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1. Introduction

Skateboarding, BMX riding, Mountain Bike (MTB) riding and Scooter riding are valued forms of informal recreation in Bayside, especially for children, young people and families. These activities make it easy to be active, build confidence and connect with others in a way that is flexible, low-cost and self-directed.

When designed as part of well-planned parks and public spaces, these facilities do more than provide somewhere to ride. They help activate parks, support intergenerational use and create places where people can gather, move and spend time together. Increasingly, the most successful facilities are those integrated with complementary recreation opportunities such as playgrounds, half courts, informal gathering spaces, scooter and bike-friendly pathways and broader youth-focused recreation areas.

This integrated approach supports progression, encourages more diverse participation and improves passive surveillance and everyday activation of public spaces. Inclusive design, strong visibility, supporting amenity and occasional activation activities can further strengthen participation outcomes, particularly for girls, women, gender-diverse users, beginner riders and less confident participants.

At the same time, Bayside is growing. By 2036, the population is expected to exceed 120,000 people, with more residents living around activity centres and transport corridors. As the municipality becomes more urbanised, public open space will play an increasingly important role in supporting everyday recreation and informal physical activity. Major projects such as the Suburban Rail Loop and broader Activity Centre Program renewal will further increase demand for accessible and well-located recreation opportunities.

While B a y s i d e existing skate and bike facilities provide a strong foundation, many were designed for earlier participation trends and are not always well integrated with surrounding park activity or contemporary recreation patterns. This creates an opportunity to renew ageing infrastructure, strengthen the overall network and expand local recreation opportunities through more flexible and integrated active recreation environments.

The benefits of skating and riding extend beyond physical activity. Regular participation in informal recreation can support mental wellbeing, confidence, social connection and sense of belonging, particularly for young people. Providing welcoming, visible and inclusive spaces for informal recreation also contributes positively to broader community wellbeing and everyday park life.



Highett Skatepark

There is an opportunity to renew ageing infrastructure, strengthen the overall network and expand local recreation opportunities through more flexible and integrated active recreation environments.

This Action Plan adopts a refreshed approach focused on creating a connected network of active recreation spaces across Bayside. It supports a balanced mix of district-level destinations, local riding opportunities and integrated recreation elements delivered through broader park, playground and open space upgrades.

The Action Plan recognises that successful active recreation spaces are highly visible, easy to access and connected to surrounding community activity. Facilities integrated within active parks, youth spaces and recreation reserves consistently perform more strongly, attract a broader range of users and support positive social outcomes.

Importantly, this document provides high-level strategic direction rather than predetermined facility outcomes. Future planning, concept development and investment decisions for individual sites will

continue to be informed through detailed site investigations, feasibility testing and community consultation undertaken as part of future project planning.

Over the next 10 years, Bayside will focus on renewing ageing infrastructure, improving access to local skate and riding opportunities and delivering inclusive, multi-use and youth-friendly active recreation environments that support informal participation across all ages and abilities.



Elsternwick Skatepark

2. About Skate, BMX, MTB and Scooter facilities

Skateboarding, BMX, MTB and Scooter riding are important forms of informal wheeled recreation in Bayside. While each activity has its own culture and style of participation, they share common characteristics. They are flexible, social and largely self-directed, relying on accessible public spaces that support everyday use rather than formal competition.

Participation is typically frequent and local, occurring after school, on weekends and through short repeat visits. Facilities that support a range of skill levels and integrate with surrounding park activity help encourage participation, progression and social connection.

Understanding the distinct qualities of each activity is important in planning welcoming, inclusive and well-connected active recreation environments across Bayside.

Recognising the distinct qualities and requirements of different activities is critical to creating accessible and connected recreation spaces.

Skateboarding

Skateboarding occurs across a wide range of environments, from dedicated skateparks and bowls through to street-style spaces, plazas and informal park settings. Participation is diverse and continually evolving, with people using skate spaces for recreation, progression, creativity, social connection and self-expression.

Unlike many traditional sports, there is no single type of skate space that meets everyone's users are drawn to bowls and transition riding, while others prefer street-style elements, plazas or smaller local spaces that support casual and everyday participation. Younger children and families may engage through beginner-friendly environments integrated within broader park and play settings.

Successful skate spaces are flexible, visible and well integrated within active public environments. Facilities connected to parks, playgrounds, courts and social spaces generally support stronger participation, longer visits and broader community use, while also functioning as informal gathering places for young people and the wider community.

BMX and Mountain Bike riding

BMX/MTB riding is enjoyed across a range of styles and participation levels, from casual neighbourhood riding and skill-building through to progression-focused experiences and social recreation.

Within Bayside, BMX/MTB participation is often supported through flexible and multi-use riding environments that encourage everyday activity, confidence-building and informal recreation close to home. Pump tracks, BMX/MTB-friendly skate spaces, circulation loops and shared active recreation areas can provide accessible opportunities for riders of different ages and skill levels while supporting social and family-based participation.

More specialised BMX/MTB disciplines and competition-style facilities typically require larger land areas and cater to broader regional catchments. As a result, BMX/MTB riding opportunities in Bayside are closely connected to the municipality's wider network of parks, recreation spaces and active environments, while also benefiting from access to regional destinations across Melbourne.

Scooter riding

Scooter riding play a central role in delivering inclusive, neighbourhood-based provision. They are compact, versatile and suited to a wide range of users, accommodating bikes, scooters, skateboards and balance bikes within a single loop. Their design promotes confidence and progression through repetition and flow, making them particularly effective for beginner and intermediate riders. Pump tracks can also be delivered in permanent, modular or temporary formats, allowing flexibility to trial locations, support staged delivery and adapt to changing community needs over time. This adaptability makes pump tracks a valuable tool in strengthening network coverage and expanding access across Bayside.



Skater doing tricks in a skatepark

3. Creating a model that meets everyone's needs

It is important to look at the various users and determine a model that best caters appropriately for as many users as possible.

Importantly the model needs to be flexible and diverse like the users that engage in these pursuits.

There are also so many different types of activity that one single space or model simply does not cater appropriately for everyone's needs. Skaters in particular, rarely use skateparks, preferring to find spots in the urban realm to hit up and enjoy. Bowl skaters however will organise road trips and travel 100s of kilometres just to session a new bowl. Vert skaters and riders require large steep ramps to undertake their chosen pursuit, whilst BMX freestyle riders seek out box jumps, spines and other big transition areas in purpose built concrete or dirt parks. It is therefore critical to start to understand the various styles of skateboarding, scootering, BMX/MTB riding.

Unlike many sporting pursuits, where there are set court dimensions and rules, skateboarding, MTB, scootering and freestyle BMX, have no specific set facility type; it is rather the difference in spaces that provides the diversity and interest in use.



Transition skateboarding / riding

Transition skateboarding is essentially riding curved bowls and pools or part thereof. Generally, the transition or curved surfaces are usually bowls which are essentially a re-creation of the empty pools utilised in California in the 1970s. Popular over the world, these facilities can come in all shapes and sizes, and include single bowls, snake runs & combination bowls.

Generally, each bowl is unique, and riders will travel to enjoy individual bowls, particularly those more complex or deep. Whilst usable and enjoyed by both skateboarders and BMX, bowls can be designed to provide greater value for either group such as including spines, street spines etc. for greater BMX use.



Vert skateboarding / riding

Vert skateboarding and BMX is all about using large ramps (generally 3m+ in height with at least 30cm vertical face at tops of ramp) for doing vertical tricks. Popular in the 2000s and a mainstay for events such as X Games, the broader interest and number of ramps appears to be waning, however there are still many vert skaters across the world enjoying these facilities.

They are mainly constructed from steel with steel/ composite (skatelite) riding surfaces.



BMX / MTB tracks

BMX Tracks are generally large, dedicated facilities with start ramps, gravel / dirt jumps / rollers, and larger asphalt berms. These facilities are suitable for BMX/MTBs and bikes with larger wheels, as the tracks are generally unsealed.



Scooter loops

Scooter loops are low level flowing tracks, with rolled “ pump bump ” features, and banked designed for younger wheeled sports users. The rollers and berms help the users regulate their speed around the track, and learning to “ pump prepares users for riding larger tracks. The tracks will generally be a simple loop, with minimal options for gaps and transfers.

Scooter loops are often integrated into play spaces, due to their low level and accessibility for a range of users. The tracks are usually concrete or asphalt to provide a smooth surface for smaller wheels, and can be ridden by scooters, skateboards, and bikes of all sizes.



