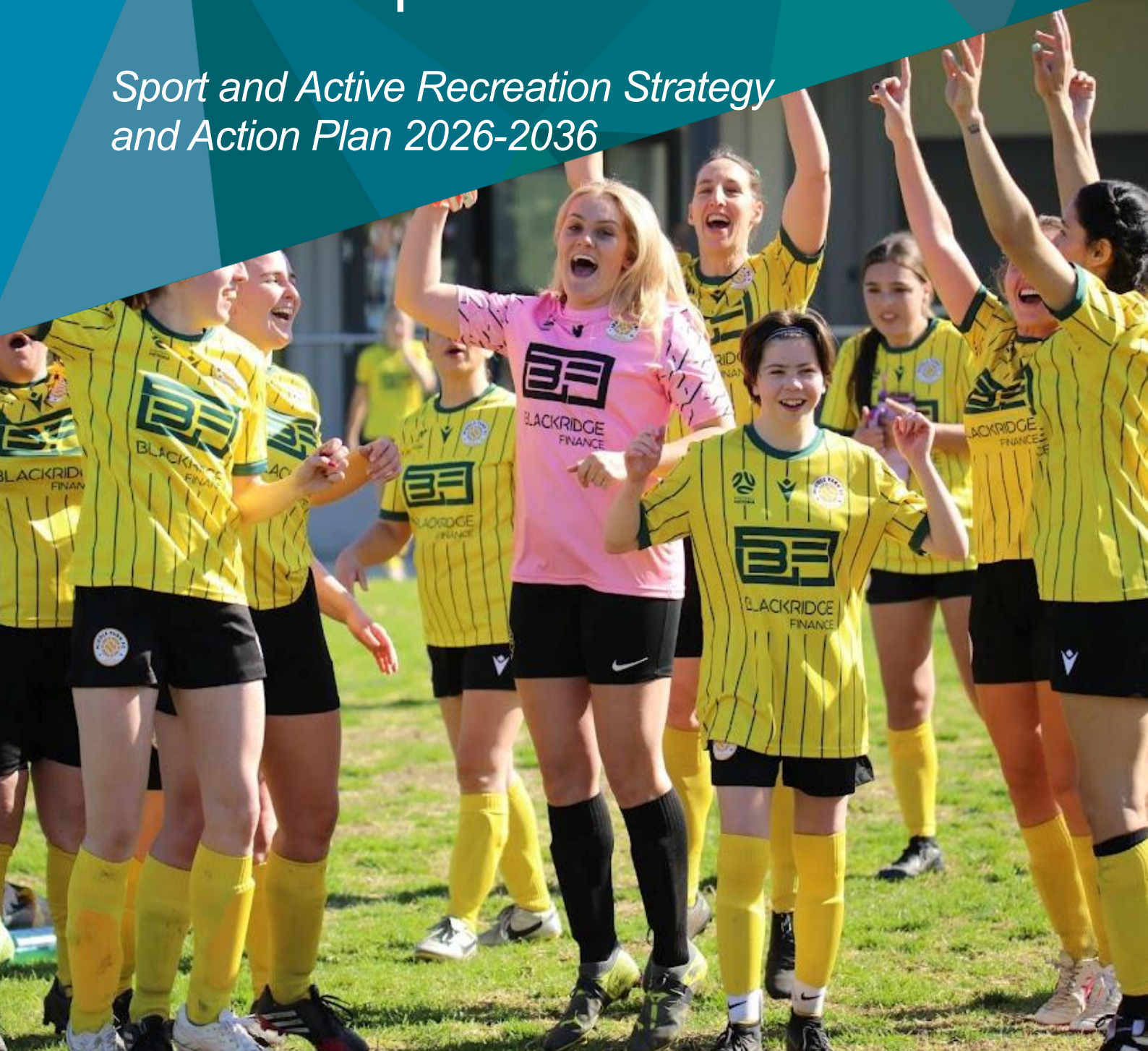




DRAFT Playbook for an Active Port Phillip:

*Sport and Active Recreation Strategy
and Action Plan 2026-2036*



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Acknowledgement of Country

Council respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the Kulin Nation. We acknowledge their legacy and spiritual connection to the land and waterways across the City of Port Phillip and pay our heartfelt respect to their Elders, past, present, and emerging.

DRAFT

This Strategy was developed by the City of Port Phillip in partnership with the Victorian Government through the Community Support Fund



Reading this document

This document is split into six parts, with a description of each section provided below.

Executive Summary

The executive summary provides a high-level overview of the key aspects of the Strategy.

Part 1: The Warmup

This section provides detail on the key themes that have influenced the development of the Strategy and the objectives of the document. It also defines sport and active recreation and explores why sport and active recreation is important for our community.

Part 2: The Starting Line

This section sets the scene for sport and active recreation in the City of Port Phillip (CoPP). It details the places and spaces where sport and active recreation take place, the types of activities our community participate in and the sport and active recreation opportunities that are provided within CoPP. It also identifies our community makeup and how this may influence sport and active recreation participation and provision.

Part 3: The Support Crew

This section details the many providers of sport and active recreation and Council's role in the provision of sport and active recreation for our community. It also details the challenges we face to ensure there are opportunities to participate now and in the future.

Part 4: The Gameplan

The Playbook is the most important part of the document as it sets our vision for sport and active recreation in CoPP, what we are aiming to achieve and where we will focus our efforts, as well as the specific actions we will take over the next 10 years to support a more active community.

Part 5: The Finish Line

This section provides an overview of how and when we will measure and report on our performance, as well as when we will review the document to ensure its ongoing relevance.

Part 6: Appendices

The appendices contain data and information that provide additional context for what is included in the previous sections of the document.

Executive Summary

The *Playbook for an Active Port Phillip: Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2026-2036* (the Strategy) guides Council's approach and decision making related to developing and providing facilities, programs and services that enable and encourage the community to be physically active and participate in sport and active recreation.

Vision

'Port Phillip is a physically active community where everyone is supported to participate in lifelong sport and active recreation that improves health, wellbeing and social connection.'

The City of Port Phillip (CoPP) is an active municipality with almost 40% of residents meeting the physical activity guidelines, which is higher than the Victorian average of 35.1%. Our community participates regularly across the five different types of physical activity including sport, active recreation and active transport. More than 40% of residents participate in sport at least 1-2 times per week and 57% in active recreation and 67% in active transport at least 3-4 times per week.

Despite these strong foundations, more than 70% of our community said they would like to be more physically active. This highlights both an opportunity and a responsibility to protect Port Phillip's active identity while continuing to lift participation and frequency of activity. Maintaining performance above the Victorian average remains important to driving improved health, wellbeing and social connection across the municipality.

At the same time, participation is not evenly experienced. Some cohorts face lower activity levels or greater barriers to being active. A key focus of this strategy is to enable and sustain lifelong participation by addressing inequities, reducing barriers and ensuring opportunities to be active are accessible, safe and inclusive for all members of the Port Phillip community.

What has changed in sport and active recreation?

There has been significant change in the sport and active recreation landscape over the past ten years, and it is important we are responsive to these changes to ensure our community continues to be physically active. The most impactful changes Council needs to be aware of includes:

- Increased participation in active recreation with people seeking more flexible ways to be active that require less commitment
- Increased participation in formal sport by women and girls
- The rise of new sports and alternate formats of existing sports, such as pickleball

- The lasting impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, including more people being active in their local neighbourhood, and challenges for community sports clubs to attract and retain volunteers
- Increasing time, financial and other pressures limiting community focus on and participation in physical activity.

What are our challenges?

Council and the community are facing significant challenges that have a direct impact on sport and active recreation including:

- Increasing population growth and density, and limited public open space to accommodate demand for sport and active recreation
- Inequities and barriers limiting participation in sport and active recreation for certain groups
- The impacts of climate change threatening sport and active recreation facilities, programming, and participation opportunities
- Dependence on other land managers and commercial providers limiting Council control over sport and active recreation spaces, programming, affordability, and community access
- Rising costs, reduced funding, and cost of living pressures restricting Council's ability to deliver, renew, and operate sport and active recreation facilities and services
- Increasing requirements, standards and community expectations for the quality and functionality of sport and active recreation facilities and infrastructure.

What is the community need for sport and active recreation?

Community need for sport and active recreation has been identified through background research and community engagement which included analysis of:

- sport and active recreation trends
- current provision of facilities and spaces
- level of participation in different sport and active recreation activities
- expected future need based on industry benchmarks and population forecasts
- the motivations and barriers for participation and how Council can support our community to be more physically active
- issues, challenges and opportunities for our key stakeholders and delivery partners.

This analysis showed that CoPP has a current facility deficit for indoor courts for basketball, outdoor courts for netball and rectangular sports grounds for soccer. With population growth over the next 10 years, these deficits will increase and there will also be a shortfall of AFL and cricket grounds and tennis courts by 2036.

In addition to formal sport, the community also told us that they participate highly in active recreation activities including fitness and gym (63%), cycling (52%), swimming (50%), running or jogging (49%), Pilates (33%) yoga (31%), highlighting the need to ensure adequate infrastructure and opportunities for these activities also. High participation in cycling, swimming, running and other active recreation activities reinforces the need to better support non-club based participation and self-directed use of our public open spaces.

What will the Strategy focus on?

In response to changes in the sport and active recreation landscape, municipal-wide challenges and community need, the Strategy:

- Has an increased focus on active recreation, while maintaining our commitment to sport
- Emphasises the importance of daily movement to complement participation in formal sport and active recreation
- Focuses on partnering with other stakeholders to avoid duplication and use resources efficiently to deliver sport and active recreation
- Clearly articulates Council's role as one of many organisations responsible for providing sport and active recreation for the community.
- Focuses on enhancing promotion and improving awareness of the range of opportunities to be active in CoPP.

Through the Strategy, Council will deliver targeted actions across three interconnected pillars:

1. Places

Goal: we aim to optimise the capacity and capability of sport and active recreation facilities and spaces, balancing demand, equity and sustainability, and create sport and active recreation spaces that address provision gaps and encourage physical activity.

Actions: we will focus on:

- upgrading and renewing existing facilities including clubrooms, sports grounds, courts and lighting based on asset condition, equity, safety and service need
- increasing capacity and utilisation through lighting upgrades, surface improvements, shared use and better scheduling
- delivering new infrastructure where gaps are clear including constructing priority facilities such as outdoor netball courts, and new sport infrastructure in Fishermans Bend
- expanding active recreation infrastructure including fitness stations, ball courts and implementing low-cost interventions that encourage everyday movement
- building climate-ready and inclusive spaces that incorporate shade, water, lighting, accessibility and universal design into upgrades, and advocating for active transport connections to key sites.

2. Participation

Goal: we strive for equitable access to and experience of sport and active recreation for people of all ages, genders, abilities and backgrounds and address identified gaps and barriers that limit participation, and champion sport and active recreation to increase community awareness of the opportunities to be physically active in CoPP.

Actions: we will focus on:

- recognising and prioritising active recreation activities as core components of the participation profile of the City of Port Phillip (e.g. running, cycling and swimming)
- promoting programs where opportunities are limited, particularly for women and girls (through the *Fair Access in Sport Policy*), people with disability, older adults, First Peoples, culturally diverse and LGBTIQ+ communities
- activating spaces better by introducing programming in underused facilities and off-peak times, including weekdays, during the day and winter and the foreshore
- modernising how sport is delivered by working with clubs and associations to trial shorter formats, modified games and flexible participation models to enable more people to participate
- promoting and supporting low-cost physical activities with low barrier to entry, including walking, running, cycling, swimming and other everyday physical activities
- improving awareness and availability of information through strengthening promotion, website content and social media to make it easier for residents to find and understand local opportunities to be active.

3. Partnerships

Goal: we aim to support and collaborate with sport and active recreation clubs, providers and community organisations to offer a diverse range of activities that are inclusive and sustainable and advocate to and partner with other land managers, facility providers, peak bodies and government to address gaps in community access to sport and active recreation.

