



Mount Gambier Sport, Recreation and Open Space Strategy

March 2022

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT TO ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER COMMUNITIES

The City of Mount Gambier recognises the Boandik people as the traditional owners and custodians of this local government area.

We respect their spiritual relationship with the land and recognise the deep feelings of attachment Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have with this land.

The City of Mount Gambier is committed to working together with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in the process of reconciliation.

We will cooperate to ensure the preservation of cultural practices, traditional sites and significant places. The City of Mount Gambier supports expressions of cultural identity, strongly champions social justice and will advocate for enriching the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Together, we seek to build a society where acceptance and understanding, respect and diversity are cornerstone values, where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples feel a strong sense of belonging and are able to participate in the life of the community



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Acknowledgements

The Mount Gambier Sport, Recreation and Open Space Strategy was developed by insideEDGE Sport and Leisure Planning and supported by Outerspace on behalf of the City of Mount Gambier.

Executive Summary

The Mount Gambier Sport, Recreation and Open Space Strategy (the Strategy) provides a strategic direction for Councils 58 open spaces including 26 recreation spaces, 10 sporting spaces, 14 nature spaces and 8 public realm spaces.

The strategy is based on an audit of each open space area in the City of Mount Gambier (supply), taking the sport and recreation and community needs (demand) into consideration.

This Strategy will strategically guide the future provision, development and management of open space in the City over the next 10 years and beyond. The Strategy will provide directions that respond to potential community needs, issues, gaps and opportunities associated with open space and the public realm and support existing and future communities and visitors.

This Strategy document includes:

- Background Information
- A vision
- Guiding principles
- Strategic priorities
- Key recommendation and individual open space recommendations

The City of Mount Gambier is generally well serviced by its open space network, with 9.18 hectares of open space per 1,000 residents. The suburb catchments of North East, North West and West have the lowest percentage of open space within the City of Mount Gambier.

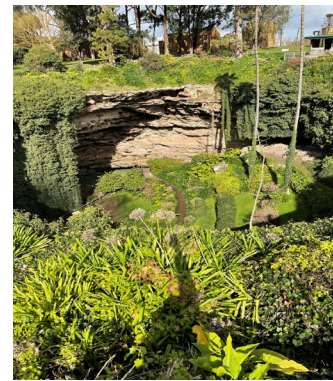
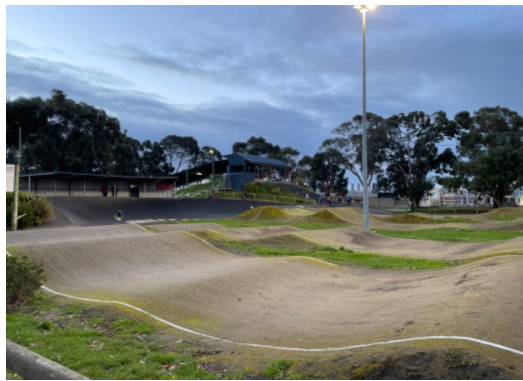
Almost all of the playgrounds provided are 'off the shelf' equipment with few being natural playspaces. These playspaces generally only cater for the younger age groups. Creating facilities that provide new and interesting opportunities will attract new participants. 'Unique attractor' facilities such as skate parks, climbing and parkour facilities, or obstacle courses create interest and engage residents in different ways.

The vision for Open Space across the City of Mount Gambier is to:

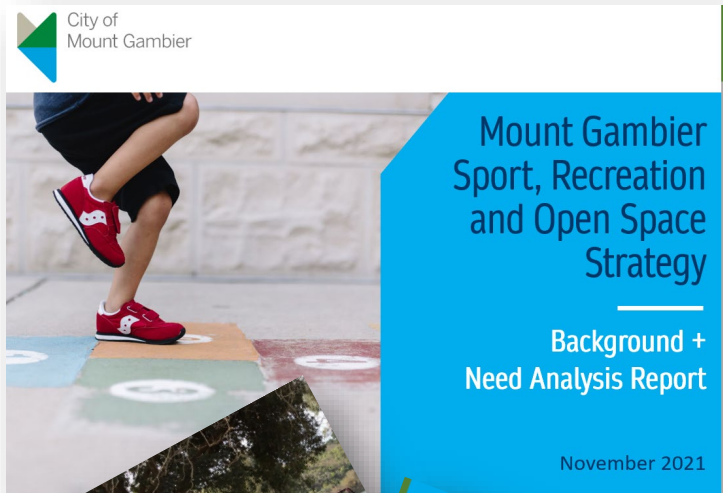
Create a network of accessible and connected high quality open spaces that encourage a range of physical activities and social opportunities for the Mount Gambier community.

Six guiding principles have been developed to provide a further framework for the Strategy. The principles relate to:

1. Our open spaces will be well distributed, safe and accessible by everyone in our community, regardless of where they reside or frequent within the city.
2. We will strive for our spaces to reflect the principles of universal design by promoting physical access for all abilities and genders.
3. Local stories, heritage and culture are considered and interpreted through design, strengthening our identity and fostering community ownership and pride of place.
4. Our sport and recreation facilities will be non-exclusive, fit for purpose and share resources to reduce the burden on our volunteers
5. Provide unique play experiences including youth spaces that are attractive to a range of ages.
6. Responsive and sustainable management practices of open space across the City.



The Sport, Recreation and Open Space Strategy comprises of 2 main reports as outlined below. The reports should be read in conjunction with each other to understand the full context of the project. The Background + Needs Analysis Report outlines all background information, findings, community consultation and needs analysis, while the Strategy document (this document) focuses on providing direction and site recommendations for open space across the City.



Mount Gambier Contex

Mount Gambier lies halfway between Adelaide and Melbourne. It is the heart of the Limestone Coast and second largest city in South Australia. It's a thriving progressive community, where residents enjoy a quality lifestyle, with city facilities and services. Home to the Blue Lake, craters, caves, sinkholes, underground waterways, beautiful gardens, combined with wineries, markets, galleries, festivals and events, fresh local produce and food. Experience the best of the country, while enjoying all the facilities of a thriving cosmopolitan city, with great shopping, award winning restaurants, and world class natural attractions.

The City has a population of just over 27,000 and also services the surrounding towns and districts. Mount Gambier enjoys a temperate Mediterranean climate; it is between 40-75 metres above sea level. The volcano's crater rim is 190 metres and the surface of The Blue Lake 12 metres above sea level. The annual rainfall is between 450mm - 820mm per year.

The largest industry is the timber industry, supported by milling operations. Dairy, beef, lamb and wool are important exports. Limestone is quarried locally, and a large Rock Lobster fishing fleet operates out of nearby Port MacDonnell.

The Mount Gambier region has a strong sporting culture aided by a number of high-level facilities that draw competitors from far afield.



Strategy Development

What does the Strategy include?

What is Open Space?

Public open space encompasses a variety of spaces within the urban environment that are readily and freely accessible to the wider community for recreation and enjoyment (Healthy Active by Design, Heart Foundation).

Open space can support a range of activities, from less structured activity (walking, cycling, playing with friends) through to more structured activities (team sport competition, training and elite sport). Open Space is generally categorised based on its main function or activity occurring at the site and its size.

Open Space in Mount Gambier

Open space in Mount Gambier contains two central categories – function and catchment hierarchy. These include:

Function (primary use and expected activity)

- Recreation
- Nature
- Sport
- Public Realm

Catchment Hierarchy (typical size and how far a user might travel)

- Local
- District
- Neighbourhood
- Regional

These two central categories can dictate what should and should not be provided at the site, as well as the catchment. It should also align with the maintenance service levels for each open space area.

It should be noted that sports facilities can be located in Regional Open Spaces, but are not necessarily of a regional standard. They will generally have more of a district level value and be dependent on the level of competition played and facility hierarchy of the relevant sports body.

Public open space is the focus of this Strategy and private open space such as private lawn bowls, golf courses, fitness and aquatic centres have not been included in this Strategy. Education facilities have not been included.

