

INSPIRE: *n. the arousing of feelings, ideas and impulses that lead to a creative activity. v. to uplift the mind of spirit.*  
PLACE: *n. the connection between nature and culture which gives meaning to our everyday life. v. to position or arrange.*  
NOTHOFAGUS GUNNII: *n. Deciduous beech, the only native deciduous tree endemic to the island of Tasmania, Australia.*



# HOBART RECREATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

Prepared for the Hobart City Council



Image: Richard Jupe and Hobart City Council

February 2009



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prepared for  
Hobart City Council



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# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 BACKGROUND

The Hobart City Council is the owner and manager of many major sporting and recreation facilities within the City that have the capacity to cater for a broad spectrum of use and events, ranging from international to local level competition. The Council also manages a network of open spaces that offer a wide range of outdoor recreational activities for local residents and visitors to enjoy. It also manages an array of community facilities that cater for a diversity of community needs. In addition, the Council provides some focused recreation programs and services that facilitate community use of facilities, and manage Community, Cultural and Events programs to assist community groups.

Recently the Hobart City Council adopted two strategic policy documents to improve the quality of life of Tasmania's capital city:

*Hobart 2025 A Strategic Framework* – the vision for 2025 and seven future direction statements based on identified community values that are to guide Council, and the desired outcomes and the strategies to be undertaken.

*Strategic Plan 2008-2013* – identifies the priority actions for the Hobart City Council over the next 5 years that will work towards achieving the vision and strategies set within the *Hobart 2025 A Strategic Framework*.

In light of the above strategic vision and future directions, this report comprises a review and update of initial work undertaken for the preparation of a draft *Hobart Recreation Management Plan in 2004*. This report provides Council with a policy framework consistent with Council's strategic vision and a set of priority actions that will help guide the planning and management of sport and recreation over the next decade.

This plan provides the basis for developing a more integrated approach across the breadth of the Council's operational and professional practices that will help Council improve its role in meeting the future needs of the Hobart community.

The plan provides an overview of the sporting, recreational and demographic trends that are likely to influence planning, managing and development of

sport and recreation facilities, programs and services in coming years. It summarises the views and issues expressed by stakeholders during an extensive consultation program during 2004. It presents a sport and recreation vision for the City of Hobart, a set of policy principles to support this vision and a range of recommended strategies to be considered for implementation over the next 10 years.

## **1.2 BENEFITS OF SPORT AND RECREATION**

Participation in sport and recreation can result in a wide range of social, economic and environmental benefits for individuals and the broader communities in which they live<sup>1</sup>.

When people are physically active they are healthier, happier and more socially active. It allows people of all ages to access opportunities to participate in activities that contribute to the growth of body, mind and spirit. By providing opportunities for social interaction, sport and recreation can help enhance community identity and promote community integration. Participation can also be a positive influence in the development of healthy social and community attitudes such as cooperation, understanding, character building, team spirit, fair play and loyalty, which build and enhance strong community values. Individuals learn and share community values and attitudes and can gain a better understanding of other groups in society. Participation can also have a deterrent effect on anti-social behaviour, including vandalism and petty crime (e.g. through increased presence at a facility).

Economic benefits are gained from direct and indirect employment in sport and recreation, from investment and tourism associated with these activities, and from the sales of sport and recreation goods and services. One of the most significant economic benefits is related to the reduction of health costs through involvement of people of all ages in regular physical activity. Access to sporting and recreational opportunities can be a major influence in where people choose to live, work and play. Recreation and sport is recognised as being one of the best predictors of community satisfaction.

Environmental benefits arise from the extensive network of open space and natural bushland that is protected and managed within the City of Hobart. These areas cater for the increasing demand for recreational pursuits in parks, open spaces and natural environments, in both urban and non-urban areas. Council's commitment to the management of these assets allows resources and facilities to be better utilised, in a manner that is sustainable and

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<sup>1</sup> These benefits are derived from various sources including Sport and Recreation Tasmania website and the Tasmanian Physical Activity Plan Live Life – Get Moving 2005-2010.





equitable, improving the quality of life of individuals and the community in which they live. Walking and cycling as a means of transport benefit the community through reduced traffic congestion, reduced noise and air pollution, reduced greenhouse emissions and the creation of safer environments.

### **1.3 RECREATION MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK**

The existing recreation management framework for the City is shown in Figure 1. The Annual Plan is prepared based on the future directions set by the *Hobart 2025 Strategic Framework, Strategic Plan 2008 – 2013* and the *5 Year Corporate Plan*. The Annual Plan is implemented with the direction and guidance of a range of statutory instruments, policies, plans, regulations and associated procedures, including the role of various management and advisory committees that involve elected Alderman.

The primary responsibility for sport and recreation falls within the auspices of the Parks and Customer Services Division of Council although there are a number of working arrangements for recreation support services with other Council Divisions as shown in Table 1.1.

The Parks and Customer Services Division have five key management units of responsibility – Parks and Recreation; Bushland and Reserves; Hobart Aquatic Centre; Marketing; Customer Services and Parking.

The Parks and Recreation Unit essentially looks after sporting venues and facilities, parks and gardens (including the Hobart Rivulet Linear Park), bookings, park facilities (e.g. toilets, play facilities), community facilities and halls, Council nursery, and the Hobart Regional Nursery Skills Centre. The Bushland and Reserves Unit is responsible for the 'natural' areas within the City including bushland areas, linear reserves, undeveloped open space, fire management planning, open space management plans, Bushcare volunteer programs, recreational use of the reserves etc. The Hobart Aquatic Centre is managed by a Board of Directors that operates on a semi-quasi commercial basis.

Service Agreements exist between Civic Solutions and both Council Units for the maintenance of parks infrastructure, sports facilities, and natural areas. It sets out general requirements to be met, and the maintenance services required for the maintenance of parks, landscape, park turf, reserves, horticulture, infrastructure, streetscape etc.

The Council has a Parks and Customer Services Committee consisting of five elected Aldermen that deal with a range of matters including recreation policy,

new initiatives, and 'landlord' approvals with users, upgrading of facilities and responding to recreation issues.

In recognition of the importance of recreation planning, Council has recently created a new position within Parks and Customer Services Division for a Recreation Services Co-ordinator.

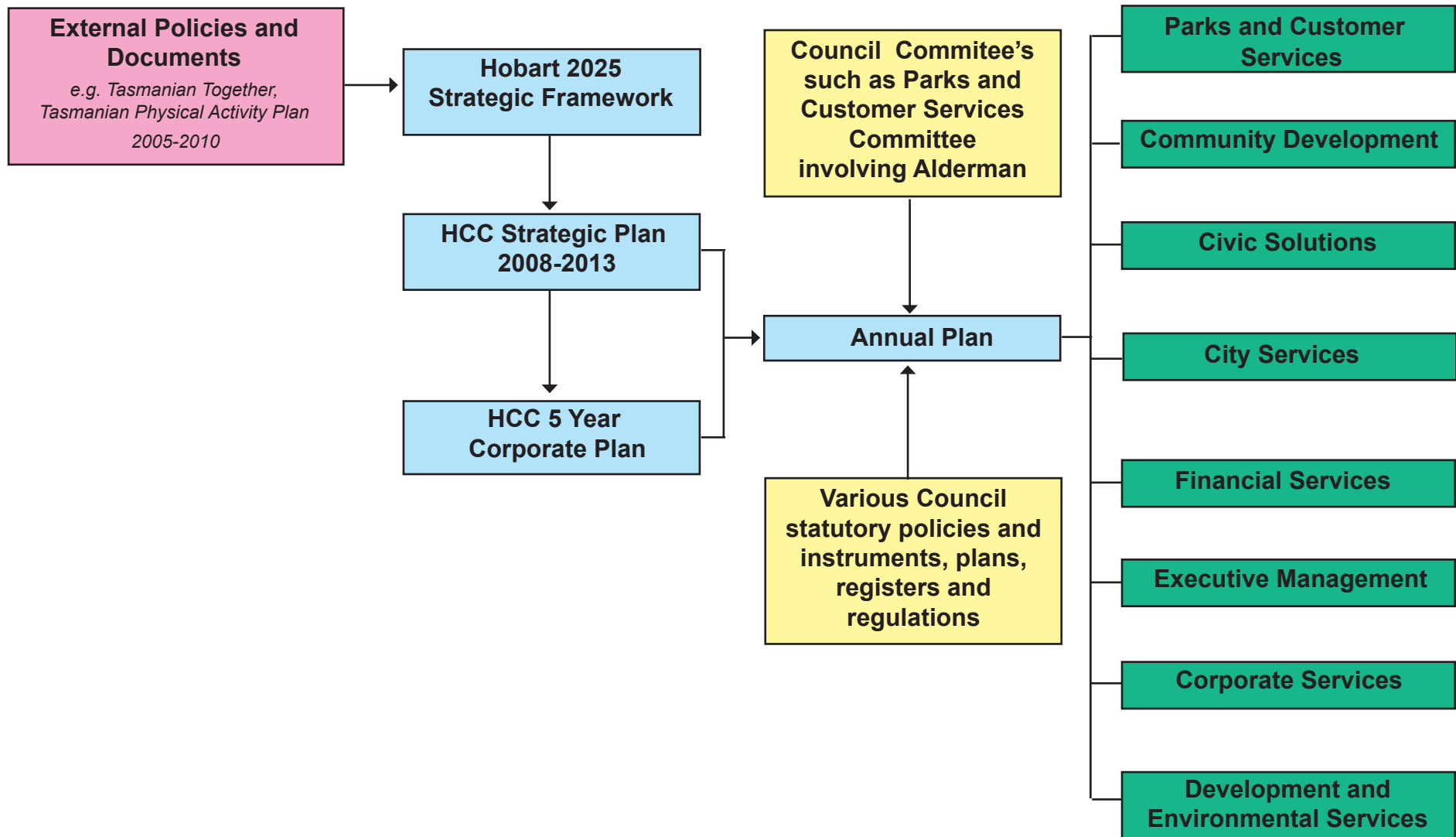
Council Division	Main Recreation Arrangements
Community Development	Undertakes community development programming with particular groups including young people, older people, children and families, culturally and linguistically diverse and people with a disability.  Community Grants and assistance: provides grants and assistance under the annual Community, Cultural and Major Events and Festivals grants programs. Hobart City Council event delivery and support to other event providers using Council recreational assets.
Civic Solutions	Maintenance of sporting and recreational assets as 'contractors' to service agreements. This includes all active and passive recreational areas, walking tracks and cycleway for such services as maintenance, cleaning, mowing, turf management etc.
City Services	Technical advice and assistance for design, infrastructure and construction works e.g. traffic engineering, contract management
Financial Services	Manage and monitor a range of financial matters as related to parks and reserves, bushlands etc.
Executive Management	Corporate Management Team involvement in Council policy and operations, lease arrangements with clubs and groups for the use of sporting and recreational facilities
Corporate Services	Administration support
Development and Environmental Services	Planning and development approvals, open space planning <sup>2</sup>