Actions: we will focus on:

- building stronger clubs and providers by delivering a club and provider development program focusing on governance, inclusion, sustainability and participant experience
- expanding access beyond Council facilities by securing community use agreements with schools and private providers to address gaps in court, sport grounds and indoor space provision
- advocate for community access and use of state managed facilities, such as Albert Park Reserve, MSAC and the foreshore by working with key partners including Parks Victoria and the State Sport Centres Trust

- deliver more through co-investment by pursuing grants and co-contributions from clubs, partners and government to fund priority projects
- plan and deliver across municipal borders by collaborating with neighbouring councils to optimise participation opportunities.

What does success look like?

- Port Phillip residents are physically active and consistently meet the recommended national physical activity levels at higher rates than the Victorian average
- More Port Phillip residents participate in sport, active recreation and active transport multiple times per week
- We increase the number of sport and active recreation facilities available to the community and the hours per week they can be used
- Facilities, programs and participation opportunities can be accessed by all members of our community, including those that face increased barriers to participation
- More Port Phillip residents are aware of and satisfied with the diverse range of opportunities to be active in our City.

Part 1. The Warmup



Introduction

Playbook for an Active Port Phillip: Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2026-2036 (the Strategy), is Council's long-term plan for developing and providing facilities, programs and services that enable and encourage the community to be physically active and participate in sport and active recreation.

It ensures that Council's decisions are consistent, evidence-based and respond to community need, and that Council's resources are prioritised to achieve maximum community benefit.

The Strategy is informed by background research and community engagement. This information is presented in supplementary reports that provide detailed analysis and findings.

Objectives

The objectives of the Strategy are to:

- Articulate the overarching vision for sport and active recreation within CoPP for the next 10 years
- Define Council's role in the provision of sport and active recreation facilities, programs and services within the broader network of providers
- Respond to the current and future ways people are participating in sport and active recreation and address identified provision challenges through targeted, achievable and measurable actions
- Explore how best to partner and collaborate with other providers to improve community access to sport and active recreation facilities and opportunities
- Balance accessibility, equity and sustainability considerations with participation demand in decision making on the provision of sport and active recreation facilities, programs and services.

Key themes

Over the last 10 years there has been significant change in the sport and active recreation landscape, including the ways people participate in sport and active recreation and there has also been considerable change in Council's operating environment. The culmination of these changes has led to five key themes, which shaped the development of this Strategy:

1. Broadening the focus

This Strategy is for everyone, so it is important to recognise the different ways people are physically active and chose to move their bodies. It is also important that we reach community members with low levels of physical activity, whilst enabling those who are already active to maintain or increase their levels of activity. Local government has historically focused on providing for traditional competition formats for a select group of sports. While formal sport plays an important role in our community, participation in active recreation continues to grow as people seek

more flexible, less structured ways to be physically active. The Strategy emphasises that all movement matters and all forms of sport and active recreation count. It also considers changes that need to be made to the current provision of facilities, services and programs to meet the needs of those who are less active and provide a compelling reason to participate.

2. Emphasising the outcomes

Sport and active recreation generates significant health, social and economic benefits for the community and can be used as a tool to help achieve other societal outcomes. The Strategy highlights the opportunity for greater collaboration across sectors to achieve shared goals and priorities through physical activity. Future proofing sport and active recreation and ensuring ongoing support and funding will be achieved through directly linking it to the health of the population. This will ensure it remains relevant and important through political and social changes over time. Rather than looking at this document as 'a strategy for sport', it aims to change our thinking to 'sport as a strategy' to create a healthy, thriving community.

3. Integrating physical activity into daily life

Recent innovation and advances in technology have made tasks easier, quicker and more automated. While this has many positive benefits, it sometimes has the unintended consequence of reducing how much we move our bodies and over time the incidental physical activity we accumulate over a day has steadily decreased. We are also increasingly time poor making it difficult to dedicate blocks of time to structured exercise. As a result, many people are not meeting the recommended amount of daily physical activity. Re-integrating physical activity into our daily lives through active transport and small moments of movement built into everyday tasks can complement intentional exercise to increase overall physical activity levels.

4. Investing for impact

The Strategy recognises that Council and our community are living in challenging and uncertain financial times and looks to find ways to strategically support and invest smaller amounts in sport and active recreation in impactful ways. The community is increasingly choosing to participate in active recreation activities, such as walking, running and cycling, which are typically low or no cost to the individual and do not necessarily require purpose-built facilities and infrastructure. The popularity of these activities presents an opportunity to increase physical activity in the community in the current financial environment.

5. Optimising and complementing not duplicating

It is vital that we use resources in the most efficient and effective way possible, from both an environmental and financial perspective. The Strategy focuses on optimising and utilising the facilities and programs that already exist and filling provision gaps through complementary facilities and programs. It also recognises the importance of each organisation within the sport and active recreation ecosystem providing in line with its core role and partnering with others who are better positioned to deliver activities beyond that scope.

Strategic context

This Strategy is one piece of a portfolio of strategic documents at Council. Council's *Plan for Port Phillip 2025-35* (the Council Plan) is the overarching strategic document that guides everything we do at Council. It outlines our community vision and strategic directions, which inform decisions on investment and service delivery.

Underneath this is *Places for People: Public Space Strategy 2022-32* (PSS), which provides the overarching framework for planning and managing the shared use of public open space across the municipality. The PSS guides how our public open spaces are designed and used to meet the needs of the whole community, ensuring that our spaces can be shared for a wide range of uses, including sport and active recreation. It sets the objective that our public spaces encourage our community to be active and healthy.

The *Playbook for Active Port Phillip: Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2026-36* will sit under the PSS.

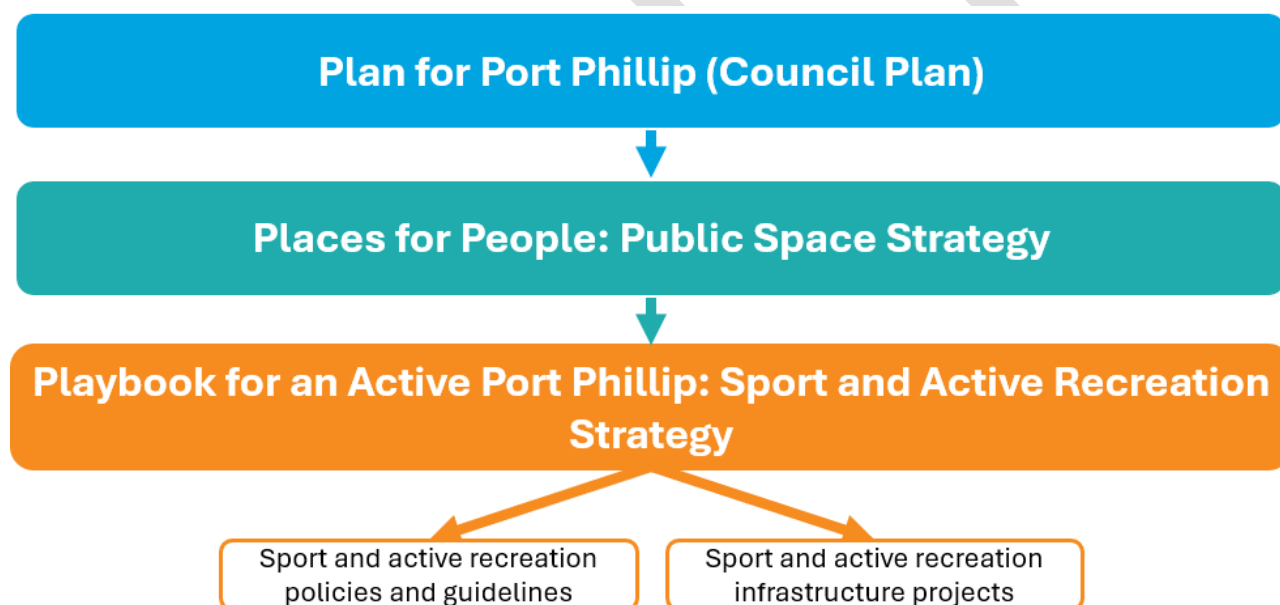


Figure 1: Hierarchy of strategic documents

What is physical activity?

Physical activity is the overarching term for any physical movement of the human body that requires energy output. This includes activities during leisure time, to get to and from place, or as part of a person's work or domestic activities. There are five main types of physical activity, which have increased or decreased prevalence at different life stages.

Council has a role to play in all five types of physical activity, and getting the community active is achieved through strategic direction across Council. The figure below defines each type of physical activity and identifies how it is supported across Council.



Figure 2: the five different types of physical activity

While supporting and encouraging all types of physical activity, this Strategy focuses on getting the community active through sport and active recreation.

What is sport and active recreation?

Sport and active recreation are both forms of physical activity that people participate in for the purposes of competition, skill development, health, fitness or leisure.

Sport

Sport includes activities where skill and physical exertion are the primary focus, rules or patterns of behaviour govern the activity, and are generally recognised as a 'sport'. Sport can be formal or informal in nature.

Formal sport is governed formally through a recognised group or organisation and typically requires specific infrastructure or equipment and has an element of competition. For example, a soccer match between two club teams.

Informal sport is self-directed and/or informally organised. For example, kicking a soccer ball with friends at the park.

Both formal and informal sport play an important role in community physical activity and require different planning responses from Council to support participation.

Active recreation

Active recreation includes activities where physical movement is the primary focus. These activities are engaged in for the purpose of health, wellbeing or enjoyment, but are not generally recognised as a 'sport'. Active recreation can be formal or informal in nature.

Formal active recreation includes activities that are facilitated by a formal group, organisation, instructor or undertaken at a formal facility. For example, doing a fitness class with a trainer.

Informal active recreation includes activities that are self-directed and/or informally organised. For example, using fitness equipment at a local park.

Both formal and informal active recreation play an important role in community physical activity and require different planning responses from Council to support participation.

Why is sport and active recreation important?

Sport and active recreation, as forms of physical activity, provide many health, wellbeing, community and economic benefits. There are also additional benefits from participation in sport and active recreation that may not be provided by other forms of physical activity. One of Council's health priorities in the *Plan for Port Phillip 2025-2035* is increasing active living and physical activity.



Physical health

Regular physical activity delivers a wide range of health benefits, such as strengthening the heart, muscles and bones while improving flexibility, balance and coordination. It helps maintain a healthy weight, reduces the risk of chronic diseases such as cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes and some cancers, and supports a strong immune system. This not only improves individual quality of life but also reduces the burden of disease and cost to the healthcare system.

"I love the community feeling and the friendly atmosphere at the [sports] clubs to which I belong. I feel as a result I'm happier, fitter, both mentally and physically, and have more purpose in my life."
– 77 year old female

"I started to play beach volleyball and it's well organised and inclusive. It's hard work, so good cardio, and it's a game which increases the fun factor". – 55 year old female



Mental health

Regular physical activity has powerful benefits for mental health and wellbeing. It enhances mood, boosts energy levels, improves focus, memory and overall cognitive function, and supports better sleep. It can also build confidence and resilience, foster social connection and provide a positive outlet for managing life stresses. A recent study found that if all Australian's met the recommended physical activity guidelines¹, in 25 years' time, the burden of anxiety could be reduced by up to 6.4% and the burden of depression could be reduced by 4.4% in Australia². To maximise the mental health benefits of physical activity, it is important that the type of activity, and the environment where it takes place (both physical and social environments) is suited to the individual.