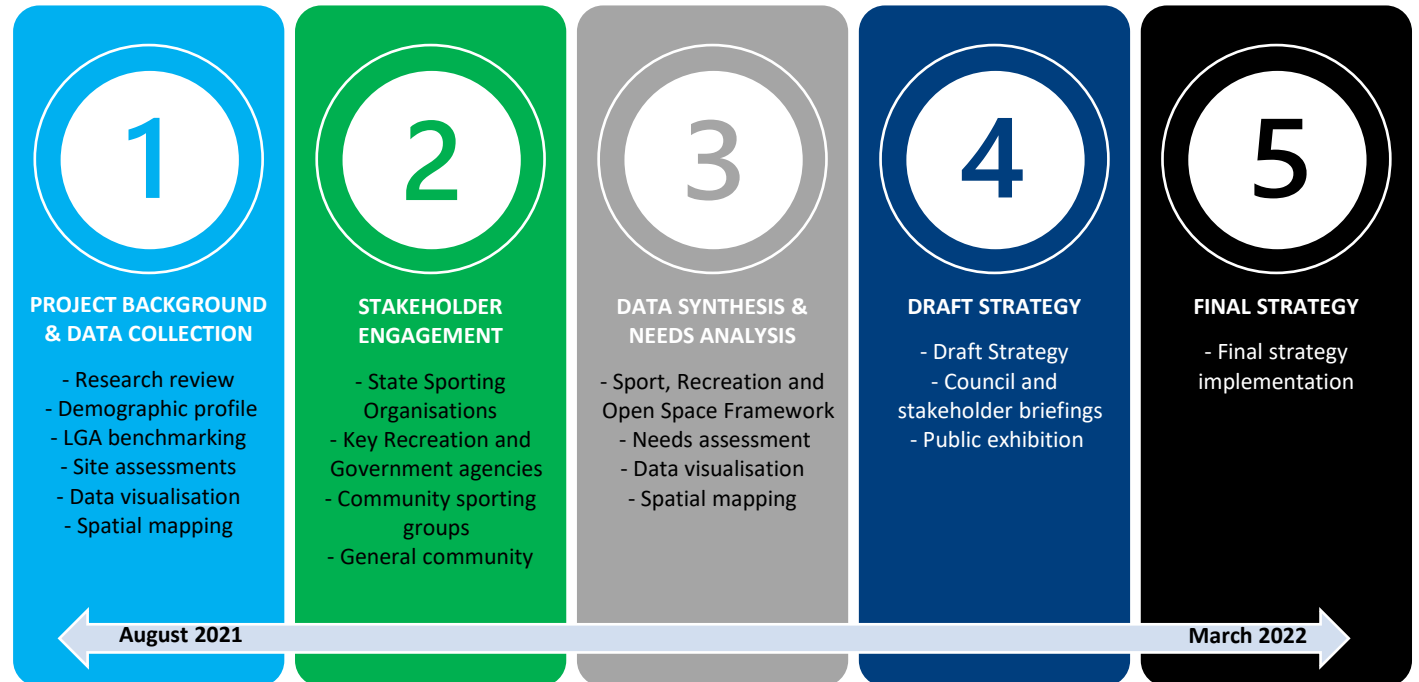
Recreation	Accessed by all to play, socialise, exercise, celebrate or participate in other activities that provide personal satisfaction or intrinsic reward. Recreation spaces enhance physical and mental health through activity that provides relaxation, amusement or stimulation.
Sport	Formal structured sporting activities. Activities are organised and generally in a team or competitive environment for either playing or training. Facilities are designed with specific infrastructure requirements such as playing surfaces, buffer zones, on and off field amenities.
Nature	Low impact recreation in a setting where people can enjoy nature and protect local biodiversity and natural areas. Sites are managed to enable recreational access while protecting local ecological and biodiversity values.
Public Realm	Includes shared spaces in a city for its visitors and residents to socialise and interact with others. These spaces can include cultural and historical sites, event spaces, plazas, memorials and public art areas. These areas are generally free and open for all.

Source: Department of Sport and Recreation, WA

Development of the Strategy

The development of this Strategy included the following and was undertaken in 5 key stages :

- Review of relevant strategies, plans, policies and research relevant to sport, recreation and open space.
- Demographic and population data of the Mount Gambier Community including projected populations.
- Facility audits of existing open space areas and analysis of findings.
- Review of local government and industry benchmarking.
- Review of key trends and influences in sport, recreation and open space participation.
- Community and stakeholder engagement.
- Identification of a hierarchy model for open space within Mount Gambier.
- Development of the Strategic Framework including a vision, guiding principles, and strategies for the provision of open space and recreation facilities.
- City wide strategic priorities and individual site recommendations.



Open Space in the City of Mount Gambier

A baseline inventory of open space provision was established via the auditing of 58 open space areas across the City of Mount Gambier.

The City of Mount Gambier is made up of the following open spaces:

- 26 Recreation Open Space
- 10 Sporting Open Spaces
- 14 Nature Open Space
- 8 Public Realm Spaces

Facility audits were not carried out on private open spaces such as private golf courses / tennis facilities, schools or trails and pathways.

26	10	14	8
Recreation Open Spaces	Sporting Open Spaces	Nature Open Spaces	Public Realm Open Spaces
33	9	9	7
Local Level Open Spaces	Neighbourhood Level Open Spaces	District Level Open Spaces	Regional Level Open Spaces
29	2	3	1
Playgrounds	Skate Parks	BMX / Pump Tracks	Golf Course
4	7	33	8
AFL Oval	Cricket Oval	Tennis Courts	Diamond Sports
1	4	14	1
Synthetic Hockey Pitches	Soccer Fields	Netball Courts	Lawn Bowls

Strategic Context

The Mount Gambier Sport, Recreation and Open Space Strategy is influenced by a range of strategies, plans, policies and research developed by the City of Mount Gambier, government authorities and other agencies.

The following provides a high-level overview of strategic documents which guide and support the development of the Sport, Recreation and Open Space Strategy. It should be noted that a number of these strategies may not reflect the recent impacts of COVID-19. These documents however still provide critical context from a policy perspective and will continue to guide and support future Strategy recommendations.

CITY OF MOUNT GAMBIER

- Strategic Plan 2020-2024
- A Futures Paper for City Development
- Charter for Children
- Youth Engagement Strategy
- Reconciliation Action Plan 2020-2022
- Public Art Strategy
- Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2020-2024
- Regional Public Health Plan
- Limestone Coast Regional Plan
- Greater Mount Gambier Master Plan
- Culture and Heritage Plan
- Infrastructure Asset Management Plan
- Building and Structures Asset Management Plan
- Long Term Financial Plan
- Digital Strategy and Action Plan
- Crater Lakes Management Plan
- Memorial Policy

STATE & FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

- National Sport Plan 2030
- Ausplay 2019-2020
- Recreation, Sport and Racing Strategic Plan 2021-2025
- Game On: Getting South Australia moving
- State Sport & Recreation Infrastructure Plan 2020-2040
- SportAus emerging issues and opportunities for sport participation
- South Australian Regional Level Recreation and Sport Facilities Planning Guidelines

SPORT, RECREATION + OPEN SPACE

- The Value of Community Sport Infrastructure
- Heart Foundation Healthy by Design website
- Parks and Leisure Australia (WA) Guidelines for Community Infrastructure
- Various National Sporting Bodies Facility Guidelines
- Various State Sporting Bodies Infrastructure Strategies

The Mount Gambier Community

POPULATION The City of Mount Gambier has seen a 11% growth in population since 2006. The current population of 27,433 is expected to grow to 29,684 by 2036 (+2,251).

48.5% are male and **51.5%** are female

2.2% Identified as being Aboriginal or Torrens Strait Islander people.



AGE

The median age of people in Mount Gambier is **40 years**. 23.6% of the population was aged between 0 and 17, and **24.5%** were aged 60 years and over.

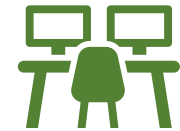
Mount Gambier has a higher proportion of people in the younger age groups (0 to 17 years) and a lower proportion of people in the older age groups (60+ years) compared to the Limestone Coast Region.

CULTURAL DIVERSITY The three largest ancestries in Mount Gambier are Australian, English and Scottish.

10.8% of people in the City of Mount Gambier were born overseas.

88.5% of the population spoke English only, and 6.0% spoke a non-English language. The dominant language spoken at home, other than English, was Karen (1.2% of the population)

EMPLOYMENT 11,614 people living in the City of Mount Gambier in 2016 were employed, of which **59%** worked full-time and **39%** part-time.



\$ The median weekly personal income for people aged 15 years and over in Mount Gambier was **\$583**, which is lower than the State average of \$600.

Housing Tenure



28.3% were owned outright, **33.0%** were owned with a mortgage and **34.5%** were rented.

Of all households, **64.6%** were family households, **32.8%** were single person households and **2.5%** were group households

ASSISTANCE



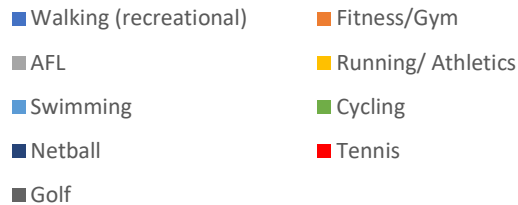
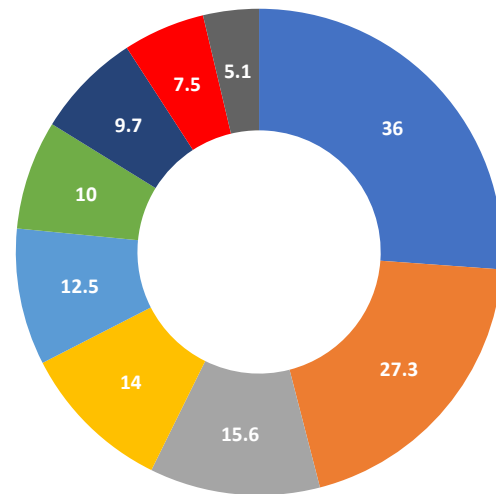
6.5% require assistance in their day-to-day lives due to disability

Participation Trends in Mount Gambier

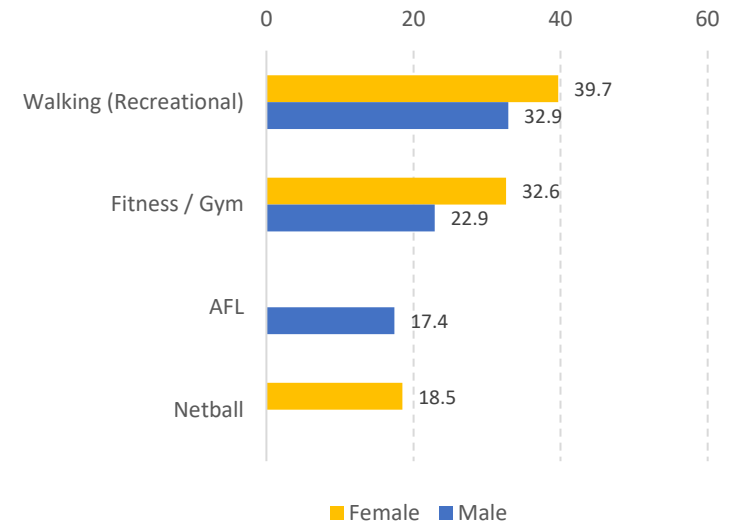
The 2019-2020 Ausplay survey results outlined the following for people living in Mount Gambier:

- the most popular physical activity was walking (recreational), followed by fitness/gym, AFL and running/athletics for all ages.
- Walking (recreational) was the most popular for both female and male participation.
- AFL was the top activity for sporting club related participation for males (all ages) and netball was the most popular for female (all ages) participation.

