pub Paddock																		
Nagambie Buckley Park																		
Nagambie Jacobsen’s Outlook																		
Nagambie Blayney Reserve																		
Euroa Reserve - Parker Street																		
Nagambie River Street Reserve																		
Ruffy Tablelands Community Centre Open Space																		
Nagambie Sandy Coves																		
Euroa Scott St Reserve Open Space																		
Euroa Senior Citizens Reserve																		
Euroa Telegraph Park																		
Violet Town Shadforth Reserve																		
Euroa Yiiro Community Garden																		

*Accessibility is assessed by visual inspection only and will need detailed land surveys in determining the level of existing accessibility and the location of improvement at each site.