"Several months after moving into a retirement village I received an invitation to visit the Elwood Croquet Club for a lunch and introduction to Croquet. I took the opportunity and was made very welcome by all the members present. Since that introduction I have been a regular player in a

¹ At least 150 minutes per week of moderate to vigorous physical activity for adults

² Wanjau, M. N., Möller, H., Haigh, F., Milat, A., Hayek, R., Lucas, P., & Veerman, J. L. (2023). Physical activity and depression and anxiety disorders in Australia: A lifetable analysis. *American Journal Preventative Medicine*.

sport that provides gentle exercise, mental stimulation and the opportunity to meet and make friends with a very friendly group.” – 83 year old male

“Trugo was a life saver for me after moving from a house to an apartment in Port Melbourne. I was missing my neighbours, and I was diagnosed with a joint problem which made my usual activities impossible. Meeting the great group of people at Trugo was very important for my mental health and getting outside twice a week and competing in a sport when I thought I'd have to give sport up was fantastic.” – 75 year old female



Being active outdoors

Many sport and active recreation activities occur outdoors, which offers additional benefits beyond those gained from indoor physical activity. Exposure to sunlight boosts vitamin D levels, supporting bone health and immune function, and fresh air and varied terrain can improve fitness, balance, and coordination. Being active in natural environments can enhance mood, reduce stress, and lower feelings of anxiety and fatigue more effectively than in indoor settings.

“I love participating in community yoga offerings on the Sunday rooftop sessions. I feel a real sense of belonging and community. The opportunity to be guided through breath and movement has been such a positive factor to my wellbeing, especially with the bay air!” – 36 year old female

“I love jogging along the foreshore. In summer I run, then have a swim to cool off. The parks are great - generally very well maintained. My wife and I play Bocci in St Kilda Botanical Gardens” – 65 year old male



Social connection and community cohesion

Sport and active recreation activities also create opportunities for social connection. Participating in team sport or group classes helps to build friendships, strengthen social networks and fosters a sense of belonging. It encourages teamwork, cooperation, and communication and promotes respect and empathy. For many people, being active with others can increase motivation and accountability, making it easier to participate consistently. These social connections not only enhance enjoyment and improve mental wellbeing, but also contribute to stronger, more connected communities.

“Every week people run, walk, volunteer and connect over this shared passion [Park Run, Albert Park]. All organised by volunteers, it is amazing. It changed my life - brought friends and a community and structure to my world” – 36 year old female

“Over the 45 years I have lived in Middle Park and Elwood I have been involved with tennis, basketball, hockey, netball, AFL, cricket, lifesaving, badminton, croquet and now a little bit of pickle ball. I have made so many lifelong friends, have seen so many children get involved with sport and

continue on to be socially engaged and fabulous citizens and I've led a very active and healthy life myself and I hope it continues." – 68 year old female



Economic and community benefit

Communities that are physically active generate substantial economic benefits by reducing healthcare costs, improving workplace productivity and supporting broader social outcomes. Regular physical activity lowers the incidence and severity of chronic diseases, which reduces the direct costs of medical treatment and hospitalisation, results in less sick days and higher work productivity and contributes to greater economic output. Additionally, investment in sport and recreation facilities, spaces and active transport infrastructure creates jobs and stimulates local business opportunities and tourism. The health, care and active wellbeing economy in CoPP, which includes health care, social assistance and active recreation services, contributes an estimated \$1.5 to \$1.7 billion per year in economic output, making it one of the City's largest service-based economies. This sector is critical to CoPP as it supports business investment opportunities, provides significant employment, contributes positively to the City's precincts and delivers strong social and wellbeing benefits to the community.

"Port Melbourne Icebergs. This is a group from beginners to advanced. From dips to long swims in the bay, followed by long cake and coffee gatherings afterwards." – 66 year old male

"Beach Volleyball training, what a beautiful location. Lots of fun, fitness, learn new skills and meet others. Then coffee, food and drinks too enjoy only a short walk." – 58 year old female



Sport as a platform

Sport can be a powerful platform for addressing social issues as it brings people from diverse backgrounds together, fostering dialogue, understanding and shared purpose. Through initiatives in community and elite sport, issues such as gender equality, Indigenous reconciliation, mental health, racism (including antisemitism and islamophobia) and antisocial behaviour are often highlighted and actively addressed. By leveraging the visibility and community reach of sport, organisations involved in sport can challenge social norms, inspire people to change their behaviour and help build more inclusive communities.

"Triathlon Pink at the start of the year in Albert Park! This was a great event for encouraging mostly women to do their first ever triathlon and was truly inclusive and welcoming for all." - 30 year old female.



Healthy source of enjoyment

In the modern world, there are many things vying for our time and attention, and as a society, we are increasingly conditioned to chase instant gratification and quick dopamine hits. This may be through scrolling social media, impulse shopping, or more harmful behaviours like excessive alcohol and drug use. Sport and active recreation are inherently fun but are also a sustainable and health enhancing source of pleasure and enjoyment, making them a positive alternative for people to engage in.

“Beach volleyball is a highly accessible sport in this 'cost of living crisis'. The ability to go to the beach and train (bring your own lines, balls and antennae) makes it easier to keep our children off their phones and doing something active. Our children have so many friends that have also now taken up the sport, and it is a great community to be a part of.” – 50 year old female.

“The St Kilda skatepark is an excellent facility. Having it close by has helped me develop my passion for the sport and also built my social group.” – 42 year old male.

Part 2. The Starting Line



Our community

The CoPP community is diverse and growing and expected changes over the next 10 years will impact the types of sport and active recreation activities people will participate in and opportunities they will seek.



Growing population

The estimated resident population for CoPP at the 2024 Census was 112,669. The CoPP population is projected to grow significantly in the next 10 years (28.8% between 2026-2036) primarily driven by growth in Fishermans Bend, which is expected to grow by 23,695 residents between 2026 and 2036 (+195%). This level of population growth will place additional pressure on existing sport and active recreation facilities, spaces and programs.



Ageing population

While all age groups are projected to grow, the highest growth will be in the 15-34 year old (+40.6%) and 65+ year old (+43.6%) age groups, compared to 0-14 year old (+22.7%) and 35-64 year old (+15.8%) age groups. This suggests higher growth in tertiary students, young workers and retirees, and lower growth in young families with children. These changes in age demographics will have implications for the demand for sport and active recreation. While both formal and informal sport and active recreation activities will grow, the age characteristics of CoPP will likely result in higher demand for active recreation activities, such as walking, running, cycling, gym/fitness, wellness activities and social formats of sport.



Lone person households

CoPP has a much higher percentage of people living on their own than other municipalities - 43.8% for CoPP compared to 24.8% for Greater Melbourne. This higher proportion of single/lone person households is in part due to young adults and retirees living in higher-density residential areas. This may impact the types of activities that residents seek, with social sport and group classes providing opportunities for social connection.



Culturally diverse

Cultural diversity in CoPP is high and increasing, with one third of residents born overseas and over half (56%) have at least one parent born overseas. Residents come from over 108 different

countries and speak 79 different languages and dialects at home. This increasing cultural diversity will impact the types of sport and active recreation activities that will grow in participation and will also increase the need for Council and sport and active recreation clubs and providers to ensure culturally safe environments and culturally appropriate activities.



Healthier than average

Our community is healthier and more physically active than most other communities in Victoria, although physical inactivity remains a concern for over half of the CoPP population. The Victorian Population Health Survey 2023 indicated that 39.9% of CoPP residents met the recommended amount of physical activity per week, compared to 35.1% of Victorians overall. Additionally, 46.6% of CoPP residents reported their overall health as 'very good' or 'excellent' compared to a lesser 39.8% for Victorians overall³.

³ Victorian Agency for Health Information (2023). Victorian Population Health Survey 2023.

Sport and active recreation in the City of Port Phillip

The City of Port Phillip has many places and spaces where a diverse range of sport and active recreation activities take place, both informally and formally. Sport and active recreation clubs and providers cater for local community participation through to elite competition and events.

Our unique sport and active recreation facilities and open spaces create diverse participation opportunities, which are not available in all municipalities. The foreshore provides for water and sand-based activities, such as swimming, lifesaving, angling, sailing, kitesurfing, stand-up paddleboarding and other beach sports. Albert Park Lake also provides a protected environment for water-based activities such as rowing, sailing, yachting and sea scouts. MSAC extends the range of sport and active recreation activities available, as it provides facilities for niche or specialised sports and activities that other community leisure centres may not, such as diving, squash and water polo.

The diverse range of sport and active recreation activities to choose from, means there is an increased likelihood that individuals can find something that suits their needs and preferences. It also means that CoPP is a sport and active recreation destination for people across Melbourne and beyond. CoPP hosts elite sporting competitions and events at multiple facilities and spaces across the municipality, including at North Port Oval, MSAC, Lakeside Stadium, Junction Oval and the foreshore.

Our places and spaces

The area called ‘the City of Port Phillip’ is part of the Kulin Nations, a region spanning from the southernmost point of Victoria up into the Great Dividing Range. The Bunurong, Boonwurrung and Wurundjeri peoples have been the Traditional Custodians over this land for over 2,000 generations. CoPP has an extensive public space network, with approximately 353 hectares of open space distributed over 176 individual open spaces, including 11 km of foreshore and Albert Park Reserve. These spaces contain facilities and infrastructure for sport and active recreation including:

- 40 sports grounds (23 in Albert Park Reserve and 17 in the broader municipality)
- 14 outdoor courts across netball, basketball and futsal
- 14 beach volleyball courts
- 47 active outdoor recreation stations / spaces.

In addition to this, there are community buildings and spaces dedicated to sport and active recreation which provide:

- 37 tennis courts
- 12 greens for bowls, trugo and croquet
- 5 lifesaving clubhouses
- 11 water sport pavilions for sailing, yachting, rowing and angling.

These places and spaces are complemented by:

- An extensive network of private sport and active recreation facilities, including school facilities
- Indoor sports facilities and stadiums within Albert Park Reserve, including Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre (MSAC), Albert Park Indoor Sports Centre and Lakeside Stadium
- Two large active open spaces that adjoin our municipality in Fawkner Park (City of Melbourne) and Elsternwick Park (City of Bayside).

CoPP has a current facility deficit for indoor courts for basketball, outdoor courts for netball and rectangular sports grounds for soccer. With population growth over the next 10 years, these deficits will increase and there will also be a shortfall of AFL and cricket grounds and tennis courts by 2036.

Additional detail on the type and number of sport and active recreation facilities, who manages them and whether the level of provision is sufficient for community need is provided in [Appendix 2](#).

Providers of opportunities to be active

There are a range of opportunities to participate in sport and active recreation in CoPP, provided by community clubs and commercial operators through programs, lessons, training, competitions and events.

Formal sport

There is a total of 42 different sports, provided by 132 clubs or organisations within CoPP. This includes sports that are played on sports grounds, courts (indoor and outdoor), greens, indoor facilities, the foreshore and Albert Park Lake. These sports, the number of community clubs or organisations that provide opportunities for the community to participate, and the percentage of these clubs or organisations that provide programs or competitions for specific demographic groups is detailed in [Appendix 2](#).

Council allocates facilities and manages sports clubs and organisations on Council-managed land, while Parks Victoria and the State Sport Centres Trust manage sports clubs and organisations using facilities within Albert Park Reserve.

Gym and fitness

In other municipalities, community leisure centres contribute significantly to the overall provision of gym and fitness activities. In CoPP, MSAC is the only leisure centre and, whilst Council contributed to its establishment to support community provision, the facility is not managed by Council. While the community can access gym and fitness activities at MSAC, it is also required to function as a high-performance facility, which can at times limit community access. However, there are extensive other opportunities provided by smaller private facilities to address this gap.

Council issues licences to personal trainers to run fitness classes and personal training sessions in public open space. In 2025, licences were granted to six providers to provide triathlon training, group bootcamps, personal training sessions, yoga, Pilates and breathwork.

