



# **ACTIVATING OPEN SPACE STRATEGY 2019-2024**



**LODDON**  
SHIRE

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

**Loddon Shire Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land comprising the Loddon Shire Council area. Council would like to pay respect to their Elders both past and present.**



The Activating Open Space Strategy was supported by the Victorian Government

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Loddon Shire features a diversity of public open spaces such as parks, playgrounds, sports ovals, bushland, footpaths, cycling / walking tracks, rivers and lakes distributed throughout the Shire. Some of the 113 or more parcels of public open spaces located within Loddon Shire are very well utilised by local residents and visitors, whereas others are significantly under-utilised. Loddon Shire Council is keen to improve the functionality and attractiveness of these open spaces and to encourage local residents and visitors of all ages, genders, backgrounds and abilities to better activate or utilise these important community spaces. It is important to note that some open spaces listed in the strategy are not Council owned; hence Council's involvement may vary depending on the circumstances.

Whilst the benefits of taking part in physical activity in outdoor spaces is well documented, e.g. it reduces the risk of developing chronic diseases; it encourages the development of more connected communities; and it improves people's overall sense of health and wellbeing, there are still 30.1% of local residents who take part in no physical activity at all. This may be one of the contributing factors to explain why Loddon Shire Council is currently the number one ranked Local Government Authority in Victoria for heart attacks.<sup>1</sup>

Further, mental health related issues are on the rise with almost half of the population of Australia likely to experience a mental disorder at some time in their life<sup>2</sup>, and Loddon Shire's suicide rate is significantly higher than state average suicide rate 16.8 in comparison to a Victorian average rate of 11.0.per 1,000 people.

Given that participating in regular physical activity can reduce cardiovascular disease-related deaths by up to 35%, decrease stress levels and increase people's resilience, there is a very strong case to better activate open spaces for local residents to become more physically active.<sup>3</sup>

It is not simply a case of 'build it and they will come'. Loddon Shire is already endowed with an ample array of open spaces, and minimal population growth, hence there is limited justification for many new developments. Instead, the key focus needs to be on upgrading, renewing and improving maintenance of what already exists (with a few exceptions) and activating open spaces. However, where there are requests for new facilities, these should be accompanied by a feasibility study which clearly outlines the need or demand, how the facility will be sustainable and whole of life costs from construction to maintenance to replacement.

The major issues are more around how we make existing public open space sites more attractive, accessible and inclusive; and then how we (and our partners) can activate them through activities, programs and events. These sites and the activities available within them need strong community support in the planning and need to be well promoted. We also need to reduce systematic barriers around access to spaces and ensure that certain groups understand that they do not have exclusive use of particular sites (except at certain times). We cannot do this alone though – we need to partner with other organisations to help us better activate the public open spaces we have. Our partners will include (but not be limited to) the health sector, the environmental sector, schools, community organisations such as neighbourhood houses, churches and the private sector.

A fundamental component of activating our open spaces is to ensure that the barriers to participation and access are addressed. Barriers include:

- Cost
- Lack of transport
- Fear of embarrassment
- Poor health/injuries
- Culturally inappropriate environment
- Poor quality facilities
- Lack of information
- Unwelcome environment
- Safety concerns

These barriers are even more pronounced for traditionally disadvantaged groups such as:

- older adults
- people with disabilities
- women
- indigenous people
- culturally and linguistically diverse citizens
- people from low socio-economic backgrounds.

Unless the barriers to participation and activation of public open spaces are addressed, participation is unlikely to increase and we will continue to have 30% of the population inactive and in poor health.

In order to better activate public open spaces in Loddon Shire and increase the percentage of residents who take part in sufficient levels of physical activity, there are seven key factors that need to be taken into consideration.

These factors are:

**1. Promote the benefits of being physically active to the community**

Actively promote the Australian Physical Activity Guidelines and increase people's knowledge of the benefits of being physically active and leading a healthy lifestyle.

**2. Create safe, inclusive and accessible spaces and places**

Ensure that each town provides a number of safe, welcoming, inclusive and accessible spaces and places that encourage people of all ages and abilities to be physically active, as per the Open Space Infrastructure Provision Framework and the Style Guide in the Appendix.

Infrastructure / facilities should be Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) compliant and designed according to universal design principles. Wherever possible, open spaces should be designed to be as flexible as possible to encourage spaces to be used by more than one user group and for more than one type of activity.

**3. Encourage / promote events and programs that support / increase physical activity**

Facilitate a range of programs and events within the Shire that encourage residents and visitors to engage in physical activity on a regular basis within public open spaces, e.g. walking festival, tai chi in a park, ParkRun, swimming lessons, water aerobics, Summer in the Parks, Heart Foundation Walking Groups, dive in movies, pedometer challenges, yoga, etc.

**4. Involve the community in planning spaces, places, events and programs**

Encourage place making by empowering the local community to be involved in the planning of spaces and places in their neighbourhood where physical activity can occur and to also to be involved in the planning and delivery of events and programs. This is likely to create greater ownership of spaces and places, which will result in stewardship (caring for local facilities) and improved sustainability. It is also likely to encourage the implementation of events and programs which meet local needs and are therefore well supported.

One aspect of place making is the development and installation of art works to reflect something that is important to the community, e.g. the cormorant and fish sculptures at Little Lake Boort. This should be encouraged in major parks / open spaces.

**5. Promote spaces, places, events and programs where physical activity occurs**

Promote existing open spaces and places and ensure that any new programs or events are well publicised using a variety of different tools (e.g. website, social media pages, media articles, posters in shop windows, etc).

**6. Ensure that our systems, policies and processes encourage physical activity**

Review Council, sports club and community systems, policies and processes (e.g. Community Support Policy) to enhance, rather than discourage, physical activity participation, e.g. suitable tenancy arrangements with sporting clubs, public access to tennis courts, access to school playgrounds, etc.

**7. Develop partnerships with organisations to help deliver spaces, places, events and activities**

Work in partnership with sports clubs, schools, neighbourhood houses, community planning groups, businesses, churches, service clubs and others to collectively increase the number of people who are physically active in open spaces throughout the Shire.

In order to identify the types of improvements required to activate public open spaces, 273 residents of Loddon Shire had their say through a series of community engagement and consultation activities including:

- consultation with young people at Wedderburn and Boort P-12 schools (44)
- listening posts at Wedderburn IGA Supermarket, Calivil Recreation Reserve, Inglewood Recreation Reserve (95)
- Seniors Forum (7)
- Townscape Services staff meeting (4)
- Technical Services staff meeting (1)
- community survey (122).

Local residents who completed a survey stated that the key factors that would encourage them to utilise public open spaces more often are:

- more events, e.g. movies in the park, festivals, markets, etc
- more or better walking / cycling paths and linkages
- more shade
- outdoor gym equipment
- more seats
- more / better play equipment
- picnic tables
- drinking fountains
- physical activity programs, e.g. outdoor tai chi, yoga and zumba
- shelters.

A series of recommendations have been made to help activate open spaces in Loddon Shire, taking into consideration feedback from the community, information from the literature review, demographic analysis, an audit of facilities, research into trends and best practice and analysis of available resources.

In the development of recommendations, it is acknowledged that recreation reserves are key public outdoor spaces used by local residents for sport, recreation, fitness and socialization. However, as each of the major recreation reserves in the Shire has its own master plan with a series of actions that committees of management are working towards implementing, only recommendations that improve facilities for the general public, i.e. related to playgrounds, seating, paths, BBQ areas, etc. are featured in this plan as all other recommendations, e.g. upgrading pavilions, installing oval lighting and installing shelters for netballers are already included in the individual master plans.

General Shire-wide recommendations include:

- park upgrades
- play space renewals
- development of walking and cycling tracks, including footpaths
- development of waterways as family recreation facilities
- solar heating and programming of swimming pools
- signage improvements
- improved maintenance and management
- keeping things affordable.

A summary of major projects in towns to activate open spaces are:

Boort - playground upgrades and skate park / modular pump track	Bridgewater - playground upgrades, nature-based play, landscaping and jetty	Calivil - BBQ / picnic area and walking track
Dingee - path developments	Durham Ox - toilets for canoeists	Eddington - path developments
Inglewood - youth play, paths, BBQ and walking track upgrades	Korong Vale - park / playground upgrade	Laanecoorie - BBQ, beach, boat ramp, canoe platform
Mitiamo - park / playground upgrade	Newbridge - BBQs and shelters in park	Pyramid Hill - park, playground and walking track upgrades
Serpentine - path upgrade	Tarnagulla - play upgrade and landscaping	Wedderburn - park / play upgrade, youth play, Reservoir upgrade

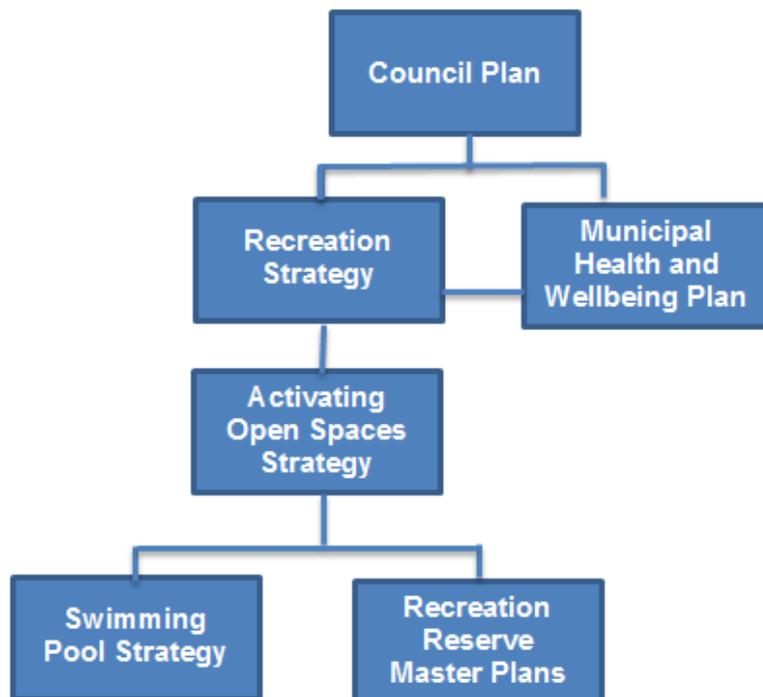
## 1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this strategy is to help prioritise and guide the ongoing development and management of Council's open spaces, with a particular focus on informal recreation opportunities and maximising participation in physical activity both formal and informal.

Specifically, the strategy aims to provide an evidence base to support Loddon Shire to:

- encourage more people to be more active, whether it be playing organised sport or by taking part in informal physical activities
- encourage people, particularly those from traditionally disadvantaged cohorts, to take part in more physical activity by addressing barriers to participation
- identify the types of facilities, infrastructure, programs, activities, technology and services that may be required to support people to be more active.

Relationship of the plan to other Council plans:



## 2 BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

None of the actions in this strategy have been costed. It is the intention that each project identified for towns, be scoped and costed as part of the planning process. It is expected that consideration will be given to what is realistic and achievable when scoping these projects, with local residents (including local Community Planning groups) being invited to participate in the planning and the scoping of these projects. Community Planning groups will consult with local residents about exactly what will work for their community and ensure that the project is realistic and achievable. The one exception to this relates to the identified outdoor exercise equipment which is in progress, having received external funding, which may have a potential ongoing cost implication as noted in this plan. Council staff will identify potential funding sources to support the implementation / delivery of the scoped projects.

### 3 RISK ANALYSIS

The risk of implementing this strategy is minimal. In fact the risk associated with failure to undertake forward planning is possibly more detrimental in the long term in relation to maximum utilisation of existing assets and maximising the community's opportunities to be physically active and thereby improve their health and wellbeing.

The key risks identified are:

Potential risk	Likelihood of risk occurring	Impact of risk / consequence criteria	Risk mitigation strategy
Infrastructure developments (e.g. outdoor fitness equipment) or upgrades (e.g. shade, lighting paths and seats in a park) recommended are unable to be funded by Council or external sources	Possible (C)	Minor (2) Developments or upgrades will not occur or may be delayed. There could be some community dissatisfaction if there is an expectation that certain things will be funded. Not all facilities will be utilised to their maximum capacity if specific upgrades are not undertaken. The diversity of opportunities will be limited if new developments do not occur.	Be clear in the action plan of the strategy that items can only be funded if sufficient funds are available from Council and/or external funding opportunities and also note that some things will be subject to further feasibility assessments and extended timeframes due to prioritisation. Consider other ways to activate spaces or to achieve the outcomes desired by the community that are less costly.
Infrastructure developments and upgrades implemented are not well utilised by the community	Possible (C)	Minor (2) Facilities will be under-utilised and therefore few people in the community will benefit from the investment.	Actively promote any new developments or upgrades in the community. Consider holding an open day, a come and try day, an event or running a program that utilises the new infrastructure in some way to increase awareness of the new development and how to use it is. Involve the local community in any significant new development or upgrade so that they develop a sense of ownership.
Events / programs (e.g. summer in the parks, tai chi in the park, etc) recommended are not well attended by the community	Possible (C)	Minor (2) Events or programs may not run again, thereby reducing the amount and diversity of physical activity opportunities in public open spaces. Council or event organisers may make a	Undertake sufficient research prior to the event to ensure that the event/program is something that people want to be involved in.  Extensive promotion of events and programs to

Potential risk	Likelihood of risk occurring	Impact of risk / consequence criteria	Risk mitigation strategy
		financial loss.	occur through a variety of different outlets. Key barriers to participation need to be addressed to maximise attendance, e.g. cost and times activities occur, etc.
Not developing an ongoing cyclic and pro-active maintenance and inspection regime that is budgeted and resourced appropriately and, allocated to a specific department within Council.	Possible (C)	Moderate (3) New and existing infrastructure and surrounds may not be maintained to an appropriate standard, therefore impacting on safety, aesthetic appeal and functionality	Develop a maintenance plan and fund it annually.

Based on Council's risk matrix, each of the risks identified above fall into a medium risk category with a score of eight, with the exception of the last risk, which rates as a medium risk with a score of 13.

		Consequence criteria				
		1 – Insignificant	2 – Minor	3 – Moderate	4 – Major	5 – Catastrophic
		Overall Rating				
Likelihood Criteria	A	Medium (11)	High (16)	High (20)	Very High (23)	Very High (25)
	B	Medium (7)	Medium (12)	High (17)	High (21)	Very High (24)
	C	Low (4)	Medium (8)	Medium (13)	High (18)	High (22)
	D	Low (2)	Low (5)	Medium (9)	Medium (14)	High (19)
	E	Low (1)	Low (3)	Low (6)	Medium (10)	Medium (15)

Legend for likelihood criteria: A= almost certain, B= likely, C= possible, D= unlikely, E= rare

To alleviate these risks, Council's policy suggests:

Action: Take reasonable steps to mitigate the risk. Until elimination, substitution, or engineering controls can be implemented, institute administrative or personal protective equipment controls. These "lower level" controls must not be considered permanent solutions.

Details: Interim measures until permanent solutions can be implemented:

- develop administrative controls to limit the use or access
- provide supervision and specific training related to the issue of concern.

## 4 BACKGROUND AND SCOPE

### 4.1 Overview

Globally, as people are constrained by busy lifestyles and time pressures, there has been a shift in physical activity participation away from traditional sports participation such as cricket or tennis on a Saturday to more informal recreation and fitness pursuits such as walking or cycling at times that suit the participant.

Public open spaces, such as sports grounds, parks, rivers, lakes, trails, footpaths and bushland are key locations where physical activity occurs within Loddon Shire. Some of the open spaces and / or facilities located within Loddon Shire are very well utilised by local residents and visitors, whereas others are significantly under-utilised.

Loddon Shire has developed master plans for all of its major sporting reserves in recent years; however, these strategies have primarily focused on improving facilities and infrastructure for the tenant sporting clubs, with minimal consideration given to improving the overall amenity of these sites for potential usage by unstructured recreation or other user groups.

To activate public open spaces more effectively and to increase usage by a broader demographic, we need to not only understand what the key attributes of well utilised spaces are, but also what barriers are preventing some members of the community from utilising and benefitting from them.

### 4.2 Focus of strategy

This strategy therefore focuses on two key areas:

- improving the physical appearance, functionality and opportunities available at public open spaces – including accessible paths, BBQs, lighting, additional infrastructure, seats and shade
- activation of public open spaces (and therefore promoting more participation in physical activity) through programs, activities, events and services.

### 4.3 Definitions

Although public open space can be defined as “the variety of spaces within the urban environment that are readily and freely accessible to the wider community for recreation and enjoyment<sup>4</sup>.” for the purpose of this strategy, we will only include:

- parks
- playgrounds
- water ways, e.g. rivers, creeks and lakes
- shared paths, e.g. footpaths and cycling trails
- bushland.

We will not include recreation reserves as each recreation reserve has its own master planning. Committees overseeing these sites are working towards upgrading facilities to better meet the needs of the community. Nor will we include public halls or indoor leisure centres, despite these facilities potentially being key locations where physical activity can occur, as these facilities are located indoors.

Other definitions of relevance to this strategy include:

- place activation is defined as “planning for diverse human activity in a place...the focus of place activation is on ensuring the needs of all potential users are met”<sup>5</sup>.
- physical activity is defined as “any bodily movement produced by skeletal muscles that requires energy expenditure”<sup>6</sup>.

## 4.4 Methodology

In order to obtain the information necessary to make informed recommendations about what ideally needs to occur to better activate Loddon Shire's public open spaces, the following actions occurred:

- literature review
- demographic analysis
- assessment of benefits, trends, participation, usage and barriers
- community engagement
- audit
- case studies
- report on outdoor fitness equipment
- preparation of style guide
- action plan.

## 5 AN OVERVIEW OF PUBLIC OPEN SPACE

### 5.1 Importance of public open spaces

The World Health Organisation states that there is a need for "small, local green spaces very close to where people live and spend their day, as well as large green spaces offering formal provisions such as playing fields and opportunities to experience contact with nature and relative solitude."<sup>7</sup> It specifically notes that a "lack of parks, sidewalks and sport / recreation facilities" are key environmental factors that discourage people from being more active.<sup>8</sup>

The World Health Organisation also notes that "urban green space has health benefits, particularly for economically deprived communities, children, pregnant women and senior citizens. It is therefore essential that all populations have adequate access to green space, with particular priority placed on provision for disadvantaged communities...the need for green space and its value for health and well-being is universal."<sup>9</sup>

### 5.2 Quality public open spaces

Public open spaces that attract high levels of use have a key set of common indicators. Kelly Park in Pyramid Hill, J Sloan Playground located at the Inglewood Recreation Reserve and Nolen's Park in Boort are all good examples within the Shire of parks that have recently been updated and which now attract a considerable amount of usage.

Some of the successful design features include:

- new play equipment, some of which is designed to be used by people of all abilities, e.g. the birds nest swing at Nolen's Park
- play equipment for a variety of different ages, e.g. at Nolen's Park there are swings and slides for younger children and a flying fox for older children; at Kelly Park there is traditional play equipment for younger children along with a half basketball court for older children; and at J Sloan Park there is a skate park for older children.
- multiple physical activity opportunities, including space to kick a football
- there are access paths throughout the play spaces, although it is also important to create access paths directly to equipment
- there are seats for parents / carers to sit and watch their children play, although more shade over some seats would be useful
- there are toilets nearby
- there are picnic tables and BBQs with shelters at Nolen's Park and Kelly Park, which encourage people to stay longer and to meet other people

- there are clear lines of sight throughout the parks, which creates a perception of safety
- each site is easily visible and accessible from main roads, not hidden away in a court or back street
- there is aesthetically pleasing landscaping, which helps to create a sense of place
- there are items of public art which help to develop a sense of place
- each site is well maintained
- each site feels welcoming.

### 5.3 Key attributes of an activated area of public open space

When considering how to activate other areas of public open spaces in Loddon Shire and to encourage regular usage, attention should be given to the following key attributes (from the Heart Foundation's Healthy Active Design Guidelines): <sup>10</sup>

Access and connections:

- pedestrian-friendly and well-connected, permeable street design
- accessible using a range of transport options
- connected to nearby destinations, attractions and the wider area

Uses and Activities:

- convenient for both local daily living activities and larger organised events
- facilitates a range of activities
- used during different times of day and throughout the year

Comfort and Image:

- is attractive and appealing
- has a sense of character and history
- feels safe, clean and comfortable

Sociability:

- promotes co-operation and neighbourliness
- welcoming and non-exclusionary
- connects people with other people."

Other considerations include:

- land sufficient in size for its purpose
- well signed
- clear site lines
- potentially connected to a social media page to promote activities
- well maintained site
- proactive management, e.g. any incidents are quickly followed up with by Council officers.

### 5.4 Industry tools

Some specific industry tools and principles that promote quality design of public open spaces include:

- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design:  
[https://www.police.vic.gov.au/content.asp?document\\_id=10444](https://www.police.vic.gov.au/content.asp?document_id=10444)
- Heart Foundations - Healthy By Design:

<https://www.heartfoundation.org.au/programs/healthy-by-design-victoria>

- Universal Design Principles:  
<http://universaldesign.ie/What-is-Universal-Design/The-7-Principles/>
- Parks and Leisure Australia Open Space Planning and Design Guide:  
<https://www.parksleisure.com.au/documents/item/2091>
- Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning - Creating Liveable Open Space – Case Studies  
<https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/policy-and-strategy/open-space-planning>.
- Sport and Recreation Victoria’s Guidelines for Planning, Installing and Activating Outdoor Fitness Equipment  
<http://www.sport.vic.gov.au/publications-and-resources/community-sport-resources/guidelines-planning-installing-and-activating>
- AARP’s Creating Parks and Public Spaces for People of All Ages. A Step-by-Step Guide (2018)  
<https://www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/livable-communities/documents-2018/Parks%20Guide-LR-091018-singles.pdf>

## 5.5 Benefits of public open spaces

According to Parks and Leisure Australia<sup>11</sup>, the benefits of public open space for municipalities such as Loddon Shire include:

Social benefits	Health benefits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connect and build strong communities by providing opportunities for local people to come together for a range of leisure, cultural and celebratory activities.</li> <li>• Enhance opportunities for social cohesion and inclusion.</li> <li>• Improve liveability in urban environments by offering affordable recreation opportunities for all community sectors.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourages physical activity.</li> <li>• Enhances physical and mental health.</li> <li>• Helps to reduce the risk of developing chronic diseases.</li> <li>• Assists in recovery from mental fatigue.</li> <li>• Enhances children’s development and well-being.</li> </ul>

Environmental benefits	Economic benefits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protection of areas of conservation, biodiversity or cultural heritage value.</li> <li>• Managing climate change impacts by providing shade and cooling.</li> <li>• Contributing to storm water management.</li> <li>• Contributing to urban heat abatement.</li> <li>• Reduction of air and noise pollution.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks are a major draw card for recreation and tourism industries and significant sources of employment for local communities and flow on economic benefits.</li> <li>• Active open spaces serve the same purpose on competition days by attracting participants and spectators beyond the district and this has significant flow on economic benefits.</li> </ul>

## 5.6 Public open space trends

Rural municipalities such as Loddon Shire are not necessarily subject to the same trends in open space planning as inner city centres such as Melbourne and Sydney.

In metropolitan locations, the population is increasing at a fast rate and municipalities are promoting higher density living to limit the urban sprawl and the need to develop additional infrastructure. At the same time, developers are competing for any available space and selling residential blocks which provide little space for backyards.

Instead, the key trends impacting or likely to impact Loddon Shire include:

Trend	Details
<b>Liveability</b>	Quality open spaces are seen as one of the tools used to attract new residents to come and live in Loddon Shire and to improve the liveability of towns.
<b>Social interactions</b>	Parks and open spaces are seen as safe and attractive locations for public interactions for people living in lone households, older adults, families with young children, people with disabilities, people from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities, young people, etc. Some features to encourage social interactions are seating, BBQs, shelters and programming.
<b>Active transport and linkages</b>	There is a greater focus on ensuring that recreation and open space areas are connected to existing walking / cycling networks.
<b>Accessibility</b>	There is greater awareness of the need to ensure that people of all ages and all abilities can safely and easily utilise areas of open space. Universal Design Principles and Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) requirements provide guidance in this area. Infrastructure to encourage participation by people of all abilities includes ramps, unisex toilets with change tables, single story buildings to allow for wheelchair access, Braille signs, etc.
<b>Planning</b>	Master planning of recreation reserves and open spaces has occurred to ensure that needs of all existing and casual users are considered in the long term – including the linking of cycling / walking paths, development of play spaces, landscaping and BBQ / picnic facilities, formalised parking, etc.
<b>Multi-purpose design and diversity</b>	Parks and open spaces are being used for a variety of different purposes including sport, markets, festivals, etc.; hence spaces need to be as multi-purpose as possible to cater for community needs.
<b>Connection with nature</b>	There is a greater focus on providing quality landscaping and more natural spaces which utilise loose materials, rocks, logs, etc. There may also be some interpretive activities associated with the natural features. Loddon Shire has some excellent interpretive information and is blessed with an abundance of natural landscapes.
<b>Safety</b>	There is a greater awareness of safe design when it comes to parks and open spaces to ensure safety and perceived safety issues do not act as a barrier to usage. Clear sight lines, lighting, vegetation that can be seen through, passive surveillance, shade, etc. are all

Trend	Details
	tools that can be used to improve safety.
<b>Sustainability</b>	There has been a greater focus on the development of environmentally responsible practices such as solar hot water, recycled water systems, double glazed windows, wetlands, community gardens, synthetic surfaces, use of recycled materials, use of locally sourced materials, etc. to reduce the impact of facilities / spaces and their users on the environment and to potentially reduce operating costs of facilities.
<b>Climate change</b>	There is a greater focus on climate-proofing areas of open space as much as possible to reduce water usage and to retain some green space during periods of low rainfall.
<b>Individual activities</b>	There has been a movement away from many traditional organised sports such as football, cricket, netball and tennis to more individual or small group non-organised activities, e.g. walking, gym workouts, fitness classes, cycling, swimming, running, etc.
<b>Lifestyle / non-traditional forms of sport</b>	There is greater demand for lifestyle/non-traditional forms of sport and recreation in open space areas, e.g. petanque, street table tennis, spin classes in parks, etc.
<b>Personal training</b>	There has been greater use of parks, reserves and open spaces by personal fitness trainers and their clients.
<b>Events</b>	There has been greater demand on sporting facilities and public open spaces such as parks for special events and tournaments, e.g. markets, festivals, weddings, etc.
<b>Programming</b>	There is a growing focus by Local Government on providing programs in open spaces to attract greater levels of participation in physical activities, e.g. summer activities on a daily basis, ParkRun, etc.
<b>Dog parks</b>	There has been an emergence of off leash dog parks in response to the desire to connect with other dog walkers and the desire for dogs to socialise with one another.
<b>Playgrounds</b>	There has been greater investment in developing destination play spaces in open space areas, designed to attract people from both within and outside municipalities. Inglewood, Boort and Pyramid Hill all have play spaces which attract people from outside the immediate neighbourhood.
<b>Aquatic centres</b>	In many areas, the 25 or 50m outdoor municipal swimming pool is being replaced with an indoor pool, program pools and often a gymnasium and program rooms. Alternatively, there is big demand for communities, particularly in areas where indoor pools are not feasible (such as Loddon Shire), to solar heat outdoor swimming pools to extend the season and increase water temperature.
<b>Splash parks</b>	In some areas, swimming pools are being replaced by splash parks or water play areas. Splash parks are children's play areas that feature water which is sprayed from ground level or from upright

Trend	Details
	structures and drained away so that it has zero or minimum depth at any time.
<b>Outdoor fitness equipment</b>	There has been a growth in the installation of outdoor fitness equipment in public open spaces in recent years, either clustered together in one location or spread along a linear pathway.
<b>Community gardens</b>	There has been an increase in the number of community gardens in cities and towns in areas of public open space where people come together to garden together and increase their access to affordable fruit and vegetables.
<b>Food</b>	There has been a growing trend for Local Government Authorities to develop a café or restaurant in some open spaces or encourage food trucks to visit these sites.
<b>Community hubs</b>	There has been a trend to co-locate several sporting facilities to form recreation precincts to maximise limited resources and to cross- market activities.
<b>Management and maintenance</b>	Local Government Authorities are focusing on more effective planning, management and maintenance, including understanding whole of life costs of infrastructure, i.e. construction, management, activation, maintenance and replacement.
<b>Place making</b>	There has been a shift in recent years away from organisations such as Local Government Authorities undertaking the planning and design work for public open spaces to a greater focus on place making where communities and businesses lead or collaborate with authorities to develop vibrant well utilised spaces (place making). Public art has greatly assisting in reflecting what is important to a community.
<b>Tourism</b>	Public open spaces are increasingly being used by event organisers for activities such as fun runs, cycling events, Great Victorian Bike Ride, Tough Mudder, music festivals, etc. These can create a positive economic impact for the municipality.

## 5.7 Local demand for facilities

Loddon Shire's Recreation Strategy (2015) identifies the following facility upgrades in public open spaces as a priority by survey respondents:

- gym facilities
- swimming pool (heated) and swimming clubs
- more cycling / walking tracks
- indoor sports opportunities, e.g. badminton, table tennis, squash
- skate park
- water security for recreation reserves
- lakes stocked with more fish.

## 6 AN OVERVIEW OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION

### 6.1 Benefits and importance of physical activity participation

Participation in regular physical activity can have a major impact on people's health and wellbeing. Not only can regular participation reduce the risk of some types of cancer and chronic conditions such as type 2 diabetes and cardio vascular disease, it can also promote stronger social connections, improved self-esteem and reduced stress and anxiety.

The importance of activating public open spaces and encouraging more local residents to become physically active is clearly apparent when reviewing current research about physical activity:

- Only 30% of Australian children aged 2-17 meet the physical activity component of Australia's Physical Activity and Sedentary Behaviour Guidelines (for 13-17 year olds this figure is just 7.9%).<sup>12</sup>
- Only 44% of adults aged 18 and over meet the physical activity guideline<sup>13</sup>
- Participating in regular physical activity can reduce cardiovascular disease-related deaths by up to 35%.<sup>14</sup>
- Physical inactivity costs the Australian economy \$805 million annually - \$640m in direct costs (healthcare expenditure) and \$165m in indirect costs (loss in productivity)<sup>15</sup> (2013 figures).
- Physical inactivity causes an estimated 16,000 premature deaths a year.<sup>16</sup>
- Productivity loss due to physical inactivity is estimated at 1.8 working days per worker per year.<sup>17</sup>
- Adults who participate in sport are 20–40% less likely to die prematurely from all causes compared with non-participants.<sup>18</sup>
- People who are overweight or obese and physically inactive have the same level of disease burden (the health loss from living with, or dying prematurely from, a disease or injury) as people who use tobacco.<sup>19</sup>
- An extra 15 minutes of brisk walking, 5 days each week, could reduce disease burden due to physical inactivity by an estimated 13%. If this time increased to 30 minutes, the burden could be reduced by 26%.<sup>20</sup>
- Physical inactivity contributes to 19% of diabetes cases, 16% of bowel cancer cases, 16% of uterine cancer cases, 14% of dementia cases, 11% of breast cancer cases, 11% of coronary heart disease cases and 10% of strokes.<sup>21</sup>

### 6.2 Participation in physical activity by adults

In recent years, there has been a shift away from organised sport to more informal recreational activities that can be undertaken in small groups, alone, or at varying times of the day in parks, sports reserves and open spaces. The following table shows the most popular physical activities (organised and non-organised) for people 15 years of age and over in Australia in 2015-2016.<sup>22</sup>

No current local data is available, however it is anticipated that local data would show a lower percentage of people who take part in soccer as no clubs are available within the Shire and may also show AFL football in the top ten activities (nationally it sits at number 15 after basketball, cricket, netball and surfing).