**Table 1.1.** Parks and Customer Services Working Arrangements within Council

Table 1.2 indicates that Council's *Hobart 2025 Strategic Framework* and *Strategic Plan 2008 – 2013* have identified a range of priority actions that are relevant to achieving improved opportunities and management of sport and recreation within the City. It shows a strong integration of these actions with the proposed direction of the Hobart Recreation Management Plan.

<sup>2</sup> Open space planning is conducted between the Parks and Customer Services and Development and Environmental Services Divisions.





**Figure 1.** Overview of the Hobart City Council Policy Framework for Recreation

Hobart Council Strategic Policy Framework Vision Hobart 2025 and Strategic Plan 2008-2013		Integration with Hobart Recreation Management Plan
Future Directions	Priorities Actions of direct relevant to sport and recreation	Comment
FD1 In 2025, Hobart will be a city that provides opportunities for education, employment and fulfilling careers; a city that is able to retain its young people and provide a lifestyle that will encourage all ages to see the city as a desirable location and lifelong home.	<p>Develop the Council's Youth Action Resource Centre as a youth, art and cultural space</p> <p>Review use of Council facilities and public spaces to support a wide range of activities</p>	<p>This FD and priority actions are supported by the <i>Hobart Recreation Management Plan</i>.</p> <p>Access to sport and recreation opportunities contribute to the overall attractiveness of the city as a destination and the lifestyle enjoyed by both residents and visitors. The city offers a great diversity of opportunities and quality sporting and recreational experiences with its parks and reserves ranked highly in resident satisfaction surveys.</p>
FD2 In 2025, Hobart will be a city that respects the natural beauty of Mount Wellington, the Derwent River, bushland surrounds and foreshore locations. The community connection to the environment has been enhanced through the protection of views, vistas, access and linkages. The physical environment has been conserved in a way that ensures we have a healthy and attractive city.	<p>Retain and promote the unique character and values of Hobart's bushland for the long-term benefit of the community</p> <p>Incorporate provisions into a new planning scheme that recognises the character and values of Hobart's bushland and that facilitates its long-term sustainability</p> <p>Develop a bylaw awareness and enforcement program for Council's reserve system to ensure protection of natural values</p> <p>Develop plans to improve management, access and use of foreshore areas</p> <p>Incorporate provisions into the new planning scheme that protect the waterways and foreshore from adverse effects of development</p> <p>Develop initiatives to increase community awareness and appreciation of the waterways and foreshore</p> <p>Identify and develop open space linkages through Council's Land Strategy</p> <p>Investigate access options linking the city to its boundaries, including extension of the Intercity Cycleway</p>	<p>This FD and priority actions are supported by the <i>Hobart Recreation Management Plan</i>.</p> <p>The integrity of the natural environment is critical to the quality of experience for many sporting and recreational activities within the city. These priority actions are aimed at sustainably managing the natural assets including the open space areas, with scope to improve linkages that would benefit recreational use by the community. Facilities such as the Intercity Cycleway, North South Mountain Bike Trail and sporting infrastructure contribute significantly to the lifestyle and wellbeing of residents and are valuable assets in attracting visitor interest within the City.</p>

Table 1.2 Relationship to Hobart 2025 Strategic Framework and Strategic Plan 2008 – 2013

Hobart Council Strategic Policy Framework Vision Hobart 2025 and Strategic Plan 2008-2013		Integration with Hobart Recreation Management Plan
Future Directions	Priorities Actions of direct relevant to sport and recreation	Comment
(FD2 continued)	<p>Work with the Glenorchy City Council and Wellington Park Management Trust to extend the North South Mountain Bike Trail to the Glenorchy Mountain Bike Park</p> <p>Improve the urban landscape through the development of a master and management plan</p> <p>Develop and implement 20-year management plans for all asset classes.</p> <p>Prepare and implement management plans for Council bushland reserves.</p>	See above
FD3 In 2025 Hobart will be a city that works effectively to lead an integrated approach to the planning and development of the metropolitan region. Partnerships will be created with governments, the private sector and local communities to achieve significant regional, city and community goals.	<p>Ensure Council's governance approach to planning across all Council activities is integrated and contemporary practice.</p> <p>Engage the community in order to monitor changing needs and aspirations.</p>	<p>This FD and priority actions are supported by the <i>Hobart Recreation Management Plan</i>.</p> <p>The Plan identifies the need for improved liaison and co-ordination of Council's involvement in recreation planning, development and management activities. It also recognises that the primary basis for future sport and recreation planning should include monitoring of changing needs, demographics and trends.</p>
FD4 In 2025 Hobart will be a city that remains unique in its own right, protecting its built heritage and history while pursuing quality development, the principles of sustainable cities and the reduction of ecological impacts. It will value access to the waterfront, foreshores, public and open spaces and continue to enjoy the benefits of scale and proximity.	<p>Undertake further studies to identify significant landscapes throughout the municipal area.</p> <p>Develop and implement 20-year Asset Management Plans.</p> <p>Identify high priority open space areas through Council's Land Strategy.</p> <p>Investigate locations for public access to waterways and foreshores and provision of appropriate infrastructure.</p> <p>Lobby for and develop appropriate mechanisms to ensure public access to waterfront, waterways and foreshore spaces is retained.</p>	<p>This FD and priority actions are supported by the <i>Hobart Recreation Management Plan</i>.</p> <p>These actions reinforce the strong relationship between the landscape and quality of experience when undertaking sporting and recreational activities. It also recognises the need to plan in the longer term for additional open space areas and to secure improved access to key areas of public use and enjoyment such as waterways and foreshores.</p>

Table 1.2 (cont) Relationship to Hobart 2025 Strategic Framework and Strategic Plan 2008 – 2013