Park and street skateboarding / riding

Often confused with plaza skating, park and street style skateboarding is utilising contrived elements that were created to replicate urban elements utilised in the street by riders and skateboarders. Mainly to give these users a safe place to skate, they were first created in the late 1990s and are still popular today.

Elements created over this time have now become standard features found in many skateparks. With park style facilities, there are elements such as fun boxes, ledges, spines, banks, quarter pipes, jump boxes and hips. With street style facilities there are elements that are more street focused elements such as rails and ledges and stairs. Olympic skateboarding events are held on both park and street style courses.



Plaza skateboarding / riding

The final main form of skateboarding and riding is called plaza or street. This is generally simply utilising the existing street and finding spots or elements to skate or ride. Generally urban spots such as an open plaza, set of stairs or seating are favored spaces.

As there has been significant angst by the broader community with skaters utilising spots that impact on others, plaza and street spots are now being created in urban centres around the world that allow skate to occur freely. Importantly these spaces use urban materials and layouts and generally do not include park style elements that are contained at skateparks.



Pump tracks

Pump tracks have many similar elements to scooter loops, however are larger, and can be ridden at greater speeds by more experienced riders. The tracks may have the opportunity to be ridden in different configurations, with lines that cross over, or transfers between berms / rollers. This can make the tracks more interesting to ride for more experienced users, whilst still being accessible to learners.

The nature of pump tracks encourages users to “ pump to generate speed, so users can go at their own pace, building up technique to go faster. Pump Tracks are often “ race with users undertaking time-trial style races against each other. The surfacing of pump tracks is usually asphalt or concrete to maximise the number of users, from skateboards to mountain bikes.



Mountain bike jumps / trails

Mountain biking can be enjoyed in a range of settings and does not require mountainous terrain. Opportunities include shared-use trails, off-road paths and purpose-built facilities such as pump tracks, skills areas, jump lines and flow trails. Together, these facilities provide diverse riding experiences, supporting recreation, skill development and community participation.

Trail-based riding offers a different experience to traditional BMX or MTB tracks, often connecting people to parks, reserves and other destinations. These environments can encourage active transport and provide accessible, low-barrier recreation opportunities for people of all ages and abilities.

4. Community Profile

Bayside City Council is an established inner-metropolitan municipality located on the south-eastern coastline, approximately 10–20 kilometres from the CBD. The municipality includes a diverse mix of coastal, residential and activity-centre suburbs, including Brighton, Brighton East, Sandringham, Hampton, Hampton East, Highett, Cheltenham, Beaumaris and Black Rock.

Positioned between Port Phillip Bay and Melbourne's broader south-east growth corridor, Bayside benefits from strong connections to neighbouring municipalities, regional recreation destinations and metropolitan transport networks. Its extensive coastline, established open space network and active community culture contribute to a highly valued lifestyle and strong participation in recreation and outdoor activity.

Bayside is widely recognised for its high-quality public realm, vibrant local neighbourhoods and strong sense of community. Parks, foreshore spaces, recreation reserves and informal gathering places play an important role in supporting everyday physical activity, social connection, family life and wellbeing across all ages.

The community demonstrates high levels of physical activity participation and strong interest in informal recreation opportunities that are flexible, accessible and close to home. Recreation experiences that support casual participation, social interaction and independent use are increasingly important, particularly for children, young people and families seeking low-barrier ways to be active within their local neighbourhoods.

Bayside's population is projected to grow from approximately 110,000 residents in 2026 to more than 120,000 by 2036. While the municipality is largely established, ongoing infill development and activity-centre renewal will continue to introduce new residents and increase demand for accessible and flexible recreation opportunities close to home.

Children and young people are an important cohort within this changing urban context, particularly in areas experiencing increased housing density and redevelopment. Forecast population data indicates that the 5–14 and 15–24-year-old age groups will remain a significant and sustained population over the next decade. Understanding where young people live, how they move through the municipality and the types of recreation experiences they value is important in planning future active recreation opportunities across Bayside.

Growth in the 5–14 age cohort reinforces the importance of accessible local and district-level recreation opportunities that support beginner participation, family use and everyday activity close to home. At the same time, the continued strength of the 15–24 cohort highlights the importance of youth-friendly recreation spaces that support progression, social connection, independence and longer visits within well-activated public environments.

Major infrastructure and precinct projects, including the Suburban Rail Loop and associated Activity-Centre Program planning in areas such as Cheltenham and Highett, present opportunities to strengthen connections between open space, active transport and recreation. These changes provide an opportunity to continue evolving Bayside's network of parks and active recreation spaces to support a diverse, active and connected community over the long term.



BMXer riding bike in a skate park

Bayside Youth Population Forecast by Suburb

Aggregated 0–14 Years and 15–25 Years (2026 & 2036)

Suburb	0-14 (2026)	0-14 (2036)	15–25 (2026)	15–25 (2036)
Beaumaris	2,659	2,643	2,491	2,329
Black Rock*	786	768	666	575
Brighton	3,502	4,049	3,124	3,446
Brighton East*	2,097	2,116	1,734	1,525
Cheltenham	683	926	479	678
Hampton	2,103	2,278	1,829	1,766
Hampton East	817	987	611	655
Highett	1,528	1,584	1,088	1,128
Sandringham	1,696	1,890	1,569	1,577

Source: Housing and population forecasts and contributions revenue for Activity Centres and Suburban Rail Loop program (26 May 2026), City of Bayside (2026 and 2036)

*Note: Black Rock and Brighton East ages groups are 0-17 & 18-25 due to population forecast data analysis results

5. Strategic Context



This Action Plan reinforces Council's role as planner, provider and steward of local parks and public spaces, contributing to the aspirations of the Bayside Community Vision and Council Plan 2025–2029. It guides the planning of active, inclusive and community-focused public spaces that encourage everyday participation, youth recreation and community connection, while recognising informal wheeled recreation as an important part of Bayside's broader recreation network.

The Open Space Action Plan 2025–2036 establishes the long-term direction for how Bayside's parks and public spaces are planned, renewed and adapted to support recreation and community wellbeing. Guided by this direction, the Active Bayside Action Plan 2026–2036 identifies priorities for increasing participation in sport and active recreation across the municipality.

This Action Plan provides more detailed guidance for informal wheeled recreation, including skateboarding, BMX/MTB riding, and scooter riding experiences.

The Action Plan also aligns with the Playground Improvement Plan, creating opportunities to integrate wheeled recreation elements within broader park renewal projects and multi-use active recreation spaces.

Together, these strategies support a more connected, visible and youth-friendly open space network that encourages everyday activity, social connection and informal recreation participation.

6. Methodology

This Action Plan was informed through community feedback, site investigations, strategic review and assessment of emerging recreation trends. The process focused on understanding how people currently use wheeled recreation spaces, where gaps exist in the current network and how future active recreation opportunities can be better integrated within Bayside's parks and public spaces.

Analyse & Benchmark Research and Strategic Review



Background research and strategic review considered recreation trends, participation patterns, demographic change and relevant Council strategies. The process also reviewed examples of contemporary active recreation spaces from other municipalities and emerging approaches to youth-friendly park design.

Synthesise & Prioritise Strategic Framework Development



Findings were used to develop a high-level strategic framework focused on renewal, integration and improving access to informal recreation opportunities across Bayside. The Action Plan identifies opportunities to strengthen district-level destinations while also supporting smaller local active recreation spaces embedded within parks and playgrounds.

The Action Plan identifies opportunities to strengthen current district level destinations while also supporting existing and new smaller local active recreation spaces embedded within parks and playgrounds.

Assess & Map Facility and Network Assessment



Existing facilities were reviewed to understand their condition, functionality, visibility and integration within surrounding park settings. Spatial analysis also identified areas with limited access to local riding opportunities and locations where future active recreation upgrades may be explored.

Listen & Engage Community Engagement



Once this action plan has been completed, Council will be undertaken to identify how people currently use skate, scooter, and bike riding spaces, including what makes facilities feel welcoming, safe and enjoyable to use. It also gathered community feedback on the importance of visibility, social connection, beginner-friendly opportunities and integrated park environments.

7. Understanding Bayside's Active Recreation Network

Bayside's current active recreation network includes a mix of skateparks, a specialist dirt bike facility and informal riding environments distributed across the municipality. These spaces continue to support informal recreation, youth activity and social connection and remain valued community assets.

