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Sports Capacity Plan
Sports Fields
Volume 1.

Our
game
plan

The pitch

The Sports Capacity Plan Volume 1 – Sports Fields will provide Council with a framework to optimise the shared use of sports fields across the Shire.

It will guide the maintenance, upgrade and renewal of existing field-based sporting facilities, and inform the development of new ones.



Contents

- ③ SPORT ON THE MORNINGTON PENINSULA
- ⑤ THE STATE OF PLAY
- ⑭ THE COMMUNITY GOAL
- ⑲ GETTING THE BALL ROLLING

Sport on the Mornington Peninsula

Local sport and recreation is a way of life on the Mornington Peninsula. Our residents choose to lead active and engaged lifestyles, therefore participation in sport across the Shire is extensive. This creates ever increasing demands for additional and improved facilities.

Female and junior participation has experienced rapid growth which has led to many Peninsula sporting facilities being used above their current capacity. The demand on our sporting facilities will continue to grow as the Shire's population expands to more than 181,000 people by 2036.

The Shire has commenced a comprehensive process to understand current and future sporting needs of residents. This includes the development of a strategic plan (Sports Capacity Plan) to guide the future provision, distribution and standard of sporting facilities across the peninsula.

The Sports Capacity Plan currently focuses on sports fields but will be expanded to encompass the strategic requirements for indoor sports and non-field based sports.

- 1. Volume 1 – Sports Fields
- 2. Volume 2 – Indoor Sports
- 3. Volume 3 – Other Sports (not field-based)

VOLUME 1 – SPORTS FIELDS

Volume 1 – Sports Fields encompasses field-based sports such as AFL, cricket, soccer, athletics, baseball, hockey, softball and rugby.

The Shire is directly responsible for the planning, development and management of 34 sports reserves comprising of 52 different sports fields and associated supporting infrastructure. Other sports fields controlled by land managers other than Council, such as schools and the private sector, are also acknowledged in this Volume, as these venues are critical to the overall provision of publicly accessible sporting facilities for residents.

PLANNING AREAS

For the purposes of this plan, the Shire has been divided into three planning areas; Northern, Westernport and Southern. This enables a more meaningful analysis of sporting facilities at a concentrated level to complement a high-level review of the 17 smaller population profile areas.

Planning areas



PLANNING AREAS

3

SPORTS RESERVES

34

POPULATION BY 2036

181,000

SPORTS FIELDS

52

The state of play

This section includes:

- Demographic profile now and into the future
- Sport trends
- Number of sports fields
- Location and distribution of sports fields
- Condition of sport fields
- Usage of sports fields

Our sporting community

NOW:



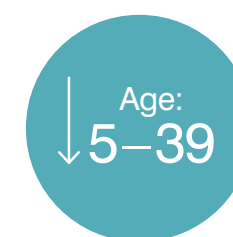
The Mornington Peninsula Shire's population is 165,154.



Mornington Peninsula Shire residents participated in physical activity organised by a club or association at a higher rate compared to all Victorians.



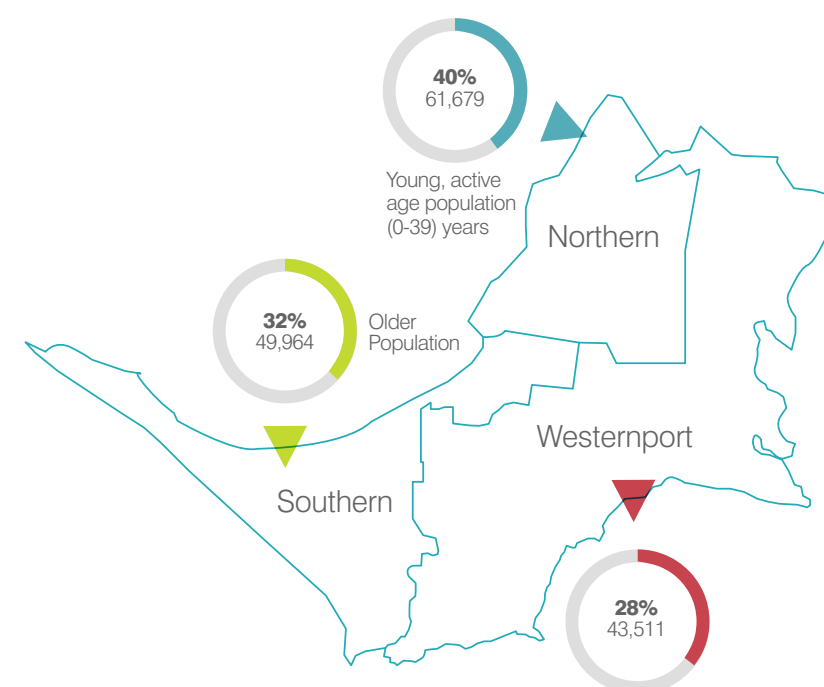
Mornington Peninsula Shire residents ranked 3rd of all Melbourne Metropolitan LGA's in the rate of participation by residents in physical activity organised by a club or association (20.7%)



There were proportionally less people aged 5-39 years in the Shire compared to Greater Melbourne.