Hobart Council Strategic Policy Framework Vision Hobart 2025 and Strategic Plan 2008-2013		Integration with Hobart Recreation Management Plan
Future Directions	Priorities Actions of direct relevant to sport and recreation	Comment
<p>FD5 In 2025 Hobart will be a city that maintains its convenience and accessibility through greater use of transport alternatives and an effective road and travel network.</p> <p>An integrated approach to transport planning within the city and across the wider metropolitan region will be the result of improved public transport options, cycle ways and walking tracks linking open spaces for transport and recreation, the availability of adequate parking for commuters and shoppers, the take-up of sustainable transport options, the reduction of through traffic and the management of a safe and efficient road network.</p>	<p>Develop and implement the Principle Bicycle Network Plan.</p> <p>Plan and implement the City to Southern Boundary Cycle and Pedestrian Link.</p> <p>Develop a Pedestrian Walking Corridors Plan.</p> <p>Prepare a recreational track strategy for Council's open space network to support walking and bike access.</p>	<p>This FD and priority actions are supported by the <i>Hobart Recreation Management Plan</i>.</p> <p>These actions support the strong community interest in developing recreational trails within the City that have the potential to also offer alternative and safe transport routes for the community.</p>
<p>FD6 In 2025 Hobart will be a city that reflects a spirit of community and tolerance. By valuing diversity and encouraging participation by all ages in the life of their community, a friendly and compassionate society will underpin a safe and healthy city.</p>	<p>Involve the community in identifying the need for and design of community spaces.</p> <p>Actively promote community use of public spaces.</p> <p>Create opportunities to enhance physical wellbeing through provision of appropriate open space infrastructure.</p> <p>Provide support to a range of community-generated activities through the Council's grants programs.</p> <p>Implement strategies that enhance the broader use of sports fields and open spaces by the community.</p> <p>Develop Council services and activities that promote healthy lifestyle choices.</p>	<p>This FD and priority actions are supported by the <i>Hobart Recreation Management Plan</i>.</p> <p>These actions recognise the significant role that open space and sports facilities can play in encouraging physical activity that will improve the health and wellbeing of the community.</p>

Table 1.2 (cont) Relationship to Hobart 2025 Strategic Framework and Strategic Plan 2008 – 2013



Hobart Council Strategic Policy Framework Vision Hobart 2025 and Strategic Plan 2008-2013		Integration with Hobart Recreation Management Plan
Future Directions	Priorities Actions of direct relevant to sport and recreation	Comment
FD7 In 2025 Hobart will be a city that is a destination of choice and a place for business. Clever thinking and support for creativity will help build a strong economic foundation, and entertainment, arts and cultural activities promote the distinctive character of the city. Lifestyle opportunities and strong communities will ensure a vibrancy and way of life that is Hobart.	<p>Encourage and promote activities that create a vibrant city.</p> <p>Implement recommendations of the Youth Programs Review relating to development of entertainment arts and cultural spaces for young people.</p> <p>Lobby relevant State Government agencies for the development of significant cultural and event infrastructure.</p> <p>Review and implement the Recreational Plan ensuring that there are appropriate linkages for the strategic use of key Council facilities and venues.</p>	<p>This FD and priority actions are supported by the Hobart Recreation Management Plan.</p> <p>These actions all support the City as a destination of choice – sport and recreational facilities, programs and services all contribute to the appeal of Hobart as a place to visit, stay or live within.</p>

Table 1.2 (cont) Relationship to Hobart 2025 Strategic Framework and Strategic Plan 2008 – 2013







## **2. SPORT AND RECREATION TRENDS**

A brief summary of Council's sporting and recreational assets is provided before the implications of demographic, sporting and recreation trends are reviewed for the City of Hobart. The information is intended to provide a contextual basis from which to consider the existing assets, sport, recreation and health and wellbeing needs of the community.

### **2.1 RECREATIONAL ASSETS**

Council's recreational assets include:

19 major parks and gardens (e.g. St Davids Park, Fitzroy Gardens);

45 local neighbourhood parks (e.g. Swanston Street play area, Fern Tree playground);

41 reserves (e.g. Waterworks Reserve, Ridgeway Park, Knocklofty Reserve, Hobart Rivulet linear park);

9 special facilities (e.g. Intercity Cycleway, Salamanca Square, The Hobart Aquatic Centre, Skate Park)

20 sportsfields (e.g. North Hobart Oval, TCA Ground, Cornelian Bay);

17 sporting facilities and structures (e.g. Buckingham Bowls Club, Creek Road Netball Centre, Domain Tennis Centre);

6 broad area bush reserves (e.g. Council managed section of Wellington Park, Pipeline Track);

9 foreshore/beach reserves (e.g. Nutgrove Reserve, Long Beach Reserve); and

15 undeveloped open spaces (e.g. vacant land).

Table 2.1 lists the hired and leased Council owned sporting facilities. The hired facilities are mainly multi-use sportsfields with associated support facilities (e.g. car parking, change-rooms, toilets) where overall management responsibility rests with the Council. The leased facilities are where management is normally undertaken by the club/organisation under the terms of a lease agreement but the facility remains in the ownership of the Council.

Most of the Council's parks have basic facilities to cater for the needs of passive recreational use including play facilities, nearby car parking spaces, seating, landscaping, and walking paths and signs. Some parks have additional facilities including picnic shelters, barbeques, ball game areas and lighting. Similarly open spaces and reserves can provide a range of facilities to cater for outdoor recreational activities, including tracks and pathways. It is estimated that the City has 125km of designated walking tracks, and a further 63km of fire trails. The City's bushland reserves cater for a mix of recreational walking, bushwalking, nature study, bike riding, running, rock climbing, picnicking, exercising with dogs, and in some areas horse riding.

Hired Facilities	Leased Facilities
Clare Street Oval	Buckingham Bowls Club
Cornelian Bay 2-5	City Bowls Club
Domain Athletic Centre	Cornelian Bay Hockey Centre
Domain Crossroads	Creek Road Netball Centre
John Turnbull Oval	Domain Tennis Centre
Lower Queenborough	DSS and RYCT Yacht Clubs
Mt Nelson Oval	H.C. Smith Stand (TCA)
New Town Oval	Hobart Football Clubrooms
North Hobart Oval	Indoor Cricket Centre (TCA)
Parliament Street Oval	New Town Bay Rowing Compound
Queens Walk Oval	New Town Croquet Club
Sandown Park No 1	New Town Oval pavilion
Sandown Park No 2	Queenborough Oval
Soldiers Memorial Oval	Royal Hobart Bowls Club
South Hobart Oval	Rugby Park
TCA Ground	Sandy Bay Croquet Club
Wellesley Park Oval	Sandy Bay Sailing Club
West Hobart Oval	South Hobart Badminton Centre
	Wellesley Park Soccer Club Rooms

**Table 2.1** List of Council Hired and Leased Facilities

In the case of Wellington Park the three main entry points within the City (i.e. Pinnacle, The Springs and Fern Tree) provide car and bus parking, public transport, shelter, toilets, water, picnic facilities (except Pinnacle), visitor interpretation, developed walks and signs. Most of the minor entry points to the Park have car parking, walking tracks, signs and several have picnic facilities (e.g. Lenah Valley and the Chalet).



The linear parks such as those developed along New Town Rivulet and Hobart Rivulet provide walking/cycling paths, seating, signage and interpretation.

There is a wide range of recreational programs available to the community from clubs and groups, commercial recreation operators, peak body organisations and through various Government programs. The key areas for programming of recreation facilities by Council include:

- extensive programming of the Hobart Aquatic Centre for a wide range of family and community recreation programs, aquatic education, health and fitness and other leisure programs;

- various community and recreation programs including those for young people, children and families, older people, people with a disability and the culturally and linguistically diverse;

- Bushcare programs including guided walks, fauna spotlighting, volunteer programs, school holiday activities, talks and activities; and

- booking of sporting and recreation facilities venues available to community groups.

In recent years Council has commissioned surveys into the level of satisfaction for its services, activities and programs. High satisfaction rankings were recorded for parks, reserves and playgrounds (87% which was ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 32), sporting facilities and sportsgrounds (82% ranked 7<sup>th</sup>) and management of Council's bushland reserves (81% ranked 10<sup>th</sup>). The survey also found that 82% of the respondents (survey of 200 households) regularly visited Council's bushland reserves and 50% made regular use (at least once a month on average) of Council's sporting facilities and sportsgrounds.

