

Ballarat City Council

**Brown Hill Recreation
Reserve, Brown Hill
Masterplan Report (draft)**

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose and objectives of masterplan

The purpose of the masterplanning process is to produce a plan to guide the long term redevelopment of Brown Hill Recreation Reserve (the Reserve). The objectives of the process are to:

- Determine the role and functions of the Reserve.
- Assess the condition of the Reserve and its facilities from landscape, functional, accessibility, structural, environmental and safety perspectives.
- Identify the facility needs of existing and potential user groups and the local Brown Hill community and make recommendations about how these needs could be addressed in the Reserve.
- Prepare a masterplan for the Reserve which contains a prioritised list of development works and estimates of the costs of these works.

1.2 Methodology

The methodology for the development of the masterplan was divided into seven related stages, the being:

- *Stage 1 - Project Definition Meeting:* A meeting and site visits were held with Council staff for the purpose of clarifying the objectives of the masterplanning process and discussing the key issues to be addressed in the masterplanning process.
- *Stage 2 - Literature Review:* Relevant Council files, strategy documents and operational policies were reviewed.
- *Stage 3 – Analysis of Leisure Trends/Demographic Projections:* Relevant leisure and demographic trends were analysed and the implications of these characteristics for the future development of the Reserve were identified.
- *Stage 4 -Audit of Existing Conditions/Use:* The existing conditions at and use of the Reserve were described.
- *Stage 5 -Consultation:* User club officials, relevant Council officers, community groups/organisations and local residents were consulted about their use of the Reserve and the improvements that were needed.
- *Stage 6 – Draft Report:* The findings of the previous research were documented in a findings/draft report. Included in this reports were details of the actions suggested by key stakeholders, assessment of the merit of each action, set of recommended actions and preliminary masterplan.
- *Stage 7 – Review:* Council and stakeholders reviewed the report and suggested deletions and additions were noted. The draft report and preliminary masterplan were amended in response to this feedback.
- *Stage 8- Final Report:* The draft report and masterplan were publicly exhibited and feedback received. The report and masterplan were amended in response to the feedback and converted to a final report and masterplan.

This report covers Stages 1-6. Stages 7-8 are still to be undertaken.

2. BROWN HILL RECREATION RESERVE (THE RESERVE)

2.1 Open Space Context

2.1.1 Location and elements

Brown Hill Recreation Reserve is a 4.5ha Council owned reserve located off Humffray St North in Brown Hill. It is an active/passive reserve and has the following elements:

- Band hall, sports pavilion, community hall, storage shed, public toilet block.
- A shelter and two rotundas.
- Public swimming pool.
- Playing field.
- Cricket nets (4 bays), synthetic centre wicket.
- Playground.
- Walking paths.
- Carparks.

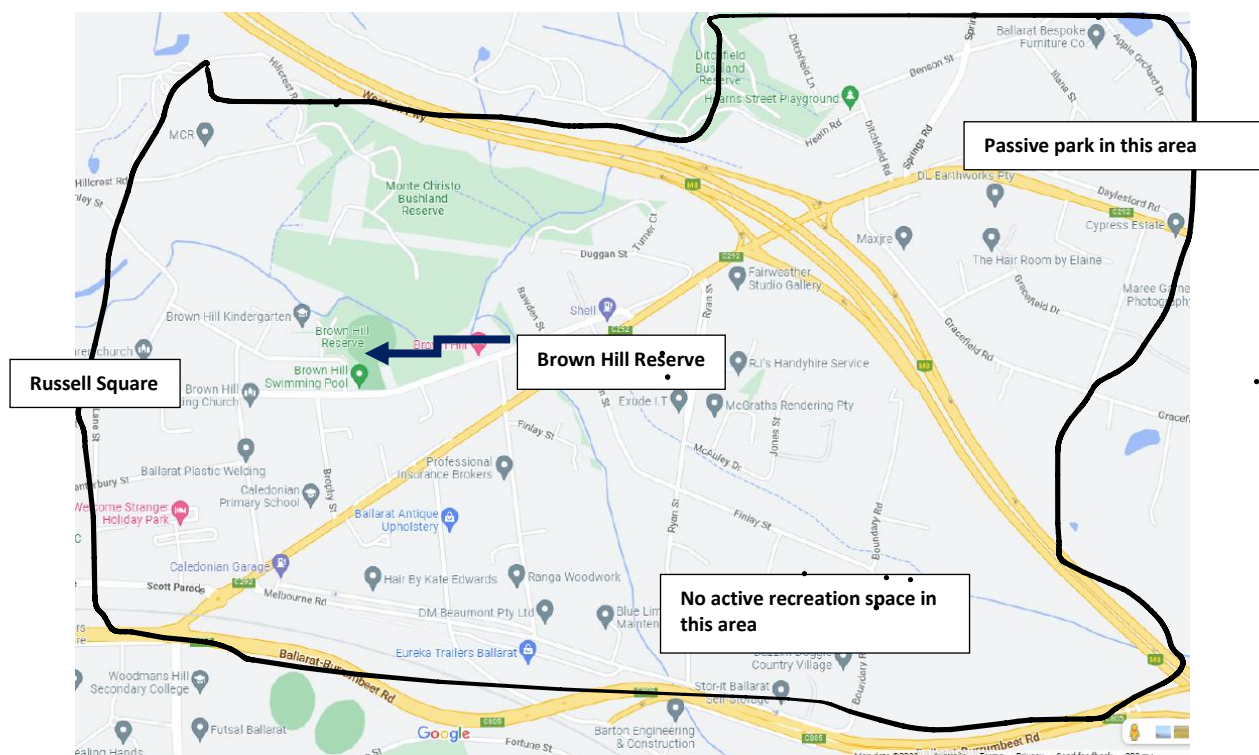
The Reserve has multiple zonings – public park and recreation, public use and general residential. It has a bushfire management overlay and is located in an area of Aboriginal Cultural Sensitivity.