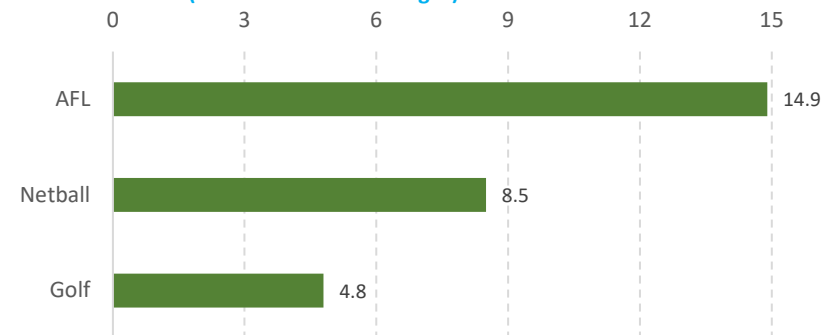
% Top Activities in Mount Gambier LGA (All Ages)



% Top 4 Activities by Gender in Mount Gambier LGA (All Ages)



% Top Activities for sports club participation in Mount Gambier LGA (Male & Female – All ages)



*Please note that there was limited data on children's participation in Mount Gambier through the Ausplay survey.

What We Have Heard From Our Community

- 89% of survey respondents stated that the number and range of open spaces, parks, sport and recreation facilities were as good as or better than similar regional cities.
- 75% of survey respondents stated that the quality of open spaces, parks, sport and recreation facilities were as good as or better than similar regional cities.
- Mount Gambier has strong participation in a diverse range of sports.
- Our open spaces are generally well maintained and we have access to a wide range of spaces.
- We highly value the Railway Lands and the shared use Rail Trail.
- Our Crater Lakes precinct, being so close to the city, are a unique point of difference and provide a much-loved natural environment for many recreational uses for our community.
- Generally, our sporting grounds (such as the actual ovals and pitches) are known to be of reasonably high quality.
- New developments such as the Mount Gambier Pump Track are well supported as positive and productive use of open space.
- Many sporting codes report strong ongoing participation and growth in junior numbers
- Women’s sporting participation is diversifying and particularly increasing across football, soccer and cricket.
- The Limestone Coast Regional Sporting Academy is successfully providing new pathways for elite local sporting talent.

13 pop up sessions

300+ comments on consultation frames

123 resident / city user surveys

50 digital map comments

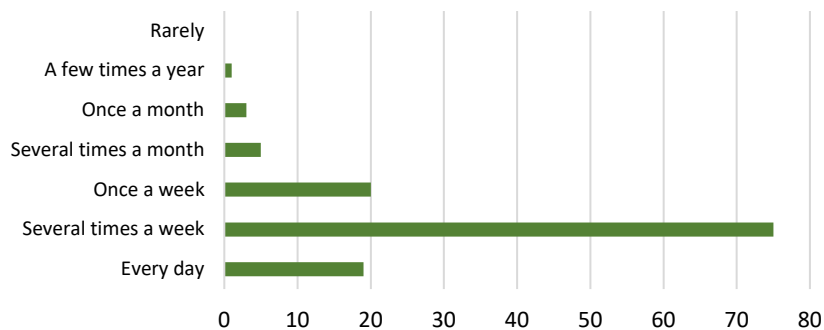
10 round table and facilitated sessions

30 local sporting club surveys

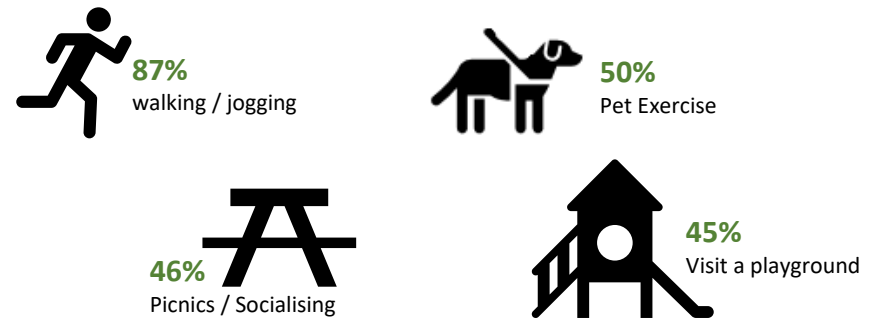
16 state sporting body surveys

20+ interviews

93% of survey respondents visit / use open space at least one a week or more in Mount Gambier



98% of survey respondents participate in outdoor recreation activities other than organised sport.



Open Space Inventory

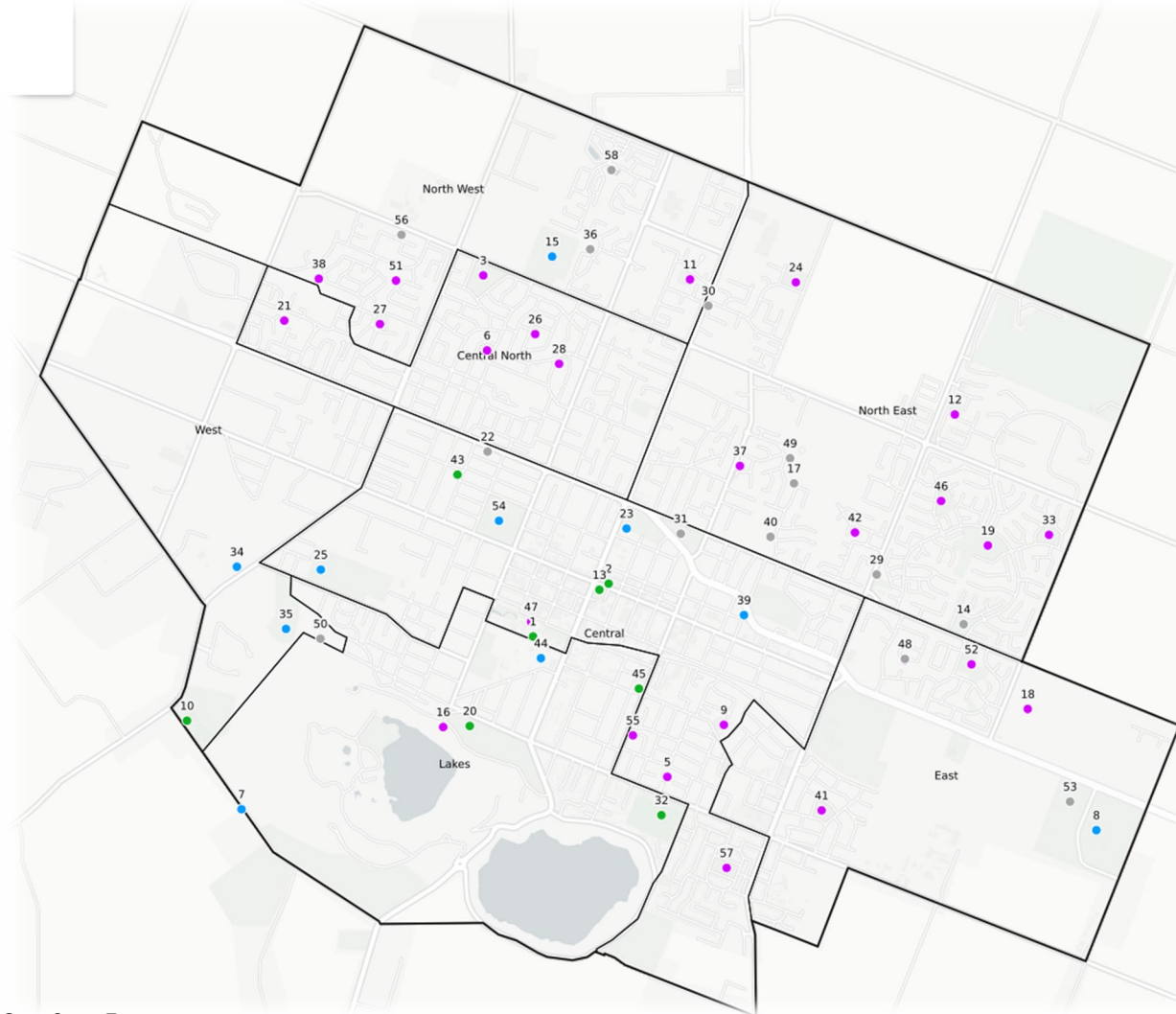
58 open space areas were audited across the City of Mount Gambier as part of the project.