## 2.2 DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

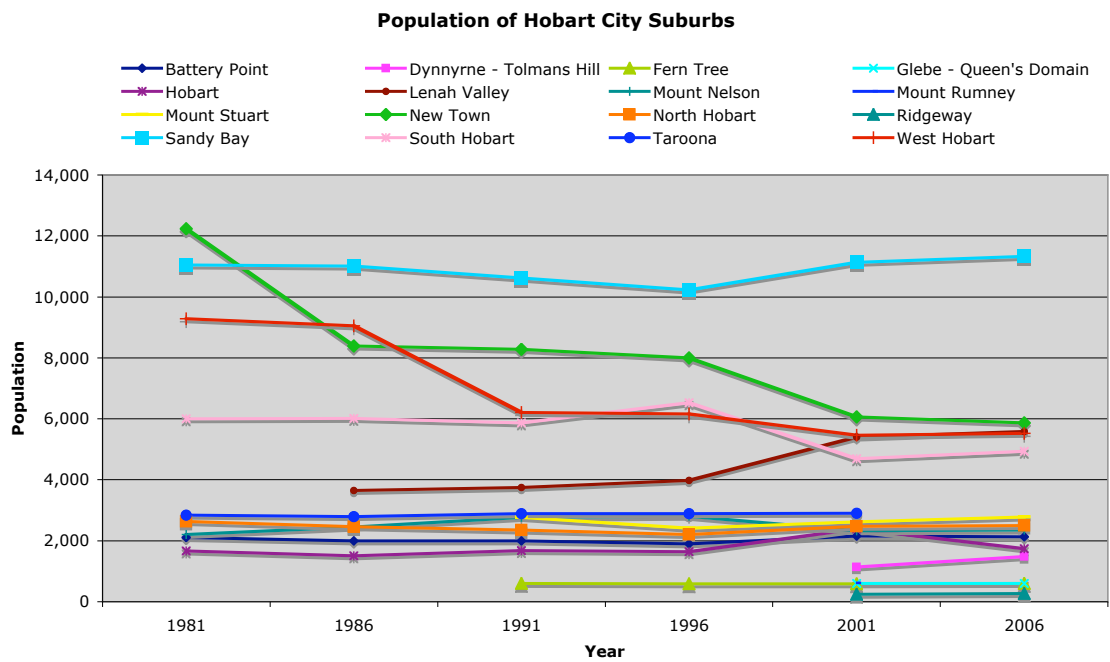
The trends include a slow increase in the population of the Hobart city, and a predicted trend towards population ageing, a shift towards unstructured recreation activities, in particular recreational walking, and evidence of an increase in the popularity of cycling and mountain biking. The trends are based primarily on 2006 data.

Trends	Implications
<p><u>Demographic Trends</u></p> <p>The following information has been extracted from the <i>Hobart City Council Community Profile 2007</i><sup>3</sup>, based on Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2006 Census data:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the population of the Hobart LGA was estimated to be approximately 45,000 (based on 'counted at home' figures)</li> <li>the population has slowly increased over the last few years (e.g. addition of 1725 people from 2001 to 2006) – the population has increased 3.1% over the last 15 years</li> <li>51.4% of the population in the Hobart LGA were females, 48.6% male</li> <li>the suburb of Sandy Bay had the highest population (23.8%) within the Hobart LGA, followed by New Town (12.3%), and Lenah Valley (11.7%) – see Figure 2.1 below.</li> <li>the median age was 39 years, compared to 37 years for Australia</li> <li>only 14.8% of the Hobart LGA population were within the 0-14 year age group (the smallest % of the children in the state)</li> <li>25.3% of the population were within the 15-29 year (the largest group), 21.5% between the ages of 40-54, 14% 65+</li> <li>ABS data projections for Tasmania indicate that by 2051, the median age will increase to between 50.6 – 52.4 years</li> </ul>	<p>The revised demographic trends indicate that the population of the Hobart LGA has increased slowly over the last few years – a shift from the pattern of decreasing population evidenced in previous years.</p> <p>The relatively large cohort of people in the 15-29 age group, may provide a push for improved infrastructure and programs for emerging recreational activities. For example, participants who generally fall into this age category are driving the demand for downhill mountain bike trails within Wellington Park.</p> <p>The high proportion of people within the 40-54, and the ABS 2051 projections for Tasmania, indicate that the Hobart LGA is likely to experience population ageing in the coming years. An ageing population will likely place greater emphasis on unstructured recreation (e.g. increased demand for safe and quality walking paths of an even grade, linking community facilities), with a potential decrease in the demand for traditional sporting facilities. It is likely that the trend towards increased participation in health and wellbeing activities, such as yoga, will also result.</p>

**Table 2.2.** Demographic Trends

<sup>3</sup> Prepared by Wise Lord and Ferguson Consulting.





**Figure 2.1** Population Trends of Hobart City Suburbs.

## 2.2 SPORT AND RECREATION TRENDS

Trend	Implications
<p><u>National and State Sport and Recreation Trends</u></p> <p>The <i>National Participation in Exercise, Recreation and Sport</i><sup>4</sup> (ERAS) annual report for 2006 revealed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>in the 12 months prior to the 2006 survey, only 25.3% of all respondents indicated that they participated in an activity or sport organised by a club once per week</li> <li>walking (excluding bushwalking) had the highest participation rate out of all activities (36.2% - nearly twice that of any other activity), between both male (26.2%) and females (45.9%)</li> <li>other highly ranked activities<sup>5</sup>, in order of participation were: aerobic/fitness (19.1%), swimming (13.6%), cycling (10.1%) and running (7.4%)</li> <li>Tasmania had a slightly higher overall participation rate<sup>6</sup> (81.3%) than that of Australia as a whole (80.5%), ranked third behind the Australian Capital Territory and Western Australia<sup>7</sup></li> <li>the overall participation rates were very similar for Tasmanian men and women (81% versus 82% respectively), however, Tasmanian women were more likely to participate in three or more activity sessions per week compared to Tasmanian men (48.2% versus 36.7% respectively) – this is also higher than that for both Australian men and women<sup>8</sup></li> </ul>	<p>The continued popularity of walking ('walking for health'), nationally and in Tasmania, is a trend that is also evident among residents of southern Tasmania and the Hobart City Area. Cycling and running also ranked highly – this is reflected in the demand for recreational trails both within and adjoining the urban area.</p> <p>There is an overall increase in the participation of informal recreational (e.g. walking, running and cycling) activities, coupled with a general decline in the participation of formal sporting activities at national and state levels that points to the need for a quality open space and trail network.</p>

**Table 2.3.** Sport and Recreation Trends

<sup>4</sup> Standing Committee on Recreation and Sport (2007). It should be noted that the ERAS survey only includes participants who are 15 years and older.

<sup>5</sup> Based on participation at least once per year.

<sup>6</sup> Based on people 15 years and over who participated at least once in an activity for physical activity, exercise or sport in the year leading up to the 2006 survey.

<sup>7</sup> Sport and Recreation Tasmania and Department of Economic Development and Tourism (2008) *Participation of Australians and Tasmanians in Exercise, Recreation and Sport: an analysis of the 2006 Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey (ERASS) results*.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid



Trends	Implications
<p><u>Regional and Local Sport and Recreation Trends</u></p> <p>Sport and Recreation Tasmania conducted a Participation in Sport and Recreation Activities Survey<sup>9</sup> in 2002. The following information has been extracted from the summary report for the southern region, which included the City of Hobart Local Government Area:</p> <p>70% of survey respondents (for the entire southern region) indicated that they did not participate in structured (organised) sport and recreation activities, preferring non-organised activities</p> <p>Recreational walking was the most popular activity for the entire southern region (51.9% of respondents), followed by swimming/diving (21.9%), fishing (16.9%), bushwalking (13.7%), golf (12.1%) and cycling (8.8%)</p> <p>About 80% of males and females from the Hobart LGA indicated that they participated in recreation<sup>10</sup>, slightly below the rates in Kingborough and Clarence (Hobart ranked 5<sup>th</sup> out of all the local government area)</p> <p>The 35-44 year age group represents the highest proportion of participants for the entire southern region, followed closely by the 45-54 year age group</p> <p>Some 70% of survey respondents prefer non-organised to organised sport and recreation activities – men had a slightly higher participation rate in organised sport than that of females (females are twice as likely to participate in non-organised activities than organised activities)</p> <p>Approximately 52% of survey respondents indicated that they participated in recreational walking, 22% in swimming and diving, 17% participate in fishing, 14% in bushwalking, 21% in golf and 9% in cycling</p>	<p>It should be noted that the Participation in Sport and Recreation Activities Survey is now 6 years old, and although the recreational trends indicated by the survey provide a useful overview of the recreational trends for southern Tasmania and the Hobart LGA, it is likely that some shifts in recreational preferences will have taken place. For example, it is likely that the participation rate for cycling will have increased since 2002, with significant growth in mountain biking<sup>11</sup> evident in the Greater Hobart Area. The gap between the demand for and the availability of mountain bike trails within the Greater Hobart Area is evidenced by the significant amount of illegal trail development. The development of the new North South Track within Wellington Park has alleviated some of the demand, however, there is still significant work to be done to improve opportunities for downhill riding in the area.</p> <p>Anecdotal evidence suggests that there has been a significant increase in the number of commuter cyclists, with an increased demand for safer cycling routes within urban areas.</p> <p>As noted above, there is a trend towards unstructured recreation activities, in particular walking and cycling. The demand for recreational trails is an example of this shift.</p> <p>Respondents noted that age was a factor for discontinuing activity. The provision of infrastructure and facilities that enable and encourage older people to continue to be active is likely to increase in importance in response to the projected ageing population. The links between physical activity and general health and wellbeing are well documented, with wide ranging benefits for the community.</p>

**Table 2.3. Sport and Recreation Trends**

<sup>9</sup> Office of Sport and Recreation (2002) Participation in Sport and Recreation Activities in the South of Tasmania, Department of State Development.