Figure 1 – Brown Hill Recreation Reserve, Component elements



Brown Hill Reserve is located on the northern edge of the suburb of Brown Hill. As a passive/informal recreation space, the Reserve caters for the community living in Brown Hill and southern part of Nerrina. Its northern and eastern catchments extend across the Western Hwy. Its southern catchment extends down from Humffray St Nth and Walter St to the Ballarat Burrumbeet Rd. Its western catchment extends across to Russell Square and the border of Black Hill. As an active sporting space/community hub, the Reserve caters for a larger catchment. The main tenant groups at the Reserve (Ballarat Pipe Band, Brown Hill Cricket Club, Eureka Athletics Club and Wallaby Park Run) and the regular community groups using the pavilion and community hall draw their players/participants from Brown Hill and beyond.

Figure 2 – Brown Hill Recreation Reserve, catchment area for passive recreation



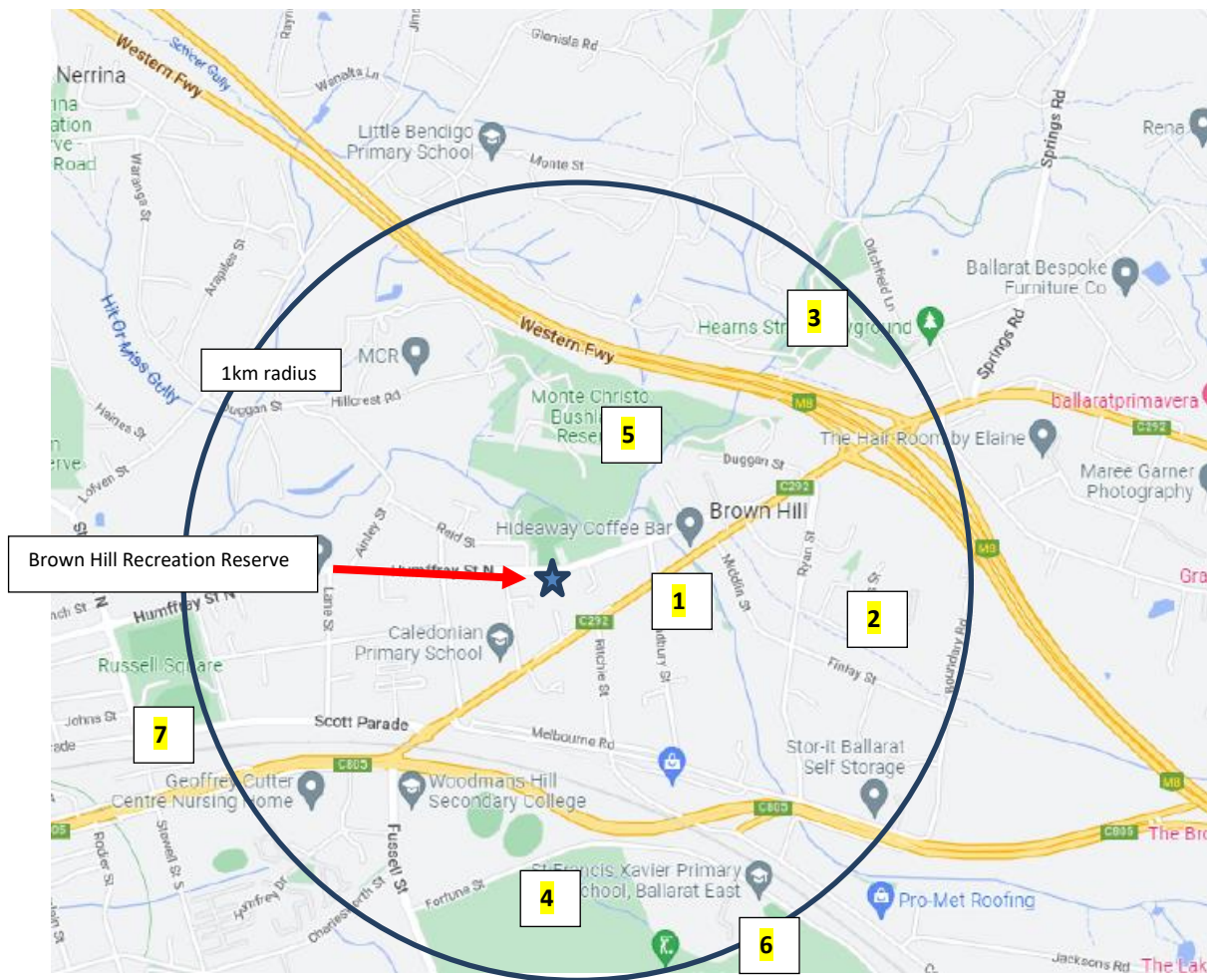
2.1.2 Open Space Setting

Seven open space parcels are located within a 1km radius of Brown Hill Recreation Reserve. All are predominantly passive reserves. Some contain only walking/cycling paths, others contain multiple facilities including play equipment.