The Shire is made up of older and less culturally diverse residents as compared to Greater Melbourne.



Key Implication

The Northern area of the peninsula has the largest population and highest number of people within the active age cohort, therefore it has the highest demand for field-based sports, making it Council's highest current priority for investment in sport.

This trend will continue given the large number of children aged 0-4 living in the Northern area.



The age group of 5-39 years is referred to as the active age cohort. Most people who participate in active organised sport fall within this age cohort. It is important these users are provided for in Council's future sports planning.

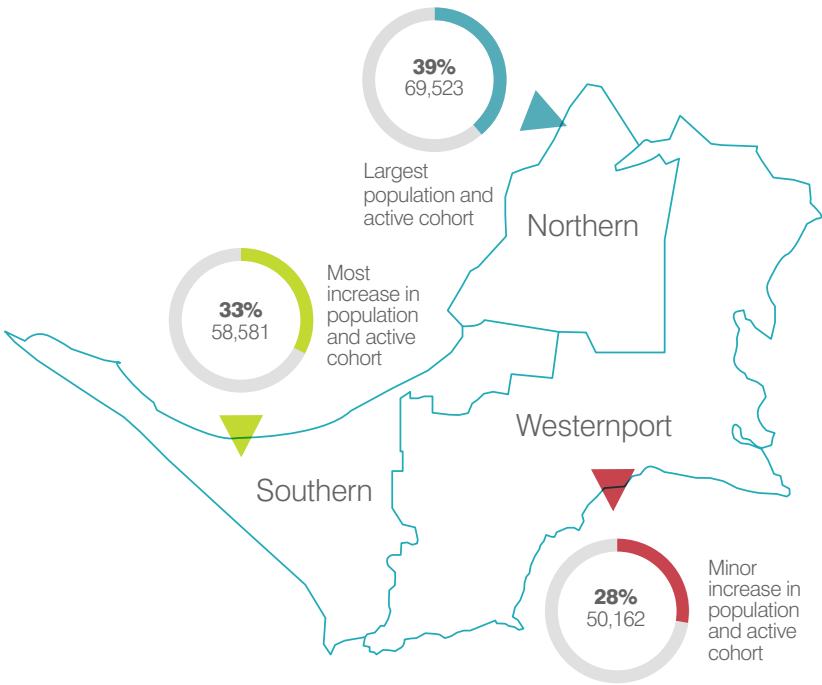
Our sporting community

FUTURE:



Mornington Peninsula Shire's population is projected to increase by 23,112 people.

Increase in active age cohort group from 2016.



Key Implication

The net increase in population for the Mornington Peninsula Shire will result in a corresponding increase in demand for access to sports fields

Demand for field-based sports in the Southern Planning area will increase, requiring forward planning for the upgrade to existing sport facilities and provision for new facilities.

The Northern Planning Area will remain a priority due to its continued growth, therefore will require the upgrade of existing and provision of new facilities.

Sports trends in Victoria



State level trends for sport participation provide an important context for the future provision of field-based sporting facilities for the Mornington Peninsula Shire.

+ INCREASING PARTICIPATION

- Soccer, Cricket and AFL have all experienced increased participation by males in the past five years.
- Baseball: in Victoria participation has grown since 2003.
- Rugby league: in Victoria has experienced significant growth over the last 10 years, with participation rates increasing by more than 300% over that time.

= STABLE PARTICIPATION

- Senior Athletics: participation in Victoria remained relatively stable during the four years 2012 – 2016.
- Hockey: Participation in Victoria has remained relatively stable for the past five years.