Activity	Participation rate by people 15 years of age and over (%)
Walking (recreational)	43
Fitness / gym	32
Athletics track and field (includes jogging and running)	16
Swimming	15

Cycling	12
Football (soccer)	6
Bushwalking	5
Golf	5
Tennis	5
Yoga	4

*Note that participation refers to taking part in the specific activity at least once in the past 12 months (it doesn't account for frequency, intensity, membership / casual participation, etc).*

Two of the activities listed above generally occur indoors (gym and yoga), but there is potential through the establishment of outdoor gym equipment and programs in parks to offer each of these activities outdoors if feasible. In terms of open space provision for adults, walking / cycling paths and trails and swimming pools need to be a priority, based on the Australian Sports Commission data. However, there continues to be a place for upgrading and promoting sport and recreation facilities.

### 6.3 Participation in physical activity by children

For Australian children, the top 10 organised activities outside school hours (does not include other leisure activities such as bike riding) undertaken at least once per year in 2015 were:<sup>23</sup>

Activity	Participation rate by children under 15 years of age (%)
Swimming	30
Football (soccer)	15
Australian Rules Football	8
Gymnastics	7
Netball	7
Dancing (recreational)	7
Basketball	7
Tennis	6
Cricket (outdoor)	6
Athletics – track and field	4

Three of the top 10 activities for children are generally undertaken indoors, e.g. gymnastics, dancing and basketball. Consideration needs to be given to see if these activities can also be offered informally outdoors, e.g. outdoor basketball half courts, more adventurous equipment in play spaces such as climbing walls to replicate some gymnastic skills and spaces for young people to practice their dancing outdoors. Based on the top 10 activities, there will continue to be a need to provide multi-purpose playing fields, hard courts and swimming pools to service the needs of young people.

### 6.4 Local participation

As part of the previous Loddon Shire Recreation Strategy (2015), survey respondents were asked to identify what activities they regularly take part in, and the frequency of participation. On a weekly participation rate, walking was the most popular activity, followed by sport, swimming and running / jogging. Water sports and visiting playgrounds, parks and rivers are also popular activities, participated in by many people at least once per year.

When asked about the types of activities they would like to do, but don't currently do, survey respondents listed the following as their preferred activities:

- swimming

- gym / yoga / pilates
- bike riding
- horse riding.

## 6.5 Barriers to physical activity participation

There are a broad range of social and economic determinants that influence whether or not people participate in physical activity. These barriers exist at an individual, organisational, community and societal level as outlined below.

Individual level: Key factors which limit participation in physical activity by individuals include:

- fear of being embarrassed
- lack of time
- cost of activities
- poor health / injuries
- poor body image
- lack of motivation
- inability to access child care
- lack of confidence or self-esteem.

Organisational and club level: Factors that may limit participation at an organisational or club level include:

- lack of inclusive policies and practices
- lack of information about opportunities available
- inadequate facilities
- clubs or organisations that do not respond to the cultural needs of certain groups.

Community level: At a community level, the following factors can have a negative impact on physical activity participation:

- inadequate facilities and areas of open space as a result of poor planning and lack of activation
- communities that are based around cars as the major form of transport.
- lack of public transportation
- communities where people do not feel connected to each other.

Societal level: At a societal level, participation can be limited if:

- people don't feel that facilities and areas of open space are safe
- people feel that spectators will make it unpleasant to participate
- people feel that it is more enjoyable to spend leisure time using technology.
- there is a concern that participation as a participant or support person may lead to litigation.

Research undertaken as part of the previous Loddon Shire Recreation Strategy (2015) indicated that the key barriers for local residents are:

- it's not available locally (42%)
- I don't have time (14%)
- I'm not fit / well enough (5%)
- it costs too much (4%).

For people from traditionally disadvantaged groups, these barriers can be significant. The World Health organisation notes that "in most countries, girls, women, older adults,

underprivileged groups, and people with disabilities and chronic diseases, all have fewer opportunities to access safe, affordable and appropriate programmes and places in which to be physically active.”<sup>24</sup> It also notes that priority should be given to engaging the least active and those who face the greatest barriers to increasing participation.

## 7 DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLIC OPEN SPACE IN LODDON SHIRE

There are at least 80 parcels of public open space in Loddon Shire which include parks, playgrounds, bushland, walking / cycling trails, swimming pools, recreation reserves, rivers, lakes, creeks, etc. In addition, we have included a few spaces managed by Parks Victoria, e.g. Terrick Terrick National Park and Melville Caves in this list due to their popularity with local residents.

Whilst recreation reserves and swimming pools are included in this list, no recommendations have been made for these facilities as existing recreation reserve master plans and swimming pool development plans have already identified works to upgrade these sites (refer to individual plans for further detail). Further details of each of these sites can be found in the Audit Report. Public open spaces in Loddon Shire include:

<b>Arnold</b>
Arnold Recreation Reserve
<b>Bears Lagoon</b>
Bears Lagoon Public Reserve and Tennis Club
<b>Boort</b>
Boort Bowls, Croquet and Tennis Facility
Boort Golf Club
Boort Park
Boort Swimming Pool
Jubilee Park
Little Lake Boort Trail
Nolens Park
Sunnyside Crt Playground
<b>Bridgewater</b>
Bridgewater Bowls Club
Bridgewater Golf Club
Bridgewater Recreation Reserve
Bridgewater River Walk/Bridgewater foreshore
Bullabul Track from Bridgewater
Sloans Park
Swimming hole and fishing piers
<b>Calivil</b>
Calivil Recreation Reserve
<b>Derby</b>
Derby Public Hall and Tennis Club
<b>Dingee</b>
Dingee Recreation Reserve
Progress Park
<b>Inglewood</b>
Botanic Gardens and Reservoir Track
Bullabul Track from Inglewood
Inglewood Bowls Club
Inglewood Community Sports Centre
Inglewood Golf Course
Inglewood Riding Club
Inglewood Swimming Pool

J Sloan Park
<b>Kingower</b>
Kingower Cricket and Recreation Reserve
Melville Caves
Village Green
<b>Korong Vale</b>
Borella Park
Korong Vale Community Sports Centre
<b>Laanecoorie</b>
Laanecoorie River Trail
<b>Mitiamo</b>
Mitiamo Golf Course
Mitiamo Municipal Recreation Reserve
Mitiamo Swimming Pool
R J Phelan Reserve
Terrick Terrick National Park
<b>Newbridge</b>
Newbridge Recreation Reserve
Progress Park
<b>Powlett Plains</b>
Powlett Plains and District Community Centre
<b>Pyramid Hill</b>
Kelly Park
Lions Park near tennis courts
Lions Park opposite Kelly Park
Mitchell Park
Pyramid Hill Bowls and Tennis Centre
Pyramid Hill Golf Course
Pyramid Hill Neighbourhood House
Pyramid Hill Reserve – The Hill
Pyramid Hill Swimming Pool
Pyramid Hill Trail
<b>Rheola</b>
Rheola Hall and Recreation Reserve
<b>Serpentine</b>
Serpentine Bowls and Tennis Complex
Serpentine Pon Pon Trail
Serpentine Recreation Reserve
T J Rudkins Reserve
<b>Tarnagulla</b>
Soldiers Memorial Park
Heraud's Place
Tarnagulla Cemetery Track
Tarnagulla Golf Course
Tarnagulla Recreation Reserve
Tarnagulla Reservoir Track
Tarnagulla Town Heritage Trail
<b>Wedderburn</b>
Blue Mallee Trail
Cooper Park
Donaldson Park

## 7.1 Spatial analysis

From a spatial perspective, there is a very good distribution of open space, within each of the major towns, i.e. Boort, Bridgewater, Inglewood, Pyramid Hill and Wedderburn, each featuring as a minimum a recreation reserve, a separate playground, a swimming pool, a golf course, a hall and some walking / cycling tracks.

Mitiamo, as a small town also includes all of the above, with the exception of walking / cycling tracks. As would be expected, other medium sized towns such as Calivil, Dingee, Newbridge, Serpentine and Tarnagulla don't feature as many areas of open space, but most have a hall and a recreation reserve with a playground. Both Dingee and Tarnagulla have separate parks with playgrounds.

The smallest towns or villages generally have a hall and may also have a park, recreation reserve or a village green.

## 7.2 Future demand and challenges

Given the size of the community and its current growth rate, there is no demand to increase the amount of public space that is available in the near future. The challenge will be for communities and Loddon Shire to be able to afford to maintain each of these facilities; find sufficient funds to help activate these spaces; and prioritise the spaces for development. If any requests are received from communities for new open spaces, these sites will be subject to a feasibility study and detailed costings, e.g. understanding of the full cost of development and a break-down of operational, maintenance and replacement costs.

# 8 OBSERVATIONS OF OPEN SPACES IN LODDON SHIRE

As part of the strategy development, a basic physical audit of every area of public open space was undertaken – refer to the Appendix for more details. Observations from this audit show:

## 8.1 Parks

- there is a lack of paths within parks, particularly leading to seats and play equipment, e.g. Sloan Park in Bridgewater. This makes it particularly challenging for people utilising wheelchairs, walking frames, crutches, motorised scooters, prams or tricycles to access parks and traverse through them.
- there is a lack of shade in some parks. This makes open spaces less appealing for people to spend time in, particularly in the height of summer.
- there is a lack of seats in some parks and play spaces, e.g. Calivil Recreation Reserve. This makes it unappealing to spend any length of time in parks, particularly for parents / carers of young children (who may then make a decision not to visit a park with their children, but to stay at home instead), older adults and people with mobility issues.
- there are no areas within the Shire featuring outdoor fitness equipment. The majority of Local Government Authorities in Victoria would feature at least one outdoor fitness station (cluster) or linear path containing outdoor fitness equipment. Such a facility provides free outdoor exercise opportunities for local residents and visitors, however, such facilities can be expensive to install and maintain.

## 8.2 Play spaces

- some good quality play spaces with high play value and more diversity of play opportunities have been installed, e.g. J. Sloan Park in Inglewood, Nolen's Park in Boort and Kelly Park in Pyramid Hill.
- play equipment is generally geared towards children under eight years of age.

- some play equipment such as swings may have been installed at the wrong height and some rebound walls have been poorly designed (mostly at Recreation Reserves, which are not part of the scope of this project).
- there has been a growing focus on providing play opportunities for teenagers, e.g. half basketball court at Bridgewater Swimming Hole and Kelly Park, Pyramid Hill and the flying fox at Nolen's Park in Boort, but there are some towns with very limited non-formal sporting activities.
- some items of play equipment appear to be nearing the end of their life or may not meet current standards, e.g. Jubilee Park in Boort.
- play space soft fall levels may need to be addressed at some sites (mostly at recreation reserves, which are not part of the scope of this project).

### **8.3 Landscaping**

- there has been some good quality landscaping undertaken in some areas, e.g. Kelly Park in Pyramid Hill, but there are many areas of open space which appear unappealing due to a lack of landscaping, e.g. Jubilee Park in Boort.
- solar lighting / bollards are being used in some locations, e.g. Kelly Park, Pyramid Hill.

### **8.4 Public art**

- public art is becoming a feature of some areas of open space, e.g. sculptures around Little Lake Boort, Kelly Park in Pyramid Hill, Ted's Garden in Wedderburn and Tarnagulla Soldier's Memorial Park. Current trends suggested that ideally each town would have at least one items of public art to reflect the character of the town.

### **8.5 Signage**

- trail head signage on walking tracks is generally excellent. e.g. Blue Mallee Trail in Wedderburn
- there is some good quality interpretive signage in some areas, e.g. Hard Hill in Wedderburn.
- the majority of parks and playgrounds do not have any signage. Signage can help to create a sense of place and create a welcoming atmosphere.
- some tracks do not have any directional signage, e.g. Bullabull Track from Bridgewater to Inglewood.

### **8.6 Water**

- there have been some towns, e.g. Bridgewater and Boort, that have capitalised on their water access by installing walking paths, seats, shelters, public art, social areas, swimming platforms, interpretive information, etc.
- canoe trails are becoming increasingly popular and infrastructure has been developed to support this activity, e.g. Durham Ox fishing platform and canoe ramp.
- there are no splash parks or water play parks within the Shire. Whilst such features can be relatively expensive and rely on water treated in the same way as swimming pools, they can create good play value, particularly in towns where there are limited opportunities to engage with water, e.g. Wedderburn. Due to the cost of establishing an independent water park (e.g. a neighbouring LGA paid approximately \$600,000 to install a splash park) and the ongoing operational costs associated with water testing and cleaning / checking of toilets several times per day, it is likely to be out of financial reach for the Shire. It may be possible to develop a splash area at an existing swimming pool, nevertheless.

## 8.7 Recreation reserves

- since the Drought Proofing Recreation Reserves Strategy was undertaken in 2011, a significant amount of work has been undertaken at recreation reserves, e.g. installation of hard courts for netball and tennis, installation of water tanks, planting of warm season grasses, etc. Recreation reserve committees of management will be encouraged to complete their master plans, outside the scope of this strategy.

## 9 WHAT OUR STRATEGIES TELL US

### 9.1 Summary of key issues

Fifteen strategies including the Council Plan, the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan and Active Victoria's strategic framework for sport and recreation in Victoria were reviewed in order to understand the context in which open spaces are planned, developed and managed and in which physical activity occurs. A full literature review is included in the Appendix. An additional sixteen strategies or articles were referenced in the strategy.

Of particular relevance to this strategy are the following points:

- **benefits of physical activity** - there is a clear understanding of the benefits of physical activity and a strong push to increase participation in physical activity
- **health and wellbeing** - Loddon Shire has a strong desire to improve community health and wellbeing
- **aesthetics and functionality** - specific projects have been identified to improve the aesthetics and functionality of public open spaces, e.g. streetscape projects
- **passive activities** - specific projects that have a more passive element to them in public spaces have been identified, e.g. community gardens
- **sports related projects** - specific sports related projects have been identified, e.g. Donaldson Park development
- **importance of planning** - there is a high value placed on recreation reserve master plans by the Shire
- **accessibility** - there is a greater focus on improving accessibility for people of all abilities and utilising universal design principles in facility developments
- **events** - the potential role of events in activating spaces and people is acknowledged
- **marketing and promotion** - it is acknowledged that marketing and promotion of facilities and events could be improved
- **multi-purpose design** - there is an understanding that spaces need to be designed to encourage community use of spaces for different activities and by different ages and abilities and therefore need to be multi-purpose and flexible
- **participation options** - there needs to be a greater focus on flexible and innovative participation options
- **inclusion** - participation needs to be broader and more inclusive, i.e. – focusing on affordability and increasing participation for females; Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders; people with a disability; Lesbian Gay Bisexual, Queer or Questioning, Transgender or Intersex (LGBTI) people and disengaged youth
- **active recreation** - there needs to be an additional focus on active recreation – focusing on supporting non-organised and unstructured physical activity, investing in infrastructure that enables active recreation and creating a model that supports the structure and needs of active recreation.

### 9.2 Recreation Strategy

Council's Recreation Strategy (2015-2020) highlighted a range of ways to activate public open spaces:

- **developing social sport and recreation activities** - encourage local sports clubs to work in partnership with external providers and State Sporting Associations to develop and implement social sport and recreation activities or modified sports for community members
- **programming and events** - develop a range of shire-wide physical activity programs and events such as come and Try days, summer in the parks (which may include live music and movies), family BBQs at swimming pools, guided walks in forests / parks, etc which are inclusive of all residents
- **program leadership training** - develop a program to train local residents to run various physical activities such as yoga, gentle exercise classes, water aerobics, swimming lessons, kinder gym, gymnastics, circus skills, personal training, walking groups, dance classes, cycling groups, canoeing classes, cardio tennis, etc so that they can deliver these programs locally for an agreed period of time
- **facility upgrades** - continue to progressively upgrade sport and recreation facilities in line with Council's strategic planning priorities
- **attracting events** - prepare a prospectus outlining opportunities available for a range of sporting events in the municipality (e.g. on road and off-road cycling, orienteering, triathlons, water skiing, canoeing, hockey, football, netball, tennis, bowls, cricket, etc) and actively distribute this prospectus to event organisers, clubs / organisations and State Sporting organisations.

### 9.3 Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan

Also of relevance is Loddon Shire's Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan<sup>25</sup>. A key outcome of this plan is to increase healthy eating and active living. Two measures of success against this outcome which have been listed in the plan to be measured every three years are:

- increased proportion of adults/ adolescents 10-17 years/ children 5-12 years, who are sufficiently physically active
- increased proportion of people participating in organised sport.

The plan notes:

- more than 60% of residents had used a local park or playground, recreation facility or open space or nature space in the last 12 months
- 75% said that more opportunities for physical activity were very important or important to them
- 59.8% said that they would like to increase physical activity to improve their health and wellbeing
- respondents said that the top three most important things to improve the community's health and wellbeing are better roads and road maintenance (30%), more footpaths (20%), better cycling and footpath networks (12.2%) and better recreation facilities (8.9%)
- 9.4% rated parks and green spaces and 5.2% rated good cycling and footpath networks in the top three things they value in the community.

## 10 OUR COMMUNITY

### 10.1 Location

Loddon Shire is situated in north central Victoria approximately 200km north of Melbourne and 40km north-west of Bendigo. It is predominantly a rural area featuring a number of small towns such as Bridgewater, Inglewood, Wedderburn, Serpentine, Tarnagulla, Boort, Mitiamo and Pyramid Hill. From a landscape perspective, the Shire features forests, rolling hills, rocky outcrops, rivers, lakes and productive farmland. Main industries include agricultural activities

such as dairy, horticulture, viticulture, cropping, lamb and intensive poultry and piggeries. The area is popular with bushwalkers, cyclists, water skiers, fishermen, canoeists and people who enjoy visiting wineries and the natural environment.



A brief summary of the demographic make-up of the Shire of Loddon follows<sup>26</sup>, with a more detailed analysis for each major town included in the Appendix.

## 10.2 Population

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics Census (2016)<sup>27</sup>, Loddon Shire has a current population of 7,516. The population is dispersed over many small towns, none of which exceed 1,000 people. By 2031, the population is projected to have declined to 6,710 according to the State Government's (2016) Victorian in Future 2016 report<sup>28</sup>, although Loddon Shire is actively working towards reversing this trend. Growth is most likely to occur in towns in the southern part of the Shire closest to Bendigo such as Bridgewater and Inglewood.

## 10.3 Age

Loddon Shire is an ageing community with 44.8% of the population currently over 55 years of age compared with 27.6% of Australians. Wedderburn, Boort and Newbridge report the highest median age, i.e. 56, 53 and 53 respectively, compared with 38 for Australia. Hence from an activating open spaces perspective we need to ensure that we provide spaces that are accessible for people of all ages and abilities. There is less likely to be demand for highly active outdoor sports facilities and more demand for outdoor facilities that enable less physically active or passive recreational opportunities, e.g. walking, cycling, swimming, spaces in parks for activities such as tai chi, etc.

## 10.4 Country of birth and languages spoken

The majority of residents (79.8%) were born in Australia and speak only English at home (86.3%). Fifteen other languages are spoken at home, with the five most popular being Filipino, Tagalog, Hungarian, German and Greek. One in ten residents of Pyramid Hill was born in the Philippines and 9.3% of its population speak either Filipino or Tagalog at home. This indicates that there may be a need to provide information about open spaces in Filipino or Tagalog in Pyramid Hill.

## **10.5 Employment**

Slightly less residents were employed full-time and slightly more part time, compared with Australians overall. There was a greater percentage of people away from work, compared with the Australian figure and the unemployment rate was slightly lower. Almost half of those employed were employed as managers and labourers and most people are employed in some form of farming. This data tells us that our residents may be working in quite manual jobs, some of which may be very demanding in hours at certain times of the year (e.g. shearing, harvesting and milking) and therefore consideration needs to be given to when activities are provided within the Shire.

## **10.6 Income**

In relation to income, more than one third of Loddon Shire households earn less than \$650 gross per week, compared with just one in five Australians (20.0%). The median household income in Loddon Shire is \$826 per week compared with \$1,438 for Australia. Household incomes in Wedderburn and Inglewood are lowest within the Shire, indicating that participation costs for any physical activities need to be kept at an affordable level.

## **10.7 Caring for children and people with a disability**

Due to the ageing population, the percentage of people who are responsible for caring for children in the Shire is generally less than Australia overall, with the exception of Serpentine where there are many young families. So whilst childcare is unlikely to be a major barrier to participation for older adults in the community (unless they are caring for grandchildren / foster children), due to the lack of childcare options in the Shire at present, it may be a major issue for some. Similarly, there is a higher percentage of people who care for someone with a disability. This may provide a barrier for carers to utilise open spaces for their own health and wellbeing. One in five people in Mitiamo is currently caring for a person with a disability.

## **10.8 Volunteering**

Loddon Shire has a strong culture of volunteerism, as evidenced by the number of people who stated that they have undertaken some form of voluntary work through an organisation sometime within the last 12 months. Four out of every ten residents in Boort have volunteered their services in the past 12 months. Despite the high number of volunteers in the community, local feedback indicates that there is still a lack of volunteers, many volunteers are ageing and many volunteers are very busy.

## **10.9 Household types**

Compared with Australia, Loddon Shire has a much higher rate of single or one person households (34.2% compared with 24.4%). This figure increases to 43.3% of households in Boort. To ensure that people in single or one-person households are able to make connections with others outside their homes, the design of public spaces should focus on facilitating community contacts, e.g. group programs, community events, seating that encourages interactions.

## **10.10 Transport**

Given that public transport is very limited in Loddon Shire, access to a car is very important for many people. There is an average of 2.3 cars per household, compared with 1.8 for Australia. Mitiamo and Newbridge have the greatest access to vehicles, whereas Pyramid Hill and Wedderburn have the least access. Place-based activities and activities held at convenient locations are therefore likely to be very important, particularly given the cost of fuel and

distances that need to be travelled to access open spaces and physical activity opportunities in neighbouring communities inside the Shire or in towns outside the Shire.

### **10.11 Internet connection**

Loddon Shire lags considerably behind its Australian counterparts in relation to internet connection. Whereas more than eight out of ten Australians access the internet from their home, this figure is as low as 58.7% for Inglewood. Until such time as there is greater uptake of the technology and improved access to a reliable and affordable internet service, any information about the provision of facilities or activities needs to be provided in multiple platforms, including written materials and posters in shop windows.

### **10.12 Health and wellbeing**

In terms of health and wellbeing, 55% of Loddon residents do not do enough physical activity to achieve health benefits, compared with 50% of Victorians. Further, 25% of Loddon residents are obese or overweight, compared with 19% of Victorians. These factors, combined with smoking, excessive alcohol consumption and poor diet contribute to chronic illness. Some specific data related to chronic illness in Loddon Shire follows:

- Loddon Shire has the highest rate of heart attack in Victoria
- Loddon Shire has the 2nd highest rate of cardiac arrest in Victoria
- there is a higher proportion of people in Loddon Shire with diabetes compared with Victoria
- avoidable deaths from diabetes, cancer, COPD and suicide are higher in Loddon than in Victoria.

## **11 WHAT OUR COMMUNITY TELLS US**

### **11.1 Overview of community engagement**

273 residents of Loddon Shire had their say through a series of community engagement and consultation activities including:

- consultation with young people at Wedderburn and Boort P-12 schools (44)
- listening posts at Wedderburn IGA Supermarket, Calivil Recreation Reserve, Inglewood Recreation Reserve (95)
- Seniors Forum (7)
- Townscape Services staff meeting (4)
- Technical Services staff meeting (1)
- community survey (122).

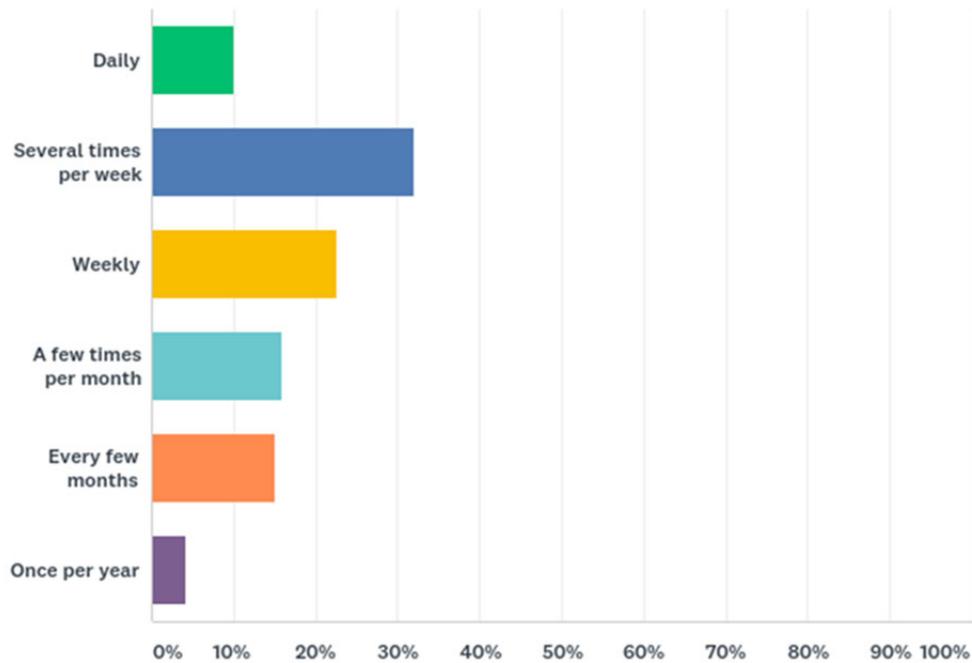
Detailed notes from each consultation or engagement activity are included in the Appendix. Suggestions received from the community have been assessed and used to inform the recommendations for each town.

### **11.2 How local residents utilise public open space**

Local residents who completed a survey were asked a series of questions about their usage of open space. They were permitted to provide details of up to three spaces. The following data pertains just to the first area of open space identified, which was generally the most frequently visited site by survey respondents. Results for the second and third sites were very similar. Refer to the Appendix for further details.

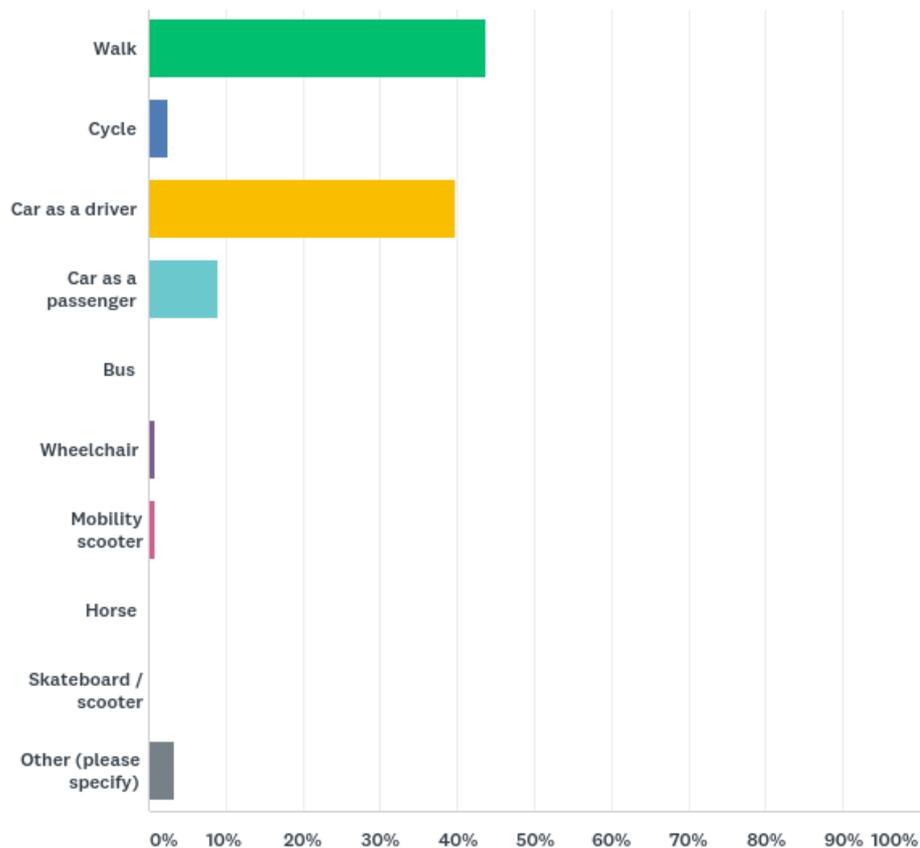
### 11.3 How often people use open space

For the first area of open space nominated, survey respondents typically used this space several times per week (31.9%) followed by weekly (22.7%).



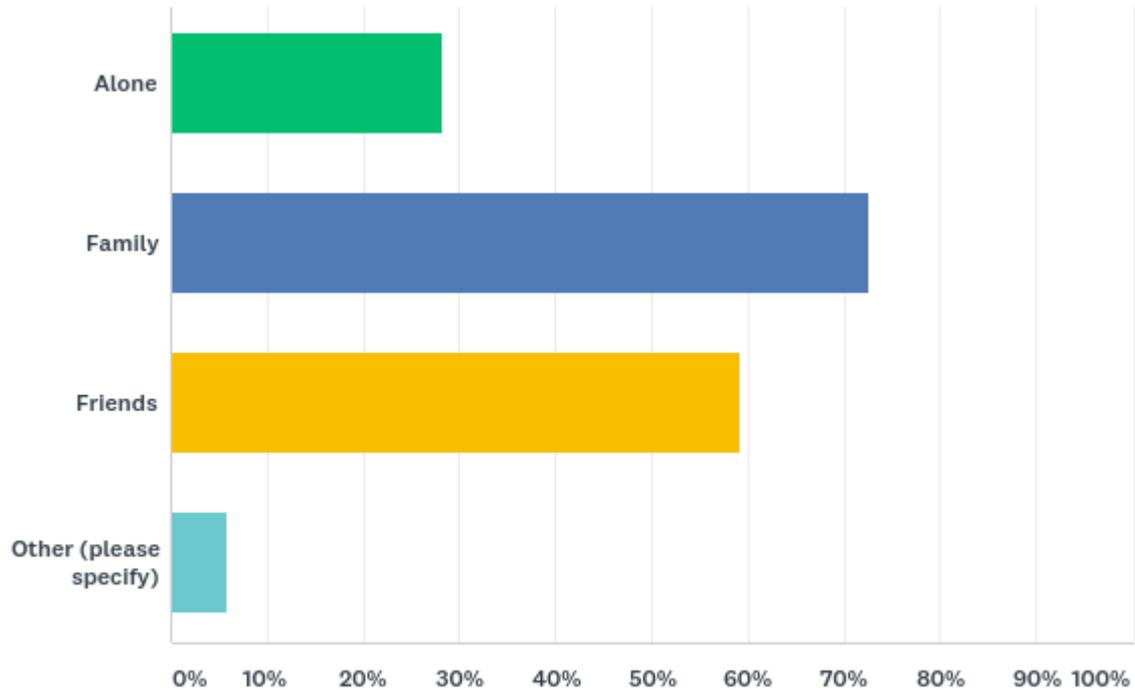
### 11.4 How people get to areas of public open space

In general people travelled to this site by foot (43.8%) or in a car as a driver (39.7%).



