



APRIL 2013

ALPINE SHIRE

RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN



Prepared by Sykes Consulting

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Executive Summary

As a rural municipality in north-east Victoria, Alpine Shire is characterised by three main centres that lie in the Ovens and Kiewa valleys, complemented by diverse communities that have their own distinct identities and rural village character.

Outdoor recreation and healthy living are key features of the lifestyle in Alpine Shire. Participation in a range of recreation activities that are set in the natural environment of the Shire is very popular.

The communities across Alpine Shire are generally very positive about provision of recreation and open space. While some improvements to facilities have been identified by groups and individuals, there is a high level of satisfaction and many consider themselves 'lucky' to live in such a rich natural 'playground'.

Analysis of recreation and open space provision across the Shire generally indicated that there is sufficient land and facilities to cater for resident and visitor demand. There is no rationale to support further development of standalone facilities.

The key areas of improvement that emerged as priorities were:

- Improved provision of safe off-road trails, links and corridors to cater for increasing participation in walking and cycling;
- Enhanced provision of facilities for informal and casual recreation activities to cater for increasing participation in unstructured and casual recreation pursuits (often in preference to traditional club membership);
- Improvements and upgrades to ensure that existing facilities are maintained to a high standard, subject to available resources and the success of partnerships with land owners, land managers and funding organisations; and
- A continued trend of sharing and multi-use of facilities to ensure maximum community benefit.

It will be important for Council to support, advocate for and provide resources for informal recreation while at the same time continuing to support organised club-based recreation. Structured sport and recreation will continue to require safe and compliant facilities that meet the standards of their codes. However this plan emphasises the need for a shift in resourcing to increase support for activities that attract the highest levels of participation.

The Vision for recreation and open space in Alpine Shire is:

The exceptional lifestyle of the Alpine Shire will be supported by well-planned recreation and open space facilities and activities that are accessible, encourage participation and respond to changing community needs.

The vision is supported by the following principles:

1. Quality of Life

Decision making will be informed by recognising that:

- recreation facilities and open space are highly valued by the community,
- participation in recreation activities enhances the quality of life for residents and visitors;
and
- health, social, economic and environmental benefits arise from open space provision.

2. Working with Others

Council working in conjunction with the State government, the private sector, organisations and the community enhances the range, quality and distribution of recreation and open space opportunities.

3. Accessibility

The range of recreation and open space opportunities provided throughout Alpine Shire will be accessible and affordable for people of all ages, abilities and interests.

4. Multi-Use

Complementary and multi-use recreation and open space opportunities provided across the Shire will be flexible in order to cater for diverse and changing preferences of residents and visitors.

5. Environment

The management of open space and development of recreation infrastructure and activities will protect and enhance the environment through responsible and sustainable practices.

6. Management

Recreation opportunities and open space will be well planned and managed by a range of providers, including Council, to achieve maximum community benefit and sustainable outcomes.

7. Innovation

Innovative practice and design will be encouraged and incorporated in the planning and management of open space and recreation facilities.

8. Community Involvement

The community will be consulted and encouraged to participate in the planning and management of open space and recreation facilities, where appropriate.

9. Economy

Recreation and nature based tourism contributes to the economic prosperity of Alpine Shire.

The priorities emerging from the Recreation and Open Space Plan have been grouped under the following key themes.

Participation

Strategic Objective: *To encourage increased participation by all sectors of the community particularly those who currently do not undertake any recreation or physical activity.*

Priorities to achieve the Objective:

- Promote popular activities including walking and cycling for the whole population
- Educate and promote the benefits of participation
- Engage the community in planning, decision making and delivery
- Support programs and events that encourage participation

Partnerships

Strategic Objective: *To develop and maintain strong partnerships with government, agency, community and private sectors in the delivery of a wide range of quality recreation experiences.*

Priorities to achieve the Objective:

- Develop strong links and liaison with key government agencies that manage open space and water areas and provide recreation facilities
- Establish and maintain relationships with providers of key recreation facilities
- Strengthen partnerships with schools and seek opportunities for joint projects and greater community access to school facilities outside of school hours

Management and Coordination

Strategic Objective: *To provide and support quality management outcomes for all recreation facilities and open space areas.*

Priorities to achieve the Objective:

- Develop policy and procedures to guide the management, maintenance and improvements of open space areas
- Support volunteers and committees through a closer partnership with CARN and ensuring the availability of programs, training and support for organisations to build capacity

Provision of Facilities

Strategic Objective: *To maintain existing facilities to a high standard and upgrade appropriate facilities in response to the recreation needs and changing preferences of the current and future Alpine Shire community.*

Priorities to achieve the Objective:

- Ensure facilities are maintained to the highest possible standard (within available resources) and are upgraded where necessary
- Implement approved master plans and facility plans
- Develop partnerships to support improved facility provision
- Upgrade facilities that provide informal recreation opportunities
- Advocate on behalf of residents and visitors for high quality provision of facilities and opportunities

The Environment and Recreation

Strategic Objective: *To ensure responsible environmental management in the provision of all recreation opportunities and promote opportunities for recreation activity in natural areas where appropriate.*

Priorities to achieve the Objective:

- Advocate for the protection of environmental values on all public land.
- Explore opportunities for recreation activities that are complementary with the management of national park, forests and other natural areas.
- Ensure responsible and sustainable practices in the management of open space and recreation facilities.

Open Space Network

Strategic Objective: *To maintain a high quality and sustainable open space network for the benefit of residents of Alpine Shire and visitors to the region.*

Priorities to achieve the Objective:

- Balance the resourcing and provision of recreation and open space to provide for informal and casual opportunities as well as formal activity
- Advocate to State Government agencies and other providers of open space about the significance of open space in community life across the shire's townships and villages
- Seek opportunities for improved provision of open space shared pathways and connections within and between communities

Links and Corridors

Strategic Objective: *To protect existing vegetated corridors and improve the provision of shared pathways, walking and cycling paths and linkages throughout and between Alpine communities.*

Priorities to achieve the Objective:

- Protect and enhance vegetated and waterway corridors wherever possible
- Develop continuous and accessible pathways in the major settlements of Bright, Myrtleford and Mount Beauty
- Complete implementation of key projects in existing strategies
- Continue to extend and improve the bicycle path network to enhance user experience within available resources and in partnership with others

Council will encourage and maximise partnerships in the implementation of the Recreation and Open Space Plan. Given the range of land owners/managers and organisations involved in the delivery of a diverse range of recreation activities, successful results are more likely to be achieved through collaboration and joint ventures.

In Summary

- ✓ Participation data indicates significantly high levels of participation and popularity in casual and informal recreation
- ✓ Alpine Shire is well provided with natural settings, open space areas and recreation facilities
- ✓ Good maintenance and appropriate standards of upgrade to existing facilities are priorities over the development of new facilities
- ✓ Building on existing assets will require significant partnerships with land owners, government, agencies and other organisations (including the private sector)
- ✓ Alpine Shire has a diverse and adequate provision of aquatic facilities and future provision of warm water should be discussed with the health sector

- ✓ Council plays a key role in promoting the benefits of recreation and the diverse opportunities across the Shire

This plan has a proposed life of 5-10 years and will be reviewed throughout this time to check its responsiveness to emerging issues and community expectations.



1. Introduction

Alpine Shire is located in north-east Victoria among impressive natural features and appealing rural landscapes. It offers its residents quality lifestyles that are characterised by small townships with their own unique identities and strong sense of community. Alpine Shire is a popular destination for visitors, who enjoy year-round outdoor recreation and tourism experiences throughout the region's natural and rural environments, townships and villages.

Alpine Shire covers an area of approximately 4790 square kilometres and sits in the Hume Region of Victoria (and in the Central Hume Sub-Region) and includes part of the Alpine National Park, the Mount Buffalo National Park, State Forests and other natural areas that comprise about 92% of the land area of the municipality. The Shire's remaining eight per cent of land is home to the communities along the valleys of the Ovens, Kiewa, Buckland and Buffalo Rivers. The three major settlements are Bright, Mount Beauty / Tawonga South and Myrtleford with numerous villages and localities making up the municipality.

Alpine Shire contributes to the tourism and plantation timber industries of the region as well as having a major focus on liveability and sustainability.

1.1 What is a Recreation and Open Space Plan?

It is important that Council sets a clear direction for its resourcing and support of diverse recreation and open space opportunities that are enjoyed by both residents and visitors. Facilities, events and activities must be flexible and adaptable as preferences and needs change. As Alpine Shire Council works in partnership with many organisations to provide a wide range of recreation opportunities, Council must be clear about its role in delivering prioritised actions that offer maximum community benefit.

The Recreation and Open Space Plan will enable Council to consider and prioritise existing projects that are already approved (in master plans, studies and strategies) and also provide guidance and a framework for future strategic development and prioritisation of projects. Council will use this report as a tool for responding to community requests for facilities and support for various recreation initiatives.

The preparation of this Recreation and Open Space Plan has been informed by an understanding of:

- current facilities and opportunities for recreation activity – both structured and unstructured;
- participation trends of residents over the past year;
- priorities in Alpine Shire's townships and villages that would strengthen community capacity for recreation;
- the connection of Alpine Shire to its surrounding areas and in particular the regional centres of Wangaratta and Wodonga;
- Council's role in the provision of recreation and open space and opportunities for the future; and
- realistic outcomes that are achievable given the financial capacity of the Shire and its communities.

Significant progress has been made in recreation provision since the previous Recreation Strategy was adopted by Council in 1996 and reviewed in 2004. Achievements include:

- Completing projects in partnership with government agencies such as the Bright-Wangaratta Rail Trail and sports facilities developed jointly with schools on education land.
- Working in partnership with the community to develop play facilities such as the Mount Beauty Playground and the Cundy Park Playground in Myrtleford.
- Consideration of aquatics provision, the decision to purchase and upgrade the Bright Sports Centre and ongoing improvements to outdoor swimming pools throughout the Shire.
- Improvements to many recreation facilities including asset and risk management to ensure safe access by the community.
- Supporting Committees of Management, clubs and organisations by assisting and advising in areas such as governance, delivery of recreation activity and management of volunteers.
- Listing of many different recreation activities and organisations in the annual Community Directory and at the Visitor Information Centres to inform residents and visitors about recreation opportunities.

For the purpose of this plan:

Recreation is defined as:

Physical activity one chooses for enjoyment that is outside of work or study and outside the home.

Open Space is defined as:

Public land that is used for recreation, relaxation and to preserve environmental values.

This Plan broadly considers all the public open space in the Shire including all Council owned and Crown land managed as open space by Council, as well as the far larger area of land open to the public managed by other government authorities. The areas include all local parks and gardens, recreation reserves, cycling/walking tracks, swimming facilities and wide range of community recreation facilities and waterways and natural areas including State Forest areas and National Parks.

However the Plan has a particular focus on Council owned and/or managed open space as the State managed National Parks and State Forests are subject to their own planning processes. It is therefore not the role of this Plan to address specific planning of management issues relating to these areas.



1.2 How was the Plan prepared?

The following approach was used to prepare the Recreation and Open Space Plan:

- ✓ Developing a list of current provision of recreation and open space in Alpine Shire.
- ✓ Analysis of population profiles and characteristics of the communities in Alpine Shire.
- ✓ Review of Council and external documents including the previous Recreation Strategy.
- ✓ Developing a summary of benefits and industry trends for recreation and open space.
- ✓ Undertaking a community engagement process to understand recreation needs and aspirations.
- ✓ Analysis of results and participation trends.
- ✓ Identification of strategic directions.
- ✓ Development of a prioritised action plan outlining recommendations for the next 8-10 years.

The community engagement process involved:

- 488 responses to a Community Survey and 23 responses to an Online Survey
- 40 responses to an Organisation Survey of local community clubs and organisations
- 15 School and Outdoor Recreation Centre Interviews to complete questionnaires
- Stakeholder Interviews with agencies and external stakeholders
- Three Community Forums in Bright, Mount Beauty and Myrtleford attended by 52 people
- Focussed Discussions with internal staff and in particular with regard to environment, tourism and health and wellbeing
- Five Submissions received as a result of promotion of the project and requests for input
- Discussions with three local organisations on-site in their facilities
- 14 submissions received during the Public Exhibition Period of the Draft Recreation and Open Space Plan

1.3 What was considered?

As well as the population characteristics and research about recreation and open space needs, the following literature provided important input into the development of the Recreation and Open Space Plan:

Corporate Strategic Documents and Other Service Strategies
Alpine Shire 2030 Community Vision – 2010 Review – Alpine Shire
Council Plan 2009 – 2013 (2011 update) Alpine Shire
Alpine Planning Scheme Review 2010 – Alpine Shire
Alpine Shire Council Climate Change Action Plan 2012 – 2016 (2012) – Alpine Shire
Alpine Shire Council Municipal Early Years Plan 2012 – 2016 (2012) – Alpine Shire
2011 Disability Action Plan – Alpine Shire & Alpine Health
Alpine Liveability Plan 2009 – Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan – Alpine Shire
Economic Impact of Cycle Tourism 2011 – Alpine Shire (SGS Economics and Planning)
Non-winter nature-based tourism destination development study for the Victoria Alpine Resorts 2008
Greenhouse Local Action Plan 2006 – Alpine Shire
Sustainable Water Use Plan 2006 – Alpine Shire
Scoping Study for Extension of Current Bicycle Trail Network 2007 – Alpine Shire (AG Project Consultants)
Alpine Bicycle Strategy – 2002 – Alpine Shire (Arup)

Strategic Recreation and Open Space Studies
Sport and Leisure Strategy Review – Issues and Action (2004) Alpine Shire (@leisure) Alpine Shire Recreation Strategy (1996) Lacey Management Services
Site Specific Recreation and Open Space Studies
Dinner Plain Recreation and Leisure Strategy (August 2010) Alpine Shire (CPG Consultants) 2012 Recreation Reserve Master Plan – Bright Pioneer Park Recreation Reserve (2012) Alpine Shire 2012 Recreation Reserve Master Plan – Myrtleford RC NcNamara Recreation Reserve and Memorial Park Oval (2012) Alpine Shire 2011 Recreation Reserve Master Plan – Mount Beauty (2011) Alpine Shire Mount Beauty Recreation Reserve Master Plan 2004 – Alpine Shire (@ leisure) Myrtleford Master Plans 2004 – Alpine Shire (@ leisure) Pioneer Park Master Plan 2004 – Bright – Alpine Shire (@ leisure) Harrietville Recreation Reserve Management Plan Issues Report – 2003 – Alpine Shire Bright Swimming pool Re-development Feasibility Study 2006 – Alpine Shire (Melvin Consultants) Alpine Shire Aquatic Centre Feasibility Study 2001 – Alpine Shire (Melvin Consultants)
Community Specific Plans
Mount Beauty Master Plan 2003 – Alpine Shire (EDAW gillespies) Mount Beauty Community Atlas 2008 – Alpine Shire Mount Beauty Community Facilities Strategy (2011) Mount Beauty and Tawonga South Framework Plan 2009 Mount Beauty – Tawonga South Masterplan 1998 – Alpine Shire (Geoff Sanderson & Associates) Tawonga South Community Atlas – Alpine Shire Myrtleford Framework Plan 2010 Myrtleford Community Atlas 2008 – Alpine Shire Myrtleford Master Plan Report 2001 – Alpine Shire Porepunkah Town Framework Plan 2009 Porepunkah Community Atlas 2008 – Alpine Shire Dederang Town Framework Plan 2009 Dederang Community Atlas 2008 – Alpine Shire Harrietville Town Framework Plan 2009 Harrietville Community Atlas 2008 – Alpine Shire Tawonga Town Framework Plan 2009 Tawonga Community Atlas 2008 – Alpine Shire Wandiligong Town Framework Plan 2009 Wandiligong Community Atlas 2008 – Alpine Shire Bright Future – Urban Design Framework Plan 2003 – Alpine Shire (Hassell) Bright Community Atlas 2008 – Alpine Shire Bogong Village Community Atlas 2008 – Alpine Shire Dinner Plain Community Atlas 2008 – Alpine Shire
Regional / External Documents
Hume Strategy – Hume Regional Growth Plan & Central Hume Sub Regional Plan 2010-2020 Alpine Resorts Strategic Plan 2012 Hume Region Cycling Strategy – Alpine Shire response to the region Alpine National Park Management Plan 1992

The review of the documentation highlighted the significant role that recreation and open space play in the unique lifestyle and opportunities across the Alpine Shire. Whether discussing tourism and outdoor recreation pursuits of thousands of visitors to the Alpine areas every year or passive leisure pursuits in parks, playgrounds and open spaces in local towns and villages, the community is very passionate and engaged in recreation activities.

In particular, the Recreation and Open Space Plan was prepared considering the Hume Strategy for Sustainable Communities 2010-2020 land use planning principles for:

- Efficient and sustainable communities;
- Sustainable rural communities;
- A thriving and dynamic economy;
- A healthy environment;
- Healthy vibrant and resilient communities; and
- A mobile and connected region.

The plan is also cognisant of the community aspirations and priorities as expressed in the 2030 Community Vision, Council Plan 2009-2013 and the Alpine Liveability Plan 2009. These documents outline a commitment to providing quality opportunities in the context of a significant natural environment in which the Alpine Shire is located.



2. Vision and Principles

The 2030 Community Vision for Alpine Shire has informed the following Vision for recreation and open space across the municipality's diverse communities:

The exceptional lifestyle of the Alpine Shire will be supported by well-planned recreation and open space facilities and activities that are accessible, encourage participation and respond to changing community needs.

In realising this vision, the following principles will underpin the strategies, actions and decision making to ensure that recreation and open space facilities are managed and developed effectively.

1. Quality of Life

Decision making will be informed by recognising that:

- recreation facilities and open space are highly valued by the community,
- participation in recreation activities enhances the quality of life for residents and visitors; and
- health, social, economic and environmental benefits arise from open space provision.

2. Working with Others

Council working in conjunction with the State government, the private sector, organisations and the community enhances the range, quality and distribution of recreation and open space opportunities.

3. Accessibility

The range of recreation and open space opportunities provided throughout Alpine Shire will be accessible and affordable for people of all ages, abilities and interests.

4. Multi-Use

Complementary and multi-use recreation and open space opportunities provided across the Shire will be flexible in order to cater for diverse and changing preferences of residents and visitors.

5. Environment

The management of open space and development of recreation infrastructure and activities will protect and enhance the environment through responsible and sustainable practices.

6. Management

Recreation opportunities and open space will be well planned and managed by a range of providers, including Council, to achieve maximum community benefit and sustainable outcomes.

7. Innovation

Innovative practice and design will be encouraged and incorporated in the planning and management of open space and recreation facilities.

8. Community Involvement

The community will be consulted and encouraged to participate in the planning and management of open space and recreation facilities, where appropriate.

9. Economy

Recreation and nature based tourism contributes to the economic prosperity of Alpine Shire.

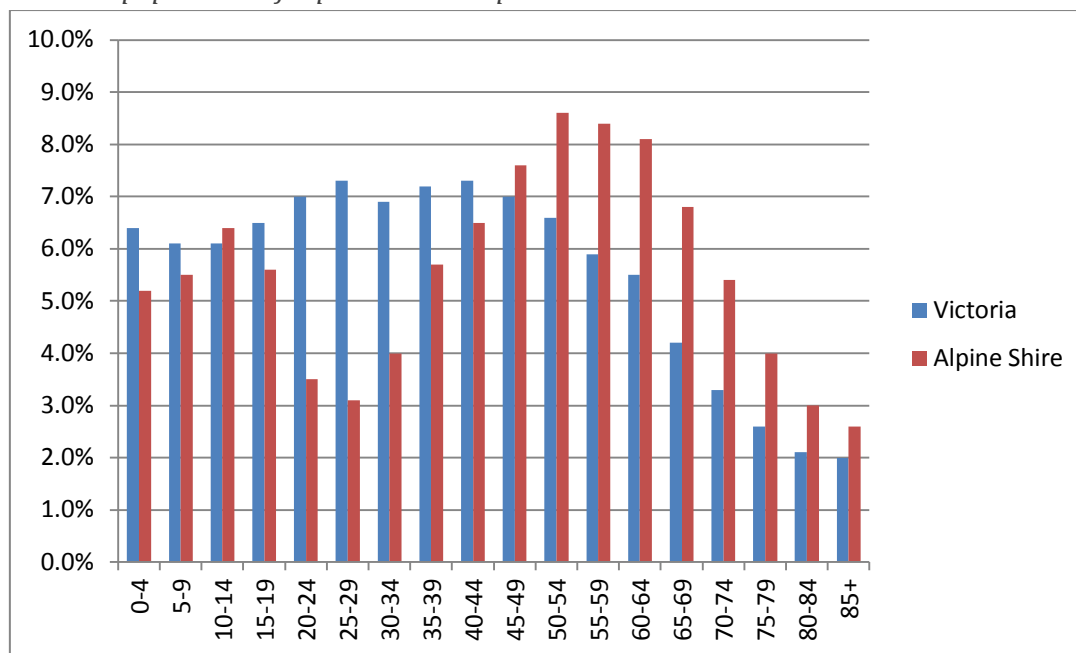
3. Demographic Profile

With a history of agriculture including tobacco farming (Myrtleford), power generation (Mount Beauty) and tourism (Bright), the communities of Alpine Shire are rich in history, local culture and identity.

3.1 Population Summary

Alpine Shire has a total population of 11,881 residents (2011 census) which has decreased slightly from 12,000 residents in 2006.

Table 1: 2011 population of Alpine Shire compared to Victoria



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics 2011 census for place of usual residence

The above figure compares the population by age groups for Alpine Shire to the Victorian population and key observations are:

- There is a higher proportion of people in Alpine Shire in the age groups older than 45 years through to 85 years +. Overall 54.5% of the population in 45 years and older in Alpine Shire compared to 39.2% for Victoria.
- There is a lower proportion of young people aged 0-9 years, 15-19 years and 20-44 years than in Victoria. (The 10-14 year age group in the only age bracket where the proportion is higher than Victoria.) Overall, 45.5% of the Alpine Shire is aged less than 45 years compared to 60.8% of the Victorian population.

When compared to Victoria, Alpine Shire has:

- Significantly less people born overseas (80.5% born in Australia in Alpine Shire compared to 68.6% in Victoria). This trend is also reflected in 'language spoken at home; with 87.8% of the Alpine population speaking English (compared to 72.4% in Victoria).
- A significantly higher rate of volunteerism with 29% of the Alpine Shire population undertaking voluntary work for an organisation compared to 18% across Victoria.
- A slightly lower rate of internet connection with 71% of all Alpine Shire households having internet connection compared to 77% across Victoria.

Tourism

The residential population is just one part of the picture for Alpine Shire, given its popularity as a tourist destination. Visitation figures calculated in 2008/09 suggest that there are over 275,000 overnight stays and 148,000 day trips to the area. Based on a five year average:

- Alpine Shire is the 6th most visited Victorian Local Government area for holiday and leisure purposes;
- 75% visitors to Alpine Shire come to the area for holiday and leisure purposes compared to 58% across Victoria;
- Autumn is the most popular season for visiting;
- The largest age groups of visitors are 25-44 years (36%) and 45-64 years (37%);
- The most frequent visitor type is adult couple travelling without children (35%); and
- The vast majority travel by car (91%).¹



Recent tourism profiles produced by Great Alpine Valleys by seasons² suggest:

Winter 2011	39% of visitors are aged 45-64 years 90% of visitors visit Bright and repeat visitation to the region is high (40%) Sight-seeing (19%) and Bushwalking (7%) are popular activities
Spring 2011	42% of visitors are aged between 45 -64 years 70% visited Bright and repeat visitation to the region is high (60%)
Summer 2011/12	57% of visitors are aged between 45 -64 years 70% visited Bright and repeat visitation to the region is high (60%) Customer satisfaction is rated as high (3.5 out of 4)
Autumn 2012	46% of visitors are aged 65+ years 79% visited Bright and repeat visitation to the region is high (81%) Popular reasons for visiting included beauty, scenery and setting, cycling opportunities on the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail. Feedback requested more seats along the Rail Trail from Wangaratta to Myrtleford.

The popularity of Alpine Shire for visitors year round adds another dimension in providing recreation and open space facilities and opportunities. As well as providing for residents, Council and the communities of Alpine Shire have an interest in providing quality experiences for visitors because of the range of benefits to the shire. These include economic prosperity, increased resources for improving infrastructure and opportunities for communities to thrive and build capacity.

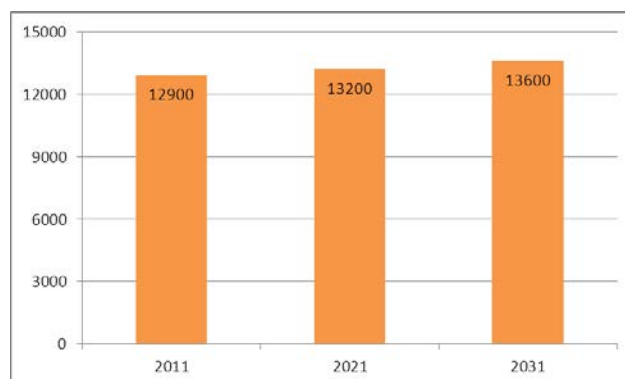
¹ Alpine Shire Tourism Insights 2008/09 (Alpine Shire Council)

² Great Alpine Valleys Market Profiles 2011/2012

3.2 Population Projections

The population in Alpine Shire is expected to increase slightly by 2031 as indicated in the following graph.

Table 2: Alpine Shire population comparison 2011-2031

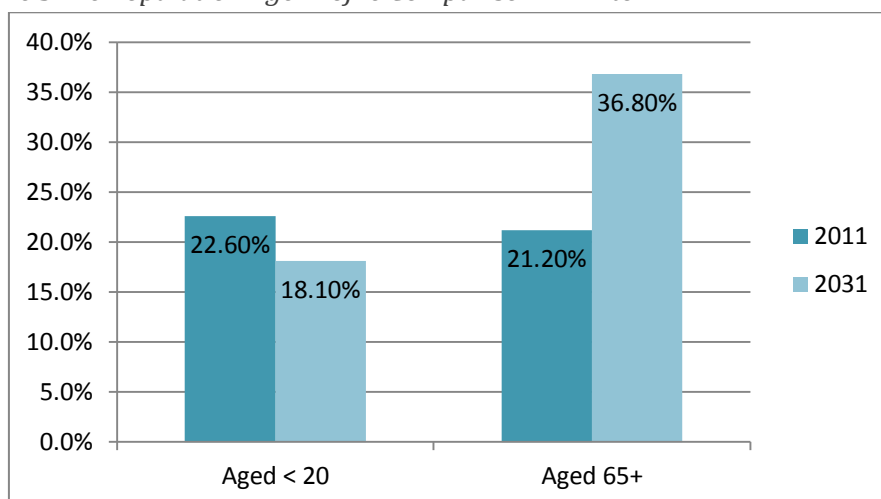


Source: VIF 2012 – Population and Household Projections 2011-1031 for Victoria and its regions (DPCD April 2012)

This growth represents an annual population growth of 0.3% between 2011 and 2031. It is noted however that the 2011 census indicates a total population that falls short of the projected population for 2011. Consequently, while population growth should be considered a distinct possibility, the extent and speed of growth may differ from early projections.

Like population growth the number of households in Alpine Shire is projected to increase from 5,400 in 2011 to 6,100 in 2031. The number of young people aged under 20 will decrease from 22.6% in 2011 to 18.1% in 2031 and the number of people aged 65 years + is projected to increase to 21.2% in 2011 to 36.8% of the total population in 2031, as illustrated below.

Table 3: Alpine Shire Population Age Profile Comparison 2011 to 2031



Source: VIF 2012 – Population and Household Projections 2011-1031 for Victoria and its regions (DPCD April 2012)

3.3 The Communities of Alpine Shire in Profile

The following section looks more closely at the key townships across Alpine Shire and the characteristics that are important for recreation and open space provision. In addition to a summary of the population, the main recreation and open space facilities are also listed.

Upper Ovens Valley Region – Bright

Table 4: 2011 population age profile of Bright

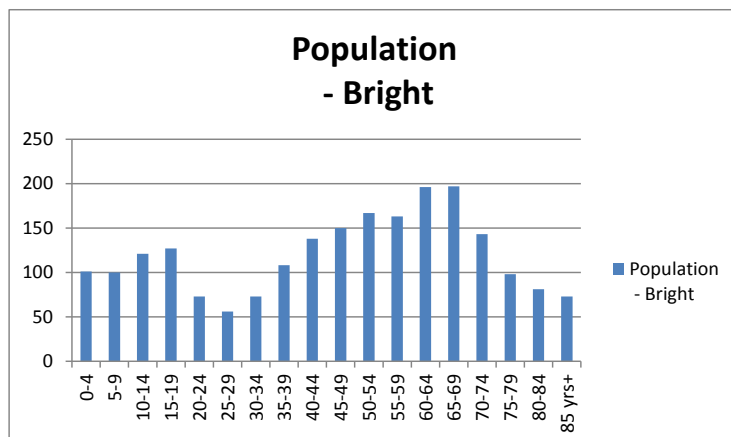
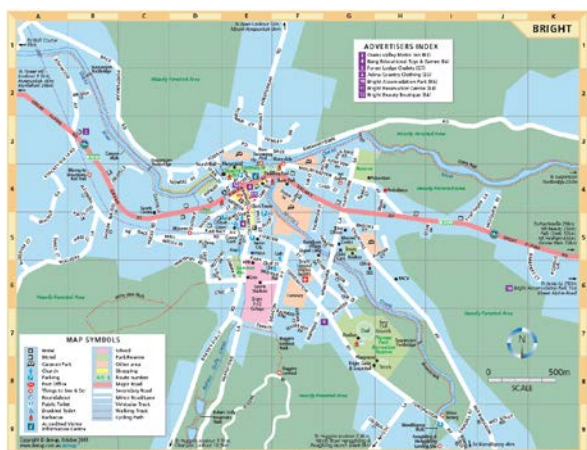


Table 5: Key Features of Bright – Population, Recreation and Open Space

Population (2011)	2,165	Source: ABS Census 2011
Rate of volunteerism	26% (557 people)	Source: ABS Census 2011
Born overseas	17% (378 people)	Source: ABS Census 2011
2 or more motor vehicles	47% (418 dwellings)	Source: ABS Census 2011
Internet connection	73% (650 dwellings)	Source: ABS Census 2011
Town Profile	Mainly tourist market / Key housing and service point for industry / Services Alpine high country to accommodation, food, supplies and fuel. Bright is reported as a well-connected and close knit community. Source: Community Atlas 2008	
Schools	1 P-12 school	
Recreation Facilities	2 bowling greens 1 croquet lawn 9 walking/cycling tracks 1 equestrian facility 1 paragliding/hang gliding facility 1 outdoor netball court 4 tennis courts 1 BMX track 1 skate park 1 local playground 1 township playground	5 community centres: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Centre Library Mens Shed Scout Hall Senior Citizens 1 sports stadium 1 indoor pool 2 outdoor swimming facilities 1 golf course
Open Spaces	16 local parks 2 township parks	1 Township/District Recreation Reserve (Category 1)

Also:

- 1 Community Centre (Hall) at Freeburgh

Upper Ovens Valley Region – Harrietville

Table 6: 2011 population age profile of Harrietville

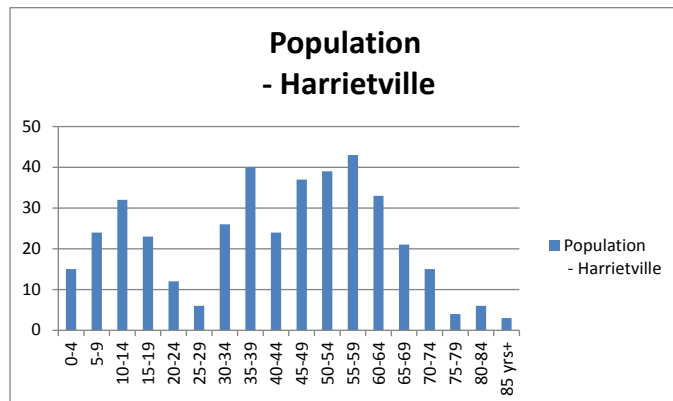


Table 7: Key Features of Harrietville – Population, Recreation and Open Space

Population (2011)	403	<i>Source: ABS Census 2011</i>
Rate of volunteerism	34% (112 people)	<i>Source: ABS Census 2011</i>
Born overseas	14% (55 people)	<i>Source: ABS Census 2011</i>
2 or more motor vehicles	61% (92 dwellings)	<i>Source: ABS Census 2011</i>
Internet connection	79% (120 dwellings)	<i>Source: ABS Census 2011</i>
Town Profile	Harrietville is characterised by rural/residential living and small scale farming. Residents value the relaxed outdoor lifestyle, historic character, mining heritage and environment. Many work in Bright or in the ski fields and there is an active involvement in community life. <i>Source: Community Atlas 2008</i>	
Schools	1 Primary School	
Recreation Facilities	3 walking/cycling tracks 1 local playground 1 outdoor swimming facility	1 community centre: • Community Hall
Open Spaces	3 local parks	1 Township Recreation Reserve (Category 2)

Upper Ovens Valley Region - Porepunkah

Table 8: 2011 population age profile of Porepunkah

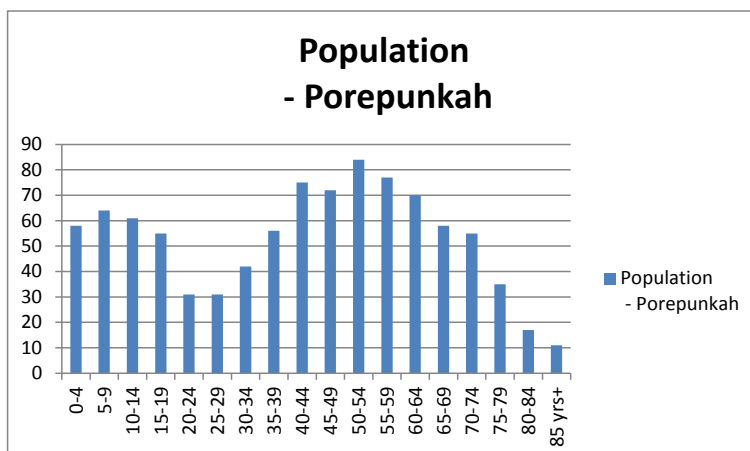


Table 9: Key Features of Porepunkah – Population, Recreation and Open Space

Population (2011)	952	<i>Source: ABS Census 2011</i>
Rate of volunteerism	28% (217 people)	<i>Source: ABS Census 2011</i>
Born overseas	13% (119 people)	<i>Source: ABS Census 2011</i>
2 or more motor vehicles	65% (247 dwellings)	<i>Source: ABS Census 2011</i>
Internet connection	76% (288 dwellings)	<i>Source: ABS Census 2011</i>
Town Profile	<p>Situated on the banks of the Ovens River, open space is a key feature of the town. River swimming is popular and walking/cycling pathways connect the town to Myrtleford and Wangaratta in the northwest and Bright in the southeast. Residents project a sense of friendly and cohesive community.</p> <p><i>Source: Community Atlas 2008</i></p>	
Schools	1 Primary School	
Recreation Facilities	2 walking/cycling tracks 1 gliding facility 3 tennis courts 1 local playground	1 community centre: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hall 2 outdoor swimming facilities
Open Spaces	2 township parks 1 river supporting recreation activity	1 Township Recreation Reserve (Category 2)

Upper Ovens Valley Region – Wandiligong

Table 10: 2011 population age profile of Wandiligong

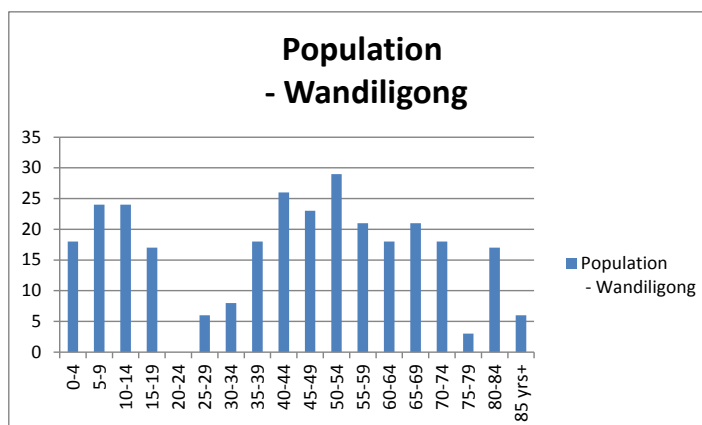


Table 11: Key Features of Wandiligong – Population, Recreation and Open Space

Population (2011)	297	Source: ABS Census 2011
Rate of volunteerism	29% (69 people)	Source: ABS Census 2011
Born overseas	17% (50 people)	Source: ABS Census 2011
2 or more motor vehicles	61% (67 dwellings)	Source: ABS Census 2011
Internet connection	80% (87 dwellings)	Source: ABS Census 2011
Town Profile	A small historic village noted for its landscape and buildings with few services and significant areas of open space. Small scale tourism. Source: Community Atlas 2008	
Schools	1 Primary School	
Recreation Facilities	3 walking/cycling tracks 1 local playground	1 community centre: • Hall
Open Spaces	3 local parks	1 Township Recreation Reserve (Category 2)

Lower Ovens Valley Region – Myrtleford:

Table 12: 2011 population age profile of Myrtleford

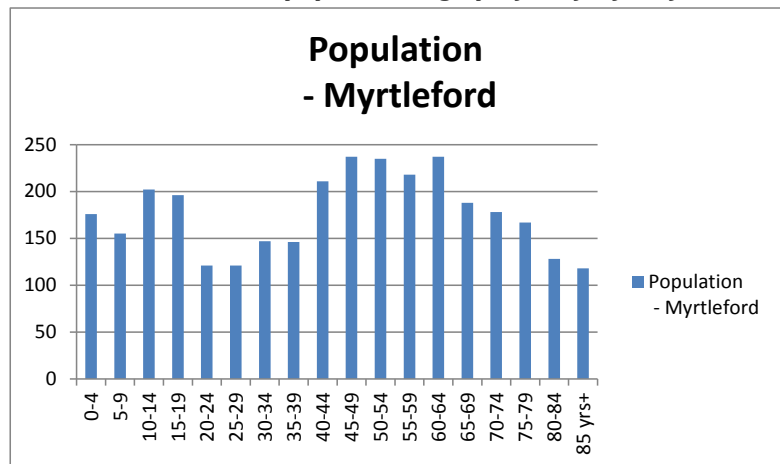


Table 13: Key Features of Myrtleford – Population, Recreation and Open Space

Population (2011)	3181	<i>Source: ABS Census 2011</i>
Rate of volunteerism	25% (650 people)	<i>Source: ABS Census 2011</i>
Born overseas	17% (545 people)	<i>Source: ABS Census 2011</i>
2 or more motor vehicles	53% (677 dwellings)	<i>Source: ABS Census 2011</i>
Internet connection	62% (796 dwellings)	<i>Source: ABS Census 2011</i>
Town Profile	Town services mainly agricultural and timber industry as well as housing and service point for industry. Town is also a stopover for visitors for accommodation, food, supplies and fuel on the way to the Alpine high country. Town has a district CBD area with dispersed housing that is mainly permanent residential and some holiday rental. <i>Source: Community Atlas 2008</i>	
Schools	1 P-12 school	1 Secondary College (private) 1 Primary School (private)
Recreation Facilities	2 bowling greens 3 (or 4?) walking/cycling tracks 1 equestrian facility 6 outdoor netball courts 15 tennis courts 1 skate park 3 local playgrounds 2 township playgrounds	4 community centres: • Memorial Hall • Library • Mens Shed • Senior Citizens 1 sports stadium 2 outdoor swimming pool 1 golf course
Open Spaces	15 local parks 4 township parks 1 river supporting recreation activity	1 Township/District Recreation Reserve (Category 1) 3 Township Recreation Reserve (Category 2)