The network has evolved incrementally over time, resulting in varying facility types, scales and recreation experiences across Bayside. Existing riding opportunities are currently concentrated within parts of Brighton, Sandringham, Highett and Beaumaris, while access to local riding opportunities is more limited across parts of Brighton East, Hampton, Hampton East and Black Rock.

The review identified opportunities to continue evolving Bayside's network toward more integrated and flexible active recreation environments that respond to changing participation trends, contemporary park design approaches and community expectations.



Skater going down a ramp in a skatepark

7.1 Recreation participation & changing use patterns

Participation in informal and self-directed recreation continues to grow across Australia, particularly among children, teenagers and young adults seeking flexible ways to be active outside traditional club-based sport. National participation data highlights increasing demand for recreation experiences that are social, low-cost, creative and easily accessed within everyday public spaces.

Skateboarding, bike riding, and scootering use align strongly with these trends. Unlike many traditional sports, wheeled recreation is not dependent on formal competition structures, scheduled training or standardised facility models. People participate in different ways and for different reasons — from casual riding and family recreation through to progression, fitness, social connection and creative expression.

Participation is also highly influenced by the quality and location of public space. Highly activated and well-integrated recreation environments generally attract broader and more diverse use, particularly when connected to parks, playgrounds, courts, pathways and informal gathering areas. These spaces increasingly function not only as recreation destinations, but also as important social and community environments for young people.

The role of public open space is becoming increasingly important as Bayside continues to evolve through housing growth, activity-centre renewal and broader urban intensification. In areas experiencing higher-density living, access to flexible and informal recreation opportunities within local parks and neighbourhood settings becomes increasingly valuable, particularly for children and young people with reduced access to private open space.

At the same time, participation patterns in wheeled recreation continue to diversify. Contemporary recreation spaces are now expected to accommodate a broader mix of users, including beginner riders, scooters, BMX, skateboarding, balance bikes and casual social recreation. This is contributing to a shift away from highly specialised stand-alone facilities toward more integrated, adaptable and multi-use active recreation environments.

These trends reinforce the importance of planning active recreation spaces that are inclusive, easy to access and embedded within broader park and community settings, while also providing opportunities for progression, creativity and everyday recreation across different ages and abilities.

7.2 Existing facility condition and performance

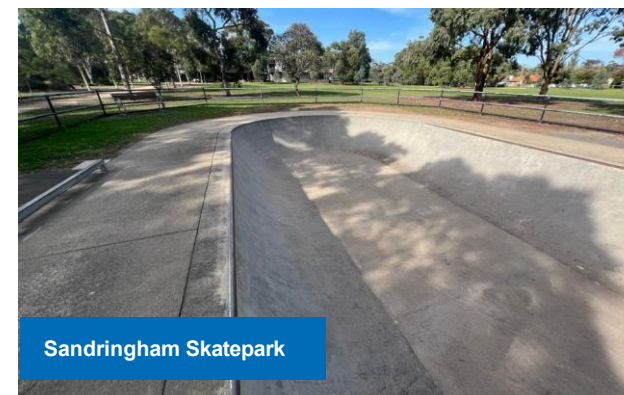
The performance of Bayside's existing skate and bike spaces varies considerably across the municipality. Some facilities continue to attract regular activity and function as important local recreation destinations, while others are more constrained by ageing layouts, limited supporting amenity or weaker integration with surrounding open space networks, limiting their visibility, accessibility and capacity to support broader community use.

Overall, site investigations and community feedback identified several consistent and recurring issues affecting the functionality and long-term performance of parts of Bayside's current network of facilities, including:

- Ageing riding surfaces and outdated layouts
- Limited progression and beginner-friendly opportunities
- Poor visibility and passive surveillance
- Minimal shade, seating and supporting amenity
- Weak connections to surrounding recreation activity
- Constrained social and gathering spaces
- Limited flexibility for scooters, BMX riders and mixed-ability use

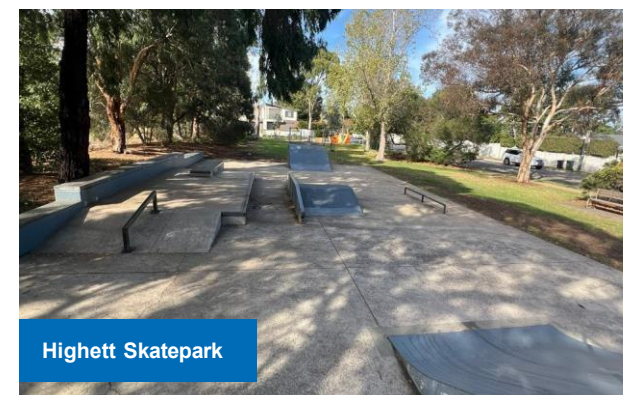
In some locations, extensive hard-surface treatment, limited tree canopy and minimal landscape integration reduce comfort and environmental quality, particularly during warmer weather. Smaller or isolated sites can also struggle to support the level of activity, social interaction and flexibility increasingly associated with contemporary active recreation spaces.

The assessment identified strong opportunities to renew and reposition parts of the existing network through improved park integration, contemporary design approaches and more flexible recreation outcomes that support a broader range of users and experiences.



Sandringham Skatepark

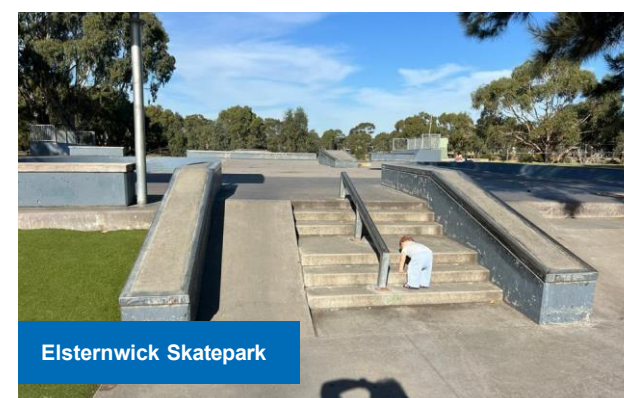
Royal Avenue Skate Bowl in Sandringham is now more than 30 years old and is approaching the end of its usable lifespan, with surface wear, ageing infrastructure and limited visibility impacting overall function and user experience. While the surrounding reserve includes complementary recreation infrastructure, the skate bowl itself remains relatively isolated within the broader park setting.



Highett Skatepark

Peterson Reserve Skate Park currently provides an important local riding opportunity within the central part of the municipality; however, the facility is ageing and no longer aligns with contemporary design standards or participation expectations.

The existing layout is constrained and provides limited flexibility for different riding styles, progression or broader social use. At the same time, the surrounding reserve presents opportunities to evolve the site into a more integrated active recreation hub connected to broader park activity and complementary recreation elements.



Elsternwick Skatepark

Elsternwick Park South Skate Park continues to operate as a key recreation destination within the network due to its visibility, open parkland setting and connection to surrounding activity. Its scale, established role within Melbourne's broader skate network and integration contribute to strong and consistent use.