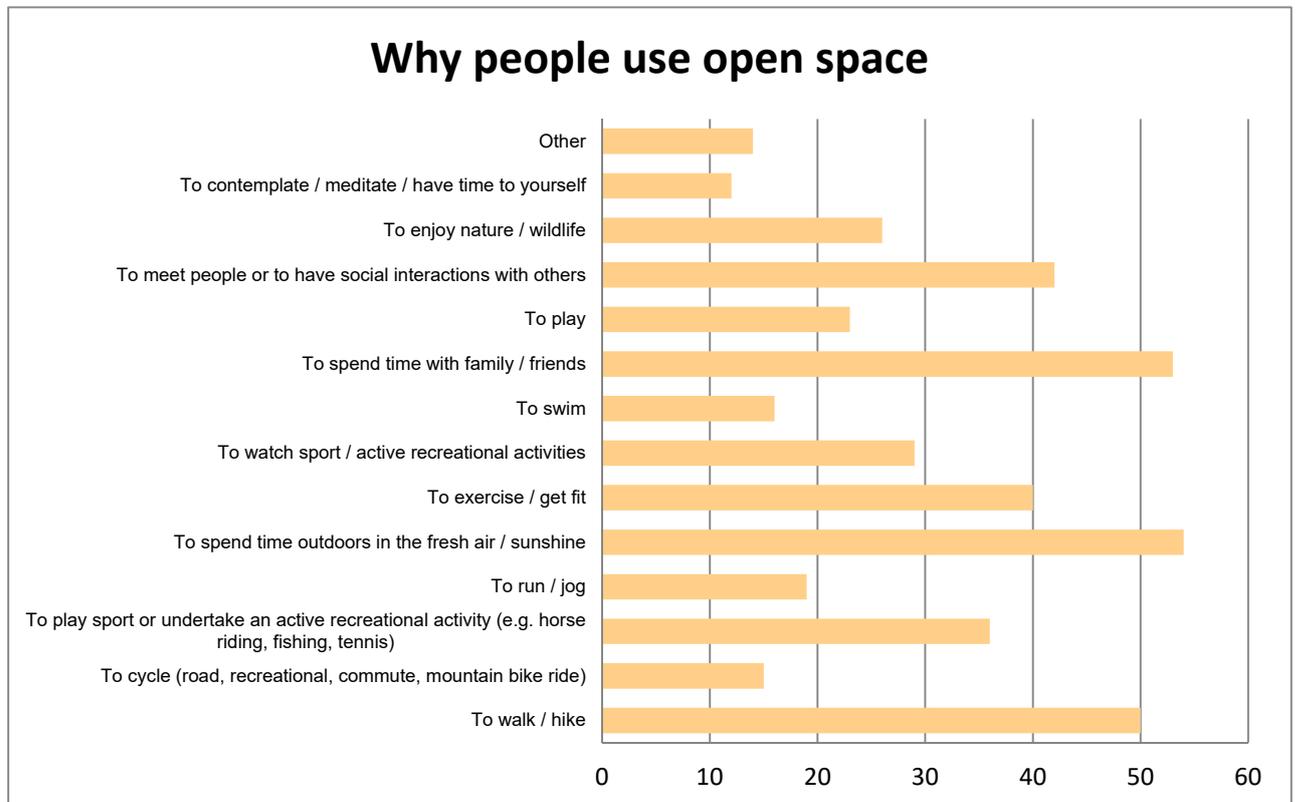
### 11.5 Who people go to public open spaces with

People mostly visit open spaces with family (72.5%) and / or with friends (59.2%).



### 11.6 Why people use open space

Survey respondents primarily used this site to spend time outdoors in the fresh air / sunshine (44.6%), to spend time with family / friends (43.8%), to walk / hike (41.3%), to meet people / have social interactions with others (34.7%) or to exercise / get fit (33.1%).



## 11.7 What would encourage people to use public open spaces more often

Survey respondents were asked (from an extensive list) what would encourage them to use public open spaces in Loddon Shire more often (multiple responses were permitted). The top 10 responses to this question are:

Suggestion	Percentage of responses
More events, e.g. movies in the park, festivals, markets, etc	50.9%
More or better walking / cycling paths and linkages	44.4%
More shade	40.7%
Outdoor gym equipment	38.9%
More seats	32.4%
More / better play equipment	32.4%
Picnic tables	32.4%
Drinking fountains	28.7%
Physical activity programs, e.g. outdoor tai chi, yoga, zumba, etc	28.7%
Shelters	28.7%

## 11.8 General comments

Some general comments included:

Topic	Details
<b>Events</b>	facilitate more community events in parks, particularly over summer, e.g. movies, music, markets, walking festival, food trucks
<b>Activities / programs</b>	consider facilitating activities or programs in parks and open spaces, e.g. tai chi, bushwalking groups
<b>Promotion</b>	consider ways to better promote spaces and activities held within spaces
<b>Maintenance</b>	ensure that our existing public open spaces are well maintained
<b>Diversity of activities</b>	facilitate a more diverse range of active sport and informal recreation activities in public open spaces, e.g. horse riding, soccer, rock climbing, outdoor table tennis
<b>Infrastructure</b>	provide more seats, paths and shade in public open spaces
<b>Accessibility</b>	ensure that infrastructure / facilities are DDA compliant and designed according to universal design principles
<b>Drinking water</b>	provide drinking water for both people and dogs in parks
<b>Culture</b>	provide more interpretive information about Indigenous and European history
<b>Sense of place</b>	each area of open space should have its own identity and reflect the community in which it is based (community engagement is important)
<b>Informal recreation</b>	continue to develop walking / cycling trails, upgrade play spaces, consider development of dog parks and install outdoor fitness equipment

Topic	Details
	in key locations throughout the Shire
<b>Social aspect</b>	construct BBQs and shelters in parks and at recreation reserves to allow for outings with family and friends and improved community connections
<b>Inter-generational activities</b>	provide a range of activities suitable for people of all ages wherever possible in parks, recreation reserves and other areas of public open space

### 11.9 Site specific demands

Some of the site-specific recommendations with a higher degree of support (i.e. more than one response / suggestion) include:

- Boort
  - install outdoor exercise equipment
  - upgrade Nolen's Park play space, paths and shade
  - install solar heating at the swimming pool [this is already planned]
  - improve access tracks to The Granites
  - improve play opportunities for teenagers
  - develop more paths for walking / cycling;
  - level footpaths in the main street
- Bridgewater
  - construct toilets at Sloans Park
  - improve change facilities for netballers and public toilets at Bridgewater Recreation Reserve
  - continue to improve the River Walk and the Swimming Hole
- Calivil
  - construct a BBQ and shelter
  - develop a netball shelter
  - upgrade play equipment and install seats next to the playground
  - develop a double lane road in front of the Reserve to improve safety
- Inglewood
  - provide more shade and seats at the Sloan Park playground
  - upgrade lights on the oval to allow night games and construct new accessible public toilets
  - upgrade Inglewood Botanic Gardens
  - encourage more people to walk around the Inglewood Golf Course and perhaps set up a Heart Foundation Walking Group
  - install a full-sized basketball court for young people in town
  - increase the size of the Skate Park and increase the degree of difficulty of some equipment
  - upgrade walking / cycling tracks at Inglewood Reservoir
- Mitiamo
  - upgrade play equipment at Phelan Park
  - construct additional female toilets and showers at the Recreation Reserve
- Newbridge
  - construct BBQ with shelters at both Riverside Park and Progress Park

- Pyramid Hill
  - install a fence next to the Lions Park in Victoria St (next to the tennis courts)
  - better maintain the Pyramid Hill Walking Track and install improved signage
  - upgrade Kelly Park to include drinking fountains, a baby swing, outdoor gym equipment and swings from the park on the opposite side of the road
  - better female change room facilities at Kelly Park
  
- Serpentine
  - install outdoor fitness equipment at the Reserve
  - upgrade the Serpentine Tennis clubrooms
  - develop more walking tracks
  - upgrade car parks at the Reserve (this work has now been undertaken)
  
- Wedderburn
  - develop new clubrooms at Donaldson Park [this is already planned]
  - improve accessibility of toilets for hockey players at Donaldson Park
  - update play equipment, repair gates, develop a skate park and develop water play opportunities at Soldier's Memorial Park
  - upgrade fitness equipment and improve maintenance on the Nardoo Walking Track
  - grade roads in bushland to allow easier walking
  - install more seats, shade and a diving board at Wedderburn Swimming Pool
  - install more picnic tables at Mt Korong
  - upgrade toilet facilities, seats and picnic tables and construct BBQs at Skinners Flat Reservoir
  - develop an off-leash dog park in Wedderburn
  - install a drinking fountain at the bus stop under the shelter
  - continue to provide green spaces (grass and trees) that are well maintained
  - develop more community activities in parks and in community centres
  - develop more outdoor play opportunities for teenagers.

Note that in some towns, e.g. Dingee, Laanecoorie and Tarnagulla, there were no suggestions nominated two or more times by the community.

## 12 HOW CAN WE ACTIVATE OUR OPEN SPACES

Activating open spaces can be achieved by addressing seven key aspects:



Each of these actions is described in further detail in the table below. This strategy has identified specific actions to help activate open spaces in towns throughout the Shire. However, there are some broader, national, state and Shire-wide actions which also need to be considered, which are based on the strategic directions such as the World Health Organisation as well as general feedback from the Loddon community.

## 12.1 The seven key factors to activate open spaces

These actions are as follows:

Action	Details	Strategic linkages
Promote the benefits of being physically active to the community	Actively promote the Australian Physical Activity Guidelines and increase people's knowledge of the benefits of being physically active and leading a healthy lifestyle.	Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan
Create safe, inclusive and accessible spaces and places	<p>Develop and / or maintain a number of safe, inclusive and accessible spaces and places in towns that encourage people of all ages and abilities to be physically active, as per the Open Space Infrastructure Provision Framework and the Style Guide in the Appendix.</p> <p>Infrastructure / facilities should be DDA compliant and designed according to universal design principles. Wherever possible, open spaces should be designed to be as flexible as possible to encourage spaces to be used by more than one user group and for more than one type of activity.</p>	<p>Recreation Strategy</p> <p>Tracks and Trails Strategy</p>
Promote events and programs that encourage physical activity	<p>Promote a range of programs and events within the Shire that encourage residents and visitors to engage in physical activity on a regular basis within public open spaces, e.g. walking festival, tai chi in a park, ParkRun, Summer in the Parks, Heart Foundation Walking Groups, dive in movies, pedometer challenges and yoga</p> <p>Wherever possible, encourage clubs, not for profit agencies and businesses to offer new activities and provide them with an appropriate level of support.</p>	<p>Tourism Strategy</p> <p>Recreation Strategy</p>
Involve the community in planning spaces, places, events and programs	<p>Encourage place making by empowering the local community to be involved in the planning of spaces and places in their neighbourhood where physical activity can occur (place making) and to also to be involved in the planning and delivery of events and programs. This is likely to create greater ownership of spaces and places, which will result in stewardship (caring for local facilities). It is also likely to encourage the implementation of events and programs which meet local needs and are therefore well supported.</p> <p>One aspect of place making is the development and installation of art works to reflect something that is important to the community, e.g. the cormorant and fish sculptures at Little Lake Boort. This should be encouraged in major parks / open spaces.</p>	Recreation Strategy.

Action	Details	Strategic linkages
Promote spaces, places, events and programs where physical activity occurs	Promote existing open spaces and places and ensure that any new programs or events are well publicised using a variety of different tools (e.g. website, social media pages, media articles, posters in shop windows, etc).	Tourism Strategy Recreation Strategy
Ensure that our systems, policies and processes encourage physical activity	Review Council, sports club and community systems, policies and processes (e.g. Community Support Policy) to ensure that they enhance, rather than discourage, physical activity participation, e.g. suitable tenancy arrangements with sporting clubs, public access to tennis courts, etc.	Recreation Strategy
Develop partnerships with organisations to help deliver spaces, places, events and activities.	Work in partnership with sports clubs, schools, neighbourhood houses, community planning groups, businesses and others to collectively increase the number of people who are physically active in open spaces throughout the Shire.	Recreation Strategy

## 12.2 Potential opportunities for consideration

### 12.2.1 Outdoor fitness equipment

Outdoor fitness equipment is similar to indoor gym equipment, except that it may be somewhat more basic in appearance, is more hard wearing and resistant to weather. Items may be static or dynamic. Outdoor fitness equipment is generally installed along a linear pathway, e.g. around a lake or along a river, or can be clustered together to form an exercise station or can be a combination of the two.



Image: Springfield Daily Record on google images. Outdoor fitness equipment in Yeppoon, QLD

Some of the advantages and disadvantages of outdoor fitness equipment (OFE) can be summarised as follows:

### **Advantages**

- helps to improve people's health and fitness (e.g. strength, aerobic capacity, balance, dexterity, range of motion and flexibility)
- helps to improve people's mental health and social connections
- free for people to use
- can be used at any time of day or night (if there is some form of lighting)  
i.e. not reliant on a gym being open
- intergenerational and social meeting point for local residents
- can be used by people of all ages including family groups
- opportunity to exercise outdoors in the fresh air and sunshine
- enables people to connect with nature and feel rejuvenated
- no need to employ people to supervise the gym
- no need to pay running costs of a building, e.g. lighting, heating, cooling, etc
- may encourage increased physical activity levels by existing park users
- can modernise an existing area of open space and draw more users
- it builds on the increasing demand of Australians for gym / fitness activities,  
i.e. 32% of Australians currently participate in gym / fitness activities – this is second only to walking (42%) which is the most popular physical activity of Australians.
- opportunity for fitness instructors to 'hire' the site at set terms to earn income by offering group fitness classes using the equipment.

### **Disadvantages**

- equipment can be vandalised
- some people are embarrassed to use the equipment in public and fear that they will look silly
- some people worry about their safety in an outdoor gym environment or are concerned that they will injure themselves
- usage can be impacted by weather
- equipment, particularly moving equipment, requires a high level of maintenance (possibly 5-10% of the construction cost annually)
- difficult to achieve universal design with some items
- people could potentially injure themselves if they do not know how to use the equipment correctly
- equipment may not be used if people are unfamiliar with the type of exercises that can be performed
- they often only appeal to or are regularly used by people who are already leading active lifestyles
- it is difficult to monitor and evaluate usage.

The cost of OFE varies considerably, depending on a range of factors including the number of exercise stations, the type of exercise stations, under-surfacing, signage costs, supporting infrastructure, planning costs, programming costs.

According to Sport and Recreation Victoria<sup>29</sup> equipment installed along Swan Hill Rural City Council's Riverside Park cost just over \$220,000; Darebin City Council installed OFE for just over \$80,000, Port Phillip Bay for \$100,000 and City of Wodonga for \$150,000.

There will be an annual maintenance cost that will also need to be factored in. This is estimated to be around \$4,000 annually for equipment with a purchase price of \$100,000. The equipment is likely to last for 10-15 years, depending on factors such as usage levels, weather conditions, the degree of dynamic equipment, etc., hence an annual sum of \$10,000 in today's costs needs to be set aside for renewal in 10 years-time.

A sample of state, national and international research undertaken over the past five years indicates a mixed response to outdoor fitness equipment in terms of its usage and benefits. Generally older adults and females will be the main users of such equipment. More research is needed to determine how effectively parks or spaces with outdoor fitness equipment can attract new park users and increase physical activity levels of participants over time. What is highly evident however, is the growth in suppliers of outdoor fitness equipment, based on a demand by communities for such equipment.

The key to successful outdoor fitness gyms are:

- demand by the community, i.e. sufficient population and visitor numbers to justify the expenditure and an indication that the facilities will be well utilised
- placement in a highly visible location with good passive surveillance
- access to supporting facilities and amenities, e.g. paths, toilets, shelter / shade and drinking fountains
- diversity of equipment that allows for a full body workout and that is easy and intuitive to use by people of all ages and abilities (universal design)
- promotion of the outdoor gym when it is first developed, e.g. come and try day, media articles, website promotion, etc.
- encouragement and support, e.g. programs run by exercise physiologists / personal trainers on how to use gym equipment correctly and how to develop and modify a program
- information about how to use the gym equipment, e.g. signage, instructional guides, brochures, posters, etc.
- sufficient resources to effectively maintain the site and keep it in good working order.

The key locations for consideration of outdoor fitness equipment in Loddon Shire, based on existing strategic planning, community feedback and an assessment of likely success factors, are:

- Little Lake Boort – a cluster at Nolen's Park or near the swimming pool
- Inglewood Town Hall – cluster
- Wedderburn – linear with small clusters of equipment at Cooper Park, Soldier's Memorial Park and along the Nardoo Creek path.
- Bridgewater – linear trail along the Loddon River
- Pyramid Hill – near the tennis court and swimming pool.

Several options for consideration are:

Option	Description	Discussion
<b>Option 1</b>	Construct outdoor fitness equipment in three communities	This option would cost approximately \$300,000 to deliver with an additional \$12,000 annually for maintenance and an annual amount of \$30,000 set aside for renewal. It would enable people in each of these towns (and possibly neighbouring towns) to access gym equipment

Option	Description	Discussion
		<p>free of charge at any time that suits them. It is a large investment with no guarantees of usage levels. It may impact on usage of community gyms in Boort and Wedderburn.</p> <p>External funding would need to be sought to help fund the development.</p>
<b>Option 2</b>	Construct outdoor fitness equipment in one community	<p>This option would cost approximately \$100,000 to deliver, with an additional \$4,000 annually for maintenance and an annual amount of \$10,000 set aside for renewal. It would enable people in the selected town and possibly neighbouring towns to access gym equipment free of charge at any time that suits them. It is a moderate sized investment with no guarantees of usage levels. External funding would need to be sought to help fund the development.</p>
<b>Option 3</b>	Establish a physical activity program fund	<p>This option would cost approximately \$50,000 for Council staff to establish and run activities in public open spaces such as parks, waterways, sports grounds, etc. that encourage local residents, particularly those who are currently inactive, to get outdoors and take part in physical activities. This reflects actions identified in the Loddon Shire Recreation Strategy. It is a moderate sized investment with no guarantees of usage levels.</p> <p>From an equity perspective, this option could enable every town in the Shire to benefit in some way. Long term sustainability of the program cannot be guaranteed.</p>
<b>Option 4</b>	Construct outdoor fitness equipment at two towns as a pilot project and establish a physical activity program fund	<p>This option could be delivered for approximately \$120,000 with an additional \$4,000 annually for maintenance and an annual amount of \$10,000 set aside for renewal. The first part would involve the development of outdoor fitness equipment in two towns and the second component would involve community groups and individuals (supported by seed funding) to deliver physical activities in parks and other opens spaces throughout the Shire on behalf of Council for local residents and packaged together through Shire advertising. This model has a strong community development focus and is likely to be more sustainable.</p> <p>From an equity perspective, this option could enable every town in the Shire to benefit in some way. However, to some extent it relies on utilising volunteers (who may not have the time or desire to be involved in delivering physical activities). It is a moderate sized investment with no guarantees of usage levels.</p>

It is recommended that the Shire of Loddon proceed with option four and seek external funds to construct outdoor fitness equipment at two locations in the Shire as a pilot project with the view to expanding equipment if there is demonstrated high usage and success; and to set aside \$20,000 as a pilot project to establish physical activity opportunities throughout the Shire for

local residents. If these facilities are deemed to be successful, there is potential that it could be rolled out to other towns in the Shire.

As per the recommendations of the Recreation Strategy 2015-2020 Council should also continue to assist communities to develop community gyms as required.

### 12.2.2 Splash Parks

Splash parks are children's play areas that feature water which is sprayed from ground level or from upright structures and drained away so that it has zero or minimum depth at any time. Zones can be incorporated into the splash park so that there are areas suitable for toddlers right through to teens. These facilities, whilst very popular, require water to be treated in the same way as swimming pools; hence can be cost prohibitive in some areas.

A neighbouring Local Government Authority installed a Splash Park in one of its suburbs in 2017 at a cost of approximately \$600,000. It is a solar heated facility which opens in October each year and closes in March. Water quality and toilets are checked several times daily by contractors. In addition to the visitor-activated fountains in the splash park, it features a shaded seating area, irrigated grass area, picnic tables, BBQ, toilets, change room, dry playground, and basketball ring. There are crossing signals at each end of the splash pad, which when activated run for four minutes at a time.



The Little Lake Boort Draft Master Plan recommends the establishment of a splash park. Ideally, the priority location for the development of water play facilities is Wedderburn in the vicinity of the public outdoor swimming pool (subject to feasibility) as a priority given the lack of quality play opportunities and the lack of water in the town.

### 12.2.3 Modular pump track

Modular pump tracks are becoming increasingly popular, often as an alternative to a traditional skate park. They are suitable for people of all ages and abilities on mountain bikes, scooters and skate boards. They work by people using pressure to generate propulsion on the high grip surface, i.e. a pumping movement rather than a pedalling or skating movement. The track is made up of engineered modules that can be configured in a variety of different ways and they are installed either above ground or into the terrain. They can be easily upgraded or changed. Modular pump tracks come as pre-cast concrete or as a plywood composite. The plywood composite track can be transported to events. Pump tracks have been installed in Horsham, Nagambie and Apollo Bay. Supplier: Parkitect.



#### 12.2.4 Outdoor table tennis

Numerous parks and open spaces have incorporated permanent outdoor table tennis tables into their design to create another informal physical activity opportunity for park users. Generally there is a permanent 'net' on the table and people can either bring their own bats and balls along or they can be hired or borrowed from a nearby shop. Supplier: Imaginationplay.



### 12.2.5 Technology

Technology can be used in a park to enhance the user's experience, e.g. interactive play structures and can also be used to enhance the management and maintenance of parks and open spaces, e.g. moisture detecting devices for ovals and lawns.

There are various websites and apps that promote and encourage physical activity, e.g. Strava - a social fitness network that is used to track cycling, running, and swimming activities; and the Heart Foundation's Walking app which tracks a person's minutes of activity and daily steps and compares the results with others in the community. It is important that Loddon Shire promote its public open spaces and the physical activity opportunities that are available in these on relevant apps and websites (including its own).

The term 'smart parks' is growing in momentum and is used to describe a park that utilises technology to enhance the visitor's experience, improve the performance of a park and reduces the long-term operating costs of a park.

**Interactive play structures** – can be used by people of all abilities. They can take the place of traditional play structures, or be used in addition to existing structures. Interactive play structures are designed to create fun, educate people (e.g. they can be programmed with maths questions), and promote physical activity. Users can receive automatic updates of new games.



Supplier: Yalp Interactive (Netherlands)

**Dance arch** – these spaces create opportunities for people of all abilities to dance and listen to music. There is software available that provides audio feedback. Games have also been incorporated into the software that are designed for children with autism or other disorders.



Supplier: Yalp Interactive (Netherlands)

**Sutu ball wall** – is an interactive soccer game that is connected to a Smartphone application. Young people can compete with other young people by tracking their scores on an app associated with the game. They receive a notification when their friends get a higher score.



Supplier: Yalp Interactive (Netherlands)

**Energy-generating exercise equipment** – such as an exercise bike, creates friction (and heat), while it is being used. This heat is then converted to electrical energy via a generator. This electricity can be used to charge up mobile phones, provide lighting or returned to the grid. An hour of cycling produces enough energy (50 to 150 watts) to power a TV for approximately one hour.

Supplier: Playpoint Asia



**Daylight fluorescent aggregate** – daylight fluorescent aggregate (small pebbles) used on walking/cycling paths and roads, when mixed with epoxy resin can create glow in the dark paths. Following approximately 10 minutes of exposure to natural light, the aggregate can glow for up to 12 hours.

Supplier: Strabag (Poland)



**Smart benches** – are bench seats that incorporate solar powered USB charging points for electronic devices and / or Wi-Fi hot spots.

Supplier: Soofa (USA)



**Smart water fountains** – include solar panels to chill water, filters to remove contaminants, sensors to monitor water quality and audio to engage visitors (some provide compliments or tell jokes).

Supplier: Meet PAT – Products and Things (Australia)



**Piezoelectric energy harvesting tiles** – every footstep generates five watts of power, which can fully charge a mobile phone within an hour. These tiles can also power park or sports ground lighting when supplemented with solar energy.

Supplier: Pavegen (UK)



All photos sourced from UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs - Luskin Center for Innovation Smart Parks: A Toolkit: <http://innovation.luskin.ucla.edu/sites/default/files/ParksWeb020218.pdf>

There are numerous other forms of technology such as LED lighting, fibre optic lighting, solar lighting digital signs, etc. Some of the challenges of incorporating technology into parks and open spaces are:

- Cost to install the technology
- Staff skills to utilise and oversee the technology
- Technology installed quickly becomes obsolete
- Some people afraid of using technology.

There is potential to seek State Government funding to establish a smart park at a suitable location in Loddon Shire.

#### 12.2.6 Programming

Numerous Local Government Authorities around Australia are implementing free or low cost programs in their parks to activate these sites, particularly over the warmer months. This has been occurring in United States parks for many years.

The City of Gold Coast produces an annual 12 month lifestyle guide for its community. The guide lists activities that occur both outdoors and in indoor venues. In 2016, there were 150 weekly active and health sessions conducted, which attracted 120,000 attendances. Low cost or free activities held in parks, at beaches or on the river include tai chi, yoga, pilates, barre, paddleboard, group fitness classes, boxing, stroller groups, mums and bubs fitness classes, walking groups, trail chix, etc. Sports sign on days are also held.

Darebin Shire Council conducted a program in 2017 called Get Active in Darebin. This program featured a variety of free or low-cost activities such as yoga, walking groups, Qi Gong, pilates, hooperise, tai chi, zumba, spin classes and family discos to encourage local residents to get more active. As part of this program they held come and try days so that local people could learn how to use the recently installed outdoor fitness equipment and also promoted modified sports such as Cardio Tennis and Rock Up Netball.

Figure 1: City of Darebin's Get Active in Darebin program




## SUMMER MONDAY 6 FEBRUARY UNTIL SUNDAY 26 MARCH 2017

ACTIVITY	LOCATION	SUBURB	STARTS	FINISHES	TIME
<b>MONDAY</b>					
ROCK UP NETBALL	DAREBIN COMMUNITY SPORTS STADIUM	RESERVOIR	6 FEBRUARY	20 MARCH	9.30 - 10.30AM
SOCIAL SPIN	EDWARDES LAKE PARK	RESERVOIR	6 FEBRUARY	20 MARCH	6.45 - 7.30PM
TAI CHI IN THE PARK	AG DAVIS PARK	PRESTON	6 FEBRUARY	20 MARCH	9.30 - 10.30AM
<b>TUESDAY</b>					
GET INTO CARDIO TENNIS	JS GREY RESERVE	PRESTON	7 FEBRUARY	21 MARCH	9.30 - 10.15AM
HOOPERCEISE	PENDERS PARK	THORNBURY	7 FEBRUARY	21 MARCH	9.30 - 10.30AM
NORTHLAND WALKING GROUP	NORTHLAND SHOPPING CENTRE	PRESTON	7 FEBRUARY	21 MARCH	9.30 - 10.30AM
PARENTS AND KIDS DISCO	PRESTON CITY OVAL	PRESTON	7 FEBRUARY	21 MARCH	10 - 11AM
WOMEN'S ZUMBA	PRESTON CITY HALL	PRESTON	14 FEBRUARY	21 MARCH	6 - 7PM
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>					
HEART FOUNDATION WALKING GROUP	NORTHCOTE AQUATIC AND RECREATION CENTRE	NORTHCOTE	8 FEBRUARY	22 MARCH	9.30 - 10.30AM
PILATES IN THE PARK	GE ROBINSON PARK	RESERVOIR	8 FEBRUARY	22 MARCH	9.30 - 10.30AM
<b>THURSDAY</b>					
QI GONG IN THE PARK	RAY BRAMHAM GARDENS	PRESTON	9 FEBRUARY	23 MARCH	9.30 - 10.30AM
YOGA IN THE PARK	DAREBIN PARKLANDS	ALPHINGTON	9 FEBRUARY	23 MARCH	9.30 - 10.30AM
<b>FRIDAY</b>					
FITNESS IN THE PARK	ALL NATIONS PARK	NORTHCOTE	10 FEBRUARY	24 MARCH	9.30 - 10.30AM
OUTDOOR EXERCISE EQUIPMENT 'COME AND TRY'	TW ANDREWS RESERVE	RESERVOIR	10 FEBRUARY	NA	10 - 11AM
OUTDOOR EXERCISE EQUIPMENT 'COME AND TRY'	BUNDOORA PARK	BUNDOORA	17 FEBRUARY	NA	10 - 11AM
YOGA IN THE PARK	HP ZWAR RESERVE	PRESTON	10 FEBRUARY	24 MARCH	9.30 - 10.30AM
<b>SUNDAY</b>					
GET INTO CARDIO TENNIS	JS GREY RESERVE	PRESTON	12 FEBRUARY	26 MARCH	10 - 10.45AM



### CITY OF DAREBIN

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 Ελληνικά Soomalii  
 हिंदी Tiếng Việt

## 13 ACTION PLAN

### 13.1 Shire-wide considerations

General ‘big picture’ Shire-wide considerations to encourage activation of public open spaces are:

Consideration	Action
<b>Parks</b>	<p>Review Councils Park Asset Management Plan 2010 to update policy around hierarchy, standards and service levels.</p> <p>Undertake a gradual plan to renew and upgrade parks and reserves throughout the Shire, focusing on planting more shade trees in strategic locations, improved landscaping (using drought tolerant plantings and infrastructure such as rocks and logs), installing drinking fountains, installing more seats with arm and back rests, providing picnic tables, providing BBQs, improving accessibility for people of all abilities, installing paths and installing lighting where appropriate, etc.</p> <p>Appropriate planning should be undertaken prior to any renewals or upgrades to ensure that the proposed works complement what already exists and will meet community needs into the future. For major sites, a master plan is recommended.</p>
<b>Play Spaces</b>	<p>Renew playgrounds when they reach the end of their useful life, taking into consideration diversity of play opportunities, quality of play, etc.</p> <p>Provide a greater focus on nature-based play and work towards including access for all abilities, particularly in the larger play spaces.</p> <p>Remove under-utilised play spaces that do not provide play value.</p> <p>Encourage each major recreation reserve to maintain and further develop suitable play opportunities for families.</p> <p>Explore opportunities to develop a Memorandum of Understanding with local schools to provide access to school play equipment after hours.</p> <p>Playgrounds will be included as part of the review of Councils Park Asset Management Plan and will include information about updating policy around hierarchy, standards and service levels.</p>
<b>Walking / Cycling tracks</b>	<p>Develop future footpath infrastructure to be consistent with “<b>Loddon Shire Footpath Asset Management Plan</b>”.</p> <p>Continue to develop quality walking / cycling tracks throughout the Shire, with suitable supporting infrastructure, e.g. seats, shade, drinking water and signage (subject to feasibility and full costings / whole of life costings being established). Connect any new tracks to the existing walking / cycling network wherever possible.</p> <p>Consider partnering with golf clubs to develop walking / cycling tracks on golf courses.</p>
<b>Waterways</b>	<p>Develop key water ways as passive recreation facilities for local residents and visitors, including infrastructure such as seating, picnic tables, BBQs where relevant, shade, planting of grass, fishing platforms, swimming pontoons, kayak entrance / exit points, play opportunities, etc. There is a real opportunity to turn these spaces into quality family recreation facilities that attract not only locals but also visitors.</p>

<b>Consideration</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>Swimming pools</b>	Extend the swimming pool season wherever possible through use of solar heating and implementation of a Volunteer lifeguard program. Provide a range of activities at each pool throughout summer, e.g. community BBQs, water aerobics, swimming lessons, pool parties and dive in movies to encourage physical activity participation. Share inflatable equipment between the pools. Install drinking fountains. These actions have been picked up in swimming pool development plans. Maintain and further develop early morning swimming sessions and other related activities i.e. aquarobics at all swimming pools.
<b>Signage</b>	Install suitable signage (trail heads, directional signage, place signage, kilojoule consumption signage, etc.) so that local residents and visitors are aware of facilities available, their location and the benefits of physical activity. Provide interpretive signage where appropriate to enhance the experience.
<b>Maintenance and management</b>	Develop an adequate maintenance schedule and budget to keep infrastructure in a safe and usable state. Consideration for additional staff in Townscape Services to adequately maintain existing open spaces, parks and gardens as well as new additional items added into these areas.
<b>Affordability</b>	Ensure that facilities, events and programs remain affordable for local residents to maximise participation.
<b>Programming</b>	Work in partnership with a range of organisations including the health sector, the environmental sector, schools, community organisations such as neighbourhood houses, churches and the private sector to deliver a range of physical activity programs in parks and open spaces in Loddon Shire. Activities could include yoga, tai chi, walking groups, circus skills, bocce, community cricket games, old fashioned games, running groups, cycling groups, swimming groups, water aerobics, canoeing, stand up paddle boarding, etc. If funds permit, Loddon Shire could potentially train some local people to facilitate some of these programs (as per a key recommendation in the 2015 Recreation Strategy).