Table 1 – Nearby Reserves (as crow flies)

Ref	Reserve	Distance to Brown Hill Recreation Reserve	Facilities
1	Yarrowee River Linear Park	820m	Bushland, walking trail
2	Catherine Crt Neighbourhood Park	820m	Playground
3	Ditchfield Bushland Reserve	470m	Bushland, walking trail
4	Woodman Secondary College Playing fields	960m	Playing fields
5	Monte Christo Bushland Reserve	520m	Bushland, walking trail
6	Mt Xavier Recreation Reserve	1000m	Bushland, walking trail, golf course, bowls facility
7	Russell Square	1000m	Playing fields, playground, community hall, walking paths

Figure 3 – Brown Hill Recreation Reserve, Nearby Open Space Areas



As indicated in section 2.1.1, Brown Hill Recreation Reserve is comprised of an oval, sports pavilion, swimming pool, band hall, community hall, playground, picnic shelters/BBQ and walking paths. The closest venues that contain these facilities and other like play and community spaces are listed in Table 2. The table indicates that:

- Many of the facility types currently located at Brown Hill are provided at other reserves in Ballarat that are situated within a 5 minute drive of Brown Hill Reserve, e.g., oval at Russell Square, pool at Eureka.
- Many of the facility types not currently located at Brown Hill are provided at other reserves in Ballarat that are situated within a 6 minute drive of Brown Hill Reserve, e.g., skate park at Len T Fraser Reserve, exercise stations at Russell Square.

Table 2 – Brown Hill Recreation Reserve; closest like facilities

Item	Location	Distance/time
Facilities at Brown Hill Reserve		
Pool	Eureka	2.2kms, 3 mins by car, 24 mins walk
	Black Hill	2.4kms, 3 mins by car, 29 mins walk
Oval	Russell Square	1.6kms, 3 mins by car, 20 mins walk
Playground	Hearn Rd Reserve	1.7kms, 3 mins by car, 17 mins walk
Band hall	Len T Fraser Reserve	3.8kms, 6 mins by car, 44 mins walk
Community Hall	Russell Square	1.6kms, 3 mins by car, 20 mins walk
Public toilets	Russell Square	1.6kms, 3 mins by car, 20 mins walk

Item	Location	Distance/time
Family picnic area	Russell Square	1.6kms, 3 mins by car, 20 mins walk
	Eureka Stockade Gardens	2.4kms, 4 mins by car, 28 mins walk
Kindergarten	Midlands Kindergarten	4.2kms, 6 kms by car, 53 mins walk
Facilities not at Brown Hill Reserve		
Basketball full/half court	Len T Fraser Reserve	3.8kms, 6 mins by car, 44 mins walk
Skate park	Len T Fraser Reserve	3.8kms, 6 mins by car, 44 mins walk
Pump track	Chisholm St Reserve	1.6kms, 3 mins by car, 20 mins walk
Rebound wall	No provision	-
Exercise stations	Russell Square	1.6kms, 3 mins by car, 20 mins walk
Official dog off leash reserve	Chisholm St Reserve	1.6kms, 3 mins by car, 20 mins walk
Community garden	Dyte Rd, Ballarat East	2.5kms, 4 mins by car, 32 mins walk

2.2 Occupancy, current usage and management and maintenance arrangements

Brown Hill Recreation Reserve is used by a number of local groups - Brown Hill Cricket Club, Ballarat Pipe Band, Wallaby Park Run, Eureka Athletics Club, Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council, Brown Hill Auskick and various groups/individuals using the community hall. Their usage and occupancy arrangements are as follows.

Table 3 – Usage and occupancy arrangements

Organisation/group	Participants/members (approx.)	Usage	Occupancy arrangements
Brown Hill Cricket Club	150 players	Oval and pavilion Weekends and week nights in summer cricket season Weeknight	Seasonal allocation
Ballarat Pipe Band	28 players, 9 life members Highland Dancers weekly	Band hall 2 times per week Weekly	No formal arrangement
Wallaby Park Run	95 participants	Weekly	No formal arrangement
Eureka Athletics Club	80 members	Weekly in winter	Seasonal allocation
Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council	40 participants	2-3 times per week	Agreement with Cricket Club
Brown Hill Auskick	110 participants	10 nights per annum in winter	Agreement with Cricket Club
Various groups/individuals	>200 participants	Every day	Hire agreement with hall committee

The management and maintenance arrangements for the Reserve are detailed in table 4 below. The table indicates that six Council Units, the cricket club, pipe band and the community hall committee are involved in the management and maintenance of the Reserve.

Table 4 – Management and maintenance responsibilities

Organisation/Unit	Tasks
BCC Recreation Services	Allocation of sports fields and pavilions Liaison with user clubs Monitoring compliance with seasonal allocation agreements Facilities planning and development (inc. capital development submissions) Sports field lighting

Organisation/Unit	Tasks
BCC Parks and Gardens Unit	Design and development of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Drainage and irrigation systems - Paths - Fencing Maintenance of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sports fields, including irrigation and sprinkler systems - Passive spaces - Vegetation - Park furniture and fencing
BCC Infrastructure	Design and maintenance of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paths and safety lighting - Access roads and parking areas within Reserve
BCC Waste & Environment	Collection of rubbish/recycling bins
BCC Facility Maintenance	Maintenance of buildings and playgrounds
BCC Environmental Health	Registration and inspection of kitchens/kiosks
Brown Hill Cricket Club	Compliance with terms of occupancy agreement relating to maintenance, times of use and access Basic maintenance of pavilion and cricket nets Watering the oval (cricket seasons)
Brown Hill Community Hall Committee	Compliance with terms of occupancy agreement relating to maintenance, times of use and access Basic maintenance of hall
Ballarat Pipe Band	Basic maintenance of hall

3. LITERATURE REVIEW

3.1 Documents

The following documents/files were reviewed:

- BCC Council Plan 2021-2025
- Today, Tomorrow, Together; The Ballarat Strategy 2040
- City of Ballarat Community Vision 2021-2031
- BCC Active Ballarat Strategy' 2021
- BCC Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2031
- BCC Open Space Strategy 2008
- BCC Community Infrastructure Planning Policy 2020
- BCC Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2022-2026 (draft)
- BCC Ageing Well in Ballarat Strategy and Action Plan 2022 – 2026 (Draft)
- Active Women and Girls Strategy 2018
- Ballarat Cycling Action Plan 2017-2025