- Also:
- 1 Community Centre (Hall) and 1 local Recreation Reserve (Category 3) at Gapsted
 - 1 Community Centre at Rosewhite (Happy Valley Hall),
 - 1 Community Centre (Hall) and 2 local parks at Mudgegonga
 - 1 local park at Ovens
 - 1 local park at Buffalo River and 1 swimming and water recreation facility at Lake Buffalo

Kiewa Valley Region – Mount Beauty:

Table 14: 2011 population age profile of Mount Beauty

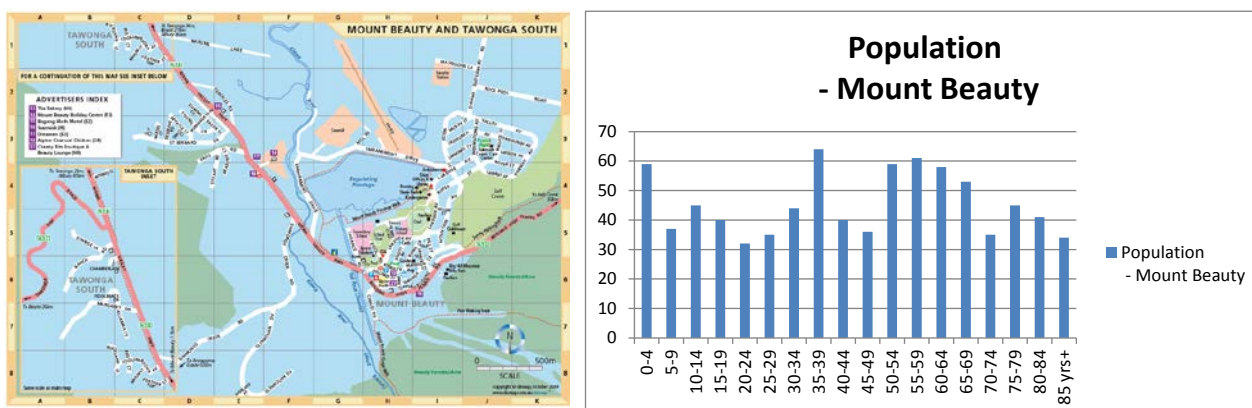


Table 15: Key Features of Mount Beauty – Population, Recreation and Open Space

Population (2011)	818	Source: ABS Census 2011
Rate of volunteerism	28% (190 people)	Source: ABS Census 2011
Born overseas	17% (137 people)	Source: ABS Census 2011
2 or more motor vehicles	38% (133 dwellings)	Source: ABS Census 2011
Internet connection	66% (234 dwellings)	Source: ABS Census 2011
Town Profile	Town serves rural farming communities as well as being a key housing and service point to industry and falls Creek for accommodation, food, supplies and fuel. Housing is both permanent and holiday and town retains a tourism character. Source: Community Atlas 2008	
Schools	1 Secondary College 1 Primary School	
Recreation Facilities	2 bowling greens 1 mountain bike park 1 BMX track 7 walking/cycling tracks 1 gliding facility 2 outdoor netball courts 4 tennis courts 1 skate park 2 local playgrounds 1 township playground	4 community centres: • Neighbourhood Centre • Library • Scout Hall • Guide Hall 1 sports stadium 1 outdoor swimming pool 1 golf course 1 Discovery Tourist Information Centre (sports cluster)
Open Spaces	7 local parks 1 township parks	1 Township/District Recreation Reserve (Category 1) 1 river supporting recreation activity 1 pondage supporting swimming and recreation activity

Bogong (between Mount Beauty and Falls Creek) was developed for construction of the Kiewa Hydro power scheme. It is a popular holiday destination with a very small residential population. Facilities include:

- 2 tennis courts at Bogong
- Lake Guy at Bogong (fishing and water recreation activities)

Kiewa Valley Region – Tawonga South:

Table 16: 2011 population age profile of Tawonga South

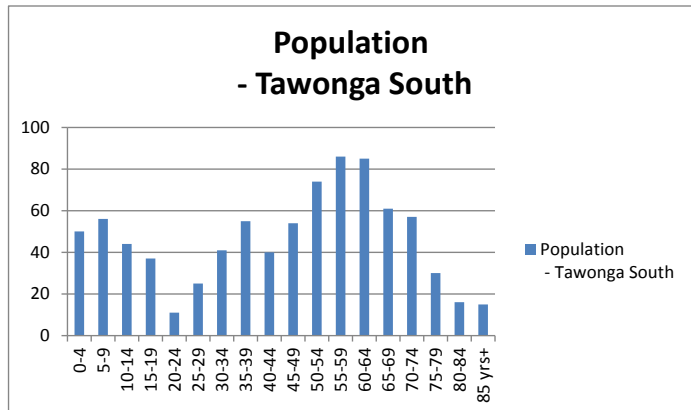
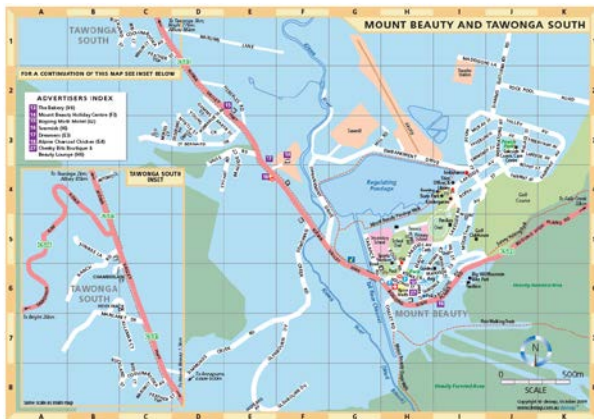


Table 17: Key Features of Tawonga South – Population, Recreation and Open Space

Population (2011)	837	<i>Source: ABS Census 2011</i>
Rate of volunteerism	39% (268 people)	<i>Source: ABS Census 2011</i>
Born overseas	16% (137 people)	<i>Source: ABS Census 2011</i>
2 or more motor vehicles	51% (169 dwellings)	<i>Source: ABS Census 2011</i>
Internet connection	80% (267 dwellings)	<i>Source: ABS Census 2011</i>
Town Profile	<p>Located adjacent to Mount Beauty, town serves rural farming communities as well as being a housing and service point for industry and Falls Creek for accommodation, food, supplies and fuel. Town has a rural character with both permanent and holiday residences.</p> <p><i>Source: Community Atlas 2008</i></p>	
Recreation Facilities	1 walking/cycling track 1 local playground	
Open Spaces	4 local parks	

Kiewa Valley Region – Tawonga:

Table 18: 2011 population age profile of Tawonga

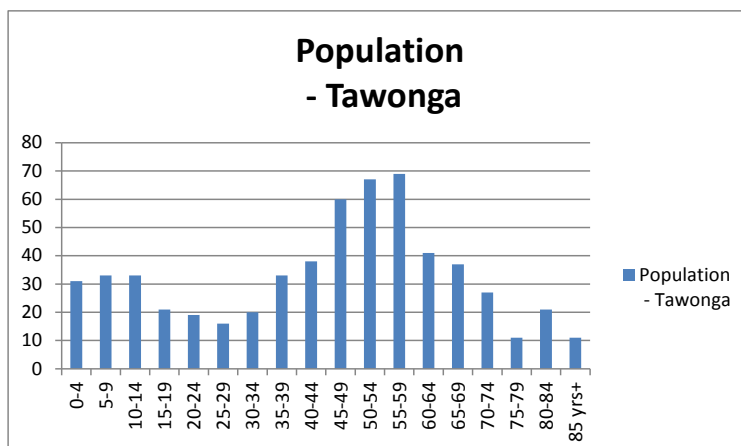
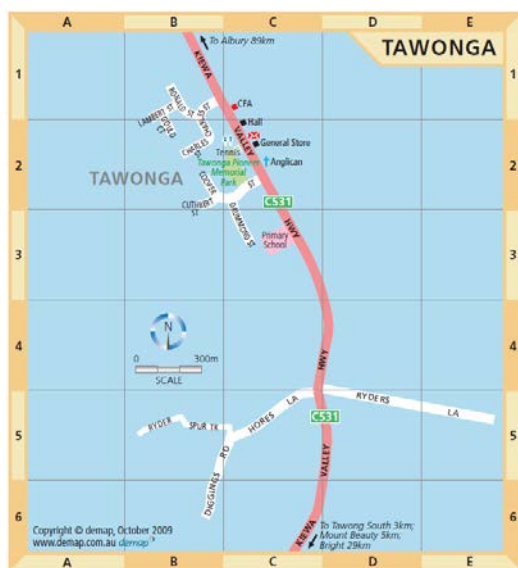


Table 19: Key Features of Tawonga– Population, Recreation and Open Space

Population (2011)	588	<i>Source: ABS Census 2011</i>
Rate of volunteerism	34% (169 people)	<i>Source: ABS Census 2011</i>
Born overseas	12% (71 people)	<i>Source: ABS Census 2011</i>
2 or more motor vehicles	70% (165 dwellings)	<i>Source: ABS Census 2011</i>
Internet connection	76% (180 dwellings)	<i>Source: ABS Census 2011</i>
Town Profile	Nestled in the Kiewa Valley, town services rural communities of the northern part of Alpine Shire. Prominent views are a key feature and this town is the oldest settlement in this part of the valley. <i>Source: Community Atlas 2008</i>	
Schools	1 Primary School	
Recreation Facilities	2 bowling greens 2 tennis courts 1 local playground	1 Community Centre: • Memorial Hall
Open Spaces	1 local park 1 township park	

Also:

- 1 Community Centre (Hall) and 1 local playground at Running Creek

Kiewa Valley Region – Dederang:

Table 20: 2011 population age profile of Dederang

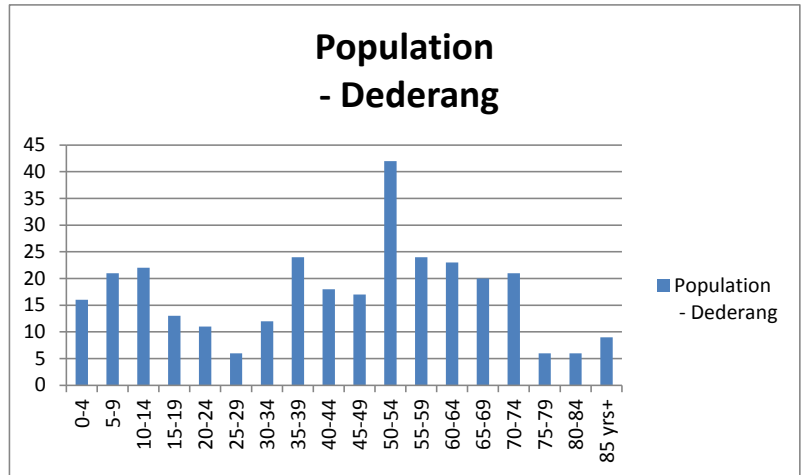


Table 21: Key Features of Dederang – Population, Recreation and Open Space

Population (2011)	311	<i>Source: ABS Census 2011</i>
Rate of volunteerism	34% (85 people)	<i>Source: ABS Census 2011</i>
Born overseas	7% (23 people)	<i>Source: ABS Census 2011</i>
2 or more motor vehicles	69% (79 dwellings)	<i>Source: ABS Census 2011</i>
Internet connection	70% (83 dwellings)	<i>Source: ABS Census 2011</i>
Town Profile	With linear settlement along the highway, town services rural communities of the northern part of Alpine Shire. Town retains a strong rural character with farming properties up to and within the town boundary. <i>Source: Community Atlas 2008</i>	
Schools	1 Primary School	
Recreation Facilities	1 bowling green 1 racetrack 1 golf course 2 netball courts 2 tennis courts 1 local playground	1 Community Centre: • Memorial Hall
Open Spaces	1 local park 1 township park	1 Township Recreation Reserve (Category 2)

Also:

- 1 Community Centre (Hall) and 1 local Recreation Reserve (Category 3) at Gundowring
- 1 local Recreation Reserve (Category 3) at Upper Gundowring

Alpine Region – Dinner Plain:

Table 22: 2011 population age profile of Dinner Plain

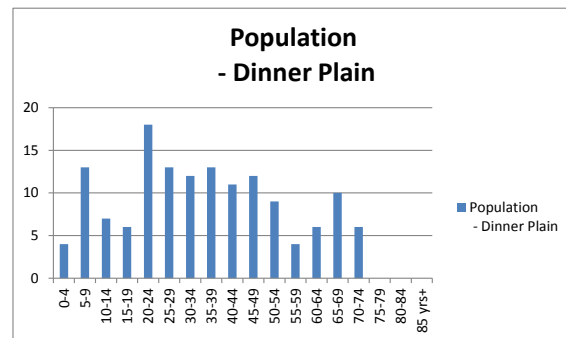


Table 23: Key Features of Dinner Plain – Population, Recreation and Open Space

Population (2011)	144	<i>Source: ABS Census 2011</i>
Rate of volunteerism	20% (23 people)	<i>Source: ABS Census 2011</i>
Born overseas	17% (25 people)	<i>Source: ABS Census 2011</i>
2 or more motor vehicles	55% (27 dwellings)	<i>Source: ABS Census 2011</i>
Internet connection	78% (36 dwellings)	<i>Source: ABS Census 2011</i>
Town Profile	Comprised mainly of ski lodges occupied on a semi-permanent basis, outdoor recreation is a key feature of the settlement. Town serves the tourism market and retains a distinctly tourist character. <i>Source: Community Atlas 2008</i>	
Schools	1 Primary School	
Recreation Facilities	2 tennis courts 1 local playground	1 Community Centre
Open Spaces	1 local park	1 large open space site recently acquired by Council



4. Existing Settings, Network and Provision

The Shire includes large areas of National Park and State Forest managed by the State Government which provide extensive recreation opportunities. These areas include the Mount Buffalo National Park and a major part of the Alpine National Park which contains the highest and the second highest mountains in Victoria (Mount Bogong & Mount Feathertop). These National Parks and State Forests provide recreation opportunities that include sight-seeing, bush walking, cross country skiing, mountain and trail bike riding, nature study, bird watching, photography, fishing, car touring, four wheel driving and camping.

The Shire also includes two of Victoria's premier ski resorts ie Mount Hotham and Falls Creek which attract visitors from across Australia and from overseas. Much of the highly regarded Wangaratta to Bright (Murray to Mountains) rail trail which provides bike riding opportunities to both local residents and visitors lies within the Shire. Forest and plantation land is also made available (under agreement) for the purposes of mountain bike riding, paragliding and hang gliding.

Outdoor recreation is not only popular but often a reason for people to move to the Alpine Shire and settle in one of the many townships that offer a range of active and outdoor lifestyle opportunities. The natural environment of the Shire provides the foundation for these opportunities. A fine balance exists between developing areas and facilities to cater for increasing demand and preserving natural areas to maintain a sustainable environment that is the basis for the popularity in the first place. The communities of Alpine Shire have strongly expressed the need to preserve these unique natural qualities.

The built recreation facilities and open space settings in each community have been listed in the previous section. Within these places and spaces, a diverse range of opportunities exist for residents and visitors to participate in active, passive, structured and casual recreation activity. The following table summarises the range of public facility types and activities that are available across Alpine Shire.

Table 24: Facility Types and the Range of Activities Offered

Facility Type	Range of Activities/Services
Bowling Green	Lawn bowls
Community Centre	Hobby classes, Learning, Gym / Fitness, Dance, Yoga, Girl Guides, Scouting, Mens Shed Activities
Croquet Lawn	Croquet
Cycling	Cycling, BMX Riding, Mountain Biking
Cycling/Walking Track	Cycling, Jogging, Running, Walking, Dog Walking
Equestrian	Horse Riding, Equestrian Activities, Horse Racing, Riding for the Disabled
Flight	Gliding, Paragliding, Hang gliding
Golf Course	Golf, Walking
Natural Area	Walking, Bushwalking, Mountain Biking, Snow sports, Picnicking, Horse Riding, Camping, Climbing/Abseiling, Viewing, Bird Watching, Photography
Netball Court	Netball
Parks and Gardens	Walking, Playing, Picnicking, Dog Exercising
Playground	Playing
Recreation Reserve	Football, Cricket, Soccer, Baseball, Athletics, Walking, Jogging, Running, Dog Exercising, Dog Agility/Shows
School	General After School Activities, Basketball, Soccer, Playing, Netball

Facility Type	Range of Activities/Services
Skate Park	Skateboarding, Rollerblading, Scooters, BMX Riding
Sports Stadium	Gymnastics, Basketball, Futsal, Netball, Squash, Volleyball, Badminton, Boxing, Lifeball
Swimming Facility	Swimming, Water Exercise, Gym/Fitness, Picnicking
Tennis Court	Tennis
Water	Fishing, Canoeing, Kayaking, Rafting, Boating, Swimming

A range of private recreation facilities and services also provide valuable opportunities for residents and visitors. Provision by the private sector is not included in this plan; however it is important to recognise the significant role played by the provision of recreation opportunities such as fitness, dance and exercise classes, golf courses and tourism operators. These facilities and services contribute to the meeting of needs and expectations. While viable and successful businesses provide such benefit, Council can direct its efforts and resources to other areas that require support.

The provision of facilities and open spaces has been further defined by 'hierarchy' which gives some guidance about the level or standard of development. This hierarchy is informed by the extent of use, distance people are prepared to travel, provision of viable (cost effective) services, standard of activity and the role that the facility plays in the overall provision. The hierarchy that applies to Alpine Shire's facilities is:

Table 25: Definition of Hierarchy applied to Recreation and Open Space

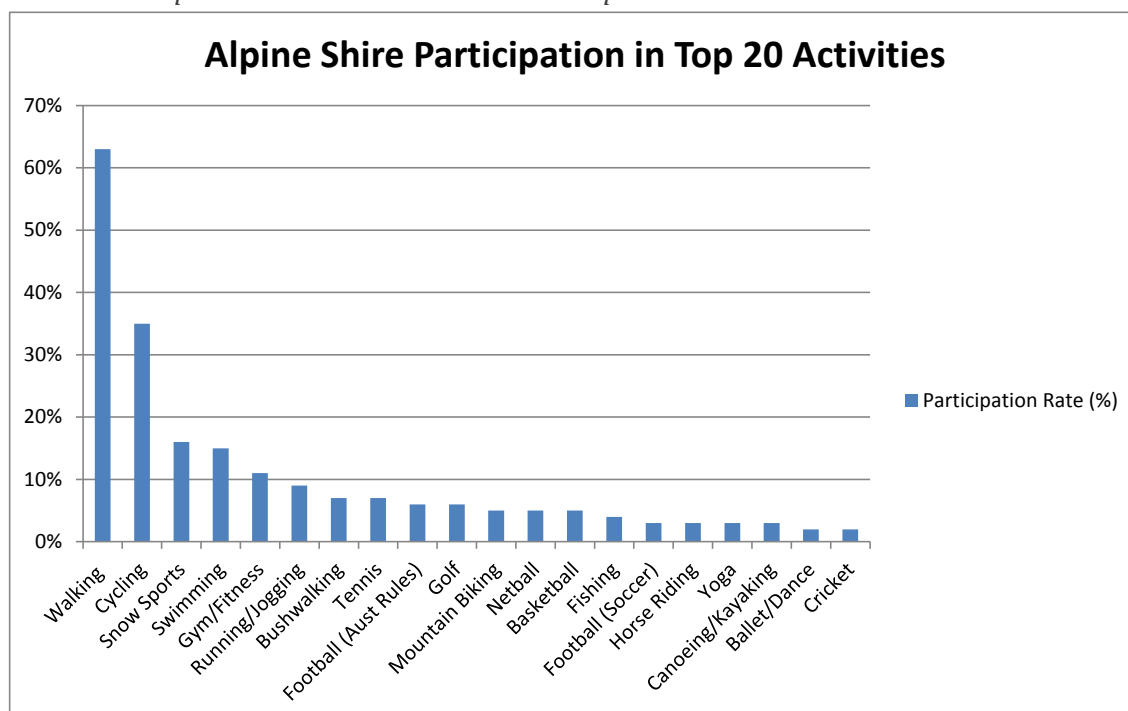
Local	Facilities providing activities and opportunities for the immediate neighbourhood and small town / part of township. Often in walking distance from where people live or a short distance only.
Township	Facilities providing services to a local township and its surrounding localities and settlements. Township facilities may also provide for other main centres and their surrounding communities.
Township Category 1	Applies to Recreation Reserves only – Premier level serving a high number of participants and requiring a high standard facility. Good access and multi-use and generally used by seasonal tenants year round.
Township Category 2	Applies to Recreation Reserves only – Town level serving a low number of participants and requiring a good standard of facility. Good access and multi-use and may be used by seasonal tenants year round.
Township Category 3	Applies to Recreation Reserves only – Small town level serving a small community with small number of facilities. Local access and shared by local clubs and organisations.
Regional (& State)	Facilities providing for the municipality and even catchment beyond Alpine Shire's boundaries. Such facilities may attract visitors to the area.

5. Participation Trends

A total of 92% of the Alpine Shire survey respondents indicated that they had participated in a recreation activity in the past 12 months³. This result is higher than the Victorian average of 82%⁴. This is an excellent result and reinforces the views expressed by the community (during the community engagement stage early in the development of this plan) that the natural environment in which Alpine Shire is set provides great opportunities for physical activity and recreation.

The twenty top activities that the Alpine community participates in are shown in the graph below:

Table 26: Participation in Recreation Activities in Alpine Shire



Source: Participation Survey undertaken in Alpine Shire, 2012

The data gathered in the community survey indicates that:

- Walking is slightly more popular for females than for males and participation is higher in the Upper Ovens Valley region. It is also more popular for people aged 40-64 years.
- Walking is also the most frequently undertaken activity of all the popular activities and occurs mostly in a park or on a trail or sports field.
- Many of the top twenty sports are popular for both males and females.
- Many of the top twenty activities that are popular in Alpine Shire take place within the natural environment or provide for an enjoyment of the natural beauty of the valleys, rivers and mountains that characterise the shire.
- Activities that are in the top twenty most popular recreation activities but also reported as less frequent (less than once per month) are bushwalking and canoeing/kayaking.

The following table shows the comparison of Alpine Shire's participation rates with the Victorian participation rates.

³ Recreation and open Space Community Survey 2102 – Alpine Shire

⁴ Participation in Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey 2010, Australian Sports Commission

Table 27: Comparison between Alpine Shire and Victoria Wide Participation Rates

Alpine Shire 2012			Victorian Participation Rate	Comment	
Rank	Activity	Alpine Shire Participation Rate			
1	Walking	63%	36.6%	↑	Alpine Shire participation rate significantly higher than the Victorian average
2	Cycling	35%	3.5%	↑	Alpine Shire participation rate significantly higher than the Victorian average
3	Snow Sports	16%	1.6%	↑	Alpine Shire participation rate significantly higher than the Victorian average
4	Swimming	15%	13.5%	↑	Alpine Shire participation rate slightly higher than the Victorian average
5	Gym/Fitness	11%	24.7%	↓	Victorian participation figures significantly higher than Alpine Shire
6	Running/Jogging	9%	12.7%	↓	Victorian participation figures slightly higher than Alpine Shire
7	Bushwalking	7%	4.6%	↑	Alpine Shire participation rates higher than the Victorian average
8	Tennis	7%	6.8%	↑	Alpine Shire participation rate very similar and slightly higher than the Victorian average
9	Football (Aust Rules)	6%	5.4%	↑	Alpine Shire participation rate very similar and slightly higher than the Victorian average
10	Golf	6%	7.3%	↓	Alpine Shire participation rate a bit lower than the Victorian average
11	Mountain Biking	5%	3.5%	↑	Included in cycling participation for Victoria. Alpine Shire participation significantly higher.
12	Netball	5%	3.8%	↑	Alpine Shire participation higher than state average
13	Basketball	5%	4.8%	↑	Alpine Shire participation rate very similar and slightly higher than Victorian average
14	Fishing	4%	1.6%	↑	Alpine Shire participation rate higher than Victorian average
15	Football (Soccer)	3%	3.5%	↓	Alpine Shire participation rate slightly lower than the Victorian average
16	Horse Riding	3%	0.8%	↑	Alpine Shire participation rate higher than the Victorian average
17	Yoga	3%	4.3%	↓	Alpine Shire participation rate slightly lower than the Victorian average
18	Canoeing/Kayaking	3%	0.8%	↑	Alpine Shire participation rate higher than the Victorian average
19	Ballet/Dance	2%	2.1%	↓	Almost equal rates for Victoria and Alpine Shire
20	Cricket	2%	3.5%	↓	Victorian participation rate higher than Alpine Shire rates

The methodologies for collecting data across these two surveys is quite similar (age of respondents and response rate). The Alpine Shire survey was conducted as a mail-out survey whereas the Victorian participation survey was a telephone survey. This is not considered to be significantly different and a comparison of these figures provides a reasonable reflection of Alpine Shire compared to the Victorian average.

The table above shows that of the twenty most popular activities in Alpine Shire, participation in 13 of these is higher than the average participation across Victoria. Closer examination of these figures

indicates that the participation level for walking and bushwalking is nearly double the Victorian average, while that for cycling and snow sports is about ten times greater.

Motivating Factors

Recreation and Open Space Survey respondents were asked to consider what motivates them to participate and the following reasons were the most popular responses:

- To improve physical fitness
- To improve health
- To enjoy the outdoor environment
- For enjoyment
- To socialise with friends and family
- To relive stress and improve wellbeing

Barriers to participation

When asked questions to understand what challenges people face that prevent them participation in recreation activities, the responses included:

- More people would like to swim but report a lack of facilities as providing a major barrier
- More people would like to dance and list lack of facilities and knowledge as barriers
- Reasons for not cycling include lack of motivation, health issues, lack of time, inability to get to the activity and lack of facilities
- More people would like to do yoga and gym/fitness activities if they had more time and there were facilities

These reported barriers provide an insight into the range of reasons that people do not join in certain activities. Some reasons are individual and relate to motivation or other issues beyond one's control while other reasons could be considered by Council in improving provision to make participation easier for the community.



6. Summary of Community Feedback

Other feedback provided by the community through the survey, forums and meetings included the following key points:

- Improved cycling and walking paths and better quality and more facilities would help to encourage greater use of recreation of open space facilities.
- It is Council's role to provide good quality facilities for residents and encourage the community to participate more in physical activity.
- People aged under 40 indicated an interest in more events and programs to encourage greater use of recreation of open space facilities.
- There is general agreement that responsible use of water should be a priority.
- It is generally agreed that recreation and open space facilities are well maintained.
- The local paper remains the most popular way for people to seek information and recreation and open spaces followed by Council newsletter, local radio/TV and then Council's website and the internet.

Many positive comments were received from the community including:

- Enjoyment of the range of recreation and open space choices that exist across the shire.
- Praise for Council's efforts to provide high quality facilities and opportunities.
- People have chosen the area to live in based on the open space amenity and recreation choices.
- Bike riding and walking paths are complemented.
- Alpine Shire is well provided for recreation and open space facilities.

Generally feedback focussed on improvements to existing facilities rather than the development of any new infrastructure, including:

- Playing courts and built facilities that are rundown and need improvements
- Crown land reserves where Committees of Management (DSE) manage the site – there is a perception by some that improvement of these areas is the responsibility of Council.
- Opportunity to make footpaths safer and these can be connected to the walking and cycling paths.
- School facilities should be shared more with the community.

In summary:

The following summary emerged from the community consultation:

Alpine Shire is well catered for with open space and recreation facilities – there is little justification to create new facilities.

Greater sharing and multi-use of existing facilities may help to reduce the load of peak demand on facilities. There should be a major emphasis to improve and build on existing assets and this should involve significant partnerships with other land owners and land managers in the public and private sectors.



Public Exhibition Period

The public exhibition period for the draft Recreation and Open Space Plan commenced early February and closed on March 8, 2013. A total of 14 submissions were received.

The Recreation and Open Space Plan has been amended in the following ways as a result of feedback received.

Increased focus on Council participation in the development and review of strategies for waterways management.
--

Recommendation for audit of existing walking and cycling trails.
--

A summary of the feedback received and issues raised is presented below under the following themes.

Pathways & Trails

- Positive feedback about provision of pathways and connections, specific initiatives to improve user experience and risk assessment actions
- Development of paths, trails and safer roads for cyclists is an important low cost recreation option for the community. This is also an important draw card for tourism which in turn boosts the local economy.
- It is important to maintain current assets and construct additional corridors where appropriate
- Request for audit of existing walking and cycling trails
- Support for shared trails (inclusive of horses) in Myrtleford

Stadium

- Indicated need for expansion of existing stadium facilities in Myrtleford to accommodate growth of sports requiring indoor court facilities
- Support for recommendation about stadium facilities in Myrtleford

Equestrian

- The importance of support for horse riding was reinforced, highlighting the need for improvement to equestrian facilities in Myrtleford

Other

- Council should seek opportunities to participate in the North East Regional Catchment Strategy and the North East Regional River Health Strategy, through its partnership with the North-East Catchment Management Authority (NECMA)
- The popularity of fishing, canoeing, kayaking and bushwalking were recognised as important in Alpine Shire
- Emphasis on multi-use of existing facilities rather than large recreation building projects is supported
- Comment made about importance of integration between recreation and health outcomes
- Emphasis to ensure agreement and compatibility with other strategic documents

Overall, the feedback to the plan received during the public exhibition period was positive and supportive of the plan.

7. Council's Role

Local government in Australia is a major provider of infrastructure for a range of community facilities including for recreation and sport. Council's role is generally to provide recreation infrastructure in towns, settlements and rural areas whereas it is the role of State Government agencies to provide the opportunities and infrastructure for recreation in the vast areas of national park (Parks Victoria), state forest (Department of Sustainability and Environment) and alpine resorts (Mount Hotham and Falls Creek Alpine Resorts Management Board) located in the Shire. Other partners involved in providing recreation opportunities include private sector organisations and local community groups. The overall objective is to plan, develop and deliver a broad range of recreation opportunities for both local communities and visitors.

Feedback that emerged from the community suggested that it is Council's role to provide facilities for recreation and also to promote the benefits of physical activity to residents. An important objective for Council is to develop and enhance its relationships with other key providers and to encourage the community to do the same. Being a rural municipality with challenges that include many settlements with small populations, significant distances between townships and limited resources, this becomes an important priority.

Council plays a key role in the provision of sport and recreation opportunities and in ensuring the health and wellbeing needs of the community are addressed. More specifically, Council performs the following roles in the provision of recreation and open space:

Planning	Facilitate planning, developing and upgrading facilities, services and opportunities to address current and future community recreation needs.
Advocacy	Advocating to other levels of government, agencies and relevant stakeholders for funding and support for the communities located in the Alpine Shire.
Facility Provision	Providing facilities that are required to satisfy community recreation needs and are not provided by other stakeholders.
Management and Procedures	Managing Council owned facilities and services; and building the capacity of other providers (i.e. clubs, committees) in the management of their programs, services and facilities.
Facilitation	Engaging with other stakeholders to increase their capacity to provide for recreation.
Communication and Information	Promoting recreation opportunities and the benefits of participation.

Financial Capacity and Commitment

Council sets its annual and long term budgets to address legislative compliance, funding obligations and service levels in response to community expectations. There are many competing demands for Council's finite resources and it is noted that in the 2012/13 annual budget:

- 20% or rates income is allocated to Capital Works
- 36% of rates income is allocated to Infrastructure
- Council subsidises the operations of swimming pools and maintenance of open space
- Council provides recreation grants to Committees of Management of Recreation Reserves
- Council provides a fund to support small town recreation development projects

The Victorian Grants Commission 2011-12 Annual Report calculated standardised expenditure for nine function areas averaged across all councils in Victoria. One of these function areas is Recreation and Culture with 21.7% of total recurrent expenditure. (Source: Victorian Grants Commission Annual Report 2011-12, Department of Planning and Community development 2012).

The level of expenditure for recreation and open space that is committed by Council is set in the context of community needs and priorities across all aspects of Council's service delivery. Given the high level of participation in a range of activities such as walking and cycling and the well documented health and wellbeing benefits derived from such activities, Council's commitment to improved provision of facilities and services for these activities is critical. The increasing trend in participation in casual and informal recreation in preference to organised and club-based sport and recreation provides justification for a shift in Council expenditure. While it remains important to support traditional sports and facilities, Council needs to respond to increasing community expectations to support high participation activities. The following framework for implementation and prioritisation of initiatives will assist Council by providing a process for supporting projects of greatest need.

Framework for Implementation

For recreation and open space projects that Council might be considering, it is important to identify other parties that may have some responsibility and be potential sources of funding. Therefore an initial checklist to determine responsibilities and partners is proposed as follows:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Is the project included in any approved plan?	Yes / No	Which one?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Does Council own/manage the land? If not, who is the relevant owner/manager and have they approved the project?	Approval?	Yes / No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Has the land owner/manager agreed to pay for or contribute to project?	Yes / No	Why?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Who are the other stakeholders? Who will benefit from the project? Will other stakeholders contribute?	List	Contributions?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	What funding avenues are available for the project?	List	Approached?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Is there an obligation for Council to contribute funds?	Yes / No	Why?

Criteria for prioritisation

Council sets annual priorities for all of its projects and initiatives to determine budget and works programs. In particular the capital works program is developed as a long term plan with annual review and targets. For recreation and open space, a set of criteria has been developed in this plan which will ensure that projects of greatest need and merit are given highest priority. This will assist with achieving the vision of the Recreation and Open Space Plan and responding to current and future community recreation needs with the limited funds available. The scoring of these criteria aims to achieve integration between community aspirations, participation rates, industry trends, financial considerations and asset management priorities. It provides a valuable tool to assist with decision making that is based on rationale and comparison of projects using a consistent framework.

The following criteria have been developed (each project receiving a score between 0-5 for each criteria) with the projects with the highest scores being considered as highest priority.

- Addresses safety and risk issues and improving community safety.
- Satisfies a need for improved facilities to cater for increasing popularity / demand/ participation in specific activities.
- Availability of funding for approved projects –from all sources.
- Achieves multi-use and shared use outcomes – benefit for multiple community sectors, population groups and visitors.
- Ensures compliance with relevant standards for open space and recreation (this may be rectification of non-compliance).
- Multiple strategic outcomes are achieved, including the principles of the Recreation and Open Space Plan.
- Degree of community support (including the enthusiasm for project across community)

This process has been used to prioritise the capital projects in the action plan in section 10.1.

Councillors' Role in Recreation and Open Space

Formal Council decisions determine policies, priorities, programs and funding allocations for all services including recreation and open space. In addition to the role of Councillors in this decision making it is recognised that there are very close relationships between individual Councillors and their communities. A good way to foster and highlight such connections is to introduce a program of celebration, recognition and awards involving Councillors to reward local communities, volunteers and organisations who undertake projects and initiatives. The benefit of such a program would be that local individuals and groups are recognised for their good work, there is an opportunity for good outcomes to be showcased for others to learn from and Council develops a clearer and more direct understanding of some of the achievements within communities.

Coordination of Recreation and Open Space with other Council Departments

It is important that relationships across Council departments and among staff involved in the delivery of recreation and open space are strengthened to achieve a more integrated approach to decision making and service delivery. A general sharing of information and innovations across areas including community development, health and wellbeing, recreation and leisure, tourism, environment, parks and gardens and asset management would provide mutual benefit for all departments and an improved overall outcome for the community.

The Emerging Role of Technology

The increasing use of various forms of technology including social media provides Council with a range of alternative methods of communication with organisations, residents and the broader community throughout Alpine Shire. The Australian Sports Commission, in its recent report about the Future of Australian Sport (2013), discusses the potential of initiatives such as smart phone applications, Facebook, Twitter, You Tube, interactive websites, touchscreen solutions and other technological innovations to communicate with participants and increase participation. Council's role in the use of technology not only includes engagement with the community sport and recreation sector and promoting recreation opportunities to residents, but also advocating to clubs and organisations to make use of technology to increase the effectiveness of their own communication and promotion.



8. Strategic Objectives and Priorities

This section of the plan outlines the strategic objectives and priorities that are required to meet community needs and expectations of the Alpine Shire for recreation and open space provision over the next five to ten years. These objectives and priorities have been developed after considering the analysis undertaken in preparing this plan and in particular in considering the community feedback during the consultation program.

8.1 Participation

Participation in physical activities is essential for community wellbeing and the good physical health of individuals. It is very important that all sections of the community including families, children, females and older people have access to open space and recreation facilities not only to improve health outcomes but also to increase community cohesion and social interaction. Health outcomes arising from physical activity include reduced child obesity, reduced occurrence of high blood pressure and obesity in adults and reduced risk of depression. In addition to health outcomes open spaces also provide opportunities for children to develop various skills and locations to bring people together to have fun, to celebrate important events or just to relax.

Facilitating and encouraging the community to increase the use of open space and recreation facilities is a key objective of this plan. Some of the core elements that could achieve this result include improving open space and recreation infrastructure, removing barriers to participation in recreation activities, informing and educating the community about the benefits of physical activity and promoting opportunities for participation.

It is also important that the community has an opportunity to be involved in the planning and management of recreation and open space assets to ensure that their provision is well planned and meets both the current and future needs of all sections of the community.

Feedback from the consultation undertaken during the preparation of this document indicated that different segments in the community participate in different ways. For example the different preferences of males and females are illustrated in the table below, which indicates the top 10 recreation activities undertaken by survey respondents.

Table 28: Most Ten Popular Activities for Males and Females across Alpine Shire

Most popular Activities undertaken by Males		Participation Rate	Most popular Activities undertaken by Females		Participation Rate
1	Walking	60%	1	Walking	66%
2	Cycling	38%	2	Cycling	33%
3	Snow Sports	18%	3	Swimming	20%
4	Running/Jogging	10%	4	Snow Sports	15%
5	Football (Aust Rules)	10%	5	Gym/Fitness	14%
6	Golf	10%	6	Running/Jogging	9%
7	Swimming	9%	7	Tennis	8%
8	Mountain Biking	8%	8	Netball	8%
9	Gym/Fitness	7%	9	Bushwalking	7%
10	Bushwalking	7%	10	Yoga	6%

The above table indicates that participation levels for walking and cycling well exceed the participation levels for other recreation activities. Although this outcome relates to existing levels of participation, given that walking and cycling activities are healthy and affordable recreation activities

for people of all ages and skill levels, all segments of the community and family groups, it is considered that these activities have high potential for even more participation. The setting of Alpine Shire with its natural environments, views and vistas and fresh air has already been identified as a key motivator that encourages the community to participate. The importance of further promoting these activities should be considered when planning new recreation infrastructure and determining resource allocation for both capital and maintenance.

Community feedback indicated that the participation levels in informal recreational activities and thus the need for facilities to cater for informal activities is greater than those required for organised sport. It is therefore important for Council to balance the support and provision for all activities as equitably as possible. The organised nature of sport and need for specific facilities has traditionally resulted in a much greater proportion of funding to be directed towards development and improvement of sports facilities. As informal and casual activities become more popular there is a need to dedicate more resources to support flexible access to facilities, open space areas, local parks and playgrounds.