### 13.2 Town by town suggested initiatives from community consultation process.

<b>BOORT</b>
Implement the recommendations of the Little Lake Boort Draft Master Plan (2018).
Incorporate rubberised paths to play equipment in Nolen's Park and more informal play opportunities near Little Lake Boort as part of the Boort Foreshore Plan, e.g. half basketball court, a rock-climbing wall, outdoor table tennis tables, bocce pitch and a kayak launch pad.
Sell the Sunnyside Court block and use the funds to expand the play space at nearby Boort Park.
Renew Jubilee Park playground.

## BRIDGEWATER

Continue to implement the Bridgewater Foreshore Development Plan (stages 1 and 2), which includes a nature-based play space, shade, seats, signage, art work, pier / jetty, landscaping, lighting and interpretation (black smith area).

Prepare an upgrade plan in partnership with the local community for Sloan Park to install paths, landscaping, shade trees, a barrier, some form of public art and more exciting play equipment. Ensure that play opportunities available at this site are different to what is available at the Recreation Reserve and along the Foreshore.

Install additional seating at Bridgewater Swimming Hole and more shade trees/structures.

Install signage on Bullabull track.

## CALIVIL

Support the Recreation Reserve COM to upgrade the social aspect of the Recreation Reserve to include a BBQ area, shelter, picnic tables, drinking fountain and landscaping. At the same time develop a pedestrian safe area.

Support the Recreation Reserve COM to develop a walking track around Calivil Recreation Reserve utilising the old golf course.

## DINGEE

Construct access paths at Progress Park and renew existing play equipment when it reaches the end of its lifespan.

## DURHAM OX

Construct environmentally sustainable toilets at Durham Ox for use by canoeists.

## EDDINGTON

Construct some access paths in the park next to Eddington Community Centre.

## INGLEWOOD

Develop a BBQ area with shelter and picnic tables at Inglewood Recreation Reserve.

Consider providing active play opportunities for teenagers at J Sloan Park playground, e.g. flying fox, climbing wall, full sized basketball court and upgrade traditional skate park to a modular pump track when it reaches the end of its life.

Plant more shade trees at J Sloan playground.

Develop a safe pedestrian area at Inglewood Recreation Reserve in the vicinity of the J Sloan playground and the oval.

Liaise with Inglewood Golf Club to develop a walking track around the golf course.

Liaise with the Heart Foundation to establish a walking group in Inglewood, utilising the golf course.

Upgrade Inglewood Botanic Gardens and Inglewood Reservoir, primarily through a track upgrade, more seats, renewal of infrastructure and better maintenance.

### **KINGOWER**

Advocate for Parks Victoria to upgrade seats, toilets, picnic / BBQ facilities at Melville Caves.

Support development of Captain Melville's Trail.

### **KORONG VALE**

Consider upgrading Borella Park to include shelter over the BBQ area, upgraded seats and new play equipment (when the existing equipment reaches the end of its useful life).

### **LAANECOORIE**

Develop a plan to upgrade Brownbill Reserve at Laanecoorie Weir near the caravan park on the edge of the waterway for passive recreational purposes, e.g. BBQS under shelter, sandy beach area, upgrade and extend boat ramp, develop a canoe platform, etc.

### **MITIAMO**

Advocate for Parks Victoria to undertake more regular grading of the tracks at Terrick Terrick National Park.

Upgrade Phelan Park when equipment is at the end of its lifecycle by renewing equipment, installing some form of barrier against the Mitiamo- Echuca Road boundary and planting more shade trees and trees to act as a wind break.

### **NEWBRIDGE**

Install BBQs and shelters at Progress Park if feasible and if it aligns with community planning priorities.

### **PYRAMID HILL**

Redevelop Lions Park in Kelly St to develop a passive recreational space.

Install a drinking fountain and more comfortable seats at Kelly Park.

Improve toilets at Pyramid Hill.

Improve signage and maintenance of Pyramid Hill Walking.

Redevelop the playground next to the swimming pool and tennis courts and install a barrier to prevent children from running on to the road.

### **SERPENTINE**

Upgrade track condition and wayfinding on the Pon Pon Trail in Serpentine.

### **TARNAGULLA**

Renew street furniture in Heraud's Place and improve landscaping.

Add additional play equipment at Soldier's Memorial Park.

## WEDDERBURN

Upgrade play equipment at Soldiers Memorial Park (consider installation of a learn to ride bicycle track) and include a screen to act as a wind break. This could become a smart park by installing technologically advanced items such as exercise bikes that charge mobile phones and a demonstration environmental park (i.e. use of solar lighting and water saving measures).

Develop informal activities for young people, e.g. climbing wall, multi-use games areas, skate park or modular pump park, socialisation space, etc. at Soldier's Memorial Park.

Install drinking fountains in public places in Wedderburn, e.g. Soldier's Memorial Park and Nardoo Creek Trail.

Install additional seating and trees along Nardoo Creek Trail.

Consider developing an off-leash dog area in Wedderburn.

Prepare a development plan for Skinners Flat Reservoir, particularly focusing on items such as walking track to the site, BBQ, picnic tables, shelter and possibly a toilet.

Consider installation of some water play features at or near the Wedderburn Swimming Pool.

Advocate to Parks Victoria to grade tracks in state and national parks and provide additional facilities such as BBQs and seats.

The Appendix contains detailed information about each town, including demographics, a list of all public open spaces, relationship to existing plans, community feedback, observations from the audit and proposed town by town recommendations.

## 14 COSTING AND FUNDING OF ACTIONS

None of the projects in this strategy have been costed. It is recommended that all infrastructure works and programming activities be costed at the development stage. This will provide clarity associated with construction, implementation, ongoing maintenance and whole of life costs.

# APPENDIX

## 15 LITERATURE REVIEW

Thirty-five strategies and articles were reviewed in order to understand the context in which open spaces are planned, developed and managed and in which physical activity occurs. These documents included:

- Council Plan 2017-2021
- Loddon Shire Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017 – 2021
- Loddon Shire Building Asset Management Plan 2009
- Loddon Shire Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2018 – 2021
- Loddon Shire Recreation Strategy 2015-20
- Loddon Shire Climate Proofing Loddon’s Sports and Recreation Facilities Strategy 2011
- Loddon Shire Cycling and Walking Strategy 2009
- Footpath Asset Management Plan August 2009
- Loddon Mallee Regionally Significant Trails Strategy (2009)
- Loddon Shire Swimming Pool Development Plan 2014-2018
- Parks Asset Management Plan March 2010
- Loddon Shire Nature Tourism Plan 2011
- Jacka Park Master Plan (Soldiers Memorial Park) Need brief commentary table below
- Loddon Shire Major Recreation Reserve Master Plans
- Loddon Shire New Master Plan Projects document
- Little Lake Boort Master Plan 2018-2028 (Draft)
- Wedderburn Community Plan 2015-2025
- Active Victoria. A strategic framework for sport and recreation in Victoria 2017 - 2021
- Heart Foundation. Healthy Active By Design. Public Open Space (website)
- Parkland WA. Vibrant activation! An introduction to space activation and placemaking website
- World Health Organisation (2017) Global action plan on physical activity 2018-2030. More active people for a healthier world
- World Health Organisation (2016) Urban green spaces and health – a review of evidence (2016)
- Parks and Leisure Australia (2013) Open Space Planning and Design Guide
- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2018) Physical activity across the life stages
- Samitz G, Egger M, Zwahlen M. (2011) Domains of physical activity and all-cause mortality: systematic review and dose-response meta-analysis of cohort studies
- Eoin Blackwell (2017) Physical Inactivity is Costing Australia Nearly \$1 Billion a Year
- Khan KM, Thompson AM, Blair SN, et al. Sport and exercise as contributors to the health Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2017) Impact of physical inactivity as a risk factor for chronic conditions: Australian Burden of Disease
- Australian Sports Commission (2016) AusPlay Participation data for the sports sector – summary of key national findings – October 2015 to September 2016 data
- Sport and Recreation Victoria (2018) Guidelines for planning, installing and activating outdoor fitness equipment
- Leonie Neville and Ashleigh Scott (2013) The impact of outdoor gyms on park use and physical activity
- Leonie Cranney et al (2016) Impact of an outdoor gym on park users’ physical activity: A natural experiment
- Ashleigh Scott et al (2014) Design and promotion of an outdoor gym for older adults: a collaborative project
- Hsueh-wen Chow et al (2017) Who is using outdoor fitness equipment and how? The case of Xihu Park

- Geoff Bates et al (2013) Evaluating the provision of outdoor gym equipment: Uptake and impact in Sefton, Merseyside

**Document title****Relevance to strategy**

Loddon Shire Council  
Plan 2017-21

Council's vision is for "a prosperous, vibrant and engaged community"

Relevant projects identified in the Council Plan include:

- implement the Donaldson Park Master Plan
- implement streetscape improvements in key townships
- provide opportunities for the community to develop community gardens
- develop a plan for rationalisation of unnecessary assets with a direction towards future use of multi-purpose facilities
- pursue advocacy opportunities for water security initiatives which support lifestyle needs and recreation choices as they arise.

Municipal Public Health  
and Wellbeing Plan  
2017 – 2021

Council's Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan provides a strategic framework for Council and other agencies with an aim to improve the health and wellbeing of the community.

The four key priorities identified in this plan are:

1. Good physical health
2. Good mental health
3. Protect and promote health
4. Feel safe and secure

Some of the measurements of relevance to be undertaken as part of this plan include:

- increased proportion of adults/ adolescents 10-17 years/ children 5-12 years, who are sufficiently physically active
- increased proportion of people participating in organised sport.

Park Asset Management  
Plan 2010

This plan focuses on capital investment in park assets in Council owned and controlled parks with playgrounds or major parks structures as well as other park areas comprising of only lawn, irrigation systems or gardens with no substantial structures, lawn or gardens in streets, lawn and gardens at other Council facilities, open space areas and road reserves.

Some key recommendations from this plan:

- develop a policy in relation to the provision of shade in council's playgrounds and passive parks in recognition of risk management issues and climate change concerns.
- develop a policy and hierarchy in relation to playgrounds and passive parks.

## Document title

Loddon Shire Building  
Asset Management Plan  
2009

## Relevance to strategy

- review the use of all playgrounds with a view to rationalise small under-utilised playgrounds with single items or minimal equipment.
- ensure all renewal and future new works are designed for a range of age groups and suitable for all abilities.
- develop guidelines for Community Plans setting out a balance between new and renewal projects.
- progressively develop and expand this plan by including other parks assets as they are quantified, valued and assessed. These assets include irrigation systems, recreational lakes and dam's infrastructure and lighting.

The following aspects will be measured to determine the effectiveness of the plan:

- playground and parks maintenance and condition surveys will continue to be carried out on a regular basis.
- the progressive reduction in the funding gap will be a measure of the success of the Plan
- community satisfaction with parks and playground conditions will improve.

The specific purpose of the Asset Management Plan is to:

- demonstrate responsible stewardship by the Council
- define how the infrastructure is and will be managed to achieve the organisation's objectives
- provide the basis for customer consultation to determine the appropriate levels of service
- manage risk of asset failure
- achieve savings by optimising whole of life costs
- support long term planning.

Council's support for bids for external funding is subject to an adopted Recreation Reserve Master Plan to support the application. This is an absolute requirement before bids for external funding will be supported by Council. Council's Recreation Department plans to actively encourage and assist Recreation Reserve Committees of Management to produce or update Master Plans.

Other considerations include:

- a project proposal is supported by documented substantiated need
- projects which create multi-use facility have high priority (i.e. consolidates existing buildings or functions)
- renewal projects have high priority
- advice from grant provider as to likelihood of project being funded

**Document title****Relevance to strategy**

Footpath Asset  
Management Plan 2009

- compliance with grant conditions and funding guidelines
- availability of community funding
- project readiness to commence.

As part of the Operations and Management Plan, it was determined that with regard to recreation buildings Council provides the same level of support for all types of sporting facility whether or not located on Council controlled land. However under this plan Council's investment in operations and maintenance in recreation buildings is limited to:

- annual allocations as per "Public Hall and Reserve Allocation Policy"
- allocation of Community Grants as per Community Grants policy"
- Committees of management are required to fund operations and maintenance expenditure from their own resources.

As part of the renewal or replacement plan, it was determined that with regard to recreation buildings:

- Council's investment in renewal or replacement works at recreation buildings is limited as detailed in 2.11.4 Level of Service provided for recreation buildings under this plan
- renewal or replacement works at indoor stadiums, located at district colleges, will be assessed on a case by case basis at the time of project development.

This Asset Management plan documents Council's asset management processes to guide the planning, acquisition, operation, maintenance, renewal and disposal of assets with an objective to maximise service delivery potential and manage related risks and costs over entire asset lives.

Key recommendations include:

- incorporate asset renewal funding into the Strategic Resource Plan
- Investigate and implement systems to facilitate integration of Asset Registers and GIS.
- develop asset rationalisation policy
- develop a formal system for controlling and monitoring construction of vehicle crossings.
- develop an asset protection process that incorporates an inspection prior to development works commencing that involves access across an existing footpath. This could include the issuing of a permit and the taking of a bond
- review the existing footpath network to determine if footpaths exist that provide no useful purpose with a view to removing them from the footpath register
- this will assist in reducing council's future liability and the renewal gap

**Document title****Relevance to strategy**

Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2018 – 2021

- review footpath renewal cost estimates that have been used to calculate the funding gap. New footpath construction costs have been used. These may well be higher due to preparation and earthworks costs
- develop a policy and hierarchy in relation to recreational paths
- develop guidelines for Community Plans setting out a balance between new and renewal projects.

The Disability Access and Inclusion Plan has been developed to help identify how Loddon Shire Council can contribute to better access and inclusion for local residents.

The six focus areas of the plan are:

1. Accessible services, programs and events
2. Accessible Council buildings and infrastructure
3. Equal employment opportunities
4. Accessible communication and engagement
5. Inclusive community participation
6. Respectful and safe communities.

Some of the key commitments by Council include:

- We will support events in the Loddon Shire to be accessible and welcoming to people with a disability.
- We will work with our community to understand what physical barriers are experienced by people with a disability in our built and natural environments.
- We will ensure new developments and infrastructure are built to the principles of universal design, planning beyond the Access Standards to meet community needs.
- We will work to increase the accessibility of our built and natural environments to reduce the physical barriers experienced by people with a disability.
- We will support our residents to maintain their independence to get about town.
- We will support private businesses and people working in the building sector to understand the importance of and improve their accessibility.
- We will continue to improve our communication and information approaches to ensure that people with a disability can access information and know what is happening in their community.

## Document title

## Relevance to strategy

Recreation Strategy  
2015-20

- We will ensure our community engagement approaches are accessible and inclusive of people with a disability and ensure all Loddon Shire residents have the opportunity to have their say.
- We will continue to improve access to and from activities, services and events for people with a disability in the Loddon Shire community and reduce isolation.
- We will lead and work with others to increase opportunities for people with a disability, their families and carers to connect and feel supported in the Loddon Shire community.

The aim of the Loddon Shire Recreation Strategy 2015-2020 is to develop a framework to guide Council and its partners to ensure that their investment in sport and recreation facilities, services and programs will achieve the most effective outcomes possible for the community. At its very core is the desire to get more people more active, so that health and wellbeing of the community will improve; so that existing facilities meet the needs of the community and their use is maximised; and so that local clubs and organisations are assisted to be as sustainable as they can be.

The vision contained within this strategy is:

*Loddon Shire is an active, healthy and inclusive community supported by strong community clubs and a diversity of programs and accessible facilities.*

The 10 planning principles are:

1. Designed to meet demonstrated community need
2. Of benefit to the community
3. Accessible for people of all abilities
4. Inclusive and welcoming
5. Sustainable
6. Multi-purpose design
7. Able to offer a diversity of opportunities
8. Cost effective
9. Designed to enhance and protect natural environment and cultural and heritage values
10. Designed to reflect the unique nature of Loddon Shire

The following recommendations, of relevance to activating open space, are included in the strategy:

## Document title

## Relevance to strategy

Loddon Shire Climate Proofing Loddon's Sports and Recreation Facilities Strategy 2011

- developing social sport and recreation activities - encourage local sports clubs to work in partnership with external providers and State Sporting Associations to develop and implement social sport and recreation activities or modified sports for community members
- programming and events - develop a range of shire-wide physical activity programs and events such as Come and Try Days, summer in the parks (which may include live music and movies), family BBQs at swimming pools, guided walks in forests / parks, etc which are inclusive of all residents
- program leadership training - develop a program to train local residents to run various physical activities such as yoga, gentle exercise classes, water aerobics, swimming lessons, kinder gym, gymnastics, circus skills, personal training, walking groups, dance classes, cycling groups, canoeing classes, cardio tennis, etc so that they can deliver these programs locally for an agreed period of time
- facility upgrades - continue to progressively upgrade sport and recreation facilities in line with Council's strategic planning priorities
- attracting events - prepare a prospectus outlining opportunities available for a range of sporting events in the municipality (e.g. on road and off road cycling, orienteering, triathlons, water skiing, canoeing, hockey, football, netball, tennis, bowls, cricket, etc) and actively distribute this prospectus to event organisers, clubs / organisations and State Sporting organisations.

The aim of this Strategy is to identify work that will assist to 'climate proof' as many sporting facilities in Loddon Shire as possible and at the same time help communities to retain their invaluable sport and recreation assets. The report notes that climate change has had a significant impact on the ability of sport and recreation clubs to access water to maintain sports grounds to a satisfactory standard. Rainfall levels have decreased, temperatures have increased and access to potable or irrigation water through water authorities has decreased.

This strategy has identified a number of works to:

- reduce water use
- increase the security of supply of water
- reduce leakage of storage systems at sport and recreation facilities in Loddon Shire.

Typically these works include:

- installation of hard courts and removal of grass courts
- resurfacing grass playing fields
- upgrading irrigation systems

**Document title****Relevance to strategy**

Cycling and Walking  
Strategy 2009

- water harvesting projects, e.g. installation of water tanks
- installation of water saving devices.

Loddon Shire Council received \$900,000 worth of external grants, and with local contributions had an amount of \$1.7m available to redevelop facilities.

The purpose of the Tracks and Trails Strategy was to help identify and review existing tracks and trails located within Loddon Shire; and to identify a clear direction for the Shire from 2008-2013 in terms of tracks and trails provision, future development, management, maintenance and marketing.

An audit was undertaken as part of the Strategy, which identified a number of gaps and opportunities in the tracks and trails in the Shire.

The gaps identified included:

- poor signage
- inconsistency of track names
- access issues
- confusion on correct routes
- varying levels and standards of maintenance
- limited connections and linkages
- overall lack of trails

Opportunities identified include:

- improved marketing
- understanding and appreciation of the natural environment
- increased physical activity
- development of events that could be run on the trails
- development of a local management committee

The following recommendations were made:

## Document title

## Relevance to strategy

Loddon Mallee Regionally Significant Trails Strategy (2009)

- improve links between trails
- improve connectivity of existing trails
- improve trail design (through the development of specific guidelines)
- instigate a “Stop and Walk” program (aimed at encouraging motorists to stop and walk in towns)
- identify potential events to encourage usage of tracks and trails
- ensure interpretation opportunities are made available
- improve marketing and promotion of tracks and trails
- improve the coordination, management and planning of trails
- provide appropriate maintenance schedules

The purpose of the Loddon Mallee Regionally Significant Trails Strategic Plan is to provide a clear framework to guide the Loddon Mallee Regional Manager’s Forum; the Loddon Mallee Trails Network; individual Local Government Authorities; Department of Sustainability and Environment; Parks Victoria; and individual trail management groups in relation to the development of regional cycling, walking, mountain biking, horse riding and canoeing / kayaking trails throughout the Loddon Mallee region of Victoria.

Of particular relevance is Captain Melville’s Trail (Bridgewater-on- Loddon, Inglewood, Kingower, and Melville Caves). This regionally significant trail will bring in economic benefits from other trail users and provide an additional recreation facility for local residents. Community strengthening is possible through formation of management committees and working bees.

Some opportunities associated with the trail are:

- linking trail related activities to annual local events (such as food and wine festivals) will improve awareness and use of the trail
- the development of packages and some innovative marketing and interpretation (i.e. indigenous and bushranger history) and the naming of the trail to reflect its bushranger past may assist in attracting potential trail users from other parts of the state, and potentially internationally
- there is an opportunity to develop canoe trails, rock climbing and horse riding which would further enhance the reputation of the trail.

The major challenges are accessing public transport and distance to metropolitan areas. It also does not link with other major trails.

**Document title****Relevance to strategy**

Loddon Shire Swimming Pool Development Plan 2014-2018 [note that a new swimming pool improvement plan is now in place]

The purpose of this plan is to identify required capital works and routine maintenance costs required to maintain an adequate level of safety and amenity for each of Council's five public swimming pools over a four-year period 2014-2018.

Recommendations include:

- installation of solar panels
- shade structures
- water play features (at three pools)
- perimeter fencing (over the next four years)
- pool painting (on a three year cycle)
- cyclic maintenance.

Little Lake Boort Master Plan 2018-2028 (Draft)

The vision for Little Lake Boort will be:

- a place that nurtures our flora and fauna, and celebrates our natural and indigenous heritage
- an expression of who we are as a community
- a place of creativity, celebration, energy, and fun
- a place to meet and greet, play, relax, and restore the soul
- a place that tells a story and can take us on a journey
- a place where we love to be, and that brings us together.

The six principles identified in the plan are:

1. Proposed built and landscape development must be financially and environmentally sustainable.
2. The type of infrastructure and vegetation will be determined by the environmental and recreation themes of each zone, and the overall topographic and climatic condition of the region.
3. Built infrastructure will be in a modern and consistent theme and appropriate to the environment and primary use of the zone; and comply with all relevant legislation.
4. Signage will be important in activating the lake environs and interpreting the natural and cultural values and history of the lake.
5. Spaces will be designed so as to encourage community use of the lake and foreshore environment for different activities and by different ages and abilities.
6. Management protocols and processes are necessary to ensure the parklands are managed in line with relevant government and industry OHS, risk management, asset management etc. guidelines, legislation, and/or policies.

## Document title

## Relevance to strategy

Active Victoria. A strategic framework for sport and recreation in Victoria 2017 - 2021

The Master Plan recommends the construction of all or some of the following, subject to a feasibility study: water splash park, a skate park and an outdoor fitness centre between the swimming pool and the croquet club.

Active Victoria is a strategic framework for sport and recreation in Victoria. The Victorian Government's vision is: "an increased proportion of Victorians participate in sport and active recreation."

Its strategic directions of relevance are:

- meeting demand – focusing on flexible and innovative participation options and increasing the capacity of infrastructure
- broader and more inclusive participation – focusing on affordability and increasing participation for females, Aboriginals, people with a disability, LGBTI people and disengaged youth
- additional focus on active recreation – focusing on supporting non-organised and unstructured physical activity, investing in infrastructure that enables active recreation and creating a model that supports the structure and needs of active recreation.
- build system resilience and capacity – focus on supporting volunteers, developing a strong evidence base and encouraging good governance and diverse leadership
- work together for shared outcomes

The framework defines active recreation as : "leisure time physical activity undertaken outside of structured, competitive sport".

Loddon Shire Nature Tourism Plan 2011

The objective of this plan is to:

- to promote existing nature tourism venues in the Shire
- to identify areas in Loddon Shire that demonstrates potential for nature tourism
- to assist in the improvement, where practical, of existing facilities
- to identify potential new/expanded business opportunities in nature tourism.

The relevant objectives and actions from this plan include:

- to promote existing nature tourism venues in the Shire. Action: to produce brochures for individual activities, a nature activities map, annual nature-based events

**Document title****Relevance to strategy**

Major Recreation Reserve Master Plans

- to identify areas in Loddon Shire that demonstrates potential for nature tourism. Action: select 5 top priority areas to focus attention
- to assist in the improvement of existing facilities where practical.

**Action:**

- to identify sites for potential improvement; undertake a tracks and trails audit
- to identify potential new/expanded business opportunities in nature tourism.

Recreation Reserve Master Plans have been prepared for the nine major recreation reserves in Loddon Shire to guide future development and to identify priorities. Key recommendations from each of these master plans follow.

**Note that:**

- High Priority recommendations are those proposed to take place in 1-3 years
- High to Medium Priority Recommendations between 4-6 years
- Medium Priority Recommendations between 7-9 years
- Low Priority Recommendations over 10+ years.

**Boort Park****High priority recommendations include:**

- develop a water allocation agreement for key sports facilities during restriction periods, implement formal water use monitoring and annual reporting process
- construct basic facility with shelter and storage space for hockey club, install lights
- install a more hard-wearing grass on the sports oval that remains green over winter.

**High to medium recommendations include:**

- install more lights for football club training purposes.

**Medium priority recommendations include:**

- upgrade toilets, showers and taps to water efficient fixtures
- extend social rooms to cater for club functions
- construct a small shed on site to be utilised as a gymnasium

**Document title**

**Relevance to strategy**

- develop a female umpire change room
- upgrade kitchen to better cater for club functions
- upgrade public toilets.

Low priority recommendation:

- install rainwater tanks.

**Bridgewater Recreation Reserve**

High priority recommendations include:

- develop a water allocation agreement for key sports facilities during restriction periods, implement an ongoing water use monitoring and reporting program
- resurface and re-grade the oval and plant with warm season grasses
- irrigation specialist to assess the current system and provide recommendations to either upgrade or replace the system
- implement the recommendations provided by the irrigation specialist
- proceed with the development of a groundwater source at the Recreation Reserve
- construct concrete pathways and paving around the Sports Pavilion, construct verandah
- construct drainage near the pavilion to reduce pooling of water.

Medium priority recommendations include:

- install two additional floodlights around the sports ground
- replace mower
- provide shade and protective barriers around playground equipment
- install boundary fencing, particularly along the highway.

Low priority recommendation:

- assess the need to purchase and install a rainwater/storm water harvesting system which collects run-off from the netball / tennis courts as a back-up emergency water supply.

**Calivil Recreation Reserve**

**Document title****Relevance to strategy**

High priority recommendations include:

- implement a formal water use monitoring and annual reporting process
- investigate the sinking of a bore to provide an alternative source of water for the Recreation Reserve
- resurface courts and relocate light towers to meet Netball Victoria standards. Line-mark these two courts for tennis
- install a new irrigation system to reduce water use
- install lights for bowls to allow night time training and games.

High to Medium priority recommendations include:

- construct a BBQ to encourage visitors
- resurface cricket practice nets

Medium priority recommendations include:

- consider development of a campground at the Recreation Reserve
- install shade sails to provide a safer and more attractive play space
- re-vegetate and landscape around the entire recreation reserve to improve visual amenity of the site
- consider the development of a farmer's market and alternative expos at the Recreation Reserve to increase local revenue
- modify power supply to the football shed
- install safety signage around play area and additional directional signage to and around the reserve.

Low priority recommendations include:

- retain two grass courts in the short term and develop two new hard courts if demand dictates.
- install two extra light towers on the football oval
- construct a covered and paved area which links the pavilion to the change rooms
- explore the possibility of developing an Opportunity Shop in the tennis pavilion at the Reserve.

**Inglewood Recreation Reserve**

High priority recommendations include:

- develop a water allocation agreement for key sports facilities during restriction periods

**Document title****Relevance to strategy**

- calculate the yield of the Old Inglewood Reservoir and put in place a water allocation process
- develop and implement an ongoing program of works for the Old Town Reservoir.
- implement a formal water use monitoring and annual reporting process
- secure water for the ground by upgrading catch drains to allow the Inglewood Reservoir to fill so that water can then be transferred to the sports complex for irrigation purposes
- upgrade toilet facilities in Sports Centre
- install a new irrigation system to allow more efficient use of water and plant warm season grasses to provide a better playing surface
- install a range hood in the kitchen area to meet regulations
- install some speed humps with signage around the sports oval.

High to Medium priority recommendations include:

- upgrade Sports Centre to improve overall appearance and amenity
- develop change facilities for netballers and female umpires – as part of the tennis pavilion
- install heating and cooling in the pavilion. Cover louver windows.

Medium priority recommendations include:

- install more shelter, shade and seating around the Recreation Reserve
- upgrade the canteen and the bar
- upgrade lights for sports oval and netball courts
- upgrade football / cricket showers and toilets in change rooms.

Low priority recommendations include:

- upgrade public toilets
- develop a rebound wall to allow people to practice their tennis alone or in pairs.

**Donaldson Park (Wedderburn)**

High priority recommendations include:

- calculate the yield of the old town water supply system and put in place a water allocation process
- develop and implement an ongoing program of works for Skinners Flat Reserve and Caravan Park dam

## Document title

## Relevance to strategy

- investigate potential for storm water harvesting from Nardoo Creek
- develop a water allocation agreement for key sports facilities during restriction periods
- develop a new pavilion on the current site of the spectator shed. The new pavilion is to be constructed in two stages.
- upgrade second netball court to meet Netball Victoria standards
- extend kitchen and construct administrative space in bowls pavilion. Ensure kitchen upgrade includes provision for low water use fixtures and appliances
- demolish the old tennis shed and develop an adventure / outdoor play space in this area; and also a more traditional play space near the netball courts
- plant with warm season grasses to reduce water use and costs
- replace two grass tennis courts with two synthetic (hard) tennis courts with lights to reduce water use and to provide for year round tennis
- upgrade existing hockey irrigation system.

Medium priority recommendations include:

- review use of harness racing in 2011 to determine future of pavilion and the track. Increase use of the pavilion, e.g. hockey change facility, cricket pavilion, community gym shared with Wedderburn P-12 College, etc. and install a DDA compliant toilet and ramp suitable for people with disabilities.

High to medium priority recommendations include:

- install signage that reflects Council's corporate style and provides information on opportunities at the Park
- improve landscaping throughout the park, to create a more attractive and welcoming environment
- seal main entrance from Chapel St to improve condition of internal roadway
- install two lights at the southern end of the hockey field.

Medium priority recommendations include:

- demolish existing sheds and build one new shed, able to provide some shelter, seating and storage for hockey equipment
- decommission Hospital Street toilet block once pavilion extension is complete
- render and smarten up existing public toilets near the bowls green.

**Document title****Relevance to strategy**

Low priority recommendation:

- develop an electronic ground booking system.

Ongoing recommendations:

- continue to explore opportunities for new activities / user groups
- continue to plant trees along Nardoo Walking Track.