The audit of selected parks and reserves using *Sports Facility Auditor* collated data on active recreation facilities, supporting infrastructure and site characteristics. Part Two of the Background Report (Framework + Needs Analysis) examined open space provision across the City. Facility audits were not carried out on private open space such as private golf courses / tennis facilities, schools or trails and pathways.

Site names for each reserve can be found on the following page which relate to each number on the adjacent map.

Key Findings:

- The City of Mount Gambier is generally well serviced by its open space network, with 9.18 hectares of open space per 1,000 residents
- The suburb catchments of North East (3.0%), North West (3.4%) and West (6.5%) all have a lower percentage of open space to total land than the average provision within the City of Mount Gambier (7.44%).
- 110.3ha is classified as sporting, 98.7ha is recreation, 24.7ha is Public Realm and 17.9ha is Nature open space. The Lakes suburb catchment has the most total open space area of all the suburb catchments (60.68ha).
- Almost all of the playgrounds provided are 'off the shelf' equipment with few being more natural playspaces. There are no playgrounds in the west suburb catchment.
- 63% of change facilities provided at sporting open spaces are not female friendly. 37% are in poor condition.
- Majority of sporting sites that provide either tennis and/or netball courts are not compliant in terms of their runoff.
- Provision of active recreation facility components is generally limited, particularly for activity-specific facilities such as skate parks, BMX tracks, fitness equipment and multiple courts.
- The Crater Lakes Precinct is a significant area of natural open space within the City, providing an integral recreational, cultural and social destination for the community.



Open Space Type:

- Recreation
- Nature
- Sport
- Public Realm

No.	Site Name	No.	Site Name	No.	Site Name
1	24 Margaret Street – Walkway	25	Hastings Cunningham Reserve	49	Saint Martins Drive Reserve
2	29 Commercial Street East - Walkway	26	Hayes Crescent Reserve	50	Sealey Reserve
3	AF Sutton Memorial Park	27	Heaver Drive Reserve	51	Stiles Street Reserve
4	Akuna Reserve	28	James McArthur Reserve	52	Tumut Drive Reserve
5	Argyle Pl Reserve	29	Kennedy Avenue Reserve 316	53	Umpherston Sinkhole
6	Banksia/Acacia St Reserve	30	Kywong Court Reserve	54	Vansittart Park
7	Blue Lake Golf Links	31	Lady Nelson Park	55	William A Crouch Reserve
8	Blue Lake Sports Park	32	Lake Terrace Cemetery	56	Wireless Road West Reserve
9	Boandik Terrace Blowhole	33	Lakewood Reserve	57	Wirrina Park
10	Carinya Garden Cemetery	34	Malseed Park	58	Woodlands Drive Drainage Reserve
11	Carmel Drive Reserve	35	Marist Park		
12	Carnoustie Court Reserve	36	Matthew Flinders Way Reserve		
13	Cave Gardens	37	Max Young Memorial Park		
14	Conroe Drive Reserve	38	Maxwell Street Reserve		
15	Corriedale Park	39	McDonald Park		
16	Crater Lakes	40	McDonald Park School Reserve		
17	Dalkeith Drive Reserve	41	Melaleuca Reserve		
18	Dimjalla Skate Park	42	Michielan Reserve		
19	Don McDonnell Reserve	43	National Servicemans Memorial Park		
20	Elizabeth Knight Reserve	44	Olympic Park		
21	Elm Avenue Reserve	45	Pioneer Park		
22	Engelbrecht Cave	46	Quarry Reserve		
23	Frew Park	47	Railway Lands		
24	Gladigau Park	48	Ramsay Avenue		

Needs Analysis

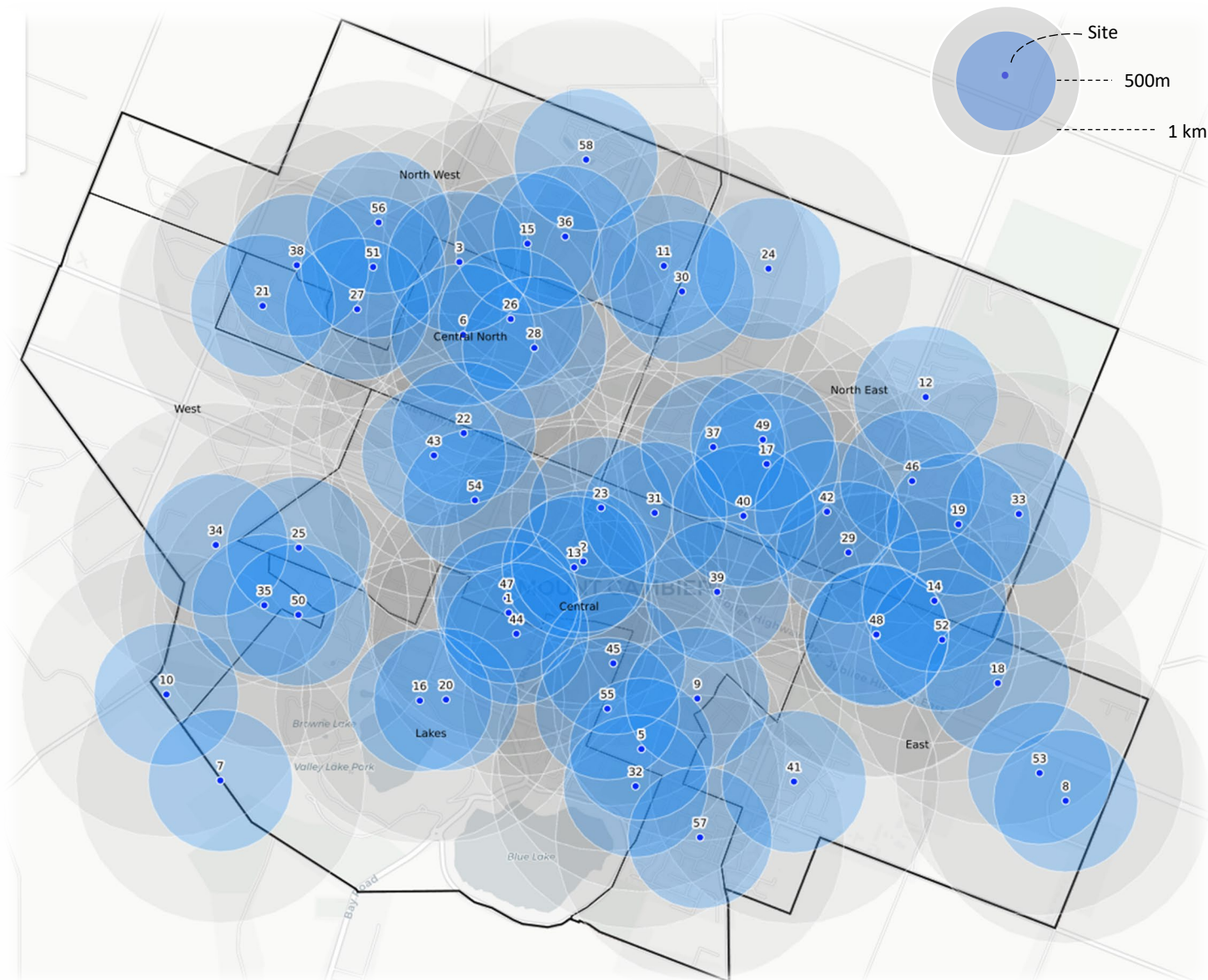
The Open Space Needs Analysis identified gaps in provision, areas of need and opportunities for development.

The Key findings include:

- The inner suburb catchment have a good provision and distribution of open space sites with only a few gaps. The further you disperse out from the CBD, especially around the edges the provision lessens. It should be noted that population also is lower in these areas.
- Provide additional active recreation facilities in local open space where there are gaps in provision, particularly in the outer edges of the LGA
- Examine the playground and youth space provision and type, and ensure diversity and variety of options across the network
- Identify reserves that can support neighbourhood / district level active recreation nodes that support multipurpose use and provision of activity-specific facilities with larger catchments (e.g. skate parks).
- The suburb catchments of **North East**, **North West** and **West** all have a lower percentage of open space to total land than the average provision within the City of Mount Gambier.

Further detail is available in the Background + Needs Analysis Report.

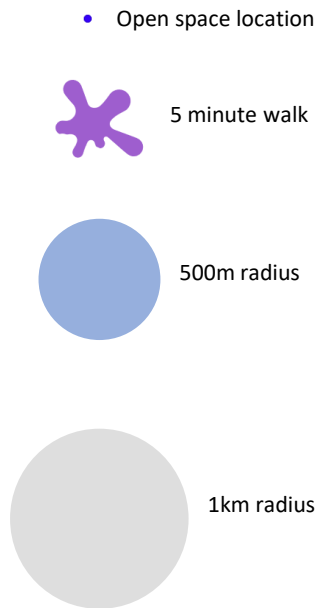
Additional open space provision maps can be found in Appendix 1.



Walkability to Open Space

Provision of publicly accessible open space within a walkable catchment (500 metres / 5-minute walk) influences uptake of physical and active recreation activities, including high participation rate activities such as walking, running, cycling and exercise/fitness activities.

The adjacent map outlines all the audited sites and a 5 minute walk access ring. Not all residents near sites can access them within a 5 minute walk. This could be due to roads, fencing and other access issues.