<sup>10</sup> The level of participation can vary significantly from those that participate on a regular basis to those that may only engage in activities on a very occasional basis.

<sup>11</sup> Anecdotal evidence suggests that there is an increase in the number of commuter cyclists, the increasing demand for mountain bike accessible and/or specific trails, the increase in nationwide bike sales, and the construction of illegal MTB trails across the state. Local bike shops indicated that the most popular type of bikes sold are mountain bikes in the \$500 range, followed by mountain bikes in the \$1000 range.

Trends	Implications
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Almost 50% of all respondents indicated that they did something active on a daily basis, or at least two to three times per week. The main motivation for participation was fitness, health and exercise followed by fun and enjoyment with under 7% participation for competition reasons.</li> <li>• Age was the main reason for discontinuing activity, followed by lack of time and a loss of interest respectively.</li> <li>• Current expenses and level of transport accounted for less than 5% of the reasons for discontinuing activity;</li> <li>• 39% of residents travelled outside of Hobart City to participate in sport and recreation activities, such travel is predominantly for the quality of facilities, the nature of the environment and competition.</li> <li>• Males appeared to spend more on sport and recreation activities than females.</li> </ul>	See above.
<p>Broader Participation Trends and Changes</p> <p>Some of the broader changes in recreation participation which have been identified nationally over recent years are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a trend toward participation in non-competitive and passive activities rather than traditional or formal sports</li> <li>• a search for more flexibility and diversity in leisure pursuits rather than a commitment to a small number of activities;</li> <li>• participation in activities which range from increasingly elite levels of participation to casual and modified-rules participation in many activities;</li> <li>• dramatic falls in a number of traditional team and small group sports with parallel increases in individual and small group pursuits;</li> <li>• significant increases in non-competitive but active pursuits such as cycling, walking, travel and swimming in all age groups;</li> <li>• growing support for and more involvement in informal, community-focused activities including community days, festivals, music and markets;</li> </ul>	<p>A number of these changes have substantive planning, design, management and programming implications for sport and recreation. In particular, the trends and changes suggest that any new or expanded facilities should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• add to the diversity of recreation opportunities available to the community</li> <li>• be of a high standard: this should apply not only to facilities, but also to the management, programs and services, which are provided - increased attention may also need to be given to targeted, personalised service</li> <li>• develop a focus on informal and formal recreation programming rather than on facilities management alone; programs should be suitable to and attractive to a wide range of ages, offer interesting user experiences and delivering long-term personal and community outcomes</li> <li>• have a strong family focus</li> </ul>

**Table 2.3.** Sport and Recreation Trends





Trends	Implications
<p><u>Broader Participation Trends and Changes (cont.)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• participation in recreation activities across a wider period of the day and week with a major move to week day evening sports participation and weekend involvement, including non-sporting pursuits and spectating</li> <li>• a continuing move toward indoor sports participation, particularly at the elite level and as a means of ensuring programming schedules can be adhered to</li> <li>• continuing growth in home-based leisure entertainment</li> <li>• the growth of more personalised leisure venues and services, as evidenced by 'boutique' health and fitness centres, the use of personal trainers, fitness videos/books/programs and home gyms</li> <li>• a significant growth in concern for the protection of the natural environment from both a recreational and political perspective</li> <li>• the emergence of risk management and public liability issues as major concerns for recreation providers</li> <li>• a growing desire for families to share recreational activities or to pursue related activities at one venue rather than pursuing a wide range of different activities at different venues (this often reflects changing work, leisure and family arrangements)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• focus on the integrated provision and time-tabling of opportunities to optimise family and social outcomes and investment returns</li> <li>• be programmed for different types of users and uses at differing times of the day and week (e.g. be multi functional)</li> </ul>

**Table 2.3.** Sport and Recreation Trends

The processes of sport and recreation planning, provision and management have changed extensively over the past 20-30 years. Change has been led by a wide body of research which has provided a far greater understanding of why the community participates in recreational activities; what types of facilities, programs and services people are seeking and why; how recreation involvement can be made more enjoyable and effective; how leisure needs are changing and why, and how recreation facilities can be better planned so as to be more attractive, proactive and financially viable.

Some of the trends in recreation provision which have become evident are:

- The acquisition of fewer and larger sites which have the capacity to meet a wide range of uses with integrated servicing and management while also providing attractive, informal parkland settings.
- The adoption of a needs-based planning process wherein provision is made on the basis of detailed assessments of the nature and needs of the community, rather than in response to the demands of vested interest groups.
- The adoption of broad, community-focused leisure policies and planning principles and values.
- The development of a hierarchy of related recreation venues capable of meeting different levels and standards of competition.
- The development of local and regional pathway and trail links both as recreational resources in their own right but also as a safe, non-motorised means of reaching activity venues and nodes.
- The construction of a wide range of indoor recreation facilities and quality indoor support facilities.
- The provision of a high standard of professional management in order to bring together the operation of a number of sporting and recreation pursuits in order to minimise the duplication of effort and to optimise the outputs to the community.
- The provision of a mix of commercial services with leisure facilities to help diversify markets, extend the stay and increase the 'spend' of visitors. These opportunities include consideration of public-private partnerships in the development of leisure and recreation facilities, programs and services.

It is evident that the change in patterns of demographic and recreation participation will have some significant long-term impacts on recreation participation and future demand, and therefore the provision of facilities and infrastructure, programs and services in Hobart. These demographic and participation trends will require the Council to review and at times, change its future role in recreation planning and provision. The Council will also need to consider possible ways of maximising utilisation of facilities and promoting



participation across all sections of the community, whilst dealing with changing demands for recreational facilities, programs and services.



## 3. KEY ISSUES AND NEEDS

This section provides a summary of the major findings of the consultation program undertaken as part of the preparation of the *Hobart Recreation Management Plan 2004*. Section 3.4 includes an updated overview of issues and needs raised at a review meeting with Council staff and key stakeholder in 2008, as well the results of the review of the recreation and demographic trends in Section 2.

### 3.1 SPORTING CLUB AND RECREATION GROUP SURVEY

The following table summarizes the key findings from a specific survey of Hobart sporting clubs and recreation groups undertaken in 2004. The high priority issues are those identified by 20-30 (66% - 100%) of the clubs/groups, moderate priorities by 10-19 (33% - 65%), and low priorities issues by 0-19 (0% - 32%) of the clubs/groups. The issues are also listed in order of priority:

<b>High Priority Issues</b>
Lack of volunteers to help administer and run the club or group
Increased legal liability pressure and rising insurance costs
Limited avenues now for sponsorship
<b>Moderate Priority Issues</b>
Increased operational costs of the club or group
Lack of suitable venues or appropriate facilities to meet club/group needs <sup>12</sup>
Limited club/group resources to upgrade/maintain club or group facilities
Limited funding assistance from government
Demands from major growth expected in the sport or recreational activity
Decline in club or group membership
<b>Low Priority Issues</b>
Decline in fund raising capability of the club/group
Increased competition/diversity of opportunities will reduce members
Limited skills or sufficient number of coaches
Changing working hours affecting support for club programs

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<sup>12</sup> The lack of suitable venue access related primarily to the restrictions due to limitations of training lights at venues.

### Low Priority Issues (cont.)

Need for the club to prepare a development or business plan  
 Lack of master plans for venues and facilities  
 Decline in spectators to support the sport or activity  
 Decline in population making it difficult to maintain players & supporters  
 Aging community  
 Limited club/group resources for programming of facilities and activities  
 Limited junior development programs  
 Too many restrictions being placed on clubs and groups  
 Limited information to help club  
 Lack of support services (e.g. public transport, childcare, information)  
 Lack of professional advice and support available

## 3.2 VIEWS OF PEAK/MAJOR USER GROUPS

The key issues raised throughout consultation with major sport and recreation clubs and groups were:

lack of suitable venues with training lights to help take the pressure off constant use of major sporting venues and allow potential for evening sport training;

change of retail hours has affected U19 age group participation in sport;

lack of structures in place for different user groups to work together;

tackling parking issues during events;

major facility upgrade costs to be faced in next decade, which are beyond the organisation and will be seeking Council and government assistance;

some maintenance responsibilities need to be clarified;

some clubs and/or groups are finding it increasingly difficult to attract volunteer support;

many of the schools are lacking the resources to effectively manage and maintain their sporting grounds;

some are finding it difficult to attract major sponsors; and

the need for upgrading public amenities at some venues.



Many of the peak organisations had negotiated public liability insurance cover through national sporting bodies and whilst premiums have risen, they have not been as excessive as other sports have experienced.