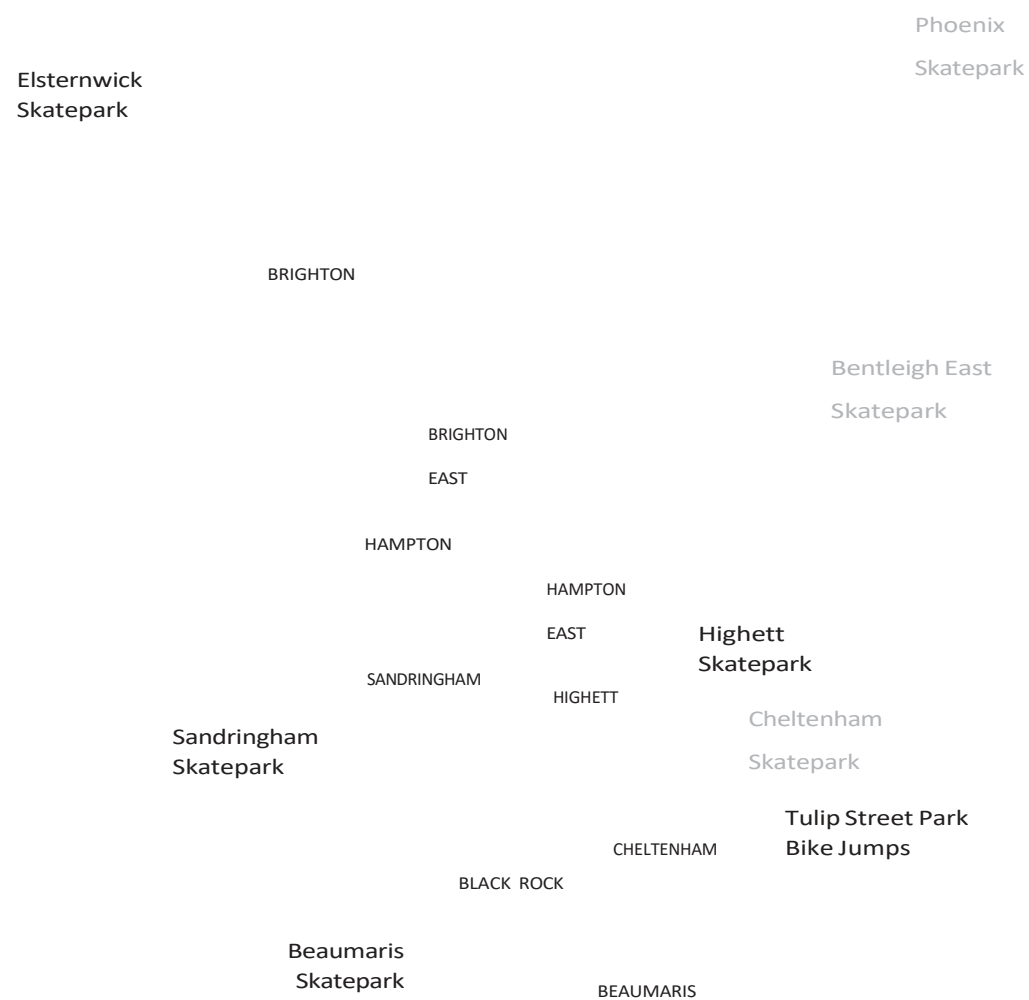
Donald MacDonald Reserve also performs well as a local recreation space integrated within a broader neighbourhood park environment.



Tulip Street Park Dirt Track

The Tulip Street Park BMX/MTB track provides one of Bayside's few dedicated BMX / MTB and continues to support informal riding, skill development and participation for local users. The facility now requires renewed investment and a clear long-term direction to guide future maintenance, renewal and site improvements.

Opportunities exist to strengthen the track's connection to the surrounding park environment, improve overall presentation and functionality, and explore partnership approaches that support ongoing stewardship and activation of the site. Future planning will also need to carefully consider the constrained nature of the site, surrounding park uses and the needs of multiple user groups within the broader reserve area.



7.3 Geographic distribution & local access

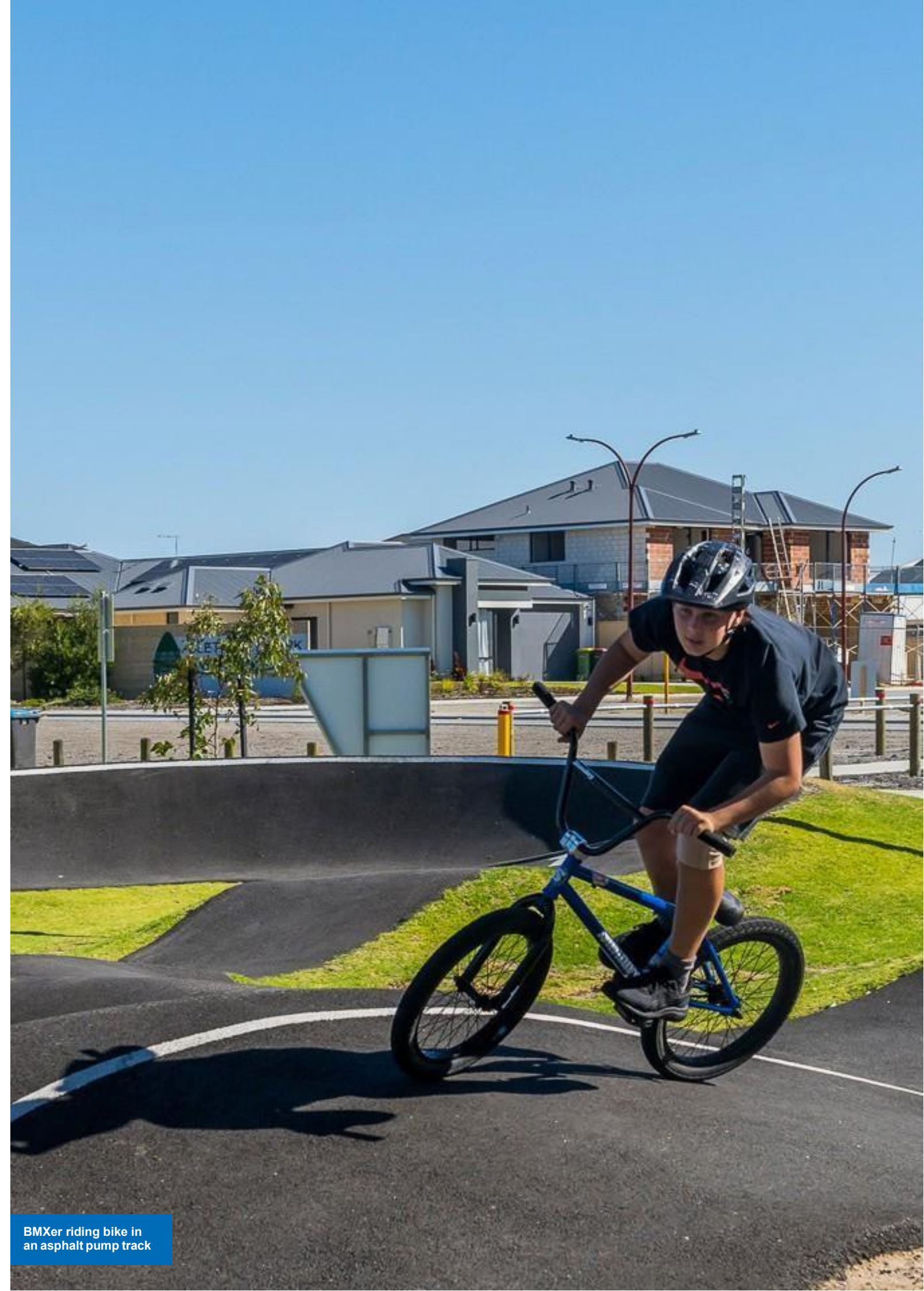
Access to skate and BMX opportunities is not evenly distributed across Bayside. Existing facilities are concentrated within parts of Brighton, Sandringham, Highett and Beaumaris, with more limited local access across areas including Brighton East, Hampton, Hampton East and Black Rock.

Future network planning will focus on strengthening key facilities within the north and south of Bayside to help support broader catchment use and progression opportunities, while playground renewals, park upgrades and active recreation projects may create opportunities to incorporate smaller wheeled recreation elements such as scooter loops, pump tracks, skateable features and half courts within local neighbourhood settings.

This approach will help provide more local recreation opportunities while creating more active, social and connected park environments across Bayside.

7.4 Existing facilities

- Tulip Street Park dirt jumps
- Elsternwick Park South Skate Park, Bent Ave, Brighton
- Peterson Reserve Skate Park, 142 Highett Road, Highett
- Royal Avenue Skate Park, Royal Avenue, Sandringham
- Donald MacDonald Skate Park, Keating Street, Beaumaris



BMXer riding bike in an asphalt pump track

8. A Strategic Direction for Bayside's Active Recreation Network

The review of Bayside's active recreation network highlights a need for a more integrated, flexible and contemporary network approach. The review of Bayside's active recreation network highlights a need for a more integrated, flexible and contemporary network approach. The review of Bayside's active recreation network highlights a need for a more integrated, flexible and contemporary network approach.

Importantly, the Action Plan does not promote a one-size-fits-all model of provision. Different spaces will serve different purposes within the network — from larger destination-style facilities that support progression and social activity through to smaller local recreation opportunities embedded within neighbourhood parks and community spaces, therefore this plan should be read in conjunction with Council's recreation strategy to ensure an integrated approach to recreation/play provision.

Future planning for individual sites will continue to be informed through detailed investigations, concept planning and community engagement to ensure recreation outcomes respond appropriately to local park settings, community priorities and changing participation trends.

The following vision and priorities provide the strategic framework to guide future planning, investment and delivery across Bayside's skate, BMX and active recreation network.