3.2 Relevant Information

The documents contain the following information that is relevant to the Brown Hill Recreation Reserve Masterplan (see Appendix A for full review):

- Council's goals and priorities for the 2021-2025 period.
- Council's long-term plan for a greener, more vibrant and connected Ballarat.
- Council vision for Ballarat for the period 2021-2031
- Council's key priorities with respect to the health and well-being of its community.
- Council's vision for recreation provision in Ballarat, the specific recreation related objectives it wants to achieve and the actions it will take to achieve these objectives.
- Council's vision, key objectives and strategic directions for open space provision in the municipality.
- Council's guiding principles for the development of community infrastructure.
- Council's goals and strategic objectives with respect to improving opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in community life.
- The actions Council will take to help residents age healthily, with dignity and as part of the community.
- The barriers that constrain women and girls' involvement in sport or physical activity, either as leaders or participants, and the actions Council will take to address these barriers.

3.3 Implications of the documents for the Brown Hill Recreation Reserve Masterplan

The implications are as follows:

- The location and design of the buildings in the Reserve should be consistent with the commitments made in the Council Plan, i.e., inclusive and accessible infrastructure, more infrastructure to support recreation opportunities.
- The objectives of creating a 10-minute City and aggregating facilities in community hubs should be considered when framing the directions of the masterplan.

-
- The masterplan should be consistent with and aim to achieve Council’s vision, especially the vision of Ballarat residents living healthy and active lifestyles.
 - The key principles/actions of the health and wellbeing plan should be considered when framing the directions of the masterplan; these being:
 - Accessibility, equity
 - High quality facilities
 - More recreation opportunities
 - More opportunities for walking and cycling.
 - The masterplan should recognise the status of the Brown Hill Recreation Reserve as a district level reserve and the existing deficit in open space provision in the new development areas in Brown Hill.
 - The masterplan should contain actions aimed at achieving the objectives of the Active Ballarat Strategy, in particular:
 - Ensuring recreation facilities are female friendly
 - Increased investment in public open space.
 - The principles outlined in the Community Infrastructure Planning Policy relating to the location and design of community hubs and the rationalisation/disposal of outdated community facilities should be taken into consideration when framing the masterplan and assessing the merits of consolidating the buildings at Brown Hill Recreation Reserve.
 - The masterplan should aim to enhance the physical accessibility of the Reserve and its buildings.
 - The masterplan should ensure that it contains actions which support the key strategies of the Ageing Well in Ballarat Strategy, these being:
 - Physical and equitable access to community spaces for elderly people
 - Inclusive welcoming spaces.
 - The audit of any buildings conducted for this project should assess their suitability for use by women.

4. EXISTING CONDITIONS/SITE ANALYSIS

4.1 Parking

There is unrestricted parallel parking along Reid Court and Humffray Street North. There is offsite parking in the kindergarten carpark (off Reid Court) outside of kindergarten hours. There are three unsealed and unlined gravel carparks in the Reserve - at the public hall, back of the pool and around the pavilion/toilet block/band hall. The carparks have a combined capacity of around 100 cars. There is some erosion and potholes evident in the carparks. The gravel carparks are difficult for people with prams, strollers, seat walkers and wheelchairs to navigate.

4.2 Signage

There are directional finger signs on the Reid Court/Humffray Street North intersection pointing to the kindergarten and Progress Park. There is a reserve name sign on Humffray Street North about 50m east of the community hall entrance. There are no reserve name signs at the Reid Court or community hall entrances. There are large commercial advertising signs on and near the pavilion and cricket nets. There are smaller signs on the oval fence (eastern side). The large signs are visually prominent. The smaller fence signs are consistently sized and spaced. There are building name signs on the pavilion, band hall and community hall. These signs have different type and styles.

4.3 Access points

There are three vehicle access points to the Reserve – off Humffray Street North at the community hall (single car wide), bend in Reid Court at the back of the pool (single car) and at the pavilion (two cars). The points have good sight lines and allow safe egress/access. Pedestrians can enter the Reserve along all its boundaries and the Yarrowee Trail (except around the pool area which is fenced). There is some low bollard fencing along sections of the Reserve boundaries.

4.4 Path network and internal fencing

The path network is limited to the eastern section of the Reserve. The network links the hall carpark, rotundas, playground and footbridge. The paths have a granitic sand surface. Sections of the paths have been eroded by overland water flows. There is no path around the playing field and no path connection between the pavilion/band hall on the western edge of the Reserve and the community hall and play area in the eastern part of the Reserve.

The internal fencing consists mainly of low pine log bollard fencing. There is a timber paling farm fence near the playground and a galvanised pipe rail/cyclone mesh fence around the playing field. The fencing is generally in good condition. Some sections of the pipe/mesh fence are leaning, e.g., at the southern end of the playing field where eroded soil and washed down leaves are pressing up against the fence.

4.5 Buildings/structures

The swimming pool is in general decline. A recent condition report on the pool made the following comments about the pool's component facilities:

- Shade shelter - uneven ground, trip hazard.
- Plant room - poor condition, barely fit for purpose. Evidence of building movement. External concrete is in poor condition, and edge of slab has soil erosion and unsupported.
- Sheds – one shed in fair to poor condition: evidence of corrosion. Others in good condition.