Active recreation on the foreshore

The foreshore is a unique and highly valued asset that provides sport and active recreation opportunities not available to our neighbouring landlocked municipalities. Its length, accessibility and connection to bay waters enable a wide range of water and sand based activities, including kite boarding and standup paddleboarding, which contribute significantly to the City's identity as a destination for active recreation and physical activity. The foreshore supports both informal participation and a diverse mix of community and commercial providers, extending the range of ways residents and visitors can be active without relying on traditional sports grounds or built facilities. These opportunities support participation and tourism and stimulate the local economy.

Council issues licences to commercial operators to provide active recreation activities along the foreshore. In 2025, this included kite surfing, stand up paddle boarding, skydiving and wellness activities.

Running, cycling and swimming

Groups that provide opportunities for formal participation in running, cycling and swimming are typically less structured than the clubs who provide formal sport, and as such are more difficult to quantify. However, through community engagement we know that there are many social running and swimming groups within CoPP who participate together on a regular basis. Albert Park Reserve is also home to one of the largest Parkrun events in Australia.

The other significant type of formal participation offered for walking, running, cycling and swimming in CoPP is mass participation events. CoPP is recognised for our sport and active recreation event calendar, which each year, includes marathons, endurance events, triathlons, charity fun runs / walks and cycling events that activate the foreshore and public open spaces. Event operators select Port Phillip as a location of choice due to the flat and scenic coastal topography, protected swimming conditions, high-amenity foreshore, and the ability for people to participate along landmark routes such as St Kilda Pier, Beach Road and the foreshore. These events attract local, interstate and international participants and spectators and strengthen the City's identity as a premiere destination for sport and active recreation.

Participation in sport and active recreation

Our community participate in a wide variety of sport and active recreation activities facilitated by our unique and extensive open space network, which includes the foreshore and Albert Park Reserve, and a range of private facilities.

Formal sport participation

The highest participation sports for CoPP residents as per data provided by State Sporting Associations (SSA) in 2025 were:

1. Basketball (3,489 residents)
2. Australian Rules Football (AFL) (2,680 residents)
3. Soccer (2,145 residents)
4. Lifesaving (999 residents)
5. Cricket (819 residents)
6. Netball (819 residents).

SSA participation data for CoPP residents was not available for golf or tennis, but these sports consistently have high levels of participation (as indicated by the AusPlay Victorian participation rates) and should be considered high participation sports for CoPP residents.

CoPP participation is generally in line with the highest participation sports across Victoria, with the exception of lifesaving, which is significantly higher for CoPP residents due to the municipality's proximity to the foreshore.

The sports with the highest formal participation rates for Victorians are⁴:

1. Basketball (3.91%)
2. Soccer (3.55%)
3. Australian Rules Football (AFL) (3.11%)
4. Tennis (2.58%)
5. Cricket (2.10%)
6. Netball (1.98%)
7. Golf (1.85%).

Active recreation participation

Active recreation activities generally have higher participation than formal sport for adults. Eight of the top ten activities reported in the *AusPlay Participation Survey 2024* were active recreation activities, with basketball and tennis being the only 'sports' in the top ten.

The active recreation activities with the highest participation rates for Victorians are⁵:

1. Walking (51.68%)
2. Fitness/gym (29.23%)
3. Running/jogging (16.55%)
4. Bush Walking (15.07%)
5. Swimming (13.08%)
6. Cycling (9.18%)
7. Pilates (5.96%)
8. Yoga (5.15%).

⁴ This is based on the combined participation rates for adults and children from the Ausplay Participation Survey 2024. For specific difference between adults and children, and different genders, see the Background Research and Analysis Report

⁵ This is based on adult (age 15+) participation from the Ausplay Participation Survey 2024, as data on children's participation in active recreation activities is not collected in the survey

The number of CoPP residents who participate in different active recreation activities is difficult to quantify, as these activities often do not require registration or membership with a club or group and are often engaged in informally. There is evidence of high participation in walking, running and cycling in CoPP through data captured by the fitness app Strava, Parkrun participation numbers and The Bicycle Network counts⁶. The Bay Trail along the Port Phillip foreshore and trails within Albert Park Reserve receive particularly high levels of use for walking, running and cycling.

CoPP residents also participate in water and sand based active recreation activities at higher rates than the Victorian average, due to the municipality's proximity to the foreshore. Kiteboarding and stand-up paddle boarding are prominent active recreation activities that occur along the Port Phillip foreshore, in both a formal and informal capacity.

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⁶ Detailed data on walking, running and cycling in CoPP is provided in the Background Research and Analysis Report

Part 3. The Support Crew



Council's role and responsibilities

Role in physical activity and health

Council has five health priorities in the *Plan for Port Phillip 2025-2035*, one of which is increasing active living and physical activity. Council recognises that physical activity is an important factor in maintaining overall health and wellbeing and preventing chronic disease and is committed to supporting all type of physical activity.

Council has an 'active' focus across many service areas, strategies and plans that contribute to the physical activity types of 'play', 'active living' and 'active transport' alongside sport and active recreation. This includes:

- Council's *Public Space Strategy* acknowledges a key role of public space is to encourage our community to be active and healthy
- Council's *Integrated Transport Strategy* considers active transport as an important component of creating a healthy community and aims to ensure the community has safe, connected and convenient active transport choices
- Council's *Play Space Strategy* recognises that play is the predominant way children are physically active and prioritises the provision and maintenance of vibrant outdoor play spaces that create opportunities for fun, adventure and learning
- Structure and precinct plans, such as the South Melbourne Structure Plan, support an active pedestrian environment, with safe and attractive places to walk, as well as a pedestrian and cycling network that connected key destinations with strategic corridors
- Council's *Events Strategy* includes a focus on hosting events that enable participation in active and recreational events to boost physical and mental health.

Role in sport and active recreation

Council is committed to providing formal and informal opportunities for the community to be active through sport and active recreation.

Shared responsibility

Local governments are one of many organisations that play a role in getting the community more active. The Australian Sports Commission (ASC) sport participation strategy '*PlayWell*' identifies the following key organisations that make up the sport and active recreation ecosystem:

- Federal Government
- State Government
- Local Government
- National Sporting Organisations (NSO)
- State Sporting Associations (SSA)
- Local associations and regional sport assemblies
- Private providers

- Corporate organisations
- Sporting clubs
- Allied health services
- Peak bodies
- Media
- Schools and tertiary institutions
- Foundations and not-for-profits
- Support services.

Each type of organisation has different roles, responsibilities and priorities. For the sport and active recreation ecosystem to function successfully, it is important that each organisation delivers on its roles and responsibilities and collaborates with others in their areas of expertise.

Influencing systems

The predominant role of government in sport and active recreation is to influence change at a systems level. A 'systems approach' recognises that people's opportunities to be active are shaped by the broader physical, structural and social systems that they live, work and play within, not just by individual choices. For local government, this means making physical activity an easier and more accessible choice for people through:

- shaping the design and function of local facilities and spaces
- developing and implementing local policy and establishing the terms of agreement for the use of public space
- targeted and strategic local investment and support.

Working in the community

As the level of government closest to the community, Council also plays an important role in ensuring there are opportunities for people to participate in sport and active recreation in a way that works for them, which includes:

- managing and maintaining local facilities and spaces
- working closely with local clubs, providers, schools and organisations
- providing direct programming and support for the community.

Working in partnership

Given the shared land management of many of the facilities and spaces used for sport and active recreation in the municipality, it is essential that the Council continues to work in partnership with external stakeholders, including government agencies. Albert Park Reserve and the facilities within, including MSAC and Lakeside Stadium, are managed by the State Government. Management of the Port Phillip foreshore is a shared responsibility of Council and the State Government. While Council does not have full control over the development and use of these spaces, it is Council's role to:

- work collaboratively with the State Government to ensure ongoing community access to local sport and active recreation facilities and spaces
- advocate to other levels of government for funding local priorities and needs.

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The challenges we face

There are many challenges facing our City that impact sport and active recreation provision and participation. These challenges and how they play out in a sport and active recreation context are detailed below.

1. Population growth and limited public open space

There is large population growth expected in CoPP over the next 10 years (28.8%), particularly in Fishermans Bend, where there will be a significant increase in people living in high density residences. The growing population will increase demand for sport and active recreation facilities, spaces, programming, and services, many of which are already at capacity. As an inner metro municipality, CoPP is highly developed and new open spaces (including sports grounds) cannot be provided to meet this increasing demand. While there is planned construction of new sport and active recreation facilities and spaces in Fishermans Bend over the next 30 years, these new facilities and spaces will be required to provide for the increased resident population in Fishermans Bend, in addition to addressing broader municipal provision gaps, and State Government funding may not be sufficient to deliver all that is required.

Specific challenges for sport and active recreation in CoPP:

- As large open spaces are required for many sport and active recreation activities, particularly for formal sport, there is insufficient space available for Council to develop the number of new facilities required in line with population growth. This has resulted in:
 - a current low provision of sports grounds for soccer, outdoor courts for netball and indoor courts for basketball
 - a projected future deficit of sports ovals for AFL and cricket and outdoor courts for tennis within the next 10 years.
- Increasing population and the shift in participation preferences towards more informal, less structured ways to be active has increased the utilisation of facilities and spaces for informal sport and active recreation, further contributing to capacity pressures.
- Increasing population density means more residents are using public open spaces as their 'backyards' and there is increased utilisation of sports grounds and the foreshore for a range of activities including dog walking and passive recreation, which can limit use for sport and active recreation.
- Spaces which have historically been used for sport and active recreation purposes are now required to perform multiple other environmental and sustainability functions (e.g. distributed water storage).
- Summer and winter sports clubs are required to share facilities and spaces, which creates conflicts due to differing priorities and the pressure from SSAs to extend and overlap sporting seasons.
- Council is required to limit use of turf sports grounds to avoid degradation of the surface, but if overuse does occur then grounds may need to be closed for a period to allow for regeneration, temporarily limiting sport and active recreation participation.

- The requirements of semi-elite sport's clubs located at some of our sport and active recreation facilities, restricts Council's ability to maximise the allocation and use of these facilities, which means their overall contribution to sport and active recreation provision for the community is suboptimal

Implication: *It is not feasible nor sustainable for Council to address the facility deficit for every sport and active recreation activity through providing more facilities. Our approach needs to optimise the use of our existing facilities to benefit more people in the community and maximise multi-use through multiple sports and clubs sharing facilities and sites. We also need to consider a future focus on sport and active recreation activities that do not require large spaces or formal facilities for people to participate.*

2. Inequities and barriers to participation

Not everyone has the same opportunity to participate in community life due to both direct and indirect discrimination and inequity in opportunity. Specific groups (and individuals with a range of intersectional characteristics) experience increased barriers that limit their participation. Women and girls, people with disability, First People's, CALD communities and LGBTIQ+ all participate in sport and active recreation at lower rates due to barriers related to safety, access, inclusion or awareness of opportunities.

Specific challenges for sport and active recreation:

- Addressing sport and active recreation participation demand does not always align with equity outcomes. For example, providing for sport and active recreation activities that have high participation demand potentially reinforces gender inequities. This is because the sport and active recreation activities that have historically been provided and given the opportunity to grow are those that men and boys participate in.
- Women, girls, gender diverse and older people have reported feeling unsafe when being active in public space after dark, which limits their participation options, particularly in winter.
- While there are generally options for both male and female participation in formal sport, the binary nature of sports competition means there are limited opportunities for gender diverse people.
- There is an overall lack of programs for people with a disability across most formal sport and active recreation activities in CoPP.
- There are a wide range of opportunities to be physically active in CoPP, both provided by Council and other organisations, but low community awareness and no central source of information where people can find out what is available to them.
- Some cultural and demographic groups, including older adults, are harder to reach with information about opportunities to be active because it is often shared through channels they do not use, cannot easily access, or that they may not feel comfortable using.