Strategic Objective

To encourage increased participation by all sectors of the community particularly those who currently do not undertake any recreation or physical activity.

Priorities to achieve the Objective (See Action Plan page54)

- Promote popular activities including walking and cycling for the whole population
- Educate and promote the benefits of participation
- Engage the community in planning, decision making and delivery
- Support programs and events that encourage participation



8.2 Partnerships

While Council acknowledges that it is a key provider of recreation and open space provision, there is a diverse range of partners and other providers that complement Council's efforts to provide quality opportunities for the communities of Alpine Shire.

Natural Areas

The recreation opportunities available in the vast areas of National Park and State Forest in the Shire are generally informal in nature and include a diverse range of active and high intensity activities (such as mountain bike riding) to passive and reflective activities (such as bird-watching). The feedback from the consultation indicated that further facilities could be provided for some of these activities, for example for mountain bike riding. As these areas are not managed by Council, its role with respect to the activities undertaken in these areas primarily relates to advocacy and developing good partnerships.

Council's partnership with Parks Victoria is one that could be strengthened given the significance of recreation facilities managed by Parks Victoria on behalf of the State Government. Advocating for the community to communicate a good understanding of expectations and aspirations is an important role that Council plays and will continue to build in the future.

The Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) is a significant land owner and has responsibility for State Forest and many other natural areas across the Shire. It is desirable that a stronger relationship between Council and DSE representatives exists and clearly defines roles and responsibilities as issues relating to crown land are identified.

The Alpine Resorts' Management Boards are responsible for the overall management and activities within the Alpine areas of Mount Hotham and Falls Creek. Given the high participation of Alpine Shire residents in bushwalking and snow sports, the fostering of a close relationship with the Management Boards is also desirable. There are opportunities for complementary planning and coordination of key projects to see integration between local and alpine facilities where appropriate. Certainly, Council plays a role of advocacy to represent the community aspirations of its residents with regard to alpine resort related activities.

Water

Alpine Shire is fortunate to contain significant rivers including the Kiewa, Ovens, Buffalo and Buckland, lakes including Lake Buffalo and Lake Guy and the Mount Beauty Pondage. These popular settings offer a range of recreation activities such as boating, fishing, swimming, canoeing, kayaking and rafting. While Council does not have direct involvement in the management of these areas, its partnership with organisations such as the North-East Management Catchment Authority (NECMA), DSE, Goulburn Murray Water and AGL are important in raising awareness about the value of these assets to the local communities of Alpine Shire as well as visitors to the region. There are opportunities to work with NECMA to improve river health through the North East Regional Strategy and the North East River Health Strategy.

Plantation Areas

As activities such as hang-gliding, paragliding and mountain bike riding become more popular in Alpine Shire, there is greater pressure for areas of forest / plantation to be made available. In areas

where riding does not impact on the management or security of plantation forests, Council encourages groups to negotiate access agreements to these areas. The launch location for paragliding and hang-gliding above Mystic Park is a successful example of access to closed off forest areas that allows for quality recreation activities to be successfully pursued.

Education Sector

Schools throughout Alpine Shire provide a wide range of facilities for their students and in some cases these facilities are available to the wider community. Schools also access a range of community facilities to complement their own facilities and curriculum. There are opportunities to further expand this mutual benefit that exists between schools and the community. Greater efficiencies of state and local government resources would result from joint initiatives and projects to increase provision where community and school needs are clearly demonstrated.

This initiative is particularly relevant for Council due to the small population of communities and the difficulty of Council and the communities in being able to support viable facilities and services. If school facilities are made available and/or joint initiatives between Council and schools are explored for facilities such as indoor courts and playing fields, quality of provision is improved for all parties.

The Community

Council's partnership with its communities is a critical one in the support and encouragement of a wide range of recreation programs that are delivered for the benefit of residents and visitors. The greater the capacity of the community to provide its own activities and services, the stronger and more resilient Alpine Shire's townships and villages are.

Council is committed to supporting volunteers and committees and this support is covered more in the next section – Management and Coordination.

Strategic Objective

To develop and maintain strong partnerships with government, agency, community and private sectors in the delivery of a wide range of quality recreation experiences.

Priorities to achieve the Objective (See Action Plan page 55)

- Develop strong links and liaison with key government agencies that manage open space and water areas and provide recreation facilities
- Establish and maintain relationships with providers of key recreation facilities
- Strengthen partnerships with schools and seek opportunities for joint projects and greater community access to school facilities outside of school hours



8.3 Management and Coordination

The provision of recreation facilities is not only the responsibility of Council and State Government agencies but also local committees appointed either by Council - Section 86 or State Government – DSE appointed. These committees have varying levels of expertise and competence and Council plays an important role in building their management capacity. Background information in relation to Council’s role in managing recreation and open space areas and working with local Committees of Management is outlined in Section 7.

The State Government and other funding agencies(such as VicHealth) provide grants and support for regional sports assemblies, access for all abilities programs and other participation initiatives that provide benefit and support to local communities. For Alpine Shire and other Councils in the north-east region, these services are funded and provided by The Centre for Active Recreation Network (CARN) in Wangaratta. While CARN provides a number of excellent initiatives such as the Healthy Sporting Environments, Access for All Abilities program and Build Your Game, its presence in Alpine Shire is a little unclear. There is an opportunity to build a closer relationship with CARN to promote its services for the benefit of Alpine Shire clubs, organisations and Committees of Management.

Management of Recreation and Open Space Assets:

Council’s policy for building / facility maintenance was adopted in 2005 and guides a range of support mechanisms provided to Committees of Management (both Council and DSE). This policy is largely based on physical maintenance requirements of the recreation reserve assets and has little consideration of multi-use facilities, utilisation levels or community benefit.

Given the age of this policy, there is an opportunity to prepare a new policy in consideration of the Recreation and Open Space Plan and this policy should include discussion about:

- Hierarchy, category and status of open space
- Development standards and levels of provision
- Roles and responsibilities for maintenance, minor and major capital works of all parties
- Fees and charges and funding structures
- Capital improvements
- Use, utilisation and multi-use potential
- Provision for informal and casual recreation
- Participation initiatives
- Training and development opportunities / volunteer support
- Data collection: membership and participation numbers

The implementation of this policy in partnership with committees could be assisted by procedures that include templates and forms that encourage easy and convenient compliance.



Development Standards for Open Space and Facilities

Open space areas that are managed by Council or local Committees of Management and the facilities that are placed within these areas should be established and enhanced in accordance with agreed standards. These standards would provide consistent service levels and sustainable provision that could be maintained in the long term. The following development standards for open space areas have been prepared using the hierarchy and key definitions of the types of open spaces.

Local Parks and Gardens	Should have:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shade and drought tolerant planting • Open areas for informal play • Seating • Pathways to or through the park • Signage
	Might have:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play equipment (not all age groups catered for) • Picnic table • Rubbish bin • Bike rack • Linkage to the wider open space network and/or local destinations
Township Parks and Gardens	Should have:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shade and drought tolerant planting • Open areas for informal play and ball games • Play equipment • Seating • Picnic table/s • Pathways to and through the park that connect with a wider open space network and to local destinations • Signage • Disabled access • Bicycle racks
	Might have:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BBQ • Public toilets • Water supply • Shade structure / shelter • Informal recreation equipment (fitness, goal, games)
Township Recreation Reserves (Category 3)	Should have:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal or informal playing surfaces • Signage • Drought tolerant planting • Seating • Pathways • Rubbish bins • Shared facility / hall / building • Off street parking
	Might have:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bicycle racks • Water sensitive design and alternate water source

Township Recreation Reserves (Category 2)	Should have:	All facilities included for Category 3 plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Picnic facilities
	Might have:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lighting for security and/or playing surfaces • Irrigation • Shade structure / shelter
Township Recreation Reserves (Category 1)	Should have:	All facilities included for Category 3 and 2 plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexible sports field playing area/s • Bicycle racks • Water sensitive urban design • Alternate water source (tank, bore, recycled) • Play equipment • Lighting for sports fields / training areas • Public toilets
	Might have:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fitness equipment • BBQ

The development standards that guide the development and improvement of the Shire's playgrounds are:

Local Playgrounds	Should have:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good passive surveillance in the design • Seating • Shade planting • At least three elements for swinging, sliding and rocking
	Might have:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Path access to the playground • Provision for creative and social play
Township Playgrounds	Should have:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good passive surveillance in the design • Path access to the playground • Seating • Shade planting • Multiple elements including ground level play to cater for a range of physical, creative and social play • Accessible play for children with various abilities and needs • Facilities to cater for all age groups
	Might have:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separation of play areas for junior and senior children

The development standards that guide the development and improvement of the Shire’s equestrian areas are as follows. It is general practice that due to the small level of participation and high impact of horses on open space areas equestrian facilities are provided at the clubs’ or users’ expense. In many cases State or Local Government may provide land under an agreed tenancy arrangement and from time to time, grants may be available to support develop of specific infrastructure. The standards for development presented here are intended as a guide for the equestrian groups that have their facilities in Alpine Shire.

Township level Equestrian Facilities	Should have:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium size parcel of land for facilities • At least one arena of a safe standard for dressage, jumping and other activities / or race track • Supporting infrastructure including adequate parking, undercover areas, access to toilets and storage • Generally caters for one key equestrian group
	Might have:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than one arena or activity area • Administration / shared use facility

Strategic Objective

To provide and support quality management outcomes for all recreation facilities and open space areas.

Priorities to achieve the Objective (See Action Plan page 57)

- Develop policy and procedures to guide the management, maintenance and improvements of open space areas
- Support volunteers and committees through a closer partnership with the Centre for Active Recreation network (CARN) and ensuring the availability of programs, training and support for organisations to build capacity



8.4 Provision of Facilities

A high standard of recreation and open space facilities should be provided for all users, which is a challenge for Council because of the demands of the many communities within Alpine Shire. Across these many small communities, there are diverse and large numbers of open space areas and recreation facilities. **Community feedback during preparation of this plan indicated that generally the community wanted existing facilities to be upgraded rather than construction of new facilities.** Every effort should be made to minimise risk through the introductions of regular risk assessments and rectification programs.

Responsible management of facilities involves a clear understanding of 'life cycle costing' – that is, the cost of initial capital investment, upgrade and renewal of assets and importantly the cost of ongoing maintenance. Given resource and budget limitations, this is a critical factor in any decision Council considers for capital development of facilities.

Master Plans

Master plans have been or are being completed for the key township recreation reserves in Bright, Mount Beauty and Myrtleford. A number of capital projects have been identified in these plans that would improve facilities and provide for increasing and changing recreation preferences of the community. It will be important in the implementation of these master plans that projects strive for maximum community benefit and shared and multi-use of all facilities.

Dinner Plain Recreation and Leisure Strategy

The Dinner Plain Recreation and Leisure Strategy was adopted by Council in August 2010 and represents the aspirations and priorities for the Dinner Plain community in relation to recreation and open space. A number of initiatives are included in this plan covering strategic planning, assets and infrastructure, programs and events and local intelligence and partnerships. The priorities of this plan are consistent with the principles and direction of this Recreation and Open Space Plan. Implementation of the Dinner Plain Recreation and Leisure Strategy is supported.

Aquatic Facilities

The provision of aquatic facilities has for some time been a challenging issue for Council. The current provision includes an indoor warm water pool in Bright, outdoor pools in Mount Beauty and Myrtleford and a number of river swimming pools and Lake Buffalo. It is also noted that the communities of Alpine Shire sit within the catchments of regional aquatic centres in Wangaratta and Wodonga and many residents travel to these centres for aquatic and other community services.

Participation in swimming is slightly higher than the Victorian average and this could be attributed to the wide range of outdoor swimming opportunities available within the natural settings of the shire. Community feedback regarding swimming was strongly focussed on year round swimming opportunities in small communities with some comments about the need for warm water for gentle exercise for seniors and people requiring rehabilitation and therapy.

The challenge with provision of indoor aquatic facilities is not only the high capital cost of construction but the ongoing operational cost of managing year round facilities. A report produced by Aquatics and Recreation Victoria and supported by Sport and Recreation Victoria in 2011 indicates that a population of 10,000 to 40,000 is required to support one local aquatic facility. Given the population of Alpine Shire and the range of aquatic facilities already existing, (and the existing operational subsidy of over \$250,000 per year) it is not feasible for Council to support any

further development of new facilities. Maintaining the existing facilities and making minor improvements such as shade and amenities to encourage greater use and social interaction would be of benefit, addresses some requests for improvement and sits within Council's capacity.

The provision of aquatic facilities is a good example of where Alpine communities need to provide complementary facilities for the use of the whole municipality and encourage travel between townships and to the regional centres of Wangaratta and Wodonga for a full choice of different facilities. With this in mind it would be helpful to consider renaming the Bright Sports Centre to a name such as the Alpine Aquatic and Recreation Centre and promoting for the benefit of the whole community.

The issue of a warm water facility is another challenging one. Warm water that is provided in many public aquatic facilities is often not warm enough for therapy. The provision of 'hydrotherapy' water (usually over 32-33°) is more appropriately placed with the health sector. Discussion with the health services should be considered to advocate for provision of warm water of suitable temperatures for therapy and rehabilitation.

Stadium Facilities

The provision of stadium facilities also received some feedback from the community. Like aquatic facilities, the population threshold for an indoor court is 10,000 to 15,000. With three indoor courts across the communities of Bright, Mount Beauty and Myrtleford, the level of provision is considered more than adequate for viable facilities. With participation of key indoor sports such as basketball higher than the Victorian average it is not surprising that the community reports high use of courts at peak times. In order to maintain a sustainable level of provision, it is suggested that partnership initiatives for another indoor court are explored in Myrtleford, similar to the one that exists in Bright. This leads to a more effective use of public resources and better provision for young people through local schools.

Sports Fields

Sports fields increasingly need to be flexible to provide for a range of sports. There are many examples of rectangular or square sports fields being developed to cater for the traditional football and cricket as well as other sports such as soccer, rugby, touch football, baseball, athletics, etc. Open grassed or synthetic areas that can be marked for sports on an as needs basis are more responsive to changing needs and preferences than the traditional oval shape. It is therefore suggested that any future upgrade to oval / sports fields consider a conversion to a more flexible space. With an industry provision guideline of one sports field for every 3000 people, Alpine Shire provides a high level of service (that is justified) for its dispersed rural communities.

Strategic Objective

To maintain existing facilities to a high standard and upgrade appropriate facilities in response to the recreation needs and changing preferences of the current and future Alpine Shire community.

Priorities to achieve the Objective (See Action Plan page 59)

- Ensure facilities are maintained to the highest standard (within available resources) and are upgraded where necessary
- Implement approved master plans and facility plans
- Develop partnerships to support improved facility provision
- Upgrade facilities that provide informal recreation opportunities
- Advocate on behalf of residents and visitors for high quality provision of facilities and opportunities

8.5 The Environment and Recreation

Given that over 90 per cent of the Alpine Shire is largely natural areas providing the valleys and towns with highly scenic mountain vistas backdrops, it is not surprising that environmental issues rate highly with local residents and visitors to the Shire. As the natural areas within the Shire are almost entirely managed by State Government agencies, Council has a limited role in natural area management.

Council has however recently acquired an area of naturally vegetated alpine land on the edge of Dinner Plain, and is seeking guidance regarding its future management.

Pine plantations and some natural areas with potential for recreation are managed by private companies. For example AGL has an agreement with Team Mount Beauty for the use of Big Hill in Mount Beauty as a Mountain Bike Park. Council encourages and supports direct agreements between organisations and is in a good position to facilitate discussions and assist with negotiations if required.

The community has expressed aspirations for an unspoilt natural environment that can be accessed by people for a range of activities and experiences. In particular the Alpine Shire 2030 Community Vision provides for the following: Alpine Shire to be renowned for its scenic beauty and unspoilt natural environment, pure water, mountain vistas, open space and green space areas between the towns and villages and systems of footpaths, walking tracks, mountain bike trails and cycle paths.

More sustainable water use and addressing challenges arising from climate change are key issues facing Council with approved environmental plans such as the *Sustainable Water Use Plan 2006 and the Greenhouse Strategy 2006* committing the Shire to a number of actions that affect the management of open space and recreational facilities. The more recent *Climate Change Action Plan 2012-2016* commits Council to actions including;

- Shifting to planting more drought tolerant plant species.
- Ensuring that recreation, park and facilities management strategies are proactive in addressing the risk of ongoing severe water reductions, and open spaces, gardens and playing fields are rationalised and prioritised in times of low water availability.
- Investigating the ongoing viability of priority parks, gardens, sports fields and playing fields (in terms of water usage).
- Investigating the availability of watering open space with non-potable water.
- Providing suitable walking and cycling tracks to encourage alternative transport to car use.

Maintaining the natural beauty of the area generally and open spaces in particular, and the need to protect the rivers and their water quality was also highlighted in recent community feedback.

Strategic Objective

To ensure responsible environmental management in the provision of all recreation opportunities and promote opportunities for recreation activity in natural areas where appropriate.

Priorities to achieve the Objective (See Action Plan page 61)

- Advocate for the protection of environmental values on all public land.
- Explore opportunities for recreation activities that are complementary with the management of national park, forests and other natural areas.
- Ensure responsible and sustainable practices in the management of open space and recreation facilities.

8.6 Open Space Network

Ensuring healthy and active communities requires that a wide range of recreation opportunities are provided for people with different physical activity needs, i.e. not only sports facilities. There is a need for informal recreation facilities to also be provided. These could include areas such as kick around open space areas, playgrounds for children, and bike trails and walking tracks for use by all sections of the community including seniors. Providing this range of opportunities requires planning of the open space network across the Shire. This ensures that facilities provided in each area complement those provided in other areas and the overall network provides the full range of facilities.

A well distributed network of open spaces provided with facilities to cater for all forms of recreational activities is essential for strong and vibrant communities. These open spaces are just as important and should be provided together with other community infrastructure such as roads, schools and community centres. Equally important are open space areas set aside primarily for the protection of the natural environment while providing recreational opportunities in a natural setting.

The 90 per cent plus of land in the Shire, much of which is managed by State Government agencies, provides a very significant environmental and recreation/tourist asset for the Shire and its residents. The environmental protection and recreation activities in these areas are guided by the management plans that apply to Mount Buffalo and Alpine National Parks and forest management plans apply to the state forest areas. These areas also provide an opportunity for exploring innovative opportunities to increase ecotourism in the area based in the local townships.

The summary of community provision in Section 3.3 indicates that most of the townships, especially Bright, Myrtleford and Mount Beauty are well provided with local parks given their population size. Therefore obtaining additional land for new open space should not be considered a priority for Council, but rather providing a broad range of high quality recreation opportunities would be more important. An exception to this might be the availability of linear parcels that connect destination open space to increase connectivity and increase provision for activities such as walking and cycling.

The open space in the Alpine Shire can be considered in the following categories:

- Natural areas - large public open space areas managed by State Government agencies used both by the community living in the local townships and rural areas as well as the many visitors from across Victoria. However although many parts of these are used for walking or mountain bike riding, they generally need a car to be accessed and do not provide for more localised open space needs of the residents of the Alpine Shire. An example of these areas is the Mt Buffalo National Park.
- Parks and gardens – open space areas that provide a range of informal recreational experiences ie playgrounds, open space areas for informal play, picnic facilities, relaxation. These areas can also include significant plantings (often exotic and/or with heritage features). These areas are usually managed by Council and provide for informal recreation in a pleasant setting and generally meet more localised community demands although some of these areas can also provide attractive relaxation areas for visitors. An example of these areas is Howitt Park in Bright.

- Sports reserves – open space areas primarily developed and managed for organised sport with facilities such as grassed playing fields, courts, car parking, pavilions and toilets. Sometimes these areas are developed for the use of one sport such as lawn bowling or tennis. The areas surrounding the playing area can be developed as parks with playgrounds, picnic areas or walking tracks that provide opportunities for informal recreation. These areas are generally managed by local committees of management either appointed by the Department of Sustainability and Environment (Crown Land) or Council (Council owned land). An example of these areas is RC McNamara Reserve in Myrtleford.

Within townships, parks and garden areas should be able to be accessed from residential areas by walking, whereas sports reserves may need the use of a bike or car to provide access. In the smaller settlements all the park and sports facilities may be located on the one reserve. As it is generally not feasible to provide localised open space in rural areas, residents living away from the towns and settlements will generally need to access park and sports facilities in the nearest township or settlement.

To ensure that residents of any future residential area are provided with adequate open space facilities, it is important that any future subdivision plans consider the provision of local open space. However, as opportunities in the Shire for new subdivisions appear to be limited given population projections, it is considered that the provisions of the *Subdivision Act 1988* are appropriate.

It is noted that the *Subdivision Act 1988* requires up to five per cent of the land area or site value of a residential, industrial or commercial subdivision to be provided to Council as open space or a monetary contribution to be used for purchasing new open space or upgrading existing open space. Any funds collected in this way should be allocated to priority projects that have the broadest community benefit, i.e. to improve informal recreation facilities in parks and gardens and/or recreation reserves. Provision of shared pathways for walking and cycling is also a priority for the allocation of any funds acquired through subdivision given the high participation of these activities. The development standards for open space (as proposed in this plan in Section 8.3) should be used as guide to undertake audits of all open space with outcomes and recommendations for improvements referred to the capital works program and identified for use of funds collected as a result of new subdivision (open space contributions). Such information should provide a good basis for justifying to developers and VCAT if necessary, Council's requirement for the full five per cent open space contribution.

Strategic Objective

To maintain a high quality and sustainable open space network for the benefit of residents of Alpine Shire and visitors to the region.

Priorities to achieve the Objective (See Action Plan page 63)

- Balance the resourcing and provision of recreation and open space to provide for informal and casual opportunities as well as formal activity
- Advocate to State Government agencies and other providers of open space about the significance of open space in community life across the shire's townships and villages
- Seek opportunities for improved provision of open space shared pathways and connections within and between communities

8.7 Links and Corridors

Links and corridors are important components of open space networks for protecting natural vegetation links, aesthetic and water quality values of waterways and providing for the movement of wildlife.

Links such as rail trails, can provide diverse recreation opportunities including attractive cycling and walking route away from roads. If well developed, managed to a high standard, connected to key destinations and well promoted, these trails can provide alternatives to car use and contribute to increased physical activity and improved health of the community. The Murray to Mountains rail trail is particularly important to the Alpine Shire as it not only provides an important walking and cycling link between the townships of Bright and Myrtleford with Wangaratta, but as one of Victoria's premier rail trails, forms an important tourist attractor. Such trails have high potential to encourage visitors who require local accommodation and other support services, which provides flow on benefits to the local community.

As the analysis in Section 5 indicated that walking and cycling activities in the Shire have participation levels that are nearly double the state averages, the Shire has an existing excellent base to improve even further. Also community feedback indicated that there are many opportunities for improvements and extensions to the path and trail networks.

The 2002 Bicycle Strategy and 2007 Scoping Strategy for the extension of the bicycle trail network provided a number of priorities for improvements to the infrastructure for cycling and also for some shared pathways for cycling and walking. While some of these projects have been implemented such as the Bright to Wandiligong pathway, there are other outstanding initiatives such as Mount Beauty to Tawonga South that remain a priority for implementation. It is suggested that implementation of these key projects continue as a high priority and that a review of the status of links and corridors across the Shire be conducted in a few years.

The Ovens and Kiewa rivers and their tributaries that flow from the mountains and hills are important wildlife corridors although in places their riverside vegetation has been lost. In many areas waterways have Crown land frontages that are often licensed to the adjoining land owners. Well vegetated frontages have potential for improving the water quality in the stream as well as providing habitat protection. In some cases the frontages have potential for development of riverside pathways and Council is keen to promote responsible access to waterway corridors wherever possible.

Strategic Objective

To protect existing vegetated corridors and improve the provision of shared pathways, walking and cycling paths and linkages throughout and between Alpine communities.

Priorities to achieve the Objective (see Action Plan page 65)

- Protect and enhance vegetated and waterway corridors wherever possible
- Develop continuous and accessible pathways in the major settlements of Bright, Myrtleford and Mount Beauty
- Complete implementation of key projects in existing strategies
- Continue to extend and improve the bicycle path network to enhance user experience within available resources and in partnership with others

9. Implementation

This final section of the Recreation and Open Space Plan identifies the actions that will help achieve the vision and principles and to respond to community needs. This section considers priorities and some of the mechanisms that will enable successful implementation.

The outcomes of the Recreation and Open Space Plan focus on the key findings from community consultation and analysis of participation data against current provision. This Plan recognises that Alpine Shire is well catered for with open space and recreation facilities. Solutions to address peak demand involve greater sharing and multi-use of existing facilities and improving existing assets in partnership with land owners and key organisations.

9.1 Action Plan

The following action plan will guide Council's capital investment and prioritisation of projects and programs to improve provision of recreation and open space throughout Alpine Shire. The actions have been divided into two categories: Strategic Actions (impacting planning and operational programs) and Capital Actions (for consideration in Council's Capital Works Funding Program).

It is noted that all recommendations are subject to attracting required financial commitments. Council has limited capacity to finance capital projects and will rely on funding partners and successful grant applications to implement many of the Recreation and Open Space Plan actions.

Priorities have been identified in the following ways:

H (High)	1+ years
M (Medium)	4+ years
L (Low)	7+ years
Ongoing	Part of ongoing operations

9.1.1 Theme – Participation

Strategic Objective – *To encourage increased participation by all sectors of the community particularly those who currently do not undertake any recreation or physical activity. (See discussion about this theme 8.1 on page 39)*

Key Principles:

- Quality of Life
- Accessibility
- Community Involvement
- Management

Key Priorities:

- Promote popular activities including walking and cycling for the whole population
- Educate and promote the benefits of participation
- Engage the community in planning, decision making and delivery
- Support programs and events that encourage participation

Strategic Actions

Ref	Action	Priority	Responsibility	Resources
S-1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide promotional material about the benefits of participation in recreation and physical activity for all sectors of the community. 	H	Council , Health Providers	Annual operational budget of \$5,000 (seek additional grants if available)
S-1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare, update annually and promote an online directory of recreation activities and programs. 	M	Council	Within existing resources
S-1.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to involve the community in major decision making for the provision of recreation and open space delivery. 	Ongoing	Council	Within existing resources
S-1.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage and facilitate applications to the Community Grants program that promote participation and increase physical activity. 	Ongoing	Council	Within existing resources
S-1.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage and promote a shire wide program of walking activities 	M	Council , Health Providers, Neighbourhood Centres	Seek government and other grants funding
S-1.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement campaigns to explore and address barriers to physical activity, particularly young people and older people. 	H	Council , Health Providers, Schools, Neighbourhood Centres, Community Leaders, Clubs and Groups	Seek government and other grants funding
S-1.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect and collate annual sport and recreation club participation levels to monitor trends and guide prioritisation of support and capital projects. 	Ongoing	Council	Within existing resources

9.1.2 Theme – Partnerships

Strategic Objective – To develop and maintain strong partnerships with government, agency, community and private sectors in the delivery of a wide range of quality recreation experiences. *(See discussion about this theme 8.2 on page 41)*

<p>Key Principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility • Multi-use • Innovation • Community Involvement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management • Economy • Working with Others • Environment 	<p>Key Priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop strong links and liaison with key government agencies that manage open space and water areas and provide recreation facilities • Establish and maintain relationships with providers of key recreation facilities • Strengthen partnerships with schools and seek opportunities for joint projects and greater community access to school facilities outside of school hours
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Strategic Actions

Ref	Action	Priority	Responsibility	Resources
S-2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish regular liaison with Parks Victoria to advocate the importance of the provision of recreation opportunities in National Parks and other sites managed by Parks Victoria. 	M	Council , Parks Victoria, DSE	Within existing resources
S-2.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish and maintain regular liaison with Goulburn Murray Water to advocate the importance of the provision of recreation opportunities at Lake Buffalo. 	M	Council , Goulburn Murray Water, DSE	Within existing resources
S-2.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish and maintain regular liaison with DSE to advocate the importance of recreation opportunities and environmental qualities of State Forests and other sites managed by DSE. 	M	Council , DSE	Within existing resources

S-2.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish and maintain regular liaison with the North East Catchment Management Authority to participate with the review of the Regional River Health Strategy and the development of the new Regional Waterways Strategy over the next 12 months to provide identified community activities and values of waterway environments within the Shire. This could include enhancing opportunities for fishing and/or canoeing/kayaking. 	M	Council, NECMA	Within existing resources
S-2.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish and maintain regular liaison with AGL for the effective management and long term value of the privately owned land and pondage that forms part of the Mount Beauty Recreation Reserve. 	M	Council, AGL	Within existing resources
S-2.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish and maintain regular liaison with the Falls Creek and Mount Hotham Alpine Resorts' Management Boards to ensure input into the planning and management of the resorts including for elite sports training facilities, development, access to resort areas and trail development. 	M	Council, Alpine Resorts' Management Boards	Within existing resources
S-2.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen partnerships with schools and seek opportunities for joint use agreements where facilities are needed by the community. 	H	Council, All Schools, DEECD	Within existing resources

9.1.3 Theme – Management and Coordination

Strategic Objective – To provide and support quality management outcomes for all recreation facilities and open space areas. *(See discussion about this theme 8.3 on page 43)*

Key Principles:

- Management
- Multi-use
- Community Involvement
- Working with Others

Key Priorities:

- Develop policy and procedures to guide the management, maintenance and improvements of open space areas
- Support volunteers and committees through a closer partnership with CARN and ensuring the availability of programs, training and support for organisations to build capacity

Strategic Actions

Ref	Action	Priority	Responsibility	Resources
S-3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the 2005 Building and Facility Maintenance Policy and prepare a new ‘Management of Recreation and Open Space Assets Policy’ to include consideration of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Role and status of open spaces ○ Development standards and levels⁵ ○ Roles and responsibilities ○ Maintenance and capital programs ○ Fees and charges and funding structures ○ Utilisation and multi-use principles ○ Provision for casual use ○ Participation initiatives ○ Training and support of volunteers ○ Collection of key data by Council 	H	Council , Committees of Management	Consultancy support to develop new policy - \$15,000
S-3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the ‘Management of Recreation and Open Space Assets Policy’ with all relevant Committees of Management and prepare procedures and templates to assist volunteers with compliance with the new policy 	H	Council	External support to implement policy - \$10,000

⁵ The proposed Development Standards for various types of open space areas are outlined in detail in Section 8.3

S-3.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop capability and capacity building programs for volunteers involved with management of recreation and open space facilities 	H	Council, The Centre	Annual allocation of \$5,000 Seek additional funding support for specific initiatives
S-3.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement a reward and recognition program to enable Councillors to celebrate successful projects and outcomes in their communities. 	M	Council	Annual allocation of \$2,000
S-3.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement a process of communication and sharing across Council departments to achieve mutual benefit and increased efficiencies. 	H	Council	Within existing resources
S-3.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate and implement increased use of technology to communicate with all community sectors including use of smart phone and touchscreen applications, interactive websites, Facebook, Twitter, You Tube and other technological innovations. 	H	Council	Within existing resources

9.1.4 Theme – Provision of Facilities

Strategic Objective – To maintain existing facilities to a high standard and upgrade appropriate facilities in response to the recreation needs and changing preferences of the current and future Alpine Shire community. *(See discussion about this theme 8.4 on page 47)*

Key Principles:

- Quality of Life
- Accessibility

Key Priorities:

- Ensure facilities are maintained to the highest possible standard (within available resources) and are upgraded where necessary
- Implement approved master plans and facility plans
- Develop partnerships to support improved facility provision
- Upgrade facilities that provide informal recreation opportunities
- Advocate on behalf of residents and visitors for high quality provision of facilities and opportunities

Strategic Actions

Ref	Action	Priority	Responsibility	Resources
S-4.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the actions required to upgrade and maintain aquatic assets including swimming pools and river swimming facilities. Upgrade considerations to include shade and seating. 	H	Council	Subject to review – capital actions and funding opportunities to be identified
S-4.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with secondary schools in Myrtleford to explore the opportunities for provision of an indoor stadium facility for joint use. 	M	Council , Myrtleford P-12, DEECD, Marion College	Within existing resources. Consideration of facility development may be referred to capital program
S-4.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that planning and master planning for open space sites creates maximum flexibility and shared use of spaces to cater for emerging recreation activities and maximum utilisation. 	Ongoing	Council	Within existing resources.
S-4.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake regular risk assessments of all recreation and open space facilities. 	Ongoing	Council	Annual allocation of \$10,000

Capital Program Actions					
Ref	Action	Priority Score ¹	Priority	Responsibility	Resources
4.1	Invest in the ongoing improvements to aquatic facilities in accordance with reviewed and prioritised actions.	24	H	Council	Council and grants funds to be secured for projects
4.2	Implement the actions in the Mount Beauty Recreation Reserve Master Plan.	21	M	Council , tenant groups of Mount Beauty	Council and grants funds to be secured for projects
4.3	Implement the actions in the Myrtleford Recreation Reserves Master Plan.	16	L	Council , tenant groups of Myrtleford	Council and grants funds to be secured for projects
4.4	Implement the actions in the Pioneer Park Recreation Reserve in Bright Master Plan.	20	M	Council , tenant groups of Bright Pioneer Park	Council and grants funds to be secured for projects
4.5	Implement the Dinner Plain Recreation and Leisure Strategy	19	M	Council , Dinner Plain community	Council and grants funds to be secured for projects
4.6	Explore the potential of a warm water facility for therapy and use by the community in partnership with the health sector and hospitals in Bright, Mount Beauty and/or Myrtleford	22	M	Health Sector / Hospitals, Council	Subject to development proposal/s

(Note: Priority Score¹ has been calculated from a set of criteria that include: safety/risk, responding to demand, funding availability, multi-use outcomes, compliance, strategic focus and community support)

9.1.5 Theme – The Environment and Recreation

Strategic Objective – To ensure responsible environmental management in the provision of all recreation opportunities and promote opportunities for recreation activity in natural areas where appropriate. *(See discussion about this theme 8.5 on page 49)*

Key Principles:

- Quality of Life
- Environment

Key Priorities:

- Advocate for the protection of environmental values on all public land.
- Explore opportunities for recreation activities that are complementary with the management of national park, forests and other natural areas.
- Ensure responsible and sustainable practices in the management of open space and recreation facilities.

Strategic Actions

Ref	Action	Priority	Responsibility	Resources
S-5.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist with the partnerships that exist between cycling and mountain bike riding clubs and providers such as AGL and Hancocks to facilitate the provision of facilities for mountain bike riding. 	M	Council , cycling clubs	Within existing resources
S-5.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address the challenges that are likely to arise from future climate change by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Developing planting guidelines which favour drought tolerant (especially native) plant species ○ Investigating the availability of watering open space and sports fields with non-potable water ○ Investigating options for reduced water use at times of low water availability by considering planting regimes and prioritising open spaces for irrigation ○ Identifying opportunities to reduce energy and water use in Council owned facilities including community centres and sports facilities 	H	Council	Within existing resources

S-5.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop appropriate guidelines for the management of the land owned by Council located east of Dinner Plain by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring the primary objective for the management of the land is to conserve the natural values of the area Investigating the development of recreation activities that are compatible with the primary conservation objective, such as walking routes and ski touring trails 	H	Council	Within existing resources
S-5.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate for the protection of the natural values of public land with Parks Victoria, DSE and the Falls Creek and Mount Hotham Alpine Resorts' Management Boards 	M	Council, Parks Victoria, DSE, Alpine Resorts' Management Boards	Within existing resources
S-5.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote walking and cycling in open space areas and safe on-road environments as viable and healthy transport alternatives 	M	Council	Within existing resources

Capital Program Actions

Ref	Action	Priority Score ¹	Priority	Responsibility	Resources
5.1	Include environmental and sustainable development (ESD) principles in all future infrastructure initiatives and developments on Council owned and managed land.	20	M	Council,	Subject to projects and initiatives, funding opportunities to be sought
5.2	Undertake an audit of recreation and open space facilities with the aim of identifying opportunities to reduce water and energy use	22	M	Council	\$20,000
5.3	Install irrigation systems using non-potable water in identified open space areas resulting from the audit of all open space areas	21	M	Council	Subject to projects and initiatives, funding opportunities to be sought

(Note: Priority Score¹ has been calculated from a set of criteria that include: safety/risk, responding to demand, funding availability, multi-use outcomes, compliance, strategic focus and community support)

9.1.6 Theme – Open Space Network

Strategic Objective – To maintain a high quality and sustainable open space network for the benefit of residents of Alpine Shire and visitors to the region.
(See discussion about this theme 8.6 on page 50)

Key Principles:

- Quality of Life
- Environment
- Working with Others
- Innovation

Key Priorities:

- Balance the resourcing and provision of recreation and open space to provide for informal and casual opportunities as well as formal activity.
- Advocate to State Government agencies and other providers of open space about the significance of open space in community life across the shire’s townships and villages
- Seek opportunities for improved provision of open space shared pathways and connections within and between communities

Strategic Actions

Ref	Action	Priority	Responsibility	Resources
S-6.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake an audit of all playgrounds in consideration of the development standards for local and township playgrounds and develop an action plan for improvements. 	H	Council	\$10,000
S-6.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake an audit of all parks and gardens especially considering the development of standards for local and township parks and develop an action plan for improvements.⁶ 	H	Council	\$15,000
S-6.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with DSE, Parks Victoria and other key agencies to advocate for high quality open spaces for the benefit of the community and visitors. 	M	Council , DSE, Parks Victoria, Other agencies and providers of open spaces	Within existing resources
S-6.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to apply the five percent open space contribution as determined by the <i>Subdivision Act 1988</i> to provision of open space where appropriate in any new subdivision. 	Ongoing	Council	Within existing resources

⁶ See Section 8.3 for information regarding proposed Development Standards

S-6.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a list of open space enhancements resulting from the audit of open space areas (S-2) as projects for possible use of open space contributions. 	M	Council	Within existing resources
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Capital Program Actions					
Ref	Action	Priority Score ¹	Priority	Responsibility	Resources
6.1	Upgrade playgrounds in accordance with the action plan to be developed from an audit of existing playgrounds.	25	H	Council	Annual capital allocation of \$50,000
6.2	Upgrade parks and gardens in accordance with the action plan to be developed from an audit of existing sites.	23	H/M	Council	Annual capital allocation of \$100,000
6.3	Pilot outdoor exercise equipment accessible for seniors in the recreation reserve in Mount Beauty. If it is successful consider installations in suitable open space locations in Myrtleford and Bright.	23	H/M	Council	\$20,000 Seek external funding to assist with equipment purchase.
6.4	Seek to acquire access (by lease or agreement) to land along waterways and key open space corridors where connections between communities will provide increased opportunities for safe walking and cycling.	30	H	Council	Subject to specific initiatives

(Note: Priority Score¹ has been calculated from a set of criteria that include: safety/risk, responding to demand, funding availability, multi-use outcomes, compliance, strategic focus and community support)

9.1.7 Theme – Links and Corridors

Strategic Objective – To protect existing vegetated corridors and improve the provision of shared pathways, walking and cycling paths and linkages throughout and between Alpine communities. *(See discussion about this theme 8.7 on page 52)*

Key Principles:

- Quality of Life
- Accessibility

Key Priorities:

- Protect and enhance vegetated and waterway corridors wherever possible
- Develop continuous and accessible pathways in the major settlements of Bright, Myrtleford and Mount Beauty
- Complete implementation of key projects in existing strategies
- Continue to extend and improve the bicycle path network to enhance user experience within available resources and in partnership with others

Strategic Actions

Ref	Action	Priority	Responsibility	Resources
S-7.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake an audit of existing walkway/cycling tracks and trails and develop a categorisation system, including standard levels of provision, utilisation and data collection. This audit to be used to guide resource allocation and funding priorities. 	M	Council	\$5,000
S-7.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore shared trail circuits that connect the Murray to Mountains rail trail to open space and community destinations. 	H	Council , relevant land owners	Subject to relevant initiatives
S-7.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to advocate with VicRoads for upgraded on-road bicycle lanes on all main roads and improvement of roadside facilities for cyclists. 	M	Council	Within existing resources
S-7.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review implementation of actions outlined in the 2002 Bicycle Strategy and 2007 Scoping Strategy (Extension of Current Bicycle Trail Network) to develop a new list of priorities for implementation. 	L	Council	\$30,000

S-7.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserve natural vegetation on roadsides, rail trails, waterways and other corridors wherever possible. 	M		Council	Within existing resources
S-7.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore other opportunities for trails/paths in corridor links and along waterways. 	M		Council	Within existing resources
Capital Program Actions					
Ref	Action	Priority Score¹	Priority	Responsibility	Resources
7.1	Improve the user experience on all bike paths, walking trails and shared pathways by providing supporting infrastructure such as signage with good directional and interpretive signs, drinking fountains, seating and shelter where appropriate.	27	H	Council	\$30,000 per year
7.2	Create a connection and circuit from the Murray to Mountains rail trail in Bright to the township incorporating the Ovens River (canyon walk).	25	H	Council	Subject to project scoping – grants to be sought where possible
7.3	Create an off-road shared trail from Tawonga South to Mount Beauty along the Kiewa River.	25	H	Council	Subject to project scoping – grants to be sought where possible
7.4	Complete a cycling link from Bright to Freeburgh.	21	M	Council	Subject to project scoping – grants to be sought where possible
7.5	Complete a cycling link from Myrtleford to Lake Buffalo	25	H	Council	Subject to project scoping – grants to be sought where possible
7.6	Explore the feasibility of creating a new bike path from Bright to Harrietville.	24	H	Council	Subject to project scoping – grants to be sought where possible
7.7	Develop safe off-road walking and cycling links between schools and open space parks and reserves in Myrtleford.	26	H	Council	Subject to project scoping – grants to be sought where possible
7.8	Provide signage on the Murray to Mountains rail trail to indicate that it is a shared trail for walking and cycling	22	M	Council	Subject to project scoping – grants to be sought where

					possible
7.9	Complete a shared pathway circuit around the 'Damms Road Circuit' in Mount Beauty with a connection to the Mount Beauty Recreation Reserve.	19	M	Council	Subject to project scoping – grants to be sought where possible
7.10	Complete the shared trail link between Dinner Plain and Mount Hotham that could also be used as a ski trail in winter.	23	M	Council	Subject to project scoping – grants to be sought where possible
7.11	Supplement existing vegetation on roadsides, rail trails, along waterways (especially as identified in the North East Regional River Health Strategy 2006) and other corridors with indigenous plantings wherever possible.	21	M	Council	Within existing resources

(Note: Priority Score¹ has been calculated from a set of criteria that include: safety/risk, responding to demand, funding availability, multi-use outcomes, compliance, strategic focus and community support)

9.2 Implementation, Resourcing and Review

Council will provide a significant amount of resourcing to support the implementation of the Recreation and Open Space Plan. Council will determine levels of funding for projects in consideration of the full range of community priorities and expectations across all areas of Council's service delivery and capital works program.