The Action Plan responds to these findings through a series of priorities focused on renewing ageing facilities, improving access to local recreation opportunities and creating more contemporary and well-connected recreation environments across Bayside.

What success looks like

Over time, Bayside's active recreation network will provide more accessible, inclusive and youth-friendly recreation opportunities across the municipality.

Success will be reflected through:

- More local opportunities for people to ride, gather and be active close to home
- A balanced mix of district destinations and local recreation spaces
- Recreation environments that are visible, comfortable and integrated within broader park settings
- More inclusive and beginner-friendly spaces that encourage participation across different ages and abilities
- Increased social connection, activation and positive community use of public space
- Active recreation spaces that contribute positively to Bayside's parks, neighbourhoods and community wellbeing

Vision

Create welcoming and active spaces across Bayside where people can ride, gather, connect and be active.

Future network direction

Bayside's future active recreation network will focus on creating a more balanced and adaptable mix of recreation opportunities across the municipality. This includes strengthening key destination facilities while expanding smaller local riding opportunities integrated within neighbourhood parks and community spaces.

The Action Plan adopts a two-tier network approach comprising:

- District Active Recreation Hubs
 - Local Active Recreation Spaces
- District Hubs will support progression, social activity and broader catchment use, while local spaces will focus on accessible everyday recreation opportunities close to home.

This approach recognises that different spaces serve different purposes within the network and that future recreation outcomes should respond to local park settings, community needs and opportunities for integration.

Facility hierarchy

A hierarchy-based approach to skate, BMX and active recreation provision helps ensure facilities are planned, renewed and distributed across Bayside in a coordinated, equitable and sustainable way. Different recreation spaces can serve different purposes or geographical areas within the network.

Bayside City Council already applies hierarchy-based planning approaches across public open space and playground provision. This Action Plan builds on these principles to support a balanced network of local and district-level wheeled recreation opportunities across the municipality.

For Bayside, the hierarchy framework provides a structure for:

- supporting a fair and distributed network of recreation opportunities
- clarifying the role and function of different facilities
- supporting progression across different ages and skill levels
- aligning wheeled recreation with broader park planning and community infrastructure outcomes



Scooter riding through a skate obstacle

Facility hierarchy table

The table below outlines the different roles recreation spaces can play within B a y s i future active recreation network

Hierarchy	Catchment Area	Characteristics
Spot	Under 200m ²	Primary catchment area usually within walking distance of most users. Spot facility locations are not considered suitable for larger facilities as they are generally provided in residential settings and have limited or constrained function for multiple activities and events. These sites provide for active recreation opportunities. Generally single focus (street elements, ramp), as part of broader recreation precinct. Focus on intermediate/beginner but still usable by more advanced users.
Local	200 – 600m ²	Provides a mix of recreational, competitive and program formats of participation. Services the needs of local communities for training activities and for participation programs. Generally single focus (street elements, ramp), as part of broader recreation precinct. Focus on intermediate/beginner but still usable by more advanced users.
District	600 – 1500m ² Neighbouring suburbs	Primary catchment area includes large local government areas but often covers various councils due to the nature of the competition or sport, approx. 30min travel time to access. District facilities service a local catchment to provide a mix of recreational, competitive and program formats of participation. Either single user focus (bowl, or street components) or mix thereof. Can be used by users from elite through to beginner level.
Regional	Over 1500m ² or significant location / components such as iconic bowl.	Primary catchment of local users with extended catchment across multiple local council areas, primarily for competition and events. Provides for high level competition and training, and/or a broad range of sport and active recreation opportunities for a large number of participants across local and regional geographic catchments, generally beyond a single local council area. Regional facilities are best provided at high profile sites in accessible locations with links to transport nodes and/or commercial / community centres and services. All user types (street, park, bowl, vert etc). Iconic elements of national significance such as feature bowl. Can be used by users from elite through to by users from beginner.

9. Active Recreation Design Principles

Future skate, bike and active recreation projects across Bayside should respond not only to recreation demand, but also to broader park, community and public realm outcomes. Contemporary active recreation spaces are increasingly designed as welcoming, visible and multi-functional environments that support informal recreation, social connection and everyday community use.

Design and construction improvements

One of the big issues with skatepark provision is that there is a perception of set and forget. It appears that due to the nature of skateparks being constructed out of concrete that they need little maintenance and should remain relevant for 15+ years. Due to the relatively young age of the skatepark design and construction industry, the methods of construction and quality of design; however, continues to evolve and improve. Today, new parks are generally designed and built to a much higher quality.

Therefore, some facilities considered high quality 10 years ago could now be considered antiquated or in poor condition. This is important as many councils have existing skateparks that are now aging and either are in poor condition or no longer meeting current functional trends. Councils though in many instances may not be aware of these issues due to the informal use of these facilities (no structured clubs or onsite management providing feedback). Skaters and BMX riders will still use a facility even if it is in poor condition or have design issues, simply because there are no alternatives.

Outwardly skateparks are then being assessed as still usable and in good condition but this is not always the actual case and users are coping with these condition and functional issues, rather than enjoying high quality skate spaces that meet current best practice standards. Therefore, existing skateparks need to be assessed by professionally qualified specialist skatepark design experts against current best practice in design and construction so Councils are aware of the condition, function and long-term viability of their skateparks moving forward.

Any new model needs to consider that all skateparks require ongoing maintenance and regular repairs and in some instances over time, full replacement. Councils as part of any new skatepark project should include the need to provide an asset management plan with defined maintenance standards, and plans for their long-term replacement at the end of their lifespan.



The following design principles will help guide future planning, renewal and concept development across B a y s i d e ' s active recreation network.

- 1. Welcoming & inclusive**
Create spaces that are safe, accessible and inviting for people of all ages, abilities and experience levels.
- 2. Visible & connected**
Locate recreation spaces within active parks and community settings that are easy to access and connected to surrounding activity.
- 3. Integrated & multi-use**
Design spaces that work alongside playgrounds, courts, pathways, social spaces and other recreation opportunities.
- 4. Youth-friendly & social**
Create places where young people can ride, gather, connect and spend time together.
- 5. High quality & comfortable**
Incorporate shade, seating, landscaping and durable materials to create comfortable, attractive and enjoyable recreation environments. Future active recreation projects should also respond to urban heat and changing climate conditions through increased tree canopy, shade planting, water-sensitive landscaping and thoughtful material selection that improves environmental comfort and long-term resilience.

10. Skate, Bike and Scooter Components and Experiences

Recognising the diverse ways people participate in wheeled recreation, two complementary approaches to future provision are recommended. Together, these approaches provide flexibility to respond to local needs, site opportunities and community demand while supporting a connected network of recreation spaces across the municipality.

Designated skate and riding park

Designated single purpose facility to allow for all designated skate, BMX, Mountain Bike and scooter requirements.

- Sporting facility focus on larger regional spaces in central locations that can be complemented with the multipurpose spaces.
- Contrived skate elements such as transition, bowls, street and park style components.
- May also include some plaza and vert options.
- Designed for those interested in using a space for a longer time to practice and socialise.
- Caters for all ages including young children learning as well as older skaters and riders.
- Truly intergenerational as given skateparks first rose to prominence in the 1980s, there are now generations of skaters and riders that still participate.
- Provides central open larger facilities to allow progression of all sports from beginner to advanced. Allows for high end training, participating in events and competitions. Is large, open and can be activated regularly.
- Becomes a destination sporting facility for both locals and visitors accordingly.
- Needs to be in a central easily accessible location. Whilst an urban space is an option, it can easily be accommodated in parkland context. Space needs to be large enough to cater for facility and associated ancillary requirements such as parking, toilets etc.
- Becomes a destination sporting facility for both locals and visitors accordingly.

Skate or riding spot

- *integrated with existing active recreation space*

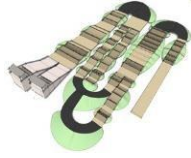
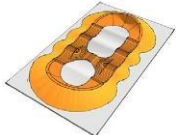
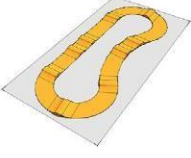
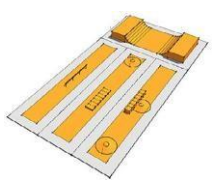
Skate spot could be integrated into a range of larger recreation and play space, as part of play provision for older children.

