

RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

POLICY
2013 - 2023





WHAT IS A RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE STRATEGY AND WHY DO WE NEED IT?



VISION: TO HAVE A HEALTHY AND ACTIVE YARRA RANGES COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT.

TARGETS:

Reduce obesity levels. We are ranked 59 out of 79 of all municipalities in Victoria. We want to be 79th; and

Increase physical activity levels in Yarra Ranges by 15% in 5 years.

Build community resilience through networking and skills development.

The Recreation and Open Space Strategy is a framework to guide the way we manage and improve our sport and recreation facilities, parks, community spaces and recreation services.

The Strategy is also a blueprint for creating healthy and active environments and services including measures to support the development of clubs and participation initiatives in Yarra Ranges.

It aims to encourage people to participate in sport, socialise, develop skills, play and relax in our parks, to engage in community activities and events and to connect with Yarra Range's unique natural bushlands and waterways.

The Strategy consolidates recreation strategies and feasibility studies and reserve master plans under one umbrella document and prioritises actions in an action plan.

This Strategy links to Council's other corporate strategies including Vision 2020, Municipal Strategic Statement, Community Wellbeing Plan, Economic Development Strategy and Environment Strategy.

The Strategy will also help us to seek funding from other partners who share similar ideals for creating healthy and active environments for people.

WE WANT TO INCREASE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY LEVELS IN YARRA RANGES BY 15% IN 5 YEARS



VISION 2020



MUNICIPAL STRATEGIC STATEMENT



**ACTIVE AND ENGAGED
COMMUNITIES
STRATEGY**



**BUILT FORM
AND LAND USE
STRATEGY**



**INFRASTRUCTURE
STRATEGY**



RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

An overarching framework for managing and improving sport and recreation facilities, parks, community spaces and recreation services



**COMMUNITY
WELLBEING
PLAN**



**ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
STRATEGY**



**RECREATION
STRATEGIES AND
MASTER PLANS**



**PUBLIC OPEN SPACE
CONTRIBUTIONS
POLICY**



WHAT RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE DO WE HAVE IN YARRA RANGES?

Yarra Ranges Council has some of the most significant and unique natural bushland reserves and biodiversity corridors in Victoria. 65% of the total land in Yarra Ranges is public land, including the Dandenong Ranges and the Yarra Ranges National Park.

There are 65 playing fields spread over 47 reserves throughout Yarra Ranges. They are home to a range of sporting and recreation activities including Australian Rules football, cricket, soccer, jogging, walking and dog exercising.

Swimming is one of the most popular recreation activities in Yarra Ranges. There are eight public swimming pools and a water play facility, which include the Monbulk Aquatic Centre, Yarra Junction Centre and Seville Water Play.

There are over 200 courts and greens that cater for netball, tennis, lawn bowls and croquet and four privately owned golf courses in Yarra Ranges.

Indoor sports are served by eight public and school sports stadiums and a range of privately owned facilities. Activities include basketball, netball, volleyball, badminton, table tennis, tennis, squash, martial arts, gymnastics, futsal and cricket. The Kilsyth Sports Centre is the main indoor sports centre in Yarra Ranges.

Walking and cycling are the most popular recreation activities. A range of shared off-road trails, walking circuits, footpaths and on-road cycling routes are offered, including the iconic Lilydale to Warburton Rail Trail that attracts over 150,000 – 200,000 visits a year by walkers, cyclists and horse riders.

A number of parks, gardens and bushland provide social recreation space for our communities within walking distance from where people live. These parks have play spaces, skate and BMX facilities, picnic facilities, pathways, gardens and event areas.

Streetscapes, civic forecourts and plazas are community spaces offering social connectedness within our communities. Our active streetscapes have footpaths, diversity in trees and landscaping and embrace a township's culture and identity.





What are the benefits of recreation and open space?

Yarra Ranges has a diverse system of sport and recreation facilities, parks and community spaces, all integral to the health and wellbeing of our people, communities and environment.

These places encourage people to live a healthy and active lifestyle.

They help people escape from the urban environment and reconnect with nature.

They are the social hubs of our communities.

They help people learn.

They protect significant natural environments, habitats and cultural heritage.

They activate and embrace the cultural diversity of our communities.

They offer opportunities for the local economy and are the lungs of our cities.

What do we want to create?

We want...

To plan for a healthy and active Yarra Ranges into the future.

To support a community that can access quality and diverse sport and recreation facilities, parks and community spaces.

To activate our community spaces, embracing our diversity in people, environment and culture.

To encourage a connected community via a network of trails and footpaths and recreation opportunities.

To protect our significant and unique natural environments and landscapes.

To support sport and recreation clubs in being sustainable advocates for participation in our communities.

To partner with the community to develop and manage sport and recreation facilities, parks and community spaces.



KEY OUTCOMES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Planning for an active and healthy Yarra Ranges future

Yarra Ranges Council planning for a healthy and active community, ensuring access to the full range of benefits that recreation and open space can provide, now and into the future.