Implication: *To deliver equitable sport and active recreation outcomes, we must shift focus from responding primarily to overall participation demand toward targeted support for groups within the community who face the greatest barriers to being active. We should prioritise our resources for strategic planning and advocacy efforts (including seeking external grant funding) to reduce known barriers for these groups and support other organisations to provide opportunities for the broader community.*

3. Climate change

CoPP declared a climate emergency in 2019, recognising that climate change is a global challenge impacting all aspects of life, and everyone must help to respond. The effects of climate change impacting CoPP include rising sea levels, beach erosion, storm surges, flash flooding and heat waves, which all pose a significant risk to both our City and our community. This is especially pertinent in Fishermans Bend, as this area will be undergoing large scale redevelopment as the effects of climate change intensify over time.

Specific challenges for sport and active recreation:

- Rising sea levels, beach erosion and storm surges are a threat to our foreshore sport and active recreation buildings and infrastructure and will impact the ability to participate in sand and water sport and active recreation activities in the future.
- Increasing severe weather events and extreme heat days will disrupt programming and impact the ability to consistently participate in outdoor sport and active recreation activities.
- Environmental and sustainability considerations do not always align with common measures to respond to increasing sport and active recreation participation demand. For example, synthetic sports ground surfaces increase the number of hours a ground can be used for but also contribute to the urban heat island effect through the removal of natural turf replaced with a less permeable surface.
- New sport and active recreation facilities and infrastructure within the municipality will predominantly be built in Fishermans Bend, which is a flood prone area of the City.

Implication: *To safeguard the future of sport and active recreation and ensure ongoing opportunities to participate in more challenging weather conditions, we must prioritise making existing and any new sport and active recreation facilities climate-resilient, while also limiting the environmental impact of sport and active recreation facilities and activities.*

4. Reliance on other land managers and providers

A high proportion of sport and active recreation facilities and spaces within CoPP are managed by entities other than Council, which means that Council does not have direct or full control of what occurs in these spaces and has less influence over the sport and active recreation opportunities provided.

Specific challenges for sport and active recreation:

- A large proportion of sports grounds within the municipality are located within Albert Park Reserve, which is managed by Parks Victoria (PV) and is heavily impacted by the Grand Prix occupation each year.
- The major indoor, aquatic and stadium facilities in CoPP, including MSAC, Lakeside Stadium, and Albert Park Indoor Sports Centre are located within Albert Park Reserve and managed by the State Sport Centres Trust (SSCT) or PV.
- Many water and sand-based sport and active recreation activities occur on the foreshore, and while Council supports these activities, the State Government permits these uses.
- Most formal active recreation activities, particularly gym and fitness, are provided by commercial operators and businesses, which may limit opportunities for some of our community due to cost and access barriers.

Implication: *It is vital to proactively partner and work closely with other facility and land managers to ensure ongoing community access to a diversity of sport and active recreation activities and advocate for Council priorities and community needs in the use of sport and active recreation assets located within the municipality.*

5. Financial constraints

Council and our community are living in challenging and uncertain financial times. Rising inflation, construction costs and operating expenses are all significant challenges for Council in a rate capped environment, and cost-of-living pressures are being felt by many in our community. Council must find ways to operate within the rate cap while meeting the needs and expectations of our growing community.

Specific challenges for sport and active recreation:

- Construction costs for sport and active recreation facility development and renewal have increased significantly, which increases the importance of strategic prioritisation and lifecycle costing for facilities to manage the financial pressure on Council.
- There has been a decrease in Federal and State Government funding for sport and active recreation projects, and grant opportunities are highly competitive.
- The cost-of-living crisis has reduced disposable income, impacting the type and quantity of sport and active recreation activities the community can participate in.
- Community sports clubs rely heavily on volunteers, and it is increasingly difficult for clubs to attract and retain them.

Implication: *Council is limited in the number of sport and active recreation projects and programs we can fund and must prioritise responsibly managing our existing assets, followed by actions that address identified provision gaps and provide value for money in seeing meaningful increases in physical activity within the community. To increase what we can provide, we must also explore*

alternate funding streams including co-contributions from clubs and maximise grant funding potential by identifying local projects that align with state and federal government priorities.

6. Increasing requirements and compliance standards

There are increasing expectations and requirements of community infrastructure to meet the needs and requests of residents and user groups and comply with legislative obligations.

Specific challenges for sport and active recreation:

- National Sporting Organisation's (NSO) and State Sporting Association's (SSA) have facility requirements and standards which, at times, require Council sport and active recreation facilities to be upgraded to ensure compliance with standards.
- There are high community and sports club expectations for the quality and level of provision of sport and active recreation facilities and infrastructure.
- There are requirements on Council to maintain and upgrade facilities and spaces to ensure they meet accessibility standards, are fair-access aligned and fit-for-purpose.
- There are increasing requests for purpose-built or single use sport and active recreation facilities for specific sports and activities in CoPP, which are less viable in a financially constrained environment, where public space is limited.
- CoPP has an ageing portfolio of leased sport and active recreation buildings, that will require progressive redevelopment. While it is a requirement of their lease, tenants do not necessarily have the means to fund, which means the cost may fall on Council if we retain these buildings.

Implication: *To fulfil Council's asset safety and compliance responsibilities, some sport and active recreation projects may need to be deprioritised or delayed. It is essential that capital works scopes and budgets are adequate to meet evolving standards and community infrastructure expectations.*

Part 4. The Gameplan



Vision

Port Phillip is a physically active community where everyone is supported to participate in lifelong sport and active recreation that improves health, wellbeing and social connection.

What this means to us

Physically active – it is broader than sport, it includes all the ways we move our bodies in an intentional way

Everyone – no matter your age, gender, background or ability

Supported to participate – opportunities are not just ‘available’, but people’s unique and collective needs are considered and addressed so everyone can move in a way that works for them

Lifelong – across the lifespan, from child to older adult, how we participate in sport and active recreation changes, but physical activity is supported through all life stages

Improves health and wellbeing – we want to support sport and active recreation that has tangible benefits for health and wellbeing, not just provide sport for ‘sports sake’

Social connection – sport and active recreation is a powerful tool that can influence society. We want to use sport and active recreation to bring people together and enhance social cohesion.

How we will measure this

Progress on the vision will be measured by two indicators, which are how physically active our community are, and how often people participate in sport and active recreation.

How we achieve this

The Playbook comprises three strategic pillars. The vision will be achieved through targeted actions in each of the pillars:

- 1. Places:** the facilities, infrastructure and open space where people are physically active
- 2. Participation:** the programs, events and opportunities for the community to be physically active
- 3. Partnerships:** the groups and organisations we work with to enable community access to sport and active recreation.

Places

The *Places* pillar includes the facilities, infrastructure and open space where people are physically active.

Council plays a key role in the provision, development, investment, management and maintenance of public land and facilities for sport and active recreation.

Goals

- 1. Optimise the capacity and capability of sport and active recreation facilities and spaces, balancing demand, equity and sustainability***
- 2. Create sport and active recreation facilities and spaces that address provision gaps and encourage physical activity.***

Strategic plays

Our principles and planning approaches

- We plan and provide for sport and active recreation facilities and spaces based on both current and expected future environments
- We complement, not duplicate, by addressing identified facility provision gaps
- We embrace the unique characteristics of the CoPP landscape to support a diverse range of sport and active recreation activities
- We look for low-cost facility improvements that have maximum impact to increase participation
- We take a multifaceted approach to increasing facility provision by prioritising improved capacity and functionality of existing facilities (including consideration of alternate playing surfaces) and increasing community access to school and private facilities in the municipality, before developing new facilities
- We optimise and future proof our limited open space by ensuring sport and active recreation facilities and spaces are multipurpose, multifunctional and facilitate shared use
- We ensure open space with the primary function of 'active' (including sports grounds) is prioritised for formal sport and active recreation, with other activities considered an important secondary use
- We recognise the contribution of 'undersized' sport and active recreation facilities and spaces (such as sports grounds that do not meet SSA guidelines) and support retaining them as a part of the sport and active recreation facility network
- We plan and invest strategically to ensure the sustainability and viability of sport and active recreation from both a financial and environmental perspective (including the timing of capital works projects at the same site).

Our priorities and focus areas

- Make our sport and active recreation facilities and spaces safer, more accessible and welcoming for all groups within the community (including women, girls and gender diverse people)
- Develop and upgrade sport and active recreation facilities and spaces to be environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient, including infrastructure to support participation in future weather conditions
- Increase the provision of active recreation facilities and infrastructure in CoPP with a focus on multi-component and intergenerational facilities complemented by singular components where space is limited
- Increase the provision of sports facilities with identified current or future deficits where there are limited private or school facilities existing in the municipality
- Ensure strategic planning for transport considers active travel and walking/cycling infrastructure from a physical activity and community wellbeing perspective, including continuous paths, lighting, accessibility, wayfinding and shade
- Advocate and actively plan for future sport and active recreation infrastructure development in Fishermans Bend, ensuring alignment with identified provision gaps, and consider innovative solutions that to increase provision, such vertical infrastructure
- Support the implementation of actions related to sport and active recreation places and spaces in Council strategies and plans including the Public Space Strategy, Enterprise Management Plan, Integrated Transport Strategy, Community Safety Plan and Foreshore Management Plan.

Actions

Category	Action No	Action	Timing
Goal 1: Optimise the capacity and capability of sport and active recreation facilities and spaces, balancing demand, equity and sustainability			
Capital / Built Infrastructure	1.1	Deliver improvements and upgrades to sport and active recreation buildings based on asset condition audits and service level assessments in line with asset management plans.	Ongoing
	1.1a	Deliver upgrades to Albert Park Bowls Club clubhouse, with a focus on addressing gender equity and fair access needs.	Short (year 1-3)
	1.1b	Provide support to upgrade Port Melbourne Bowls Club clubhouse, with a focus on addressing accessibility and safety needs.	Short (year 1-3)
	1.1c	Deliver amenity upgrades to support operations at Port Melbourne Life Saving Club.	Short (year 1-3)
	1.1d	Construct new courts and clubhouse at Elwood Croquet Club, following Melbourne Water works at Elwood Park.	Medium (year 4-7)
	1.2	Deliver sports ground upgrades based on asset condition audits and service level assessments in line with asset management plans, focusing on sustainably increasing capacity and addressing accessibility and equity needs.	Ongoing
	1.2a	Upgrade Woodruff Oval at JL Murphy Reserve	Short (year 1-3)
	1.2b	Upgrade Pitch 1 at JL Murphy Reserve	Medium (year 4-7)
	1.2c	Upgrade Aaneson Oval at JL Murphy Reserve	Medium (year 4-7)
	1.2d	Upgrade the sports ground at Alma Park	Long (year 8–10)
	1.3	Upgrade Head Street A and B sports grounds at Elwood Park following Melbourne Water works.	Medium (year 4-7)
	1.4	Deliver sports ground lighting upgrades based on asset condition audits and service level assessments in line with asset management plans and site plans, focusing on increasing lux levels to align with standards and conversion to LED globes.	Ongoing
	1.4a	Upgrade sports lighting at Alma Park Oval	Short (year 1-3)
	1.4b	Upgrade sports lighting at Pitch 1 at JL Murphy Reserve	Medium (year 4-7)
	1.4c	Upgrade sports lighting at Aaneson Oval at JL Murphy Reserve	Medium (year 4-7)
	1.5	Upgrade the sports lighting at the Albert Park Hockey Tennis Centre delivered as part of the Joint Venture Agreement with Wesley College	Short (year 1-3)