**Mitchell Park (Pyramid Hill)**

High priority recommendations include:

- develop a water allocation agreement for key sports facilities during restriction periods
- implement a formal water use monitoring and annual reporting process
- set up an agreement with Loddon Shire to access a set volume of water from the Loddon Shire's Pyramid Hill-Boort Irrigation water share
- reseal both courts and extend run-off to meet Netball Victoria standards and to improve safety for netballers
- replace existing irrigation system
- upgrade fire service to ensure safety of patrons in the pavilion should a fire break out
- install light near playground to improve visibility of children playing in the area
- install signage to warn motorists to slow down.

High to medium priority recommendation:

- provide access for people with disabilities to top floor of the pavilion.

Medium priority recommendations include:

- collect rainwater from clubhouse and use for toilet flushing and other non-drinking building purposes
- consider replacement of turf wickets with synthetic wickets to reduce water usage
- need to install heating and cooling in the pavilion, a skylight and better acoustics
- construct a verandah to the south end of the pavilion for netball spectators
- improve aesthetics of the ground through ongoing planting and upkeep of more trees
- seal internal road around oval and provide signage and speed humps.

**Document title****Relevance to strategy**

Low priority recommendations include:

- replace training lighting around the sports oval to improve visibility during training sessions
- replace gate, fence and track to provide safe access for users of Mitchell Park
- replace original toilet block.

**Mitiamo Recreation Reserve**

High priority recommendations include:

- develop an agreement with the MRWS to access water from the proposed pipeline and install rainwater tank
- develop a water allocation agreement for key sports facilities during restriction periods
- decommission all 5 lawn tennis courts and construct 2 new shared netball / tennis courts (which meet Netball Victoria standards)
- relocate existing light poles and upgrade lighting of the courts
- Improve drainage around the court area so that water does not pool on the courts
- relocate entrance to pavilion further to the east to allow a car-free area around the netball / tennis and play area
- survey oval and improve drainage on southern side of ground
- revegetate Recreation Reserve.

High to medium priority recommendation:

- construct a basic club facility to provide shelter, a toilet, a shower and storage space next to the courts.
- Medium priority recommendations include:
- implement a formal water use monitoring and annual reporting process
- install sturdy cafe plastic sheeting around the verandah to increase capacity of the pavilion to cater for events
- relocate the two water tanks and connect to the roof for toilet flushing.
- install water efficient fixtures.
- assess the need to supplement the water supply and implement a stormwater harvesting system.

Low priority recommendations include:

- extend pavilion by approximately 4 metres to increase capacity for events and functions and also to provide additional storage space [NOTE: This is unlikely to provide any significant benefits, hence not supported – cafe

**Document title****Relevance to strategy**

plastic sheeting is a more cost effective solution]

- improve the existing irrigation system on the sports oval
- upgrade light towers around the sports ground to allow football games to be held at night [NOTE: Not consistent with the grading of the ground – not supported].

**Newbridge Recreation Reserve**

High priority recommendations include:

- develop a water allocation agreement for key sports facilities during restriction periods
- implement a formal water use monitoring and annual reporting process
- install an in-ground irrigation sprinkler system to decrease water use; decrease amount of time spent watering; and improve condition of the ground
- develop a new community sports pavilion to cater for social events and to provide suitable change facilities for players and umpires; and also upgrade power. Incorporate water efficient fixtures and additional rainwater tanks
- reconstruct netball courts to meet Netball Victoria standards (over existing tennis courts).

High to medium priority recommendations include:

- mentor young people to take on administrative roles on the Newbridge Recreation Reserve Committee of Management to ensure its ongoing sustainability.

Medium priority recommendations include:

- provide shade trees and a BBQ in playground / picnic area to provide a more comfortable place for people to recreate.
- develop a track along reserve extending this around the top of the reserve.

Low priority recommendations include:

- fence the site to prevent sheep from causing damage
- liaise with Coliban Water on potential for recycled water option if the proposal to provide a reticulated sewage system to the town goes ahead.

**Pyramid Hill Tennis and Bowls**

**Document title****Relevance to strategy**

High priority recommendations include:

- develop a water allocation agreement for key sports facilities during restriction periods
- implement a formal water use monitoring and annual reporting process
- set up an agreement with Loddon Shire to access a set volume of water from the Loddon Shire's Pyramid Hill-Boort Irrigation water share
- develop two synthetic tennis courts with lights to reduce water usage and to provide year round tennis opportunities for the community and also install an in-ground irrigation system on the tennis courts to eliminate the need for flood irrigation and to more effectively irrigate the tennis courts
- install a fence near the channel to prevent children from falling into the water; between the playground and the fire training track; and between the playground and the main road
- erect signage from main road to direct people to the tennis courts
- plant trees on the western side of the tennis / swimming pavilion to help keep players and the pavilion cooler and to provide additional shade in the car park
- purchase a new motorised spraying machine to more effectively maintain the bowls greens
- upgrade the bowls pavilion kitchen by installing a new oven and relocating the hand basin; and also installing new carpet throughout the pavilion.

Medium priority recommendations include:

- upgrade play equipment to ensure provision for younger and middle age groups
- undertake additional planting and landscaping around the tennis area, particularly at either end of the complex once the end tennis courts have been removed
- install lighting at the Bowls Club to allow night time training, competitions and events.

**Serpentine Recreation Reserve**

High priority recommendations include:

- develop a water allocation agreement for key sports facilities during restriction periods
- implement a formal water use monitoring and annual reporting process
- upgrade irrigation system so that it is fully automated
- purchase and install a storage tank and associated pipe- work to connect to the new pipeline
- re-level, laser and resurface sports ground oval to create a more uniform playing surface

**Document title****Relevance to strategy**

- replant sports oval with warm season grasses to reduce water use
- increase run-off on netball to meet Netball Victoria standards.

High to medium priority recommendations include:

- improve landscaping around the front of the Community Centre and by planting drought tolerant species
- install a new playground with a protective barrier or fence
- re-route Coliban water tankers from internal road at the Reserve to an alternative / new road when accessing the treatment plant due to potential safety issues and degradation of the internal roads
- consider closing off road between netball courts and the Community Centre to increase safety
- widen drop off area in front of Community Centre.

Medium priority recommendations include:

- upgrade inefficient water fixtures (toilets and taps)
- develop the area behind the netball courts into a native bush land area (known as Pon Pon Reserve), featuring a shared trail with fitness stations around it
- increase size of football and netball change rooms, and improve umpire change rooms, the social rooms and canteen facilities.

**Winzar Recreation Reserve Master Plan (Dingee)**

High priority recommendations include:

- develop a water allocation agreement for key sports facilities during restriction periods
- implement a formal water use monitoring and annual reporting process
- consider purchasing a permanent water allocation
- convert one lawn tennis court to hard court to allow for year round multi-purpose use; install lights; and line mark for other sports such as netball and basketball
- upgrade lighting on the bowling green.

High to medium priority recommendation:

- Continue to develop the walking track around the reserve to form a self-contained loop from Dingee and link up with Tang Tang Reserve

**Document title****Relevance to strategy**

Wedderburn Community  
Plan 2015-2025

Medium priority recommendations include:

- upgrade cricket practice nets
- improve condition of cricket wicket and oval
- fill in the dam as water will be sourced from a pipeline in the future and a new water storage tank has been installed recently.
- level ground around pavilion; repair exterior wall to match new extension; and install carpet in function area
- review the adequacy of the tennis courts sprinkler system and replace or upgrade the sprinkler system if required.

Low priority recommendations include:

- share a caretaker with another community to maintain sports facilities
- formalise bowls club parking area with pine bollards and install lighting.

Key actions of relevance include:

- establish a farmer's market in Wedderburn and, if possible, incorporate aspects of a street market
- continued liaison and input into the "Wedderburn Streetscape Plan" to ensure the original objectives are met
- develop and execute a plan for the upgrade of the swimming pool including painting, heating and opening hours
- establish an "events" board in a suitable and prominent location
- establish more public seating along High Street.
- develop infrastructures to support sport and recreational activities
- investigate the opportunities to develop bike and BMX tracks, art walks and a skate park
- investigate the opportunity to introduce a pedal powered event
- investigate the opportunities to establish an annual music event
- enter discussions with the relevant organisations to extend the opening hours of the pool and all year golf
- investigate what activities (including extracurricular), other than sport, are available for the young people.

## 16 COMMUNITY PROFILE

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics Census (2016)<sup>30</sup>, Loddon Shire has a current population of 7,516. The population is dispersed over many small towns, none of which exceed 1,000 people. By 2031, the population is projected to have declined to 6,710 according to the State Government's (2016) Victorian in Future 2016 report<sup>31</sup>, although Loddon Shire is actively working towards reversing this trend. The following table shows data from some of the larger towns within the Shire at the time of the 2016 Census:

Characteristic	Loddon Shire	Boort	Bridgewater	Inglewood	Mitiamo	Newbridge	Pyramid Hill	Serpentine	Wedderburn	Australia
<b>POPULATION</b>										
Total Population	7,516 people	873 people	326 people	855 people	117 people	192 people	558 people	192 people	941 people	23m people
Males	51.2%	47.1%	52.7%	49.5%	50.4%	52.8%	47.7%	52.4%	51.5%	49.3%
Females	48.8%	52.9%	47.3%	50.5%	49.6%	47.2%	52.3%	47.6%	48.5%	50.7%
Indigenous persons	1.6%	1.4%	1.2%	1.5%	3.6%	0%	0%	0%	1.8%	2.8%
<b>AGE</b>										
Median Age	51 years	55 years	53 years	53 years	48 years	55 years	45 years	42 years	56 years	38 years
0-4 year olds	4.5%	4.6%	3.1%	4.1%	2.5%	0%	5.9%	3.3%	3.3%	6.3%
5-14 year olds	11.4%	10.7%	11.2%	10.8%	16.8%	6.8%	14.8%	12.6%	9.5%	12.4%
15-24 year olds	8.6%	7.0%	7.5%	7.9%	10.1%	10.5%	9.5%	7.6%	10.4%	12.8%
25-54 year olds	30.8%	27.8%	33.3%	29.2%	40.4%	28.9%	30.4%	39.4%	24.8%	41.2%
55-64 year olds	18.0%	15.5%	18.4%	15.5%	19.3%	23.7%	16%	15.7%	19.6%	11.8%
65 years and older	26.8%	34.5%	26.5%	32.5%	10.9%	29.9%	23.4%	17.7%	32.5%	15.8%
<b>COUNTRY OF BIRTH</b>										
Australia	79.8%	83.8%	86.2%	80.7%	86.0%	84.4%	74.5%	85.1%	78.2	66.7%

Characteristic	Loddon Shire	Boort	Bridgewater	Inglewood	Mitiamo	Newbridge	Pyramid Hill	Serpentine	Wedderburn	Australia
<b>POPULATION</b>										
England	2.2%	0.9%	1.6%	3.3%	0%	0%	1.8%	1.5%	3.5	3.9%
New Zealand	0.8%	0.6%	0%	1.3%	6.1%	0%	2.0%	0%	0.8%	2.2%
Netherlands	0.4%	0%	1.9%	0.5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.3%	0.7%
India	<0.4%	1.5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1.9%
Thailand	<0.4%	0.7%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.3%
Germany	0.4%	0.3%	0%	0.5%	0%	0%	1.4%	0%	0.5%	0.4%
Scotland	<0.4%	0%	0%	0.4%	0%	0%	0.5%	0%	1.0%	0.5%
Philippines	0.9%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	10.8%	0%	0%	1.0%
South Africa	<0.4%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2.2%	0%	0%	0%	0.7%
Greece	<0.4%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1.7%	0%	0%	0%	0.4%
<b>LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME</b>										
English only	86.3%	87.9%	90.7%	86.5%	92.4%	87.1%	83%	89.2%	85.5%	72.7%
Afrikaans	<0.2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2.1%	0%	0%	0%	0.2%
Greek	0.2%	0.3%	0%	0%	0%	1.5%	0%	0%	0%	1.0%
Hindi	<0.2%	0.9%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.7%
Thai	<0.2%	0.7%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.2%
German	0.3%	0.5%	0%	0.4%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.4%	0.3%
Italian	<0.2%	0.3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.3%	1.2%
Arabic	<0.2%	0%	0%	0.4%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1.4%
Malayalam	<0.2%	0%	0%	0.4%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.2%
Filipino	0.5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	6.6%	0%	0%	0.3%

Characteristic	Loddon Shire	Boort	Bridgewater	Inglewood	Mitiamo	Newbridge	Pyramid Hill	Serpentine	Wedderburn	Australia
<b>POPULATION</b>										
Tagalog	0.3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2.7%	0%	0%	0.5%
Mandarin	<0.2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1.4%	0%	0%	2.5%
Biyasa	<0.2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.9%	0%	0%	0%
Maltese	<0.2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.3%	0.1%
Indonesian	<0.2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.3%	0.3%
Hungarian	0.3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.1%
<b>LABOUR FORCE (October 2017)</b>										
Employed full-time	55.7%	49.9%	54.7%	51.5%	43.9%	50.0%	52.4%	60.9%	51.3%	57.7%
Employed part-time	31.3%	34.9%	27.3%	35.2%	36.8%	33.7%	23.8%	27.6%	34.1%	30.4%
Unemployed	5.3%	5.6%	5.8%	10.1%	10.5%	8.1%	6.6%	0%	9.2%	6.9%
Away from work	7.7%	9.7%	12.2%	3.1%	8.8%	8.1%	8.3%	11.5%	5.5%	5.0%
<b>OCCUPATION</b>										
Managers	35.0%	30.3%	18.7%	13.7%	36.5%	26.8%	26.5%	33.0%	16.8%	13%
Professionals	10.7%	14.5%	10.6%	6.8%	5.8%	13.4%	12.8%	11.0%	9.0%	22.2%
Labourers	14.8%	12.1%	15.4%	20.9%	17.3%	18.3%	22.4%	6.6%	14.8%	13.5%
Community and Personal Service workers	8.0%	8.2%	14.6%	14.5%	0%	7.3%	7.3%	9.9%	11.5%	10.6%
Technicians and Trades workers	8.8%	9.4%	12.2%	16.1%	7.7%	3.7%	10.5%	5.5%	13.1%	13.1%

Characteristic	Loddon Shire	Boort	Bridgewater	Inglewood	Mitiamo	Newbridge	Pyramid Hill	Serpentine	Wedderburn	Australia
POPULATION										
Clerical and Administrative	8.4%	7.0%	8.1%	10.4%	15.4%	11.0%	5.9%	11.0%	12.3%	13.6%
Machinery operators and drivers	7.0%	9.7%	10.6%	8.0%	17.3%	4.9%	9.1%	13.2%	11.1%	6.3%
Sales workers	5.5%	6.4%	7.3%	6.0%	0%	14.6%	4.1%	9.9%	9.0%	9.4%
INDUSTRY OF EMPLOYMENT										
Other Agricultural Product Wholesaling	<3.8%	0%	4.6%	0%	0%	0%	0%	7.5%	0%	0.1%
Fuel retailing	<3.8%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	13.2%	0%	0.3%
Local Government Administration	<3.8%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	9.4%	17.9%	1.3%
Hospitals (except psychiatric hospitals)	5.4%	10.6%	11.5%	11.3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3.9%
Supermarket and grocery stores	<3.8%	3.9%	0%	8.1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	10.7%	2.4%
Wine and other Alcoholic Beverage Manufacturing	<3.8%	0%	11.5%	4.8%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.1%
Bakery product Manufacturing (non-factory based)	<3.8%	0%	4.6%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.2%
Primary Education	<3.8%	0%	0%	0%	0%	8.2%	0%	0%	0%	2.2%
Aged Care Residential Services	<3.8%	0%	0%	4.8%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2.0%
Dairy Cattle farming	3.8%	0%	0%	0%	17.2%	14.3%	4.6%	0%	0%	0.2%

Characteristic	Loddon Shire	Boort	Bridgewater	Inglewood	Mitiamo	Newbridge	Pyramid Hill	Serpentine	Wedderburn	Australia
<b>POPULATION</b>										
Religious Services	<3.8%	0%	0%	0%	13.8%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.3%
Other Grain Growing	6.0%	7.4%	0%	0%	10.3%	0%	5.7%	0%	0%	0.2%
Landscape construction Services	<3.8%	0%	0%	0%	10.3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.4%
Pig farming	<3.8%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	9.3%	0%	0%	0.0%
Sheep farming	<3.8%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	7.0%	3.3%
Sheep farming (specialised)	6.6%	0%	0%	0%	0%	6.1%	5.2%	11.3%	5.6%	0.2%
Combined primary and secondary education	<3.8%	4.2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5.7%	0%	4.6%	1.1%
Poultry processing	<3.8%	0%	0%	0%	0%	22.4%	0%	0%	0%	0.1%
Grain-sheep or grain-beef cattle farming	5.9%	6.4%	0%	0%	10.3%	6.1%	0%	7.5%	6.1%	0.1%
Pubs, taverns and bars	<3.8%	0%	4.6%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.7%
Plumbing services	<3.8%	0%	0%	4.3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.6%
<b>UNPAID WORK</b>										
Cared for child / children	21.6%	22.5%	18.5%	20.0%	28.9%	21.2%	19.8%	32.5%	15.3%	27.6%
Provided unpaid assistance to person with a disability (in	13.5%	13.9%	10.3%	12.6%	19.4%	15.8%	11.6%	9.4%	13.2%	11.3%

Characteristic	Loddon Shire	Boort	Bridgewater	Inglewood	Mitiamo	Newbridge	Pyramid Hill	Serpentine	Wedderburn	Australia
<b>POPULATION</b>										
last 2 weeks) Did voluntary work through an organisation (last 12 months)	31.7%	40.3%	23.4%	23.5%	24.4%	23.3%	30.2%	31.8%	27.7%	19.0%
<b>INCOME</b>										
Median personal income (\$/weekly)	\$467	\$471	\$503	\$437	\$428	\$474	\$494	\$682	\$432	\$662
Median household income (\$/weekly)	\$826	\$884	\$860	\$777	\$900	\$814	\$875	\$1,218	\$676	\$1,438
Median family income (\$/weekly)	\$1,116	\$1,135	\$1,270	\$1,045	\$1,070	\$1,406	\$1,192	\$1,583	\$871	\$1,734
Households earning less than \$650 gross income per week	36.4%	33.3%	32.3%	38.2%	27.0%	32.9%	38.2%	24.6%	48.2%	20.0%
SEIFA Index	934	989	894	877	N/A	985	921	997	864	
<b>FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS</b>										
Total families	1,874 families	230 families	87 families	198 families	27 families	45 families	141 families	47 families	207 families	6m families
Couple families with	33.8%	30.9%	36%	31.0%	34.3%	33.3%	35.4%	41.7%	30.9%	44.7%

Characteristic	Loddon Shire	Boort	Bridgewater	Inglewood	Mitiamo	Newbridge	Pyramid Hill	Serpentine	Wedderburn	Australia
<b>POPULATION</b>										
children										
Couple families without children	52.4%	58.3%	48.8%	51.3%	51.4%	60.0%	47.2%	52.1%	58.3%	37.8%
One parent families	12.7%	10.9%	15.1%	16.2%	14.3%	6.7%	17.4%	6.2%	10.9%	15.8%
Other families	1.1%	0%	0%	1.5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1.7%
<b>DWELLING CHARACTERISTICS</b>										
Median rent (\$/weekly)	\$125	\$150	\$180	\$175	Not known	\$100	\$123	\$88	\$130	\$335
Median housing loan repayment (\$/monthly)	\$809	\$758	\$975	\$737	\$666	\$857	\$661	\$1,170	\$767	\$1,755
Average household size	2.2	2.1	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.8	2.1	1.9	2.6
<b>TENURE TYPE</b>										
Owned Outright	52.3%	50.3%	51.1%	48.4%	53.7%	51.2%	47.9%	32.9%	56.7%	31.0%
Owned with mortgage	25.9%	27.2%	27.7%	28.7%	26.8%	28.0%	19.5%	31.5%	23.4%	34.5%
Rented	16.3%	18.1%	16.1%	16.7%	19.5%	12.2%	25.4%	28.8%	13.9%	30.9%
Other tenure type	1.1%	0.9%	0%	0%	0%	3.7%	0%	0%	1.0%	1.0%
Not stated	4.3%	3.5%	5.1%	6.2%	0%	4.9%	7.2%	6.8%	5.0%	2.7%
<b>HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION</b>										
Family households	62.8%	67.0%	60.8%	58.6%	58.6%	64.4%	60.3%	61.0%	51.5%	71.3%

Characteristic	Loddon Shire	Boort	Bridgewater	Inglewood	Mitiamo	Newbridge	Pyramid Hill	Serpentine	Wedderburn	Australia
<b>POPULATION</b>										
Single or one person households	34.2%	32.1%	32.9%	38.8%	30.2%	35.6%	36.8%	35.1%	43.3%	24.4%
Group households	3.0%	0.9%	6.3%	2.7%	7.0%	0.0%	3.0%	3.9%	5.2%	4.3%
<b>MOTOR VEHICLES</b>										
Average number of motor vehicles per dwelling	2.3	2.0	1.9	1.9	2.4	2.4	1.8	2.3	1.8	1.8
<b>INTERNET</b>										
Internet accessed from dwelling	68.4%	67.3%	63.6%	58.7%	77.5%	68.1%	68.2%	67.1%	64.1%	83.2%

This data tells us that Loddon Shire is an ageing community with 44.8% of the population currently over 55 years of age compared with 27.6% of Australians. Wedderburn, Boort and Newbridge report the highest median age, i.e. 56, 53 and 53 respectively, compared with 38 for Australia. Hence from an activating open spaces perspective we need to ensure that we provide spaces that are accessible for people of all ages and abilities. There is less likely to be demand for highly active outdoor sports facilities and more demand for outdoor facilities that enable less physically active or passive recreational opportunities, e.g. walking, cycling, swimming, spaces in parks for activities such as tai chi, etc.

The majority of residents (79.8%) were born in Australia and speak only English at home (86.3%). Fifteen other languages are spoken at home, with the five most popular being Filipino, Tagalog, Hungarian, German and Greek. One in ten residents of Pyramid Hill was born in the Philippines and 9.3% of its population speak either Filipino or Tagalog at home. This indicates that there may be a need to provide information about open spaces in Filipino or Tagalog in Pyramid Hill. Slightly fewer residents were employed full-time and slightly more part time. There was a greater percentage of people away from work, compared with the Australian figure and the unemployment rate was slightly lower. Almost half of those employed were employed as managers and labourers and most people are employed in some form of farming. In relation to income, more than one third of Loddon Shire households earn less than \$650.00 gross per week, compared with just one in five Australians (20.0%). All of this data tells us that our residents may be working in quite manual jobs, some of which may be very demanding in hours at certain times of the year (e.g. shearing, harvesting, milking), and that income levels are significantly lower than for Australia overall, i.e. median household income in Loddon Shire is \$826 per week compared with \$1,438 for Australia. Household incomes in Wedderburn and Inglewood are lowest within the Shire. Hence we need to ensure that we provide opportunities for people to be physically active in open spaces at a time that suits them and that participation costs for any physical activities is kept at an affordable level.

Childcare responsibilities in the Shire are generally less than Australia overall, with the exception of Serpentine. Therefore childcare is unlikely to be a major barrier to participation. Similarly, there is a higher percentage of people who care for someone with a disability. This may provide a barrier for carers to be utilise open spaces for their own health and wellbeing. One in five people in Mitiamo is currently caring for a person with a disability.

Loddon Shire has a strong culture of volunteerism, as evidenced by the number of people who stated that they have undertaken some form of voluntary work through an organisation sometime within the last 12 months. Four out of every ten residents in Boort have volunteered their services in the past 12 months. Attracting volunteers to assist with community base programs may not necessarily be an issue, but perhaps better utilising the skills of volunteers is worth exploring.

Compared with Australia, Loddon Shire has a much higher rate of single or one person households (34.2% compared with 24.4%). This figure increases to 43.3% of households in Boort. To ensure that people in single or one person households are able to make connections with others outside their homes, the design of public spaces should focus on facilitating community contacts, e.g. group programs, community events, seating that encourages interactions, etc.

Given that public transport is very limited in Loddon Shire, access to a car is very important for many people. There is an average of 2.3 cars per household, compared with 1.8 for Australia. Mitiamo and Newbridge have the greatest access to vehicles, whereas Pyramid Hill and Wedderburn have the least access. Place based activities and activities held at convenient are therefore likely to be very important.

Loddon Shire lags considerably behind its Australian counterparts in relation to internet connection. Whereas more than eight out of ten Australians access the internet from their

home, this figure is as low as 58.7% for Inglewood. Until such time as there is greater uptake of the technology, any information about the provision of facilities or activities needs to be provided in multiple platforms, including written materials and posters in shop windows.

In terms of health and wellbeing, 55% of Loddon residents do not do enough physical activity to achieve health benefits, compared with 50% of Victorians. Further, 25% of Loddon residents are obese or overweight, compared with 19% of Victorians. These factors, combined with smoking, excessive alcohol consumption and poor diet contribute to chronic illness. Some specific data related to chronic illness in Loddon Shire follows:

- Loddon Shire has the highest rate of heart attack in Victoria
- Loddon Shire has the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest rate of cardiac arrest in Victoria
- there is a higher proportion of people in Loddon Shire with diabetes compared with Victoria
- avoidable deaths from diabetes, cancer, COPD and suicide are higher in Loddon than in Victoria.

## 17 OUTDOOR FITNESS EQUIPMENT

### 17.1 Overview of outdoor fitness equipment

Based on discussions with local residents and survey responses, there is some demand for outdoor fitness equipment (OFE) in Loddon Shire. Outdoor fitness equipment is similar to indoor gym equipment, except that it may be somewhat more basic in appearance, is more hard wearing and resistant to weather. Items may be static or dynamic. Outdoor fitness equipment is generally installed along a linear pathway, e.g. around a lake or along a river, or can be clustered together to form an exercise station, or can be a combination of the two.

### 17.2 Advantages and disadvantages

Some of the advantages and disadvantages of outdoor fitness equipment can be summarised as follows:

#### Advantages

- helps to improve people's health and fitness (e.g. strength, aerobic capacity, balance, dexterity, range of motion and flexibility)
- helps to improve people's mental health and social connections
- free for people to use
- can be used at any time of day or night (if there is some form of lighting)  
i.e. not reliant on a gym being open
- intergenerational and social meeting point for local residents
- can be used by people of all ages including family groups
- opportunity to exercise outdoors in the fresh air and sunshine
- enables people to connect with nature and feel rejuvenated
- no need to employ people to supervise the gym
- no need to pay running costs of a building, e.g. lighting, heating, cooling, etc
- may encourage increased physical activity levels by existing park users
- can modernise an existing area of open space and draw more users
- it builds on the increasing demand of Australians for gym / fitness activities, i.e. 32% of Australians currently participate in gym / fitness activities – this is second only to walking (42%) which is the most popular physical activity of Australians.
- opportunity for fitness instructors to 'hire' the site at set terms to earn income by offering group fitness classes using the equipment

#### Disadvantages

- equipment can be vandalised
- some people are embarrassed to use the equipment in public and fear that they will look silly
- some people worry about their safety in an outdoor gym environment or are concerned that they will injure themselves
- usage can be impacted by weather
- equipment, particularly moving equipment, requires a high level of maintenance (possibly 5-10% of the construction cost annually)
- difficult to achieve universal design with some items
- people could potentially injure themselves if they do not know how to use the equipment correctly
- equipment may not be used if people are unfamiliar with the type of exercises that can be performed
- they often only appeal to or are regularly used by people who are already leading active lifestyles
- it is difficult to monitor and evaluate usage.

### **17.3 Equipment required**

Approximately eight items are required to provide a full body workout. Some potential items to consider are:

- treadmills (aerobic / strengthening)
- stationary bikes (aerobic / strengthening)
- cross trainers (aerobic / strengthening)
- chest press (strengthening)
- parallel bars (strengthening / balance)
- sit up bench (strengthening)
- leg press (strengthening)
- stepping stones / balance beam (balance)
- shoulder wheels (flexibility and strength)
- Dexterity builder (dexterity, coordination and mobility).

### **17.4 Choosing equipment**

Equipment should be selected on the following basis:

- variety, quality and functionality of equipment
- ease of use of equipment by people of all ages and abilities
- instructional signage
- ease of maintenance and ability to access replacement parts as required
- price
- vandal resistance
- adherence to safety standards and any other regulations.

### **17.5 Static equipment versus dynamic equipment**

OFE sites vary greatly from one another – some will have static equipment only (with no moving parts), while others have dynamic equipment (with moving parts) and others still will have a combination of both. Static equipment, such as a chin up bar or a sit up bench, is usually fairly basic and easy to use (including by children and people who are not experienced using gym equipment). It can provide a variety of exercise options using the same layout (although clear instructions about usage and exercise options may need to be provided). Generally it is cheaper to purchase than dynamic equipment and will last longer. It is also easier to maintain as there are no moving parts.

Dynamic equipment, such as steppers and exercise bikes can be more appealing and easy to use, particularly for beginners, although some equipment may be too difficult to use by people unfamiliar with that type of equipment. Dynamic equipment generally provides a guided range of movement for the user, but it may not be easily adjustable for different user experiences and it may have limited applications (i.e. can only be used one way).

### **17.6 Clustered equipment versus lineal trail equipment**

Outdoor fitness equipment can either be grouped in a cluster at one location or laid out along a linear trail with each item separated by a specific distance. There are pros and cons of each of these options.

Clustered equipment is more conducive to social interactions and people training together. It's also easier to maintain as all equipment is located in one place. People may feel safer as equipment is grouped together, rather than potentially being spread out across a large area and facilities such as toilets and drinking fountains may be easier to access if they are located

near a clustered equipment site.

Equipment located along a trail or foreshore may be more appealing to people who may have a higher level of fitness and enjoy running or walking between exercise stations. It may also appeal to people who appreciate the different scenery along the way. It can be accessed at various points along the trail.

### 17.7 Supporting amenities

Sport and Recreation Victoria<sup>32</sup> has prioritised various site features and supporting amenities for OFE sites:

High	Medium	Low
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• signage</li> <li>• drinking water access</li> <li>• path access.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• public transport access</li> <li>• shade protection</li> <li>• car parking</li> <li>• proximity to other community recreational areas</li> <li>• vegetation</li> <li>• seating.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• lighting</li> <li>• bike racks.</li> </ul>

### 17.8 Cost of equipment

The cost of OFE varies considerably, depending on a range of factors including the number of exercise stations, the type of exercise stations, under-surfacing, signage costs, supporting infrastructure, planning costs, programming costs.

According to Sport and Recreation Victoria<sup>33</sup>, equipment installed along Swan Hill Rural City Council's Riverside Park cost just over \$220,000; Darebin City Council installed OFE for just over \$80,000, Port Philip Bay for \$100,000 and City of Wodonga for \$150,000.

There will be an annual maintenance cost that will also need to be factored in and consideration that the equipment is likely to last for 10-20 years, depending on factors such as usage levels, weather conditions, the degree of dynamic equipment, etc.

### 17.9 Outdoor fitness equipment research

A sample of state, national and international research undertaken over the past five years indicates a mixed response to outdoor fitness equipment in terms of its usage and benefits. Generally older adults and females will be the main users of such equipment.

More research is needed to determine how effectively parks or spaces with outdoor fitness equipment can attract new park users and increase physical activity levels of participants over time.

What is highly evident however, is the growth in suppliers of outdoor fitness equipment, based on a demand by communities for such equipment.