There will also be opportunities for some strategic and capital program actions to attract funding from numerous government and other organisations. In many cases, Council funds (approved through annual budgets) can be used as leverage to increase overall funding for projects. The table below outlines some of the funding programs that exist to support:

- actions of the Recreation of the Recreation and Open Space Plan;
- implementation of other master plans and specific plans and strategies; and
- the activities and initiatives of organisations across Alpine Shire.

Table 29: Range of Funding Programs Available

Funding Organisation	Name of Funding Program	Description	Funding Levels
Victorian Government Department of Planning and Community Development	Planning for Tomorrow	Resources and support to local government to undertake economic, infrastructure and land use planning. Funding available for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • technical resources and advice • data or market analysis • public consultation and engagement 	Up to \$100,000
Victorian Government Department of Planning and Community Development	Community Facility Funding Program – Planning	Funding for planning initiatives that address the future sport and recreation needs of communities through better information gathering, consultation and strategic planning. Available for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) municipal planning and facility feasibility (2) regional planning initiatives that demonstrate inter-municipal needs and have support from multiple LGAs 	(1) Up to \$30,000 (2) Up to \$50,000
Victorian Government Department of Planning and Community Development	Community Facility Funding Program – Major Facilities	Development or upgrade of major sport and recreation facilities.	Up to \$650,000
Victorian Government Department of Planning and Community Development	Community Facility Funding Program – Minor Facilities	Development or upgrade of community sport and recreation facilities for community groups working in partnership with local government.	Up to \$100,000
Victorian Government Department of Planning and Community Development	Community Facility Funding Program – Soccer Facilities	Upgrade of existing or development of new facilities by local soccer clubs in partnership with local government to maximise participation opportunities in soccer	Up to \$100,000
Victorian Government Department of Planning and Community Development	Community Facility Funding Program – Seasonal Pools	For rejuvenation of seasonal swimming pools that are significantly isolated from year round aquatic centres.	Up to \$200,000
Victorian Government Department of Planning and Community Development	Community Facility Funding Program – Better Pools	Development of high quality aquatic leisure facilities through new or re-developed aquatic leisure centres	Up to \$3million

Funding Organisation	Name of Funding Program	Description	Funding Levels
Victorian Government Department of Planning and Community Development	Country Football and Netball Program	Assistance to football and netball clubs, associations and umpiring organisations to develop facilities including change rooms, playing fields, courts and lighting.	Up to \$100,000
Victorian Government Department of Planning and Community Development	Country Action Grants Scheme	Grants to increase the skills of coaches, officials and managers and improve the accessibility and operational capacity of community sport and recreation organisations in rural and regional Victoria.	Up to \$5,000
Victorian Government Department of Planning and Community Development	Community Support Grants	Aim to build resilient and adaptable communities with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> improved community infrastructure (1) infrastructure planning (2) community initiatives (3) 	(1) Up to \$500,000 (2) Up to \$30,000 (3) Up to \$50,000
Victorian Government Department of Planning and Community Development	Community Works Program	Delivery of quality public realm and open space networks that are vibrant, connected and enhance community pride in local neighbourhoods	Up to \$200,000
Victorian Government Department of Planning and Community Development	Significant Sporting Events	Assistance for sporting, community and event organisations to deliver significant sporting events in Victoria. Funding for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Event Assistance Event Development 	(1) Up to \$20,000 (2) Up to \$300,000
Victorian Government Department of Planning and Community Development	Sporting Uniforms	Assistance in the purchase of sports uniforms.	Up to \$1,000
Victorian Government Department of Planning and Community Development	Emergency Sporting and Recreation Equipment	Assistance to grass roots sport and active recreation clubs and organisation to replace essential sporting or first aid equipment that has been lost or destroyed.	Up to \$2,000
Victorian Government Department of Planning and Community Development	Victalent	Travel assistance to community sport and recreation organisations in rural and regional Victoria to assist athletes, coaches and teams with travel costs associated with training and competition.	Up to \$500
Victorian Government Department of Primary Industries	Recreational Fishing Grants Program	Provides funding for recreational fishing access and facilities, fisheries sustainability, habitat improvement, and fisheries related information.	Small grants, up to \$100,000
Parks Victoria	Communities for Nature Grants	Contributions to practical on-ground solutions for local environmental issues. Program aims to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> support community action support community groups and volunteers support community priorities 	Up to \$10,000
Parks Victoria	Healthy Parks Healthy People Grants for Community Groups	Support for projects that are important to communities, their health and provide benefit to Victorians. Funded projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> help groups enhance the values of parks and reserves provide diverse opportunities facilitate community involvement increase community awareness 	Generally \$1,000 to \$11,000

Funding Organisation	Name of Funding Program	Description	Funding Levels
Regional Development Victoria	Regional Growth Fund – Developing Stronger Regions	Support for studies such as feasibilities, demand studies or business cases with the following objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> strengthening economic base of Victoria facilitating creation of jobs and improved career options supporting resilience and sustainability of communities increasing capacity of regional communities to drive development 	Up to \$500,000
Regional Development Victoria	Regional Growth Fund – Putting Locals First	Program to enable regional communities to devise and deliver service and infrastructure responses which reflect local priorities. Components include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Improved local infrastructure Local community initiatives 	(1) up to \$500,000 (2) up to \$150,000
Regional Development Victoria	Regional Growth Fund – Local Government Infrastructure Program	Support for a range of local council initiatives	Allocation of funds to regional and rural councils
Tourism Victoria	Country Victoria Events Program (CVEP)	Targets smaller regional events to enable local tourism and community groups to promote their region as a destination. Grants assist with tourism marketing and event delivery and development. Two funding rounds each year.	Up to \$10,000 per event
Australian Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism	Tourism Industry Regional Development Fund	Providing grants to improve regional tourism infrastructure and develop innovative tourism projects.	From \$50,000 to \$250,000
Australian Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism	TQUAL Grants	Program is aimed at stimulating sustainable economic growth in the Australian Tourism Industry. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Tourism Investment Grants Tourism Quality Projects 	(1) up to \$1million (2) up to \$100,000
Regional Development Australia	Regional Development Australia Fund	Supports infrastructure needs of regional Australia	Various
Philanthropy Australia	Philanthropic Grants	A not-for-profit organisation - members are trusts and foundations, families and individuals. Various grants available.	Various
VicHealth	Various	Funding programs to increase participation and develop improved health and wellbeing outcomes	Various

(Information has been sourced from the following websites and is current at the date of this report. It is noted that funding and grants programs change over time so all information should be checked and verified before proceeding with any program.)

Funding programs can change from time to time and Council will be kept informed about opportunities for funding as they arise through the regional government offices and other sources.

In particular Council will maintain existing and seek to create new partnerships for the development of facilities and opportunities for the community, especially on land that Council does not own or manage. This approach will ensure the most effective use of public and private resources for the benefit of residents and visitors.

Where possible, Council will seek opportunities for integration with regional planning (Hume Strategy) and other government agency planning in its implementation of key recreation and open space initiatives.

How will we know how we are doing?

There are many actions in this plan that will require annual funding and ongoing support from Council and various other organisation and stakeholders to ensure successful implementation. Council will periodically review the action plan, noting what has been completed and what it still to be done. Actions will be re-prioritised where needed with programs and proposed changes reported to Council for consideration.

Indicators that maybe used to measure the success of actions include:

- Increasing participation rates in recreation activities as reported by clubs and organisations;
- Increasing membership of recreation clubs and organisations;
- Number of people attending events and programs that meet the objectives and principles of the Recreation and Open Space Plan;
- Satisfaction levels reported in Community Satisfaction Surveys as they relate to recreation and open space;
- Feedback received through various avenues – formal and anecdotal;
- Projects included in long and short term financial budgets;
- Funding and completion of capital works projects; and
- Number of funding applications prepared and percentage of successful grants.

The life of this plan is 5-10 years and it is expected that there may be change in community preferences and priorities at the end of this time period. A new plan will be prepared in 2023 to set priorities for the next period of time.

Recreation contributes to Alpine Shire's:
Uniqueness, Vibrancy, Pride and Quality of Life



Background Paper 1
Prioritising Capital Projects



ALPINE SHIRE

RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN



Prepared by Sykes Consulting

Prioritising Capital Program Actions

The following table lists each of the capital program actions that are included in the Recreation and Open Space Plan and assesses the priority of the action against a set of criteria. For each criteria, actions are given a score of between 0 and 5, with 5 being the highest score for the criteria. The resulting score is used as a tool for decision making to determine Council’s priorities for funding through the capital works program.

It is noted that all recommendations are subject to attracting required financial commitments. Council has limited capacity to finance capital projects and will rely on funding partners and successful grant applications to implement many of the Recreation and Open Space Plan actions.

#	Action	Safety / Risk	Satisfies a need for facilities to cater for increasing demand / popularity / participation	Availability of funding for approved project – all sources	Multi-use / Shared use outcomes / benefit for multiple community and visitor sectors / population groups	Project ensures compliance with relevant standards	Multiple strategic outcomes are achieved (incl. RO SP principles)	Community support for project	Total Score
6.4	Open Space Network Seek to acquire access (by lease or agreement) to land along waterways and key open space corridors where connections between communities will provide increased opportunities for safe walking and cycling.	4	5	3	5	4	4	5	30
7.1	Links and Corridors Improve the user experience on all bike paths, walking trails and shared pathways by providing supporting infrastructure such as signage with good directional and interpretive signs, drinking fountains, seating and shelter where appropriate.	3	5	3	4	3	4	5	27

#	Action	Safety / Risk	Satisfies a need for facilities to cater for increasing demand / popularity / participation	Availability of funding for approved project – all sources	Multi-use / Shared use outcomes / benefit for multiple community and visitor sectors / population groups	Project ensures compliance with relevant standards	Multiple strategic outcomes are achieved (incl. RO SP principles)	Community support for project	Total Score
7.7	Links and Corridors Develop safe off-road walking and cycling links between schools and open space parks and reserves in Myrtleford.	5	4	2	4	3	4	4	26
6.1	Open Space Network Upgrade playgrounds in accordance with the action plan to be developed from an audit of existing playgrounds.	5	4	1	3	5	3	4	25
7.2	Links and Corridors Create a connection and circuit from the Murray to Mountains rail trail in Bright to the township incorporating the Ovens River (canyon walk).	3	4	3	4	3	4	4	25
7.3	Links and Corridors Create an off-road shared trail from Tawonga South to Mount Beauty along the Kiewa River.	5	4	3	3	3	4	3	25
7.5	Links and Corridors Complete a cycling link from Myrtleford to Lake Buffalo.	4	4	3	4	3	3	4	25
4.1	Provision of Facilities: Invest in the ongoing improvements to aquatic facilities in accordance with reviewed and prioritised actions.	4	5	2	2	3	4	4	24

#	Action	Safety / Risk	Satisfies a need for facilities to cater for increasing demand / popularity / participation	Availability of funding for approved project – all sources	Multi-use / Shared use outcomes / benefit for multiple community and visitor sectors / population groups	Project ensures compliance with relevant standards	Multiple strategic outcomes are achieved (incl. RO SP principles)	Community support for project	Total Score
7.6	Links and Corridors Explore the feasibility of creating a new bike path from Bright to Harrietville.	3	4	2	4	3	4	4	24
7.10	Links and Corridors Complete the shared trail link between Dinner Plain and Mount Hotham that could also be used as a ski trail in winter.	4	3	2	4	2	4	4	23
6.3	Open Space Network Pilot outdoor exercise equipment accessible for seniors in the recreation reserve in Mount Beauty. If it is successful consider installations in suitable open space locations in Myrtleford and Bright.	1	4	4	4	3	4	3	23
6.2	Open Space Network Upgrade parks and gardens in accordance with the action plan to be developed from an audit of existing sites.	2	4	2	4	3	4	4	23
4.6	Provision of Facilities: Explore the potential of a warm water facility for therapy and use by the community in partnership with the health sector and hospitals in Bright, Mount Beauty and/or Myrtleford.	1	4	2	4	3	4	4	22

#	Action	Safety / Risk	Satisfies a need for facilities to cater for increasing demand / popularity / participation	Availability of funding for approved project – all sources	Multi-use / Shared use outcomes / benefit for multiple community and visitor sectors / population groups	Project ensures compliance with relevant standards	Multiple strategic outcomes are achieved (incl. RO SP principles)	Community support for project	Total Score
5.2	The Environment and Recreation Undertake an audit of recreation and open space facilities with the aim of identifying opportunities to reduce water and energy use.	3	3	3	2	3	4	4	22
7.8	Links and Corridors Provide signage on the Murray to Mountains rail trail to indicate that it is a shared trail for walking and cycling.	3	4	2	3	2	4	4	22
7.11	Links and Corridors Supplement existing vegetation on roadsides, rail trails, along waterways (especially as identified in the North East Regional River Health Strategy 2006) and other corridors with indigenous plantings wherever possible.	3	2	3	3	2	4	4	21
7.4	Links and Corridors Complete a cycling link from Bright to Freeburgh.	4	3	2	3	2	3	4	21
4.2	Provision of Facilities: Implement the actions in the Mount Beauty Recreation Reserve Master Plan.	3	4	2	4	2	3	3	21

#	Action	Safety / Risk	Satisfies a need for facilities to cater for increasing demand / popularity / participation	Availability of funding for approved project – all sources	Multi-use / Shared use outcomes / benefit for multiple community and visitor sectors / population groups	Project ensures compliance with relevant standards	Multiple strategic outcomes are achieved (incl. RO SP principles)	Community support for project	Total Score
5.3	The Environment and Recreation Install irrigation systems using non-potable water in identified open space areas resulting from the audit of all open space areas.	2	3	3	2	3	4	4	21
4.4	Provision of Facilities: Implement the actions in the Pioneer Park Recreation Reserve in Bright Master Plan.	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	20
5.1	The Environment and Recreation Include environmental and sustainable development (ESD) principles in all future infrastructure initiatives and developments on Council owned and managed land.	1	2	2	2	4	5	4	20
4.5	Provision of Facilities: Implement the Dinner Plain Recreation and Leisure Strategy.	2	3	2	3	2	3	4	19
7.9	Links and Corridors Complete a shared pathway circuit around the 'Damms Road Circuit' in Mount Beauty with a connection to the Mount Beauty Recreation Reserve.	3	3	1	3	2	3	4	19
4.3	Provision of Facilities: Implement the actions in the Myrtleford Recreation Reserves Master Plan.	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	16

Background Paper 2

Existing Provision



ALPINE SHIRE

RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN



Prepared by Sykes Consulting

The following table lists all facilities in Alpine Shire that provide a space or environment for recreation activity. All listings are in alphabetical order for ease of reference.

Categories of Open Space and Recreation Facilities:

Category	Sub-Categories / Inclusions
Bowling Green	
Community Centre	
Croquet Lawn	
Cycling	Mountain Bike Park, BMX Track
Cycling/Walking Track	Shared Paths/Tracks, Walking Only
Equestrian	
Flight	
Golf Course	
Natural Area	
Netball Court	
Parks and Gardens	
Playground	
Recreation Reserve	Oval, Soccer Fields, Baseball Diamond
School	
Skate Park	
Sports Stadium	
Swimming Facility	
Tennis Court	
Water	

It is noted that:

- National Parks (and Alpine Resort areas) and Forest Parks provide significant recreation value. They are however owned and managed by State Government / Private Sector and are subject to their own planning and management processes. While Alpine Shire Council will continue to work in partnership with relevant agencies and organisations to promote recreation and visitor opportunities it is not the role of this plan to address any specific issues relating to these areas.
- This list of facilities does not include facilities in national parks, state forests, alpine resorts and other public land resources.
- The hierarchy of facilities that is incorporated in the table includes:
 - Township & District – Sporting Recreation Reserves that are premier level
 - Township – Facilities that provide for the township and its surrounding catchment
 - Local – Neighbourhood and localised facilities providing for local residents
- The inventory is as complete as possible at the time of publication. It will be important to continue to add information (such as size and capacity of land and facilities) and update data and mapping layers. This information will be of great value for Council in determining service levels, operational priorities and for use in forward planning.

Category	Name / Facility	Town	Hierarchy	Owner	Manager	Key Features
Bowling Green	Bright Bowls Club	Bright	Township	Council	Bright Bowls Club	2 grass bowling greens, multi-purpose club room with commercial kitchen
Bowling Green	Dederang Bowls Club at the Dederang Recreation Reserve	Dederang	Local	Crown (DSE)	DSE Committee of Management	1 grass bowling green (Memorial Hall used as clubrooms)
Bowling Green	Mount Beauty Country Club – Bowling Club	Mount Beauty	Local	Private	Private	2 grass bowling greens, club house and gaming facilities
Bowling Green	Myrtleford Bowls Club	Myrtleford	Township	Crown (DSE)	Myrtleford Bowls Club	2 grass bowling greens, lighting, multi-purpose club room with kitchen
Bowling Green	Tawonga Bowling Club	Tawonga	Local	Private	Private	2 grass bowling greens and club house
Community Centre	Bright Community Centre	Bright	Township	Council	Committee of Management	Multi-purpose function centre
Community Centre	Bright Library	Bright	Township	Council	Council	
Community Centre	Bright Mens Shed	Bright	Local	Council	Bright Mens Shed	Shed and Workshop
Community Centre	Bright Scout Hall at Pioneer Park	Bright	Local	Crown (DSE)	Scout Group	Multi-use Hall
Community Centre	Bright Senior Citizens Centre	Bright	Township	Crown (DSE)	DSE Committee of Management	Hall, kitchen, meeting room and small playground
Community Centre	Dederang Memorial Hall at the Dederang Recreation Reserve	Dederang	Local	Crown (DSE)	DSE Committee of Management	Hall with kitchen (also clubroom for Bowling Club)
Community Centre	Dinner Plain Community Centre	Dinner Plain	Local	Council	Council	Hall, kitchen and meeting room
Community Centre	Freeburgh Hall	Freeburgh	Local	Crown (DSE)	DSE Committee of Management	Hall, kitchen and meeting rooms
Community Centre	Gapsted Hall at the Gapsted Recreation Reserve	Gapsted	Local	Crown (DSE)	DSE Committee of Management	Hall with kitchen, Public Toilets
Community Centre	Gundowring Hall at the Gundowring Recreation Reserve	Gundowring	Local	Crown (DSE)	DSE Committee of Management	Hall
Community Centre	Happy Valley Hall	Rosewhite	Local	Crown (DSE)	DSE Committee of Management	Hall with Supper Room and kitchenette, Public Toilets, CFA shed
Community Centre	Harrierville Community Hall	Harrierville	Local	Crown (DSE)	DSE Committee of Management	Hall
Community Centre	Mount Beauty Community Centre	Mount Beauty	Township	Council	Committee of Management	Hall, kitchen and meeting rooms

Category	Name / Facility	Town	Hierarchy	Owner	Manager	Key Features
Community Centre	Mount Beauty Guide Hall	Mount Beauty	Local	Council	Girl Guides Group	Hall
Community Centre	Mount Beauty Library	Mount Beauty	Township	Council	Council	
Community Centre	Mount Beauty Scout Hall	Mount Beauty	Local	Council	Scout Group	Hall
Community Centre	Mudgegonga Hall	Mudgegonga	Local	Crown (DSE)	DSE Committee of Management	Hall, kitchen and meeting rooms
Community Centre	Myrtleford Friendship House Scouts and Guides	Myrtleford	Township	Crown (DSE)	DSE Committee of Management	Scout and Guide Hall
Community Centre	Myrtleford Library	Myrtleford	Township	Council	Council	
Community Centre	Myrtleford Memorial Hall	Myrtleford	Township	Council	Council	Hall and Supper Room
Community Centre	Myrtleford Mens Shed	Myrtleford	Local	Council	Myrtleford Mens Shed	Shed and Workshop
Community Centre	Myrtleford Senior Citizens Centre	Myrtleford	Township	Council	Committee of Management	Hall, meeting rooms, commercial kitchen and playground
Community Centre	Porepunkah Hall at the Porepunkah Recreation Reserve	Porepunkah	Local	Crown (DSE)	DSE Committee of Management	Hall, Supper Room, Stage and Kitchen. Shared as tennis clubrooms
Community Centre	Saint Albans Hall	Running Creek	Local	Council	Committee of Management	Hall, Public Toilet and playground
Community Centre	Tawonga Memorial Hall	Tawonga	Local	Council	Committee of Management	Hall
Community Centre	Wandiligong Hall	Wandiligong	Local	Crown (DSE)	DSE Committee of Management	Hall
Croquet Lawn	Bright Croquet Facility	Bright	Local	Council	Bright Croquet Club	Croquet lawn and small clubhouse
Cycling	Big Hill Mountain Bike Park	Mount Beauty	Township	Private (AGL)	Team Mount Beauty	Mountain bike track designed for local and national competition
Cycling	Mount Beauty Recreation Reserve BMX Track	Mount Beauty	Township	Council	Committee of Management	Supports local competition and casual recreation use
Cycling	Pioneer Park Recreation Reserve BMX Track	Bright	Township	Crown (DSE)	Council Committee of Management	Supports local competition and casual recreation use
Cycling and Walking Track	Mountains to Murray Rail Trail	Various Ovens Valley Towns	Regional	Crown (DSE)	Council	Wangaratta to Bright connection is significant, through Gapsted, Myrtleford, Porepunkah and to Bright
Cycling and Walking Track	Canyon Walk - Upper Section Riverside Park – Canyon Lane	Bright	Local	Crown (DSE)	Council	1.2m wide gravel path – loop walk. Suitable for walking, bikes, prams, etc

Category	Name / Facility	Town	Hierarchy	Owner	Manager	Key Features
Cycling and Walking Track	Canyon Walk - Lower Section Federation Bridge loop	Bright	Local	Crown (DSE)	Council	Walking only
Cycling and Walking Track	Cherry Walk	Bright	Local	Crown (DSE)	Council	Riverside walking track
Cycling and Walking Track	Bennetts Walk	Bright	Local	Crown (DSE)	Council	Shared streamside walking/cycling track
Cycling and Walking Track	Apex Lookout	Bright	Local	Crown (DSE)	DSE	Walking only – in State Forest
Cycling and Walking Track	Huggins Lookout	Bright	Local	Crown (DSE)	DSE	Walking only – in State Forest
Cycling and Walking Track	Valley View Walk	Bright	Local	Crown (DSE)	DSE	Walking only – in State Forest
Cycling and Walking Track	Bakers Gully Reservoir Walk	Bright	Local	Crown (DSE)	Parks Victoria	Walking only
Cycling and Walking Track	Bright-Wandiligong Walk	Wandiligong	Local	Crown (DSE)	Council	Part of walk through private property – owners requesting change of alignment
Cycling and Walking Track	Bright – Wandiligong Trail	Wandiligong	Local	Crown (DSE)	Council	Sealed shared trail
Cycling and Walking Track	The Diggings	Wandiligong	Local	Crown (DSE)	Wandiligong Preservation Society / Council	WPS not continuing with maintenance. Council maintains some walking paths.
Cycling and Walking Track	Porepunkah River Walk	Porepunkah	Local	Crown (DSE)	Council	Walking only
Cycling and Walking Track	Tronoh Dredge Walking Track	Harrierville	Local	Crown (DSE)	DSE Committee of Management	Walking only
Cycling and Walking Track	Charlie Miley Walk	Harrierville	Local	Crown (DSE)	DSE Committee of Management	Walking only
Cycling and Walking Track	Riverside Walk	Harrierville	Local	Crown (DSE)	Council	Walking only
Cycling and Walking Track	Reform Hill	Myrtleford	Township	Crown (DSE)	DSE	Walking only – in State Forest
Cycling and Walking Track	Ovens River Trail	Myrtleford	Local	Crown (DSE)	Council	Shared sealed path along Ovens River

Category	Name / Facility	Town	Hierarchy	Owner	Manager	Key Features
Cycling and Walking Track	Survey Track - Tawonga Crescent – water storage	Mt Beauty / Tawonga	Local	Private - AGL	Council	Track within land leased from AGL
Cycling and Walking Track	Survey Track - Water storage to end	Mt Beauty / Tawonga	Local	Crown (DSE)		Walking only
Cycling and Walking Track	Fainter Falls	Mt Beauty / Tawonga	Local	Crown (DSE)	Parks Victoria	Walking only
Cycling and Walking Track	The Gorge Walk	Mt Beauty / Tawonga	Local	Crown (DSE)	Council	Maintenance undertaken by community
Cycling and Walking Track	Fishermans Walk	Mt Beauty / Tawonga	Local	Crown (DSE)	Council	New track from Ryders Lane Reserve
Cycling and Walking Track	Kiewa River Walk	Mt Beauty / Tawonga	Local	Crown (DSE)	Council	Sealed path – Embankment Drive to Pebble Beach
Cycling and Walking Track	Pondage Walk	Mt Beauty / Tawonga	Local	Private - AGL	Council	Sealed track – licence agreement in place
Equestrian	Equestrian Facility at Pioneer Park Recreation Reserve	Bright	Township	Crown (DSE)	Council	Dressage, jumping arenas and clubrooms – used for competition
Equestrian	Pony Club Facility at the Showgrounds Recreation Reserve	Myrtleford	Township	Crown (DSE)	DSE Committee of Management	Dressage, competition and Riding for the Disabled
Equestrian	Racetrack at Dederang Recreation Reserve	Dederang	Township	Crown (DSE)	DSE Committee of Management	Racetrack, shared clubroom with golf club
Flight Facility	Porepunkah Airport	Porepunkah	Township	Council	Committee of Management	Supporting Gliding
Flight Facility	Mount Beauty Airport	Mount Beauty	Township	Council	Committee of Management	Supporting Gliding
Flight Facility	Mystic Mountain Paragliding and Hang Gliding facility	Bright	Township	Private	Gliding Clubs	Paragliding and hang gliding launch facilities
Golf Course	Bright Country Golf Club	Bright	Township	Private	Private	18 hole golf course and club rooms
Golf Course	Dederang Golf Club at the Dederang Recreation Reserve	Dederang	Township	Crown (DSE)	DSE Committee of Management	Sand greens, Clubroom shared with Race Club, Toilets
Golf Course	Mount Beauty Golf Club	Mount Beauty	Township	Private	Private	18 hole golf course and club house
Golf Course	Myrtleford Golf Club at the Showgrounds Recreation Reserve	Myrtleford	Township	Crown (DSE)	Golf Club	18 hole golf course and club rooms

Category	Name / Facility	Town	Hierarchy	Owner	Manager	Key Features
Natural Area	Alpine National Park			Crown (DSE)	Parks Victoria	
Natural Area	Barwidgee Creek Streamside Reserve			Crown (DSE)	Council	
Natural Area	Buckland River Streamside Reserve			Crown (DSE)	DSE	
Natural Area	Centenary Park Streamside Reserve			Crown (DSE)	Council	
Natural Area	Eurobin Streamside Reserve			Crown (DSE)	DSE	
Natural Area	Freeburgh Streamside Reserve			Crown (DSE)	DSE	
Natural Area	Happy Valley Creek Historic Reserve			Crown (DSE)	DSE Committee of Management	
Natural Area	Kiewa River Streamside Reserve			Crown (DSE)	DSE	
Natural Area	Mount Beauty Streamside Reserve			Crown (DSE)	DSE	
Natural Area	Mount Buffalo National Park			Crown (DSE)	Parks Victoria	
Natural Area	Mount Porepunkah Streamside Reserve			Crown (DSE)	DSE	
Natural Area	Mount Sarah Streamside Reserve			Crown (DSE)	DSE	
Natural Area	Mount Stanley Streamside Reserve			Crown (DSE)	DSE	
Natural Area	Mudgeegonga Bushland Reserve			Crown (DSE)	DSE	
Natural Area	Mullagong Bushland Reserve			Crown (DSE)	DSE	
Natural Area	Murmungee Bushland Reserve			Crown (DSE)	DSE	
Natural Area	Ovens River Streamside Reserve			Crown (DSE)	DSE Committee of Management	

Category	Name / Facility	Town	Hierarchy	Owner	Manager	Key Features
Natural Area	Ovens River Streamside Reserve			Crown (DSE)	DSE	
Natural Area	Porepunkah Streamside Reserve			Crown (DSE)	DSE	
Natural Area	Reform Quartz Goldmine Historic Reserve			Crown (DSE)	DSE	
Natural Area	Smoko Streamside Reserve			Crown (DSE)	DSE	
Natural Area	Tawonga Gap Streamside Reserve			Crown (DSE)	DSE	
Natural Area	Wandiligong Education Area			Crown (DSE)	DSE	
Netball Court	Bright Netball Court, Pioneer Park Recreation Reserve	Bright	Local	Crown (DSE)	Council	1 asphalt court and shared clubrooms
Netball Court	Dederang Netball Court, Dederang Recreation Reserve	Dederang	Local	Crown (DSE)	DSE Committee of Management	2 netball courts
Netball Court	Mount Beauty Netball Court, Mount Beauty Primary School	Mount Beauty	Township	Crown (DSE)	DEECD	2 multi-use asphalt netball courts
Netball Court	Myrtleford Netball Courts, RC McNamara Reserve	Myrtleford	Local	Council	Council	6 multi-use asphalt tennis/netball courts suitable for netball
Parks and Gardens	Allamar Court Reserve	Tawonga Sth	Local	Council	Council	Small local park with playground
Parks and Gardens	Alrima Court Reserve	Bright	Local	Council	Council	Small local park
Parks and Gardens	Apex Park	Bright	Local	Crown (DSE)	Council	Picturesque local park
Parks and Gardens	Apex Park	Myrtleford	Local	Crown (DSE)	Council	Picnic area, public toilets, located next to the Ovens Rivers and sealed walking track loop
Parks and Gardens	Arboretum	Bright	Local	Crown (DSE)	Council	Landscaped park with ornamental trees
Parks and Gardens	Arderns Clearing	Myrtleford	Local	Crown (DSE)	Council	Large open space area with remnant vegetation (behind Rotary Park)
Parks and Gardens	Barwidgee Creek Picnic Ground	Mudgegonga	Local	Crown (DSE)	Council	Small local picnic area next to Barwidgee Creek

Category	Name / Facility	Town	Hierarchy	Owner	Manager	Key Features
Parks and Gardens	Bicentennial Park	Mount Beauty	Township	Council	Council	Popular park with picnic facilities, playground, boat ramp, skate park and sealed walking track
Parks and Gardens	Big Tree	Myrtleford	Local	Council	Council	Small local park featuring historic gum tree
Parks and Gardens	Burke Street Reserve	Bright	Local	Council	Council	Local reserve with native garden
Parks and Gardens	Centenary Park	Bright	Local	Crown (DSE)	Council	Popular riverside park with picnic and BBQ facilities and supervised swimming (summer period only)
Parks and Gardens	CEP Park	Myrtleford	Local	Crown	Council	Local park next to Happy Valley Creek with Guide Hall
Parks and Gardens	Clarrie Arden Reserve	Myrtleford	Local	Council	Council	Local park
Parks and Gardens	Clearwater Reserve	Myrtleford	Local	Council	Council	Local park with information shelter
Parks and Gardens	Cundy Park	Myrtleford	Township	Council	Council	Playground, Skate Park, Toilets, Picnic Facilities
Parks and Gardens	Damms Bridge Reserve	Mount Beauty	Local	Crown (DSE)	Council	Small local reserve
Parks and Gardens	Dinner Plain Reserve	Dinner Plain	Local	Council	Council	Open space with native vegetation
Parks and Gardens	Elm Court Reserve	Bright	Local	Council	Council	Small local park
Parks and Gardens	Farrington Park	Bright	Local	Crown (DSE)	Council	Small local park
Parks and Gardens	Glenbourne Drive Reserve	Tawonga South	Local	Council	Council	Local reserve and open space
Parks and Gardens	Higman Park	Bright	Local	Council	Council	Small park/open space
Parks and Gardens	Howitt Park	Bright	Township	Crown (DSE)	Council	Popular riverside park with picnic and BBQ facilities, all abilities playground, sealed walking path
Parks and Gardens	Jack Hedly Rotary Park	Mount Beauty	Local	Council	Council	Picturesque riverside park with sealed walking path
Parks and Gardens	Jaycees Park	Myrtleford	Local	Crown (DSE)	Council	Small local park with play equipment
Parks and Gardens	Jones Park Reserve	Myrtleford	Township	Crown (DSE)	Council	Local reserve with picnic area, BBQ's and public toilets

Category	Name / Facility	Town	Hierarchy	Owner	Manager	Key Features
Parks and Gardens	Jubilee Park	Myrtleford	Township	Crown (DSE)	Council	Local reserve with lawn tennis club, public swimming pool, caravan park and lawn bowls club
Parks and Gardens	Keating Reserve	Harrietville	Local	Crown (DSE)	Council	Small local reserve
Parks and Gardens	Lions Park	Tawonga South	Local	Council	Council	Local park with playground
Parks and Gardens	Lions Reserve	Bright	Township	Council	Council	Small streamside park with walking track
Parks and Gardens	Lumley Reserve	Bright	Local	Council	Council	Small local reserve with native vegetation, next to Cherry Walk
Parks and Gardens	Mc Guffies Reserve	Buffalo River	Local	Council	Council	
Parks and Gardens	Manning Gardens	Bright	Local	Crown (DSE)	Council	Small local park
Parks and Gardens	Marconi Reserve	Myrtleford	Local	Council	Council	Small local park
Parks and Gardens	Marum Court Reserve	Tawonga Sth	Local	Council	Council	Small local reserve
Parks and Gardens	Martley Street Reserve	Porepunkah	Township	Crown (DSE)	Council	Open space with sporting facilities and community hall
Parks and Gardens	Memorial Square	Myrtleford	Township	Council	Council	Memorial square and garden
Parks and Gardens	Mudgegonga Reserve	Mudgegonga	Local	Crown (DSE)	Council	Small local reserve
Parks and Gardens	Neeries Park	Tawonga South	Local	Council	Council	Local park
Parks and Gardens	Nimmo Bridge	Myrtleford	Local	Crown (DSE)	DSE	Local park on the banks of the Ovens River (next to Apex Park)
Parks and Gardens	North Mount Beauty Park	Mount Beauty	Local	Council	Council	Small local park with play equipment
Parks and Gardens	Ovens Reserve	Ovens	Local	Crown (DSE)	Council	Small local reserve
Parks and Gardens	Phoenix Tree Reserve	Myrtleford	Local	Council	Council	Historic Phoenix Tree, Great Alpine Road
Parks and Gardens	Pioneer Park	Harrietville	Local	Crown (DSE)	Council	Local park, rest area, public toilets and information shelter
Parks and Gardens	Riverside Park	Bright	Local	Crown (DSE)	Council	Streamside reserve with sealed walking track