- DECLINING PARTICIPATION

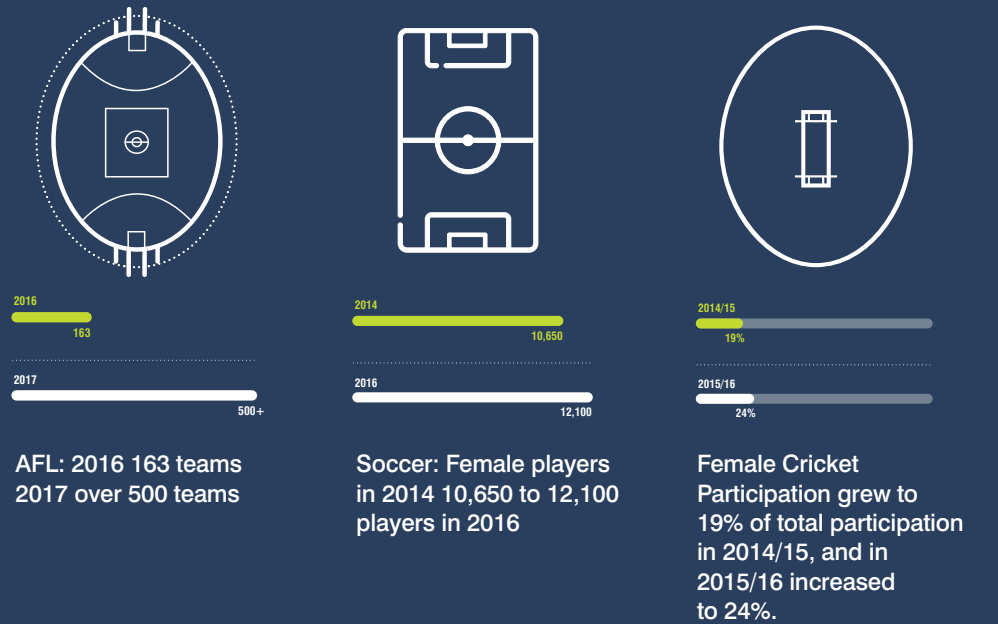
- Little Athletics: there has been an overall decline of 5.5% in participation in Victoria during the four years 2012 – 2016.
- Softball: has experienced membership decline Australia wide since a reported peak of approximately 62,000 members in 1996.

Rapid increase in female participation in Victoria



Females make up just over half the Victorian population, however males have double the sport participation rate.

Female participation growth:





Research shows that the rate of participation by people in 'organised physical activity' and 'club-based activities' is highest for young people and declines with age.

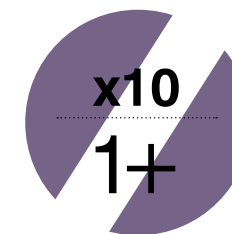
Sports fields on the Peninsula



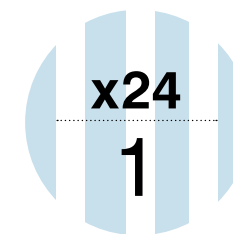
Number of Sports Fields



The Shire is responsible for 34 sports reserves.



Only 10 sports reserves provide more than one sports field



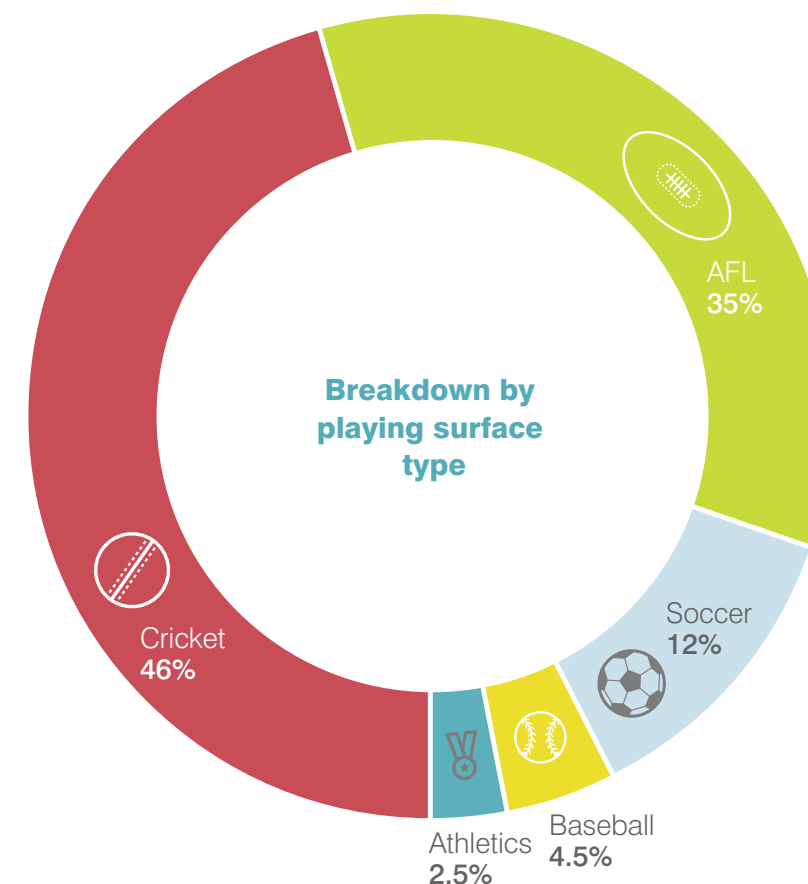
The remaining 24 have just one sports field.



In total the Shire offers 52 sports fields.