Category	Action No	Action	Timing
	1.6	Consider the inclusion of infrastructure to address climate change, accessibility and equity challenges in the scope and budget for sport and active recreation capital projects including: • shade, seating, drinking taps and permeable surfaces to support physical activity in warmer weather conditions • amenities and lighting to enhance safety and perceptions of safety for women, girls and gender diverse people including along the Foreshore (where appropriate) • safe and accessible connections to public and active transport options • adherence to universal design principles.	Medium (year 4-7) (then ongoing)
Strategic / Planning	1.7	Undertake a feasibility study to support Fishermans Bend Gymnastics Club to access appropriate facilities so they can continue to support community connection and provide services to the Port Phillip community.	Short (year 1-3)
	1.8	Review the <i>Outdoor Sports Lighting Operating Guidelines 2021</i> and the <i>Sports Surfaces Operating Guidelines 2021</i> and determine the future requirements for these documents in line with this Strategy.	Medium (year 4-7)
	1.9a	Develop criteria to assess asset capacity, function and sustainability (to complement asset condition audit data) and determine appropriate service level standards	Medium (year 4-7)
	1.9b	Collect data in line with set criteria in conjunction with asset condition data to inform asset management plans and guide future sport and active recreation upgrades and renewals.	Medium (year 4-7)
Goal 2: Create sport and active recreation facilities and spaces that address provision gaps and encourage physical activity			
Capital / Built Infrastructure	2.1	Deliver new outdoor netball courts and supporting infrastructure, including a pavilion, in Port Melbourne.	Short (year 1-3)
	2.2	Deliver sport and active recreation facilities and infrastructure at the Sandridge Recreation Precinct in Fishermans Bend in line with the masterplan, including a new sports ground, pavilion and upgrades to supporting infrastructure such as paths and lighting.	Medium (year 4-7)
	2.3	Deliver small infrastructure interventions in public space that encourage movement and integrate physical activity into daily life. Encourage active recreation through line markings, play elements, functional fitness prompts, with use of gamification where appropriate	Medium (year 4-7)
	2.4	Facilitate participation in sport and active recreation activities on the foreshore including investigating potential locations and options for lighting, storage and infrastructure to support year-round water-based activities	Medium (year 4-7)
	2.5	Upgrade and construct new active recreation infrastructure considering recommendations from the <i>Informal Sport and Recreation Plan 2019</i> and priorities from this Strategy, including infrastructure that supports youth and active recreation trends	Ongoing

Category	Action No	Action	Timing
	2.5a	Construct a new active recreation space under the Graham Street overpass in Port Melbourne and consider upgrade the outdoor fitness station at Cook Reserve	Short (year 1-3)
	2.5b	Install signage and line markings to improve the function and user experience of the Newton Court Reserve scooter track.	Medium (year 4-7)
	2.5c	Upgrade the outdoor fitness station at Peanut Farm Reserve to include more diverse and inclusive equipment	Medium (year 4-7)
Operational / Delivery	2.6	Investigate potential locations and implement designated 'active areas' of foreshore where beach sport requests can be formally allocated (particularly those that operate with temporary / removable infrastructure)	Short (year 1-3)
Advocacy	2.8	Advocate to the State Government for improved active recreation facilities on State-managed land, including renewing or replacing facilities at Park Towers Reserve and enhancing access for the broader community	Short (year 1-3) (then ongoing)
	2.9	Advocate to the State Government and private developers for the inclusion of active recreation infrastructure in the design and development of open space and linear parks within Fishermans Bend that supports active everyday travel and movements	Short (year 1-3) (then ongoing)
	2.10	Advocate to the State Government for safe and accessible active transport connections to be prioritised for key sport and active recreation sites and spaces across CoPP, and for improvements to walking and cycling paths to address safety concerns that prevent people from being active, including development of high-quality, continuous walking/running and cycling routes	Medium (year 4-7) (then ongoing)

Participation

The *Participation* pillar includes the programs, events and opportunities for the community to be physically active and participate in sport and active recreation.

Council's predominant role is as a facilitator of participation through supporting and managing use of public space for participation opportunities. Council also plays a role in filling gaps and addressing inequities in provision.

This pillar also recognises that Council is ideally positioned to be a central point of information dissemination and education for the local community on opportunities to be active.

Goals

3. ***Strive for equitable access to and experience of sport and active recreation for people of all ages, genders, abilities and backgrounds and address identified gaps and barriers that limit participation.***
4. ***Champion sport and active recreation and increase community awareness of the opportunities to be physically active in CoPP***

Strategic plays

Our principles and planning approaches

- We plan and provide for sport and active recreation based on both current and expected future communities
- We support groups with low physical activity levels or who face additional barriers to being active by both activating spaces where they already feel welcome and safe, and making existing and new sport and active recreation environments more welcoming and inclusive
- We aim to *optimise* rather than *maximise* overall sport and active recreation participation and ensure decisions are not based solely on existing participation demand, but environmental sustainability and diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) outcomes are appropriately considered
- We encourage socially inclusive practices and initiatives within sport and active recreation environments to contribute to social cohesion within the community
- We prioritise community participation over elite competition and ensure that our decision making and management of assets makes sport and active recreation accessible to our local community
- We look to support existing sport and active recreation clubs and providers before directly delivering sport and active recreation programming to prevent duplication and increase efficiencies

- We are agile and flexible to support new and emerging sports and embrace opportunities that expand the diversity of sport and active recreation activities provided in CoPP
- We support both community and commercial sport and active recreation providers, focussing on community benefit of the program or activity over the provider type
 - While community providers are given priority access to facilities and spaces, commercial providers who provide a specialised service or activity that adds to the diversity of participation opportunities in CoPP are supported

Our priorities and focus areas

- Encourage the integration of physical activity into everyday life and promote activities that combine physical activity with other areas of life
- Increase focus on informal, unstructured and ad hoc participation, recognising and prioritising active recreation activities as core components of the participation profile of the City of Port Phillip (e.g. running, cycling, swimming)
- Optimise the programming and allocation of open spaces for sport and active recreation use and look to activate sport and active recreation facilities and spaces at times when they are not being used
- Support and promote sport and active recreation programs and opportunities for identified gaps in provision (including gaps for specific sport and active recreation activities and gaps in opportunity for specific groups of people) and emerging trends (e.g bike jump tracks), balancing opportunity and risk
- Continue to prioritise participation for women, girls and gender diverse people
- Make information on opportunities to be active available and more accessible for all cohorts of the community
- Support the implementation of actions related to sport and active recreation in Council DEI strategies and plans, specifically the *Accessibility Action Plan*, *Reconciliation Action Plan*, *LGBTIQA+ Action Plan*, *Positive Ageing Policy* and *Multicultural Strategy*

Actions

Category	Action No	Action	Timing
Goal 3: Strive for equitable access to and experience of sport and active recreation for people of all ages, genders, abilities and backgrounds and address identified gaps and barriers that limit participation.			
Operational / Delivery	3.1	Support participation in bay swimming through a mix of enabling partnerships, programming, awareness of opportunities, access to and education on open water swimming	Short (year 1-3)
	3.2	Collect annual participation data from our sport and active recreation providers (with specific breakdowns including age and gender) to inform ongoing and future infrastructure and programming priorities	Short (year 1-3) (then ongoing)
	3.3	Ensure Council's community grant funding includes priorities to increase active living and physical activity, supporting participation in sport and active recreation for people or groups that experience increased barriers to participation	Short (year 1-3) (then ongoing)
	3.4	Activate underutilised sport and active recreation facilities and spaces, and times when facilities and spaces are not being used through innovative programming and diverse user groups, including: • sports courts and pavilions during the day on weekdays • foreshore during winter when there are fewer competing uses, including wellness-based activities	Medium (year 4-7)
	3.5	Work with sport and active recreation clubs and SSAs to make changes to the traditional programming and formatting of formal sport to facilitate more people to participate in existing facilities and open space such as: • Shorter match and training durations • Less frequent training and matches • Modified games with smaller space requirements	Medium (year 4-7)
	3.6	Promote information about access opportunities for residents to externally operated aquatic facilities within CoPP and in adjacent municipalities.	Medium (year 4-7)
	3.7	Work with community sport and active recreation clubs to expand and modernise their offering and facilitate new and emerging activities (for example, tennis clubs to provide opportunities for pickleball).	Medium (year 4-7) (then ongoing)
Strategic / Planning	3.8	Develop guidelines for Council's provision of sport and active recreation programming, including the types of programs Council supports and Council's approach to engaging with external providers.	Short (year 1-3)
	3.9	Review the fees and charges for the formal use of Council sport and active recreation facilities and spaces with a focus on consistency, equity and community benefit	Short (year 1-3)

Category	Action No	Action	Timing
	3.10	Review the conditions of lease and licence agreements for the use of Council sport and active recreation facilities and spaces with a focus on ensuring wider community benefit and alignment to Council positions and priorities relating to diversity, equity and inclusion and sustainability	Medium (year 4-7)
	3.11	Review and formalise the process of allocating formal use of Council sport and active recreation facilities and spaces ensuring access for multiple user groups and balance of usage types	Medium (year 4-7)
	3.12	Continue to implement the <i>Fair Access in Sport Policy</i> and <i>Fair Access in Sport Action Plan</i> and consider expanding the scope beyond women and applying an intersectional lens when at time of policy review.	Medium (year 4-7)
Goal 4: Champion sport and active recreation and increase community awareness of the opportunities to be physically active in CoPP			
Operational / Delivery	4.1	Promote sport and active recreation opportunities in CoPP to the community through mediums and channels that are accessible and appropriate for different age, gender and cultural cohorts. Include specific promotion of: • the unique opportunities at sport and active recreation facilities within Albert Park Reserve and the foreshore/bay • additional opportunities available on municipal borders • walking, running and cycling opportunities as low-cost ways to get the community active • programs and initiatives that combine physical activity with other areas of life • programs that target people and groups who experience increased barriers to participation	Short (year 1-3) (then ongoing)
	4.2	Promote sport and active recreation opportunities provided by the private sector in CoPP, particularly those that Council does not need to directly provide due to high market provision including gym, fitness and sports such as pickleball	Short (year 1-3) (then ongoing)
	4.3	Increase social media promotion of sport and active recreation in CoPP, with a focus on compelling storytelling and interaction with the community to inspire people to get active	Short (year 1-3) (then ongoing)
	4.4	Expand the scope and reach of existing sports club communications to include new audiences and channels, including sport and active recreation providers and groups that are not associated with a peak body and/or are less formal in structure	Medium (year 4-7)
	4.5	Uplift the sport and active recreation content on the CoPP website to ensure all facilities, spaces and opportunities to be active are present and easy to find and consider integration of additional features such as a searchable directory and interactive maps	Medium (year 4-7)

Partnerships

The *Partnerships* pillar is about collaborating with other organisations to provide for community sport and active recreation in the most efficient and effective way possible.

This pillar recognises that Council is one of many organisations contributing to sport and active recreation provision and that working together, by complementing rather than duplicating what is provided by others, achieves the best outcomes for the community.

Goals

- 5. *Collaborate with, and support, sport and active recreation clubs, providers and community organisations to offer a diverse range of activities that are inclusive and sustainable***
- 6. *Advocate to, and partner with, other land managers, facility providers, peak bodies and government, to address gaps in community access to sport and active recreation.***

Strategic plays

Our principles and planning approaches

- We partner with other organisations to use resources efficiently, prevent duplication of facilities and programs and operate in line with our role and areas of expertise and influence.
- We partner with Parks Victoria and the State Sport Centres Trust to advocate for joint priorities relating to investment and support for community sport and active recreation opportunities and facilities within Albert Park Reserve.
- We support community sport and active recreation clubs and providers accessing school facilities and encourage schools to manage these agreements where possible, acknowledging at times Council may enter an agreement with the school to manage community access.
- We work collaboratively across sectors to identify shared issues and priorities that can be achieved through physical activity
- We diversify and seek new funding streams, including co-contributions from long-term user groups, to ensure the ongoing sustainability of sport and active recreation

Our priorities and focus areas

- Build and develop the capacity, capability and sustainability of sport and active recreation clubs and providers that use Council facilities, and broaden our current sports club focus to include greater support for sport and active recreation providers and groups that are not associated with a peak body and/or are less formal in structure

- Seek and establish partnerships with sport and active recreation clubs and providers, schools and private facility providers that deliver programs, activities or facilities that address provision gaps
- Increase advocacy to State and Federal Government for support and funding for sport and active recreation priorities and projects, including working collaboratively with the State Government to ensure all allocated sport and active recreation facilities and spaces in Fishermans Bend are delivered
- Work closely with property developers and commercial operators to achieve community sport and active recreation outcomes from private developments, particularly in Fishermans Bend.
- Work closely with neighbouring Councils to identify and provide sport and active recreation opportunities across municipal borders.