### **3.3 OVERVIEW OF SPORT AND RECREATION ISSUES**

In summary, the main issues as identified in the *Hobart Recreation Plan 2004* were:

- Difficulties in attracting sufficient community volunteers. This is a drain on club administrators and very much a reflection of changes in community work and leisure patterns, the growing professionalisation of sport, and of the growing issues of legal liability in public life. Concern was expressed during the consultation about the risk of 'burn-out' of volunteers within clubs and groups and concerns regarding public liability and responsibility for volunteers. There is a need, therefore, to recognise the changing trends in volunteering and assisting clubs in developing strategies to attract more volunteers.
- Increasing emphasis and resources required for undertaking a sustainable Bushland Management program, this includes the resources required for fire management, weed control, protection of habitat values, management of skylines through the acquisition of land, improving the public open space network through minimising the impacts of growing and changing recreational use, provision of basic facilities etc
- The growing participation and changing nature of some adventurous, or extreme sports in bushland areas, and their potential impact upon identified natural and cultural values (i.e. the adverse impact of downhill and/or free-ride mountain biking on walking track infrastructure).
- There is limited programming of sporting and recreation facilities, with many facilities managed on a maintenance-only basis. As a consequence, many sporting and recreation facilities cannot be readily programmed or staffed, and thus their multi-use capacity is often significantly reduced.
- Risk management issues must be addressed in relation to all existing facilities and all planned facilities and infrastructure. Adoption and implementation of regular action(s) to address issues of risk should be

of high priority given the high level of community involvement in sport and recreation.

- Many sporting and recreation clubs are finding it difficult to remain financially viable as a consequence of declining participation and memberships. This decline is from the increase in alternative activities, the growing costs of provision and reduced parental support. Financial difficulty is being increased by rises in electricity charges, land rentals, escalating public liability insurance, and higher maintenance costs, especially when the latter relate to facilities which are old and were poorly built in the first place. Furthermore, fundraising is becoming increasingly difficult due to the competition for sponsorships and the competing efforts of other sports.

The issues and needs identified by participants in the review forum held in August 2008, and as a review of the updated recreation trends and demographics were:

- The need for a sport and recreation coordinator, to facilitate coordination between the various divisions and Council staff, and external agencies and groups involved in sport and recreation planning, management and provision.
- Increasing participation in informal/unstructured recreational activities
- The need to ensure that sport and recreation planning does not become a purely technical exercise (e.g. an exercise in asset management or facilities engineering) – sport, recreation and health and wellbeing should sit jointly between the Community Development Division and the Parks and Customer Services Division, and be approached from a community development perspective across the organisation and in partnership with the community
- The need to improve the currently fragmented approach to the promotion of sport, recreation and health and wellbeing activities and programs.
- The need to further develop print and electronic media relating to sport and recreation (e.g. a commitment to regularly update the Council website, the development of brochures for parks and playgrounds in addition to walk and cycling brochures).





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- The tendency for clubs/groups not to be tuned into the broader needs of the community, which can result in user and/or resource allocation conflicts.
  - The need to consider the merit and timeframe of leases and licences (e.g. clubs often do not have the financial resources to appropriately maintain Council owned assets, which can result in a depletion of the asset, and higher costs to Council in the longer term) – need a specific policy in relation to leases and licenses.
  - The need for a specific masterplan for the Queens Domain sporting precinct (outlined in the *Queens Domain Management Plan*).
  - The increase in the development of unauthorised mountain bike trails in bushland areas
  - The need to maintain and enhance access to, and amenity of foreshore areas for recreational purposes.
  - The need to better integrate health and wellbeing with more traditional ideas of sport and recreation (shift towards ‘active communities’).
  - The need to develop stronger partnerships with other Councils in relation to sport and recreation planning, management and promotion (e.g. to improve regional linkages).



## 4. STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

The following policy framework is designed to guide the maintenance and improvement of existing sport and recreation facilities, programs and services within the Hobart City Council, and the planning and development of new initiatives over the next 10 years. The framework is designed to integrate with Council's *Strategic Plan 2008-2013* and other existing planning and policy structures.

The key components of the policy framework are:

**Vision.** This is a statement of Council's intent regarding its involvement with sport and recreation in the community.

**Recreation Planning Principles.** These are a set of broad principles, with which to guide decisions and planning relating to sport and recreation over the long-term. The principles evoke the core values of recreation planning policy and provide strong guidance in the future.

**Policy Positions.** These are a set of policy positions and strategic directions to guide Council in developing an action plan for sport and recreation, which further the above principles. It would be expected that these statements would be reviewed every 5 years, over the mid to longer term as new contexts and challenges in recreation planning arise.

**Strategic Actions.** These are the specific actions, which should be implemented to achieve the overall recreation planning vision, in keeping with the principles.

### 4.1 THE VISION

The following vision is proposed for the City of Hobart:

**Hobart will be a liveable city where sport and recreation opportunities are actively managed and supported to provide sustainable, life-long participation and health and wellbeing benefits for the community**

The term “sustainable” is defined in several ways:

the ability of sport, recreation and open space facilities, programs and services to continue to be available as a result of good maintenance, good management and, where relevant, with minimal or no detrimental environmental impacts;

the ability of Council and the community to afford the opportunities which are available; and

the ability to ensure that the opportunities, which are available, are relevant, and meet the changing needs of the community.

It suggests that facilities, programs and services that are not sustainable will, over time, be restructured, revised or discontinued.

The term "life-long" is defined as meaning the provision of a mix and diversity of sport, recreation and open space facilities and programs which are of interest to and accessible by people of all ages.

The intent of the word “community” is that provision would be made for:

the general resident community within the City;

people that work in the City;

visitors to the City; and

a range of other individuals and groups who may well have special requirements which need to be met to ensure that they can participate in sport and recreation pursuits and thereby gain the benefits intended through the provision (e.g. aged, youth, people with disabilities, minority cultural groups, Aboriginal community etc).

## **4.2 THE PRINCIPLES**

These principles are in part based on the recreational policy principles adopted by the Active Australia Program but have been revised and expanded to account for the needs of Hobart.

**Fairness, Equality and Access** – Council actively seek equality of access to sport, leisure and recreation opportunities regardless of age, sex, mobility,



ethnicity or economic capacity by providing extra help for those for whom access is more difficult (e.g. for reason of language or mobility barriers); encouraging the development of user-friendly and high standard access infrastructure (including roads, footpaths, bike ways); ensuring equitable pricing policies, and favouring initiatives which improve access.

**Life-Long Involvement** – Council is committed to ensuring that all members of the community have the opportunity for life-long involvement in sport, leisure and recreation through participation and education programs; improvement of access and services and exposing people to new or different leisure and recreation opportunities. The trend towards population ageing will continue to be an important consideration for ensuring that opportunities for life-long participation are provided for.

**Quality of Experience and Safety** – Council believes that members of the Hobart community have the right to expect a high standard of recreation opportunities based on identified community needs. Council recognises the value of experiential qualities of recreation (including environment and setting); and the need to ensure that facilities, programs and services are provided in accordance with community need, contemporary standards and practices for health, risk and public safety.

**Continual Improvement** – Council is committed to reviewing and continually upgrading its provision of recreational facilities, programs and services to improve the operational capacity of Council to provide these services. Council is committed to facilitating initiatives in the community and commercial sectors, which improve recreation opportunities, and ultimately the health and wellbeing of the community.

**Sustainability** – Council believes in ensuring the sustainability of sport and recreation opportunities by providing facilities programs and services which meet identified needs in the community; by strengthening the ability of Council and the community to develop, operate and maintain them, and by avoiding, remedying or mitigating any lasting impacts upon the natural environment and quality of life of residents. In pursuing this principle, Council will encourage the involvement of members of the community in major decisions relating to sport and recreation.

**Multiple-Use and Efficiency** – Council believes in multi-use and efficiency in the provision of recreation opportunities. Efficiency is measured in terms of the costs incurred in the running of programs, maintenance, improvement or replacement of facilities against the benefits to the whole community in terms of recreation opportunity. Preference will be given to initiatives which avoid

the duplication of facilities, which are designed to support and encourage multi-use and which help to achieve a coordinated and holistic approach to sport and recreation.

**Diversity of Opportunities** – Council will support the provision of a range of opportunities for both passive and active recreation; in response to community needs; in a number of locations; at all levels of skill and competence and which cater for needs at the local, municipal and regional levels. Council will encourage and work with users to support the development of new opportunities for sport and recreation in the City.

**Partnerships/Shared responsibility** – Council will pursue opportunities for joint development of facilities with other providers (e.g. schools, the Parks and Wildlife Service, Wellington Park Management Trust, private business, not-for-profit agencies); encourage shared management regimes with clubs and community groups and inter-agency and inter-government cooperation; and will assist those who assist the community (e.g. volunteers and community based groups).