- Kiosk: - fair to poor condition, asset has very limited function, shows age. Paint peeling on gutters. Non-compliant basin waste plumbed across external rear door and connected to storm water.
- Change rooms - very poor condition, barely usable, not functional for intended use and has poor aesthetics. Large cracking in concrete block walls. Minor cracking in slab. No DDA provision. May be an uneconomic repair to refurbish asset.
- Shade shelters – good condition.
- Pool shell, concourse and plant – evidence of extensive cracking, valves need to be installed, expansion joint need repair, slide in poor condition, non-compliant and defective pool grates, plant not operating optimally, concourse is shifting and cracking. Many items of plant need to be replaced.

The community hall is a well-used facility and has been redeveloped in stages. A recent condition report rated that hall as being in fair to poor condition, mainly because of the appearance and condition of the older part of the building. This area has issues with moisture and corrosion. The band hall is an old army hut which was relocated to the Reserve by the band in 1975. The hall is in poor condition and has no internal toilets. It is described in its condition report as being dilapidated and at end of life.

The pavilion is the home clubrooms for the Brown Hill Cricket Club. It was erected by the Club in 1979. It is a small building with a basic design and consists of a social room, storage area, kitchen, bar, small male and female toilet/shower areas and porch area. It has no functional change areas. It is in good condition but has some minor defects and DDA compliance issues, e.g., no ramp to porch and narrow corridor. The patio off the front of the pavilion needs a repaint.

The public toilets are ageing and in decline. The rotundas are in good condition. The large rotunda can seat around 20 people. It has no BBQ. The smaller rotunda can seat 8 but not fully undercover. It has a BBQ. The old shelter at the rear of the pool is in fair condition. It has a single table but no BBQ.

The playground is a basic facility. It has a damaged seat swing and minimal soft fall and there is evidence of significant water erosion. The footbridge is narrow and rotting and splitting in parts. There is minimal park furniture in the Reserve - 6 seats and 3 tables. There is only one park bench on the eastern boundary of the playing field. The park furniture is ageing but in good condition.

4.6 Surrounds and vegetation

The Reserve has a strong framework of established and healthy native trees and some indigenous eucalypts. The major tree species are Blackwood, Ironbark, Swamp Gum, Manna Gum and Blue Gum. Other trees noted as one/two or minor groupings include River Sheoaks, Lemon Scented Gums, Red Flowering Gums, Apple Myrtles, Tuarts and English Elms. There is a clump of Blackwood Wattles to the far north east corner around the playspace and a group of River Sheoaks to the Humffray Street North frontage, south of the playspace. There is a small stand of nine fruit trees between the community hall and playspaces - apple, plum and apricot trees are represented.

4.7 Playing field and nets

The playing field is oriented NE/SW. It is circular - 126m x 125m - and is suitable, dimension wise, for mid-age junior football (and younger) and senior and junior age cricket. The field has no lights. It has an undulating surface, no drainage and only manual irrigation (one quick coupler valve located midway from the cricket wicket to the western fence). The field holds water in winter and after heavy rains in summer.

The turf cover has a mix of grass species - couch, fescue, rye and winter grass and minor occurrences of Paspalum Grass and small leaved Oxalis. The field has around a 1m fall from south to north. A significant section of northern end of the field is shaded by the high pine trees on the hill. The area is damp and the grass cover weaker than the remainder of the field. Roots from the pine trees on the base of the northern hill are protruding on the playing field.

The cricket practice nets (4 bays) were originally erected and recently extended by the Club. Basic lighting has been installed over the nets to allow for night training and the back area behind the stumps lengthened to provide for wicketkeepers. The bowling run ups (synthetic grass over sand) are on the oval surface.

4.8 Assessment of Brown Hill Reserve against AFL and Cricket Australia facility standards

Table 5 on pages 14 and 15 contains an assessment of the sports facilities at Brown Hill Recreation Reserve against the AFL's and Cricket Australia's facility Standards for local level facilities. The assessment indicates that the sports facilities at the Reserve only satisfy the standards in six areas – accessible toilet, size of playing field, width of runoff, number of cricket practice nets, height of oval fence and size of external covered viewing area.

Table 5 - Assessment of Brown Hill Reserve against AFL and Cricket Australia Standards (components and areas)

Facility	Preferred minimum provision/size		Brown Hill Reserve	Meets standards
	AFL	Cricket Australia		
	Local	Club home		
				✓ meets standard
				X does not meet
BUILDINGS				
Players toilets/showers	2x25m ²	2x20m ²	2X7m2	X Toilet/shower areas
Player changerooms	2x45m-55m ²	2x20m ²	2X3m2	X
Umpires' rooms	20m ² -25m ²	15m ²	-	X
Public toilets	Male 10m ² Female 10m ²	Male 15m ² Female 15m ²	Male 10m ² Female 10m ²	X
Accessible toilet	5m ²	5.5m ²	5m2	✓
First aid/medical room	Optional, 15m ²	Optional, 10m ²	-	-
Kitchen/kiosk	20m ²	15m ²	6m ²	X
Social/community room	100m ²	100m ²	70m2	X
Office/administration meeting room	15m ²	Optional, 15m ²	-	X
External covered viewing	50m ²	-	50m2	✓
Storage	20m ²	30m ²	10m ²	X
Kitchen storage	-	Desirable, 8m ²	2m ²	X
Utility/cleaners room	5m ²	5m ²	-	X
External storage	-	30m ²	-	X
Curator's shed	-	60m ²	40m ²	X
Timekeepers'/scorers' area	10m ²	Desirable, 3m ²	-	X
Doctors room	Optional, 10m ²	-	-	-
Massage/strapping room	Optional, 2x10m ²	-	-	-
Gym/fitness room	Optional, 20m ²	-	-	-
PLAYING FIELD AND SURROUNDS				
Playing field size including run-offs	See above	See above	125mX125m	✓
Practice cricket nets	-	3 synthetic	4 synthetic	✓
Interchange benches	4.8m long and 1.2m wide (X2)	-	3mX1.2m	X
Coaches' boxes	Form part of interchange bench	-	-	-
Goals and point posts	Goals: 8m out of ground, Points: 5m out of ground	-	-	-
Run-offs	Minimum 3m	-	3.0m	✓
Sports field lighting	Training 50 lux, match practice	300 lux centre square, 200 lux	-	X