- In relation to outdoor gyms, there is “some evidence of increased use and more new users in the short term”, but “little evidence that outdoor gyms can increase park use and physical activity levels in the long term”.<sup>34</sup>
- There was a “small but significant increase in senior park users engaging in moderate to vigorous physical activity” following the installation of an outdoor gym in the specified

park in Sydney (from 1.6% to 5.1%) and a significant increase in the number of users of the outdoor gym equipment from its installation to follow up assessments (i.e. from 6% of park users to 40% of park users). The percentage of seniors who used this outdoor gym equipment also increased during this time from 1.4% to 6%.<sup>35</sup>

- Outdoor gyms tend to attract more female users than males.<sup>36</sup>
- Observations undertaken at the outdoor gym in Xihu Park, Taiwan indicate that the gym attracts most usage in the early morning and late afternoon, i.e. approximately 12 users per hour used the OFE, with the majority being females and seniors. The most popular exercise stations were the triple arm stretch and air walker; however, most people used less than three of the exercise stations. As users spent an average of less than nine minutes on all of the equipment combined, the health benefits achieved are likely to be minimal.<sup>37</sup>
- Of outdoor gym users in Sefton Council, UK, the average length of time people used outdoor gym equipment was 19 minutes or slightly longer (22 minutes) if they use the equipment at least once per week. "Over two thirds of these participants agreed or strongly agreed that the equipment had an overall positive impact on their health, and that since starting to use an outdoor gym they felt fitter and more confident exercising. Over half reported that they felt more relaxed or less stressed since starting to exercise using an outdoor gym."<sup>38</sup>
- Sport and Recreation Victoria's survey of Local Government Authorities reveals that 15% of OFE is heavily used, 47% is moderately used, 22% is not used very often, 2% is not used at all and the use of the remaining 14% of OFE sites is unknown. In terms of participants, 'all comers' account for 38% of users, older adults account for 36% of users and it is not known who the remaining 22% of users are.

### **17.10 Key to success**

The key to successful outdoor fitness gyms are:

- demand by the community, i.e. sufficient population and visitor numbers to justify the expenditure and an indication that the facilities will be well utilised
- placement in a highly visible location with good passive surveillance
- access to supporting facilities and amenities, e.g. paths, toilets, shelter / shade and drinking fountains
- diversity of equipment that allows for a full body workout and that is easy and intuitive to use by people of all ages and abilities (universal design)
- promotion of the outdoor gym when it is first developed, e.g. come and try day, media articles, website promotion, etc.
- encouragement and support, e.g. programs run by exercise physiologists / personal trainers on how to use gym equipment correctly and how to develop and modify a program
- information about how to use the gym equipment, e.g. signage, instructional guides, brochures, posters, etc.
- sufficient resources to effectively maintain the site and keep it in good working order.

## 18 FRAMEWORK OF OPENSOURCE INFRASTRUCTURE PROVISION

In order to ensure appropriate and equitable distribution of recreation facilities and open spaces throughout the municipality so that all residents, a minimum level of facility provision guide has been developed (based on the current situation and open to be reviewed). This table also provides a guide for future provision, in terms of what could or should realistically be provided in towns of various sizes to encourage physical activity participation. The information in this table has been specifically developed for the Shire, taking into consideration:

- provision and benchmarking of facilities in similar-sized towns in rural Victoria
- the types of activities that currently occur (or may feasibly occur in the future given feedback from local residents and examining statewide participation trends)
- climatic conditions
- population growth
- existing facility provision within the catchment (including neighbouring towns and municipalities).

*Noting that:*

- *Some towns may already exceed the infrastructure level identified for a town of its size. In this situation, Council will continue to provide the same level of service that exists, but when the infrastructure is due for replacement, Council may at its discretion choose not to replace the infrastructure.*
- *Association or competition sport conducted in a community may create an override of the minimum specifications, e.g. two netball courts required for netball competitions associated with the local Football / Netball league.*
- *Community groups or other organisations such as schools may choose to construct and maintain additional facilities at their own cost. Where communities wish to develop infrastructure outside the level suggested in this guide and where there is an expectation that Council will take on responsibility for the infrastructure, it is a requirement that initiatives are subjected to a fully informed feasibility study (which demonstrates demand, need and sustainability) and whole of life costs are clearly understood.*
- *This table is simply a guide. Actual needs of towns vary considerably depending on the demographics of the town, proximity to other facilities in other towns, specific participation trends, availability of coaches / instructors for certain activities, transport availability, costs, etc.*

The following table lists the level of facility development that Loddon Shire recommends.

<b>Facilities – may include</b>	<b>Large town (800 - 1,000 people) e.g. Boort, Inglewood and Wedderburn</b>	<b>Medium town (300-800 people) e.g. Bridgewater and Pyramid Hill</b>	<b>Small-medium town (150 – 300) e.g. Newbridge and Serpentine</b>	<b>Small town (less than 150 people) e.g. Calivil, Dingee and Mitiamo</b>
Sports oval and change/ social facilities (this may be over-riden by association or competition sport demands)	Yes – developed to a reasonably high level. Facility provision needs to be guided by relevant publications including building regulations, DDA and other documents such as AFL Preferred Facilities Guidelines	Yes – developed to a medium level. Facility provision needs to be guided by relevant publications including building regulations, DDA and other documents such as AFL Preferred Facilities Guidelines	May be provided, but will be only developed to a basic level. Facility provision needs to be guided by relevant publications including building regulations, DDA and other documents such as AFL Preferred Facilities Guidelines	May be provided, but will be only developed to a basic level
Netball court and change facilities (this may be over-riden by association or competition sport demands)	Yes – one to two courts at each recreation reserve, preferably line marked for tennis too. Change facilities provided	Yes – one to two courts at each recreation reserve, preferably line marked for tennis too. Change rooms provided	One court may be provided, preferably line marked for tennis too. Change rooms may be provided	One court may be provided, preferably line marked for tennis too
Tennis court (this may be over-riden by association or competition sport demands)	Yes – up to six courts with lights suitable for municipal-level and local competitions, social use and practice	Yes – up to two tennis courts suitable for local competitions, social use and practice. May have lights	At least one tennis court for social use or practice. No lights	Possibly one tennis court for social use or practice. No lights
Bowling green (this may be over-riden by association or competition)	Yes – one facility per town. May have a synthetic surface, but	May be provided, but generally lawn	May be provided, but generally lawn	Generally not provided

<b>Facilities – may include</b>	<b>Large town (800 - 1,000 people) e.g. Boort, Inglewood and Wedderburn</b>	<b>Medium town (300-800 people) e.g. Bridgewater and Pyramid Hill</b>	<b>Small-medium town (150 – 300) e.g. Newbridge and Serpentine</b>	<b>Small town (less than 150 people) e.g. Calivil, Dingee and Mitiamo</b>
sport demands)	only if feasible			
Croquet green (this may be over-ridden by association or competition sport demands)	Possibly one croquet green	Generally not provided	Not provided	Not provided
Petanque piste	Possibly one petanque piste	Possibly one petanque piste	Possibly one petanque piste	Generally not provided
Golf course	Possibly one golf course with irrigated putting greens	Possibly one golf course, but only sand scrapes courses. No new facilities will be constructed	Generally not provided	Not provided
Multi-purpose playing field, e.g. soccer	Possibly one multi-purpose playing facility, but could be provided by a school. Needs a reasonably good playing surface	May be provided, but only to a basic level – possibly at a school	Generally not provided	Not provided
Clay target / rifle shooting facilities	Possibly one facility to be provided	May be provided	May be provided	Not provided
Horse racing tracks	Possibly one facility to be provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided
Park with BBQ, public toilet and picnic facilities	Yes – several local level parks to be provided, but	Yes – at least one local level park to be	Yes – one local level park provided to a basic level.	Possibly one park provided to a basic level.

Facilities – may include	Large town (800 - 1,000 people) e.g. Boort, Inglewood and Wedderburn	Medium town (300-800 people) e.g. Bridgewater and Pyramid Hill	Small-medium town (150 – 300) e.g. Newbridge and Serpentine	Small town (less than 150 people) e.g. Calivil, Dingee and Mitiamo
	evenly spaced throughout the town. Minimum of 0.5 hectares. Maybe one regional level park - minimum of 2 hectares, which should have an accessible toilet and one to two BBQs	provided, preferably in a central location so that it is accessible to all. Should have an accessible toilet and one to two BBQ. Minimum of 0.5 hectares	If public toilets (including an accessible one) and BBQ are provided at a recreation reserve in town, they will not be duplicated in the park (and vice versa). Minimum of 0.5 hectares	If public toilets (including an accessible one) and BBQ are provided at a recreation reserve in town, they will not be duplicated in the park (and vice versa). Minimum of 0.5 hectares
Playground with open space for ball games	Yes – several playgrounds to be provided (depending on the geographic size of each town), but evenly spaced throughout the town. One playground should be developed to a municipal or regional level	Yes – a local level playground should be provided within parks and also at the recreation reserve	Yes – a local level playground should be provided within a park or at the recreation reserve	Possibly a local level playground provided within a park or at the recreation reserve
Footpaths	Footpaths to be provided on at least one side of each street in town, but preferably both sides. New footpaths in the town to be constructed to a width suitable for	Footpaths to be provided on at least one side of each street in town, but preferably both sides. New footpaths in the town to be constructed to a width suitable for	Footpaths to be provided on at least one side of each street in town. Seats to be placed in key locations and at regular intervals (500m apart).	Footpaths to be provided on at least one side of each street in town

Facilities – may include	Large town (800 - 1,000 people) e.g. Boort, Inglewood and Wedderburn	Medium town (300-800 people) e.g. Bridgewater and Pyramid Hill	Small-medium town (150 – 300) e.g. Newbridge and Serpentine	Small town (less than 150 people) e.g. Calivil, Dingee and Mitiamo
	shared usage. Seats to be placed in key locations and at regular intervals (500m apart). Footpaths on all street frontages around schools connected to the township footpath network	shared usage. Seats to be placed in key locations and at regular intervals (500m apart). Footpaths on all street frontages around schools connected to the township footpath network	Footpaths on all street frontages around schools connected to the township footpath network	
Walking / cycling trails	One or more off road recreational trails that provides opportunities for walking and cycling near a creek, river, recreation reserve, bushland, etc at least 5km in length, but may be much longer and may connect to other towns. Trails will feature interpretive signage, seats, etc	One off road recreational trail that provides opportunities for walking and cycling near a creek, river, recreation reserve, bushland, etc at least 5km in length. Will feature seats and may feature interpretive signage	One off road recreational trail that provides opportunities for walking and cycling near a creek, river, recreation reserve, bushland, etc at least 2km in length	Possibly one off road recreational trail that provides opportunities for walking and cycling near a creek, river, recreation reserve, bushland, etc
Commuter route for cyclists	A clearly identified east-west and north- south route comprising of on road lanes for cycling	A clearly identified east-west and north- south route comprising of on road lanes for cycling	None	None

<b>Facilities – may include</b>	<b>Large town (800 - 1,000 people) e.g. Boort, Inglewood and Wedderburn</b>	<b>Medium town (300-800 people) e.g. Bridgewater and Pyramid Hill</b>	<b>Small-medium town (150 – 300) e.g. Newbridge and Serpentine</b>	<b>Small town (less than 150 people) e.g. Calivil, Dingee and Mitiamo</b>
	commuters. There may also be some marked on-road cycling lanes around schools	commuters. There may also be some marked on-road cycling lanes around schools		
Swimming pool	One 25m – 50m outdoor pool with toddler pool could be provided in a central location. Consideration could be given to the development of a small hydrotherapy pool, but only in partnership with other organisations	Possibly one 12m-25m pool with toddler pool could be provided in a central location, but only if it already exists. No new pools to be constructed in towns of this size	Access to a pool within approximately 20 minutes drive from homes if possible	Access to a pool within approximately 20 minutes drive from homes if possible
Skate parks / BMX / pump park / bike skills area	One skate park or modular pump track to be provided in a central location	Possibly one small skate park or modular pump track may be provided in a central location subject to demand and distance from other skate parks	Not provided	Not provided
Bike skills area / pump park / BMX track	One bike skills / pump park / BMX track to be provided	Possibly one small bike skills / pump park / BMX track to be provided subject to demand	Not provided	Not provided
Lakes / creeks / rivers	Possibly a fishing pontoon or platform will	Possibly a fishing pontoon will be	Possibly a fishing pontoon will be	Not provided

<b>Facilities – may include</b>	<b>Large town (800 - 1,000 people) e.g. Boort, Inglewood and Wedderburn</b>	<b>Medium town (300-800 people) e.g. Bridgewater and Pyramid Hill</b>	<b>Small-medium town (150 – 300) e.g. Newbridge and Serpentine</b>	<b>Small town (less than 150 people) e.g. Calivil, Dingee and Mitiamo</b>
	be developed to enhance lakes / creeks / rivers in or close to the town	developed to enhance lakes / creeks / rivers in or close to the town	developed to enhance lakes / creeks / rivers in or close to the town particularly in towns with no swimming pools	
Informal recreation facilities, e.g. outdoor fitness equipment, down ball area, rebound wall, basketball half court, outdoor table tennis, etc	Yes – a number of informal recreation facilities to be developed dependent upon community needs and available resources	One to two informal recreational facilities may be provided in each town – dependent upon community need and available resources	One informal recreational facility may be provided in each town – dependent upon community needs and available resources	One informal recreational facility may be provided in each town – dependent upon community needs and available resources

## 19 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### 19.1 Introduction

273 residents of Loddon Shire had their say about how to activate open spaces more effectively through a series of community engagement and consultation activities including:

- consultation with young people at Wedderburn and Boort P-12 schools (44)
- listening posts at Wedderburn IGA Supermarket, Calivil Recreation Reserve, Inglewood Recreation Reserve (95)
- Seniors Forum (7)
- Townscape Services staff meeting (4)
- Technical Services staff meeting (1)
- community survey (122).

### 19.2 Young people

#### Wedderburn School Captain

The captain of Wedderburn P-12 College addressed Loddon Shire Council on 24 April 2018 to discuss issues impacting young people locally. In relation to activating open spaces, the school captain suggested that:

- a summer program of activities / games organised by lifeguards at swimming pools
- ball games organised at the Neighbourhood House played on the netball court
- sporting equipment available for young people to borrow and use in the local park
- pizza nights using the oven in the community garden
- outdoor family film nights on the football oval using the score board.

#### Wedderburn P-12 Students

A workshop was held with 20 secondary school aged students from Wedderburn P-12 at lunchtime on Wednesday 27 June. Students worked in groups to answer several questions about open space. Their responses included:

Which open spaces in Loddon Shire do you currently use?	What do you do in open spaces in Loddon Shire?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wedderburn Swimming Pool</li><li>• Donaldson Park</li><li>• Skinners Reservoir</li><li>• Inglewood Reservoir</li><li>• walking tracks</li><li>• bike tracks</li><li>• Soldiers Memorial Park</li><li>• Mt Kooyoora</li><li>• Melville Caves</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• play football</li><li>• play netball</li><li>• play golf</li><li>• play tennis</li><li>• play hockey</li><li>• play basketball</li><li>• ride bikes</li><li>• go horse riding</li><li>• go walking / hiking</li><li>• go swimming</li></ul>

What do you like about these spaces?	What improvements / new developments would you like to see to open spaces in Loddon Shire?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• cheap / free</li> <li>• accessible, i.e. walking distance from home</li> <li>• well maintained (e.g. swimming pool and Soldiers Memorial Park)</li> <li>• safe (e.g. swimming pool and Soldiers Memorial Park)</li> <li>• sports grounds are close so you can play more than one sport</li> <li>• some spaces have lighting, so you feel safe</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• play equipment for teenagers with big swings, flying fox, sand pit</li> <li>• relocate basketball ring in Wedderburn to a more visible location, make it full size and paint some lines</li> <li>• half netball court in Korong Vale</li> <li>• skate park in Wedderburn</li> <li>• outdoor fitness equipment</li> <li>• BMX track at the Korong Vale oval</li> <li>• soccer pitch</li> <li>• more social events for kids outdoors, e.g. FReeZA</li> <li>• improvements to Skinners Reservoir – develop an off-road walking trail to the reservoir (instead of having to walk along the road), install lights, promote it better, providing drinking water, install seats, upgrade toilets, allow camping, improve parking</li> <li>• organised game days every month</li> <li>• more festivals and live music on ovals</li> <li>• heat the pool</li> <li>• develop a better gym</li> <li>• develop a rock-climbing course</li> <li>• upgrade all parks</li> <li>• develop an ice-skating rink</li> <li>• improve outdoor areas by developing graffiti walls and painting silos</li> <li>• install outdoor table tennis tables</li> <li>• install more street lights in Korong Vale</li> <li>• hold movie nights on Wedderburn Cricket Oval</li> <li>• make sports equipment available for hire for young people</li> <li>• have free Wi-Fi in parks</li> <li>• organise nature walks</li> <li>• improve toilets at Melville Caves</li> <li>• develop dog parks at Wedderburn, Inglewood and Korong Vale</li> <li>• more shade in open spaces</li> <li>• more lighting of open spaces</li> <li>• more seats in open spaces</li> <li>• better promotion of what already exists, i.e. maps, brochures, etc.</li> </ul>

### Boort P-12 Students

A workshop was held with 23 secondary school aged students from Wedderburn P-12 at lunchtime on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> June. Students worked in groups to answer several questions about open space. Their responses included:

Where do you go?	What do you do there?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• park</li> <li>• Little Lake Boort</li> <li>• Boort Swimming Pool</li> <li>• jumping pillow</li> <li>• Lake Cafe</li> <li>• tennis courts</li> <li>• playground</li> <li>• swings</li> <li>• BMX track</li> <li>• public toilets</li> <li>• events, e.g. Boort Show</li> <li>• football ground</li> <li>• gun club</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• play soccer</li> <li>• play ball games</li> <li>• water ski</li> <li>• swim</li> <li>• kayak</li> <li>• exercise</li> <li>• go on the flying fox</li> <li>• go on the merry go round</li> <li>• canoeing / kayaking</li> <li>• play netball</li> <li>• play hockey</li> <li>• play football</li> <li>• play tennis</li> <li>• walk / ride around the lake</li> <li>• go camping</li> <li>• have a BBQ</li> <li>• play</li> <li>• ride a bike</li> <li>• walk</li> <li>• hang out with friends</li> </ul>

What do you like about the spaces you go to?	How can we improve these spaces?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• free</li> <li>• in town, therefore easy access</li> <li>• open</li> <li>• outdoors</li> <li>• health benefits</li> <li>• length of the pool</li> <li>• lake is refreshing</li> <li>• lake is good for water skiing</li> <li>• safe</li> <li>• the whole community can use the spaces</li> <li>• the park is fun</li> <li>• lake isn't too deep</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• develop a skate park in Boort</li> <li>• establish a graffiti wall</li> <li>• install fitness equipment around the lake (Myrnong Beach) or in the park</li> <li>• improve the walking track</li> <li>• develop a bush walk around the big lake and include interpretive signage</li> <li>• develop the tortoise trail into a proper walk</li> <li>• develop a bike track and bike parking</li> <li>• develop a scenic bike track around the town and the lake (potentially sealed)</li> <li>• develop a mountain bike track near the water tower</li> <li>• develop an off-road BMX jumps</li> <li>• develop a motorbike track</li> <li>• install a water slide at the pool</li> <li>• install a spa at the pool</li> <li>• improve water quality in the lake for swimmers</li> <li>• have competitive swimming at the pool with a coach</li> </ul>

What do you like about the spaces you go to?	How can we improve these spaces?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• develop a water park – potentially at Nolens Park near the lake – with water cannons and pistols</li> <li>• have longer opening hours at the pool (including morning swimming)</li> <li>• upgrade basketball court – fix rings and add shelter</li> <li>• construct a hard court for ball sports at the lake</li> <li>• construct a new gun club</li> <li>• develop a soccer field</li> <li>• fix the cricket nets at the oval</li> <li>• develop cricket nets at the Lake</li> <li>• construct a turf hockey pitch</li> <li>• install toilets at the hockey field</li> <li>• improve facilities at the sports ground</li> <li>• open the merry go round more often</li> <li>• install a boulder / climbing wall</li> <li>• purchase human sized board games</li> <li>• have a separate toilet block for people with caravans at Boort Park</li> <li>• install fire pits</li> <li>• establish a dog park at the cow patch</li> <li>• develop designated camping spots around the lake</li> <li>• develop a youth facility</li> <li>• develop cow patch</li> <li>• use old primary school site for outdoor activities</li> <li>• install play equipment for young people, e.g. sand pits, slides, chimney climber, inflatable equipment</li> <li>• install a kayak launch pad</li> <li>• fix the pontoon near the scout shed</li> <li>• develop Chinese gardens</li> <li>• develop toilets on the other side of the lake near the fishing club</li> <li>• install a BBQ at Myrnong Beach</li> <li>• upgrade lookout and Rotary Track – make more prominent</li> <li>• develop outdoor table tennis tables</li> <li>• Install more BBQs in Boort</li> <li>• develop a 4WD track</li> <li>• install more lighting</li> <li>• improve security of open spaces</li> <li>• increase promotion of facilities and activities</li> <li>• modernise things</li> <li>• establish more shade around the lake</li> </ul>

### 19.3 General Community

#### Wedderburn IGA Supermarket

A listening post was held at Wedderburn IGA Supermarket on Wednesday 26 June from 10.10am until 12.00pm. 26 people provided feedback – 11 females and 15 males. Almost half of the people who spoke with the facilitator were approximately 70 years of age, with the remaining majority between 40 to 60 years of age. Three participants were approximately 20 years of age. Eight of the 26 people said that they are satisfied with open spaces in Wedderburn and have no ideas for improvements. Comments from participants included:

#### Play:

- need a skate park in Wedderburn (2)
- need a playground at Donaldson Park, Wedderburn
- need to repair the gate at the Soldiers Memorial Park playground in Wedderburn
- need a sandpit at the Soldiers Memorial Park playground in Wedderburn
- need more slides and less metal equipment at Jacka Park playground in Wedderburn
- need a full-sized basketball court in Wedderburn
- need more things for children to do in Wedderburn.

#### Parks / open spaces:

- continue to provide green spaces (grass and trees) that are well maintained in Wedderburn (2)
- like the Soldiers Memorial Park upgrade in Wedderburn and the soldier statues
- need more disabled car parks near open spaces in Wedderburn
- should keep some open spaces from being planted up with trees so there is space to kick a football in Wedderburn
- need to install a screen in the shelter shed near Jacka Park in Wedderburn to break the wind
- need more bins in parks in Wedderburn and these bins need to be emptied more often
- preserve all of the existing areas of open space in Wedderburn
- interpretation of natural and cultural features is important in Wedderburn to create stewardship
- all areas of open space in Wedderburn need upgrading
- define areas in Wedderburn with fences where required.

#### Sports facilities:

- like the existing sports facilities in Wedderburn
- need a motorcycle trail near Wedderburn.

#### Walking / cycling tracks:

- need to get rid of bindii on the Nardoo Walking Track in Wedderburn as it is preventing some people from riding a bike (2)
- like Nardoo Walking Track in Wedderburn.

#### CBD / shopping area:

- need a drinking fountain at the bus stop in Wedderburn under the shelter (2)
- better maintenance required on footpaths and in relation to leaf litter in Wedderburn (2)
- would like to see the whole town of Wedderburn beautified, not just the main street
- Need dog poo bags and bins in parks and open spaces in Wedderburn
- don't like streetscape works in Wedderburn.

#### Swimming pool:

- need to keep the Wedderburn Pool open for longer in summer
- need a fence around the toddler pool in Wedderburn.

#### Calivil Recreation Reserve

A listening post was held at Calivil Recreation Reserve on Saturday 2 June from 1.10pm until 4.00pm, featuring a football match between Calivil and Pyramid Hill. 33 people provided feedback – 17 females and 16 males. The largest age cohorts to participate were the under 15's (7) and the 40 year olds (7), followed by the 20 year olds (5) and 70 year olds (4). All other age cohorts were represented.

Five of the 33 people said that they are satisfied with open spaces in their local area and have no ideas for improvements. Comments from other participants included:

#### Calivil Recreation Reserve:

- need a BBQ and shelter / rotunda at Calivil Recreation Reserve (7 responses)
- develop a netball shelter at Calivil Recreation Reserve (5)
- need seats next to the playground at Calivil Recreation Reserve (2)
- develop a double lane road in front of the at Calivil Recreation Reserve to improve safety (2)
- need picnic tables next to the playground at Calivil Recreation Reserve
- install a drinking fountain next to the playground at Calivil Recreation Reserve
- develop a pedestrian zone between the clubrooms and the playground at Calivil Recreation Reserve
- construct a net behind the goal posts at Calivil Recreation Reserve
- reseed the Calivil Recreation Reserve oval
- install toddler play equipment at Calivil Recreation Reserve
- provide more activities at Calivil Recreation Reserve for young children, e.g. petting zoo and jumping castle.

#### Kelly Park, Pyramid Hill:

- move swings from the park across the road to Kelly Park in Pyramid Hill (2)
- need more seats in Kelly Park in Pyramid Hill (existing seats are uncomfortable)
- need more shade in Kelly Park in Pyramid Hill.

#### Melville Caves:

- ensure access tracks are open at Melville Caves.

#### Promotion:

- promote events on facebook pages such as Events in Bendigo.

#### Events:

- hold more events in parks throughout the Shire.

#### Playgrounds:

- ensure that there are playgrounds at every recreation reserve in the Shire.

#### Sport / recreation (general):

- develop a pump park in Pyramid Hill
- develop a motorbike track near Calivil
- sports clubs (such as Pyramid Hill Golf Club) need more financial assistance for things like fuel for mowers
- sports clubs need help with grant writing.

#### Pyramid Hill Sports Oval:

- change shape of oval so that it is better for spectators.

#### Inglewood Recreation Reserve

A listening post was held at Inglewood Recreation Reserve on Saturday 16 June from 1.05pm until 4.00pm, featuring a football match between Inglewood and Mitiamo. 36 people provided feedback – 22 females and 13 males. The largest age cohorts to participate were the under 15's (10) and the 50-year olds (8), followed by the 20-year olds (6) and 60-year olds (4). All other age cohorts were represented. Two of the 33 people said that they are satisfied with open spaces in their local area and have no ideas for improvements. Comments from participants included:

#### Inglewood Recreation Reserve:

- develop netball club rooms at Inglewood Recreation Reserve (2)
- like Inglewood playground (2)
- build new public toilets at Inglewood Recreation Reserve (2)
- upgrade lights on oval at Inglewood Recreation Reserve to allow night games (2)
- provide an inside space for the football club trainer to operate from at Inglewood Recreation Reserve (2)
- improve road safety of area between clubrooms and the netball courts at Inglewood Recreation Reserve
- install electric BBQs and shelter at Inglewood Recreation Reserve
- install a drinking fountain at Inglewood Recreation Reserve
- install an electronic scoreboard at Inglewood Recreation Reserve
- install more seats at Inglewood Recreation Reserve
- construct an all abilities toilet at Inglewood Recreation Reserve
- install outdoor fitness equipment in Inglewood
- would not use outdoor fitness equipment
- plant more trees on the fence line at Inglewood Recreation Reserve to create a wind block
- install more seats and bins around the boundary of Inglewood Recreation Reserve
- construct a second block of public toilets on the opposite side of the oval.

#### Inglewood Swimming Pool:

- heat the Inglewood Swimming Pool for winter use
- install a diving board at Inglewood Swimming Pool
- provide inflatables at Inglewood Swimming Pool.

#### Inglewood Botanic Garden:

- upgrade Inglewood Botanic Garden by providing a general 'face lift' and installing a BBQ.

#### Play:

- install a full-sized basketball court for young people in Inglewood (3)
- upgrade playgrounds in the Shire so that they are more like the playground in Inglewood with birds' nest swings, slides, swings, monkey bars and climbers (2)
- increase the size of the Inglewood Skate Park and increase the degree of difficulty of some equipment (2)
- Sloan Park playground in Bridgewater is boring so people tend to use the playground at the caravan park as it has a jumping pillow
- provide more things for young people to do at Inglewood playground, e.g. climbing wall, flying fox.

#### Parks / open space:

- unlikely to use outdoor exercise equipment (3)
- plant more grass in Bridgewater for passive relaxation between the bridge and the motel
- develop more shade and seats in parks / open space in Inglewood
- need to retain access into the bush for horse riders
- need more shade and seating in parks
- allow food trucks to set up in parks / open spaces
- make sure all recreation reserves are well maintained.

#### Cycling / walking:

- develop new cycling / walking tracks in Inglewood.

#### Inglewood Town Hall:

- install more shade.

#### Inglewood Reservoir:

- upgrade walking / cycling tracks (2)
- install BBQs, tables and bins
- dig the reservoir out so that it becomes deeper.

#### Little Lake Boort:

- clean up Little Lake Boort.

#### Mitiamo Recreation Reserve:

- construct shelter for netballers at Mitiamo Recreation Reserve
- upgrade pavilion at Mitiamo Recreation Reserve to include female change rooms, umpire change rooms, male change room upgrade (more showers) and a new roof.

#### Mitiamo:

- develop a walking path in the town
- upgrade the playground in Mitiamo and provide a buffer between the play space and the busy road to improve the safety of children.

Inglewood CBD / Shopping area:

- develop a car park at the entrance of the town where visitors can park and then explore Inglewood by foot
- better maintain footpaths in Inglewood
- establish a mini park in the middle of Inglewood with a BBQ, rotunda, seats and a drinking fountain
- establish a scooter charging station at the supermarket.

Inglewood Golf Course:

- encourage more people to walk around the Inglewood Golf Course and perhaps set up a Heart Foundation Walking Group (2).

Serpentine Recreation Reserve:

- upgrade car park (it gets very boggy).

Kooyoora:

- concern that access will be restricted if ownership / management changes hands.

Bridgewater Swimming Hole:

- need more spaces for people to sit.

## **19.4 Older Adults**

### Seniors Forum

A senior's forum was held on Tuesday 8 May at Serpentine Council Chambers. Seven older adults were in attendance – six females and one male, representing the major towns in the Shire. The following topics were covered:

What spaces do you currently use?

- walk every morning on the bush track behind the Police Station (Wedderburn)
- walking track (Inglewood)
- walk around Inglewood reservoir
- walk along the river walking track (Bridgewater)
- track at bridge towards caravan park
- track by the flour mill
- walk around the oval (Pyramid Hill, Bridgewater and Inglewood)
- walk around the oval with the dog (Pyramid Hill and Inglewood)
- walk around the streets (Bridgewater, Pyramid Hill, Inglewood)
- walk along the channel in Wedderburn (Nardoo Creek)
- walk up the trail to the summit of Pyramid Hill
- playground at Inglewood with the grandchildren
- need to top up the soft fall
- needs more shade
- family often camp at the Bridgewater caravan park and love it
- Melville Caves.

Pros and cons of walking:

- it's free and accessible
- some people worry about walking alone due to safety concerns

- “I wouldn’t go in the bush on my own.”
- “I much prefer the bush; I hate walking on designated paths”
- older people need places to sit along footpaths / trails
- some people dislike walking in towns and on footpaths; they prefer the bush / bush tracks
- Wedderburn has good bush tracks but needs improved signage and information for walkers.

#### Outdoor exercise equipment:

- mixed opinions regarding whether or not they would use equipment
- some would use the equipment, whilst others think it looks too difficult
- “We need more chairs than equipment.”
- concerns about safety and not knowing how to use it
- they think the grandchildren would use it
- three people said they would be too embarrassed / self-conscious to use it (as the setting is likely to be too public)
- would need someone to show them how to use it
- have noticed the one in Cohuna is used a lot.