Most of the sports fields accommodate a minimum of two sports, offering 104 different playing surfaces.



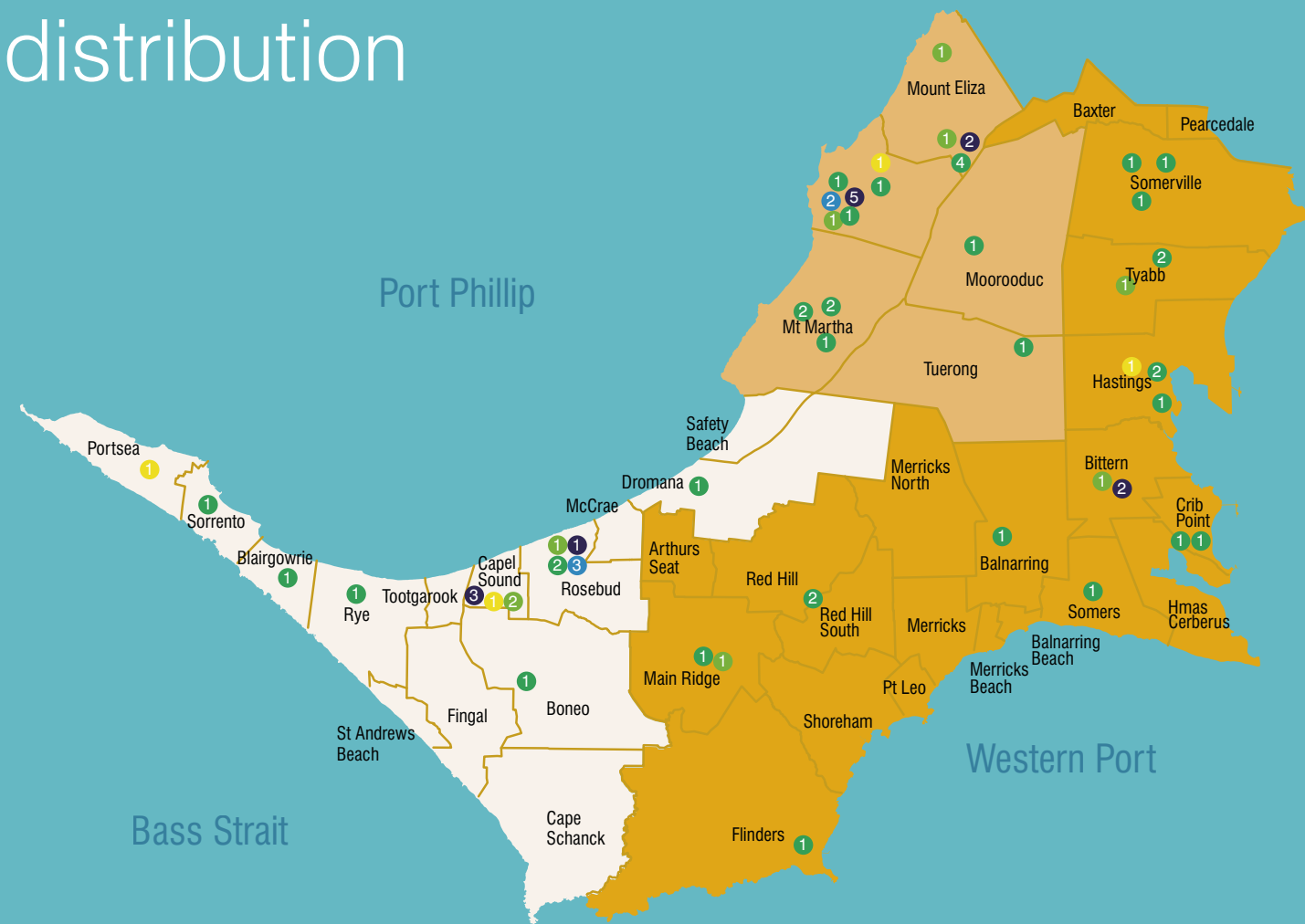
Key Implication

70% of the Shire's sports reserves consist of a single field, this limits opportunities for sports participation and the growth of our local clubs. Single field reserves are also an inefficient use of resources and infrastructure.

To maximise use of sporting reserves ensure all playing fields are dual use or multi-functional.

Sports fields on the Peninsula

Location and distribution



LEGEND

- Football/Cricket
- Cricket
- Baseball
- Soccer
- Athletics

Key Implication

- The map demonstrates that:
- Soccer is underserved
 - In the Northern and Southern planning areas sports field provision is clustered.
 - Sport fields in the Western Port planning area are dispensed over a greater geographical area
 - There are no sporting reserves in the most central regional of the Peninsula
 - 72% of the Shire's population reside along the coast.