Category	Name / Facility	Town	Hierarchy	Owner	Manager	Key Features
Parks and Gardens	Riverside Park	Porepunkah	Township	Crown (DSE)	Council	Popular streamside park with BBQ and picnic facilities, toddlers pool and supervised swimming (summer season)
Parks and Gardens	Rootsey Gardens	Myrtleford	Local	Council	Council	Small local park
Parks and Gardens	Ross Court Reserve	Myrtleford	Local	Council	Council	Small local reserve
Parks and Gardens	Rotaract Park	Bright	Local	Crown (DSE)	Council	(Toorak Rd / Back Germantown Rd)
Parks and Gardens	Rotary Park	Myrtleford	Local	Crown (DSE)	Council	Popular local park located next to Barwidgee Creek, with playground, picnic facilities, BBQ's, historic feature and public toilets.
Parks and Gardens	Royal Bridge Park	Wandiligong	Local	Crown (DSE)	Council	Small local park
Parks and Gardens	Ryders Lane Reserve	Tawonga	Local	Crown (DSE)	Council	Kiewa River access, BBQ and picnic facilities.
Parks and Gardens	S.K. Pearce Gardens	Mount Beauty	Local	Council	Council	Small local park
Parks and Gardens	School Road Reserve	Wandiligong	Local	Crown (DSE)	Council	Small local reserve
Parks and Gardens	Scout Hall Park	Mount Beauty	Local	Council	Council	Small open space and Scout Hall
Parks and Gardens	Shire Offices	Bright	Local	Council	Council	Open space
Parks and Gardens	Sommer Reserve	Bright	Local	Council	Council	
Parks and Gardens	Swimming Pool Gardens	Mount Beauty	Local	Council	Council	Small park with BBQ facilities and gardens
Parks and Gardens	Swinburne Reserve	Myrtleford	Local	Council	Council	Small local park with play equipment
Parks and Gardens	Swinburne Reserve	Myrtleford	Local	Crown (DSE)	Private	Picnic facilities and rest area
Parks and Gardens	Star Road Reserve	Bright	Local	Crown (DSE)	Council	Small local reserve
Parks and Gardens	Tavare Park	Harrierville	Local	Crown (DSE)	Council	Local park, picnic facilities on the banks of the Ovens River
Parks and Gardens	Tawonga Pioneer Memorial Park	Tawonga	Township	Council	Council	Local park with new playground, 2 asphalt tennis courts, BBQ facilities, public toilets, netball practice half court and Hall
Parks and Gardens	Toner Park	Barwidgee	Local	Council	Council	Small local park

Category	Name / Facility	Town	Hierarchy	Owner	Manager	Key Features
Parks and Gardens	Williams Road Reserve	Wandiligong	Local	Crown (DSE)	Council	Small local reserve
Parks and Gardens	Wilson Court Reserve	Bright	Local	Crown (DSE)	Council	Open space with unsealed streamside walking/cycling track
Playground	Alpine Park Playground	Wandiligong	Local	Crown (DSE)		6 play elements installed up to 2010
Playground	Bicentennial Park Playground	Mount Beauty	Township	Council	Council	Popular playground with a variety of play elements. Located next to the skate park, library and pondage
Playground	CEP Park Playground	Myrtleford	Township	Crown (DSE)	Council	3 play elements installed in 2009
Playground	Cundy Park Playground	Myrtleford	Township	Council	Council	All Abilities Playground, 11 play elements installed between 2010 and 2011
Playground	Dederang Recreation Reserve Playground	Dederang	Local	Crown (DSE)	DSE Committee of Management	Small playground next to multi-use pavilion
Playground	Dinner Plain Adventure Playground	Dinner Plain	Local	Council	Council	3 play elements installed in 1997. Public art elements added in 2011.
Playground	Happy Valley Playground	Rosewhite	Local	Council	Council	Local playground next to Happy Valley Hall
Playground	Howitt Park Adventure Playground	Bright	Township	Council	Council	Large playground with 7 play elements installed between 1995 and 2011
Playground	Jaycees Park Playground	Myrtleford	Local	Council	Council	7 historic machinery elements
Playground	Lions Park Playground	Tawonga South	Local	Council	Council	Local park with small playground
Playground	North Mount Beauty Park Playground	Mount Beauty	Local	Council	Council	Small local park with play equipment
Playground	Pioneer Park Recreation Reserve - Playground	Bright	Local	Council	Council	6 play elements installed between 1996 and 2011
Playground	Riverside Park Playground	Porepunkah	Local	Council	Council	10 play elements installed between 1993 and 2011
Playground	Rotary Park Playground	Myrtleford	Local	Council	Council	7 play elements installed between 2003 and 2011
Playground	Saint Albans Hall Playground	Running Creek	Local	Council	Committee of Management	New playground with various play elements

Category	Name / Facility	Town	Hierarchy	Owner	Manager	Key Features
Playground	Mount Beauty Girl Guide Hall - Playground	Mount Beauty	Local	Council	Council	Small neighbourhood playground
Playground	Swinburne Reserve Playground	Myrtleford	Local	Council	Council	Small neighbourhood playground with 6 play elements installed between 1993 and 2011
Playground	Tavare Park Playground	Harrietville	Local	Council	Council	1 play element installed in 2011
Playground	Pioneer Memorial Park Playground	Tawonga	Local	Crown (DSE)	DSE Committee of Management	5 play elements installed between 1980 and 2011
Recreation Reserve	Alpine Park Reserve	Wandiligong	Township (Category 2)	Crown (DSE)	DSE Committee of Management	Public historic Grandstand, public toilets, oval, picnic facilities and playground
Recreation Reserve	Dederang Recreation Reserve	Dederang	Township (Category 2)	Crown (DSE)	DSE Committee of Management	Golf Course, Tennis Courts, Netball Courts, playground, Pavilion/Clubroom, Bowls Club, Memorial Hall, Oval with turf wicket, Caravan Park and equine facilities
Recreation Reserve	Gapsted Recreation Reserve	Gapsted	Local (Category 3)	Crown (DSE)	DSE Committee of Management	Oval, Toilet Block, Hall, Shed/Clubroom facility
Recreation Reserve	Gundowring Recreation Reserve	Gundowring	Local (Category 3)	Crown (DSE)	DSE Committee of Management	Small Hall, Tennis Courts
Recreation Reserve	Harrietville Oval	Harrietville	Township (Category 2)	Crown (DSE)	DSE Committee of Management	Oval, Clubroom, Public Toilets, Caravan Park
Recreation Reserve	Memorial Park	Myrtleford	Township (Category 2)	Council	Council Committee of Management	Oval, Change rooms, Picnic Facilities
Recreation Reserve	Mount Beauty Oval & Les Peart Oval Recreation Reserve	Mount Beauty	Township & District (Category 1)	Council	Council Committee of Management	2 Ovals (main oval with turf wicket), Multi-purpose Pavilion/Clubroom, Tennis Courts, BMX Track, Skate park, Walking Tracks, BBQ facilities, playground and public toilets
Recreation Reserve	Pioneer Park Recreation Reserve	Bright	Township & District (Category 1)	Crown (DSE)	Council Committee of Management	Oval, Tennis Courts, Netball Court, Equestrian Facilities, BMX Track, Pavilion/Clubrooms and Grandstand, Scout Hall, Playground, Public Toilets, Cycling and off-road trails and walking tracks
Recreation Reserve	Porepunkah Recreation Reserve	Porepunkah	Township (Category 2)	Crown (DSE)	DSE Committee of Management	Oval, Tennis Courts, Hall, Baseball Diamond

Category	Name / Facility	Town	Hierarchy	Owner	Manager	Key Features
Recreation Reserve	RC McNamara Recreation Reserve	Myrtleford	Township & District (Category 1)	Council	Council Committee of Management	Pavilion/Clubroom/ Multi-purpose facility with commercial kitchen, Oval (with turf wicket), Public Toilets, Tennis / Netball Courts & Canine Club
Recreation Reserve	Savoy Sporting Club Reserve	Myrtleford	Township (Category 2)	Council	Soccer Club	2 Soccer Fields / Pavilion, Playground and Bocce Rink
Recreation Reserve	Showgrounds Recreation Reserve	Myrtleford	Township (Category 2)	Crown (DSE)	DSE Committee of Management	Equestrian / Golf Course / Sports Stadium / Show Grd facilities / Motor Sports facilities
School	Bright P-12	Bright	Township	Crown	DEECD	
School	Dederang Primary School	Dederang	Local	Crown	DEECD	
School	Dinner Plain Primary School	Dinner Plain	Local	Crown	DEECD	
School	Harrierville Primary School	Harrierville	Local	Crown	DEECD	
School	Marion College	Myrtleford	Township	Private	Private	
School	Mount Beauty Secondary College	Mount Beauty	Township	Crown	DEECD	
School	Mount Beauty Primary School	Mount Beauty	Local	Crown	DEECD	
School	Myrtleford P-12	Myrtleford	Township	Crown	DEECD	
School	Porepunkah Primary School	Porepunkah	Local	Crown	DEECD	
School	Saint Marys Primary School	Myrtleford	Local	Private	Private	
School	Tawonga Primary School	Tawonga	Local	Crown	DEECD	
School	Wandiligong Primary School	Wandiligong	Local	Crown	DEECD	
Skate Park	Bright Skate Park	Bright	Township	Crown (DSE)	Council	Small facility with concrete and metal elements
Skate Park	Cundy Park Skate Park	Myrtleford	Township	Council	Council	11 concrete and metal elements installed in 2001
Skate Park	Mount Beauty Skate Park	Mount Beauty	Township	Council	Council	Small facility with concrete elements
Sports Stadium	Bright Community Sports Stadium at Bright P-12 School	Bright	Township	Crown (DEECD)	School	Multi-purpose indoor sports stadium, squash courts and kiosk
Sports Stadium	Mount Beauty Sports Stadium	Mount Beauty	Township	Council	Council	Stadium – multi-purpose indoor court
Sports Stadium	Myrtleford Sports Stadium, Showgrounds Recreation Reserve	Myrtleford	Township	Crown (DSE)	Committee of Management	Stadium – 1 court, 3 squash courts, change rooms, meeting room and kiosk
Swimming Facility	Bright Ovens River Pool, Howitt Park	Bright	Local	Crown (DSE)	Council	Supervised river swimming (summer only). Facility including water slide, toddlers pool, BBQ and picnic facilities

Category	Name / Facility	Town	Hierarchy	Owner	Manager	Key Features
Swimming Facility	Bright Sports Centre (Indoor Pool)	Bright	Township	Council	Council	Indoor 17m heated pool, gymnasium and squash courts
Swimming Facility	Bright Toddlers Pool, Howitt Park	Bright	Local	Crown (DSE)	Council	Cold water toddlers pool next to Morse's Creek (supervised summer only)
Swimming Facility	Lake Buffalo	Buffalo Dam	Regional	Crown (DSE)	Goulburn Murray Water	Large dam catering for a range of recreational aquatic activities
Swimming Facility	Mount Beauty Outdoor Swimming Pool	Mount Beauty	Township	Council	Council	33 metre (6 lane) solar heated outdoor pool with program and toddler pool, change room and kiosk.
Swimming Facility	Myrtleford Outdoor Swimming Pool	Myrtleford	Township	Crown (DSE)	Council	25 metre (6 lane) outdoor pool with program and toddler pool, change room and kiosk.
Swimming Facility	Porepunkah Ovens River Pool, Riverside Park	Porepunkah	Local	Crown (DSE)	Council	Supervised River Swimming Facility including toddlers pool, BBQ and picnic facilities
Swimming Facility	Porepunkah Toddlers Pool, Riverside Park	Porepunkah	Local	Crown (DSE)	Council	Supervised swimming facility (summer only)
Swimming Facility	Tronoh Dredge Hole	Harrietville	Local	Crown (DSE)	DSE Committee of Management	Unsupervised River Pool
Tennis Court	Bogong Village Tennis Courts	Bogong	Township	Council	Council	2 synthetic courts with lights, picnic area and clubrooms
Tennis Court	Bright Tennis Courts, Pioneer Park Recreation Reserve	Bright	Township	Crown (DSE)	Council	4 artificial grass courts and clubroom
Tennis Court	Dederang Tennis Court, Dederang Recreation Reserve	Dederang	Local	Crown (DSE)	DSE Committee of Management	2 tennis courts (1synthetic, 1 concrete)
Tennis Court	Dinner Plain Tennis Court	Dinner Plain	Local	Council	Private	2 tennis courts
Tennis Court	Gundowring Tennis Courts at the Gundowring Recreation Reserve	Gundowring	Local	Crown (DSE)	DSE Committee of Management	2 Concrete Tennis Courts
Tennis Court	Mount Beauty Tennis Courts, Mount Beauty Recreation Reserve	Mount Beauty	Township	Council	Council Committee of Management	4 synthetic tennis courts and clubroom building
Tennis Court	Myrtleford Lawn Tennis Facility	Myrtleford	Township	Crown (DSE)	Tennis Club	9 lawn tennis courts and club house

Category	Name / Facility	Town	Hierarchy	Owner	Manager	Key Features
Tennis Court	Myrtleford Tennis Courts, RC McNamara Reserve	Myrtleford	Local	Council	Council Committee of Management	6 multi-use asphalt tennis/netball courts
Tennis Court	Porepunkah Tennis Courts, Martley Street Reserve	Porepunkah	Local	Crown (DSE)	DSE Committee of Management	3 courts: 2 asphalt and 1 grass, Club rooms in the public hall
Tennis Court	Tawonga Tennis Courts at the Tawonga Pioneer Memorial Park	Tawonga	Local	Crown (DSE)	DSE Committee of Management	2 asphalt tennis courts and clubroom
Water	Buckland River	Porepunkah	Township	Crown (DSE)	Catchment Management Authority	River supporting fishing, canoeing, rafting and unsupervised swimming
Water	Buffalo River	Myrtleford				River supporting fishing, river tracks and trails
Water	Kiewa River	Mount Beauty	Township	Crown (DSE)	Catchment Management Authority	River supporting fishing, canoeing, swimming, river tracks and trails
Water	Lake Buffalo	Buffalo Dam	Township	Crown (DSE)	Goulburn Murray Water	Lake supporting water sports, fishing swimming and boating
Water	Lake Guy	Bogong				Lake supporting water sports, fishing, swimming, etc
Water	Mount Beauty Pondage	Mount Beauty	Township	AGL	AGL	Large storage Lake supporting water sports, fishing, unsupervised swimming and recreational activity
Water	Ovens River	Myrtleford	Township	Crown (DSE)	Catchment Management Authority	River supporting fishing, canoeing, rafting and unsupervised swimming

Background Paper 3
Consultation Results



ALPINE SHIRE

RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN



Prepared by Sykes Consulting

Background Paper 1: Community Consultation Results

A detailed community engagement process was undertaken during the preparation of the draft report to gain an understanding of community recreation needs and the issues that affect provision and participation through Alpine Shire's many communities. The following consultation methods were used during June and July 2012 to gather data and community and stakeholder input:

- Promotion using various forms of media
- Information and survey on Council's website
- Community Survey
- Organisation Survey
- School questionnaire
- Stakeholder Interviews
- Community Forums
- Focussed Discussions
- Submissions
- Discussions with groups and individuals in Alpine's communities

1a Community Survey

The Alpine Shire Community Survey was distributed to 2000 (random) households across the municipality in June 2012. Recipient households were asked to complete the survey and return it to Council in an enclosed 'reply paid' envelope. A copy of this survey is included in this document at the conclusion of the consultation summary. In the following summary of results, these surveys are referred to as 'random' surveys.

The survey was also completed by students and residents through the availability of additional hard copy surveys – these surveys were counted separately and are referred to in the following summary of results as 'non-random' surveys.

A total of **488 completed surveys** were received including:

- 399 random surveys
- 89 non-random surveys

For ease of analysis, the survey respondents were broken up into the three key areas of Alpine Shire:

Region	Township / Locality
Lower Ovens Valley	Abbeyard, Barwidgee, Buffalo River, Gapsted, Happy Valley, Merriang, Merriang South, Mudgegonga, Myrtleford , Nug Nug, Ovens, Rosewhite.
Upper Ovens Valley	Bright , Buckland, Eurobin, Freeburgh, Germantown, Harrietville, Havilah, Porepunkah, Smoko, Wandiligong.
Kiewa Valley	Bogong, Clover Flat, Coral Bank, Dederang, Glen Creek, Gundowring, Kancoona, Kancoona South, Kergunyah, Mongan's Bridge, Mount Beauty , Running Creek, Tawonga, Tawonga South, Gundowring, Gundowring Upper.

It is noted that while a fourth region was defined as 'Alpine' covering Dinner Plain, Hotham Heights and Falls Creek, with a small population included in the survey distribution, no responses were received from these communities in either the random or non-random groups.

Profile of Survey Respondents

Survey respondents were asked a number of questions about themselves to establish their age, gender and where they live and these figures are compared to the actual shire demographics. These results are summarised in the table below.

Table 1 – Where respondents live, their gender and how old they are.

Township	Region			Gender (#)		Total (#)	Age (#)				% of Survey Responses	Alpine Shire: % of Shire Population
	Lower Ovens Valley	Upper Ovens Valley	Kiewa Valley	Male	Female		Up to 39 years	40-54 years	55-64 years	65 years+		
Barwidgee	✓				1	1			1		<1	0.8
Buffalo River	✓			5	6	11	2	4	2	3	2	1.9
Gapsted	✓			2	2	4		3	1		1	1.3
Merriang	✓			1	1	2			2		<1	1.0
Merriang South	✓				1	1		1			<1	0.4
Mudgegonga	✓			1	3	4	1		2	1	1	1.4
Myrtleford	✓			28	77	105	18	37	23	27	22	24
Nug Nug	✓				1	1			1		<1	0.2
Ovens	✓			1	3	4	1	3			1	1.4
Rosewhite	✓			2	2	4	1	1	2		1	1.0
Bright		✓		26	51	77	9	18	19	31	16	19.9
Buckland		✓		1		1		1			<1	1.3
Eurobin		✓			2	2	1	1			<1	1.4
Freeburgh		✓		2	3	5			1	4	1	1.3
Germantown		✓		2	3	5	1	1	2	1	1	0.2
Harrietville		✓		2	6	8	1	3	3	1	2	3.2
Havilah		✓		1		1			1		<1	0.2
Porepunkah		✓		11	10	22	3	9	6	4	5	6.8
Smoko		✓		1		1			1		<1	0.5
Wandiligong		✓		10	9	19		4	8	7	4	4
Coral Valley (Bank)			✓	3	1	4	2	2			1	0.6
Dederang			✓		2	2	1	1			2	1.3
Glen Creek			✓	1		1		1			<1	0.3
Kancoona			✓	1	6	7	3	2	1	1	2	0.7
Kergunyah			✓		1	1		1			<1	0.4
Mongans Bridge			✓	1		1	1				<1	0.3
Mount Beauty			✓	43	33	76	38	18	7	13	16	9.1
Running Creek			✓	3	2	5	3			2	1	0.3
Tawonga			✓	19	17	36	12	8	6	10	7	4.4
Tawonga South			✓	28	28	56	19	8	16	13	11	8.1
Gundowring			✓		1	1				1	<1	0.2
Upper Gundowring			✓		1	1	1				<1	0.8
TOTAL				205	281	488	121	134	111	122		

(Note: No surveys were received from Abbeyard, Bogong, Clover Flat, Happy Valley, Dinner Plain and Hotham Heights)

From this point, the three regions will be used to outline the survey results. A summary of the number of respondents and their ages across the three regions as it compares to the actual population of Alpine Shire is indicated below:

Table 2 – Age breakdown of survey respondents in regions and compared to the actual population

Age Cohort	Region			Total	Actual Proportion of Shire Population
	Lower Ovens Valley	Upper Ovens Valley	Kiewa Valley		
Under 15	2	0	0	2 (<1%)	18.1%
15-19 years	2	0	66	70 (14%)	6.3%
20-24 years	1	0	0	1 (<1%)	3.3%
25-29 years	3	2	2	8 (2%)	8.7%
30-34 years	6	6	4	16 (3%)	
35-39 years	9	7	8	24 (5%)	13.5%
40-44 years	12	9	6	28 (6%)	
45-49 years	22	12	12	49 (10%)	16.4%
50-54 years	15	16	23	57 (12%)	
55-59 years	16	21	11	51 (10%)	14.5%
60-64 years	18	20	19	60 (12%)	
65 years+	31	48	40	122 (25%)	19.2%
TOTAL:	137 (28%)	141 (29%)	191 (39%)	488	100%

The survey analysis has grouped a number of the age categories for ease of presenting and reading the data. A comparison of these age groups compared to the Shire’s age profile is summarised below:

Table 3 – Age breakdown of survey respondents in age groupings compared to the actual population

Age Cohort	Survey	Shire
<39	25%	39%
40-54	28%	22.7%
55-64	22%	16.5%
65+	25%	21.8%

The above tables indicate that while the 15-19 year age groups might appear to be over-represented (accounted for primarily due to the non-random responses from Mount Beauty Secondary College) , the survey sample for the under 39 year age group is quite a bit lower than the total Shire population for the same age group. The survey sample for the remaining age groups is slightly higher than the actual population percentages with the 65 years and older showing the closest results to the actual population. While it would be preferable to have an exact match between the survey and actual age profiles, this outcome is considered to be a reasonable representation of the shire’s population for the purpose of analysing trends and community responses.

Similarly when the random and non-random surveys were compared, no obvious bias existed across the survey responses (and any queries regarding specific survey results are highlighted in the comments for each survey question), so it was concluded that the surveys should be analysed in a single group rather than splitting the results.

The number of responses for each region is also generally a good representation of the geographic split of the townships that comprise Alpine Shire. It is noted that the Kiewa Valley region is slightly over-represented when compared to the other two regions, given that its actual population is slightly less. However, for the purpose of this survey analysis, the representation is acceptable.

Participation in Recreation Activities

Survey respondents were asked to list the recreation activities that they undertook most frequently over the past year. The results are indicated in the table below.

Table 4 – Top 20 Activities Undertaken Most frequently in the Last 12 Months

Activity	Total (#)	Total (%)	Gender		Region			Age			
			Male	Female	Lower Ovens Valley	Upper Ovens Valley	Kiewa Valley	<39	40-54	55-64	65+
1 Walking	309	63%	60%	66%	60%	74%	57%	38%	75%	75%	65%
2 Cycling	170	35%	38%	33%	31%	42%	34%	29%	37%	44%	30%
3 Snow Sports	77	16%	18%	15%	5%	14%	25%	23%	17%	15%	7%
4 Swimming	74	15%	9%	20%	11%	14%	19%	17%	22%	10%	11%
5 Gym/Fitness	53	11%	7%	14%	10%	13%	10%	13%	10%	6%	13%
6 Running/Jogging	46	9%	10%	9%	4%	5%	16%	28%	7%	2%	1%
7 Bushwalking	34	7%	7%	7%	7%	7%	7%	7%	7%	11%	3%
8 Tennis	33	7%	5%	8%	5%	4%	10%	7%	4%	7%	9%
9 Football (Aust Rules)	29	6%	10%	2%	7%	3%	7%	16%	7%		1%
10 Golf	29	6%	10%	3%	4%	3%	8%	3%	6%	5%	10%
11 Mountain Biking	25	5%	8%	3%	1%	7%	7%	9%	10%	1%	
12 Netball	23	5%	<1%	8%	9%	2%	4%	13%	5%		
13 Basketball	22	5%	6%	3%	5%		8%	15%	3%		
14 Fishing	19	4%	5%	3%	6%	3%	3%	4%	7%	3%	2%
15 Football (Soccer)	17	3%	6%	2%	3%		6%	8%	4%	1%	
16 Horse Riding	16	3%	2%	4%	2%	4%	4%	5%	3%	5%	1%
17 Yoga	16	3%		6%	4%	4%	3%	3%	4%	6%	
18 Canoeing/Kayaking	16	3%	1%	5%	4%	3%	3%	2%	3%	5%	3%
19 Ballet/Dance	12	2%		4%	2%	1%	3%	6%	1%	2%	2%
20 Cricket	9	2%	4%			1%	4%	6%	1%		

Table 4 above provides the top ten activities undertaken by all survey respondents cross referenced against gender, region and age. An analysis of the results indicates the following:

- The most common activity is walking with 63% of respondents participating in this activity over the past 12 months. Females (66%) were more likely to participate in this activity than males (60%). Walking also appears to be more popular in the Upper Ovens Valley (74%) than the other two regions.
- Walking was the most popular activity for all age groups and particularly for those in the 40-64 years age range.
- Cycling was the second most popular activity with 35% of survey respondents participating in this activity over the past 12 months. The male participation rate (38%) was higher than the female participation rate (33%).
- Cycling was once again popular among all age groups and particularly for those in the 40-64 years age range.
- Snow sports were the third highest rated activity for survey respondents with 16% participating in this activity. Snow sports are also more popular among males (18%) than females (15%).
- Snow sports are more popular for the younger age groups with participation falling significantly over 65 years.
- The fourth most popular activity undertaken in the last 12 months is swimming with 15% of the respondents listing this activity. Swimming is more popular for females (20%) than males (9%).
- Swimming is popular across all age groups and particularly in the 40-54 years age group.

Table 5 – Top 10 Activities by Gender

Most popular Activities undertaken by Males		Participation Rate	Most popular Activities undertaken by Females		Participation Rate
1	Walking	60%	1	Walking	66%
2	Cycling	38%	2	Cycling	33%
3	Snow Sports	18%	3	Swimming	20%
4	Running/Jogging	10%	4	Snow Sports	15%
5	Football (Aust Rules)	10%	5	Gym/Fitness	14%
6	Golf	10%	6	Running/Jogging	9%
7	Swimming	9%	7	Tennis	8%
8	Mountain Biking	8%	8	Netball	8%
9	Gym/Fitness	7%	9	Bushwalking	7%
10	Bushwalking	7%	10	Yoga	6%

It is interesting to compare the top ten activities for each gender because of the different patterns of participation. Table 5 above indicates the following:

- The most popular activities differ in priority and participation between males and females; however they share the top seven most popular activities.
- Activities undertaken by males in the above list that do not appear on the females' list are: football (Australian Rules), golf and mountain bike riding.
- Activities undertaken by females in the above list that do not appear on the males' list are: tennis, netball and yoga.

Respondents were also asked to indicate how often they participate in their chosen activities. The table below summarises these responses.

Table 6 – Frequency of Participation in the Top 10 Activities

Activity	Frequency				
	At least three times / week	At least once / week	At least once / fortnight	At least once / month	Less than once / month
1 Walking	64%	22%	7%	2%	3%
2 Cycling	25%	35%	12%	9%	15%
3 Snow Sports	16%	31%	19%	12%	17%
4 Swimming	24%	30%	14%	11%	18%
5 Gym/Fitness	30%	58%	4%	2%	2%
6 Running/Jogging	41%	33%	7%	13%	4%
7 Bushwalking	6%	21%	15%	26%	32%
8 Tennis	12%	61%	9%	6%	12%
9 Football (Aust Rules)	41%	55%	-	-	-
10 Golf	7%	45%	17%	7%	24%

An analysis of table 6 above indicates the following:

- Walking is the most frequently participated in activity with 64% of respondents undertaking this activity at least three times per week. This was followed by Running/Jogging (41%), those who participate in Australian Rules football (41%) and Gym/Fitness (30%) as popular frequent activities.
- At the other end of the scale, Bushwalking was the most popular activity for undertaking less than once per month (32%), followed by golf (24%), swimming (18%) and snow sports (17%).

The final part of this question was asking respondents to indicate where they undertake their most frequent activities. The responses are summarised below.

Table 7 – Location of Participation in the Top 10 Activities

Activity		Location				
		Park, trail or sports field	Indoor stadium centre	Aquatic facility	Private Facility	Other
1	Walking	73%	1%	-	6%	23%
2	Cycling	72%	-	-	2%	29%
3	Snow Sports	36%	-	1%	5%	49%
4	Swimming	1%	8%	65%	16%	19%
5	Gym/Fitness	-	40%	2%	40%	9%
6	Running/Jogging	74%	4%	-	7%	17%
7	Bushwalking	59%	-	-	3%	41%
8	Tennis	79%	-	-	-	21%
9	Football (Aust Rules)	72%	7%	-	-	7%
10	Golf	17%	3%	-	45%	24%

An analysis of table 7 above indicates:

- The majority of activities are undertaken in parks, trails or sports fields with the exception of swimming, undertaken in aquatic facilities, snow sports (undertaken at 'other' facilities) and gym/fitness and golf, undertaken at private facilities.

Barriers to Participation

Respondents were asked to list recreation activities they would like to do, but cannot. Alongside this question they were provided a list of options as to what prevented them from participating. The results to this question are outlined in tables BP2.8 and BP2.9 below.

Table 8 – Top 10 Activities That Respondents Would Like To Do, But Cannot

Activity Like to do but cannot		Response by Gender		Total
		Male	Female	
1	Swimming	7%	18%	13%
2	Ballet / Dance	1%	6%	4%
3	Cycling	3%	4%	3%
4	Yoga	-	6%	3%
5	Gym/Fitness/Aerobics	1%	5%	3%
6	Paintball	5%	2%	3%
7	Go-Karting	3%	2%	3%
8	Snow Sports	4%	2%	3%
9	Archery	3%	1%	2%
10	Tennis	1%	2%	2%

An analysis of Table 8 indicates the following:

- The most mentioned activities that respondents would like to do but can't are swimming (13%), ballet/dance (4%) and cycling, yoga, gym/fitness, paintball, go-karting and snow sports (all 3%).
- Swimming (18%), ballet/dance and yoga (both 6%) are the main activities females would like to do but can't.
- Swimming (7%), paintball (5%) and snow sports (4%) are the main activities that males would like to do but can't.
- For Paintball and Go Karting, most of the responses came from the Kiewa Valley (non-random sample) in the age group under 39 years, suggesting that the secondary school students at Mount Beauty Secondary School were the primary respondents for these answers.

Table 9 – Barriers to Activities

Activity 'Like to do but cannot' Activity and (#)		Barrier to Participation								
		Lack of knowledge	Lack of time	Cannot afford it	Lack of safety	Cannot get to the activity	No facilities / nowhere to do it	Health issues / injury / disability	Lack of motivation	Other
1	Swimming (64)	-	8%	5%	2%	3%	77%	3%	5%	20%
2	Ballet / Dance (19)	21%	16%	11%	-	11%	37%	5%	11%	5%
3	Cycling (17)	-	18%	-	6%	18%	18%	24%	24%	-
4	Yoga (17)	-	35%	12%	-	-	24%	6%	6%	24%
5	Gym/Fitness/Aerobics (16)	6%	38%	25%	-	19%	31%	13%	6%	13%
6	Paintball (15)	7%	-	20%	-	53%	67%	-	-	-
7	Go-Karting (13)	-	8%	8%	-	23%	85%	-	-	-
8	Snow Sports (13)	-	15%	62%	-	-	8%	31%	-	-
9	Archery (10)	-	10%	10%	-	20%	80%	-	-	10%
10	Tennis (9)	-	22%	-	-	-	11%	33%	11%	22%

Table 9 indicates the results of why people could not / would not participate in activities they wanted to. An analysis of the results suggests:

- People provided different reasons as barriers to participation for different activities.
- 'Lack of facilities / nowhere to do it' was the more frequently nominated barrier, most mentioned for swimming (77%), ballet/dance (37%), paintball (67%), go karting (85%) and archery (80%). It is noted that these percentages relate to a small number of respondents for each activity.
- For cycling, health issues and lack of motivation were quoted as the most frequent barriers.
- For yoga and gym/fitness/aerobics, lack of time (35% and 38%) were noted as barriers while for snow sports, affordability (62%) is a significant barrier.
- Health issues were quoted as the most common barrier for respondents not playing tennis.

Use of Open Space

Survey respondents were asked whether they use open space areas such as parks, sports reserves, playgrounds and walking / cycling paths in Alpine Shire. The responses are shown below.

Table 10 – Use of Open Space Areas

Use of Open Space	Response by Gender		Total
	Male	Female	
Yes	86%	90%	89%
No	11%	9%	10%
No answer	3%	1%	1%

An analysis of Table 10 indicates the following:

- The majority of respondents (89%) use open space areas in Alpine Shire.
- The results for gender are similar with slightly more females (90%) using open spaces than males (86%).

When asked what activities they undertook and in what type of open space, respondents gave the following answers:

Table 11 – Activities Undertaken at Different Parks

Activities	Type of Park			
	Large Park That I Might Drive To	Parks Along Linear Paths Creeks/Trails	Local Park That I Can Walk To	Do Not Do That Activity
Walking	7%	58%	19%	2%
Taking children to play	15%	5%	17%	26%
Using a playground	16%	4%	18%	23%
Picnicking / BBQs	29%	11%	17%	9%
Riding a bike	4%	54%	8%	9%
Ball games / Casual sport	17%	3%	13%	25%
Organised sport	22%	3%	6%	28%
Meeting family or friends	26%	15%	18%	7%
Exercise	7%	29%	18%	9%
Conservation activities i.e. tree plantings, bird watching etc.	5%	13%	4%	33%
Relaxing, escape, rejuvenation	11%	26%	16%	11%
Other	4%	2%	2%	9%

An analysis of Table 11 indicates the following:

- Picnicking and BBQs (29%), meeting family or friends (26%) and organised sports (22%) are the most popular activities that respondents might drive to a large park for.
- Walking (58%), riding and bike (54%), exercise (29%) and relaxing / escape (26%) are the most popular activities that respondents might use parks along linear trails for.

- A number of activities are popular in local parks that people can walk to, including walking, using playgrounds and taking children to play, meeting family or friends, exercise, picnicking and BBQs and relaxing/escaping.
- Overall, the most popular activity undertaken in open space areas is walking (58%) followed by riding a bike(54%), picnicking / BBQs and exercise (both 29%).

Motivation

Survey respondents were asked to consider what motivates them to participate in sport and recreation activities and nominate the three that best describe their preferences.

Table 12 – Reasons for Participating in Sport and Recreation Activities

Reason		Gender		Total	Age			
		Male	Female		<39	40-54	55-64	65+
1	To improve my physical fitness	67%	60%	63%	69%	58%	60%	65%
2	To improve my overall health	62%	62%	62%	35%	67%	73%	75%
3	To be part of my community	14%	17%	16%	16%	19%	10%	17%
4	To relieve stress and improve wellbeing	28%	33%	31%	30%	40%	34%	16%
5	Escapism (feeling of escape)	7%	8%	7%	8%	10%	9%	2%
6	To socialise with my friends and family	31%	34%	33%	49%	26%	28%	28%
7	To make new friends	8%	10%	9%	13%	8%	4%	11%
8	To enjoy the outdoor environment	39%	44%	42%	31%	47%	48%	42%
9	To lose weight	18%	21%	20%	17%	24%	18%	20%
10	Enjoyment	35%	33%	34%	47%	34%	23%	32%
11	To engage in competition	9%	7%	8%	17%	5%	4%	6%
12	To improve coordination	2%	4%	3%	2%	4%	2%	5%
13	Other	3%	6%	4%	6%	7%	3%	2%

An analysis of Table 12 indicates the following:

- The most popular reason that motivates respondents to participate in sport and recreation is improving physical fitness (63%), followed closely by improving health (62%), then enjoying the outdoor environment (42%) was followed by enjoyment (34%), socialising with family and friends (33%) and relieving stress and improving wellbeing (31%).
- Male respondents value physical fitness more (67%) while females selected improving health (62%) slightly more than physical fitness (60%).
- For the under 39 year old age group, improving physical fitness was significantly more popular (69%), whereas all other age groups nominated improving health over physical fitness.
- Improving coordination (3%), escapism (7%), engaging in competition (8%) and making new friends were the least popular motivations for participation.

Respondents were asked to select the reasons that they choose the open space areas and facilities they use. The responses are summarised below.

Table 13 – Reasons for Choosing Open Space Areas and Recreation Facilities

Reason		Gender		Total	Age			
		Male	Female		<39	40-54	55-64	65+
1	Close to home, easy to get to	63%	59%	61%	57%	61%	61%	63%
2	A wide range of facilities and amenities	15%	15%	15%	18%	17%	14%	9%
3	Clean, well maintained park / facilities	31%	33%	32%	32%	34%	29%	35%
4	Easy to access (i.e. car parking, path networks)	35%	43%	40%	26%	43%	45%	46%
5	Good quality facilities	16%	18%	17%	21%	20%	13%	13%
6	Landscaping, layout, vegetation etc.	18%	18%	18%	11%	22%	24%	14%
7	I feel safe	15%	28%	22%	16%	23%	25%	27%
8	I have no other choice	9%	13%	11%	20%	10%	6%	8%
9	Close to shops or other activities	6%	8%	7%	16%	2%	6%	6%
10	It is a thoroughfare to get to a destination	5%	5%	5%	5%	4%	8%	4%
11	It's where my team / club plays	19%	20%	20%	38%	20%	8%	12%
12	Other	6%	4%	4%	3%	5%	5%	5%

An analysis of Table 13 indicates the following:

- The most popular reason for using open space and recreation facilities is that they are close to home and easy to get to (61%) – this was the most common response for males and females and across all age groups.
- Easy to access (40%), clean and well maintained (32%), feeling safe (22%) and being where club/team is located (20%) followed as the most popular reasons.

Respondents were asked to nominate their modes of transport for accessing spaces and facilities.

Table 14 – Modes of Transport

Mode of Transport		Gender		Total	Age			
		Male	Female		<39	40-54	55-64	65+
1	Walk	64%	67%	66%	62%	65%	66%	70%
2	Ride Bike	49%	33%	40%	45%	43%	38%	31%
3	Drive	66%	78%	73%	77%	80%	66%	68%
4	Other	6%	2%	4%	10%	1%	4%	-

An analysis of table 14 indicates:

- Driving is the most popular mode of transport (73%) and is more popular for females (78%) than males (66%).
- Walking is the next most popular (66%) and it is the most popular for the 65+ age group.

Respondents were asked what would encourage them to visit recreation and open space facilities more often.

Table 15 – Factors Encouraging People to Use Recreation / Open Space Facilities More

Reason		Gender		Total	Age			
		Male	Female		<39	40-54	55-64	65+
1	More facilities	23%	26%	25%	41%	27%	17%	13%
2	More events / programs	16%	28%	23%	45%	21%	14%	9%
3	Better quality landscaped areas	14%	11%	12%	8%	12%	15%	14%
4	Better quality facilities	18%	21%	20%	27%	28%	11%	11%
5	Dog friendly areas	12%	24%	19%	19%	18%	20%	18%
6	More time	25%	26%	26%	28%	30%	27%	17%
7	Improved walking / cycling paths	41%	37%	38%	24%	40%	43%	48%
8	Improved maintenance of parks and facilities	14%	15%	14%	16%	12%	14%	16%
9	Better access	5%	3%	4%	3%	5%	4%	3%
10	Cleaner open spaces and facilities	6%	7%	6%	8%	7%	4%	6%
11	More child friendly areas / spaces	3%	9%	6%	8%	4%	5%	8%
12	More / better access to child minding services	1%	1%	1%	3%	1%	-	-
13	Higher level of safety	4%	5%	4%	2%	5%	6%	5%
14	More shade	10%	11%	11%	14%	10%	13%	7%
15	No changes that need to be made	11%	5%	7%	3%	5%	10%	12%
16	Other	5%	11%	9%	6%	10%	11%	9%

Table 15 indicates the factors that would encourage people to use recreation / open space facilities more often. An analysis of this table indicates the following:

- Improved walking / cycling paths (38%), more time (26%), more facilities (25%) and more events / programs (23%) are the main factors that would encourage respondents to use recreation and open space facilities more often. These results were similar for males and females.
- Facilities and events / programs were the main factors for respondents aged under 39.
- For older people 65 years+, paths, dog friendly areas, more time and improved maintenance were among the key factors that would encourage them to use facilities more.

Respondents were asked to consider and respond to a number of statements to reflect their level of agreement with the statements. A summary of the responses is shown on the next page.