#### Location for Outdoor Exercise Equipment

- around the lake at Boort
- Bridgewater near the pub/BBQ
- Nardoo Creek in Wedderburn
- the small park opposite the Senior Citizens in Wedderburn
- next to the Senior Citizens hall in Pyramid Hill.

#### Layout of equipment

- grouped together might be better
- grouped together might also be less likely to be vandalised
- if it was grouped together then a group of people might form and use it at a set time and day/s each week.

#### Dog Parks:

- often see people walking dogs
- in Pyramid Hill people often use the oval to walk dogs.
- develop a dog park
- dog parks are a good place to meet people
- a dog park might work in Wedderburn near the swimming pool
- would need to separate the big and small dogs.

#### Shade, seating and footpaths:

- Pyramid Hill needs more shade
- Inglewood playground needs more shade
- need more shade at Lions Park at Inglewood Reservoir
- need better facilities out at Skinners flat (the tables and chairs etc. are extremely old)
- more shade around oval in Inglewood especially netball courts
- shade in the small park across from Wedderburn Senior Citizens
- seating along walking trails i.e. Nardoo Creek, trail out to the Reservoir in Inglewood (about the halfway point)
- linear trail at Inglewood to the reservoir is used a lot - needs two seats

- the seating near Bendigo Bank in Inglewood needs a backrest and arms
- the seats in Kelly Street Park (Pyramid Hill) are too low and very hard to get up out of
- footpaths needed in Pyramid Hill and Inglewood
- Council needs to develop a Footpath Strategy
- in Inglewood a path from the caravan park to town would be beneficial to locals and visitors
- seats needed in Market square.

#### Programs in parks:

- most people will only attend if the weather is good
- the concept of farmers markets is supported
- strong interest in a bushwalking group (there's one in Bendigo)
- a walking festival could be popular
- opportunity to incorporate indigenous components to programs, events or initiatives
- run wildflower walks
- better promote existing opportunities
- set up outdoor chess
- cafes could loan balls / sports equipment to children if located near a park or open space
- Inglewood Senior Citizens runs tai chi in the park sometimes.

#### Other:

- need toilets in Durham Ox to support the canoe trail
- historical walks would be good –
- could ask Howard Rochester to establish a bushwalking group
- could train local leaders as bushwalk leaders
- murals would help to make areas look nicer
- ensure facilities are DDA compliant and designed according to universal design principles
- access to drinking water is important – like water bottle fillers with dog bowl at base
- each park needs to have a point of difference
- more seats needed in Kelly Park, Pyramid Hill between the toilet block and the building.
- need to retain a space for fiesta activities in Pyramid Hill
- consider providing snake bite training for bushwalkers
- develop a marketing campaign which also encourages people to take plenty of water with them.

### 19.5 Council staff

Two meetings were held with Council staff (a total of seven attendees) to discuss how to best activate public open spaces and some of the challenges of doing so. The key issues discussed included:

Issue / opportunity	Details
<b>Benefits</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• there are clear health and wellbeing benefits of activating spaces</li> <li>• economic benefits can be achieved by attracting visitors to the area to use public open spaces</li> <li>• better open spaces that are activated may attract more people to live in Loddon Shire</li> </ul>
<b>Costings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• need to consider whole of life costings</li> </ul>

Issue / opportunity	Details
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>usage can be increased at minimal cost</li> </ul>
<b>Linkages</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>need to better link walking / cycling network to open spaces</li> </ul>
<b>Usage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>need to determine why some spaces are better utilised than others e.g. Ted's Garden is not well utilised</li> </ul>
<b>Participation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>need to engage with the community in new ways to attract them to use facilities, e.g. door knock, community walks, community BBQs, information booths, information, advertising</li> </ul>
<b>Visual appearance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>visual appearance of sites is important in order to attract users</li> </ul>
<b>Equity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ensure that small towns do not miss out</li> </ul>
<b>Existing spaces</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>need to maximise existing resources in the best possible way</li> </ul>
<b>Rationalisation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>consider whether or not any spaces need to be rationalised</li> </ul>
<b>Maintenance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>need to ensure that open spaces and paths are well maintained</li> <li>open spaces still need sufficient space to get maintenance equipment onto site and space within the site to use equipment easily</li> <li>need to consult with townscape services staff prior to constructing play spaces and other upgrades - potentially develop a checklist of considerations</li> <li>walking tracks are not well maintained</li> <li>need a decent maintenance budget</li> </ul>
<b>Capital budget</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council's capital budget for townscape services is \$100,000 per annum</li> </ul>
<b>Street furniture / infrastructure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>need to purchase quality Australian made products (not cheap imports that don't last) that are easy to maintain</li> <li>need to ensure materials don't get too hot or too cold for users</li> <li>there is inconsistency in Boort in terms of street furniture</li> <li>infrastructure needs to be safe, attractive, flood resistant, kangaroo resistant, bird resistant</li> <li>items need to be DDA compliant</li> </ul>
<b>Signage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>town signage is getting weathered – consider stone signage</li> <li>interpretive boards are important to have</li> <li>need to have information in Serpentine about the canoe trail at Durham Ox</li> <li>could have QR codes in other languages in open spaces,</li> </ul>

Issue / opportunity	Details
	e.g. Tagalog in Pyramid Hill
<b>Toilets</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• unisex toilets required in some places</li> <li>• there is very limited DDA access in public toilets in the Shire</li> <li>• contractors who may not clean toilets properly give Council a bad name</li> </ul>
<b>Fencing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• steel fences, not colourbond fences, required around playgrounds</li> </ul>
<b>Bollards</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• prefer redgum bollards as recycled bollards tend to break easily and metal bollards fade</li> </ul>
<b>Bins</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• people still tend to put normal rubbish in recycling bins</li> </ul>
<b>Dogs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• need dog poo bags and bins along the river in Bridgewater</li> </ul>
<b>Lighting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• lighting of public open spaces will help to encourage use, but need to determine what level of development and costing is appropriate Solar lights work well in places where they are installed</li> </ul>
<b>Outdoor fitness equipment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• is there enough evidence to demonstrate that these facilities are worthwhile</li> <li>• previous unit in Wedderburn was removed due to lack of use</li> </ul>
<b>BBQs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BBQs need shelter</li> </ul>
<b>Wi-Fi</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• need to have free Wi-Fi in public spaces and power points to charge phones</li> </ul>
<b>Public art</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• incorporate public art / sculptures where possible</li> </ul>
<b>Turf / grass</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• need to have grassed areas for children to play on</li> </ul>
<b>Playgrounds</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• people can't access Inglewood playground if the Recreation Reserve is being use for football (unless they pay the entry fee)</li> <li>• could rationalise Sunnyside Court playground in Boort</li> </ul>
<b>Plantings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• plant native trees. Chinese elms do well. Ironbarks grow too quickly and are messy</li> </ul>

## 19.6 Survey

A community survey was developed and distributed throughout the Shire via existing networks. Hard copies of surveys were also made available at Council offices and resource centres. As only a total of 122 people responded to the survey, the results need to be viewed with caution.

The majority of survey respondents were female (77.8%), with males making up 21.4% and other genders making up 0.9% of respondents. The high level of response by females needs to be taken into consideration when viewing responses, as the answers may not necessarily reflect the broader community's views.

In terms of age ranges, the majority of survey respondents were aged 30-59 (63.0%), followed by under 15-year olds (14.3%) and 70-79 year olds (8.4%). No one aged 15-19 completed a survey (however this age group was targeted through school consultations) and only a small amount of 20-29 year olds and 60-69 year olds responded (6.7% each). One person over 80 completed a survey (0.8%).

Survey responses were received from all major towns in the Shire; however; the majority of responses were received from people living in Wedderburn (32.8%), Boort (13.5%), Inglewood (9.2%), Pyramid Hill (8.4%), Bridgewater (6.7%) and Serpentine (6.7%).

Survey respondents provided detailed information for up to three areas of open space that they regularly visit. Any suggested improvements to these sites have been fed into the action plan. A total of 87 locations were nominated with the 12 most popular locations being:

- Donaldson Park, Wedderburn (24)
- Little Lake Boort / Boort Lake, Boort (19)
- Soldier's Memorial, Wedderburn (18)
- Wedderburn Swimming Pool, Wedderburn (15)
- Calivil Recreation Reserve, Calivil (9)
- Serpentine (Janiember) Recreation Reserve, Serpentine (9)
- Nolens Park, Boort (9)
- Inglewood Playground and Skate Park, Inglewood (8)
- Pyramid Hill Walking Track, Pyramid Hill (7)
- Inglewood Recreation Reserve, Inglewood (7)
- Kelly Park, Pyramid Hill (7)
- Skinners Flat Reservoir, Wedderburn (7).

The full list follows:

Open space	Town	Primary space	Secondary space	Tertiary space	Total
Boort Park Recreation Reserve	Boort	1	3	2	6
Boort croquet courts	Boort	1	0	0	1
Boort shopping area	Boort	1	0	1	2
Boort Swimming Pool	Boort	0	1	1	2
Boort Tennis Courts	Boort	0	1	1	2
Borella Park	Korong Vale	1	1	0	2
Bridgewater Golf Course	Bridgewater	0	0	1	1
Bridgewater public roads	Bridgewater	0	1	1	2
Bridgewater Recreation Reserve	Bridgewater	1	3	1	5
Bridgewater River Walk	Bridgewater	3	1	1	5
Bridgewater Swimming Hole / Foreshore	Bridgewater	2	2	1	5
Brownbill Reserve	Laanecoorie	0	1	0	1
Bushland / State Forest – Talgitcha St	Wedderburn	3	1	2	6
Calivil Recreation Reserve	Calivil	7	0	2	9
Cains Reserve	Laanecoorie	1	0	0	1
Civic space next to town hall	Eddington	1	0	0	1
Dunolly Forest	Tarnagulla	0	0	1	1
Dingee Progress Park	Dingee	1	1	0	2

Open space	Town	Primary space	Secondary space	Tertiary space	Total
Donaldson Park	Wedderburn	17	5	2	24
Eddington Golf Course	Eddington	0	0	1	1
Hardhill Tourist Reserve	Wedderburn	3	1	1	5
Hill above Boort	Boort	0	1	0	1
Inglewood Botanic Gardens	Inglewood	2	0	0	2
Inglewood Conservation Reserve / bushland	Inglewood	0	1	1	2
Inglewood Footpaths	Inglewood	0	1	0	1
Inglewood Playground and Skate Park	Inglewood	4	2	2	8
Inglewood Recreation Reserve	Inglewood	3	4	0	7
Inglewood Reservoir	Inglewood	0	0	1	1
Inglewood Town Hall gardens	Inglewood	0	1	2	3
Kelly Park	Pyramid Hill	4	2	1	7
Kerr St	Wedderburn	0	0	1	1
Kingower Cemetery	Kingower	0	0	1	1
Kingower Recreation Reserve	Kingower	1	0	0	1
Kingower Village Green Rotunda	Kingower	0	1	0	1
Kooyoora State Park	Wedderburn	0	0	1	1
Korong Vale Golf Club	Korong Vale	0	0	1	1
Korong Vale Recreation Reserve	Korong Vale	1	0	0	1
Korong Vale Tennis Courts	Korong Vale	0	0	1	1
Laanecoorie River Walk	Laanecoorie	0	0	1	1
Laanecoorie Weir	Laanecoorie	1	0	0	1
Lake Marmal	Lake Marmal	0	0	1	1
Lions Park	Pyramid Hill	1	1	0	2
Little Lake Boort / Lake – walking track	Boort	7	8	4	19
Loddon River	Bridgewater	1	2	0	3
Loddon River	Eddington	0	1	0	1
Loddon River	Newbridge	1	0	0	1
Market Square / Engine Park	Wedderburn	1	0	2	3
Market St (between Parker St and Hollands Lane)	Newbridge	1	0	0	1
Melville Caves	Kingower	1	2	2	5
Mitchell Park Recreation Reserve	Pyramid Hill	0	4	2	6
Mitiamo Recreation Reserve	Mitiamo	2	0	0	2
Mitiamo Swimming Pool	Mitiamo	1	0	1	2
Mt Korong	Wedderburn	2	0	0	2
Nardoo Creek Walking Track	Wedderburn	2	3	1	6
Newbridge public roads	Newbridge	0	1	0	1
Newbridge Recreation Reserve	Newbridge	0	1	0	1
Nolens Park	Boort	5	3	1	9
Phelan Park Playground	Mitiamo	0	2	0	2
Progress Park	Newbridge	1	1	0	2
Pyramid Hill shopping area	Pyramid Hill	0	0	1	1
Pyramid Hill Swimming Pool	Pyramid Hill	1	2	1	4
Pyramid Hill Tennis Courts	Pyramid Hill	1	0	1	2
Pyramid Hill Walking Track	Pyramid Hill	3	0	4	7
Railway Reserve	Wedderburn	0	1	0	1
Riverside Park	Newbridge	1	1	0	2
Serpentine Bowling Club	Serpentine	0	0	1	1

Open space	Town	Primary space	Secondary space	Tertiary space	Total
Serpentine Footpaths	Serpentine	0	1	0	1
Serpentine (Janiember) Recreation Reserve	Serpentine	7	0	2	9
Serpentine Tennis Courts	Serpentine	0	1	1	2
Skinner's Flat Reservoir	Wedderburn	1	4	2	7
Sloans Park	Bridgewater	4	1	1	6
Soldier's Memorial Playground	Wedderburn	6	10	2	18
Sugarloaf Hill	Wedderburn	1	0	0	1
Tarnagulla open space	Tarnagulla	0	1	0	1
Tarnagulla Walking Track	Tarnagulla	0	0	1	1
Ted's Garden	Wedderburn	1	0	0	1
Terrick Terrick National Park	Mitiamo	1	1	1	3
The Granites	Mysia	1	0	1	2
Towerhill	Wedderburn	0	1	1	2
Walking tracks	Wedderburn	2	0	1	3
Wedderburn Golf Course	Wedderburn	1	1	1	3
Wedderburn P-12 grounds	Wedderburn	0	1	0	1
Wedderburn shopping area	Wedderburn	0	0	1	1
Wedderburn Swimming Pool	Wedderburn	3	6	6	15
Woodstock Tennis Courts	Woodstock	1	0	0	1

For the first area of open space nominated, survey respondents typically used this space several times per week (31.9%) followed by weekly (22.7%). In general they travelled to this site by foot (43.8%) or in a car as a driver (39.7%) and mostly went there with family (72.5%) and / or with friends (59.2%). They primarily used this site to spend time outdoors in the fresh air / sunshine (44.6%), to spend time with family / friends (43.8%), to walk / hike (41.3%), to meet people / have social interactions with others (34.7%) or to exercise / get fit (33.1%).

For the second area of open space nominated, survey respondents typically used this space a few times per month (29.1%) followed by every few months (21.4%). In general they travelled to this site by car as a driver (43.7%) or by foot (30.1%) and mostly went there with family (74.5%) or friends (53.9%). They primarily used this site to spend time outdoors in the fresh air / sunshine (46.1%), to spend time with family / friends (38.2%), to walk / hike (29.4%), to meet people / have social interactions with others (27.5%) or to exercise / get fit (27.5%).

For the third area of open space nominated, survey respondents typically used this space every few months (33.8%), followed by several times per week (21.3%). In general they travelled to this site by car as a driver (48.8%) or by foot (29.8%) and mostly went there with family (67.5%) or with friends 51.8%). They primarily used this site to walk / hike (41.5%), spend time outdoors in the fresh air / sunshine (40.2%), to spend time with family / friends (32.9%), to meet people / have social interactions with others (26.8%) or to enjoy nature / wildlife (25.6%).

Survey respondents were asked (from an extensive list) what would encourage them to use public open spaces in Loddon Shire more often (multiple responses were permitted). The top 10 responses to this question are:

Suggestion	Percentage of responses
More events, e.g. movies in the park, festivals, markets, etc	50.9%
More or better walking / cycling paths and linkages	44.4%
More shade	40.7%
Outdoor gym equipment	38.9%

More seats	32.4%
More / better play equipment	32.4%
Picnic tables	32.4%
Drinking fountains	28.7%
Physical activity programs, e.g. outdoor tai chi, yoga, zumba, etc	28.7%
Shelters	28.7%

The five least important aspects (from the pre-determined list) are:

- If it was closer to home (4.6%)
- Fencing (6.5%)
- If I had more time (7.4%)
- If there were more people around using these spaces (9.3%)
- If activities there were free (12.0%).

People were also asked to identify any public open spaces in the Shire that they would like to use, but currently don't. Respondents were also asked to identify the reasons why they didn't use these spaces (although not everyone answered the second part of this question). Key responses include:

Type of facility	Location	Reason for non-use
<b>Bike / walking tracks</b>	General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• not available in towns.</li> </ul>
	Inglewood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• lack of tracks.</li> </ul>
<b>Rivers / reservoirs / lakes</b>	General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• not accessible.</li> <li>• lack of information.</li> </ul>
	Bridgewater Swimming Hole	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• too many weeds near the shore – needs to be cleaned out.</li> <li>• need more access for swimmers.</li> </ul>
	Loddon River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• need more access for swimmers.</li> </ul>
	Cains Reserve to Holly Lock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• can't follow canoeists along the river to provide canoe instruction.</li> <li>• riparian damage due to livestock access.</li> </ul>
	Inglewood Reservoir	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• feel unsafe if you are on your own.</li> <li>• should be linked to public walkways.</li> </ul>
	Skidders Reservoir, Wedderburn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• not sufficiently developed.</li> <li>• needs to be cleaned up.</li> <li>• needs to be better promoted.</li> </ul>
	Big Lake Boort	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• has no infrastructure.</li> </ul>
<b>Nature reserves / state parks</b>	Terrick Terrick and Pyramid Hill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• access by vehicle is very rough</li> <li>• facilities are poor or non-existent</li> <li>• poorly maintained</li> <li>• shooting of native fauna is permitted (disagree with this).</li> </ul>

Type of facility	Location	Reason for non-use
	Mt Korong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• poor roads</li> <li>• no camping available</li> <li>• no public toilets.</li> </ul>
<b>Playgrounds / skate parks / outdoor gyms</b>	Bridgewater Caravan Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• private playground so cannot access it.</li> </ul>
	Land between croquet court and swimming pool in Boort	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• need a skate park.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• need outdoor gym equipment.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• playgrounds should be located near public toilets.</li> </ul>
<b>Swimming pools</b>	General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• too far from home</li> <li>• too expensive to visit</li> <li>• too difficult to supervise children</li> <li>• need more suitable hours of operation (later in the day).</li> </ul>
<b>Public toilets</b>	Tarnagulla Soldiers Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• toilets are in poor condition.</li> </ul>
	General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• public toilets can be too far away when required.</li> </ul>
<b>Sport and recreation facilities</b>	Tennis courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• costs too much to play tennis.</li> </ul>
	Nolan's Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• poorly planned and laid out.</li> </ul>
	Sports pavilion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• only open on game days and during training times.</li> <li>• costs too much to hire for short events, e.g. exercise classes.</li> </ul>
	Gym	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• gym membership is too expensive.</li> </ul>
	Market Square, Wedderburn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• needs to be tidied up and beautified.</li> </ul>
<b>Civic areas</b>	Inglewood Town Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• more seats required on the grassed area.</li> </ul>
<b>Facilities in general</b>	General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• too far to travel to use facilities</li> <li>• lack of information about location and what's there</li> <li>• lack of Council permission</li> <li>• cost</li> <li>• need better signage</li> </ul>

Type of facility	Location	Reason for non-use
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• need more trees and grass</li> </ul>

Other comments received from survey respondents about public open spaces included:

Focus area	Details	No. of responses
<b>Events / activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need more markets and family events / activities that are free or low cost, e.g. movies, bands in the parks, children's activities, etc.</li> </ul>	8
<b>Maintenance</b>	<p>Need better maintenance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• more lawn mowing</li> <li>• trim the shrubs at the Pyramid Hill railway crossing</li> <li>• involve school children in nature planting, beautifying works</li> <li>• get rid of noxious weeds near Calivil</li> <li>• can't rely on volunteers to maintain open spaces</li> <li>• better maintenance needed of Bridgewater River Walk.</li> </ul>	8
<b>Open spaces – general</b>	<p>Improve open space facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• make them more attractive and fun</li> <li>• upgrade all parks (other than Inglewood)</li> <li>• develop proper place making strategies – not just review landscaping</li> <li>• focus on a few quality open spaces in each town</li> <li>• provide open spaces in areas where they are needed, e.g. near Bridgewater Bakery</li> <li>• ensure that parks are accessible and friendly for children, prams and bikes</li> <li>• better link open spaces to streetscapes.</li> </ul>	8
<b>Playgrounds / skate parks / outdoor gyms</b>	<p>Improve play opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• develop interactive playgrounds with sensory gardens and fences for children with special needs</li> <li>• provide quality playgrounds with fun equipment</li> <li>• provide spaces for children to play without equipment</li> <li>• develop skate parks and water parks supported by family picnic facilities</li> <li>• develop an outdoor gym, e.g. in Boort between pool and croquet court.</li> </ul>	8
<b>Walking and cycling</b>	<p>Improve walking / cycling paths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provide more walking / cycling tracks that are longer in length, attractive, safe, fun and shaded</li> <li>• provide accessible tracks / footpaths to areas</li> </ul>	5

Focus area	Details	No. of responses
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>of open space</li> <li>improve trail surfaces, e.g. Bridgewater River Track</li> <li>develop an off-road bike track at Pyramid Hill.</li> </ul>	
<b>Positive feedback</b>	Positive feedback about open spaces: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>all open spaces</li> <li>Soldiers Memorial Park</li> <li>Bridgewater Swimming Hole</li> <li>Bridgewater River Walk.</li> </ul>	4
<b>BBQs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>provide more BBQs.</li> </ul>	2
<b>Covered areas / shelters</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>provide covered areas for older adults.</li> </ul>	2
<b>Public rest stop / traveller's rest stops</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>develop a public rest stop / traveller's rest stop.</li> </ul>	2
<b>Rivers / reservoirs / lakes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>improve waterways:</li> <li>better utilise the Loddon River to connect towns</li> <li>provide better facilities at Skinners Flat.</li> </ul>	2
<b>Signage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>improve signage, e.g. Wedderburn.</li> </ul>	2
<b>Bins</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>install more bins.</li> </ul>	1
<b>Information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>better promote what already exists.</li> </ul>	1
<b>Interpretation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>provide better interpretation of indigenous history and culture in the Shire.</li> </ul>	1
<b>Landscaping</b>	Improve landscaping: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ensure parks are aesthetically pleasing</li> <li>plant more garden beds</li> <li>focus on native and indigenous plantings.</li> </ul>	
<b>Lighting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>provide better lighting in open spaces.</li> </ul>	1
<b>Picnic tables</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>provide more picnic tables.</li> </ul>	1
<b>Public art</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>incorporate sculptures into public open spaces</li> </ul>	1
<b>Public toilets</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>provide more public toilets</li> </ul>	2
<b>Seats</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>provide more seats</li> </ul>	1
<b>Sport and recreation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>improve sport and recreation facilities</li> <li>encourage more alternative sports to become established in the Shire</li> <li>improve club facilities at Donaldson Park in Wedderburn</li> </ul>	2
<b>Surveillance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>police Bridgewater Swimming Hole more often</li> </ul>	1

## 20 TOWN BY TOWN DETAILS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE CONSIDERED WHEN DEVELOPING WORK PLANS

### 20.1 Boort

<b>Demographics</b>	873 people SEIFA Index: 989 (Loddon Shire is 934)	
<b>Open spaces</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bowls, Croquet and Tennis Facility</li> <li>• Boort Park</li> <li>• Boort Swimming Pool</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jubilee Park (playground)</li> <li>• Little Lake Boort</li> <li>• Nolens Park</li> <li>• Rotary and Historic Parks</li> <li>• Sunnyside Court Playground</li> </ul>
<b>Plans</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Little Lake Boort Master Plan (2018) Draft</b> recommends the construction of all or some of the following, subject to a feasibility study: water splash park, a skate park and an outdoor fitness centre between the swimming pool and the croquet club.</li> <li>• <b>New Master Plan Projects – Boort Park (2018)</b> – still to complete female change facilities.</li> </ul>	
<b>Community feedback</b>	<p><b>Survey:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Little Lake Boort – relocate walking path away from roadside water treatment plant, improve boat ramp, install outdoor fitness equipment around the lake (4), water grass behind the Angling Club, don't turn sprinklers on on Saturday afternoons, improve track surface, more toilets near old sailing area, better maintenance, extend bush walking track</li> <li>• Nolen's Park – upgrade play space (2), improve accessibility of pathways (2) more swings including a baby swing, fence playground, remove vine from Perspex wall, more shade – including over the swings (2), install another table near the main BBQ, more bins, more seats, improved maintenance</li> <li>• Boort shopping area – footpaths and gutters need to be more level (2)</li> <li>• The Granites –improve access tracks (2), develop mountain bike tracks, better maintain site</li> <li>• Boort Swimming Pool – install solar heating (2) [happening], open earlier on extreme heat days</li> <li>• Boort Croquet – install new fence along lake side</li> <li>• Boort Park – upgrade change rooms, install a new kitchen, upgrade playground, replace softfall in playground, upgrade picnic tables</li> <li>• Boort Tennis Club – install lighting</li> <li>• Lake Marmal – better maintenance of weeds.</li> </ul> <p><b>Youth Consultation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• playgrounds / skate facilities – develop a skate park in Boort; open the merry go round more often; install a boulder / climbing wall; purchase human sized board games; install play equipment for young people, e.g. sand pits, slides, chimney climber, inflatable equipment</li> <li>• Little Lake Boort / Lake Boort – install fitness equipment around the lake at Mernong Beach or in the park; improve the walking track, develop a bush walk around Lake Boort with interpretive signage;</li> </ul>	

	<p>more shade; install a kayak launch pad; fix the pontoon near the scout shed; develop toilets on the other side of the lake near the fishing club; install a BBQ at Mernong Beach; improve water quality in the lake for swimmers; construct a hard court for ball sports at the lake; develop cricket nets at the Lake; Develop a water park – potentially at Nolens Park near the lake – with water cannons and pistols</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• cycling / walking - develop a scenic bike track around the town and the lake (potentially sealed) with bike parking; develop a mountain bike track near the water tower; develop an off road BMX jumps; develop the tortoise trail into a proper walk; upgrade lookout and Rotary Track – make more prominent</li> <li>• sport and recreation - develop a motorbike track; upgrade basketball court – fix rings and add shelter; construct a new gun club; develop a soccer field; fix the cricket nets at the oval; construct a turf hockey pitch; install toilets at the hockey field; improve facilities at the sports ground; develop a 4WD track; develop outdoor table tennis tables</li> <li>• Boort Swimming Pool - install a water slide; install a spa; have competitive swimming at the pool with a coach; have longer opening hours at the pool (including morning swimming)</li> <li>• Cow Patch – develop a dog park</li> <li>• promotion - increase promotion of facilities and activities</li> <li>• safety - improve security of open spaces</li> <li>• parks - develop Chinese gardens, install more BBQs in Boort, and install more lighting.</li> </ul> <p><b>Community Listening Post:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Little Lake Boort – clean up the lake.</li> </ul> <p><b>Seniors Forum:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Little Lake Boort – construct outdoor fitness equipment around the lake.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Observations</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Little Lake Boort and Nolen’s Park are key regional recreational facilities. They attract locals, people staying at the caravan park day trippers who use the lake for water skiing. There are opportunities to further develop this precinct, e.g. outdoor fitness equipment, potentially some sort of splash park for young children, kayak launch pad, skate park, basketball half court, rock climbing wall, etc. The investment will improve liveability of the town, help to attract more residents and help to attract more visitors</li> <li>• the play space at Nolen’s Park is very popular and much of the equipment is designed to be used by people of all abilities. However, to be truly accessible, there need to be paths (e.g. rubber) to and around items of play equipment</li> <li>• there are no lights on the lawn tennis courts. Given the proximity of the caravan park and the popularity of Little Lake Boort for campers, lighting of several tennis courts and their availability for public access could be beneficial</li> <li>• Jubilee Park playground offers very little play value (e.g. flat site with no landscaping and only a swing, slide and seesaw) and equipment is estimated to be past its lifecycle.</li> <li>• Sunnyside Playground offers very little play value – only a swing set located at the end of a court, with half the site taken over by</li> </ul>

	building supplies.
<b>Recommendations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement the recommendations of the Little Lake Boort Draft Master Plan (2018).</li> <li>• Incorporate rubberised paths to play equipment in Nolen’s Park and more informal play opportunities near Little Lake Boort as part of the Boort Foreshore Plan, e.g. half basketball court, a rock-climbing wall, outdoor table tennis tables, bocce pitch and a kayak launch pad.</li> <li>• Sell the Sunnyside Court block and use the funds to expand the play space at nearby Boort Park.</li> <li>• Renew Jubilee Park playground.</li> </ul>

## 20.2 Bridgewater

<b>Demographics</b>	326 people SEIFA Index: 894 (Loddon Shire is 934)	
<b>Open spaces</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bridgewater Bowls Club</li> <li>• Bridgewater Recreation Reserve</li> <li>• Bridgewater River Walk</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bullabull Track from Bridgewater</li> <li>• Sloans Park</li> <li>• Bridgewater Swimming Hole and Foreshore</li> </ul>
<b>Plans</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Bridgewater on Loddon Foreshore Development (2018)</b> includes a nature based play space, shade, seats, signage, art work, pier / jetty , landscaping, lighting and interpretation (black smith area).</li> </ul>	
<b>Community feedback</b>	<p><b>Surveys:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sloans Park – construct toilets (4), fence, more shade, upgrade play equipment</li> <li>• Bridgewater Recreation Reserve – improve toilets (2), upgrade kitchen, improve change facilities for netballers (2), improve track around the oval</li> <li>• Bridgewater Swimming Hole / Foreshore – reduce the height of the edge on the path, install outdoor fitness equipment, better paths around island, more regular rubbish removals, more shade, shade canopy over waterhole platform, improved maintenance, provide life guard over summer, provide more parking</li> <li>• Bridgewater River Walk – upgrade walking path, provide dog poo bags</li> <li>• Loddon River – redesign so that water skiers do not get priority access to the water, improve access to the river, manage the corellas and cockatoos, build a skate park, develop a playground next to the river</li> <li>• Bridgewater public roads – install bike lanes on Calder Highway and sweep the road periodically (VicRoads responsibility)</li> <li>• Bridgewater Golf Club – more public toilets and change facilities</li> <li>• Bridgewater public roads – install footpaths along busier roads.</li> </ul> <p><b>Community Listening Posts:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sloane Park - improve play value (it’s boring)</li> <li>• Loddon River – plant more grass between the bridge and the motel</li> </ul>	

	<p>for passive relaxation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bridgewater Swimming Hole – need more seating areas.</li> </ul> <p><b>Seniors Forum:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bridgewater River Walk – construct outdoor fitness equipment.</li> </ul>
<b>Observations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bullabull Track needs signage</li> <li>• Sloans Park needs paths, more shade, a wind break and more exciting play equipment. May also need a barrier to stop young children from running on to the road</li> <li>• Bridgewater Swimming Hole could use more seating and shade.</li> </ul>
<b>Recommendations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to implement the Bridgewater Foreshore Development Plan which includes a nature based play space, shade, seats, signage, art work, pier / jetty, landscaping, lighting and interpretation (black smith area).</li> <li>• Prepare an upgrade plan in partnership with the local community for Sloan Park to install paths, landscaping, shade trees, a barrier, some form of public art and more exciting play equipment. Ensure that play opportunities available at this site are different to what is available at the Recreation Reserve and along the Foreshore.</li> <li>• Install additional seating at Bridgewater Swimming Hole and more shade trees.</li> <li>• Install signage on Bullabull track.</li> </ul>