- Skate or riding component could be quite small (200-300 sqm) as part of larger space.
- Skate or riding elements form part of larger recreation hub. Could include scooter loop, ledges & rails or mini ramp element.
- Caters for beginner skaters, scooterers and riders. More of family experience as part of broader play experience for tweens and younger children. Also, local residents that want to have short stay skate opportunity without traveling large distances to go to district facility.
- Caters for all ages of residents who live locally but focuses more on young children and their families, older tweens and young adults as part of a larger recreation/play precinct.
- Allows for localised skate provision at a small scale for local residents and younger children without need to travel to large facility.
- Essentially provides tween play to complement other recreation and play options such as ball courts, parkour or fitness. Allows for teens and young adults living in suburbs to also enjoy skate informally as part of larger precinct.
- Needs to be aligned with other play and recreation spaces such as a playground and/or ball courts in a public neighbourhood park or space.
- Can be urban but important that it is close to residential areas for ease of access and use.

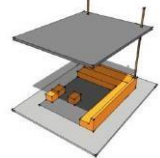
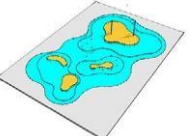
Skate, Play, Social, Active Recreation Components

The following components may be considered across both Designated Skate and riding facility or Skate Spot. Not all elements will be appropriate at every location and their inclusion will be determined through future planning, site analysis and community engagement.

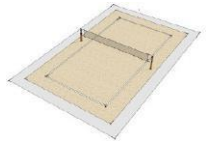
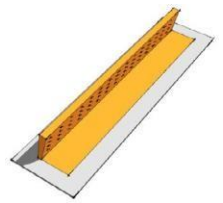
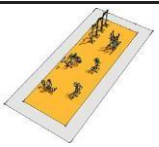
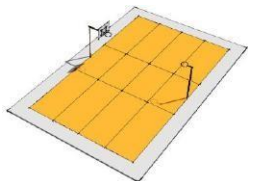
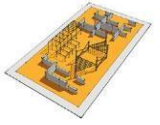
Skate Components

Element	Preferred Age Group focus	Indicative example
BMX/MTB jumps,race and tracks Allows for more advanced challenging bumps and MTB track for freestyle BMX and mountain bike use Size and extent variable to meet site needs.	Tweens Teens Young Adult	
Pumps tracks Allows for all age wheeled play (scooters, skateboards, bikes etc) Size and extent variable to meet site needs.	Tweens Teens	
Scooter loops Allows for junior wheeled play (scooters, bikes etc) Size and extent variable to meet site needs.	Tweens Teens	
Skate & BMX spaces Focus on range of different elements to cater for diverse users include Vert Ramps, Bowls, Parks and Plaza elements Size and extent variable to meet site needs. Catalyst for other programs such as youth services	Tweens Teens Young Adults	

Social Components

Element	Preferred Age Group focus	Indicative example
Social spaces Focus on small shaded spaces to hang out around other active recreation spaces or relevant spaces for young people to congregate such as urban malls and transit hubs. Size and extent variable to meet site needs.	Teens Young Adults	
Splash pads Zero depth water play opportunities Size and extent variable to meet site needs.	Tweens	
Structured shaded flexible spaces Focus on open but sheltered spaces for events and classes to complement indoor spaces Size and extent variable to meet site needs.	Teens Young Adults	

Active Recreation Components

Element	Preferred Age Group focus	Indicative example
Beach volleyball courts Sand courts Approx 8x6m for Full Size Court. Requires additional run off area.	Tweens Teens Young Adults	
Bouldering/climbing walls Either insitu or blockwork. Can also be used as rebound wall if combined with courts - Generally concrete/blockwork. - Any length but preferable for 10m min - Can also be art walls	Tweens Teens Young Adults	
Fitness/warm up stations Allows for all age outdoor fitness options Size and extent variable to meet site needs.	Teens Young Adults	
Fusball/ping pong tables Small scale informal recreation opportunities - Provide informal social activities in small areas. - Combine with social seating spaces	Teens	
Multipurpose courts Mix of options with linemarking, nets, rings etc. (Basketball, volleyball, tennis, netball, four square) - Generally Plexipave finish. - Approx 28x15m for Full Size Court. - Bookable for competitions, social games, other events such as markets, music, film nights.	Tweens Teens Young Adults	
Obstacle/ninja warrior courses Allows for all age outdoor fitness options Size and extent variable to meet site needs.	Tweens Teens	
Parkour/fitness bars Focus on fitness and training Size and extent variable to meet site needs.	Tweens Teens Young Adults	

Play Components

Element	Preferred Age Group focus	Indicative example
Adventure play Focus on range of more challenging elements incl swings/flying foxes, slides and climbing elements. Size and extent variable to meet site needs.	Tweens	

11. Strategic Priorities

The following priorities provide the strategic direction for future planning, renewal and investment a c r o s s B a y s i d e ' s skate, bike and active recreation network over the next 10 years.

Together, they focus on improving access, renewing ageing facilities and creating more inclusive, integrated and youth-friendly recreation environments across the municipality.

Priority 1: Improve access & facility distribution

Strengthen the distribution of active recreation opportunities across Bayside by improving local access and supporting a more balanced network of district and neighbourhood recreation spaces.

Access to wheeled recreation opportunities is currently uneven across the municipality, with more limited local provision across parts of Brighton East, Hampton, Hampton East and Black Rock. Future planning will focus on strengthening recreation opportunities within both the north and south of Bayside while improving local access through smaller integrated recreation spaces embedded within neighbourhood parks and community settings.

The Action Plan supports a network approach that combines larger destination-style facilities with smaller local riding opportunities that can respond flexibly to different park settings, catchments and community needs. This includes opportunities to strengthen key district-level facilities while improving access to local recreation experiences through playground renewals, park upgrades and broader active recreation projects.

Potential opportunities to improve municipality access to facilities that have been identified through the review process include:

Peterson Reserve Skate Park

Opportunities to evolve the existing facility into a broader active recreation hub incorporating skateable elements, informal recreation and improved integration with surrounding park activity

Castlefield Reserve

Opportunities to integrate skate, scooter and other active recreation elements within future playground and park upgrades alongside existing courts and community facilities

Boss James Reserve

Potential incorporation of scooter loops and beginner-friendly skateable elements as part of future playground renewal works

Hurlingham Park

Opportunities for new sites include the consideration to deliver a new pump track at Hurlingham Park. The concept design will include a pump track suitable for a range of users at beginner skill level.

Future investment will prioritise locations that provide:

- Strong visibility and passive surveillance
- Safe and convenient access
- Connections to public transport and active transport networks
- Opportunities for co-location with parks, playgrounds and recreation destinations
- Flexible and adaptable recreation outcomes

The Action Plan also recognises the important role regional facilities and major infrastructure projects outside Bayside may play in supporting broader progression and destination-based recreation experiences. This allows local investment to focus on accessible and well-distributed recreation opportunities that support everyday participation across the municipality.

Future planning and concept development for individual sites will continue to be informed through detailed investigations, feasibility testing and community engagement to ensure recreation outcomes respond appropriately to local priorities, park settings and surrounding community uses.

Priority 2: Renew & modernise existing facilities

Renew ageing skate and BMX facilities to improve functionality, accessibility, safety and long-term performance while responding to contemporary recreation trends and community expectations.

Several existing facilities across Bayside are approaching the end of their usable lifespan and reflect earlier recreation models and design approaches. Future renewal projects will focus on creating more adaptable and integrated active recreation environments that support a broader range of users and riding styles.

Renewal projects will seek to:

- Improve usability, flow and progression opportunities
- Introduce more beginner-friendly and scooter-compatible elements
- Improve visibility, comfort and supporting amenity
- Strengthen connections to surrounding park activity
- Improve shade, seating, lighting and landscape integration
- Deliver staged and adaptable upgrades over time

Renewal will also provide an opportunity to reconsider how facilities function within the broader recreation network and surrounding park environment, rather than simply replacing infrastructure like-for-like.

Potential opportunities for renewal that have been identified through the review process include:

Elsternwick Park South skate park

Future renewal and upgrade opportunities to strengthen the role of the site as a key district-level active recreation destination, including investigation of additional recreation components, supporting amenities and broader park integration outcomes.

Royal Avenue Reserve

Review of future recreation opportunities within the reserve to determine the most suitable long-term active recreation outcome for the site, considering its relationship with the existing playground, half-court basketball and surrounding park uses

Donald MacDonald Reserve skate park

Retain the existing facility with consideration for future surface renewal treatments and minor upgrades to extend the lifespan and functionality of the space

Tulip Street Park bike track

Investigate future renewal and upgrade opportunities for the BMX facility, including improved integration with the surrounding reserve, long-term maintenance approaches and opportunities to strengthen the overall riding experience within the constraints of the site and broader park setting.