Sports fields on the Peninsula

Field conditions

In 2016 a sports field condition assessment and a facility audit were undertaken at the Shire's 34 sports reserves.

This assessment revealed:

42%

42% of the Shire's sports fields were evaluated as being in either poor or marginal condition,



There are a significant number of sports fields that require renewal/ upgrade in the short term to improve capacity.



Additional usage can be improved quickly by targeting improvements in floodlighting, irrigation, drainage and centre cricket wickets.

Key Implication

Upgrades to existing facilities are required to accommodate the current and future needs of sporting clubs on the peninsula.



Sports fields on the Peninsula

Field usage

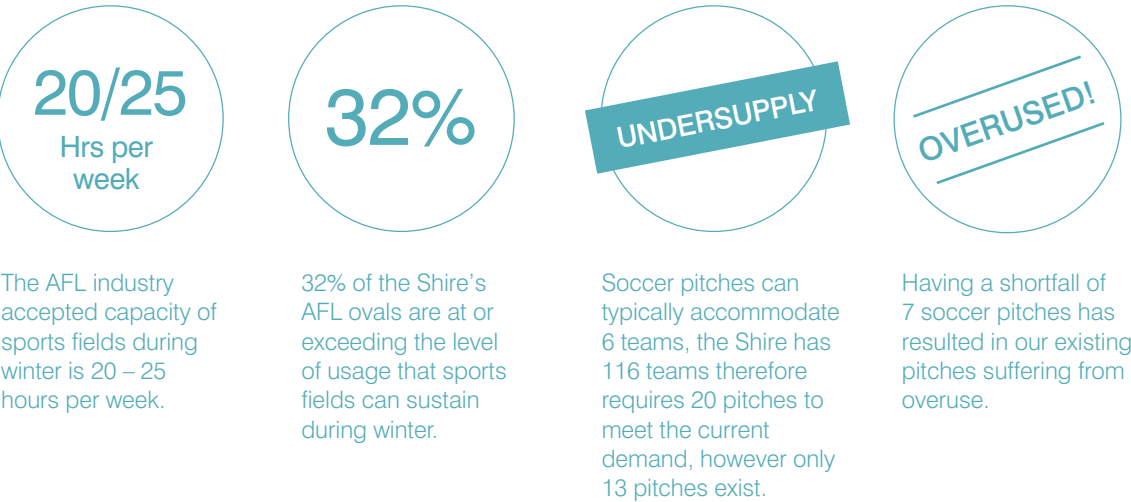
In 2016, an estimated 10,570 people were active members of field-based sporting clubs. An analysis of the membership data shows that across all sports, except baseball, there are significantly more juniors participating compared to senior players.

	Football	Cricket	Soccer	Athletics	Baseball	Total
Junior Players	4,548	1,536	1,192	618	88	7,982
Senior Players	1,244	1,008	170	56	110	2,588
Total Players	5,792	2,544	1,362	674	198	10,570

Key Implication

Junior participation in soccer is more than seven times that of seniors, this suggests that soccer could experience greater demand for senior teams in the future.

How much use is too much?



Key Implication

Additional sports fields are required to reduce the level of overload on existing sports fields.