Facility	Preferred minimum provision/size		Brown Hill Reserve	Meets standards
	AFL	Cricket Australia		
	Local	Club home		✓ meets standard
	and competition 100 lux	outfield		X does not meet
Scoreboard	No defined standard	-	-	-
Carparking	No specific standard	40 bays	80 spots	X
Siren	No specific standard	-	--	-
Interchange stewards/reserve umpires shelter	1.8m long and 1.2m wide	-	-	-
Oval fencing	Optional 900mm high with mesh infill or similar		900m chain wire	✓
Public address system	Optional no specific standards	-	-	-
Spectator seating/grandstand	Optional no specific standards	30 seats	-	-
Perimeter reserve fencing	Optional no specific standards	-	-	-
Sight screen	-	Optional	-	-

Figure 4 - Existing Conditions Plan (for higher resolution see separate Attachment Two – Figure 4 Existing Conditions Plan)



ANALYSIS	
1	No reserve name signs at Reid Court and Humfray Street North carpark entrances.
2	Carparking is uneven and potholed in areas. Parking bays are not defined.
3	Sign on buildings in reserve have inconsistent styles.
4	Public toilets are poorly located and in declining condition.
5	Band hall is ageing and in declining condition.
6	Basic pavilion with no changerooms.
7	Playing field is circular in shape. It is not drained or automatically irrigated.
8	Playing field turf cover has a mix of grass species - couch, fescue, rye, winter grass, oxalis and paspalum.
9	Playing field is not lit.
10	Cricknet net run-ups on oval surface.
11	Oval turf impacted in winter by shade from pine trees to the north.
12	Tree roots of pine tree and gum trees protruding through oval surface.
13	Swimming pool in declining condition. Area at back of pool in unsightly condition.
14	Basic playground.
15	Limited path network.
16	Limited park seating and furniture.
17	Narrow and ageing footbridge.
18	River bed near footbridge overgrown with weeds.

L1 SITE ANALYSIS / EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN
BROWN HILL RECREATION RESERVE
 CITY OF BALLARAT



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Amendments:

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Drawn: KL
 Title: L1 Site Analysis / Existing Conditions Plan - Brown Hill Recreation Reserve, Ballarat
 Client: City of Ballarat

Date: 20.06.2022
 Project No.: 22-026
 Cad File:
 Drawing No.: Sheet 1 of 3



5. LEISURE TRENDS/DEMOGRAPHICS

5.1 Leisure Trends

There are a number of general leisure trends for active/passive recreation reserves which should be taken into consideration in the preparation of the Brown Hill Recreation Reserve Masterplan. These are as follows:

- Traditionally, the active components of sports reserves were mainly and, in some cases, solely used for structured sporting purposes. This use was during the day on weekends and early evenings on weekdays. The reserves would sit near idle at other times. This trend has changed in recent decades and sports reserves are now seen as community recreation reserves which provide for both structured and unstructured recreation. Councils have been active in encouraging this trend by introducing facilities at reserves that support passive recreation – playgrounds, circuit paths, shade structures, park furniture, tree planting etc – and being more relaxed about the use of playing fields and courts by social/casual groups, personal trainers, dog walkers etc.
- Generally, adults are remaining fitter and more active until later in life. This is leading to an increased participation in and more frequent use of active reserves for walking, relaxation and social activities.
- In recent times, sports pavilions are being viewed more as multi-use community buildings. Changerooms and amenities areas are mainly used for sport but the social areas, meeting rooms and kitchens are increasingly being used by non-sporting community groups.
- Local Councils are increasingly redesigning and adapting their facilities and open space areas to ensure they are environmentally sustainable and accessible to people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities.
- Participation by women/girls as players and umpires in traditional male sports such as football and cricket is increasing. This participation is being strongly encouraged by Federal, State and Local Governments (including Ballarat). This has implications for the availability of and load on playing fields and the design of sporting pavilions.
- More people are choosing to recreate in informal and unstructured ways. As a consequence, activities such as jogging and walking in parks for exercise and pleasure are becoming more prevalent. Sporting fields are increasingly being used by organised exercise groups (boot camps etc). This use normally occurs in the mornings on weekdays and does not conflict with formal club activities.
- The rate of pet ownership, particularly as companion animals for older adults, is increasing. Exercising dogs in parks, especially at reserves with fenced fields like Brown Hill Reserve, is a popular activity.

5.2 Demographics

For Council's population projections purposes, Brown Hill is divided across two local areas - Soldiers Hill-Black Hill-Nerrina South-Brown Hill West local area and the Rural East local Area. Tables 6 and 7 provide population projections for these local areas. The figures indicate that:

- The populations of the Soldiers Hill-Black Hill-Nerrina South-Brown Hill West and Rural East local areas are projected to grow by 1,950 or over the next 14 years. The majority of this increase (1,645) is anticipated to occur in Rural East – in the residential area just across the Western Hwy from Brown Hill Reserve.
- The population of the Soldiers Hill-Black Hill-Nerrina South-Brown Hill West is projected to age significantly over the next 14 years with the child population decreasing numerically and the aged population increasing substantially.
- All age cohorts in Rural East will increase numerically. The biggest increases will occur in the 70+, 40-49 years and 10-19 years age cohorts.