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Actions

Category	Action No	Action	Timing
Goal 5: Collaborate with, and support, sport and active recreation clubs, providers and community organisations to offer a diverse range of activities that are inclusive and sustainable			
Operational / Delivery	5.1	Create a sport and active recreation club and provider development plan and deliver opportunities that help build organisational capability and sustainable participation. Focus areas to include quality of participant experience, DEI, environmental sustainability and climate change readiness.	Short (year 1-3) (then ongoing)
	5.2	Collate existing resources, to develop a toolkit to educate and assist sport and active recreation clubs and providers with meaningful inclusion for First Peoples, women and gender diverse, people with disability, LGBTIQA+ and CALD communities	Medium (year 4-7)
Strategic / Planning	5.3	Review the <i>Outdoor Commercial Recreation Policy</i> and <i>Outdoor Fitness Training Policy</i> and determine the future requirements for these documents in line with this Strategy	Short (year 1-3)
Goal 6: Advocate to, and partner with, other land managers, facility providers, peak bodies and government, to address gaps in community access to sport and active recreation.			
Operational / Delivery	6.1	Apply for grants to fund community sport and active recreation facilities and programs that address provision gaps and priorities within this Strategy. Consider Federal and State Government grants and sport-specific grants offered by SSAs and NSOs	Short (year 1-3) (then ongoing)
	6.2	Identify and establish community use partnerships with schools and/or private organisations that have (or are willing to develop) sport and active recreation facilities that meet gaps within Council's facility network, prioritising shared access outcomes. Priority facilities include: • indoor courts for basketball • rectangular sports grounds for soccer • sports ovals for AFL and cricket • tennis courts	Short (year 1-3) (then ongoing)
	6.3	Work with the State Sports Centres Trust to improve community access and participation opportunities at MSAC and Lakeside Stadium	Short (year 1-3) (then ongoing)

Category	Action No	Action	Timing
	6.4	Collaborate with neighbouring councils to provide access to a greater variety of participation opportunities for residents, which may include promotion of SAR programs delivered at council-managed leisure centres in other municipalities	Medium (year 4-7)
	6.5	Develop a co-investment approach for Council sport and active recreation infrastructure projects that seeks financial and in-kind contributions from sports clubs and delivery partners	Medium (year 4-7)
	6.6	Collaborate with Parks Victoria and State Sporting Associations (SSAs) to achieve optimal access and use of sports grounds (grounds being used at maximum carrying capacity, not over or under) across Port Phillip and Albert Park Reserve as a network.	Long (year 8–10)
Strategic / Planning	6.7	Develop guidelines for Council support for sport and active recreation projects and opportunities on non-council managed land within the municipality and on municipal borders, including Albert Park Reserve, school sites and City of Melbourne managed precincts of Fishermans Bend	Long (year 8–10)
	6.8	Review existing agreements for use of sport and active recreation facilities and spaces (including joint ventures and joint use agreements) and assess Council's ongoing commitment to each agreement based on value and community benefit provided	Long (year 8–10)
Advocacy	6.9	Advocate to the State Government for the delivery of the <i>Albert Park Sports Management Plan</i>	Short (year 1-3) (then ongoing)
	6.10	Advocate to the State Government and key stakeholders for the delivery of significant sport and active recreation infrastructure projects in Fishermans Bend that are planned for 2036 onwards including: • Sandridge Sport and Recreation Hub • Prohasky Recreation Preserve and Pavilion	Medium (year 4-7) (then ongoing)

Part 5. The Finish Line



Evaluation and reporting

Our performance will be assessed by:

1. **Citywide indicators:** indicators measure success in terms of the overall outcome we are trying to achieve, that is, the vision of the Strategy
 - While Council does not have complete control over outcomes and many factors can influence outcome measures, it is important that the indicators track in the right direction.
2. **Measures:** measures assess the more specific outcomes we are trying to achieve, that is, the pillar goals
 - Similar to indicators, measures are focused on outcomes, but smaller or more specific outcomes that Council is directly responsible for or has some level of control in achieving.
3. **Service statistics:** service statistics are the smallest of the three forms of measurement and assess the level of output, that is, the volume of work being done to achieve the Strategy vision and pillar goals
 - Output measures are largely within Council control
4. **Progress on actions:** this is an assessment of the smaller tasks that are being done to accomplish each action and provides important additional context on how the Gameplan is being implemented.

Ongoing feedback

Reporting on each indicator, measure or service statistic will occur annually, biennially or at the 5-year mid-way point of the Strategy in line with the measurement frequency outlined in the Scorecard. The aim is to move from baseline figures to target figures.

We also acknowledge that there is significant 'invisible value' created through sport and active recreation and the impact of people participating in sport and active recreation cannot always be easily measured, quantified or counted. We will endeavour to share people's stories and experiences over the life of the Strategy to help capture this.

Halfway check-in

The Strategy will undergo a major review at its midway point in 2031. At this time data will be updated, progress will be assessed, and measures and actions will be reviewed and revised if required.

Overall success

The overall success of the Strategy and delivery of the Gameplan will be assessed at the end of the Strategy in 2036.

The Scorecard

The scorecard details the indicators, measures and service statistics that are used to measure progress on the vision and pillar goals.

Detail	Baseline			Target		Measurement frequency
				2031	2036	
Indicators						
Percentage (%) of the CoPP community achieving the physical activity guidelines ⁷	39.9% (2023)			Remain above Victorian Average (35.1% in 2023)		At 5-year review and end of Strategy
Percentage (%) of the CoPP community who are physically active through:	Total	Men	Women	Maintain		Biennial
• sport at least 1-2 times per week	42%	44%	39%			
• active recreation at least 3-4 times per week	57%	59%	55%			
• active transport at least 3-4 times per week	67%	70%	66%			
Measures						
Community satisfaction with sport and active recreation facilities in CoPP	Total	Men	Women	Maintain >8/10		Annual
	8.4/10	8.3/10	8.5/10			
Community satisfaction with opportunities to be physically active in CoPP:	Total	Men	Women	Maintain >8/10		Biennial
• Go for a walk, jog or run	8.7/10	8.7/10	8.6/10			
• Go for a bike, scoot or skate	8.2/10	8.1/10	8.3/10			
• Play formal (organised) sport	8.2/10	8.1/10	8.3/10			
• Have an informal kick, hit, shot or pass of a ball	8.2/10	8.2/10	8.3/10			
• Use an outdoor gym or participate in an outdoor fitness class	8.0/10	8/10	8/10			
Number of grant applications submitted to fund sport and active recreation projects over the life of the Strategy	N/A			10	20	At 5-year review and end of Strategy
Service Statistics						
Number of sport and active recreation programs / events delivered annually either through direct Council delivery or partner-facilitated delivery (outside of normal sports club programming / competitions)						
Accessible chair usage as part of the 'Accessible Beaches' program						

⁷ At least 150 minutes per week of moderate to vigorous physical activity for adults

Detail	Baseline	Target		Measurement frequency
		2031	2036	
Percentage (%) of actions from the <i>Fair Access in Sport Policy Action Plan</i> implemented				
Number of sports clubs leased and licensed				
Number of commercial recreation provider licences issued annually				
Number of fitness trainer licences issued annually				
Number of people reached with sport and active recreation promotional / educational communications annually via the CoPP website, EDM's and social media posts				

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Part 6.

Appendices



Appendix 1: Glossary of Terms

Term	Definition
'CoPP' or 'City'	Refers to the City of Port Phillip as a geographical area
'CoPP' or 'Council'	Refers to the City of Port Phillip as an organisation
Physical Activity	Any bodily movement produced by skeletal muscles that requires energy expenditure. Physical activity refers to all movement including during leisure time, to get to and from places, or as part of a person's work or domestic activities.
Sport and Active Recreation	Activities with defined patterns of movement or skill that require physical exertion and are participated in for the purposes of competition, skill development, enjoyment, health, fitness or wellbeing
Sport	Activities involving skill and physical exertion as the primary focus, with rules or patterns of behaviour that govern the activity and are generally recognised as a 'sport'.
Formal Sport	Sport that is governed formally through recognised groups or organisations that typically requires specific infrastructure or equipment and has an element of competition e.g. a soccer match between two club teams
Informal Sport	Sport that is self-directed and/or informally organised e.g. kicking the soccer ball with friends at the park
Active Recreation	Activities where the primary focus is human movement, engaged in for the purposes of relaxation, health, wellbeing or enjoyment, and require some physical exertion but aren't generally recognised as a 'sport'.
Formal Active Recreation	Active recreation that is facilitated by a formal group, organisation, instructor or undertaken at a formal facility. e.g. doing a fitness class with a trainer
Informal Active Recreation	Active recreation that is self-directed and/or informally organised e.g. using fitness equipment at a local park
Active Transport	Physical activity undertaken for the purpose of getting to and from places e.g. cycling to work, walking to a friend's house
Active Living	Physical activity that is integrated into daily living, and where the primary purpose of the activity is not necessarily to be physically active (i.e. the activity has another purpose or achieves another goal) e.g. hanging out the washing, taking the stairs instead of the elevator
Play	Activities that are self-directed, intrinsically motivated, imaginative, guided by mental rules or creativity and are conducted in an alert but non-

	stressed frame of mind. Play may or may not involve infrastructure or equipment.
Sport and Active Recreation (sport and active recreation) club or provider	A club, group or organisation who facilitate formal sport or formal active recreation activities for individuals or groups of people.
National Sporting Organisation or 'NSO'	The organisation recognised by the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) as the main governing body responsible for the development of their sport in Australia.
State Sporting Association or 'SSA'	The primary governing body for a specific sport within a state or territory, responsible for developing their sport from community participation to high performance levels in their state.
Indicator	Metric used to assess broad outcomes
Measure	Metric used to assess specific outcomes
Service Statistic	Metric used to assess specific outputs
Output	The direct, tangible activities or actions undertaken
Outcome	The changes, effects, or benefits that occur as a result of the output

Appendix 2: Sport and active recreation provision and needs assessment

Places and Spaces

The table below shows the publicly accessible sports facilities that are located within the City of Port Phillip⁸, the percentage managed by Council, and whether the current level of provision is considered sufficient based on provision to population industry benchmarks for different sports. These facilities are used for both formal and informal sport participation.