Sport + Recreation Provision

Sport and Recreation provision and benchmark analysis provides the City of Mount Gambier a guide as to the number of facilities it should provide based on their population. The below table outlines the current provision of sport/recreation facilities across the city and how these stack up to the benchmark. Overall, the City of Mount Gambier provides an acceptable level for its population. Athletics and soccer pitches are slightly under the benchmark, while playgrounds, diamond sports, cricket ovals, netball and tennis courts are over supplied. A catchment of 70,000 has also been included in this table as this is the City of Mount Gambier's reach and should be taken into consideration. This is due to some facilities being used by associations/clubs who have teams that travel to Mount Gambier from other parts of the Limestone Coast to compete and use the facility.

Sport/Recreation	Industry Benchmark	Provision based on Mt Gambier population 27,433	Mount Gambier Existing Provision	Variance	Provision needed based on catchment population of 70,000
BMX Facility (Formal - Regional)	1: 50,000	1	1	-	1
Indoor Sports/Recreation Centre (Minimum 3 courts + ancillary amenities)	1: 50,000-100,000	1	1	-	1
Regional Sports Facility (aquatic and indoor sports 6/7 court facility)	1: 250,000	1	Currently being built	-	1
AFL Oval	1: 8,000	3-4	4 (not including schools)	-	8
Athletics (grass infrastructure)	1: 40,000	1	1 school site currently used	-1	1
Diamond Sports	1: 10,000-14,000	3	8	+5	7
Soccer Pitches	1: 4,800	5-6	4	-2	14
Cricket Oval	1: 5,000 - 8,000	5	7 (not including schools)	+2	14
Hockey Pitch	1: 100,000 (1 x synthetic + 2-3 turf)	1	1 synthetic pitch 2 turf pitches	-	1 synthetic pitch 2 turf pitches
Netball	1: 3,500	8	14	+6	15
Lawn Bowls	1: 25,000 – 50,000	1	1 (+ 1 not on council land, separate croquet facility)	-	1
Tennis	1: 1,875	15	33 (not including private courts)	+18	37
Golf Course	1: 30,000	1	1 (+ private course)	-	2
Playgrounds	1:2,000	13	29	+16	35

What we have and what we need

Playspaces

Providing opportunities to play is a priority for the City of Mount Gambier. Best practice is to provide an assortment of play opportunities for a variety of ages including adventurous / nature play based to support children in their social and physical development, as well as connecting them to nature. It is also important to provide inclusive play for all abilities.

What we have – There are currently 29 playgrounds across Mount Gambier. This equates to approximately 6.9 playgrounds per 1,000 children (0-11 years). Parks and Leisure Australia indicate a benchmark of 1 playground for 2,000 residents.

There are a high number of sites that offer single pieces of equipment that don't connect to other equipment or parts of the reserve. Footpaths and access points are often lacking, as well as supporting amenities such as shelters, seating, BBQs and toilets.

What we need – While the city is well supplied with playgrounds (1: 945), there is a lack of unique / adventurous playgrounds. Crater Lakes Playground is an opportunity to provide a Regional playspace that offers a variety of different play (including all abilities) that will attract people from outside the catchment area. There is an opportunity to redevelop several playgrounds into District level playgrounds also in those areas lacking open space areas.

Outdoor Community Courts

Outdoor courts provide space for formal, informal and social sports and are becoming increasingly popular. Multi-purpose courts allowing for a range of users should be considered as best practice.

What we have – Mount Gambier has an over supply of outdoor courts. There are 33 tennis courts, 14 netball courts and a small number of community courts across the City (majority are basketball).

What we need – Parks and Leisure Australia indicate a benchmark of 1: 1,875 for tennis courts and 1: 3,500 (8) for netball courts. Based on these benchmarks Mount Gambier currently provides a ratio of court per population for tennis of 1: 831 and 1: 1,959 for netball.

Skate and Youth Spaces

Providing youth spaces for the community is vital to the social and physical health of the youth community. These spaces are not limited to skate parks or BMX tracks but also play areas of interest to teens that are inclusive regardless of age or gender.

Best practice youth recreation spaces are designed for safety including lighting; located close to public transport, shops, schools and other facilities; include amenities such as seating in groups, shelter, shade and bins; and involve young people (including girls, and culturally diverse young people) in the design and management of these places.

What we have – Mount Gambier currently has 2 skate parks (AF Sutton + Dimjalla) and 3 pump tracks (Dimjalla, Hastings Cunningham + Melaleuca) across the City.

What we need – Parks and Leisure Australia indicate a benchmark of 1 BMX (dirt track) for 5,000 to 10,000 people. They also recommend the following for skate parks; Neighbourhood 1: 5,000-10,000, District 1: 10,000 – 25,000, Regional 1: 25,000-50,000. Mount Gambier is undersupplied in youth spaces especially a centrally located regional skate space.

Sports Grounds

Multi-purpose sports grounds are generally provided at a District level open space. Best practice is to provide sports fields in a double format to support summer and winter sports as well as senior and junior club based participation. Off-field amenities should also be present and include clubroom (canteen, storage, change rooms and toilets), spectator viewing areas, play spaces, car parking and other facilities such as cricket practice nets and outdoor courts.

What we have – There are 10 sporting open space areas, including 15 oval/pitches, 8 diamond sport areas, synthetic hockey field and a golf course.

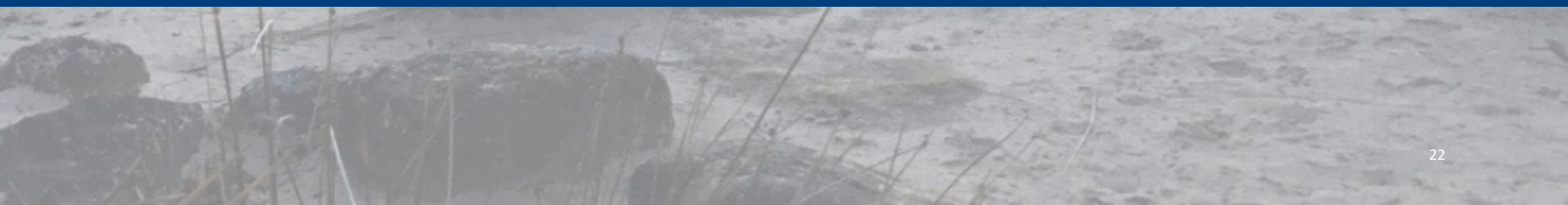
What we need – Parks and Leisure Australia indicate a combined benchmark of 1 sports space for 4,000-5,000 residents. Mount Gambier well and truly meets this benchmark. It is not recommended to develop any additional sports spaces, rather make sure the spaces provided are fit for purpose and flexible in their use. Additional soccer pitches should be considered on a participation demand assessment given the current undersupply along with Athletics.

Framework + Strategic Priorities



VISION:

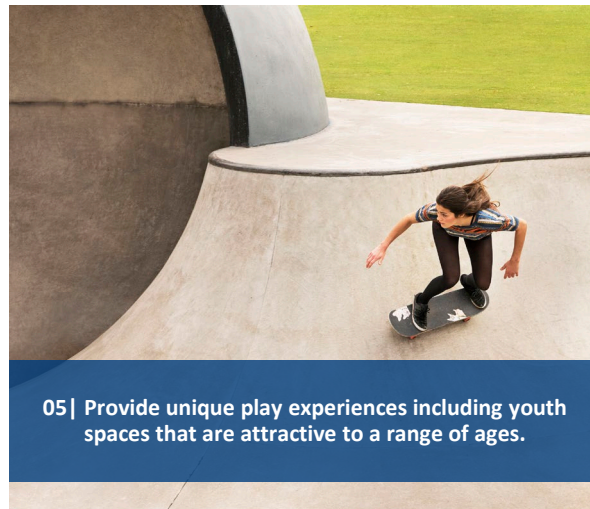
Create a network of accessible and connected high quality open spaces that encourage a range of physical activities and social opportunities for the Mount Gambier community.



Strategic Priorities and Principles

The Mount Gambier Sport, Recreation and Open Space Strategy establishes six strategic priorities that aim to create a network of accessible and connected high quality open spaces that encourages a range of physical activities and social opportunities for the Mount Gambier community

The following principles should be considered in the planning, design and management of any new or existing open spaces across the City of Mount Gambier. These principles are based on best practice approaches to the provision of open space and the needs of the Mount Gambier community.



Sport, Recreation + Open Space Framework

The Sport, Recreation and Open Space Framework outlines open spaces by a number of key characteristics. These characteristics relate to the purpose/function of the site, accessibility (catchment), activities and site infrastructure. It recognises that not all open space can or should be developed and maintained at the same level and will vary according to its hierarchy catchment. The Sport, Recreation and Open Space Framework will assist Council in developing agreed service levels that align with this hierarchy.