**Making a Whole-of-Council Commitment** – Council believes in a cooperative, whole-of-Council commitment to meeting the foregoing principles and to improving opportunities for sport and recreation for all members of the community. This translates to the involvement of a range of staff with differing skills involved in sport and recreation planning, and engaging in partnerships with other local councils to facilitate better planning and management.

**Organisational Capacity** – Council will develop the organisational and financial capacity to actively, plan, manage and assist with the delivery of facilities, programs and services that enhance opportunities for all members of the Hobart community to benefit from engaging in sport and recreation activities.

These principles were included in a question within the survey sent to clubs and groups in 2004, and the response indicated that there was a clear majority of support for all the principles.

#### **4.3 THE POLICY POSITIONS**

The following policy positions have been identified to guide Council in the application of the Recreation Management Plan:



**4.3.1** Recreation facilities, programs and services on Council land or land for which Council is responsible will be managed and maintained by the Council, either directly or under arrangements endorsed and regulated by Council.

**4.3.2** Council will only provide or support new facilities, programs and services that reflect identified community needs and which will broaden the base for participation.

**4.3.3** Council will continue to provide or support a range of open spaces and facilities to allow the opportunity for an equitable range of both structured and unstructured recreational experiences. Wherever practical, those open spaces and facilities will be developed, managed and scheduled to support multi-use.

**4.3.4** Council will provide and maintain recreation facilities, programs and services for the use and enjoyment of the community. Standards of provision will be appropriate for the standard and level of use and will comply with contemporary standards for competition, safety and risk management. Council will develop and maintain recreation facilities, programs and services using a hierarchy of standards in order to offer sustainable opportunities for participation at all appropriate skill levels.

**4.3.5** All Council recreational facilities, programs and services shall be subject to the provisions of Council By-laws.

**4.3.6** Council will continuously review the existing provision of recreation facilities, programs and services for the purpose of determining need and relevance, and where appropriate, will refurbish and/or rationalise the assets or restructure their management to ensure current and emergent needs are satisfied.

**4.3.7** Council will promote the availability of appropriate recreation facilities, programs and services in the community for a broad range of uses, and shall encourage individual, associations and clubs to provide events and sporting fixtures on Council reserves whether on a regular or occasional basis.

**4.3.8** In order to encourage multiple use and shared access, Council will explore the potential for alternative arrangements to granting associations, clubs or individuals exclusive occupancy rights to any facility for specified hours, days, and weeks within particular seasons of the year.

**4.3.9** Council will establish specifications for provision and maintenance for each type and standard of facility, program and service so as to deliver a consistency of provision at a cost that is sustainable.

**4.3.10** Fees and charges will be established on the basis of facility, program and service maintenance costs; facility, program, service and user types, and Council's community service obligations.

**4.3.11** Council will encourage and facilitate development and transition to a shared or multiple occupation of existing grounds, facilities, clubrooms and social facilities.

Council will need to monitor the implementation and impacts of these policy positions, and review and revise them on a 5 yearly basis as deemed appropriate. Additional items can also be added depending on new and changing circumstances.





## 5. ACTION PLAN

The Strategic Action Plan details the initiatives, which have been identified for developing the capacity of Council to address sport and recreation issues in a directed, comprehensive and integrated manner.

The Plan has been prepared to guide future decisions about community recreation planning and management within the City over the next 10 years, with the Council playing a major role in leading that direction.

The Plan provides:

- a brief description of the strategy indicating what needs to be done;

- the rationale for the recommended strategy; and

- the priority for the strategy, subject to available resources, based upon the following:

  - High** - high priority strategy that should start and be completed within the next year,

  - Moderate** - moderate priority strategy that should start and be completed within the next 2-3 years,

  - Low** - low priority strategy that should be started and completed within the next 4-10 years, and

  - Ongoing** - a strategy that requires continuous action, commencing immediately or requiring immediate action when the relevant situation arises.

It should be noted that the priority allocation sets time for the desired completion of the strategies but does not provide a recommended starting time. This reflects the need for taking a more dynamic approach to recreation planning given the many different factors that can bring forward or constrain the ability of Council to respond to a need, issue or emerging trend. In some situations the ability to start action will depend on the success of achieving other sources of funding, having the level of community support, the results of other related actions and securing the political will of the Council.

As noted previously, the purpose of the Recreation Management Plan is to identify priorities for improving existing facilities or adding new or additional

sporting and recreational facilities within the City – this would require a far more comprehensive assessment of sporting club, recreation groups and general community needs than what was possible with this project. However the Plan does indicate strategies for the Council to help address the recreation management issues and proposals in the future.

The recommended strategies have been organised into 7 key areas of Council's functional role, those being:

- policy co-ordination;
- roles and responsibilities;
- consultation;
- information;
- facilities, programs and services;
- promotion and marketing; and
- research and monitoring.

Some of the recommended strategies extend beyond the current capacity of the Council to realistically provide resources and management for community sport and recreation. Nonetheless, the actions are included to indicate the desired long-term direction for recreation planning, development and management over the next 10 years. It is also important that the Plan not be seen as a fixed document but rather a tool that can be updated on a regular basis as new information becomes available.

Accordingly it is recommended that the Plan be seen as a 'working document' that requires regular review and planned revision. It is recommended that an 'internal' review of the implementation of the Recreation Management Plan be undertaken annually as an integral part of Council's annual strategic planning program. A major review with extensive community consultation should be undertaken within 8-10 years, or earlier if Council considers it necessary.



No	Recommended Strategies	Rationale	Priority
1	<b>Policy Co-Ordination</b>		
1.1	Continue to assess community needs as a primary basis for future decision-making about planning and development priorities and locations for sport and recreation facilities, programs and services.	<p>Council should continue to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• monitor facility use and user capacity, and implement monitoring mechanisms where they do not currently exist</li> <li>• monitor population demographics as a means of determining implications to facility, program and service provision</li> <li>• monitor changes in sport and recreation trends to determine the implications to facility, program and service provision</li> <li>• use the policy framework and principles to establish a mechanism for assessing new development proposals not identified in a needs study</li> </ul>	High Ongoing
1.2	Continue to strengthen Council's ability to liaise with other organisations in the planning, development and management of sporting and recreation opportunities within the Hobart metropolitan region. The agencies might include other Councils, Department of Health and Human Services, Sport and Recreation Tasmania, Education Department, Parks and Wildlife Service, Forestry Tasmania, MAST etc.	<p>Whilst Council has strengthened its working relationship with Sport and Recreation Tasmania, further work could be done to improve linkages with other relevant agencies, groups and stakeholders involved in sport, recreation, health and wellbeing provision. Projects may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• working towards an agreed accepted regional recreation and trails plan</li> <li>• identifying areas of common interest and mutual benefit</li> <li>• developing better awareness and co-operation between the Council and agencies regarding the future planning, development and support of sport and recreation facilities, and health and wellbeing programs and services</li> <li>• promoting greater access and community use of public facilities for sport and recreation</li> <li>• encouraging opportunities for joint development or partnership arrangements in sport and recreation within the region</li> </ul>	Moderate Ongoing

No	Recommended Strategies	Rationale	Priority
<b>2.</b>	<b>Roles and Responsibilities</b>		
2.1	Form a Recreation Services Co-ordinating Group within Council with representation from each of the key Council Departments involved directly with recreation planning, development and management.	<p>Whilst many Council divisions and staff are involved in the planning and implementation of sport and recreation on a daily basis, there is not currently a formal mechanism with which to ensure effective coordination of effort. The recent appointment of a Recreation Services Coordinator would facilitate the Recreation Services Coordinating Group and provide the first point of contact in relation to sport and recreation matters.</p> <p>The group would provide co-ordinated provision of advice to Council on strategic sport and recreation matters. The group should be dynamic and meet in response to issues and identified needs.</p>	High
<b>3</b>	<b>Consultation and Assistance</b>		
3.1	Organise, where appropriate, site, area or use based forums/working groups with key stakeholders to discuss issues, concerns, ideas, priorities, funding and assistance opportunities.	<p>Council has often found that general recreation user group forums have not been successful in the past. Facility or site specific forums tend to have a higher participation rate, and would be of greater relevance in relation to improving communication with specific user groups and improving the use and management of Councils facilities.</p> <p>Sites/facilities that would benefit from the implementation of this recommendation may include North Hobart oval, New Town sports precinct, Domain sports facility precinct etc.</p> <p>These forums may be conducted in conjunction with representatives from other agencies, who may also be able to offer advice or assistance to clubs (e.g. Sport and Recreation Tasmania).</p>	Moderate
3.2	In partnership with other agencies, such as Sport and Recreation Tasmania, and other Councils in the Greater Hobart Area, Council should assist with facilitating the improvement of management and programming skills within existing and new sporting clubs and recreation groups, through the provision of advice and co-ordination of support training services.	<p>This may include the provision of advice relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• improving club management skills</li> <li>• opportunities for volunteer training</li> <li>• preparation of Business Plans</li> <li>• management of volunteer services</li> <li>• financial management</li> <li>• access to Government agencies and funding programs</li> <li>• fund raising</li> <li>• legal and insurance aspects</li> <li>• risk management</li> <li>• program development</li> <li>• pricing services</li> <li>• marketing and promotion</li> <li>• meeting disability access standards</li> </ul>	Moderate Ongoing