Table 16 – Response to specific statements and issues regarding recreation and open space

	Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not sure
1	Maintaining and upgrading existing facilities should be a priority over building new ones.	24%	49%	9%	2%	8%
2	Better use should be made of school facilities for community sport and recreation.	15%	45%	16%	1%	13%
3	Playgrounds in the Alpine Shire cater for a wide range of age groups.	10%	54%	14%	2%	11%
4	New sports should be encouraged in the municipality.	22%	45%	8%	-	17%
5	More information is needed about sport and recreation groups and opportunities in the municipality.	17%	45%	12%	1%	14%
6	On the whole open space and recreation facilities are well maintained.	10%	69%	10%	1%	3%
7	Encouraging young people into volunteer roles in the community should be a high priority.	26%	50%	8%	1%	9%
8	Underused open space / facilities should be rationalised and the money put into other open space and recreation priorities.	10%	38%	21%	4%	20%
9	Given the resources that it has, Council does a good job in supporting sport and recreation in the municipality.	6%	52%	14%	3%	18%
10	Responsible use of water for sport and recreation facilities should be a high priority.	22%	57%	6%	1%	7%
11	Priority should be given to developing recreation opportunities other than sport. e.g. theatre, music, walking, bike riding.	28%	46%	9%	2%	7%
12	Expanding fitness opportunities such as gymnasiums and exercise classes should be a priority.	19%	42%	19%	3%	10%
13	Volunteers in the community are well supported.	4%	38%	16%	2%	32%
14	I am generally very happy with the range and condition of open space and recreation facilities in the Alpine Shire.	8%	64%	13%	2%	8%
15	Council should promote the benefits of 'physical activity' to encourage people into healthy life-long activities.	25%	54%	7%	2%	5%
16	Council provides sufficient recreation opportunities for teenagers.	6%	25%	25%	8%	28%
17	It is Council's role to provide good quality recreation facilities for all residents.	29%	58%	2%	<1%	4%
18	Groups and clubs that use Council facilities should share those facilities more than they do now.	13%	40%	10%	2%	28%
19	It is better to have fewer but higher quality and larger facilities in the municipality.	12%	31%	26%	3%	21%
20	Council and the community need to change the ways open space is maintained in response to the drought and changing climate patterns.	12%	44%	13%	3%	20%
21	It is not only Council's role to provide for the recreation needs of the community, but also other agencies and groups and the private sector.	10%	47%	16%	4%	15%
22	Council should improve the accessibility to and within open space.	9%	49%	16%	1%	18%
23	I generally feel safe when using open space areas.	28%	62%	1%	1%	3%
24	Overall, I am satisfied with sport and recreation opportunities in my community.	10%	62%	12%	3%	8%

An analysis of Table 16 indicates the following:

- Survey respondents generally feel safe when using open space areas (90%), believe it is Council's role to provide good quality recreation facilities for all residents (87%), believe Council should promote the benefits of physical activity to encourage healthy activities (79%), agree that responsible use of water for facilities should be a priority (79%) and believe that on the whole open space and recreation facilities are well maintained (79%).
- Overall, survey respondents agree that priority should be given to encouraging young people to be volunteers (76%), developing recreation opportunities rather than sport (74%) and maintaining and upgrading existing facilities before building new ones (73%).
- 72% of respondents are generally satisfied with the range and quality of open space, recreation and sport across Alpine Shire and more specifically in their local community.

Table 17 – Preferred Means of Receiving Information

Reason		Gender		Total	Age			
		Male	Female		<39	40-54	55-64	65+
1	Local paper	73%	82%	78%	76%	74%	84%	80%
2	At facilities (library, Council offices)	14%	25%	20%	8%	13%	26%	34%
3	Council website or the internet	29%	20%	24%	26%	28%	28%	14%
4	By e-mail	19%	19%	19%	24%	23%	14%	15%
5	Telephoning Council	1%	1%	1%	-	1%	4%	2%
6	At local recreation / community facility	14%	12%	13%	16%	12%	14%	10%
7	Local radio or TV	31%	25%	27%	39%	19%	23%	29%
8	Through my child's school	9%	16%	13%	25%	19%	5%	2%
9	Recommended by a friend	7%	9%	8%	14%	5%	7%	6%
10	Community Information Meetings	6%	6%	6%	2%	5%	8%	9%
11	Council newsletters	44%	44%	44%	31%	51%	46%	49%
12	Telephone book	5%	4%	5%	3%	2%	5%	8%
13	Other	10%	7%	9%	12%	10%	7%	6%

Survey respondents were asked to identify their preferred ways of receiving information about recreation and open space opportunities that are available within the community. An analysis of the top ten responses is provided below:

- The local paper is the most popular way for people to receive information about recreation and open space (78%) followed by Council newsletters (44%), local radio / TV (27%) and Council website / internet (24%).
- All age groups were more likely to use the local paper and young people were more likely to also use computers whereas older people would prefer newsletters, library/offices and local radio/TV.

Additional comments about recreation and / or open space in the Alpine Shire

Positive Comments

- It is very important – keep up the good work.
- We love our new open space area in Myrtleford, thank you.
- In general, Council does a great job with these facilities.
- My family and friends are enjoying the improvement and addition of walking/running/riding trails in our local area. (Tawonga South)
- Overall, I believe the open space areas in the Alpine Shire are great, however there does appear to be greater emphasis on some areas above others i.e. Bright over Mount Beauty.
- Everything is good at all recreation areas and open space areas.
- I applaud Alpine Shire on the development of the walking path in Myrtleford, however they need to be clearly marked/signposted better to encourage tourists to stay and enjoy the environment.
- We are part time residents, however facilities around Bright are fantastic – particularly the rail trail and other walks. Thank you.
- I am generally happy with Council's efforts to provide good sporting and activity facilities.
- I really enjoy the rail trail and other walks. Great to see these being expanded.
- Mount Beauty is well set up for many activities – just need to encourage greater participation.
- Alpine Shire has very good facilities for cycling.
- Coming from inner city, it is breathtaking to be in Mount Beauty. Changes over the years have been wonderful and I can see the efforts Council and others have put in.
- I am really impressed with the recent opening of the Myrtleford River Walk – it is so popular already. There are so many hidden gems and places of unrealised potential that could be explored. The Shire is heading in the right direction by realising the importance of leisure, health and community connectedness through these open spaces. Lifestyle is what keeps people in communities and what makes non-locals visit.
- Overall, the Shire does a great job.
- Can't wait for the pool in Bright to be finished to resume my swimming! (x2)
- I enjoy the parks to sit in and read.
- In general, Alpine Shire Council is doing a wonderful job.
- Congratulations to the outdoor staff (Parks & Gardens) for their great work year round.
- Facilities in the area are good, especially the walking/cycling tracks.
- Pools and open space are managed well overall.
- I think Alpine is well catered for.
- Open spaces in the Alpine Shire are excellent.
- Good idea to utilise community views to gauge what needs are required.
- I think we have good parks and access to them. Sporting facilities appear to be ample and I can't think of a disadvantaged group in our Shire. There always seems to be some sporting event on here and I think we are privileged to have so much interest and help in putting these events on.
- The new river walk in Mount Beauty is lovely.
- Cycling brings a lot of visitors to the area and is also enjoyed by many residents. The Rail Trail has put the Alpine Shire on the map as a cycle-tourist destination as well as making a safe bike path for local users.
- I particularly support development of walking/cycling trails.
- Keep Mount Beautiful with its open spaces and recreation facilities.
- I have made this area my home (Tawonga) because of the facilities and parklands that are available for an active and healthy and social life.

- The bike/walking tracks are sensational. It is very important that people in the community and visitors have safe places to ride and that are car free!

General Comments

- Maybe Council could work together more with the user groups involved with the different facilities.
- It would be great to have the Myrtleford Court House removed and open up further space.
- Perhaps have a monthly theme to trial new recreational activities.
- Please ensure areas are well provided for and reasonably maintained.
- Scrap car entry fee to Hotham and Falls Creek so cross-country/back-country skiers can ski for free and not pay for facilities we don't use.
- Build refuge toilets at Cresta car park for cross country skiers.
- More seats in the Piazza and maybe a shade sail for summer.
- Recreation opportunities should be promoted.
- Remove fence from arboretum in Bright.
- Not enough for teenagers to do in town, e.g. activities during holidays.
- Provide somewhere for trail bike riders e.g. go-kart track.
- Control shooters and motorbike riders from destroying the bush and native animals.
- Stop planting annuals and exotics.
- River facilities from Mount Beauty to Tawonga including shade, barbecues, seating and planting.
- Would like a gym and sauna facility in Albury to promote fitness, wellbeing and relieve stress. Isolated residents would have an opportunity to meet and talk and make friends.
- Accommodate horse riding throughout the mountains.
- Don't allow monopoly by clubs/committees for community funded facilities.
- Encouragement to get active should begin at home.
- Be mindful of tough times when organising rate increases.
- Pity the large pine trees were removed adjacent to the arboretum.
- The community need to consolidate and improve already existing buildings.
- Due to the shrinking habitat for our native birds, to see native flora replaced by about 60 American Dogwoods in Mount Beauty is a sad thing. Why we must have a tree which is the state emblem of Virginia, USA, is a mystery. These are useless to our birdlife. Growing flowering eucalypts are a necessity to many native birds. Flowering apple trees is another mistake.
- As an older resident of the Alpine Shire, my only request is that whatever improvements or alterations may be made in the future to present parks and recreation reserves, that they do not become commercialised and that they retain the beautiful shady trees and grassy areas that have attracted thousands of people to them over the past decades. "If it ain't broke, don't fix it".
- Many pine plantation roads have been closed and that is a real shame. Keep some roads open for four wheel driving and keep planting trees like Back Porepunkah Road – that's great!
- Community listings in the Shire Community Directory is a good source of information for clubs, etc. I hope it can continue.
- More use of the Mount Beauty Community Centre for the people of our community e.g. Deb Ball.
- Recreation and pools should be viewed and planned for as a social health benefit to all the community and not just viewed as an economic cost benefit.

- Alpine Shire should boost population growth and open up industry. There would then be more opportunities for people to settle in the area, money to allow a greater range of activities - recreation groups – walks of life – input – growth.
- The Wandiligong Historical Society is not supported by the whole community. Some projects are a waste of money i.e. building bridges that continually get washed away, bbq's that have never been used, etc.
- Open space is being re-zoned or sold off for housing regardless that the population is decreasing.
- The survey questions generally related too much to very physical activities.
- Too many decisions are made with tourists in mind – we, the long term locals, are often forgotten. We have been waiting for a loading zone outside the school for years. (Bright)
- Local theatre and music activities would be great! (Tawonga South) (x2)
- Have more picnic areas around Mount Beauty Lake/pondage along the water with tables and covered areas. Maybe add outdoor gymnasium equipment along the lake and an outdoor basketball court.
- Please get a paintball arena!
- A community horse arena for adult/teen riding is needed.
- Extend the Mount Beauty airfield.
- Organise more sporting events and have the space to do them.
- Organise band/concert in one of the open spaces like the H2O Street Party – something for the bored teenagers.
- A gazebo would have been preferred to the chess ground at Myrtleford. Wooden chairs at this area are inappropriate seating, especially for elderly people. A community board in this area would be good, so people could sit and read about local information.
- Would like a Neighbourhood Centre in Myrtleford.

Pioneer Park

- There are currently enough user groups at Pioneer Park. Adding a soccer club would make sharing space with the Pony Club dangerous.
- Pioneer Park is very close to saturation with the number of groups using the facilities. Maybe consider further development at Wandi Park potentially for soccer, hockey and cricket.
- Littering and out of date facilities in disrepair and need some attention.

Tourism

- Caravan facilities should be improved which would encourage tourism in the area and help develop Dederang as a centre.
- To encourage tourism, provide easy parking for tourist coaches and vehicles with caravans.
- Further development/improvement of Lake Buffalo to improve tourism. (x2)
- Provide 'botanical' gardens and lakes with BBQs which will bring people to Bright for a day trip.
- Mount Beauty needs more family friendly walking/cycling tracks, not necessarily on Council land, to cater for tourists who are our lifeblood.
- Stickers on Falls Creek Road signs need to be removed. Some have been there for up to three years advertising companies (who obviously hand out these stickers!).

Sports / Clubs / Facilities

- Put soccer and baseball clubs at Porepunkah oval with access to Porepunkah Hall for use of kitchen and toilet facilities.

- Netball in Bright – the surrounds and surface of the courts are incredibly dangerous. It's amazing no one has been badly injured. (x3)
- The Shire should make good the Bright Football Club rooms as they are unfinished and dirty. (x2)
- Dederang Golf Course and Race Track should be improved.
- Make more funds available to improve Mount Beauty Golf Course – volunteers are great, but it could be made better with professional help and funds.
- More effort in prioritising and providing facilities (i.e. change rooms) for sports other than Australian Rules football and cricket i.e. soccer, hockey (field), baseball/softball and others.
- Myrtleford Football/Netball club facilities need a lot of work (i.e. scoreboard and pavilion).
- Would like a gymnastics facility that is affordable. (x3)
- Need an indoor sports facility. (x7)
- Council needs to employ a local person to monitor maintenance of sports facilities and not leave it up to user groups who are staffed by unpaid volunteers and have limited funds. (x4)
- Would like to see motorcycle sports supported. There are a lot of children and adults with motorbikes who would love a track to ride on.
- The showgrounds are underutilised. An all-weather/all-purpose arena undercover for all sporting clubs to use/train on (i.e. when raining RDA can go ahead with kids) would encourage out of town pony clubs to come and use the facility. Plenty of room at this facility for all to use! (x2)
- We need another indoor basketball stadium so children can train throughout the year and keep up to the level of other teams in bigger rural towns. Basketball is booming and we need to give our kids opportunities. (x2)
- The Bright Sports Centre classes for seniors are fantastic and each class is well attended. Staff are friendly and supportive.
- Need more indoors courts for netball, basketball, volleyball, boxing, etc.
- Need more sporting shooters facilities.
- The majority of young people who use the local facilities are from other Shires (i.e. football, netball, cricket, etc.).
- Tennis/netball court is unsafe and needs resurfacing. (Mount Beauty) (x3)
- Mount Beauty has no soccer presence. The soccer club has no facilities which is a disgrace as all other sports have their facilities. (x3)
- For the amount of youth in the Shire, Myrtleford has some sporting facilities which are inadequate. We have some great sporting groups that fundraise well to keep things going, but I believe the local and state government do nothing to help them improve. (I am on three committees of sporting groups in the area.)
- Please get some boxing going!
- Sporting groups need to work together more.
- Need a better path along the cricket ground. (Mount Beauty)

Residential Areas

- Council needs to enforce residents to clear overhanging trees, branches, etc. for people walking on the footpaths. (x2)
- Need footpaths in Upper Gundowring – dangerous walking and running along roads.
- As our towns expand, we need to keep in mind maintaining the natural beauty.
- Need better street lighting and footpaths in Wandiligong.
- Myrtleford's four main sporting facilities should be condensed into two. Three of the four current facilities need major work.
- Need more dog tidy and general waste bins around Bright.
- Myrtle Street development – too much concrete used to replace green grass.

- Maybe develop the hill behind Elgin Street in Myrtleford with a scenic walk track and seating.
- All paths should be accessible.

Traffic Issues

- Gapsted Lane/River Road too narrow for two cars. Side lane needs to be maintained. Review speed zones.
- Mount Beauty needs more 'all day' parking spaces – maybe at the top of Kiewa Crescent opposite the Community Centre.
- More disabled car parks at the top end of Hollands Street. (x2)
- Please change the speed limit through Tawonga back to 80kph. (x2)
- Re-zone Damms Road to 60kph (from 100kph) given the recreational use by bikes, horses, running, walking, etc.

Ovals

- The Shire should maintain and cut grass of all ovals instead of giving money to committees to maintain the ovals.
- The Les Peart oval is in desperate need of proper facilities and should be prioritised.
- Need more toilets near the Les Peart oval.
- The Les Peart oval needs to be shared and maintained.

Pools

- Would like an indoor pool (year round) in Myrtleford. (x5)
- Myrtleford needs an indoor pool. It is a large town and I spend over \$1000 a year going to Wangaratta for my children's swimming lessons.
- Dederang School should have a swimming pool nearby, similar to Mount Beauty.
- Living in Running Creek, would like a pool closer than Wodonga or Bright.
- Mount Beauty Pool needs to be covered so an all year round facility is in the Kiewa Valley. Upgrade the current facility as well. (x4)
- Need a better built, (year round) enclosed aquatic centre in Bright. (x13)
- Need an all year round facility nearby. (Tawonga) (x2)
- Swimming lessons should be on offer at the current indoor facility in Bright.
- Each town in the municipality should be treated equally – it would be ridiculous to expect the whole Shire to travel to one swimming pool.
- Would like a 25m or 50m heated pool. (x11)
- Would like access to a spa (for elderly people) in Mount Beauty.
- Myrtleford needs a spa for people with health issues.
- Mount Beauty swimming pool could be open for a longer season.
- An idea for Bright swimming pool – Pre-school children can't stand up even in the shallow end of the pool. Use plumbing pipe to create a platform that can be submerged. (Apparently a pool in Barnawatha/Baranduda has made something like this so little kids can stand up in the pool.)
- Bright missed the opportunity a couple of years ago when surveying the use of a proper indoor heated swimming pool rather than providing a small expansion to the current pool at the sport centre which is not capable of catering to school sporting activities or swimming challenges.

Rail Trail / Bike Paths / Walking Tracks

- It would be nice if the bike paths could be swept maybe monthly.

- More signs indicating that the Rail Trail is a shared path and not owned by bike riders.
- The Rail Trail is brilliant – it is a shame it can't extend out towards Harrierville. The Wandii addition is lovely.
- Better signage of walking tracks around Mount Beauty i.e. Lake walk, River walk, Rock Pool walk, Gorge walk, Mount Beauty Peak walk (this is priority, as visitors will enjoy the view). (x2)
- Bike trails in the Mount Beauty area are not as extensive nor as well constructed, maintained or safe as trails in the Bright community. The bike trail between Tawonga and Mount Beauty is very dangerous in places. (x4)
- More planning to improve links to existing walking and trail systems should be explored and developed in the Mount Beauty area, then promoted properly to encourage more visitors and greater use by locals. (x2)
- Continue walking/bike track from Ranch Road to the caravan park on the left side of the Kiewa Valley Highway with a bridge like structure at Constantino's-Dreamers. This will improve safety of children riding to school and improve tourism with great views over our mountains and valleys.
- Would like more bike/walking paths along the river that are obvious and well sign posted. (x3)
- The new walking/bike path along the Ovens River in Myrtleford is disappointing. The surface has soft spots which will become dangerous and the sides of the path are unsightly with rubbish, weeds and other refuse. The idea is good, but don't see value for money or an attractive outcome.
- Some fantastic opportunities in the Bright area to expand the Mountain Bike offer – not only on Council land, but on neighbouring State Forest and plantation.
- Myrtleford needs a walking/bike path along Buffalo River Road.
- Would like to see more walking trails (like the new one in Myrtleford) and more linking to the existing ones. Down Hughes Land to the Deer Farm would be fabulous and continuing from Bright to Harrierville. (x2)
- Would like a bike/walking track from Tawonga to Mount Beauty via Back Road.
- Desperately need a sealed bike track from Germantown to Freeburgh. (x2)
- Some walking tracks (not the rail trail) seem to have been taken over by riders making it dangerous for older people and younger children. Maybe some walking tracks could exclude riders and be signposted accordingly.
- The new walking/cycling track along the river is a wonderful asset for Myrtleford. So many people I have spoken with have commented on this great project. A further path along the creek in town would complement this and a clean-up would be great!
- Need a cycle track from Bright to Harrierville. (x6)
- The newly opened river trail needs seating at regular intervals, better maintenance along the river bank and something to prevent hoons from gaining access.
- Using the roads for walking or cycling is a problem when there are many trucks also using them. There aren't any recreational areas for people who live outside of townships.
- Improve and extend mountain bike trail network to make it a world class destination.
- Would like an 'around the town' trail.
- Need a skating area – gravel gathers on the bitumen parts of the trail which renders it useless for skating.
- Bright bike trail needs upgrading.
- The 'Diggings' walk along Horses Creek, Wandiligong needs to be better maintained.
- Improve existing trails and build mountain bike and kid friendly trails.
- Need more garbage bins around Pondage walk.

- The new River Walk is enjoyable however people are not disposing of dog and horse waste. More signage is needed.
- Mapping and signage along paths and trails. (x2)
- There are several rough walking tracks in Upper Kiewa Valley that need better maintenance.
- Walking and riding trails in the Kiewa Valley should be expanded and connected. (x2)
- Continue a track around the 'Damms Road Circuit' in Kiewa Valley to complete a circuit for cycling and walking that is isolated from road traffic.
- Damms Road loop is a valuable recreation/training asset. Needs to be kept safe.
- Please replace solar lights along the bike and walking track in Bright (half of them don't work).
- Some trails need regular maintenance and more so in springtime, i.e. they are overgrown (blackberries, etc.). (x4)
- Need more trees around the lake walk.
- Bike track along Barwidgee Creek where it meets Great Alpine Road is very poor compared to the rest of the trail and needs resealing.
- Trails need more bins with lids.
- The Lake walk needs more tree planting and maybe some jetties on which people could fish or swim in the lake on a hot day.
- Along with many local residents, we are thankful and enjoy the new cycle/walking sealed track between Bright and Wandiligong. However, cyclists need to show more courtesy and safety awareness for walkers especially older people who are not so steady on their feet. Hardly any cyclists ring bells or alert walkers – you just jump out of your skin as they silently whiz past!
- More seats along walking/cycling trails.

Library

- Do not move the library back to the CBD in Mount Beauty.

Rivers / Bridges / Waterways

- We have beautiful local rivers and I have looked for years for local kayaking. You have a great opportunity for white water kayaking and no access points or information.
- The bridge at the end of Hawthorn Avenue should be replaced.
- We need a bridge over Morses Creek to complete the cycle track.
- Council need to interact with other government agencies to enhance our waterways close to public areas i.e. Happy Valley Creek in the centre of Myrtleford. Sometimes this looks like a stormwater drain, but Council has staff with the expertise.
- More 'free camping' spots along the waterways i.e. 1 or 2 night stops for local gatherings and to encourage tourists to stop over and use facilities.
- Would like to see more landscaping and facilities (tables/bench seats) along the Kiewa River bank.
- The one unique thing we have in Bright is the river and yet we ignore it or make it an eyesore by clear felling near Tyntynder Lane. We should landscape the river, have parks and beautiful places celebrating the river and become famous for the 'last wild river'. Tourists would flock here.
- The use of high powered speedboats needs to be banned from the Mount Beauty Pondage. These are very dangerous for all other users of the area and for wildlife. They are also noisy and churn up the shallow water.
- Wider bitumen paths along the river for rollerblading/skiing/boarding away from cars.

Schools

- Government schools, funded by taxpayers, should open their facilities for community use.
- Would like a two lane 60 metre running track at schools to encourage higher athletic standards for children.

Parks

- The barbecues at Cundy Park never work and the bins are always overflowing with rubbish.
- Cundy Park could do with some better toilets.
- Cundy Park is not small child friendly e.g. 2-5 yr olds, however the current facilities are well built.
- More facilities for teens i.e. a covered 'all weather area' at Cundy Park that can be used all year round for family/social get togethers such as children's birthday parties. (x2)
- Existing parks and recreation areas in Myrtleford need a facelift.
- Need to restore and maintain the 'park' at Mudgegonga near Stanley Road (maybe in conjunction with VicRoads and DSE).
- McNamara Reserve – the toilet block near the netball courts are disgraceful. They have overflowed numerous times and the smell and raw sewerage is a health and safety issue. (x2)
- Need more seating in parks, i.e. Jones Park.
- Keep a sense of adventure in parks to challenge children.
- Designated dog off-leash parks.
- Children's playgrounds near rivers or busy roads should be fenced. (x2)
- Children's parks are well maintained and safe, but there is not enough in Myrtleford. Perhaps different/rotating equipment every few years between the parks to encourage children to revisit.
- There are limited playground facilities for 9 year olds and above.
- Mount Beauty skate park urgently needs to be expanded. With so many children using the facility it can be dangerous having teenagers and children there together. (x5)

DSE Related Comments

- Council should encourage DSE to eradicate blackberries along creeks and on Crown land to enhance the beauty of open spaces, etc.
- Looking after our natural resources, especially water, should be a major priority.
- Reduce noxious weeds, particularly around water areas.
- Control pine cutting to protect the beauty of our Shire.

1b Organisation Survey

An 'organisation survey' was sent to a wide range of clubs, committees and community groups in the Alpine Shire. A total of 40 surveys were completed and returned to Council. These surveys were submitted from groups who either manage open space and/or conduct recreation activities. A summary of the organisations who responded to the survey is indicated below and a copy of the survey is included in this document at the conclusion of the consultation summary.

Table 18 – Organisation Membership

Name of Organisation		Number of Members / Participants			Trend in past 5 yrs	Predicted trend in next 5 yrs	Manage Facilities
#	Name	Male	Female	Total			
1	Myrtleford Bowls Club	73	33	106	=	↓	
2	Myrtleford Mens Shed	49	-	49	↑	↑	
3	Mount Beauty Basketball	47	58	105	↑	↑	
4	Mount Beauty Secondary College						Yes
5	Okinawan Ryu Karate Do Sharite Seibakan				=	↑	
6	Dederang Recreation Reserve						Yes
7	Ovens Valley Canine Club	8	40	48	↑	↑	
8	Mount Beauty Toy Library				=	=	
9	Friends of Reform Hill						Yes
10	Bright Bowls Club				=	=	
11	Bright Croquet Club	15	17	32	=	=	
12	Friendship House	2	4	6	↓	↓	Yes
13	Mount Beauty Tennis Club	57	59	116	=	=	
14	Alpine Family Day Care				↓	=	
15	Tawonga & District Community Association						
16	Myrtleford Savoy Soccer Club	142	44	536	=	=	Yes
17	Bright Football Netball Club	140	40	180	↑	=	
18	Bright Tennis Club	90	80	170	=	=	
19	Alpine Cycling Club	121	77	198	↑	↑	
20	Porepunkah Hall/Court/Reserve CoM			48	↑		Yes
21	1st Bright Scout Group				↑		
22	Wandiligong Alpine Park CoM			9	↑	=	Yes
23	Mount Beauty Dederang Football/Netball Club	653	372	1025	↑	↑	
24	Mount Beauty Airport Management Assoc	6	1	7	=	=	Yes
25	Myrtleford & District Basketball Assoc			400	↑	↑	
26	Harrietville CBI	5	4	9	↑	=	
27	Freeburgh Hall and Rec Reserve	6	3	9	=	=	Yes
28	Alpine Blue Light – Youth Club	11	12	23	↑	=	
29	Myrtleford Boat Club				=	=	
30	Rosewhite & District CWA		15	15	↑	↑	
31	Bright Lions Club	30	3	33	↑	=	
32	Cundy Park Steering Committee		3	3			Yes
33	Bright Court House Committee						Yes
34	Mount Beauty Football (Soccer) Club Inc	50	43	93	↑	↑	
35	Myrtleford Pony Club	6	26	32	↓	↑	
36	Porepunkah Panthers Baseball Club	16		16	↓	↑	
37	Harrietville Recreation Reserve CoM						Yes
38	Harrietville Cricket Club Inc	25	10	35	=	↑	
39	Myrtleford Lawn Tennis Club	60	80	140	=	=	
40	Dederang Bowls Club						

1c School Questionnaire

Schools were contacted by telephone to seek information about community use of their facilities, their use of community recreation facilities and to identify trends and issues that are known to the education sector. The following summarises the outcomes of these interviews.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Falls Creek Primary School (Principal)

School has 8 students in summer and 40 in winter.

School Facilities:

- School has 8 students in summer and 40 in winter.
- Located on a very small site with very little outdoor open space. There are no opportunities to develop any sport or recreation facilities in the future.
- The only recreation facility is a small playground (approx. 5m x 10m).

Community Facilities:

- The school uses the tennis courts at the nearby resort, which is the only recreation facility in the area – other than the ski slopes!

Programs / Activities and Participation:

- The school runs an extensive cross country skiing program during school hours over the winter months.
- School students participate in a downhill skiing program run by the local lift company.
- All students participate in skiing. Some also travel to Mount Beauty to participate in other activities such as gymnastics, tennis and soccer.

Alpine School (Business Manager)

The Alpine School is a Government School that selects 45 students from both city and country schools for a nine week term. (Students stay at the school 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.) There are 4 separate groups and terms each year.

School Facilities:

- The school is very small. Recreation facilities are limited to a concrete half court and grassed volleyball court (summer only).

Community Facilities:

- The school uses the ski slopes and trails, the Great Alpine Road and tracks for mountain biking, various mountain huts (including the Mount Hotham day shelter), tennis courts in Dinner Plain and the Dredge Hole in Bright (in summer).
- The school would like to use the Dinner Plain Pool but it is too expensive (approx.. \$200 per student?)

Future Plans:

- The school has no plans for future development of recreation facilities.

Mount Beauty Primary School (Principal)

School has approximately 154 students.

School Facilities:

- The school is located on a large parcel of land. The school does not advertise that it is available for community use due to legal and insurance issues, however the school grounds are not locked and some community use on weekends is assumed.
- Large informal soccer area.
- 2 Netball Courts that are used by local clubs for training and competition. They are in average condition.
- Playground, rock climbing wall.
- Small music / performing arts room.
- Bike Education Track. There is a sign on the gate saying that parental supervision is required for children using the track (i.e. outside of school hours).

Community Facilities:

- The school use the neighbouring oval regularly as part of their PE / sports program.
- The school makes good use of local facilities including the oval, track around the lake, the swimming centre (twice per year) and the neighbourhood hall (i.e. for concerts).
- The school has a good relationship with Mount Beauty Secondary College and sometime use their facilities (i.e. kiln).

Programs / Activities and Participation:

- After School Care, Vacation Care and Active After School programs are all offered at the school.
- The school has a good relationship with local clubs / groups and participates in various programs and clinics when offered (including sports carnivals).
- Students are exceptionally active and participate in a wide range of sport and recreation activities such as cycling / mountain bike riding, running, skiing, skating, football, netball and callisthenics.

Future Plans / Partnerships:

- The school has no plans for new facilities due to funding restrictions.
- The school would be open to future partnership opportunities.

St Mary's Primary School, Myrtleford (Principal)

School has approximately 240 students.

School Facilities:

- School facilities are available for community use, however there are currently no regular users.
- Covered basketball court (also has line-markings for netball, but no netball rings)
- Small oval with cricket pitch.
- Junior soccer pitch.
- Playground with climbing wall and fitness equipment around the outside.
- New Performing Arts Centre with seating capacity for 250. This centre was built approximately 12 months ago as a joint initiative with the four education providers in the area. A Manager has been appointed and aims to increase community use of the Centre.

Community Facilities:

- The school uses the football ground and netball courts for inter-school sports.
- The school like to use 'Cundy Park' in the spring and summer due to the range of activities that are available. The school community has identified a number of improvements that they would like to see at the park, which they would like to approach Council about.

Programs / Activities and Participation:

- The school does not offer any after school activities.
- The school participates in coaching clinics when they are offered / available. They have recently participated in a golf clinic.
- The most popular sports amongst students appear to be soccer, football, netball and basketball. Dance, acrobatics and guides are also popular. Students seem to participate in a wide variety of activities.

Future Plans / Partnerships:

- The school has plans to develop a walking / running track around the oval to help promote health and fitness (i.e. complement the fitness equipment).
- The school would like to establish a playgroup and after school hours care program.
- The school would like to establish partnerships with local community groups or varying ages such as the Men's Sheds and Landcare.

Dederang Primary School (Principal)

Dederang Primary School has 23 students.

School Facilities:

- Gymnasium with indoor basketball / multi-purpose court.
- Informal grassed area used for ball sports. Long jump pit.
- Playground
- Fitness circuit.
- Facilities could be available for community use, however groups would need to seek approval from School Council. The school grounds are not locked, however signage indicates that they are not available for out-of-hours use (due to potential damage / vandalism, insurance etc.)

Community Facilities:

- Mount Beauty Swimming Pool for school swimming program (terms 1 and 4).
- Community Hall for drama production.
- Golf course – following completion of golf coaching clinic (currently underway at school).

Programs / Activities and Participation:

- The Men's Shed runs a woodworking program at the school which is very popular.
- A golf coach is currently running a golf program at the school. A basketball clinic has also been conducted at the school.
- Life Saving Victoria has conducted an open water swimming program at the school and there are plans for a Bike Education program at the school.
- The school has received a Gateway Community Health Grant which has enabled them to employ a PE Specialist to come into the school once a week.
- The school runs an After School Hours Program.
- Football and cricket are the most popular activities for boys, whilst dancing and netball are popular for girls. (Girls are not as active as boys.)

Future Plans / Partnerships:

- The school would like to have an outdoor tennis / multi-use court, however would require grant funding.
- The school is meeting with Council's Health and Wellbeing Officer, which may lead to a future partnership opportunity.

Tawonga Primary School (Principal)

Tawonga Primary School has 43 students.

School Facilities:

- Junior oval with football and soccer goals.
- Small basketball / netball court. Concrete areas.
- Playground
- Music and art room (also used for physical activity in wet weather).
- All facilities are available for community use. There are currently no regular user groups.

Community Facilities:

- Tawonga Tennis Courts are used often. Costs \$6 per hour. Would like to develop a partnership arrangement with the club to help improve facilities and increase usage.
- Mount Beauty Swimming Pool for school swimming program (terms 1 and 4).
- Mount Beauty Stadium – occasional use.

Programs / Activities and Participation:

- School use to run the Active After School Program, but had insufficient numbers for it to continue.
- Roller blading is conducted after school for students (run by the Principal – Robert Flower). The school has roller blading equipment following the Active After School Program.
- Football is popular amongst students in Grades 5 and 6. Basketball has increased in popularity due to emergence of a local club / group.

Future Plans / Partnerships:

- The school would like to develop a mountain bike track around the school.

Wandiligong Primary School (Principal)

Wandiligong Primary School has 44 students. Numbers fluctuate from 40 to 60.

School Facilities:

- Small oval.
- Undeveloped paddock
- Multiuse synthetic grass court with line markings for netball, basketball and tennis.
- Playground
- Facilities are not available for community use. School ground are locked outside of school hours. This is required to keep the livestock in. Community use and access is not preferred due to this reason and due to the cost / standard of the outdoor court (the school want to look after it).

Community Facilities:

- The local oval is used regularly.
- The Wandiligong Bike Track is very popular, widely used and highly regarded. It enables children to travel safely and is also widely used by the community. The Track is also used by the school for an annual bike event.

- The students have identified the need for a skate park. They have researched the need for a skate park with the Youth Council and which involved discussions with Council and Rotary. Children need to travel into Bright for everything. There needs to be a communal area where children can 'hang out'. Students believe the local oval to be too isolated and therefore not the ideal location for a skate park.
- More mountain bike tracks are needed. The local bike club is trying to increase the number of mountain bike tracks in the area.

Programs / Activities and Participation:

- School runs an Active After School Program twice a week.
- Children participate in football, soccer, netball, basketball, tennis and golf.
- The Myrtleford Football Club help to conduct the interschool sports football program.

Future Plans / Partnerships:

- Work is about to start on a "covered outdoor learning area", which will have a rubberised surface and will be approximately half the size of a outdoor court.

Other Comments (as a resident):

- The parcel of land opposite Mystic Lane, and abutting the Recreation Reserve needs a master plan and needs to be developed. The pine trees blew down and the land is just sitting there with a few informal bike tracks. It would provide valuable access to the river for residents and tourists and could provide a range of recreation opportunities.
- The local BMX track was never finished. It is well used by tourists but needs to be finished.

Porepunkah Primary School (Principal)

Porepunkah Primary School has 89 students.

School Facilities:

- School is small and landlocked. Facilities are limited to playground and outdoor court.
- The community have never needed to use the school's facilities. Future community use is unlikely.

Community Facilities:

- The school regularly uses the neighbouring Council-owned oval.
- The pool is unsuitable due to its size. Transport to most community facilities is an issue for the school.

Programs / Activities and Participation:

- The school runs an After School Care Program.
- Popular sports amongst students include football and soccer.

Future Plans / Partnerships:

- There is no scope for new facilities due to the small land-locked site that the school is situated on.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Mount Beauty Secondary College (Principal)

School has approximately 150 students.

School Facilities:

- Junior soccer pitch in good condition. The cricket club use the ground occasionally.
- 2 basketball courts (1 covered) and 1 netball court. Courts in good condition, however netball court is unlikely to be suitable for competition.
- Performing arts centre / room is used by the community band.
- Modular building is shared with Wodonga Tafe.
- School is open and available for community use. Grounds are used mainly on weekends for informal court games and dog walking.
- Mount Beauty Marathon Committee and Mount Beauty Country Club use the school grounds for annual events.
- Use of school facilities by community groups is normally adhoc (as opposed to regular bookings). There are no issues with current access arrangements and community use.

Community Facilities:

- The Stadium and Les Peart Oval is used daily (or more than once a day) as part of the schools PE program. The school has dedicated storage at the stadium. The school's gymnastics equipment is used by the local gymnastics club.
- There is occasionally an issue when a community group wants to use the stadium when the school has a booking, however there are processes in place for dealing with this.
- The school uses all local facilities when required including tennis courts, lawn bowling green, gun club grounds (clay shooting). They are happy with the level of access to all community facilities.

Programs / Activities and Participation:

- The school does not offer any after school programs or activities.
- Many students participate in cross country skiing (organised by Burdabo? Ski Club) and bike riding (organised by Team Mount Beauty).
- Participation Trends: Basketball and soccer appear to be growing in popularity due to local underage competition. Skiing is also very popular amongst students.

Future Plans:

- The school has plans with Council to use recycled water to irrigate the sports ground (main soccer ground). This was identified approx. 5 years ago but has not yet come to fruition.
- The school has no other plans for new facilities.

Other Comments:

- The general condition of school facilities is 'good'.

Myrtleford P-12 College (Principal)

School Facilities:

- Football oval, soccer ground and hockey field. All are full size and in reasonable condition.
- 5 netball / basketball courts which range in condition and use. Two have an astroturf surface and are in excellent condition.

- The school would allow community use of school facilities if approached by a local club. The soccer club were using the soccer field earlier this year (due to issues with their own ground). There appears to be sufficient provision of community recreation facilities, without the need for clubs to use school facilities.

Community Facilities:

- The school does not have an indoor stadium and uses the local stadium regularly (i.e. twice a week). Whilst the school has good access arrangements in place, transporting students to and from the stadium is an issue for the school.
- The Swimming Pool is used in the summer.
- The local golf club is used by the school.

Programs / Activities and Participation:

- The school does not offer any sport or recreation activities outside of school hours.
- The local football club is currently running a program with students. The school is happy to support local clubs.
- Participation in soccer is very popular amongst students.

Future Plans / Partnerships:

- The school would like to demolish the derelict High School building and build a stadium / gymnasium, however there is no available funding or support for this project.
- The school has a partnership arrangement in place with the local Catholic College (Marion College) which enables them to share academic resources and facilities (including buildings and teachers).

Marion College, Myrtleford (Principal)

Marion College has approximately 215 students.

School Facilities:

- Senior Oval.
- 3 old basketball / multi-purpose courts. Need resurfacing.
- Facilities are used informally by the community. There are currently no regular users.

Community Facilities:

- Swimming Pool is used for the school's swimming program and carnival.
- Local walking tracks are used for cross country.

Programs / Activities and Participation:

- The school does not offer any after-hours recreation programs.
- The school participates in coaching clinics when available (most recently a soccer clinic).
- Students seem to participate in a wide variety of sport and recreation activities, in particular outdoor education / pursuits.

Future Plans / Partnerships:

- The school is currently negotiating for the 3 basketball courts to be resurfaced (and for 2 old tennis courts to be removed).
- The school would love an indoor stadium, however there are no formal plans (or funding) in place.
- Partnership Arrangements
 - Marion College shares VCE classes with Myrtleford P-12 College and VET classes with Myrtleford P-12 College and Bright P-12 College.
 - Rotary – Drivers Education.