Characteristics	Local	Neighbourhood
Purpose / Function	Small park that services recreation needs of the immediate surrounding residential population. Unlikely to be used for sport.	Serves as the recreational and social focus of a community. Residents are attracted by a variety of features. Can be used for junior sport or training if appropriate in size.
Access	Within 500m or 5 min walk	Within 1km or 10 min walk
Size	0.4ha to 1ha	1ha to 5ha
Length of Stay (approx.)	30-45 minutes	45-60 minutes
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's play, dog walking, picnics, socialising. • Relaxation and rest stops. • Walking, running and cycling. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's play that accommodates a range of ages. • Other recreation opportunities i.e. basketball court, small pump track. • Open parkland and nature spaces.
Site Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard play equipment and combination system. • Seating. • Natural shade. • Irrigated grass areas. • Plantings. • Pathways. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play equipment and nature play elements. • Seats and picnic facilities. • Drinking fountain. • Shelter structure. • Natural shade and vegetation plantings. • Youth spaces which could include multi-purpose court.
Sport Infrastructure	N/A - Formal sport is not recommended to be developed in local level open spaces.	<p>Facilities to be developed and maintained at the appropriate standard set out by the relevant SSO's facility guidelines based on site classification for the sport.</p> <p>These sites generally cater for regular training and competition needs of a club. Majority of these sites will be single club or seasonal sport (summer/winter) sport use with one user at a time. Facilities and playing surface are provided to a "home and away" competition standard (not large events or finals).</p>

Characteristics	District	Regional
Purpose / Function	Principally designed to provide for organised formal sport. Likely to include substantial recreation space and some nature space. Serves several neighbourhoods with players and visitors travelling from surrounding districts. Multiple activities can be played at one time.	Can accommodate important recreation and organised sport spaces as well as significant conservation and/or environmental features. May provide substantial facilities for organised sport, play, social interaction, relaxation and enjoyment of nature.
Access	Within 3 kilometres or 5 minute drive.	Serves one or more geographical or social regions and is likely to attract visitors from outside any one local government area. Users not living within close proximity will use either private vehicles or public transport.
Size	5ha+	Size is variable and dependent on function. When sporting space is identified as a necessary regional function, allocations for playing fields and sports facilities should be assessed on a case by case basis.
Length of Stay (approx.)	60-90 minutes	60-120min +
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sufficient space to accommodate a variety of concurrent uses, including organised sports, children’s play, picnicking, exercising the dog, social gatherings and individual activities. • Includes a combination of bushland, open parkland for casual play and space for organised sport. • Accommodate multiple user groups, clubs and associations. 	Should be large enough to accommodate various concurrent uses, including organised sports, children’s play, picnicking, bush walking, and protection of natural features.
Site Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play equipment , combination system, climbing structures, potential basketball/netball half court, natural play elements, iconic features. • Seats, multiple picnic facilities, BBQ, drink fountain. • Shade and Shelter. • Amenity landscaping and large turf area for a kick about depending on site constraints. • Car parking. • Integrated Public Art. • Public Toilet. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive play equipment with opportunity for site specific play elements. • Seats, multiple picnic facilities, BBQs, drink fountains. • Landscaping treatments including adequate plantings for shade. • Internal and connected pathways. • Shade and shelter. Potential for artificial shade over play equipment. • Large turf area for a kick about depending on site constraints. • Multipurpose courts / Rage Cage. • Integrated Youth Spaces. • Car parking / storm water works. • Integrated Public art. • Lighting. • Public Toilet.
Sport Infrastructure	<p>Facilities to be developed and maintained at the appropriate standard set out by the relevant SSO’s facility guidelines based on site classification for the sport.</p> <p>Facility caters for regular training and competition needs of a club. Facilities and playing surface are provided to a “home and away” competition standard (not large events or finals). Depending on size of the site multiple sport could be accommodated at the same time.</p>	<p>Facilities to be developed and maintained at the appropriate standard set out by the relevant SSO’s facility guidelines based on site classification/ competition played for the sport. These spaces are often used for Association level competitions.</p> <p>Facilities should cater for more than one code or activity. These facilities ideally have the capacity to host finals and representative games and have high quality playing surfaces which are maintained to a high standard along with the appropriate off-fields amenities such as clubrooms and spectator viewing areas.</p>

City Wide Strategic Priorities

No	Strategic Priority	Strategic Priority Implementation
1	Our open spaces will be well distributed, safe and accessible by everyone in our community, regardless of where they reside or frequent within the city.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure any new open space is developed based on the appropriate hierarchy, function and is accessible by the immediate community. 2. Provide circuit paths within reserves to encourage walking and running within open spaces. 3. Investigate opportunities to increase access to open space through active trail networks in those areas that have gaps. 4. Develop multipurpose facilities at each open space site that cater for a range of activities. 5. Consider opportunities for older people in any open space renewal or improvement activities. 6. Incorporate CPTED principles in the design and upgrade of open space and recreation facilities. 7. Seek to deliver Neighbourhood open space to areas of undersupply. This will be achieved by raising an existing local open space to Neighbourhood standard – increasing size may be problematic but increasing the level of enhancement is valid. 8. Develop Master Plans for key recreation and sporting sites across the City such as Hastings Cunningham Reserve, Olympic Park, Malseed Park, Vansittart Park, Don McDonnell Reserve, Frew Park, McDonald Park and the Rail Lands and Rail Trail.
2	We will strive for our spaces to reflect the principles of universal design by promoting physical access for all abilities and genders.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Address gaps in female friendly change facilities in our sporting open spaces in partnership with the local sporting clubs and State Sporting Organisations. 2. Ensure any new playspace design considers and includes play elements for all abilities and genders. 3. Ensure future footpath networks provide logical and safe connections to recreational, sport and open spaces, and are suitable for recreational activities such as walking and running.
3	Local stories, heritage and culture are considered and interpreted through design, strengthening our identity and fostering community ownership and pride of place	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consult with the local Aboriginal community about opportunities to share and celebrate local Aboriginal heritage and significant sites throughout the City. 2. Implement public art and other cultural initiatives in parks and open spaces. 3. Reflect the diverse community of Mount Gambier in the naming or renaming of open space and recreation facilities (for example, new facilities named for local persons or reflecting local cultures and languages).
4	Our sport and recreation facilities will be non- exclusive, fit for purpose and share resources to reduce the burden on our volunteers.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase the diversity of sport and recreation opportunities in parks and reserves especially for those sports that currently do not have a home ground. 2. Co-locate active recreation facilities with existing recreation opportunities such as playspaces and playing fields. 3. Identify opportunities to incorporate unique facility components into multipurpose design. 4. Partner with peak bodies, clubs, community organisations and private operators to deliver sport and recreation opportunities targeting new participants in parks and reserves.
5	Provide unique play experiences including youth spaces that are attractive to a range of ages.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a Playground Strategy for the City of Mount Gambier to guide the provision, upgrade and management of public playgrounds, ensuring that there is diversity and variety across the City. 2. Develop a centrally located youth space that incorporates a skate park and other suitable elements which could include a 3 x 3 basketball court, parkour and socializing areas. 3. Provide supporting infrastructure to support extended length of stay at neighbourhood-level open space sites including bins, BBQs and toilets. 4. As part of a Play Space Strategy, identify opportunities for nature and adventure based play especially at the Crater Lakes Precinct.
6	Responsive and sustainable management practices of open space across the City.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review and establish new service standards to better reflect use, profile and hierarchy of open space. 2. Deliver a best practice design manual for new and existing open space to advocate for the delivery of high quality spaces. 3. Seek funding opportunities for sport, recreation and open space developments from new and existing sources.

Key Recommendations:

The following key recommendations are city wide priorities and should be undertaken in the short term:

- Undertake master plans at key recreation and sporting sites across the city as Hastings Cunningham Reserve, Olympic Park (+ surrounding areas), Malseed Park, Vansittart Park, Don McDonnell Reserve, Frew Park, McDonald Park and Blue Lakes Sports Park.
- Acknowledging its integral role and function for the community, undertake a master plan for the Crater Lakes Precinct, in consultation with all current and future key stakeholders.
- Develop a Sport Facilities Framework to address the gaps in off-field amenity provision especially female friendly change facilities and make sure facilities are fit for purpose aligning with their relevant hierarchy/classification. This will include a strategic response to the identified over- or under- supply of sport and recreation provisions in Mount Gambier for sports such as tennis, soccer and athletics.
- Develop at least one (1) sporting reserve into a neutral Premier site for Mount Gambier that can host finals and exhibition games, making sure the site is linked to economic benefits such as commercial areas / central hub of the City.
- Develop a playground strategy to guide the provision, upgrade and management of all playspaces across the City.
- Develop a central youth space that could incorporate a skate park and other supporting amenities such as 3 x 3 basketball court and /or parkour.
- Explore opportunities for strategically located dog facilities across the City.
- Establish maintenance service levels for all open spaces, that are consistent with the open space hierarchy.
- Aligning to the open space hierarchy, review open space assets to ensure equitable provision across the City. Seek opportunities within legislative frameworks and Council's own policy provisions, to improve the future quality of open space.



Implementation

Implementation

The development of sport, recreation and open spaces usually requires funding from a range of sources. The following stakeholders are identified as potential sources of funding to help deliver and implement this Strategy:

- Local Government.
- State Government (i.e. Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing).
- Federal Government.
- State Sporting Organisations.
- Private sector.
- Trusts and Foundations (i.e. Australian Sports Foundation).

Not all strategies, projects and works are the same priority, and it may not be feasible for Council and other stakeholders to commit to achieving every item. A strategic approach to the implementation that considers the priorities, ensures equitable outcomes across the community and reflects available funding is therefore required.

An Implementation Plan has been developed to summarise the potential projects and works identified in the Sport, Recreation and Open Space Strategy. This includes a 10 Year Implementation Plan that identifies higher priorities and potential projects for implementation over the next 10 years.

The Implementation Plan aims to guide Council and other stakeholders in future decision making and resource allocation. Having a Strategy that clearly indicates what needs to be done and what the priorities are is extremely important.