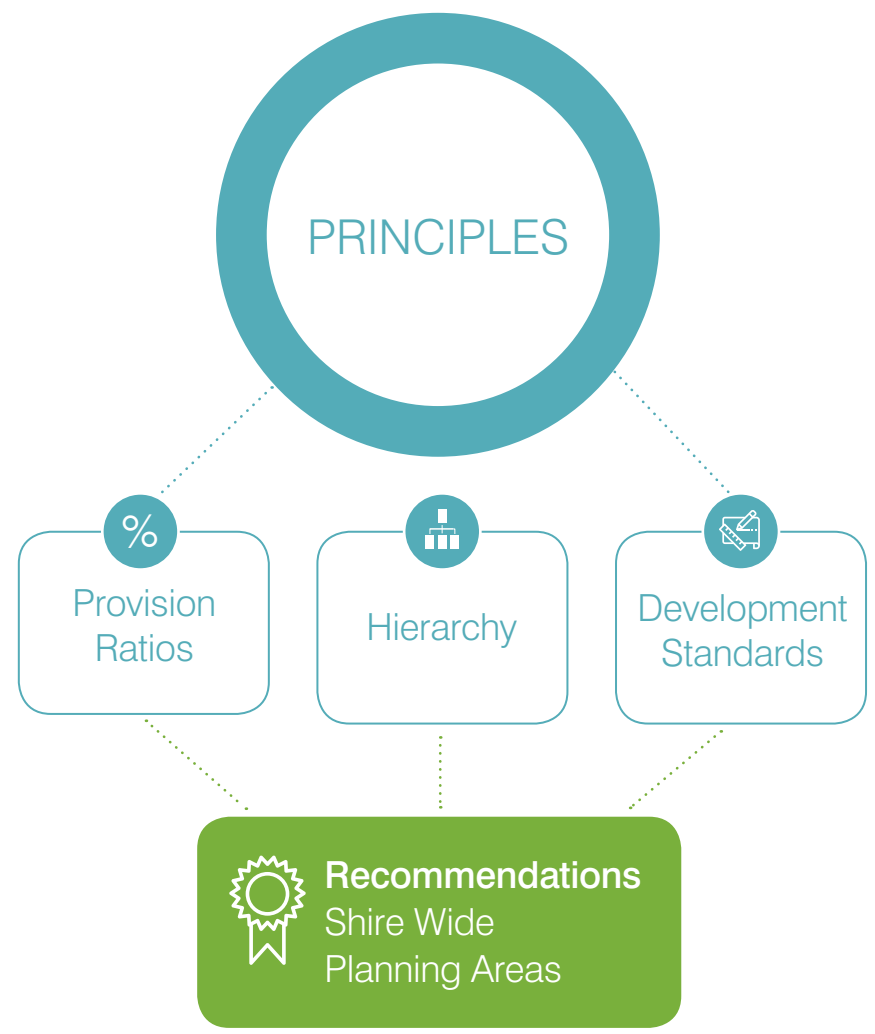
The community goal

Section 2.

- This section includes:
- Principles
 - Provision Ratios
 - Hierarchy
 - Development Standards

Where we need to be

The future planning, development and renewal of sports fields and associated infrastructure is underpinned by:



PRINCIPLES

The principles will serve as the foundation for the future planning and development of sports fields on the Mornington Peninsula.

Adequate Provision	Council will provide a sufficient number, range and distribution of sporting facilities to meet demand.
Multi-use and Shared-Use	Council will create sport hubs facilities and multi-use facilities.
Accessible and Inclusive	Sporting facilities will be accessible to and encourage people of all ages, genders, abilities and cultural backgrounds.
Consolidation and Co-Location	Council will aim to consolidate built infrastructure within reserves to maximise economic efficiencies and to improve the visual amenity of reserves.
Open and Inviting	Sporting facilities will encourage and optimise community use by incorporating non-sporting infrastructure, such as BBQs, playgrounds, and walking paths, to encourage informal recreational use.
Quality and Sustainable	Sporting facilities will be sited, designed, constructed and managed in accordance with sports facility development standards and embrace ecologically sustainable development (ESD) principles.
Financially Responsible	Financial viability and cost effectiveness of sporting facilities will be developed and managed.
Partnerships	Council will maximise opportunities for partnering with other public and private sector organisations, agencies, clubs and groups for the provision and management of sporting facilities.

Where we need to be



Sports Facility Provision Ratios

To meet the Mornington Peninsula's population profile and sport trends we will need:

Football	Cricket	Soccer	Athletics	Baseball	Softball	Rugby League	Hockey
1 oval per 4,000	1 field per 5,500	1 field per 50,000	1 (grass) track per 75,000	1 field per 50,000	1 field per 75,000	1 field per 100,000	1 pitch per 100,000*

*Provision ratio adopted by Hockey Victoria

Where we need to be

SPORTS FACILITY HIERARCHY

To meet demand and to provide sport pathway opportunities a four-tiered sports facility hierarchy has been developed:

- 1. Local level sports facilities
- 2. District/ Township level sports facilities
- 3. Shire level sports facilities
- 4. Regional level sports facilities



Local level

Local level sports facilities primarily cater for junior training and competition, and as overflow facilities for senior teams. These facilities are generally built and maintained to a basic level with little supporting infrastructure.

District/ Township level

District/Township level sporting facilities are primarily designed and maintained to cater for club training and competition and are the 'headquarters' (or 'home') facility for clubs and/or associations. They usually comprise of playing surfaces and a pavilion or clubroom, and can include a range of supporting infrastructure, such as floodlighting, practice facilities and formal car parking.

Shire level

Shire level sporting facilities are those typically accommodating sports with lower participation rates due to their speciality or uniqueness, and which rely on a Shire-wide catchment to exist. Shire level facilities can also be those that provide different sports with a facility or service able to be shared by many clubs/ associations located at different venues throughout the Shire.

Regional level

Regional level sporting facilities are designed, constructed and maintained to a high standard and service a catchment that extends beyond the Shire. They are facilities which can generally accommodate each level of the sport pathway, from beginner to elite, as they have capacity to host regional, State or National standard competitions.