How?

Develop a long-term strategic approach to recreation and open spaces and integrate into the municipalities other key strategic documents.

Ensure that recreation and open space is a central element in Yarra Range's land-use planning.

Embed the Recreation and Open Space Strategy in the Yarra Ranges planning scheme including the revised Municipal Strategic Statement.

Link investment in recreation and open space to policy and strategy.

Allocate and manage open space contribution funds as per the Public Open Space Contributions Policy.

Conduct an analysis into the effectiveness of all open spaces identifying areas oversupplied or under-served that will inform future investment.

Quality and diverse sport and recreation facilities, parks and community spaces

Yarra Ranges Council will provide access to quality and diverse sport and recreation facilities, parks and community spaces.

How?

Adopt principles to maximise use of reserves and shared use of facilities in master planning and building projects.

Identify opportunities to diversify open space functions or settings to offer greater variety in recreation opportunities.

Resource the delivery of the neighbourhood parks and play space program and prioritise the development of creative, imaginative and educational play space environments and embrace the benefits of connecting with nature.

Ensure that the open space allocations taken as part of a subdivision are developable land that is suitable for quality sport and recreation purposes.

Inspect annually and invest in the upgrade of park furniture, landscaping and trails in our parks.



Activate our community spaces

Yarra Ranges Council will support community with the activation and improvement of their public spaces through Council programs, services and capital works.

How?

Reflecting local art, culture and heritage in the design of public spaces.

Designing spaces that encourage enhanced activity, social experiences and events in public spaces that include all people in a community.

Creating partnerships with trader and township groups to design community spaces and encourage community use and activity within the spaces.

Focusing on creating connected walkable spaces in our main streets that are pleasant, comfortable and interesting to walk in and move through.

Designing environmentally sensitive spaces.

Supporting the development of connected community

Yarra Ranges Council will support linking in our community through accessible facilities; services; and opportunities, a network of trails and footpaths and creating community focused activities.

How?

Adopt principles of access and connectedness in master planning park improvement projects.

Implement the Hike and Bike Plan and roll out of footpaths, prioritising projects that connect communities to open spaces.

Organise regular events in open spaces that encourage recreation participation for all segments of the community. Take advantage of State, National or International initiatives like World Parks Day and Ride to Work Day.

Widely promote recreation and open space opportunities with interactive opportunities.

Introduce experience-based web pages, including social game-based programs, to connect residents and visitors to recreation and open space benefits.



Protect our environment

Yarra Ranges Council will protect our significant and unique natural environments and landscapes, while exploring opportunities for people to experience and connect with nature.

How?

Respect Yarra Range's unique and significant natural assets.

Take a holistic and integrated approach to managing Yarra Range's natural assets with our partner land managers to deliver a sustainable future.

Explore opportunities for nature-based recreation and tourism activities.

Integrate environment sustainable design and water sensitive urban design features in capital works improvement projects, where practical.

Encourage tenants of recreation facilities and open space to develop a sustainable facility management practices.

Support the sustainability of local sport and recreation clubs

Yarra Ranges Council will support sport and recreation clubs in being sustainable as key advocates for participation in our communities.

How?

Facilitate training opportunities for volunteers to administer and manage sporting and recreation groups and clubs.

Actively promote the achievements of club volunteers within Council publications and media.

Assist clubs to develop and implement volunteer recruitment strategies.

Work with associations and peak sporting bodies to coordinate the development of targeted club development programs.

Develop a tool kit to assist committee members improve club administration.



Develop effective community and organisational partnerships

Yarra Ranges Council will establish effective partnerships with the community and industry organisations to develop and manage sport and recreation facilities, parks and community spaces for the municipality.

How?

Partner with the full range of stakeholders and peak interest groups alongside other Council departments through all forms of engagement including informing, consulting, involving, collaborating and empowering.

Actively use Council's engagement framework as a tool to deliver an integrated planning approach to projects with key stakeholders and community, other land authorities and government departments and agencies.

Support the development of sustainable clubs and organisations in Yarra Ranges by partnering and skilling volunteers.

Support the management of sustainable aquatic and recreation facilities in Yarra Ranges by partnering with contractors and responding to centre performance.

Explore joint use development proposals with schools and private partnerships.

“SUPPORT THE MANAGEMENT OF SUSTAINABLE AQUATIC AND RECREATION FACILITIES IN YARRA RANGES”

WARBURTON

Find out more about what is happening in your community?

The Recreation and Open Space Strategy consists of this policy, a Strategic Framework and Implementation Plan.

The Strategy summarises the research and consultation findings and consists of a number of action sheets.

The action sheets are focused on the issues facing Yarra Ranges, the different recreation and open spaces we have and outlines what is happening in your community.

Where can I find the Recreation and Open Space Strategy?

The Recreation and Open Space Strategy can be accessed on line at website:

www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au