Table 1: Sports facilities and infrastructure in the City of Port Phillip 2025

Facility Type	Number in CoPP	% managed by Council	Provision Assessment ⁹	
			Current (2025)	Future (2036)
Sports grounds	40	43%		
Ovals	23	48%	Sufficient	Low
Rectangular fields	15	33%	Low	Low
Baseball diamonds	2	50%	Sufficient	Low
Outdoor courts	51	31%		
Tennis courts	37	24%	Sufficient	Low
Netball courts	8 (2 netball only, 6 multiline)	88%	Low	Low
Basketball courts	7 (1 basketball only, 6 multiline)	86%	N/A for outdoor	N/A for outdoor
Futsal courts	6 (5 futsal only, 1 multiline)	17%	N/A for outdoor	N/A for outdoor
Greens	12	67%		
Bowls greens	7	43%	Sufficient	Low
Croquet greens	2	100%	Considered sufficient*	Considered sufficient*

⁸ Excludes school facilities with no community access and private facilities

⁹ Provision is assessed as low if the provision-to-population ratio is 25%+ higher than the provision benchmark; sufficient if within +/- 25% of the provision benchmark; high if 25%+ lower than the provision benchmark

* indicates no industry benchmarks for the facility type but expert analysis assessed the level of provision as meeting the current needs of the CoPP community

Facility Type	Number in CoPP	% managed by Council	Provision Assessment ⁹	
			Current (2025)	Future (2036)
Trugo greens	3	100%	Considered sufficient*	Considered sufficient*
Other outdoor facilities	6	17%		
Hockey pitches	2	50%	Sufficient	Sufficient
Athletics facility	1	0%	Considered sufficient*	Considered sufficient*
Golf course	1	0%	Considered sufficient*	Considered sufficient*
Golf driving range	1	0%	Considered sufficient*	Considered sufficient*
Road circuit	1	0%	Considered sufficient*	Considered sufficient*
Indoor courts	42	5%		
Basketball	14 (10 basketball only, 4 multiline)	14%	Low	Low
Volleyball courts	3 (all multiline)	0%	No benchmark	No benchmark
Badminton courts	12	0%	No benchmark	No benchmark
Table tennis tables ¹⁰	24	0%	No benchmark	No benchmark
Squash courts	10	0%	No benchmark	No benchmark
Futsal courts	6 (1 futsal only, 5 multiline)	0%	No benchmark	No benchmark
Netball courts	8 (all multiline)	13%	No benchmark	No benchmark
Other indoor facilities	12	0%		
Gymnastic facility	1	0%	Sufficient	Low
Darts pavilion	1	0%	Considered sufficient*	Considered sufficient*
Aquatic lap pools ¹¹	5	0%	Balanced	Balanced
Swim schools	5	0%	No benchmark	No benchmark

¹⁰ 24 table tennis tables are set up on existing court space and therefore not included in 'total all courts' figure

¹¹ This includes 2 x 50m pools, 1 x 25m pool, 1 x multipurpose pool at MSAC; 1 x 25m pool at St Kilda Sea Baths

Facility Type	Number in CoPP	% managed by Council	Provision Assessment ⁹	
			Current (2025)	Future (2036)
Foreshore and Lake	30	83%		
Lifesaving clubhouses	5	100%	No benchmark	No benchmark
Sailing/yachting/angling pavilions	7	71%	No benchmark	No benchmark
Rowing pavilions	2	0%	No benchmark	No benchmark
Sea scouts pavilions	2	50%	No benchmark	No benchmark
Beach volleyball courts	14	100%	No benchmark, but considered high	Considered sufficient*

The table below shows the type and number of active recreation facilities that are located within CoPP, and the percentage that are managed by Council. Outdoor active recreation facilities typically cater for informal participation, and indoor active recreation facilities for formal participation. However, depending on the activity, both informal and formal participation can occur at outdoor and indoor facilities.

Table 2: Active Recreation facilities and infrastructure in the City of Port Phillip 2025

Facility Type	Number in CoPP	% managed by Council
Outdoor active recreation	47	72%
Fitness stations	17	53%
Basketball half court / mini court	14	71%
Netball half court / mini court	4	100%
Skate parks	2	100%
BMX tracks	1	100%
Pump tracks	1	100%
Scooter tracks	1	100%
Petanque pistes	2	100%

Facility Type	Number in CoPP	% managed by Council
Hit-up walls	2	50%
Ping pong tables	3	100%
Council permitted fitness training sites	17	100%
Indoor active recreation	139	0%
Gyms / Fitness studios	79	0%
Yoga / Pilates studios	55	0%
Leisure Centre	1	0%

Opportunities to be active

The table below shows the sports that are available within CoPP and the number of community clubs or organisations that provide formal opportunities for the community to participate. It also indicates the percentage of these clubs or organisations that provide programs or competitions for specific groups within the community. This does not include private facilities and commercial providers, which are becoming more prevalent, particularly as a way for new and emerging sports to enter the market. There may also be additional opportunities to participate in these sports informally through casual bookings made directly with a club or facility.

*Note: For sports that follow the traditional club structure, the 'total number of clubs' column predominantly represents the number of clubs based in CoPP for each sport. Other sports, particularly niche or emerging sports, where there is a centralised competition or league that teams can enter, or an organisation that provides opportunities to participate, this has been treated as '1' to capture the opportunity for the community to participate in that sport in CoPP. Sports where this is the case, are identified by an * in the table.*

Table 3: Sports available in the City of Port Phillip and the number of clubs / organisations that provide opportunities for community participation

Sport	Total number of clubs	% of clubs that provide programs or competitions for groups within the community					
		Adult (male)	Adult (female)	Child (male)	Child (female)	Young beginner	Disability
AFL	13	62%	62%	31%	31%	31%	15%
Angling	2	100%	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%

Sport	Total number of clubs	% of clubs that provide programs or competitions for groups within the community					
		Adult (male)	Adult (female)	Child (male)	Child (female)	Young beginner	Disability
Athletics / running¹²	6	83%	83%	67%	67%	17%	0%
Badminton¹³	7	100%	100%	43%	43%	0%	0%
Basketball¹⁴	1	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	0%
Baseball	2	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	0%
Beach Handball	2	100%	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%
Beach Tennis*	1	100%	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%
Beach Volleyball*	2	100%	100%	50%	50%	0%	0%
Cricket	13	85%	46%	54%	46%	23%	0%
Croquet	1	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Darts	1	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Diving¹⁵	5	40%	40%	100%	100%	75%	0%
Dodgeball*	1	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Futsal*	1	100%	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%
Gaelic Football	2	100%	100%	50%	50%	0%	0%
Golf	2	50%	100%	50%	50%	0%	0%
Gymnastics	1	0%	0%	100%	100%	100%	0%
Hockey	6	100%	83%	50%	50%	17%	0%
Inline Skating	1	100%	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%
Lacrosse	1	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	0%
Lawn Bowls	4	100%	100%	50%	50%	50%	0%
Lifesaving	5	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	0%
Netball (indoor)¹⁶	2	100%	100%	50%	50%	0%	0%
Netball (outdoor)	4	0%	75%	0%	50%	50%	0%
Pickleball*	1	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Race Walking	1	100%	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%
Roller Hockey*	1	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Rowing	3	67%	100%	33%	67%	0%	0%
Rugby Union	1	100%	100%	100%	100%	0%	100%
Sailing	3	100%	100%	100%	100%	67%	33%
Scouts	2	0%	0%	100%	100%	0%	0%
Soccer	9	78%	78%	46%	46%	31%	8%

¹² includes 3 athletics clubs, 2 running clubs and 1 cross country league

¹³ includes 6 badminton clubs and 1 additional social league

¹⁴ represents the Melbourne Central Basketball Association that operates out of MSAC

¹⁵ represents the 5 diving academies that operate out of MSAC

¹⁶ represents the Victorian Men's and Mixed Netball Association that operates out of MSAC and the social netball leagues at Albert Park Indoor Sports Centre

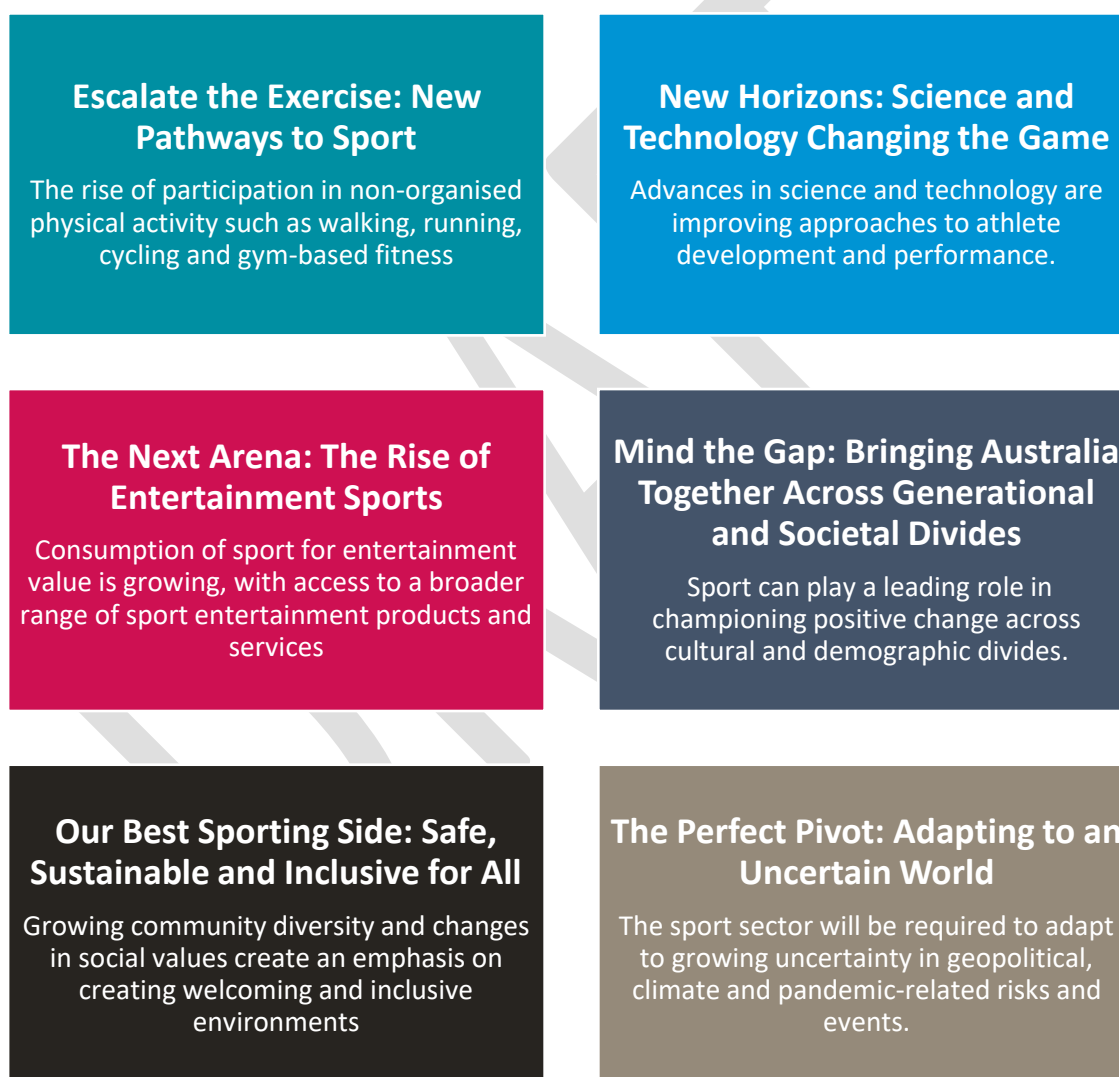
Sport	Total number of clubs	% of clubs that provide programs or competitions for groups within the community					
		Adult (male)	Adult (female)	Child (male)	Child (female)	Young beginner	Disability
Squash*	1	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	0%
Swimming¹⁷	2	50%	50%	100%	100%	0%	0%
Table Tennis	4	100%	100%	50%	50%	0%	0%
Tennis¹⁸	7	100%	100%	71%	71%	29%	0%
Touch Football*	1	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Trugo	3	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Ultimate Frisbee*	1	100%	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%
Volleyball*	1	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Water polo*	1	100%	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%
Yachting	4	100%	100%	100%	100%	75%	25%
TOTAL ALL SPORTS	132						

¹⁷ does not include the 5 private swim schools that operate in CoPP

¹⁸ represents the 5 tennis clubs in CoPP and 2 additional large tennis facilities within Albert Park Reserve

Appendix 3: Sport and active recreation megatrends

The Australian Sports Commission (ASC) and Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) examined the way that the sport sector is changing and identified six megatrends that will shape how Australian's engage with sport in the future¹⁹. The trends and a description of each is shown below. How these megatrends influence participation and provision at a local level are discussed throughout this document and are imbedded into the Playbook.



¹⁹ Australian Sports Commission and CSIRO (2022). The future of Australian sport: The second report – Megatrends shaping the sport sector over coming decades.