Sports facility hierarchy for fields based sports in the Mornington Peninsula Shire:

SPORTS FACILITY HIERARCHY FOR FIELDS BASED SPORTS IN THE MORNINGTON PENINSULA SHIRE

	 Football	 Cricket	 Soccer	 Athletics	 Baseball/ Softball	 Hockey	 Rugby
Local	✓	✓					
District/ Township	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Shire	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Regional							

Where we need to be

DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

Sports facility Development Standards have been prepared for each level of the hierarchy and they aim to ensure:

- A consistent approach to the provision of sporting facilities for each sport code.
- Equitable provision of facilities throughout the Shire.
- The standard and quality of facilities reflects State Sporting Association guidelines.
- Funding and investment in facilities is allocated responsibly to prevent unnecessary over-development

The Shire's Sports Facility Development Standards can be found at:

 mornpen.vic.gov.au/sportandrec





Getting the ball rolling

This section includes:

- Shire Wide Recommendations
- Planning Area Recommendations:
 - Northern
 - Southern
 - Western Port

What do we need?



Based on the Shire forecast population the Sports Capacity Plan Provision Ratios identified the need for the following new “Shire Wide “sports fields:

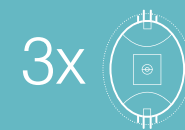
SHIRE WIDE

2x



The plan further identifies additional sports fields required for each of the planning areas:

NORTHERN



Football



Soccer

WESTERNPORT



Football/
Cricket



Soccer

SOUTHERN



Soccer

Shire wide recommendations



Based on the Sports Capacity Plan’s strategic principles, sport provision ratios and sports facility hierarchy it is recommended that Council:

ACQUIRE A CENTRALLY LOCATED SPORTING PRECINCT

In the short term acquire a large, centrally located sporting precinct at a green field site to accommodate current and future demand for the following sports and associated facilities:

- 4 soccer pitches: 1 pitch to be a fenced and dedicated soccer pitch (the main pitch), and 2 pitches to be dual-use with cricket.
- 2 rugby league fields.
- 1 synthetic sports field (multipurpose to accommodate all field-based sports)
- 2 synthetic hockey pitches.
- 5 baseball/softball fields: 2 fields construct as senior baseball fields, 2 fields as dual use baseball/softball fields and sufficient space to be set aside for a 5th field.
- 2 ovals to be dual-use football-cricket.
- 2 netball courts.

IMPLEMENT DRAINAGE AND IRRIGATION WORKS IN LINE WITH THE SPORTS FACILITY DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

Council continue its annual funding program for the upgrade of drainage and irrigation at existing sports fields, with a priority being to complete works at sports fields evaluated as being in either poor or marginal condition with high level of usage.

INSTALL SPORTS FIELD FLOODLIGHTING

In line with the Sports Facility Development Standards, Council:

- Upgrade existing floodlighting systems to the recommended lux level
- Continue the annual funding program for the installation of training level lighting to non-lit playing fields.

IMPLEMENT THE RELEVANT TURF TYPE ON SPORT FIELD SURFACES

Council continue to convert sports field surfaces to warm season grass, in particular sports grounds that have high use in winter.

Council undertake biannual inspections of sports grounds to determine individual annual maintenance regimes, and to also identify any specific issues that may require tailored responses or repair

INTRODUCE SYNTHETIC SURFACES TO SUPPORT EXISTING TURF PLAYING FIELDS.

New synthetic field(s) will be centrally located within the Shire to maximise convenient access for the highest number of user groups.

Council will directly manage any new synthetic facilities to ensure the broadest possible use is achieved, therefore the playing field will not be allocated to any one user group. To support this, future locations that have existing onsite Council management should be considered favourably to site future synthetic sports fields.

UPGRADE OF PLAYER BENCHES TO CONFORM WITH SPORT FACILITY STANDARDS

Council to introduce an annual funding program to replace all player benches not conforming with the standards outlined in the sports facility development standards.

DISCOURAGE THE FORMATION OF SUPER CLUBS

Council discourage the formation of ‘super clubs’ when new sporting reserves are established.

A ‘super club’ is when an existing club continues to increase its number of teams mainly due to its geographic spread into new residential areas located beyond the club’s initial neighbourhood catchment.

Council will embark on a program, in collaboration with the respective State Sporting Association, to assist new communities to establish new sporting clubs to take up tenancy at the new reserves.

Northern Peninsula



SHORT TERM

In the short term the Northern Peninsula requires:

- 1 additional oval,
- 4 additional soccer pitches,
- A synthetic athletics facility

To meet the current demand for these facilities it is recommended that Council:

1. Develop Narambi Reserve into a two-oval reserve by constructing a second oval.
2. Construct a Shire level athletics facility in Civic Reserve
3. Construct a 4 pitch District/Township level soccer facility in Civic Reserve for the Mount Martha Soccer Club.
4. Construct a third soccer pitch at Emil Madsen Reserve
5. Consider a Joint Use Agreement with Mount Eliza Secondary College for shared use of one soccer pitch for Mount Eliza Soccer Club.