Figure 5 – Brown Hill Suburb (Census map 2021)

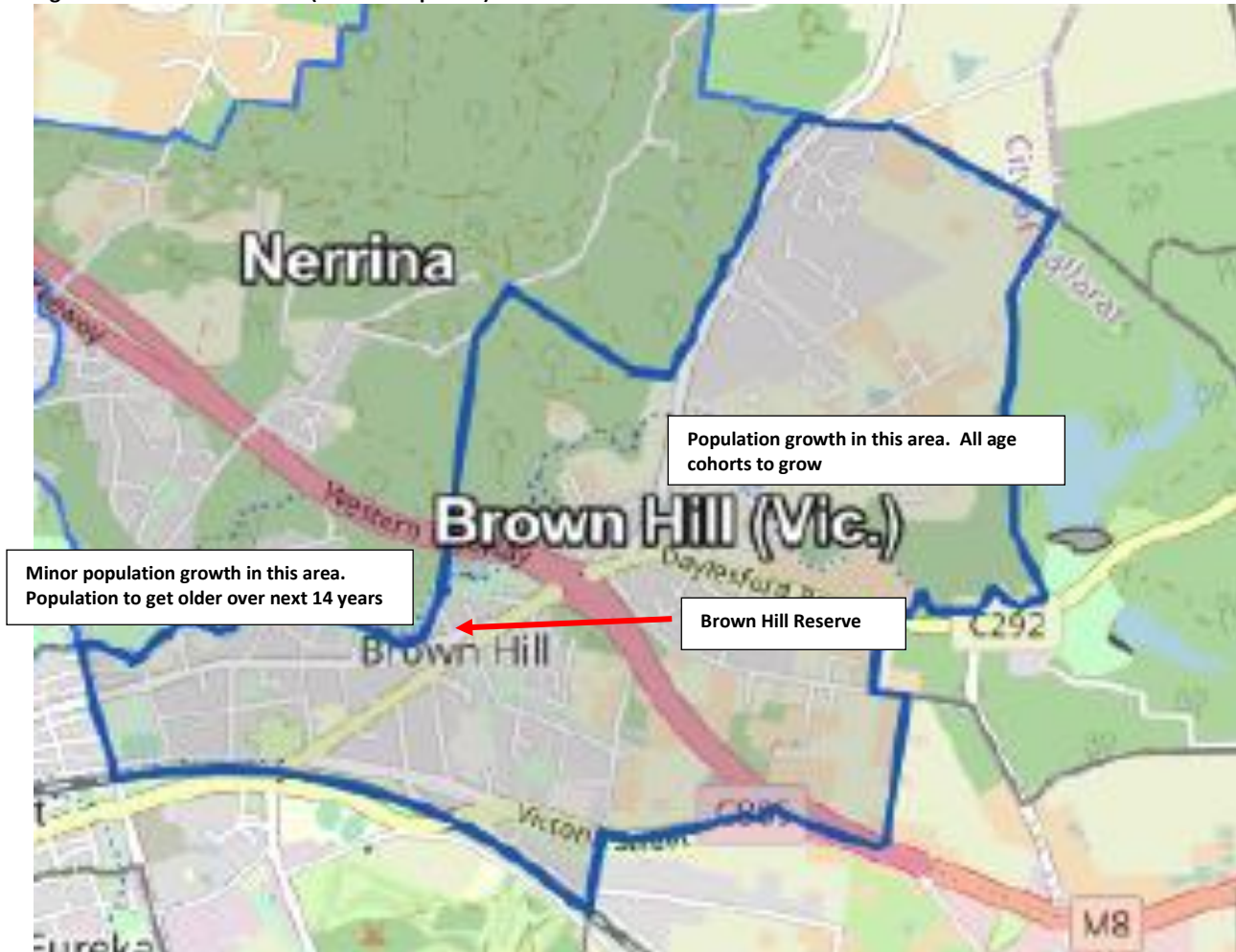


Table 6 – Population Projections: Soldiers Hill-Black Hill-Nerrina South-Brown Hill West local area)

Age cohorts	Forecast years					
	2016	2022	2029	2036	+ 22-36	+-% 22-36
0 to 9	1330	1281	1202	1188	-93	-7.3
10 to 19	992	1099	1165	1137	38	3.5
20 to 29	1509	1335	1308	1351	16	1.2
30 to 39	1418	1460	1398	1370	-90	-6.2
40 to 49	1209	1229	1321	1318	89	7.2
50 to 59	1172	1182	1124	1167	-15	-1.3
60 to 69	1012	1044	1019	1004	-40	-3.8
70 to 79	505	715	885	870	155	21.7
80+	301	360	441	583	223	61.9
Total	9448	9705	9863	9988	283	2.9

Table 7 – Population Projections: Rural East local area

Age cohorts	Forecast years					
	2016	2022	2029	2036	+ 22-36	+-% 22-36
0 to 9	427	456	486	527	100	23
10 to 19	337	445	541	581	244	72
20 to 29	241	267	319	371	130	54
30 to 39	289	361	394	424	135	47
40 to 49	325	421	538	589	264	81
50 to 59	367	383	447	538	171	47
60 to 69	336	354	400	443	107	32
70 to 79	95	227	271	319	224	236
80+	33	59	245	301	268	812
Total	2450	2973	3641	4093	1643	67

Table 8 provides comparisons of the demographic characteristics of Brown Hill in the census years of 2011, 2016 and 2022 and between Brown Hill and Ballarat LGA in 2022. The table indicates that:

- Brown Hill has a much younger population than Ballarat LGA (median age 36 years compared to 39 years).
- Brown Hill's youth and young adult population has declined significantly as a proportion of the total population from 14.5% in 2011 to 9.3% in 2021.
- Brown Hill's cultural make-up has also changed with the proportion of people with English, Irish and Scottish heritage increasing significantly.
- Brown Hill is considerably more affluent than Ballarat LGA – median household weekly income \$1,757 compared to \$1,429.
- Brown Hill's family and housing compositions and dwelling mix have remained constant – predominantly couples with children and separate houses.