Establishing programs and initiatives that activate facilities and build partnerships with stakeholders will ensure that the impact of investment in sport and recreation facilities is maximised.



The following site recommendations aim to guide the prioritised delivery of recommendations of the Sport, Recreation and Open Space Strategy. The recommendations outlined in the below table are based on the assessment of opportunities at the time of the development of the Strategy and may change over time depending on funding and other relevant factors. The implementation of these recommendations will be undertaken in accordance with Council’s budget process and will be dependent on Council’s prioritisation across the organisation.

Open Space Site	Recommendation	Priority Level High = 0-2 years Medium = 3-5 years Low = 5+ years
24 Margaret Street – Walkway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain space as is. No improvement needed. 	-
29 Commercial Street East - Walkway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain space as is. No improvement needed. 	-
AF Sutton Memorial Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance playspace and broaden age focus including nature play. Upgrade toilets and install a BBQ. 	Medium
Akuna Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance play space. Establish new path that connect the roadside footpath to the play space. Provide seating near play space. 	Low
Argyle Pl Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance play space. 	Low
Banksia/Acacia St Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove playspace. 	High
Blue Lake Golf Links	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain space as is. No improvement needed. 	-
Blue Lake Sports Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a master plan for the site in partnership with site users, that will provide a coordinated and strategic planning approach to the provision and development of sport and recreation infrastructure ensuring it is fit for purpose and meets the needs of the community. 	High
Boandik Terrace Blowhole	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide seating connected to the play space. Install a bin. 	Low
Carinya Garden Cemetery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain space as is. No improvement needed. 	-
Carmel Drive Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance the play space and broaden age focus including nature play. Provide drinking fountain. Broaden the multi-use value of the court. Provide additional seating linked to shady areas. Install a bin. 	Medium
Carnoustie Court Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase landscaping treatments. Provide shade and seating. 	Medium
Cave Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain space as is. No improvement needed. 	-
Conroe Drive Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish natural surface pathways that guide use of the area and provide safe and accessible walking opportunities. 	Low
Corriedale Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a master plan for the site in partnership with site users, that will provide a coordinated and strategic planning approach to the provision and development of sport and recreation infrastructure ensuring it is fit for purpose and meets the needs of the community. Investigate a District level play space to increase open space catchment in the area. 	High

Open Space Site	Recommendation	Priority Level High = 0-2 years Medium = 3-5 years Low = 5+ years
Crater Lakes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a master plan for the site focusing on a regional playspace that is connected to the surrounding nature areas. This master plan should seek to enhance the precinct as a recreational, cultural and social destination, integral to the identity of our community. Consideration must be given to the co-existence of a variety of recreational pursuits, such as walking, disc golf, mount biking, aquatic activity and adventure play. 	High
Dalkeith Drive Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain space as is. No improvement needed. 	-
Dimjalla Skate Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine if this space stays long term. If yes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creating gathering and rest area opportunities including picnic facilities and seating. Improve grass areas and landscape. Install lighting for twilight use. Consider other youth components such as a multipurpose half court facility. 	Medium
Don McDonnell Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a master plan for the site that will provide a coordinated and strategic planning approach to the provision and development of community recreation infrastructure ensuring it will meet the needs of the community now and into the future. 	High
Elizabeth Knight Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain space as is. No improvement needed. 	-
Elm Avenue Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance play space. 	Low
Engelbrecht Cave	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain space as is. No improvement needed. 	-
Frew Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a master plan for the site in partnership with site users, that will provide a coordinated and strategic planning approach to the provision and development of sport and community infrastructure ensuring it is fit for purpose and meets the needs of the community. 	High
Gladigau Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance play space. 	Low
Hastings Cunningham Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a master plan for the site in partnership with site users, that will provide a coordinated and strategic planning approach to the provision and development of sport and recreation infrastructure ensuring it is fit for purpose and meets the needs of the community. 	High
Hayes Crescent Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance play space. Broaden the multi-use value of the court. 	Medium
Heaver Drive Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance play space. Broaden the multi-use value of the court. Consider a shade structure with seating. 	Low
James McArthur Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove playspace. 	High
Kennedy Avenue Reserve 316	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain space as is. No improvement needed. 	-
Kywong Court Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain space as is. No improvement needed. 	-
Lady Nelson Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain space as is. No improvement needed. 	-
Lake Terrace Cemetery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain space as is. No improvement needed. 	-
Lakewood Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In time consider relocating play space away from trees. Enhance play space. Provide additional seating. 	Low

Open Space Site	Recommendation	Priority Level High = 0-2 years Medium = 3-5 years Low = 5+ years
Malseed Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a master plan for the site in partnership with site users, that will provide a coordinated and strategic planning approach to the provision and development of sport and recreation infrastructure ensuring it is fit for purpose and meets the needs of the community. 	High
Marist Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade club building ensuring facilities are fit for purpose and provides unisex change facilities. 	Medium
Matthew Flinders Way Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish natural surface pathways that guide use of the area and provide safe and accessible walking opportunities 	Low
Max Young Memorial Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance play space. Provide additional seating connected to play space. 	Low
Maxwell Street Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connect space to rail trail via a shared use path. 	High
McDonald Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a master plan for the site in partnership with site users, that will provide a coordinated and strategic planning approach to the provision and development of sport and recreation infrastructure ensuring it is fit for purpose and meets the needs of the community. 	High
McDonald Park School Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain space as is. No improvement needed. 	-
Melaleuca Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance play space. Broaden the multi-use value of the court. Install a drinking fountain. 	Medium
Michielan Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish natural surface pathways that guide use of the area and provide safe and accessible walking opportunities. 	Low
National Servicemans Memorial Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove playspace. 	High
Olympic Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a master plan for the site in partnership with site users that incorporates the whole precinct such as the school and old goal site, community garden and the connections to the new Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre. 	High
Pioneer Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain space as is. No improvement needed. 	-
Quarry Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance play space. Broaden the multi-use value of the court. Provide additional seating linked to shady areas. Install a drinking fountain. 	Low
Railway Lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a master plan for the entire Railway Lands site and Rail Trail in partnership with site users, that will provide a coordinated and strategic planning approach to landscaping and the provision and development of infrastructure ensuring it is fit for purpose and meets the needs of the community. Investigate a Regional level play space to increase open space catchment in the area. Plan and develop a youth recreation space in the Railway Lands. This space may include, for example, a Skate Park, 3 x 3 basketball court, ping pong tables and other youth components at the site. Locate the youth space at the Bay Road end to provide passive surveillance. Invest in wind mitigation technologies/installations/innovations to increase viability of the site as a premier event space. 	High
Ramsay Avenue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain space as is. No improvement needed. 	-
Saint Martins Drive Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain space as is. No improvement needed. 	-
Sealey Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain space as is. No improvement needed. 	-
Stiles Street Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance play space including nature play. Broaden the multi-use value of the court. 	Low

Open Space Site	Recommendation	Priority Level High = 0-2 years Medium = 3-5 years Low = 5+ years
Tumut Drive Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance play space including nature play. Considers a path around edge of reserve and include strategically places fitness equipment. Provide additional seating linked to shady areas. Explore the opportunity to provide a dog park in a section of this reserve. 	Medium
Umpherston Sinkhole	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain space as is. No improvement needed. 	-
Vansittart Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a master plan for the site in partnership with site users, that will provide a coordinated and strategic planning approach to the provision and development of sport and recreation infrastructure ensuring it is fit for purpose and meets the needs of the community. 	High
William A Crouch Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance play space. Provide shelter with seating. 	Low
Wireless Road West Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain space as is. No improvement needed. 	-
Wirrina Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide shelter with seating. Broaden the multi-use value of the court. Considers a path around edge of reserve and include strategically places fitness equipment. Consider increasing this reserve to a district recreation space to assist in gap provision of open space in the area. 	Medium
Woodlands Drive Drainage Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish natural surface pathways that guide use of the area and provide safe and accessible walking opportunities that connect with current seating. 	Medium

Appendices

Open Space Provision Breakdown

Suburb Catchment	No. of Open Space	Total Land Area (ha)	Open Space Land (ha)	% of Total land (ha)	Population 2020	Open Space per 1,000 residents
Mount Gambier LGA	58	3,387	251.7	7.44%	27,404	9.18
Central	15	545	42.6	7.8%	6,379	6.7
Central North	5	248	43.2	17.4%	4,822	9.0
East	7	471	41.4	8.8%	2,727	15.2
Lakes	6	544	60.7	11.2%	2,750	22.1
North East	13	680	20.7	3.0%	6,484	3.2
North West	8	489	16.5	3.4%	3,356	4.9
West	4	410	26.6	6.5%	886	30.1