In the longer term, it is recommended that the Mt Martha Soccer Club is relocated to the proposed new centrally located sports reserve to better accommodate soccer needs in the southern Mornington and Mt Martha localities.

NOTE: SHORT TERM 0-10 YEARS

LONG TERM 10+ YEARS

LONG TERM

In the long term the Northern Peninsula requires:

- 2 additional ovals.
- 2 additional soccer pitches

To meet the future need for these facilities it is recommended that Council:

1. At the proposed large, centrally located sporting precinct provide 4 soccer pitches for Mount Martha Soccer Club.
2. Relocate the Mornington Soccer Club to the new District/ Township level soccer facility in Civic Reserve (refer No. 3 above) following the relocation of the Mt Martha Soccer Club to the proposed new centrally located sports reserve.
3. If Mt Martha Soccer Club relocate to Civic Reserve then convert Dallas Brooks Reserve into a 2-oval reserve by constructing a second senior oval.
4. Relocate the Mornington Baseball Club to the proposed new centrally located sports reserve (See Shire Wide Recommendations).
5. If Mornington Baseball Club relocate to a new facility, then formalise CB Wilson Reserve into a football-cricket oval to enable it to become the designated second oval to supplement the usage of Alexandra Park for the Mornington Football Club and Mornington Cricket Club.



Southern Peninsula



SHORT TERM

In the short term the Southern Peninsula requires:

- 5 additional ovals,
- 5 additional soccer pitches

To meet the current demand for these facilities it is recommended that Council:

1. Upgrade the Portsea Recreation Reserve to enable it to become the designated second oval to supplement the usage of David MacFarlan Reserve for the Sorrento Junior Football Club and the Sorrento Cricket Club.
2. Investigate the development of a District/ Township level sporting reserve at Dromana Racecourse Reserve to support football and cricket by creating a two-oval dual use facility.
3. Develop a new District/ Township level sporting reserve to support football, cricket and club-based netball, with the two ovals to be dual use football-cricket. Consider the inclusion of this facility within the proposed new centrally located sports reserve (refer to Shire Wide recommendations).

4. Enlarge Truemans Road Reserve Oval 3 (the sports field adjacent to the netball courts) to enable the sports field to accommodate a senior soccer field overlaid onto the cricket oval. Reshape and reconstruct Truemans Road Reserve Oval 1 (the rear sports field) to allow the 2 soccer pitches to be widened.
5. Develop a new District/ Township level soccer reserve.
 - One pitch to be a fenced and dedicated soccer pitch (the main pitch).
 - Two pitches to be dual-use with cricket.
 - Sufficient space to be set aside for a future fourth pitch.

LONG TERM

In the long term the Southern Peninsula requires:

- 3 additional ovals.
- 2 additional soccer pitches

To meet the future need for these facilities it is recommended that Council:

1. Relocate Boneo Baseball Club to the proposed new centrally located sports reserve (See Shire Wide Recommendations).
2. Investigate the development of a 2-pitch District level soccer facility at Dromana Racecourse Reserve
3. Develop a new District/ Township level sporting reserve to support football and cricket in the southern planning area further investigation required to quantify demand and site options.
4. Construct a multipurpose synthetic sports field at the proposed centrally located sports precinct (refer to Shire Wide Recommendations)

Western Port



SHORT TERM

In the short term the Western Port requires:

- 6 additional soccer pitches

LONG TERM

In the long term the Western Port requires:

- 1 additional soccer pitch

To meet the demand for these facilities it is recommended that Council:

1. Develop a new District/ Township level soccer reserve in Somerville
 - One pitch to be a fenced and dedicated soccer pitch (the main pitch).
 - Two pitches to be dual-use with cricket
 - Investigate the feasibility of utilising Barakee Reserve.
2. Develop a new District/ Township level soccer reserve in the southern region of the planning area to particularly service the communities in Red Hill/ Balnarring townships
 - One pitch to be a fenced and dedicated soccer pitch (the main pitch).
 - Two pitches to be dual-use with cricket.
 - Sufficient space to be set aside for a future fourth pitch.





How will we prioritise?

A two stage assessment process has been developed to assess the merit of an identified project and assist with prioritisation for delivery of each sports facility improvement.

Stage One

The first stage of the assessment is a high level evaluation to determine the relevance of each projects against the Sports Capacity Plan Principles. This assessment will help to determine which projects should be considered for short-term delivery, as well as projects that may be future priorities.

Stage Two

Those projects identified for short term delivery in Stage One of the assessment process will be in line for consideration in Council's annual budget process. Stage Two comprises of a comprehensive assessment that will be undertaken for each shortlisted project to determine a specific order of priority and project readiness.