### 20.3 Calivil

<b>Demographics</b>	N/A
<b>Open spaces</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calivil Recreation Reserve and Tennis Club</li> </ul>
<b>Plans</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>New Master Plan Projects – Calivil Recreation Reserve (2018)</b> includes: upgrade pavilion / change facilities, develop a multi-use clubroom for tennis and netball, update signage, construct a shelter and BBQ, walking track, landscaping, and water reduction measures.</li> </ul>
<b>Community feedback</b>	<p><b>Surveys:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calivil Recreation Reserve – BBQ with covered seating (4), shelter for netball / tennis courts, seating for netball, seats, picnic tables, covered areas, walking track, interactive / updated play equipment (3), more toilets, police the 80km per hour speed limit in front of the reserve more frequently on game days, improve access paths, plant more shade trees, improve ground near front fence, rip up old netball court, outdoor fitness equipment, better walking tracks, tours of local wildlife</li> <li>• Calivil Golf Course – undertake weed and vermin control now that the club has folded</li> <li>• Carney’s Reserve – remove rubbish dump.</li> </ul> <p><b>Community Listening Post:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calivil Recreation Reserve - need a BBQ and shelter / rotunda (7); develop a netball shelter (5); need seats next to the playground (2); develop a double lane road in front of the Reserve to improve</li> </ul>

	<p>safety (2); need picnic tables next to the playground; install bubble taps next to the playground; develop a pedestrian zone between the clubrooms and the playground; construct a net behind the football goal posts; reseed the oval; install toddler play equipment; provide more activities for young children, e.g. petting zoo and jumping castle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>open space – develop a motor bike track.</li> </ul>
<b>Observations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>recreation reserve lacks a pedestrian safe area and could benefit from having a social gathering space with BBQ, shelter and picnic tables as well as a walking track there is no other park in Calivil</li> </ul>
<b>Recommendations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the Recreation Reserve COM to upgrade the social aspect of the Calivil Recreation Reserve to include a BBQ area, shelter, picnic tables, drinking fountain and landscaping. At the same time develop a pedestrian safe area.</li> <li>Support the Recreation Reserve COM to develop a walking track around Calivil Recreation Reserve utilising the old golf course.</li> </ul>

#### 20.4 Dingee

<b>Demographics</b>	N/A	
<b>Open spaces</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dingee Recreation Reserve</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Progress Park</li> </ul>
<b>Plans</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No recent plans</li> </ul>	
<b>Community feedback</b>	<p><b>Survey:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dingee Progress Park – fence off when events are held on site, install seats undercover.</li> </ul>	
<b>Observations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>play equipment at Winzar Recreation Reserve is too high off the ground and soft fall needs to be spread out (maintenance issue)</li> <li>need paths in Winzar Recreation Reserve</li> <li>rebound wall needs a concrete pad in front of it at Winzar Recreation Reserve</li> <li>need to remove wooden frame near tennis courts</li> <li>need to plant shade trees near playground</li> <li>Progress Park needs access paths.</li> </ul>	
<b>Recommendations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construct access paths at Progress Park and renew existing play equipment when it reaches the end of its lifespan.</li> </ul>	

#### 20.5 Durham Ox

<b>Demographics</b>	N/A	
<b>Open spaces</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Durham Ox Memorial Hall</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Loddon River Canoe Trail</li> </ul>
<b>Plans</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No current plans</li> </ul>	
<b>Community feedback</b>	<p><b>Seniors Forum:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Canoe Trail – provide toilets.</li> </ul>	

<b>Observations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No toilet facilities for canoeists.</li> </ul>
<b>Recommendations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construct environmentally sustainable toilets at Durham Ox for use by canoeists.</li> </ul>

## 20.6 Eddington

<b>Demographics</b>	N/A	
<b>Open spaces</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eddington Community Centre</li> <li>Eddington Golf Club</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eddington Tennis Courts</li> <li>Laanecoorie Weir</li> </ul>
<b>Plans</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No current plans</li> </ul>	
<b>Community feedback</b>	<p><b>Survey:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eddington Tennis Courts – repair tennis courts</li> <li>Eddington Golf Course – remove locked gates to enable better public access.</li> </ul>	
<b>Observations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>tennis courts are in a poor state of disrepair</li> <li>no access paths in the park or near the play equipment</li> <li>ramp into Community Centre unlikely to meet regulations</li> <li>opportunities to upgrade Laanecoorie Weir for passive recreation.</li> </ul>	
<b>Recommendations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construct some access paths in the park next to Eddington Community Centre</li> </ul>	

## 20.7 Inglewood

<b>Demographics</b>	855 people SEIFA Index: 877 (Loddon Shire is 934)	
<b>Open spaces</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Botanic Gardens and Reservoir Track</li> <li>Bullabul Track from Inglewood</li> <li>Inglewood Bowls Club</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inglewood Golf Course</li> <li>Inglewood Swimming Pool</li> <li>J Sloan Park / Inglewood Playground.</li> </ul>
<b>Plans</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>New Master Plan Projects – Inglewood (2018)</b> lists the following projects at the Recreation Reserve – reseal roadway, improved signage, cooling / heating for sports centre, reseeding of ovals, upgrade scoreboard, develop a BBQ area, install a rebound wall for tennis, improve drainage around tennis building, upgrade servery windows.</li> </ul>	
<b>Community feedback</b>	<p><b>Survey:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inglewood Play Space – more seats, new / closer toilets (3), more shade / trees (2), upgrade play equipment</li> <li>Inglewood Recreation Reserve – upgrade change rooms (males and females), install outdoor fitness equipment, widen road entry to reserve, upgrade track from the road to the oval / car park</li> <li>Inglewood Botanic Gardens – upgrade gardens (2), label plants</li> <li>Inglewood Town Hall – repair wooden seats, install security lighting</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inglewood Conservation Reserve – improve control methods for Eucalypts</li> <li>• Inglewood bush tracks – better maintenance</li> <li>• Inglewood Reservoir – more seats.</li> </ul> <p><b>Youth Consultation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• develop a dog park at Inglewood.</li> </ul> <p><b>Community Listening Post:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• play - install a full sized basketball court for young people (3); increase the size of the skate park and increase the degree of difficulty of some equipment (2); provide more things for teenagers to do at Inglewood playground, e.g. climbing wall, flying fox</li> <li>• Inglewood Recreation Reserve - develop netball club rooms (2); build new accessible public toilets (2); upgrade lights on oval to allow night games (2); provide an inside space for the football club trainer to operate from (2); improve road safety of area between clubrooms and the netball courts; install electric BBQs and shelter; drinking fountain; electronic scoreboard; more seats; more bins; outdoor fitness equipment; plant more trees on the fence line to create a wind block; construct a second block of public toilets on the opposite side of the oval</li> <li>• Inglewood Swimming Pool - heat the pool, install a diving board, provide inflatables</li> <li>• Inglewood Botanic Garden – upgrade gardens by providing a general ‘face lift’ and installing a BBQ</li> <li>• cycling / walking – develop new cycling / walking tracks</li> <li>• Inglewood Town Hall – install more shade</li> <li>• Inglewood Reservoir – upgrade walking / cycling tracks (2), install BBQs, bins, tables, dig out reservoir so it becomes deeper</li> <li>• Inglewood Golf Course - Encourage more people to walk around the Inglewood Golf Course and perhaps set up a Heart Foundation Walking Group (2)</li> <li>• Inglewood shopping area - develop a car park at the entrance of the town where visitors can park and then explore Inglewood by foot; better maintain footpaths; establish a mini park in the middle of Inglewood with a BBQ, rotunda, seats and a drinking fountain; establish a scooter charging station at the supermarket</li> <li>• Inglewood Playground – install more seats and shade.</li> </ul> <p><b>Seniors Forum:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inglewood Playground – needs more shade (4); need to top up softfall</li> <li>• Inglewood Reservoir – needs 2 more seats along the linear trail and more shade in the picnic area</li> <li>• Inglewood Recreation Reserve – needs more shade around the oval and near the netball / tennis courts</li> <li>• cycling / walking – develop a path from the caravan park into town</li> <li>• Inglewood streets – develop more footpaths and replace seats near Bendigo Bank with seats with backrests and arms.</li> </ul>
<b>Observations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• new toilet is under construction at the Recreation Reserve to be shared between swimming pool users, play space users and recreation reserve users. May need to consider pedestrian friendly</li> </ul>

	<p>areas around this site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• there is a lack of shade at the Inglewood play space</li> <li>• lack of challenging play opportunities in town for teenagers</li> <li>• Inglewood Botanic Gardens and Inglewood Reservoir do not meet expectations and therefore should be upgraded when funds become available.</li> </ul>
<b>Recommendations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a BBQ area with shelter and picnic tables at Inglewood Recreation Reserve.</li> <li>• Consider providing active play opportunities for teenagers at J Sloan Park playground, e.g. flying fox, climbing wall, full sized basketball court and upgrade traditional skate park to a modular pump track when it reaches the end of its life.</li> <li>• Plant more shade trees at J Sloan playground.</li> <li>• Develop a safe pedestrian area at Inglewood Recreation Reserve in the vicinity of the J Sloan playground and the oval.</li> <li>• Liaise with Inglewood Golf Club to develop a walking track around the golf course.</li> <li>• Liaise with the Heart Foundation to establish a walking group in Inglewood, utilising the golf course.</li> <li>• Upgrade Inglewood Botanic Gardens and Inglewood Reservoir, primarily through a track upgrade, more seats, renewal of infrastructure and better maintenance.</li> </ul>

## 20.8 Kingower

<b>Demographics</b>	N/A	
<b>Open spaces</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kingower Cricket and Recreation Reserve</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Village Green</li> <li>• Melville Caves</li> </ul>
<b>Plans</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Loddon Mallee Regionally Significant Tracks and Trails Strategy (2010)</b> supports the development of the Captain Melville Trail from Bridgewater to Melville Caves via Inglewood and Kingower.</li> </ul>	
<b>Community feedback</b>	<p><b>Survey:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kingower Recreation Reserve – seats around the oval, fence playing surface to prevent damage by vandals</li> <li>• Melville Caves – install lighting, install lights to toilets, supply more firewood for campers, provide drinking water, provide interpretive information about Captain Melville, install electric or gas BBQ facilities, install new picnic tables, better promote, run tours, local tours once per month by mini bus with BBQ, damper making activity, camp outs, promotional flyers</li> <li>• Kingower Village Green – remove advertising sign, provide free Wi-Fi.</li> </ul> <p><b>Youth Consultation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• improve the toilets at Melville Caves.</li> </ul> <p><b>Community Listening Post:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Melville Caves – ensure access tracks are open.</li> </ul>	

<b>Observations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Melville Caves is an excellent asset for the community, but needs some additional upgrades and maintenance (Parks Victoria responsibility)</li> <li>advertising signs should not be placed in public spaces such as the Village Green.</li> </ul>
<b>Recommendations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advocate for Parks Victoria to upgrade seats, toilets, picnic / BBQ facilities at Melville Caves.</li> <li>Support development of Captain Melville's Trail.</li> </ul>

## 20.9 Korong Vale

<b>Demographics</b>	N/A
<b>Open spaces</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Borella Park (playground)</li> <li>Korong Vale Community Sports Centre (including tennis, bowls and an oval)</li> </ul>
<b>Plans</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No current plans</li> </ul>
<b>Community feedback</b>	<p><b>Survey:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Borella Park – install a skate park, upgrade play space (spider web swing), upgrade picnic tables and seats, install a rebound wall, install directional signs to the public toilet, install a rotunda.</li> <li>Korong Vale Recreation Reserve – improve maintenance and encourage more use, develop a skate park.</li> <li>Korong Vale Golf Club – grow membership and volunteers.</li> </ul> <p><b>Youth Consultation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>dog park – develop a dog park in Korong Vale.</li> <li>Korong Vale Recreation Reserve – develop a BMX track, install a half court netball court.</li> <li>streets – install more lights.</li> </ul>
<b>Observations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Korong Vale Recreation Reserve is only used for tennis and bowls – these facilities are adequate, but old netball court with a tree growing in it should be removed</li> <li>Borella Park is looking a bit tired and could use an upgrade.</li> </ul>
<b>Recommendations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider upgrading Borella Park to include shelter over the BBQ area, upgraded seats and new play equipment (when the existing equipment reaches the end of its useful life).</li> </ul>

## 20.10 Laanecoorie

<b>Demographics</b>	N/A
<b>Open spaces</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Laanecoorie River Trail</li> </ul>
<b>Plans</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No current plans</li> </ul>
<b>Community feedback</b>	<p><b>Survey:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cains Reserve – install play equipment</li> <li>Brownbill Reserve – install interpretive signage</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Laanecoorie town – install a footbridge to link the two halves of the town.</li> </ul>
<b>Observations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>near the Laanecoorie River Trail there are two old tennis courts and an old playground (presumably owned by DELWP)</li> <li>Mechanics Institute Hall needs a path to the road to improve accessibility.</li> </ul>
<b>Recommendations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a plan to upgrade Laanecoorie Weir at Brownbill Reserve near the caravan park on the edge of the waterway for passive recreational purposes, e.g. BBQS under shelter, sandy beach area, upgrade and extend boat ramp, develop a canoe platform, etc.</li> </ul>

## 20.11 Mitiamo

<b>Demographics</b>	117 people SEIFA Index: N/A (Loddon Shire is 934)		
<b>Open spaces</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mitiamo Golf Course</li> <li>Mitiamo Municipal Recreation Reserve</li> </ul> </td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mitiamo Swimming Pool</li> <li>R J Phelan Reserve (playground)</li> </ul> </td> </tr> </table>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mitiamo Golf Course</li> <li>Mitiamo Municipal Recreation Reserve</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mitiamo Swimming Pool</li> <li>R J Phelan Reserve (playground)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mitiamo Golf Course</li> <li>Mitiamo Municipal Recreation Reserve</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mitiamo Swimming Pool</li> <li>R J Phelan Reserve (playground)</li> </ul>		
<b>Plans</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>New Master Plan Projects – Mitiamo Recreation Reserve (2018)</b> – includes change room upgrade, light towers, nets behind goal posts and water security measures.</li> </ul>		
<b>Community feedback</b>	<p><b>Survey:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mitiamo Swimming Pool – open the pool more in the morning for older adults, provide water aerobics classes</li> <li>Mitiamo Recreation Reserve – provide undercover seating, construct additional female toilets and showers (2), construct change facilities for females</li> <li>Mitiamo Playground / Phelan Park – provide more parking, provide shade over play equipment, upgrade equipment (2), better maintenance</li> <li>Terrick Terrick – better promote, improve maintenance of tracks.</li> </ul> <p><b>Community Listening Post:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mitiamo Recreation Reserve - construct shelter for netballers; upgrade pavilion at Mitiamo Recreation Reserve to include female change rooms, umpire change rooms, male change room upgrade (more showers) and a new roof</li> <li>Phelan Park - upgrade the playground and provide a buffer between the play space and the busy road to improve the safety of children</li> <li>cycling / walking - develop a walking path in the town.</li> </ul>		
<b>Observations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tracks in Terrick Terrick are rough</li> <li>Phelan Park lacks shade, could use a toddler swing and may need a barrier (e.g. low plantings or low fence) on the Mitiamo- Echuca Road boundary</li> <li>no walking tracks in town.</li> </ul>		
<b>Recommendations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advocate for Parks Victoria to undertake more regular grading of</li> </ul>		

	<p>the tracks at Terrick Terrick National Park.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrade Phelan Park when equipment is at the end of its lifecycle by renewing equipment, installing some form of barrier against the Mitiamo-Echuca Road boundary and planting more shade trees and trees to act as a wind break.</li> </ul>
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## 20.12 Newbridge

<b>Demographics</b>	192 people SEIFA Index: 985 (Loddon Shire is 934)	
<b>Open spaces</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Riverside Park</li> <li>• Progress Park</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Newbridge Recreation Reserve</li> </ul>
<b>Plans</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>New Master Plan Projects – Newbridge (2018)</b> priorities are: concrete stairs and rails up the embankment, shade cover for playground, shaded BBQ area between playground and tennis clubroom, establishment of a Men’s Shed, shade trees, further develop a track along the north east side of the reserve, install seating near netball coaches / scorers boxers for netballers, BMX mounds in the south east corner of the reserve.</li> </ul>	
<b>Community feedback</b>	<p><b>Surveys:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Market St – remove box thorns and upgrade path to improve accessibility</li> <li>• Riverside Park – BBQs with shelters (2), stepped embankment areas (2), more picnic tables, shelter over playground, plant more trees around the entrance and the oval, install more fire pits</li> <li>• Progress Park - shelters over BBQs (2), stepped embankment areas, more picnic tables, more seats, install outdoor fitness equipment, sculptures, musical play elements, science play, logs for children to play on</li> <li>• Newbridge Recreation Reserve – develop horse tie-rails and small yards, install shelter over the playground, install a public BBQ</li> <li>• roads, easements and bushland – develop horse riding trails with signage and maps, provide more opportunities for bike riding.</li> </ul>	
<b>Observations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• recreation reserve is in excellent condition, however the social aspect of the site could be improved, i.e. shaded BBQ area and shade trees planted next to the playground.</li> </ul>	
<b>Recommendations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install BBQs and shelters at Progress Park if feasible and if it aligns with community planning priorities.</li> </ul>	

## 20.13 Pyramid Hill

<b>Demographics</b>	558 people SEIFA Index: 921 (Loddon Shire is 934)	
<b>Open spaces</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kelly Park</li> <li>• Lions Park</li> <li>• Mitchell Park</li> <li>• Pyramid Hill Bowls and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pyramid Hill Memorial Hall</li> <li>• Pyramid Hill Neighbourhood House</li> <li>• Pyramid Hill Reserve – The</li> </ul>

	<p>Tennis Centre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pyramid Hill Trail</li> </ul>	<p>Hill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pyramid Hill Swimming Pool</li> </ul>
<b>Plans</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>New Master Plan Projects (2018) – Pyramid Hill</b> includes: relocation of children’s playground, relocation of second entrance, storage, internal roadways resurface, internal roadways resurface, car park lighting, water storage, upgraded scoreboard, fence around ground, a hydro pool, all abilities access to top floor.</li> </ul>	
<b>Community feedback</b>	<p><b>Survey:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kelly Park – install drinking fountain (3), baby swing (3), outdoor gym equipment (2), install fence along Kelly St side of park entrance</li> <li>Pyramid Hill Walking Track – better maintain the track by spraying weeds and removing branches that have fallen (3), more regular clearance of rubbish, new / improved signage (3)</li> <li>Lions Park next to tennis courts – needs fence (3), paths, garden, shade trees, seating, a new BBQ, improved play equipment, better maintenance</li> <li>Pyramid Hill Tennis Courts – provide a safe fenced off space for children</li> <li>Pyramid Hill Swimming Pool – shade over medium sized pool, improve the visual appeal of the front entrance, improve drainage in car park so trees no longer continue to die</li> <li>Mitchell Park – fully fence the play space, flatten out sand running track around the oval, upgrade pavilion – especially toilets.</li> </ul> <p><b>Community Listening Post:</b></p> <p>Kelly Park - move swings from the park across the road to Kelly Park (2); need more seats (existing seats are uncomfortable); need more shade</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mitchell Park - change shape of oval so that it is better for spectators</li> <li>Pyramid Hill Golf Club - financial assistance for things like fuel for mowers</li> <li>open space – develop pump park.</li> </ul> <p><b>Seniors Forum:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kelly Park – needs more seats between the toilet block and the building; existing seats are too low and very hard to get up out of; need to retain a space for fiesta activities</li> <li>Pyramid Hill streets – need more footpaths</li> <li>parks / open spaces – need more shade; develop a dog park</li> <li>Senior Citizens Hall – install outdoor fitness equipment next to the hall.</li> </ul>	
<b>Observations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kelly Park is an example of a well-designed play space and park</li> <li>Kelly Park could benefit from having a toddler swing and a drinking fountain</li> <li>the swings from the Lions Park opposite Kelly Park should be relocated to Kelly Park as it is impractical and unsafe to have play equipment separated by a road</li> <li>Pyramid Hill Walking Track could benefit from improved signage and maintenance and toilet doors need to be redesigned as they are unusable for people who may be overweight or obese.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>there may need to be a barrier to prevent children from running on to the road at the Lions Park next to the tennis courts.</li> </ul>
<b>Recommendations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Redevelop Lions Park in Kelly St to develop a passive recreational space.</li> <li>Install a drinking fountain and more comfortable seats at Kelly Park.</li> <li>Improve toilets at Pyramid Hill.</li> <li>Improve signage and maintenance of Pyramid Hill Walking.</li> <li>Redevelop the playground next to the swimming pool and tennis courts and install a barrier to prevent children from running on to the road.</li> </ul>

## 20.14 Serpentine

<b>Demographics</b>	192 people SEIFA Index: 997 (Loddon Shire is 934)	
<b>Open spaces</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Serpentine Bowls and Tennis Complex</li> <li>Serpentine Pon Pon Trail</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Serpentine (Janiember) Recreation Reserve</li> <li>T J Rudkins Reserve</li> </ul>
<b>Plans</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No current plans.</li> </ul>	
<b>Community feedback</b>	<p><b>Survey:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Serpentine (Janiember) Recreation Reserve – improve play equipment (4), install outdoor fitness equipment (3), construct outdoor shelter, electronic scoreboard that can show movies</li> <li>Serpentine Tennis Club – upgrade clubrooms (2), build play facilities</li> <li>general – construct a swimming pool, develop more walking tracks –including to the cemetery (2) and develop a new park.</li> </ul> <p><b>Community Listening Post:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Serpentine (Janiember) Recreation Reserve – upgrade car park (it gets very boggy).</li> </ul>	
<b>Observations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a new community hub featuring social rooms and change rooms has recently been constructed at Serpentine; hence little work needs to be undertaken at this site (other than finishing off paths and placing seats around the oval), although an electronic scoreboard would enable the football, netball or cricket clubs to show movies on the oval and or increase their own revenue.</li> <li>the very well utilised TJ Rudkins Reserve has benefitted from its recent upgrade and is in excellent condition.</li> <li>there is some demand for additional walking tracks around Serpentine and to the cemetery.</li> <li>the tennis and bowls shared clubrooms are starting to deteriorate.</li> </ul>	
<b>Recommendations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upgrade track condition and wayfinding on the Pon Pon Trail in Serpentine.</li> </ul>	

## 20.15 Tarnagulla

<b>Demographics</b>	N/A	
<b>Open spaces</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heraud's Place</li> <li>• Soldiers Memorial Park</li> <li>• Tarnagulla Cemetery Track</li> <li>• Tarnagulla Golf Course</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tarnagulla Recreation Reserve</li> <li>• Tarnagulla Reservoir Track</li> <li>• Tarnagulla Town Heritage Trail</li> </ul>
<b>Plans</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No current plans.</li> </ul>	
<b>Community feedback</b>	<b>Survey</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• park – more play opportunities</li> <li>• bush tracks – better maintain.</li> </ul>	
<b>Observations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the community centre and Soldier's Memorial Park are located in an attractive setting with good landscaping</li> <li>• Heraud's Place could use some improvement in terms of landscaping and replacement of old seats</li> <li>• trail head signage on walking tracks is excellent</li> <li>• playground equipment at Tarnagulla Recreation Reserve does not meet standards but given that the Reserve is no longer used for regular sporting events, consideration should be given to providing greater play opportunities at Soldier's Memorial Park (which is also more centrally located).</li> </ul>	
<b>Recommendations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Renew street furniture in Heraud's Place and improve landscaping</li> <li>• Add additional play equipment at Soldier's Memorial Park.</li> </ul>	

## 20.16 Wedderburn

<b>Demographics</b>	941 people SEIFA Index: 864 (Loddon Shire is 934)	
<b>Open spaces</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blue Mallee Trail</li> <li>• Cooper Park</li> <li>• Donaldson Park</li> <li>• Soldiers Memorial Park</li> <li>• Market Square</li> <li>• Nardoo Linear Park</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Queen's Gully Trail</li> <li>• Reservoir Track</li> <li>• Skinners Flat</li> <li>• Teds Garden</li> <li>• Wedderburn Swimming Pool</li> </ul>
<b>Plans</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Council Plan</b> – upgrade Donaldson Park</li> <li>• <b>Donaldson Park Master Plan</b> – upgrade Donaldson Park</li> <li>• <b>Donaldson Park Community Hub Feasibility Study</b> – upgrade Donaldson Park.</li> </ul>	
<b>Community feedback</b>	<b>Survey:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soldier's Memorial – update play equipment (5), repair gates to play area (2), develop a skate park (3), BBQs , seating (under shade), picnic tables, mini bicycle track, water play (2), garden, repair fence (RSL responsibility), provide a first aid kit in case someone hurts themselves, install more power outlets for stall holders, drinking fountain</li> </ul>	

- Nardoo Walking Track – install / upgrade outdoor fitness equipment (4), install several seats, better connect the track to other paths / footpaths, improve maintenance (2), get rid of Bindii weeds, plant some shade trees
- bushland – grade roads (3), install more seats, improve signage
- Donaldson Park – develop new clubrooms (5), improve entrance and garden, higher fences, drinking fountain near netball courts, more grass near the seats, toilet near the hockey field (2), more toilets closer to the oval (2), convert one netball court into an undercover court, improve drainage, fence entire site, develop paths to the site, improve maintenance
- Mt Korong – grade tracks, install more picnic tables (2), install toilets, install interpretive information at the top of the mountain
- Wedderburn Swimming Pool – install diving board (2), fenced area with gate around toddler pool, more seats (3), better supervision, update children's pool and put a statue in the middle of it, provide more picnic tables, upgrade perimeter fence, purchase new cricket nets and stumps, increase size of pool, reduce entry fees, more shade (2), locks on bathroom doors, small play space, better baby pool, water aerobics and fitness classes (daytime and in the afternoon), more pool equipment, better public knowledge of what equipment can be shared, longer pool hours in the evenings
- Hard Hill Tourist Reserve – improve maintenance
- Skinners Flat Reservoir – improve safety for water skiers, upgrade toilet facilities (3), install showers, more bins, more regular rubbish collection, camping on west side with toilets, BBQs (3), picnic tables right around the reservoir, remove trees from lake bed, make the reservoir deeper, provide secure water supply, develop a pier, develop a walking trail around the perimeter
- Wedderburn Golf Course – plant more native trees
- Kurruca State Park – develop a better track to ride through the bush
- Wedderburn Tennis Courts – more shade
- Towerhill – improve trail surface
- walking / cycling tracks – provide bikes free of charge for locals to ride, set up social bike riding groups, link the paths together
- Railway Reserve – Plant more canopy trees to shade the pathway
- Kooyoorra State Park – develop an interpretive brochure
- Community House – erect a skate park
- Market Square / Engine Park – update cricket nets, protect historical sites and features.

#### **Youth Consultation:**

- activities - a summer program of activities / games organised by lifeguards at the swimming pool; ball games organised at the Neighbourhood House played on the netball court; sporting equipment available for young people to borrow and use in the local park; pizza nights using the oven in the community garden; outdoor family film nights on the football oval using the score board; organise nature walks; more festivals / live music.
- playgrounds – provide equipment for teenagers; develop a skate park; relocate basketball ring and make court full size
- sports and recreation facilities – develop a soccer pitch; install outdoor fitness equipment; develop an ice skating rink; improve the

	<p>gym; develop a rock climbing wall, install outdoor table tennis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wedderburn Swimming Pool – heat the pool</li> <li>• Skinners Flat Reservoir – develop an off-road walking trail to the reservoir, install lights, promote it better, providing drinking water, install seats, upgrade toilets, allow camping, improve parking parks – upgrade all parks, provide free Wi-Fi in parks, more shade, more seats, more lighting</li> <li>• promotion – better promote what already exists</li> <li>• dog park – develop a dog park in Wedderburn.</li> </ul> <p><b>Community listening post:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CBD / shopping area – install a drinking fountain at the bus stop under the shelter (2); better maintain footpaths and in relation to leaf litter; beautify the whole town (not just the main street); place dog poo bags and bins in parks</li> <li>• Donaldson Park – install a playground</li> <li>• Soldier’s Memorial Park – repair the gate, install a sandpit, more slides and less metal equipment; need to install a screen in the shelter shed near Soldiers Memorial Park in Wedderburn to break the wind</li> <li>• play / skate – develop a skate park, develop a full sized basketball court</li> <li>• parks – all open space areas need upgrading; continue to provide green spaces (grass and trees) that are well maintained (2); need more disabled car parks near open spaces; keep some open spaces from being planted up with trees so there is space to kick a football; need more bins; preserve all existing areas of open space; provide interpretation of natural and cultural features; define parks with fences where required</li> <li>• sports facilities – develop a motorcycle trail</li> <li>• Nardoo Walking Track - get rid of bindii</li> <li>• Wedderburn Swimming Pool: keep the pool open for longer in summer; install a fence around the toddler pool.</li> </ul> <p><b>Seniors Forum:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nardoo Creek – install outdoor fitness equipment (or in the small park opposite Wedderburn Senior Citizens)</li> <li>• Park – develop a dog park near the Wedderburn Swimming Pool</li> <li>• Skinners Flat Reservoir – upgrade tables and chairs</li> <li>• Wedderburn Senior Citizens park – provide more shade</li> <li>• Nardoo Creek Trail – provide seating along the trail</li> <li>• Market Square / Engine Park – place more seats.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Observations</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• play equipment at Soldier’s Memorial needs to be updated</li> <li>• there are opportunities to provide a more diverse range of activities for younger children, e.g. learn to ride bicycle track or water play</li> <li>• there is an opportunity to develop a smart park and demonstration environmental park</li> <li>• there is a lack of informal activities for teenagers, e.g. half basketball court, climbing wall, multi-use games areas, skate park, socialisation space, etc</li> <li>• tracks used in the bush for walking or cycling are not necessarily well maintained</li> <li>• Nardoo Walking Track needs to be redeveloped</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Donaldson Park clubrooms need to be updated</li> <li>• Wedderburn Swimming Pool needs more seats and more shade</li> <li>• Skinners Flat Reservoir could be a valuable community recreational asset if it is upgraded, e.g. walking track to the site, BBQ, picnic tables, shelter and possibly a toilet.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Recommendations</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrade play equipment at Soldiers Memorial Park (consider installation of a learn to ride bicycle track) and include a screen to act as a wind break. This could become a smart park by installing technologically advanced items such as exercise bikes that charge mobile phones and a demonstration environmental park (i.e. use of solar lighting and water saving measures).</li> <li>• Develop informal activities for young people, e.g. climbing wall, multi-use games areas, skate park or modular pump park, socialisation space, etc. at Soldier's Memorial Park.</li> <li>• Install drinking fountains in public places in Wedderburn, e.g. Soldier's Memorial Park and Nardoo Creek Trail.</li> <li>• Install additional seating and trees along Nardoo Creek Trail.</li> <li>• Consider developing an off-leash dog area in Wedderburn.</li> <li>• Prepare a development plan for Skinners Flat Reservoir, particularly focusing on items such as walking track to the site, BBQ, picnic tables, shelter and possibly a toilet.</li> <li>• Consider installation of some water play features at or near the Wedderburn Swimming Pool.</li> <li>• Advocate to Parks Victoria to grade tracks in state and national parks and provide additional facilities such as BBQs and seats.</li> </ul>

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