Dinner Plain School Annexe (Lead Teacher)

Dinner Plain has approximately 65 students (and 4 teachers).

School Facilities:

- Other groups use school facilities from October to June.
- Facilities are lovely but too small for increasing enrolments.
- Condition of school is very good. New, clear, thoughtful layout and imaginative.

Community Facilities:

- Dinner Plain Community Hall for teaching.

Programs / Activities and Participation:

- Skiing is popular amongst students.

Future Plans / Partnerships:

- Future plans include extending the community hall and school rooms in partnership with Alpine Shire and the Victorian Government. Plans have been drawn and a grant is currently being considered.

Other comments

- High priority areas include expanding or developing new clubroom / school facilities and increasing the number of playing / training areas. The school feels it is not equipped / needs help with these priorities.
- Dinner Plain is a lovely place and beautifully maintained. The school is happy to be part of the wider community.
- A mobile library would be great.

Bright P-12 College (Principal)

School has 438 students.

School Facilities:

- Single court stadium that receives community use most nights of the week for basketball, netball, indoor soccer and gymnastics. The stadium has a Manager that is employed by the school and is available for casual hire.
- Oval
- Soccer Ground used for junior soccer every Saturday morning.
- Three outdoor netball / basketball courts – 2 with lighting. Courts are used occasionally for netball and football training.
- All school facilities are available for community use.
- Current arrangements for community use work well, however there is insufficient funding for the upkeep of the stadium, in particular major maintenance items such as repainting and floor resurfacing.

Community Facilities:

- Pools in Myrtleford and Mount Beauty
- Bright Community and Entertainment Centre – for major assemblies, concerts and exams.
- RSL – additional exam facility
- Rivers etc. for Outdoor Education.

Programs / Activities and Participation:

- Active After School Program.
- Snow Sports Program involving 89 students and 10 visits to Mount Hotham per season.

- Popular activities amongst students include snow skiing, football, netball, basketball, mountain bike riding and fishing. The local community lawn bowls is also very popular.

Future Plans:

- An Early Learning Centre is currently under construction at the school.
- The stadium requires painting and a flooring upgrade (resurfaced and re-sprung).
- The oval needs to be resurfaced / top-dressed.

Other Comments:

- Historically, the stadium was built 20 years ago as a joint venture between Council and the School / Education Department. Council pulled out of this arrangement and the school took out a loan and took over ownership of the Stadium. Council does not provide any assistance for the upkeep of the Stadium despite the high level of community use.

OUTDOOR CENTRES

Mountain View Retreat Outdoor Education Centre (Owner)

The Centre can accommodate up to 100 students at a time.

Facilities:

- The Centre has a half court, grass volleyball court, adventure playground and indoor multi-purpose room.
- Facilities are available through private arrangements.

Community Facilities:

- Groups (who use the Centre) make their own arrangements for use of community facilities.
- Community / public facilities used include the Dredge Hole, Skiing (Mount Hotham), National Parks, river and school courts.
- There is a limited range of facilities available in Harrietville.

Programs / Activities and Participation:

- Groups utilise programs from external / private providers such as canoeing and abseiling.

Future Plans:

- The Centre has no future plans. Any new / improved facilities would need to be commercially viable.

Other comments:

- An off-road trail from Harrietville to Bright has been a priority in the community for a number of years.
- Wider road verges are also required for improved safety.

YMCA – Howmans Gap Education Centre (Manager)

The Centre is owned by Sport and Recreation Victoria and leased to YMCA Victoria. It can accommodate up to 158 beds.

Facilities:

- The Centre offers high ropes, low ropes, abseiling, climbing wall, mountain biking, cross country skiing, orienteering, tobogganing and archery (to name a few). The centre also has a half basketball court and a range of indoor facilities including a conference / movie hall, games room and dining room.

- Facilities are available for day hire / visits, weddings and are used by groups for Out of School Care and Holiday Programs.

Community Facilities:

- Falls Creek and the Alpine National Park (for skiing and mountain biking).
- Bogon Village – the lake is used for canoeing and walking tracks for bushwalks.
- Huts in the high plains.

Future Plans:

- Bushfire overlay works have recently been undertaken at the centre.
- There are plans for a new 25-35 bed facility to be developed to cater for the disability sector.
- Partnerships:
 - Disability Winter Sports
 - Falls Creek Resort Management
 - Sport and Recreation Victoria (owners)

1d Stakeholder Feedback

A number of stakeholders were consulted during the preparation of the plan. A summary of feedback is as follows:

- Tourism is popular across the whole region now and very significant.
- Travel between the valleys by residents is limited.
- The connection between Kiewa Valley and Wodonga is quite strong. From the Ovens Valley, the key connections are with both Wodonga and Wangaratta.
- It is fair to say that city expectations are often expressed in Alpine Shire – these are usually unrealistic due to the smaller populations in townships.
- Provision for local communities also services visitors in many cases. Supporting tourism has a positive impact on Alpine Shire’s communities.
- Projections for little population growth over the next 20 years requires caution in increasing provision – no need for more land to be acquired for open space?
- Partnerships are critical and there is widespread support for greater collaboration and joint ventures.
- Clearly defining roles and responsibilities is an important priority for partnerships between Council and various agencies and organisations.
- Funding and resourcing remain a challenge for many projects and initiatives.

1e Community Forums

Three community forums were held in June 2012 in Mount Beauty, Myrtleford and Bright. The forums were attended by residents and representatives of groups as follows:

- 12 people in Mount Beauty
- 18 people in Myrtleford
- 22 people in Bright

At each forum, participants were asked to highlight what they thought was good about recreation and open space in Alpine Shire (the 'jewels in the crown') and then identify challenges for the future. This was followed by a discussion about key principles that are being considered for the plan. The comments and outcome of the each of the meetings are summarised as follows:

Forum – Mount Beauty

Good things about recreation and open space:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tennis- increasing juniors, night comps are popular ▪ Quality of playing fields and popularity of sport ▪ The participation rate of juniors is high ▪ Proximity of facilities to each other in Mount Beauty ▪ There are lots of outdoor recreation opportunities ▪ Mount Beauty has a lot of facilities for a small town ▪ The number of sporting facilities is very good ▪ There is a variety of recreation activities for all ages ▪ Facilities rival top private schools (from school perspective) ▪ Lots of organised and informal opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cycle tourism ▪ Volunteers ▪ Activities for youth ▪ Open spaces and parks ▪ Opportunities for retirees ▪ Presentation of spaces ▪ Safety of spaces ▪ Pondage loop
The challenges:	
<p><i>Risk:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ safety issues in general ▪ condition of two tennis courts in Mount Beauty is a safety issue ▪ multi use of ovals eg. athletics track creating uneven surface for other users <p><i>Water:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ availability for irrigation <p><i>Facilities improvements:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ need change facilities (master plan issue) ▪ specific facility improvements (dealt with in master plan) <p><i>Maintenance:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cost of maintenance is a constant challenge ▪ Reliance on volunteers is an issue ▪ Requires grant applications ▪ Community needs clarity around who responsible <p><i>Swimming pool operational limits:</i></p>	<p><i>Volunteers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ too few and too old / too tired ▪ existing volunteers are over committed ▪ it is always the same people ▪ skills can be upgraded to assist volunteers ▪ culture is changing away from volunteerism <p><i>Riding routes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ safe routes for cycling are limited ▪ cyclists are often forced onto roads ▪ there is often conflict on shared paths ▪ education needed on responsible conduct and use of shared paths ▪ need circuits to assist with making it easy for people to walk and cycle ▪ need sealed paths rather than unsealed paths <p><i>Partnerships:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ sharing can be difficult however it is

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ a roof would extend use of pool in Mount Beauty <p><i>Open space:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ there is not enough oval space for all the sports being played ▪ important not to lose open spaces over the next ten year period 	<p>understood that this is required for the future</p> <p><i>Car parking:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ not enough car parking to cater for tourism as well as the needs of local people ▪ other view – there is enough car parking – people just need to be prepared to walk a bit further on occasion ▪ consider improving linkages from car parks to centre of town
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Discussion about Principles – what these words mean to people:	
<p><i>Benefits:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ health and fitness ▪ social contact and activity ▪ exposure to others and a range of activities ▪ choice in a diverse range of options ▪ tolerance and understanding is promoted through recreation ▪ volunteering is worthwhile ▪ teamwork ▪ passive/informal activity ▪ relaxation 	<p><i>Flexibility/Multi use</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ not always practical but common areas could be shared ▪ need for groups to work together ▪ can be challenging ▪ some people make it difficult ▪ limited by current facilities ▪ we have to do it - needs a culture change among some groups ▪ in some areas, excellent progress
<p><i>Working with others:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ partnerships ▪ collaboration ▪ sharing ▪ stakeholders ▪ multi use ▪ resourcing expertise ▪ DSE crown land ▪ schools ▪ need to overcome barriers (e.g. limited funding if facilities are on school grounds) ▪ small communities share well ▪ governing bodies are important partners 	<p><i>Environment</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ balance ▪ respect and preserve natural environment ▪ provides facilities/opportunities ▪ trees for shade ▪ water river systems and pondage ▪ sustainably built and planned
	<p><i>Promotion/information</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ visitor information ▪ advertising ▪ signage ▪ way finding
<p><i>Access for all</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide to people with disabilities ▪ Recovery/rehabilitation facilities e.g. hydro therapy ▪ avoid exclusion wherever possible 	<p><i>Innovation/Best practice</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ destination for visitors/residents ▪ sustainability should always be a target ▪ provision of recreation and its critical link to economic growth

Forum – Myrtleford

<p>Good things about recreation and open space:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Town and facilities are central in region ▪ Open spaces are vast and ‘natural’ – offering diversity ▪ The Alpine areas are a real asset ▪ Riverside walking tracks in Myrtleford are off-road, safe and easy to use ▪ Rail trail is safe ▪ Reform Hill trails are great ▪ Rivers and water generally ▪ The recreation facilities in Myrtleford – excellent availability and quality for a small town, offer lots of sport for young people ▪ With plenty of land, there is potential for more facilities ▪ Summer natural environments – rivers, fishing, mountains ▪ All towns have great facilities, particularly skate parks Apex park is a good example of a park for visitors 	
<p>The challenges:</p>	
<p><i>Access:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduced by lack of maintenance and vandalism ▪ Would like to see better access and free areas for campers (casual stopover points) <p><i>Information:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of promotion / knowledge of activities ▪ Need to interpret the history of the area <p><i>Balance:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Need t be careful not to overdevelop the area ▪ Need to ‘re-visit’ the aquatics provision issue <p><i>Facilities improvements:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Water and shelter needed along tracks and trails ▪ Shelter and facilities in parks for more enjoyment and comfort ▪ Improvements to surface, terrain of tracks and paths – planting, exercise stations... ▪ Multi-use undercover shelter needed at showgrounds ▪ Need more facilities for outdoor events ▪ Consider a permanent table tennis table in a park 	<p><i>Safety:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Need better lighting for safe walking at night <p><i>Stadium:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Existing court is used to capacity (used for basketball, squash, volleyball, netball, futsal, badminton, boxing (old stadium), life ball, schools and football netball wet weather training) <p><i>Fitness:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Demand for fitness gym (open long hours?) <p><i>Environment:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Creek is in poor condition (Vic bridge – Stanley Street) – bank stabilisation required ▪ Plantation area is cleared an unsightly <p><i>Crown Land:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Council should be able to advocate for better facilities

Discussion about Principles – what these words mean to people:

<p><i>Working with others:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Service clubs (park improvements, structures, planting, helping clubs) ▪ Sporting groups ▪ Social groups / community groups ▪ Schools ▪ Private organisations – managing facilities ▪ DSE ▪ Landcare groups ▪ Sharing of knowledge and resources between groups ▪ NECMA – (NorthEast Catchment Management Agency) 	<p><i>Flexibility/Multi use</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Challenging because facilities are spread out ▪ Need to improve access between facilities ▪ Already working well in some facilities – e.g. stadium ▪ Acknowledge there is potential for more ▪ Less work for volunteers with greater sharing ▪ Need to ‘get people together’ to improve cooperation between groups ▪ Could lead to cost savings
<p><i>Benefits:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Health: physical/mental ▪ Wellbeing ▪ People of all ages and abilities ▪ Absence of boredom ▪ Having ‘a purpose’ ▪ Socialisation ▪ Integration ▪ Visitors and tourists – economic benefit ▪ Affordable and ‘free’ opportunities ▪ Environmental beauty ▪ Utilisation of spaces currently under-utilised ▪ Building community strength and capacity 	<p><i>Volunteering</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Time / lack of time ▪ Energy ▪ Rewarding ▪ Thankless ▪ Participation ▪ Fewer people / same people in small communities ▪ Passion ▪ Resources ▪ Challenging for people who are working / travelling elsewhere ▪ Life balance / changing lifestyles ▪ Children – lifelong involvement ▪ Culture of volunteerism is under threat ▪ Some wait to be asked ▪ Some lack confidence ▪ Barriers to volunteering include OHS, WWC requirements, risk factors, etc.
<p><i>Promotion/Information</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Important to promote all facilities across the shire – an example is the Bright pool developed to everyone and needs to be promoted as such ▪ Through schools ▪ Signage – all types ▪ Face book and other social media ▪ Community guide ▪ Timetables / community calendar ▪ Community noticeboard ▪ Visitor information centre incorporating community information ▪ Local newspaper 	

Forum – Bright

Good things about recreation and open space:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Walking tracks ▪ Rail Trail ▪ Cycling ▪ Croquet Club ▪ Open space in Pioneer Park ▪ Forests / Alpine areas ▪ Natural beauty / open spaces ▪ Scenic attributes ▪ Autumn colour ▪ Freeform open space ▪ Lots of sporting facilities for all ▪ Bright’s outdoor adventure playground ▪ Diversity / all seasons / for everyone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Walking/cycle path from Bright – Wandiligong (heritage) ▪ Links to key open space areas – Alpine Park, Wandiligong ▪ Visitors’ interest in facilities ▪ Residents’ interest in facilities ▪ Bright has the best oval in the area ▪ Free access to Mt Buffalo ▪ Deciduous trees in Bright ▪ Variety and opportunities for all / a great area that attracts people of all ages ▪ Opportunities to walk – for all ages ▪ Opportunities for young people in a rural area – the pony club has great facilities, natural areas are very good ▪ Connectivity between towns and activities – range of routes, range of modes...
The challenges:	
<p><i>Affordability:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Free and affordable access for community ▪ Funding / resourcing of all the priorities <p><i>Environment:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Council needs to advocate for Mt Buffalo ▪ Planning required for natural/weather disasters ▪ Tree replacement program / maintenance of existing trees <p><i>Safety:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Is a challenge generally for provision of recreation and open space <p><i>Management of Recreation:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Some clubs concerned about security of tenure at their facilities ▪ Need to maintain what we have <p><i>Facility Improvements:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pioneer Park Oval 2 not complete ▪ Issue with facilities left incomplete 	<p><i>Access:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Financial access ▪ Roads need to provide safe access for cycling (competitive / tourism / recreational) ▪ Need to preserve and improve access to riverside areas ▪ Need better connectivity between the river and open space <p><i>The market and meeting recreation needs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Need to cater for all ages ▪ Need to consider tourism in the mix and strive for a balance in providing for residents ▪ Population growth needs to be managed carefully to preserve open spaces, vistas and the natural qualities that are highly valued in Alpine Shire ▪ Need to cater for future growth of clubs ▪ Capacity of facilities

Additional comment:

- Would like to see open spaces near water / rivers for visitors to use.

Discussion about Principles – what these words mean to people:

<p><i>Flexibility / Multi-use</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Communication and consideration of each other is the key ▪ Sharing with compatible users – identify synergies ▪ Not compromising individual groups ▪ Safety – there may be risk issues ▪ Consider supervision of children ▪ Management requirements – safety ▪ Design for shared use for it to be most effective ▪ Need to accommodate the growth of clubs and activities ▪ Need clear guidelines about how to make this happen ▪ Managing events and priorities for use ▪ Insurance questions ▪ Access to grants relies on good multi-use 	<p><i>Volunteers</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of time / Giving up time ▪ Becomes tiresome ▪ Giving to community ▪ Fund-raising ▪ Helping organisations and individuals ▪ Ageing volunteers ▪ Bureaucracy gets in the way: insurance, paperwork, police checks, WWC, compliance, red tape... ▪ Cultural issues – becomes hard for young people to get involved ▪ Sense of belonging ▪ Recognition of importance ▪ Different reasons and motivations: an understanding of reasons can help to recruit more effectively ▪ Balance and cost ▪ Support for volunteers is needed
<p><i>Working with Others</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Teamwork ▪ Sharing / compromise ▪ Enjoyment ▪ Committees ▪ Cohesiveness ▪ Coordinating ▪ Compatibility ▪ Time involved ▪ Needs ▪ Resolving conflicts ▪ Common goals ▪ Community groups ▪ Council ▪ Police and Emergency Services ▪ Parents and Children ▪ Federal and State Governments ▪ Service Groups ▪ Local businesses ▪ Tourists ▪ Residents / Ratepayers 	<p><i>Promotion/Information</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community guide ▪ On-line directory ▪ Local newspaper – local content ▪ Signage – clubs / events ▪ Visitors Centre ▪ Local media – difficult ▪ Website – listings of events ▪ 'Great Alpine Valley' website – Alpine Shire Marketing Team ▪ Word of mouth ▪ People will find out for themselves ▪ Doctors/health connections ▪ Working with health practitioner ▪ Art gallery – not well known ▪ Schools / Youth Groups ▪ Noticeboard – easy access to information about clubs (like service clubs boards) ▪ General community noticeboard for groups and events
<p><i>Benefits</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Open space, parks and health – all ages ▪ Socialisation ▪ General wellbeing ▪ Volunteers – to organisations, for maintenance ▪ Teamwork ▪ Learning - education ▪ Create community – increasing strength ▪ General health ▪ Sense of belonging ▪ Making friends – connecting ▪ Young people – lots to do ▪ Life skills 	

1f Focussed Discussions

The following discussions were conducted about specific issues of relevance to the development of the Recreation and Open Space Plan:

Internal Staff Workshop

A workshop was conducted with participation from 12 Council staff across the service areas of strategic projects, youth development, open space operations, recreation facilities / sports centres, works and services, economic development, development services and amenity, community building, sustainability, community services and recreation and leisure.

Staff were asked to identify strengths and challenges of recreation and open space in Alpine Shire. The following summarises their responses:

Good things / Strengths	The challenges:
<p><i>The Environment</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Choice and access ▪ Nature based activity ▪ Unique ▪ Choice and amount of crown land ▪ Relationship to towns ▪ Ability to use it ▪ The range and number of events attracted to the area because of the environment <p><i>Facilities and Spaces</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What Alpine has is impressive ▪ Quality ▪ Variety of sports and groups ▪ Lots of good trail plans <p><i>Engagement</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There is early engagement of project teams for key projects ▪ Community engagement is very good ▪ Council works on informing and supporting groups informally – works well <p><i>Visitors</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Subsidising recreation and open space activities ▪ Participation is very positive ▪ Easier to find facilities now <p><i>Residents</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lifestyle – active / passive ▪ Range of opportunities ▪ The community generally appreciates the good quality of facilities 	<p><i>Resourcing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintenance funds are not increasing with the increasing amount of open space ▪ Provision is often ‘triplicated’ for Mount Beauty, Bright and Myrtleford – this is not sustainable ▪ Providing affordable access for all – difficult to meet expectations ▪ Declining volunteerism results in declining capacity and capability ▪ Inappropriate use of spaces leads to poor quality and decreased access ▪ The community grants program annual allocation has been reduced <p><i>Facilities and Spaces</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Facilities are underutilised ▪ Meeting future needs with infrastructure and facilities ▪ Limited ability to develop crown land ▪ Everyone wants their own space as opposed to sharing <p><i>Limitations</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Choice is limited for young people who do not play sport (this is different in each town) ▪ Residents’ awareness and participation in recreation ▪ Transport and access <p><i>Council</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Defining Council’s role in provision ▪ Management responsibilities overall ▪ Relationship with other organisations - Parks Victoria, DSE... ▪ Does not have a clear direction for open space – Council has a reserve for open space contributions, but no guidance on how to

Good things / Strengths	The challenges:
	allocate resources <i>Expectations</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Meeting 'city' expectations that some people bring with them when they move to the area ▪ Vehicle-centric community <i>Improvements</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Good at bringing trails and pathways to the edge of town, then give cars priority and fail to connect up destinations

Suggestions for consideration:

- Integrated approaches across Council could improve in supporting projects and groups
- Funding enterprises and initiatives – eg Bendigo Bank, philanthropic and other funding sources
- Mentors / coaches for young people
- Connect Rail Trail into communities – eg. Bright
- It is noted that Council is currently developing a volunteer strategy

During the workshop discussion, Council participants were asked to review a number of actions from two previous recreation studies and comment on the status of implementation. The results of this review are summarised as follows:

Action	Progress
Sport and Leisure Strategy Review 2004	
Supporting local organisations to be effective, inclusive and sustainable. (Succession planning, volunteer management, integrated management approaches)	Little progress / This is underway, through communication meetings and involvement / Events support occurs / Started but ongoing – Volunteer Strategy being developed by Council in 2012 / Org restructure – emphasis on Rec CoM Sec 86 Committee reviews / Partially complete
Advance the work on open space and recreation land use. (Open space framework, classification system, developer contributions policy, balancing the needs of visitors)	Little progress / need a strategy to use open space contributions received from subdivisions / Visitors are taken into account as they are a large user of our open space / Partially complete
Complement existing resources with specialised skills to work on open space and trail planning, reserve master planning and demand analysis.	Medium progress / In some areas / Existing staff resources have a wealth of knowledge on this topic, we should convene more regularly to promote this / Rail Trail – Bright-Wangaratta / Mount Beauty playground – working with community and Council (community development, strategic planning, open spaces) / Rec Reserve Master Plans reviewed or underway 2011/12 / Partially complete
Increase leisure choices through better management and dissemination of information.	Little progress / Not aware of the progress but this would be a key factor / could be improved / Recent changes, last 2 years in facility management / Partially complete

Action	Progress
Prepare a strategy for mountain bike riding and management and development of off road trails (and plan for off-road trails for each township)	Mountain bike riding – little progress; Off road trails – medium progress / a huge priority given the popularity of mountain bike riding; its economic value and importance to the image of the area / Alpine Cycling Club – volunteer work in Bright (track building and maintenance) / HVP community plantation project may fit into this
Assist schools to provide foundation levels of sports participation and leisure education.	No progress / Increases school learn-to-swim programs? / At the moment much of this is on schools and parents: ski program, soccer program, mostly organised and run by parents for those who can afford it
Increase opportunities and use of indoor facilities in Bright, Mount Beauty and Myrtleford. (targeting schools, young people and people with a disability).	Little progress / Learn to swim program classes at all 3 pools / There is an increased need for qualified instructors in the community for each sport / Not enough done in Myrtleford – very reliant on volunteers / not sure what base line is but young people don't utilise indoor facilities as much as they could / Supported through Alpine Shire's community grants
Refine and review policies for building maintenance and community grants.	Little progress / ✓ / Pioneer Park Management Strategy currently being developed / Ongoing: Going to conduct grant writing workshops Aug/Sep / Partially complete
Support a stronger arts and cultural sector, especially interpretation of local heritage	Medium progress / Some good work being done / Began a review May 2012 – higher priority for 2012/13 year / Very little information on this out there / Having the arts and culture strategy reviews – complete by December 2012 / Heritage study completed, Heritage Network established / Partially complete
More efficient processes for minor works in reserves / sports facilities.	No progress / This also would be an advantage / ✓ / needed – for example maintaining skate parks doesn't get done / Getting better
Provide incentives for the private sector to meet community needs for indoor swimming.	N/A / Mount Beauty has a number of private training and swim lessons happening / Had some enquiries over the years from private business but zoning and availability of land is problematic / This is happening this year – brought top level athletes to Mount Beauty for 3 months
Dinner Plain Recreation Strategy 2010	
Position Dinner Plain as a 'walking village' by prioritising walking and cycling.	Medium progress / Trail and signage development is underway / Promoted in winter but not so in summer / DP to Hotham trail; purchase of additional land at DP / Ongoing
Ensure recreation opportunities connect with and are sympathetic to the natural environment.	Medium progress / Part of all decision making / This is a priority / Getting there / Yes important in our area / This has been done well / Ongoing

Action	Progress
Develop themed signage for trails and improve signage and interpretation (natural and cultural history) for trails and major connections	Little progress / Being considered in decision making / Not happened yet / Underway and looking great / Designed; due for implementation in Oct 2012 / Happens in some areas / ✓ / Started in DP and Myrtleford, funds in 201/13 budget for town way finding strategy / Partially complete
Develop a walking/cycling trip node (DP Hut?) with way finding signage, drinking fountain, bike racks and planned projects.	Medium progress / Underway / Partially completed; finalise after winter / Happened in Bright for the end of the Rail Trail / rail trail very popular / nearly complete
Improve maintenance of trails including: regular audits and maintenance, signage inspection and replacement, seating for rest stops and distance markers.	Little progress / Planned for 2012/13 year / Inspection regime in place for rail trail but not walking tracks / Ongoing, some trails upgraded, current focus is on cross-country trails
Undertake more detailed plan for a Mountain Bike Park (Public Reserve Land and Lot 2?) Provide MTB park in summer and snowboarding park in winter.	No progress / Planned for 2012/13 year / High priority as Council has purchased this land and there are people within the organisation with their own ideas / Deferred until direction reached re waste water management on land
Complete the Mount Hotham – Dinner Plain trail.	Completed 98% - Final section is signage due for completion in October 2012
Package and promote Mountain bike trails with Mount Hotham and Falls Creek.	Unlikely / No Mountain bike track at Hotham and they don't appear to be interested
Provide seating and bike racks around the village	Little progress / Underway / Commenced implementation / Partially complete
Investigate the feasibility of combining new community centre with proposed new CFA facility (including indoor sport space)	No progress / CFA have indicated a willingness to talk about this / Not complete
Assess feasibility on converting tennis courts into ice skating centre over winter. Improve tennis courts and provide access to residents and visitors.	No progress / Tennis courts are privately owned / use of tennis courts by the public is complicated / That sounds great? / Not feasible?
Upgrade playground – snow theme? Provide children's activities such as giant chess set, winter playground...	Some progress to date / No more chess sets! / Has had an animal sculpture incorporated (brumby and emu) in 2011
Maintain roundabout open space for casual recreation and events.	Completed / Needs more thought / Interactive feature needed (giant ice slide?)
Reinstate horse riding program	Completed
Build partnerships and relationships with key organisations.	No progress / Ongoing / and Internal

Tourism

- Regional tracks and trails project is underway.
- Promotion of tracks and trails will be provided in the Visitor Information Centres.
- Trails require further attention given to 'pause' points with features such as seats, play facilities, café facilities, etc. The community uses trails for everyday functional reasons, whereas visitors are seeking an 'experience'.
- Better connections are required within key towns to community destinations.
- Cycle tourism – lots of potential, but concern about who should pay?
- The tourism market includes 'pop-up' events – needs for these include access, infrastructure points, shelter and toilets.
- Howitt Park in Bright is a key tourist precinct.
- Forest plantation managed by Hancocks – access is being negotiated for the public and groups for activities such as mountain bike riding, horse riding and bushwalking. Successful partnership in the Mystic Park area for hang gliding and paragliding.
- Another good example of private land used for recreation is the Team Mount Beauty access to Big Hill in Mount Beauty, under an agreement with AGL. Council has no involvement in this arrangement.
- The issue of risk may need to be addressed where the community uses private land for risky recreation activities – not sure that the issue is being addressed currently.
- Need to ensure sustainable access to natural areas by the community and visitors.

Health and Wellbeing

- A key link with the recreation and open space plan is the Liveability Plan and the social determinants of health.
- The ageing population across Alpine Shire provides some challenges to Council in terms of preventative health and ensuring needs continue to be addresses.
- Walking pathways are very good attractors for people to get outdoors and interact in their communities. Cycling has also become much more popular.
- The health focus includes older people, young families and young children and youth.
- There are potential partnerships that can be explored for 'warm water' in collaboration with the health sector. The pool in Mount Beauty is very popular.
- Consider fewer larger playgrounds – popular for young children.
- Skate parks are popular for young people.
- Pressure from emerging sports: soccer in Myrtleford, Mount Beauty and Bright and baseball in Bright and Porepunkah
- Health agencies provide a range of health promotion programs. Council is involved in the Upper Hume PCP and the "Act, Belong, Commit" program. Need to continue to strive for seamless service delivery and well integrated services.

Environment

- Council has developed some key strategies that promote adaptation to changing environmental factors:
 - Sustainable Water Use Plan (2006) that strives to reduce reliance on potable water, an objective that is still current today in spite of increasing rainfall in recent years.

- Greenhouse Local Action Plan (2006) involving energy audits of buildings, purchase of green power, alternate transport options, waste reduction, carbon sequestration and community education programs.
- Climate Change Action Plan (2012) that outlines actions for Alpine Shire (relevant to Recreation and Open Space) including:
 - Community education about biodiversity awareness, reduction in waste, water and energy consumption, alternative transport, climate change, programs and achievements.
 - Support to sustainability and environmental groups.
 - Use of drought tolerant and non-weedy plant species.
 - Addressing the risk of water reduction with alternative strategies for securing water supply and reducing reliance on water in open space.
 - Promoting alternative transport options such as walking and cycling through provision of walking and cycling paths and tracks.
 - Ensuring all new road infrastructure and streetscapes are designed to accommodate bike and pedestrian traffic.
- It is important to get the balance right between community benefit and meeting environmental goals.
- With regard to the Climate Action Plan, an important goal is to reduce potable water use and overall water use (regardless of the source).
 - Placing restriction on irrigation provision in open space would be a useful tool (e.g. though an open space hierarchy).
 - There are no stormwater schemes in Alpine Shire, alternate sources have involved access to bore water.
 - Mount Beauty is investigating grey water / treatment plant with a view of irrigating sports fields if this is successful.
 - Innovative irrigation measures to reduce reliance on water and overall consumption will be encouraged.
 - It is likely in the long term that reserves that are set up with alternate water sources will receive priority for capital projects – it is important also that the message that ‘not all ovals can be irrigated’ raises greater awareness in the community.
- Good to reinforce energy efficiencies and how these might be achieved in recreation facilities.
- Plant species that drought tolerant and indigenous will be supported.
- Harrierville has a goal to develop an edible community garden, this is a community initiative that could be a business enterprise.
- Current practice with waste management is to use dual bins (for waste and recycling).
- People are attracted for recreation activity to areas along creeks and rivers – open space values need to be protected while allowing for and encouraging community use. There seems to be a good understanding of the need for re-vegetation and restoration of landscape. This seems to be working well – just important to maintain and enhance the landscape along water corridors.
- Generally there is a good supply of open space, and there is an increasing need for outdoor recreation expressed by the community. Due to some competing activities, it seems that separate spaces would be preferred for walking, cycling, mountain bike riding, etc.

- Mountain bike riding becoming a high priority.
- Regarding mountain bike riding, it is clear that some informal tracks are being forged by riders - this needs to be resolved by having discussions with land owners/managers of the forest and plantation areas – try to encourage responsible ‘legal’ access instead.
- Council does not have many natural areas to manage – generally state government, other agencies or the private sector.

1g Submissions

The following submissions were received by interested groups and individuals:

Submission From		Detail / Comment
1	Resident (Bright)	Concerned about over-development in Alpine Shire
2	Resident (Kiewa Valley)	Playgrounds: Recreation Reserve: Maintenance of open space: Mount Beauty Golf Course: Bike and Walking Paths: Future Planning:
3	Residents (Mount Beauty)	Keen to see installations of fitness ‘exercise modules’ in open space
4	Resident	Bright Sporting Complex should be privatised
5	Bright and District Ratepayers Association	

1h Discussions with Groups and Individuals in Alpine’s communities

Informal discussions were held at the Bright Men’s Shed, Mount Beauty Neighbourhood House and the Bright Senior Citizens. General feedback has been summarised as follows:

- Barriers to participation, particularly for older people include transport and accessibility.
- A commonly reported barrier is affordability and funding for organisations.
- Exercise classes at the Sports Centre are very good – targeted for seniors strength training (weekly programs organised through the health service).
- A range of services and activities are conducted at many facilities and venues across the Shire. Neighbourhood houses conduct a range of education, recreation and social activities.
- Efforts between communities and organisations could be better coordinated to result in more successful outcomes.
- Better sharing and multi-use of facilities is required to see community needs met. While there is some excellent sharing of facilities now between some groups, this is an area where more partnerships could be pursued.
- Pathways and connections within and between towns are high priorities. However improvements in walking tracks have been noticed.
- There is a need for a warm water pool and the Bright pool is too short.
- Opportunities to share more facilities with schools should be explored.
- Some partnering between recreation activities and the health sector has been working well, there is potential to expand this link.
- Generally there are very good facilities and opportunities for the community in recreation.

1i Summary of Submissions Received from the Public Exhibition Period

The public exhibition period for the draft Recreation and Open Space Plan commenced early February and closed on March 8, 2013. A total of 14 submissions were received. The following table summarises the submissions received, whether consideration of the comments have led to amendment of the Recreation and Open Space Plan and a response to the comments provided for each submission.

#	From	Comments	Change Report		Response
			Yes	No	
1	North East Catchment Management Authority (NECMA)	Supportive of vision and principles		✓	Noted
		Key links to NECMA strategic planning – in particular NE Regional Catchment Strategy and NE Regional River Health Strategy		✓	Noted – these documents will be useful for various implementation actions
		Enhancement of implementation framework can be achieved by ensuring that projects meet identified principles		✓	Agreed that this is important – each theme identifies the principles that are primarily being met by the actions outlined under the Strategic Actions table. It agreed that as projects are implemented, some reference to the principles and strategic directions that support the action would be helpful for securing partners and financial support.
		Strategic Action 2.4: suggest change to action wording to favour Council participation in Regional River Health Strategy and Regional Waterways Strategy	✓		Wording on page 54 amended to: Establish and maintain regular liaison with the North East Catchment Management Authority to participate with the review of the Regional River Health Strategy and the development of the new Regional Waterways Strategy over the next 12 months, to provide identified community activities and values of waterway environments within the Shire. This could include enhancing opportunities for fishing and/or canoeing/kayaking.

#	From	Comments	Change Report		Response
			Yes	No	
		Action 5.1: suggest change to action wording to include Council owned and managed land	✓		Wording on page 61 amended to: Include environmental and sustainable development (ESD) principles in all future infrastructure initiatives and developments on Council owned and managed land.
		Action 5.2: suggest change to action wording to remove NECMA	✓		
		Actions 7.4 and 7.11	✓		Wording for 7.11 amended to: Supplement existing vegetation on roadsides, rail trails, along waterways (especially as identified in the North East Regional River Health Strategy 2006) and other corridors with indigenous plantings wherever possible.
		Fishing / canoeing / kayaking / bushwalking and horse riding popularity has not received sufficient attention in plan		✓	Council does not have direct responsibility for riparian reserves – actions are already contained in the plan for promoting recreation opportunities and advocating on behalf of community interests with relevant authorities. Council's partnership with agencies such as NECMA should be able to see improvement in the areas listed in the submission (habitat, shade, access to waterways).
		Acknowledgement of partnership opportunity to work with NECMA on the North East Regional Strategy and the North East River Health Strategy	✓		Comment added to 8.2 under Water reflecting this relationship.
		Opportunities for additional trails/paths in corridor links and along waterways should be explored.	✓		Strategic Action 7.6 has been added to Links and Corridors.

#	From	Comments	Change Report		Response
			Yes	No	
		Funding source provided	✓		Added to 9.2 as outlined by NECMA
2	Wandiligong Preservation Society Inc	Positive feedback in relation to provision of pathways and connections, specific initiatives to improve the user experience on pathways and risk assessment actions. Expressed interest in seeking funding.		✓	Noted – group will be supportive in the implementation stage.
3	Marian College	Seeking support for upgrade of stadium in Myrtleford		✓	The discussion of stadium facilities on page 47 of report outlines the threshold for viable facilities. The community, through the DSE Committee Management and supported by Council has been provided with a single court stadium in Myrtleford (on crown land). The local schools do not currently provide such a facility that (in other communities) might complement this provision. The action on page 58 to work with the secondary schools in Myrtleford to strive for a joint use facility is reinforced as the correct action. It is pleasing to see that Marian College supports additional court provision and is prepared to assist implementation.
4	Myrtleford and District Basketball Association	Reinforced growth in popularity of sport and the need for additional stadium		✓	Response same as for submission 3
5	Myrtleford Volleyball Association	Indicated need to expand use of stadium for volleyball and other sports and interested in additional court space		✓	Response same as for submission 3
6	Resident, Myrtleford	Concern about lack of support for horse riding		✓	Page 45 of plan supports and outlines standards for development of equestrian facilities. Due to the

#	From	Comments	Change Report		Response
			Yes	No	
					specialised nature of this activity, local government plays a more indirect role in supporting equestrian facilities. The key responsibility for development and improvement of facilities rests with the equestrian organisations and horse riders.
7	Resident	A number of comments have been made about a range of issues. Generally the submission is supportive of the Plan.		✓	<p>While some comments may provide useful input for implementation of the plan, there are a number of comments that require clarification as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The survey sample size is statistically valid and therefore representative. • Municipal Public Health Planning is clearly a role of local government as determined by state legislation and preventative health and health promotion are important aspects of this responsibility. • The preparation of the plan has considered its integration and compatibility of other strategic documents. • Vegetation, links and corridors, and water related actions have been prepared following detailed and strategic consideration
8	Council Staff	Suggest addition of action regarding audit of walking/cycling trails under 9.1.4 or 9.1.7	✓		Additional action added to 9.1.7 (Links and Corridors) to recommend audit of existing walking and cycling trails as requested. Allocation of \$5,000 resourcing suggested.
9	Myrtleford Pony Club	Supports the plan and looks forward to Council support when submitting		✓	Noted

#	From	Comments	Change Report		Response
			Yes	No	
		improvements to the Reserve Committee			
10	Myrtleford Pony Club	Indicates needs for equestrian facility improvements in Myrtleford		✓	Noted. Page 45 of plan provides guidance that appears to be consistent with club aspirations
11	Resident, Myrtleford	Supports improvements to equestrian facilities in Myrtleford		✓	Noted
12	Resident, Myrtleford	Support for equestrian facilities, shared trails that include horses and stadium facilities in Myrtleford		✓	Noted
13	Resident, Myrtleford	Supports improvements to equestrian facilities in Myrtleford		✓	Noted
14	Myrtleford P-12 College	Supports the recommendation about stadium facilities in Myrtleford		✓	Noted – this is a positive response that will support implementation of Action S-4.2

Survey Instrument – Community Survey

**ALPINE SHIRE COUNCIL
RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
COMMUNITY SURVEY**



ALPINE SHIRE

Dear Resident,

Alpine Shire Council is preparing a Recreation and Open Space Plan to guide the planning, development and management of open spaces and recreation facilities / services in the future.

As part of this project Council is conducting a survey of approximately 2,000 households across the municipality to seek input and opinion on a number of recreation, sport and open space related issues.

Council asks that a person in your household who is 15 years or older complete this survey and return it in the REPLY PAID ENVELOPE as soon as possible and no later than MONDAY 16 JULY 2012.