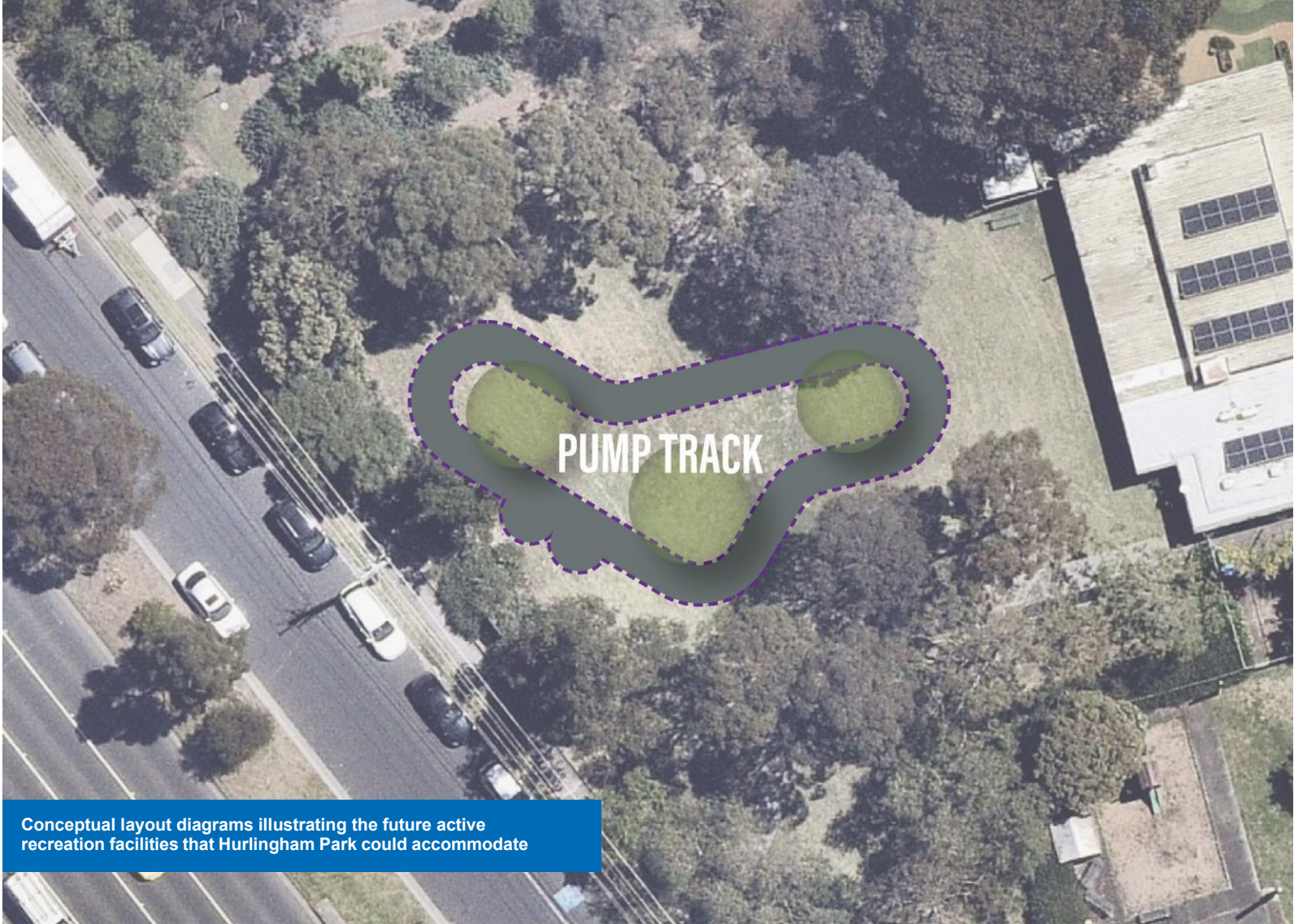
Priority 3: Welcoming, multi-use & youth friendly places

Create active recreation spaces that support a broad range of recreation experiences while contributing positively to the surrounding park environment and community life. Young people increasingly use public spaces in flexible and social ways, with riding, gathering, resting and informal recreation often occurring together. Successful recreation spaces therefore extend beyond the riding surface itself and function as welcoming, inclusive and well-used community destinations. Future planning will focus on:

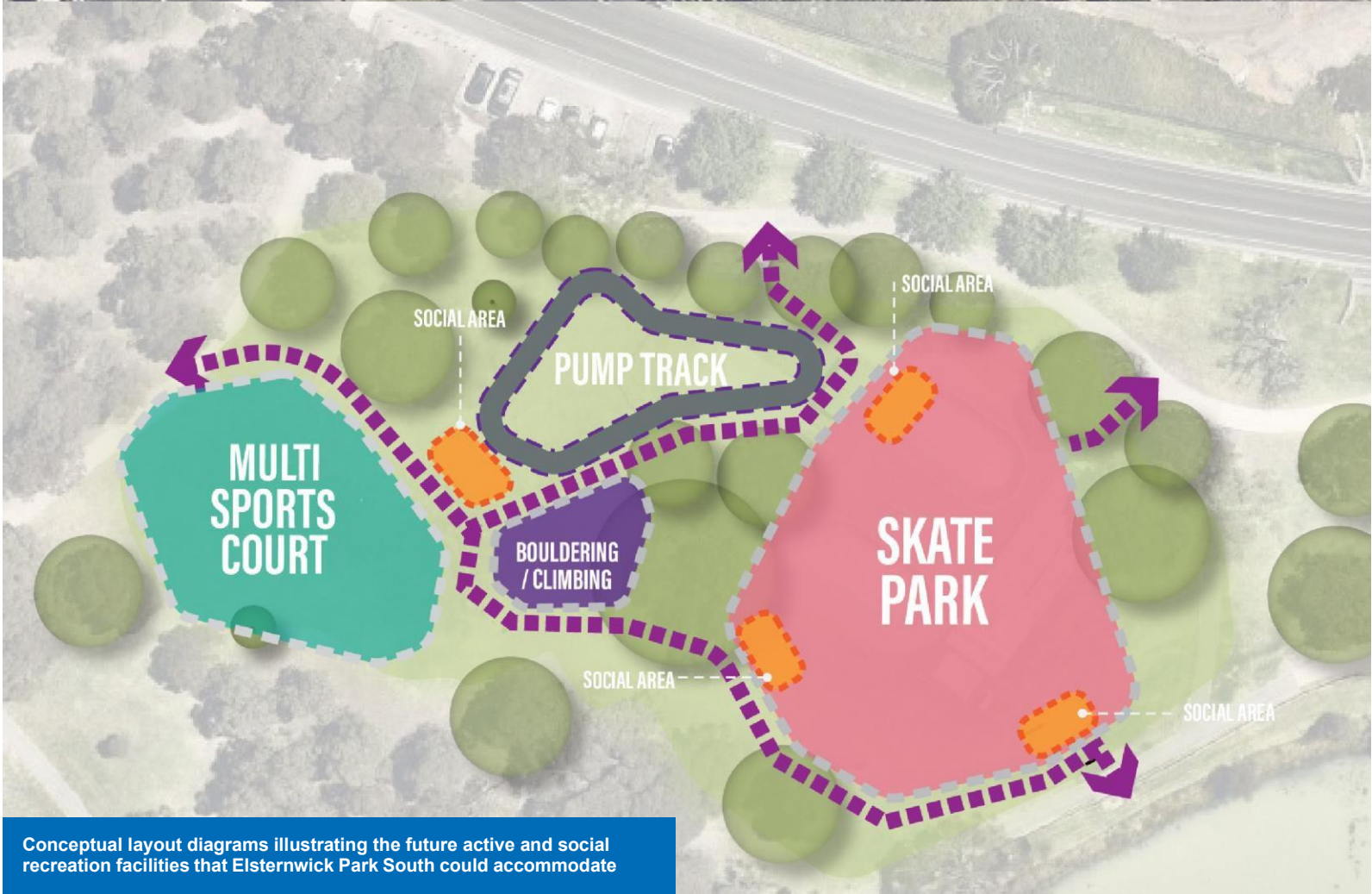
- Integrating wheeled recreation within broader park upgrades
- Supporting mixed-age and mixed-ability participation
- Improving comfort, accessibility and passive surveillance
- Creating spaces that encourage social interaction and longer visits
- Strengthening connections to paths, courts, play spaces and open space
- Supporting youth-friendly and inclusive recreation environments
- Encouraging activation, partnerships and community use opportunities
- Improving presentation, identity and sense of place within active recreation spaces

Well-designed active recreation spaces can support not only physical activity, but also confidence-building, independence, social connection and everyday wellbeing. Activation activities such as learn-to-skate sessions, youth events and community programs can help foster more socially connected recreation environments while encouraging positive use of public space.