Open Space Provision by Function

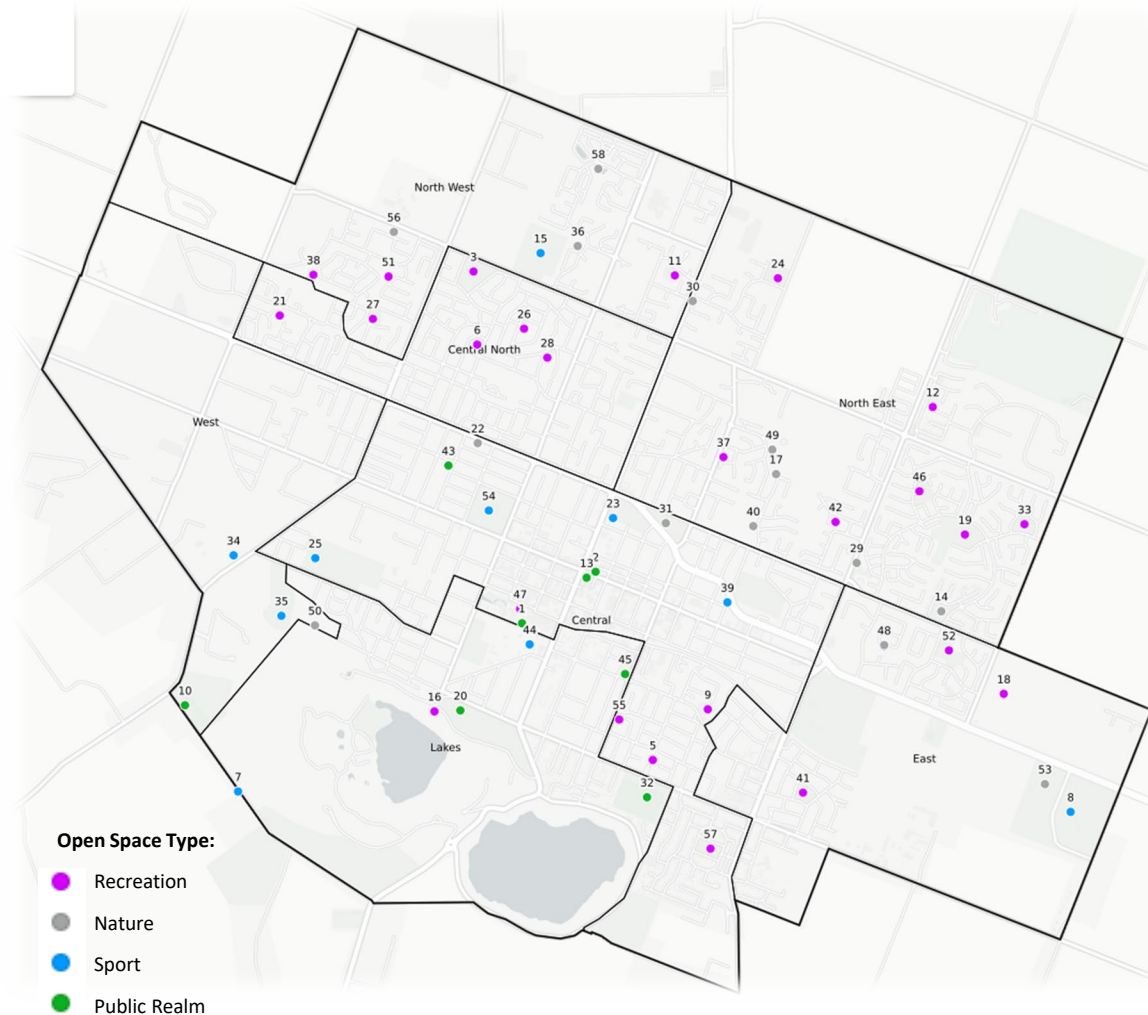
Of the 58 sites audited the total open space provision for the City of Mount Gambier is 251.7ha. 110.3ha is classified as sporting, 98.7ha is recreation, 24.7ha is Public Realm and 17.9ha is Nature open space. The Lakes suburb catchment has the most total open space area of all the suburb catchments (60.68ha).

The East suburb catchment has the largest sports open space provision (31.23ha) closely followed by Central (30.6ha), Lakes 25.63ha.

The Central North catchment has the largest recreation open space provision (43.17ha), followed by the Lakes (21.39ha).

The Lakes have the most Public realm open space (13.66ha) and the Central area has the most Nature open space (3.26ha).

Suburb Catchment	Total Open Space (ha)	Sporting Open Space (ha)	Recreation Open Space (ha)	Public Realm Open Space (ha)	Nature Open Space (ha)
Mount Gambier LGA	251.7	110.3	98.7	24.7	17.9
Central	42.57	30.6	7.88	0.83	3.26
Central North	43.17	-	43.17	-	-
East	41.38	31.23	6.42	-	3.73
Lakes	60.68	25.63	21.39	13.66	-
North East	20.70	-	15.43	-	5.27
North West	16.46	9.5	4.41	-	2.55
West	26.61	13.32	-	10.23	3.06



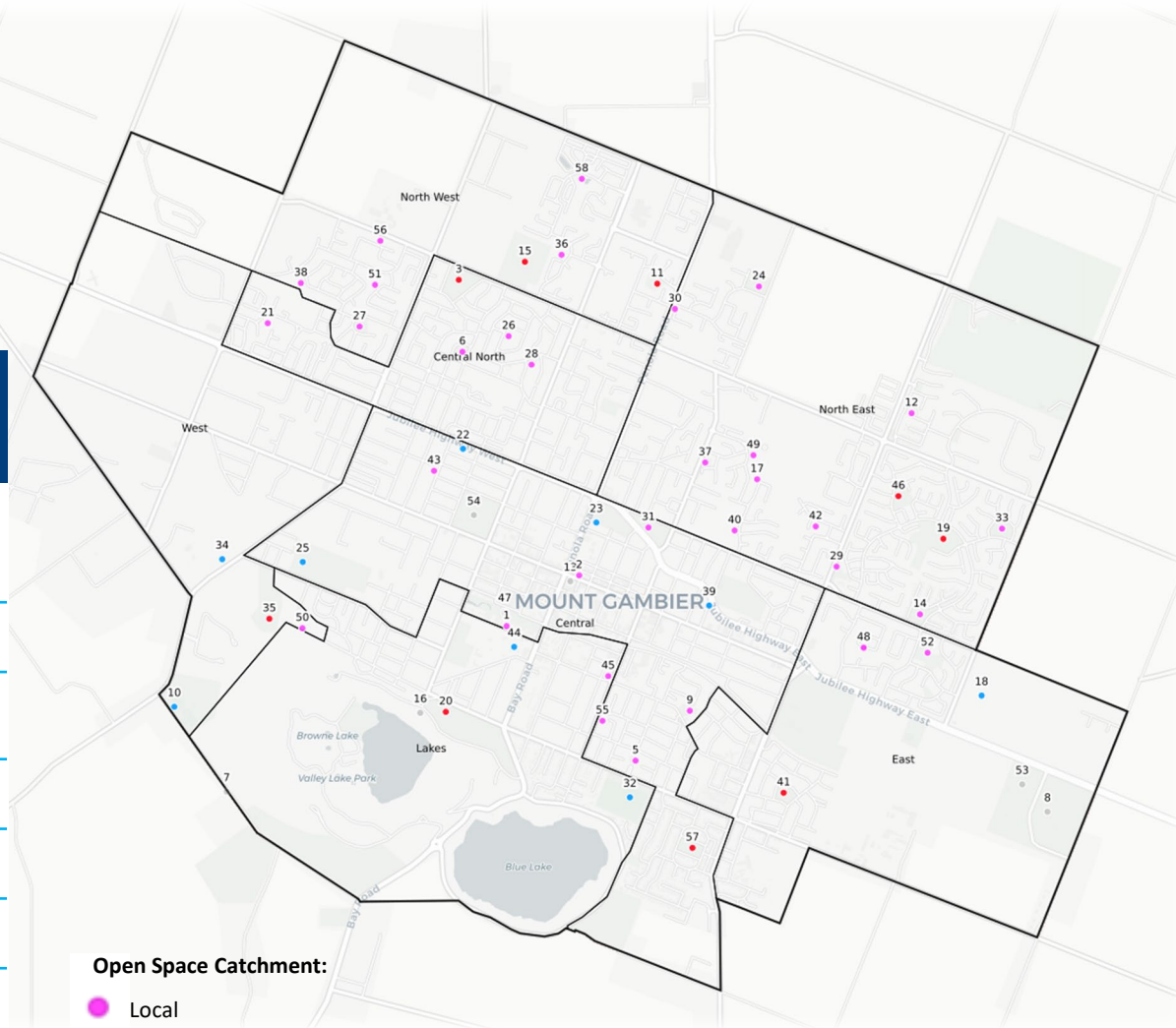
Open Space Provision by Catchment

There is the following distribution of open space per catchment across the City of Mount Gambier:

- Local Level – 32.6ha
- Neighbourhood Level -71.3ha
- District Level – 56.1ha
- Regional Level – 91.7ha

The North East catchment has the most hectares of Local level open space (11.8ha), Central North has the most Neighbourhood open space (41.1ha), Central has the most District level (23.4ha) and the Lakes has the most Regional Open Space (45.1ha).

Suburb Catchment	Total Open Space (ha)	Local Open Space (ha)	Neighbourhood Open Space (ha)	District Open Space (ha)	Regional Open Space (ha)
Mount Gambier LGA	251.7	32.6	71.3	56.1	91.7
Central	42.6	4.9	1.7	23.4	12.7
Central North	43.2	2.1	41.1	-	-
East	41.4	4.6	1.6	1.2	34.0
Lakes	60.7	0.3	3.6	11.6	45.1
North East	20.7	11.8	8.9	-	-
North West	16.5	5.9	10.6	-	-
West	26.6	3.1	3.8	19.8	-



Open Space Catchment:

- Local
- District
- Neighbourhood
- Regional