The survey should take no longer than 10 minutes to complete.

If you have any questions about this survey or the Recreation and Open Space Plan, please contact Council's Recreation and Leisure Officer, Stephen Henderson on (03) 5755 1811, or e-mail stephenh@alpineshire.vic.gov.au. Thank you in anticipation of your support.

1. WHERE DO YOU LIVE? _____
(Please state the township or locality in which you live)

2. DO YOU WORK IN THE ALPINE SHIRE?

1	Yes	2	No
---	-----	---	----

 If so, in which town / locality? _____

3. ARE YOU MALE OR FEMALE? (Circle the number in the shaded column)

1	Male	2	Female
---	------	---	--------

4. HOW OLD ARE YOU? (Circle the number in the shaded column)

1	Under 15yrs	2	15-19 yrs	3	20-24 yrs	4	25-29 yrs	5	30-34 yrs	6	35-39 yrs
7	40-44 yrs	8	45-49 yrs	9	50-54 yrs	10	55-59 yrs	11	60-64 yrs	12	65yrs+

5. PLEASE LIST RECREATION ACTIVITIES THAT YOU UNDERTOOK MOST FREQUENTLY IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS, HOW OFTEN YOU PARTICIPATED (Frequency) AND WHERE YOU DID THIS ACTIVITY (Location).
(Please write the activity using the list on the following page as a guide.)

Activity	Frequency (Tick one box only)					Location (You may tick more than one box)				
	At least three times a week	At least once a week	At least once a fortnight	At least once a month	Less than once a month	Park, trail or sports field	Indoor stadium / centre	Aquatic facility	Private facility	Other:
<i>Example: Walking</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	<input type="checkbox"/> 9	<input type="checkbox"/> 10
	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	<input type="checkbox"/> 9	<input type="checkbox"/> 10
	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	<input type="checkbox"/> 9	<input type="checkbox"/> 10
	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	<input type="checkbox"/> 9	<input type="checkbox"/> 10

LIST OF RECREATION ACTIVITIES

THIS LIST IS TO HELP YOU WITH QUESTIONS 5 and 6.

Field Sports

- 01 Athletics (track / field)
- 02 Baseball / Softball
- 03 Cricket
- 04 Football - Australian Rules
- 05 Football - Rugby
- 06 Football - Soccer
- 07 Football – Touch
- 08 Hockey
- 09 Lacrosse

Outdoor Court Games

- 10 Basketball
- 11 Bocce / Petanque / Boules
- 12 Netball
- 13 Tennis
- 14 Volleyball

Cycling

- 15 BMX
- 16 Cycling
- 17 Mountain Biking
- 18 Competition Cycling

Water Activities

- 19 Canoeing / Kayaking
- 20 Fishing
- 21 Jet Skiing
- 22 Power Boating
- 23 Rowing
- 24 Sailing
- 25 Scuba Diving
- 26 Surf Lifesaving
- 27 Surfing
- 28 Water-skiing
- 29 Windsurfing

Motor Sports

- 30 Go-Karting
- 31 Motor Cycle Riding
- 32 Trail Biking

Indoor Sports

- 33 Badminton
- 34 Basketball
- 35 Carpet Bowls
- 36 Cricket (indoor)
- 37 Futsal
- 38 Handball
- 39 Hockey (indoor)
- 40 Netball
- 41 Squash / Racquet Ball
- 42 Tennis (indoor)
- 43 Volleyball

Greens

- 44 Croquet
- 45 Golf
- 46 Lawn Bowls

Outdoor Activities

- 47 Abseiling
- 48 Bushwalking
- 49 Caving
- 50 Cross-Country Running
- 51 Orienteering
- 52 Rock Climbing
- 53 Running / Jogging
- 54 Walking
- 55 Triathlon

Equestrian

- 56 Horse Riding
- 57 Trail Riding (horse)
- 58 Competition Equestrian

Roller Activities

- 59 Inline Hockey
- 60 Rollerblading
- 61 Skateboarding

Aero Sports

- 62 Aerobatics
- 63 Gliding / Hang Gliding / Paragliding
- 64 Model Aeroplane Flying

Indoor Activities

- 65 Ballet / Dance
- 66 Billiards / Pool / Snooker
- 67 Body Building
- 68 Boot Scooting
- 69 Boxing / Kick Boxing
- 70 Calisthenics
- 71 Gym / Fitness / Aerobics
- 72 Gymnastics
- 73 Martial Arts
- 74 Table Tennis
- 75 Tenpin Bowling
- 76 Weightlifting
- 77 Wrestling
- 78 Yoga

Swimming / Pool

- 79 Aquarobics
- 80 Diving (board)
- 81 Swimming (beach)
- 82 Swimming (pool)
- 83 Water Polo

Hunting / Shooting

- 84 Archery
- 85 Fencing
- 86 Hunting
- 87 Paintball
- 88 Shooting

Snow / Ice Activities

- 89 Ice Hockey
- 90 Ice Skating
- 91 Snow Skiing / Boarding

Miscellaneous

- 92 Dog Agility / Shows
- 93 Marching
- 94 Pigeon Racing

Other

- 95 (please state e.g. woodworking, craft, etc.)

6. ARE THERE ANY RECREATION ACTIVITIES YOU WOULD LIKE TO DO BUT CANNOT?

Please list up to **two** activities (using the list on page 2 as a guide), and tick the box in the column that best describes why you cannot do the activity.

Activity	Reason for <u>Not</u> Participating								
	Lack of knowledge	Lack of time	Can't afford it	Lack of safety	Can't get to the activity	No facilities/ nowhere to do it	Health issues / injury / disability	Lack of motivation	Other? (please state)
<i>Example: Dancing</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	<input type="checkbox"/> 9
	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	<input type="checkbox"/> 9
	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	<input type="checkbox"/> 9

7. DO YOU USE OPEN SPACE AREAS LIKE PARKS, SPORTS RESERVES, PLAYGROUNDS AND WALKING / CYCLING PATHS IN THE ALPINE SHIRE?

1	Yes	If yes, go to the next question
2	No	If no, go to question 12

8. WHAT TYPES OF ACTIVITIES DO YOU ENGAGE IN AT DIFFERENT PARKS?

(Please circle **one** park type where you are most likely to do the particular activity)

Activities	Type of Park			
	Large Park That I Might Drive To	Parks Along Linear Paths / Creeks / Trails	Local Park Close To Home That I Can Walk To	Do Not Do That Activity
Walking	1	2	3	4
Taking children to play	1	2	3	4
Using a playground	1	2	3	4
Picnicking / BBQs	1	2	3	4
Riding a bike	1	2	3	4
Ball games / Casual sport	1	2	3	4
Organised sport	1	2	3	4
Meeting family or friends	1	2	3	4
Exercise	1	2	3	4
Conservation activities i.e. tree plantings, bird watching etc.	1	2	3	4
Relaxing, escape, rejuvenation	1	2	3	4
Other, please state:	1	2	3	4

9. WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN SPORT AND RECREATION ACTIVITIES AND USE OPEN SPACE AND FACILITIES?

(Please circle up to **three** of the numbers in the shaded boxes for both question 'a' and 'b')

a) Reasons for Participating in Sport and Recreation Activities		b) Reasons for Choosing Open Space Areas and Recreation Facilities	
1	To improve my physical fitness	1	Close to home, easy to get to
2	To improve my overall health	2	A wide range of facilities and amenities
3	To be part of my community	3	Clean, well maintained park / facilities
4	To relieve stress and improve wellbeing	4	Easy to access (i.e. car parking, path networks)
5	Escapism (Feeling of escape)	5	Good quality facilities
6	To socialise with friends and family	6	Landscaping, layout, vegetation, etc.
7	To make new friends	7	I feel safe
8	To enjoy the outdoor environment	8	I have no other choice
9	To lose weight	9	Close to shops or other activities
10	Enjoyment	10	Is a thoroughfare to get to a destination
11	To engage in competition	11	It's where my team / club plays
12	To improve coordination	12	Other, please explain:
13	Other, please explain:		

10. HOW DO YOU USUALLY GET TO THE RECREATION / OPEN SPACE FACILITIES THAT YOU USE?

(Please circle all numbers that describe your response.)

1	Walk
2	Ride Bike
3	Drive
4	Other, please explain:

11. WHAT WOULD ENCOURAGE YOU TO VISIT RECREATION / OPEN SPACE FACILITIES MORE OFTEN?

(Please circle up to 3 of the numbers in the shaded boxes.)

1	More facilities
2	More events / programs
3	Better quality of landscaped areas (i.e. grass, trees)
4	Better quality facilities
5	Dog friendly areas
6	More time
7	Improved walking and cycling paths
8	Improved maintenance of parks / facilities
9	Better access
10	Cleaner open spaces / facilities
11	More child friendly spaces / facilities
12	More / better access to child minding services
13	Higher level of safety
14	More shade
15	There are no changes that need to be made
16	Other, please explain:

12. PLEASE INDICATE WHETHER YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ABOUT RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE IN THE ALPINE SHIRE.

(Please circle the number IN THE SHADED COLUMN alongside the statement that best describes your response).

	Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not sure
	Example: Playgrounds in the Alpine Shire cater for a wide range of age groups.	1	2	3	4	5
1	Maintaining and upgrading existing facilities should be a priority over building new ones.	1	2	3	4	5
2	Better use should be made of school facilities for community sport and recreation.	1	2	3	4	5
3	Playgrounds in the Alpine Shire cater for a wide range of age groups.	1	2	3	4	5
4	New sports should be encouraged in the municipality.	1	2	3	4	5
5	More information is needed about sport and recreation groups and opportunities in the municipality.	1	2	3	4	5
6	On the whole open space and recreation facilities are well maintained.	1	2	3	4	5
7	Encouraging young people into volunteer roles in the community should be a high priority.	1	2	3	4	5
8	Underused open space / facilities should be rationalised and the money put into other open space and recreation priorities.	1	2	3	4	5
9	Given the resources that it has, Council does a good job in supporting sport and recreation in the municipality.	1	2	3	4	5
10	Responsible use of water for sport and recreation facilities should be a high priority.	1	2	3	4	5
11	Priority should be given to developing recreation opportunities other than sport. e.g. theatre, music, walking, bike riding.	1	2	3	4	5
12	Expanding fitness opportunities such as gymnasiums and exercise classes should be a priority.	1	2	3	4	5
13	Volunteers in the community are well supported.	1	2	3	4	5
14	I am generally very happy with the range and condition of open space and recreation facilities in the Alpine Shire.	1	2	3	4	5
15	Council should promote the benefits of 'physical activity' to encourage people into healthy life-long activities.	1	2	3	4	5
16	Council provides sufficient recreation opportunities for teenagers.	1	2	3	4	5
17	It is Council's role to provide good quality recreation facilities for all residents.	1	2	3	4	5
18	Groups and clubs that use Council facilities should share those facilities more than they do now.	1	2	3	4	5
19	It is better to have fewer but higher quality and larger facilities in the municipality.	1	2	3	4	5
20	Council and the community need to change the ways open space is maintained in response to the drought and changing climate patterns.	1	2	3	4	5
21	It is not only Council's role to provide for the recreation needs of the community, but also other agencies and groups and the private sector.	1	2	3	4	5
22	Council should improve the accessibility to and within open space.	1	2	3	4	5
23	I generally feel safe when using open space areas.	1	2	3	4	5
24	Overall, I am satisfied with sport and recreation opportunities in my community.	1	2	3	4	5

If there are any comments you would like to make to explain / expand on your answers, please write these comments in the space provided in Question 14.

13. PLEASE LIST YOUR PREFERRED WAYS OF RECEIVING INFORMATION ABOUT RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE OPPORTUNITIES THAT ARE AVAILABLE IN YOUR COMMUNITY.

Circle up to THREE responses	<i>THREE ways I prefer to receive my information about recreation and open space.</i>
1	<i>Through the local paper</i>
2	<i>At facilities like libraries and Council offices</i>
3	<i>Council's website or the internet</i>
4	<i>By email</i>
5	<i>By telephoning Council</i>
6	<i>At a local recreation / community facility</i>
7	<i>Local radio or TV</i>
8	<i>Through my child's school</i>
9	<i>Recommendation from a friend</i>
10	<i>Community Information Meetings</i>
11	<i>Council newsletters</i>
12	<i>Telephone book</i>
13	<i>Other? _____</i>

14. ARE THERE ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE ABOUT RECREATION AND / OR OPEN SPACE IN THE ALPINE SHIRE?

ALPINE SHIRE COUNCIL WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR INVOLVEMENT

Please return this survey in the 'reply paid' envelope by Monday 16th July 2012

Optional:

To be kept informed about the Recreation and Open Space Plan and further consultation opportunities, please provide your contact details below. Your name, address, contact number and email will be entered in a separate database and will not be linked to the information you provide in the survey.

Name

Address

Telephone

Email

Personal information collected by Council is used for municipal purposes as specified in the Local Government Act 1989. The personal information will be held securely and used solely by Council for these purposes and/or directly related purposes. Council may disclose this information to other organisations if required or permitted by legislation.



ALPINE SHIRE

**ALPINE SHIRE COUNCIL
RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
ORGANISATION SURVEY**

Alpine Shire Council is preparing a Recreation and Open Space Plan which aims to provide a framework for the development of Alpine Shire's recreation and open space that will guide future decision making, planning and development, resource allocation and management.

As part of this project, Council is seeking information from a range of organisations (i.e. Clubs, Committees of Management, and Service Providers etc.) about passive and active recreation activities and the challenges organisations face in delivering these opportunities.

Your organisation is asked to complete this survey and return it to Council by **Monday 16th July**. You may return the survey via email stephenh@alpineshire.vic.gov.au or fax (03) 5755 1811, or if you received a hard copy you may use the attached reply paid envelope. The survey should take no longer than 10 minutes to complete.

If you have any questions about this survey or the Recreation and Open Space Plan, please contact Council's Recreation and Leisure Officer, Stephen Henderson on (03) 5755 0555. Thank you in anticipation of your support.

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of Organisation: _____

About the person completing this survey

Name: _____

Position in the Organisation: _____

Contact Phone Numbers: Home: _____ Mobile: _____

Email Address: _____

What are the main activities of your organisation? *(Please tick a box)*

Conducting activities and using recreation and open space areas / facilities (i.e. Sporting Club)
(Please answer all Sections)

Managing recreation and open space facilities (i.e. Committee of Management, Service Provider etc.)
(Please answer Sections 1,4,5,6 and 7)

Note: Please feel free to answer all sections; however Council is particularly interested in your answers to the sections that best describe your organisation's activities.

If you are a club, please state the name of the association / league in which you are affiliated:

If you are a Committee of Management / Management Group, please provide details of the:

Name of Reserve / Facility: _____

Type of Management Agreement (i.e. lease, deed of delegation etc.): _____

Reserve / Facility Owner (i.e. Council, Crown): _____

2. ORGANISATION MEMBERSHIP

2.1 Please complete the following table by stating the number of teams and members / participants in your organisation (where relevant).

Participants	Number of Teams (if relevant)			Number of Members / Participants		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Junior						
Seniors						
Veterans						
Social	-	-	-			
Volunteers	-	-	-			
Total						

2.2 Has your membership numbers increased, remained stable or decreased over the **past** 5 years? (Please tick.)

Increased Remained Stable Decreased

Why? _____

2.3 Do you anticipate your membership numbers will increase, remain stable or decrease over the **next** 5 years? (Please tick.)

Increased Remained Stable Decreased

Why? _____

3. USE OF FACILITIES

3.1 Please complete the following table to describe your organisation's activities.

Activity	Facility / Venue	Frequency of Use Days & Times <i>(i.e. morning, afternoon, evening)</i>	Season
<i>Example: Cricket training</i>	<i>Main Oval, XX Reserve</i>	<i>Mon, Tues, Thurs evenings</i>	<i>Oct - March</i>

3.2 Does your organisation host any major events? (i.e. finals, championships). If "yes", please provide details.

Yes No

3.3 Does your organisation share facilities with other groups? If yes, please state who and comment on the suitability of these arrangements.

Yes No

3.4 Are the above facilities / venues suitable for your needs? If "no", please provide details about any issues your organisation may have with these facilities:

Yes No

4. PRIORITIES FOR RECREATION FACILITIES AND OPEN SPACE

4.1 How would you rate the general condition of your reserve / venue? Please explain.

Very Good Good Fair Poor

4.2 Is there a master plan to guide future improvements / decision making?

Yes No

4.3 Please complete the following table to help determine your organisations priorities for recreation facilities and open space over the next five years (*Please circle the numbers that best indicate your responses.*)

Description of Priority	Priority?				How well equipped is your organisation to manage this priority?			
	High	Medium	Low	N/A	Well equipped	Moderately equipped	Not equipped/ Need help	Have not thought about it
Example: Upgrade car parking	1	②	3	4	5	⑥	7	8
1. Upgrade or improve playing surfaces	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2. Expand or develop new clubroom facilities	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3. Increase the number of playing / training areas	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4. Internal building maintenance	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
5. External building maintenance	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
6. Upgrade lighting	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7. Upgrade car parking	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8. More/upgraded storage facilities	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9. Managing vandalism more effectively	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10. Water saving and / or recycling infrastructure	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11. Relocating to a more suitable facility	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12. Upgrading / expanding facilities for spectators	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
13. Please state other priority _____	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

4.4 Please complete the following table if your organisation has completed any recent improvement projects (i.e. over the past five years), or is currently involved in any projects to improve recreation facilities / open space

Name of Project	Dates / Years	Estimated Cost (\$)	Project Partners	Comment

4.5 Please complete the following table if your organisation has plans to undertake any capital improvement projects over the next five years that may require funding support.

Name of Project	Anticipated Date / Year	Estimated Cost (\$)	Potential Project Partners	Comment

5. ADMINISTRATION AND DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

5.1 Please complete the following tables by circling the number that best describes your response to the following priorities for improvement and how well equipped your organisation is to manage each priority.

Description of Priority	Priority?				How well equipped is your organisation to manage this priority?			
	High	Medium	Low	N/A	Well equipped	Moderately equipped	Not equipped/ Need help	Have not thought about it
<i>Example: More effective administration</i>	①	2	3	4	5	⑥	7	8
1. Making the organisation more financially viable and strong	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2. More effective administration	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3. Better communication within the organisation	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4. Marketing and promotion of the organisation and its activities	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
5. Developing or enhancing the organisation's website	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
6. Close and positive relationship with Council	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7. Amalgamation opportunities with other organisations	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8. Finding people with the right skills to fill organisation administration positions	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9. Seeking funding for new programs	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10. Increasing hire/use of facilities by other groups	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11. Building positive relations with residents	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12. Please state other priority _____	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

Volunteer and Participation Priorities for the next 5 to 10 years		Priority?				How well placed is your organisation to manage this priority?			
		High	Medium	Low	N/A	Well placed	Moderately well placed	Not well placed / Need help	Have not thought about it
Example: Attracting more families.		①	2	3	4	5	⑥	7	8
1.	Increasing the number of members	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2.	Skill development training for members	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3.	Better managing our volunteers so that they feel more satisfied, and have better direction	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4.	Developing and/or expanding programs for juniors	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
5.	Attracting and retaining young people in the organisation	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
6.	Developing and/or expanding opportunities for seniors and veterans	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7.	Developing / expanding opportunities for women	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8.	Developing and/or expanding opportunities for people with disabilities	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9.	Looking for different ways to run our organisation to attract more participants	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10.	Attracting more families	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11.	Other?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

6 SATISFACTION WITH FACILITIES AND SERVICES

6.1 Please complete the table below by circling the number that describes how satisfied your organisation is with the following statements.

Agree / Disagree Statement		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know /Not Sure
Example: Sharing arrangements for use of facilities work well.		1	②	3	4	5
1.	Our organisation feels well informed about our responsibilities.	1	2	3	4	5
2.	There are sufficient opportunities to apply for funding.	1	2	3	4	5
3.	There are sufficient facilities / areas to cater for the needs of our organisation.	1	2	3	4	5
4.	The standard of our facilities / open space areas is satisfactory.	1	2	3	4	5
5.	Sharing arrangements for the use of facilities work well.	1	2	3	4	5
6.	Facilities / open space areas are generally well maintained.	1	2	3	4	5
7.	Our organisation needs more training and support opportunities.	1	2	3	4	5
8.	There are reasonable arrangements in place for the maintenance of facilities and open space areas.	1	2	3	4	5
9.	Our organisation has sufficient resources to undertake our core activities	1	2	3	4	5
10.	Our organisation is generally well informed about opportunities for sport and recreation organisations in Alpine Shire.	1	2	3	4	5

ALPINE SHIRE COUNCIL
RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
SCHOOL TELEPHONE SURVEY

Name of School:

Name of person completing the survey:

Number of students (or capacity of education centre):

1. Facilities

What recreation and open space facilities do you have located at your school / centre?

FACILITY TYPE	DO YOU HAVE THIS FACILITY?		AVAILABLE FOR COMMUNITY USE?		HOW WOULD YOU RATE THE CONDITION OF FACILITY?				SIZE/DIMENSION OF FACILITY. (If exact dimensions are known please list.)		
	Yes (How many?)	No	Yes	No	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Full Size	Jnr. Size	Other

2. Community Access & User Groups

Does the school permit community use of its recreation and open space facilities? (i.e. by clubs, user groups, individuals.)

YES NO

If yes, please specify:

NAME OF USER GROUP	NAME OF FACILITY	WHEN IS THE FACILITY USED? (day and time)	WHAT IS THE FACILITY USED FOR?	TYPE OF USE & FEE STRUCTURE (i.e. permanent / casual, lease / licence)

Is the school experiencing any management or operational issues in relation to community access of the school's recreation and open space facilities? Are there any barriers that prohibit community use of school recreation and open space facilities? (i.e. liability, security etc.)

Would your school be willing to expand the current level of community access to the recreation and open space facilities?

YES NO

Is there any type of assistance that would be required by the school to increase community access of the school's recreation and open space facilities?

Does your school use any Council or privately owned recreation facilities or open space areas in the community?

YES NO

If 'yes', which facilities do you use and how often? Other comments?

Name of Community Facility	Frequency of Use? (i.e. weekly, monthly etc)	Additional Comments (i.e. type of activity used for, feedback on facility)

Are there any recreation or open space venues your school would like to use in the Alpine Shire but do not?

YES NO

If 'yes', which facilities would you like to use and what are the current barriers to use.

Name of Recreation Facility	Purpose of Use	Reason Unable to Use

3. Recreation Programs

Does your school offer any recreation programs or services outside the school curriculum (e.g. After School Sports Program)?

YES NO

If yes, please specify:

Name of Recreation Program or Service

Does your school make use of any recreation programs or services provided by external providers? (e.g. sporting club clinics)

YES NO

If 'yes' please specify:

Have you observed any participation trends in recreation activities among students? (i.e. activities run by the school that are usually quite popular, activities that many students participate in outside school that you are aware of).

4. Future Plans

4.1 Does your school have any future plans for expansion / addition / improvement of recreation and open space facilities? If 'yes', please provide details below.

YES NO

5. Partnerships

5.1 Does your school have any current or potential partnerships, or opportunities you would like to explore with community groups / clubs / Council regarding use of recreation and open space facilities? If yes, please specify.

YES NO

Any other Comments?



ALPINE SHIRE

RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN



Prepared by Sykes Consulting and Urbis

Recreation and Open Space Maps

The following pages contain the maps of recreation and open space areas in Alpine Shire that have been considered in the preparation of this plan. There are four separate maps covering the Shire and these are:

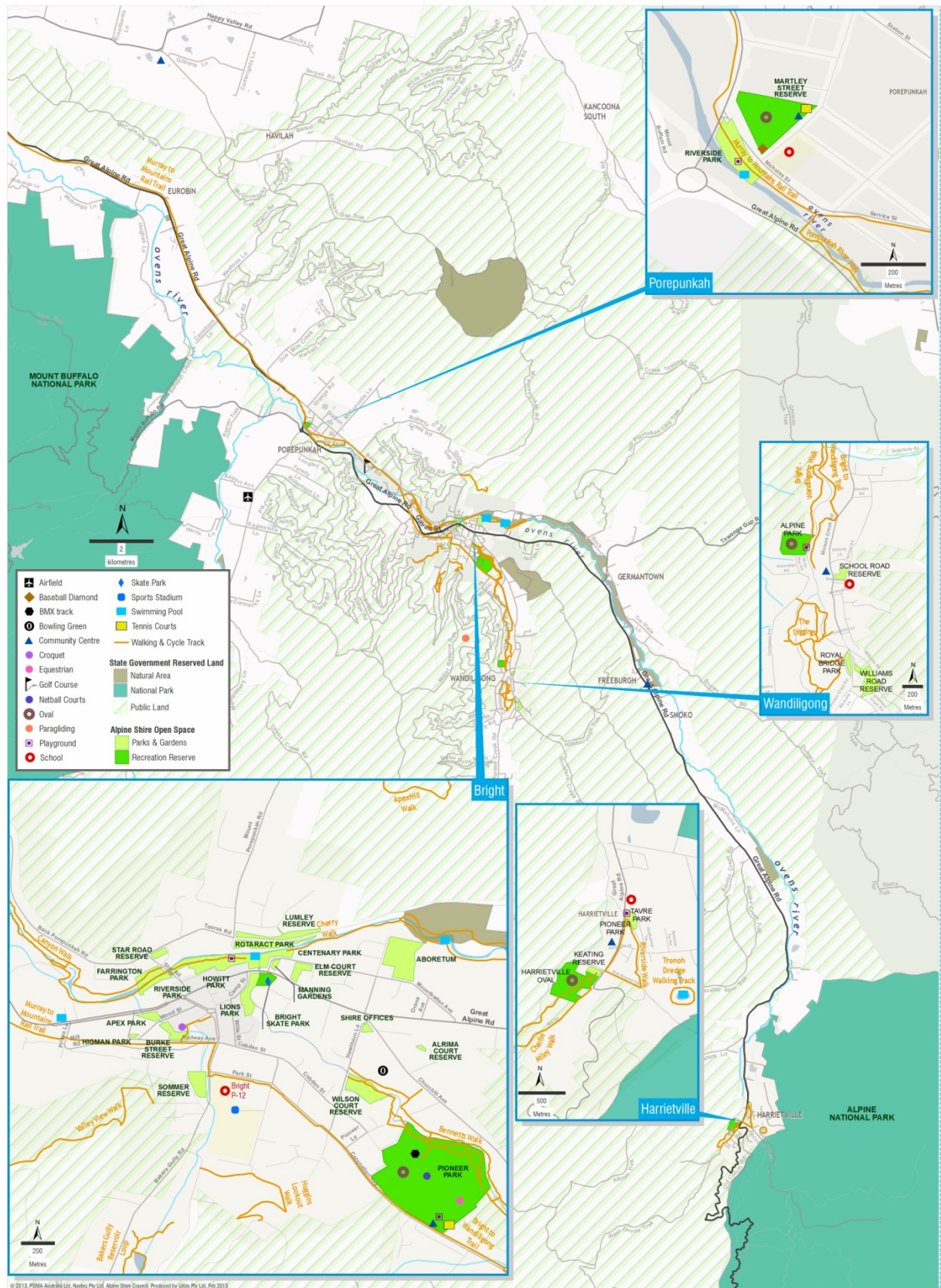
- Upper Ovens Valley, featuring Bright, Harrietville, Wandiligong and Porepunkah
- Lower Ovens Valley, featuring Myrtleford and Gapsted
- Kiewa Valley, featuring Mount Beauty, Tawonga, Dederang and Running Creek
- Alpine Region, featuring Dinner Plain

The main purpose of the maps is to highlight the key recreation facilities and open space areas for which Alpine Shire and/or the community has responsibility and other areas that provide recreation opportunities for residents and visitors.

It is noted that:

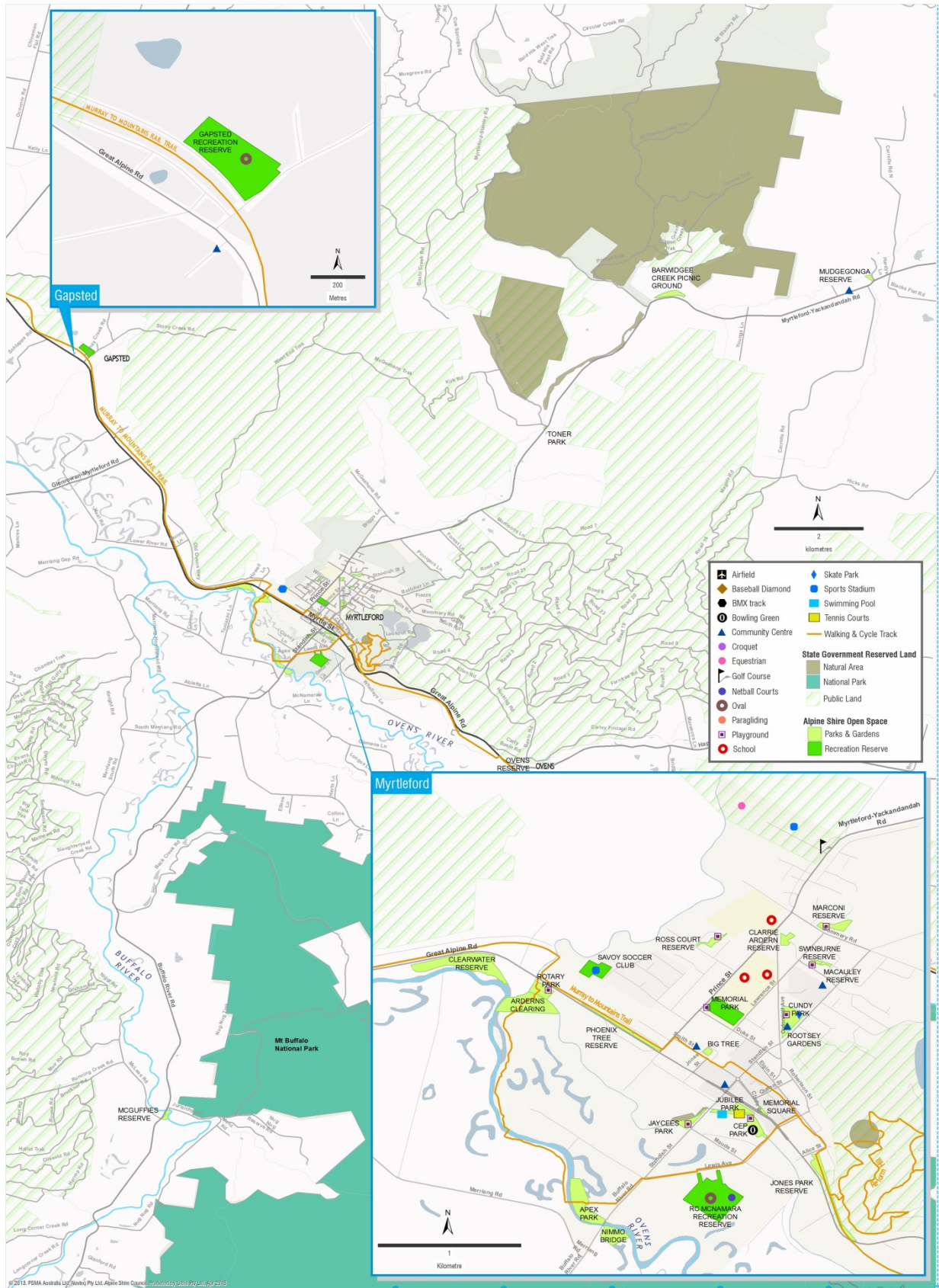
- The maps reflect Council's current data and are up-to-date at the time of publication. Council will continue to add further details and regularly update mapping data with regard to the range of recreation facilities and open space areas.
- The maps do not include facilities in national parks, state forests, alpine resorts or other public land resources.

Upper Ovens Valley

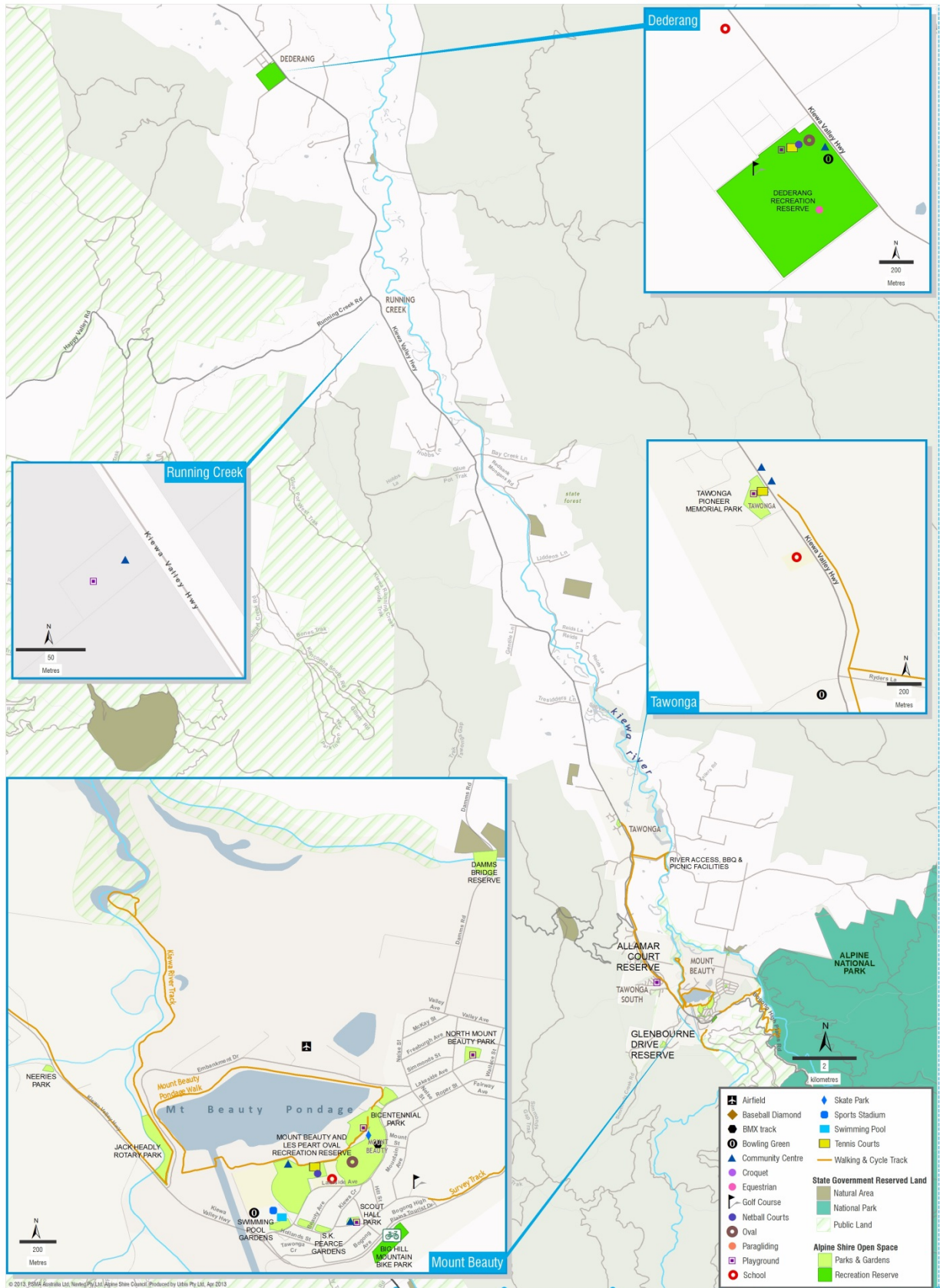


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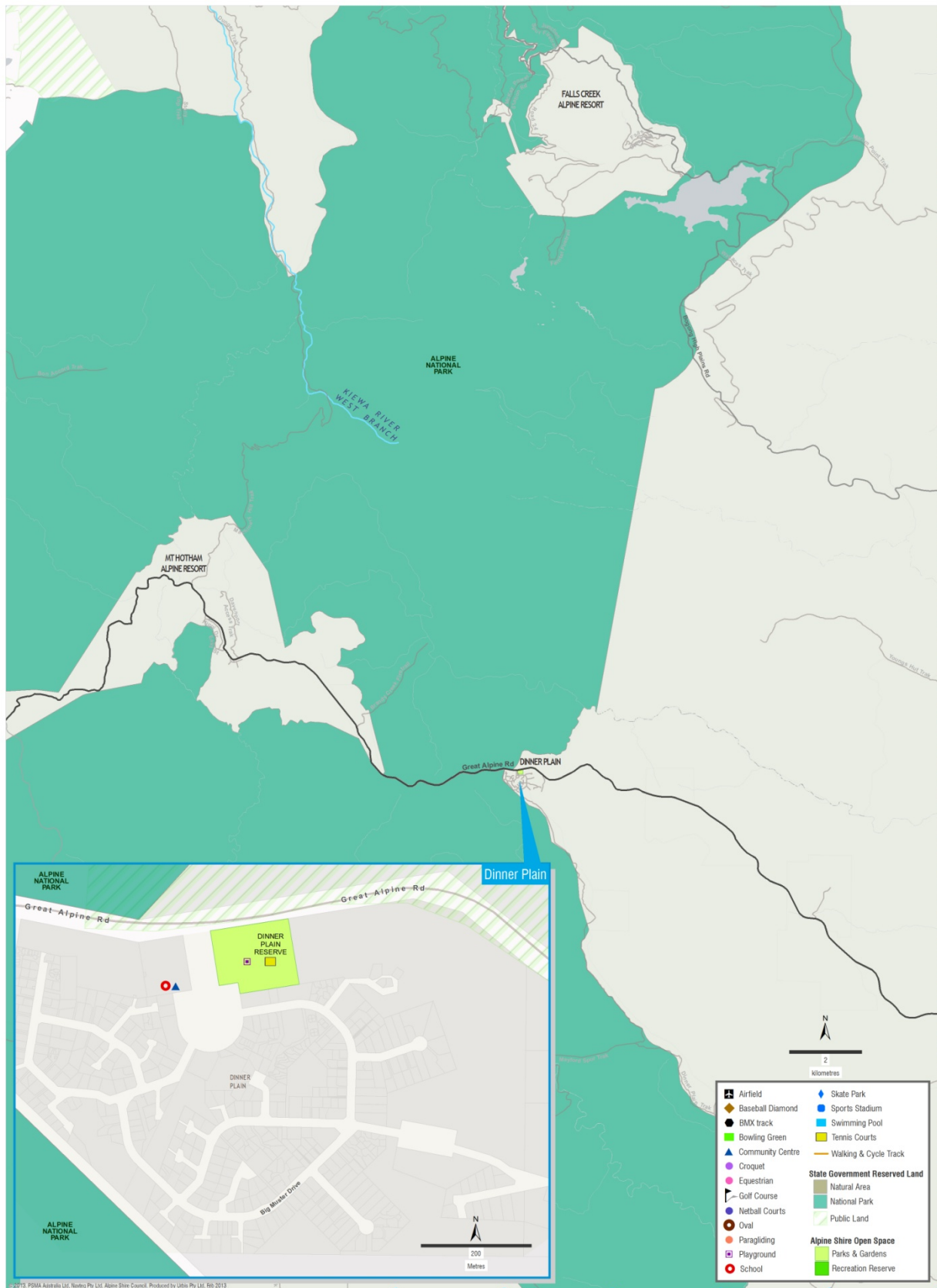
Lower Ovens Valley



Kiewa Valley



Alpine Region



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