No	Recommended Strategies	Rationale	Priority
3.3	Further develop Council's knowledge, information and referral skills to assist clubs and groups with advice on planning and design aspects for developments that will be multi-use facilities or meet other community needs e.g. access for people with disabilities, public safety etc.	Several Clubs and groups indicated the value of the Council's, and that of other external agencies technical and professional advice to address specific issues and site problems.  Existing advisory arrangements (e.g. as is occurring in relation to the tennis centre development) are proving successful, and beneficial to ensuring informed and coordinated decision-making.	Low Ongoing
<b>4</b>	<b>Information</b>		
4.1	Continue to improve the Council database on its sporting and recreation facilities, programs and services for use for planning, management and community information purposes.	This recommendation recognises the usefulness of Councils' existing database. Currently, council has good information regarding user groups and Council owned and managed facilities, but does not have comprehensive information on facilities, programs and services for complimentary public facilities owned by schools, the University or other privately owned facilities.	Moderate Ongoing
4.2	Consider a range of ideas for improving the distribution of sport and recreation information in partnership with other Councils, agencies, clubs and community groups.	The information delivery could include (but is not limited to) the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>targeted promotion through specific clubs or facilities (e.g. via email, newsletters or noticeboards)</li> <li>preparing and distributing a bi-annual sport, recreation, health and wellbeing newsletter (this may be a joint publication with other Councils in the Greater Hobart Area)</li> <li>further developing the Council website, to provide updated information about facilities and programs, as well as upcoming events</li> <li>preparing panel information on sport and recreation opportunities that can be displayed at Community Information Boards</li> <li>television and/or radio promotion</li> <li>continuing to provide an information kit for all new residents that includes community sport and recreation information</li> </ul>	Low

No	Recommended Strategies	Rationale	Priority
4.3	Facilitate production and/or continued improvement of recreation trails map/s and guides for walking, horseriding, sea kayaking, mountain bikes and road cycling within the City.	<p>The existing brochures (walking and cycling) produced by Council have been very popular. These brochures could be further improved with the addition of new tracks and linkages.</p> <p>Mountain biking continues to increase in popularity, however, there is limited print information available regarding where to ride, and how to get there. A specific map/trail notes for mountain bikers is likely to be popular with both residents and visitors, particularly if it includes a quality map. Feedback from riders indicates that the Wellington Park bike map could also be updated and improved.</p> <p>As many of these recreational activities cross municipal boundaries, consideration should be given to joint publications that cover the broader Greater Hobart Region.</p>	Moderate
<b>5</b>	<b>Facilities, Programs and Services</b>		
5.1	Continue to implement the sport and recreation asset management recommendations of the asset management plan.	Priority be given to the upgrading of informal passive reserves, picnic facilities, playgrounds, public toilets, tracks/trails and other visitor facilities, which support regular use, by both local residents and visitors.	Moderate Ongoing
5.2	Continue to implement the key strategic recommendations of the Sporting Facilities Management Plan (Hired Sporting Facilities and Leased Sporting Facilities).	These two studies provide a framework and priorities for sporting and recreation facilities owned and managed by the Council. Priority for sporting venues should consider the existing Plans and the need for these facilities to meet requirements for the level of use and standard of competition being played. Volume 2 – leases is still to be implemented.	Moderate
5.3	Continue to implement the key strategic recommendations of the <i>Bushland Management Strategy</i> .	The recommendations are important for the continued management of bushland areas within the City and to meet the current and expected use for recreation, whilst maintaining and enhancing the natural values of parks and reserves.	Moderate
5.4	Prepare a Recreation Trails Plan for the Hobart City Council municipal area, as outlined in Council's Strategic Plan and <i>Bushland Management Strategy</i> .	Informal recreation – primarily trail-based recreation such as walking, cycling, mountain biking, and horse riding continue to increase in popularity. Tracks and trails are also becoming increasingly important forms of alternative transport. The demand for safe non-motorised transport routes are likely to continue to increase given fuel prices, concern about the predicted impacts of climate change, and the promotion of healthy, active lifestyles.	High



No	Recommended Strategies	Rationale	Priority
5.5	Support Sport and Recreation Tasmania in providing assistance with initiating and upgrading the programming of community recreation facilities. This may also include rationalising of facilities to increase efficiency and lower operational costs.	<p>SRT and Council should encourage sporting clubs, recreation and community groups in providing a diversity of recreation facilities, programs and services that meet community needs. This assistance may involve such things as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• using training programs;</li> <li>• assisting programming at major venues;</li> <li>• assisting with further development of ASC/SRT/industry programs or initiatives programs for sport and recreation;</li> <li>• supporting junior development programs for individual sports and ways of encouraging higher parent involvement; and</li> <li>• targeted programs for special need groups e.g. youth (especially girls), families, aged, unemployed, new residents, shift workers etc.</li> </ul>	Moderate
5.6	Council should consider the adoption of an open space hierarchy and classification system for the City.	<p>Council is responsible for managing and maintaining an inventory of open space areas within the City, many of which have no management plan or clear management directive in place. The classification system should be used to determine priority areas in need of management plan development., resource allocation etc</p> <p>All significant open space areas should eventually be covered by a management plan/s. Open space areas that have conflicting/multiple uses, potential impacts, or high usage (e.g. mountain bike areas) may be considered a higher priority for management plan development than others within the system.</p>	High Ongoing
5.7	Work in partnership with local schools to maintain and enhance public access to sport and recreation facilities.	<p>Increasingly Councils around the State are forming relationships with schools to allow public access to school facilities (e.g. to pools and gyms before and after schools hours), resulting in cost savings and better overall facility provision, particularly in smaller towns. Such arrangements avoid duplication of facilities. The Council can be pro-active in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• establishing mechanisms for co-operation with School Principals as regards potential access by community groups/public patrons</li> <li>• considering ways of assisting schools with insurance and management costs as a means of enabling more open use in areas where limited resources exist to provide new or upgrade existing facilities</li> </ul>	Moderate Ongoing

No	Recommended Strategies	Rationale	Priority
<b>6</b>	<b>Promotion and Marketing</b>		
6.1	Continue to promote recreational opportunities within the City as a strong part of Council's overall promotion as a place to live, work, visit or invest within.	There needs to be a more unified approach to promoting sporting and recreational opportunities and linking community recreation strongly with the lifestyle advantages of the City.	Moderate Ongoing
6.2	Continue to facilitate opportunities for attracting recreational visitors to the City e.g. art culture, sport, recreational trails, interpretation, information provision events/competition.	Tourism within Tasmania is being encouraged to embrace the Tasmanian experience with engagement of interpretation, personalised service, quality infrastructure and a connection to place. Hobart's art, culture, recreation opportunities and landscape provide good building blocks for attracting visitors to the City, and encouraging them to stay for longer periods of time.  This recommendation may be implemented in partnership with Tourism Tasmania or other regional/local tourism bodies.	Moderate Ongoing
6.3	Encourage sporting clubs and recreation groups to instigate at least one "Try or Learn" program each year, to encourage greater interest in opportunities for the community.	There are many barriers to increasing participation in sport and recreation and these programs help to promote and market the diversity of sports and recreational activities available within the City. There are also the potential spin-offs for increased membership of sport and recreation resulting from the programs.	Moderate Ongoing
<b>7</b>	<b>Research and Monitoring</b>		
7.1	Implement an ongoing research program to assist Council and the community in recreation planning.	The research could include such aspects as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• monitor population growth and change and the provision implications;</li> <li>• community recreation needs;</li> <li>• gaps in provision;</li> <li>• facility and program use; and</li> <li>• use trends as a means of assessing provision needs in the community</li> </ul>	Moderate Ongoing
7.2	Undertake a 'major' review of the Hobart Recreation Management Plan in 5 years and undertake bi-annual reviews of implementation progress.	The 5 year review would coincide with the review of Council's Strategic Plan. The regular reviews may simply be tracking implementation, and removing and adding recommendations as issues arise. It would also review the key direction and priorities of the Plan to take into account new information, identified need changes, policy, resource allocation and particular issues etc.	Ongoing