- Presentation, visibility and identity also play an important role in shaping how recreation spaces are perceived and used by the community. Clear signage, wayfinding, landscaping, seating, public art and creative design elements can help create more appealing, recognisable and youth-friendly environments that strengthen local identity and encourage broader community use. This is particularly important for cohorts who may traditionally feel less represented within wheeled recreation environments, including women and girls, gender-diverse users, culturally diverse communities and beginner riders.
- Creating spaces that feel safe, welcoming and socially inclusive can help reduce participation barriers and encourage broader community use over time.
- Future actions identified through this review process include:
- Supporting learn-to-skate, scooter and BMX programs for beginner and emerging riders
 - Encouraging partnerships with schools, community organisations and recreation groups
 - Exploring activation initiatives that increase participation among women and girls
 - Developing consistent signage, branding and wayfinding across active recreation spaces
 - Integrating public art, street art and creative placemaking opportunities within recreation spaces
 - Improving landscaping, seating and gathering spaces to strengthen comfort and social use
 - Supporting community events, workshops and informal recreation activities that encourage positive use and connection within active recreation spaces



Conceptual layout diagrams illustrating the future active recreation facilities that Hurlingham Park could accommodate



Conceptual layout diagrams illustrating the future active and social recreation facilities that Elsternwick Park South could accommodate

12 B a y s iFuture'Active Recreation Network

The following priorities provide the strategic direction for future planning, renewal and investment across B a y s iFuture'Active, BMX and active recreation network over the next 10 years.

Together, they focus on improving access, renewing ageing facilities and creating more inclusive, integrated and youth-friendly recreation environments across the municipality.





Skater doing tricks by using stairs in an urban context

13. Implementation & Delivery Framework

Staged Delivery

Delivery of the Action Plan will occur progressively over a 10-year period in response to funding availability, asset condition, community priorities and opportunities associated with broader park and infrastructure projects. A staged delivery approach will allow Council to prioritise renewal of ageing facilities, improve local access to recreation opportunities and respond flexibly to changing participation trends and future community needs. Implementation timeframes may vary depending on site conditions, project readiness, partnerships and external funding opportunities.

Funding Opportunities

Delivery of future skate, BMX and active recreation projects will be supported through a combination of Council investment, external funding opportunities and integration with broader capital works and park renewal programs.

Partnerships

Partnerships will play an important role in supporting the delivery and long-term success of Bayside's active recreation network. This includes collaboration with State Government agencies, neighbouring councils, community organisations, schools, recreation groups and specialist consultants to support planning, funding, activation and delivery opportunities. The Action Plan also recognises the important role regional facilities and major recreation destinations outside Bayside play in supporting broader progression and destination-based recreation experiences across Melbourne's south

Future Planning & Community Engagement

Future planning and concept development for individual sites will continue to be informed through detailed investigations, feasibility testing and community engagement. Engagement processes will help Council better understand how spaces are currently used, local priorities, emerging recreation trends and opportunities to improve integration with surrounding park environments and community infrastructure. This approach recognises that different sites and communities may require different recreation outcomes and that future projects should respond appropriately to local context, park settings and surrounding land uses.

Monitoring & Review

The Action Plan will be monitored and reviewed over its 10-year lifespan to ensure it remains responsive to changing participation trends, community needs and delivery priorities. Progress will be reviewed periodically in alignment with Council's broader strategic planning and management processes. This may include review of:

- Facility condition and renewal priorities
- Changes in participation and recreation trends
- Delivery of identified projects and upgrades
- Geographic access to recreation opportunities
- Community feedback and emerging needs

A mid-term review may also be undertaken to assess implementation progress and identify any required updates to future priorities, staging or network planning directions.

14. Action Plan

Priority 1: Improve Access & Network Distribution	
Prepare a future network plan that identifies and addresses geographic gaps in provision through a balanced mix of district-level destinations and local active recreation opportunities across Bayside	Short
Explore opportunities to integrate wheeled recreation elements within future playground renewal and park upgrade projects including at Castlefield Reserve and Boss James Reserve	Short – Medium
Investigate future youth recreation and active recreation opportunities associated with the Lyle Anderson Reserve precinct, including opportunities linked to SRL infrastructure investment, Level Crossing Removal Project (Highett/Wickham Rd), activity centre renewal and broader urban development outcomes	Medium-Long
Explore opportunities to address identified gap areas through the integration of wheeled recreation elements into future playgrounds, playspaces and active recreation projects where appropriate. Develop Hurlingham Park as a destination for youth recreation by delivering a new pump track that provides a safe, inclusive, and welcoming space for participation. The facility will support one of the municipality's most popular activities, skateboarding, and will accommodate a broad range of beginner-level riders.	Short – Long
Priority 2: Renew & Modernise Existing Facilities	
Tulip Street Park bike jumps design and construction to support local wheeled recreation participation and address current provision gaps.	Short
Undertake staged renewal of ageing skate and bike facilities to improve accessibility, amenity, park integration and participation opportunities in response to facility condition, usage and strategic priorities listed below: - Renewal of Elsternwick Park South skate park as a key district-level active recreation facility, including the introduction of a pump track. A recent audit has determined that it is at the end of its lifespan and is recommended it undergo a re-development/replacement to bring it into line with current function and condition standards to ensure it meets the needs of the current generation of skaters/riders. - Peterson Reserve skate park redevelopment/replacement to bring it into line with current function and condition standards to ensure it meets the needs of the current generation of skaters/riders. Monitor cracks and damage to surfaces throughout facility, repair as required, pending timing of re-development works. - Royal Avenue skate bowl re-development to bring it into line with current function and condition standards to ensure it meets the needs of the current generation of skaters/riders. This includes improved natural surveillance and access and connections to the playspace to the south. Monitor cracks and damage to surfaces throughout facility, repair as required, pending timing of re-development works.	Medium – Long

Priority 3: Welcoming, Multi-Use & Youth-Friendly Places	
Improve passive surveillance, accessibility and park connections within active recreation spaces	Medium
Improve landscaping, shade, seating and informal gathering spaces within active recreation environments to strengthen comfort, social use and year-round appeal	Medium
Identify and incorporate complementary active recreation elements such as half courts, table tennis, rebound walls, scooter loops, pump tracks and informal gathering spaces within future park upgrades and active recreation projects where appropriate	Medium
Support activation initiatives and partnership opportunities, including learn-to-skate programs, community events, workshops and youth recreation activities, to encourage participation, social connection and active use of recreation spaces, particularly among women and girls, beginner riders and underrepresented groups.	Ongoing
Improve signage, wayfinding, landscaping, public art and overall site presentation to strengthen identity, visibility and sense of place within active recreation spaces	Medium – Long



Skater dropping down a ramp

15. Conclusion

Skateboarding, bike riding, scootering all play an important role in supporting everyday recreation, youth activity and community life across Bayside. These activities provide flexible and accessible opportunities for people to be active, connect socially and engage with public space in meaningful ways.

As Bayside continues to evolve through population growth, urban renewal and changing recreation trends, public open space will become increasingly important in supporting informal recreation and community wellbeing. This creates an opportunity to rethink how active recreation spaces are planned, renewed and integrated within the municipal broader networks of parks and community destinations.

This Action Plan provides a long-term framework to guide future investment, renewal and planning across Bayside's active recreation network. Over the next 10 years, Bayside will focus on renewing ageing facilities, improving local access to recreation opportunities and delivering more integrated and youth-friendly active recreation environments.

Importantly, the Action Plan provides high-level strategic direction rather than predetermined facility outcomes. Future planning for individual sites will continue to be informed through detailed investigations, feasibility testing and community consultation to ensure recreation outcomes respond to local context, park settings and community aspirations.

Together, these actions will help create a more connected, adaptable and inclusive network of active recreation spaces that encourages everyday movement, social connection and positive community experiences across Bayside.