Table 8 – Demographic characteristics; Brown Hill and Ballarat LGA

Characteristic	Brown Hill suburb			Ballarat LGA
	2011	2016	2021	2021
Total population	3078	3582	4489	113763
Median age (years)	35	36	36	39
Age cohorts (years)				
– 0-4 years, % of total	7.7	8.1	8.4	5.8
– 5-14 years, % of total	11.7	13.2	12.9	12.9
– 15-24 years, % of total	14.4	10.9	9.3	12.3
– 25-54 years, % of total	42.1	42.4	42.1	38.3
– 65+ years, % of total	11.9	14.1	15.0	19.0
Average household size (persons)	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.4
Median weekly household income (\$)	1107	1357	1757	1429
Cultural background (% of population)				
– English	29.3	29.6	42.3	42.0
– Irish	11.2	13.4	17.4	15.0
– Scottish	8.3	8.8	12.7	13.0
– Born overseas	13	12	12	15.0
Family composition (% of families)				
– Couple with children	43	43	46	40

Characteristic	Brown Hill suburb			Ballarat LGA
	2011	2016	2021	2021
Dwelling structure (% of dwellings)				
– Separate house	87	88	88	85
– Semi detached	3	11	11	12
– Apartment/unit	10	0.3	0.3	3.0
Household composition (% of households)				
– Family	70	70	71	66
– Lone person	25	26	26	30
– Group	5	4	4	4

5.3 Implications for Masterplan

The implications of these leisure trends and demographics for the Brown Hill Recreation Reserve Masterplan are as follows:

- The objectives of environmental sustainability and access for all should be considered when framing the redevelopment masterplan for the Reserve.
- Population growth, the ageing of the local community and the increasing popularity of activities such as walking for exercise and training in groups will increase the demand for the active and passive areas of the Reserve. This will heighten the need for the enhancement of these areas, such as improved drainage, construction of paths, installation of park furniture and provision of shade and shelter.
- The growing popularity of dog walking will increase demand for suitable dog walking facilities in the Reserve.
- The demand for play facilities will remain strong with the child and youth populations and the number of family households in the Rural East part of the Reserve's catchment area continuing to grow.

6. CONSULTATION

6.1 Brown Hill Reserve User Groups

Officials from the Reserve user groups were asked to, where relevant, provide information about the history of their groups, member/participant numbers, their use of the Reserve and facility needs and their thoughts on what improvements are needed at the Reserve. Their full responses are detailed in Appendix B. A summary of their suggested facility improvements are as follows:

Ballarat Pipe Band

- Refurbish the band hall.
- Upgrade the toilet block.

Brown Hill Community Hall

- Extend the main hall stage.
- Install a bar in the main hall.
- Extend and upgrade (seal) the hall carpark.
- Repair or replace the hall windows.
- Redevelop the Humffray Street North foyer as a display/reception area.
- Provide a sound system in the main hall and a presentation system in the meeting rooms.

Brown Hill Cricket Club

- Irrigate/drain the oval.
- Provide changerooms in pavilion (female friendly).
- Enhance the area between the pool and playing field.
- Erect a high fence at northern end to prevent balls going into the river area.
- Pursue the concept of an indoor training facility.
- Upgrade the cricket nets.
- Lay a turf wicket table (on the proviso that a suitable alternative synthetic wicket location is available to the Club).

Brown Hill Kindergarten

- Upgrade the carpark and define the parking bays.
- Improve the oval drainage.
- Extend the playground and make it more diverse.
- Erect a toilet near the playground.
- Upgrade the existing toilet block.
- Provide more shade, shelter, BBQs and park furniture.
- Consider closing the pool and replacing it with a splash park.
- Consider installing adult exercise equipment.

Brown Hill Auskick Program

- Drain and irrigate the oval.
- Erect lights over the oval.
- Define the parking bays in the pavilion carpark.
- Replace the pool with a splash park.
- Erect toilets near the play area and splash park.
- Upgrade existing toilets if they are to remain.
- Provide dog bins and bags.

Eureka Athletics Club

- Install distance markers along the Yarrowee Trail.
- Improve oval drainage.
- Upgrade or replace public toilets.

Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council Inc

- Redevelop the pavilion as a sports/community building.
- Make the pavilion more accessible: seal the carpark, provide a ramp to the porch, widen the corridor in the pavilion for wheelchair access to toilets.
- Revamp public toilets.
- Provide garden beds near the pavilion.

Wallaby Track Parkrun

- Erect a new toilet block which is accessible to all reserve users.
- Provide more water points and drinking taps.
- Provide a rotunda or covered area near the start/finish point of the parkrun.
- Create a formal entry point, paths and signage along Humffray Street North.
- Upgrade the children's playground.
- Either demolish or upgrade the swimming pool.
- Provide more parking and shade.

Brown Hill Progress Association

- Replace the pool with a splash park– facility to include spray equipment, toilet block, climbing equipment, basketball hoop and drinking fountain. The existing BBQ, picnic tables, shelter and seats at the pool should be retained.
- Acknowledge and celebrate the history of and the community's involvement in the pool.
- Erect a permanent stage facility.
- Create a community garden area.
- Provide a drinking fountain, picnic tables and more seating near the playground. Erect shade over the playground.
- Terrace the embankment areas around the oval.
- Provide exercise stations around the Reserve.

- Provide solar lighting to the Reserve.
- Prepare and implement a landscape plan for the Reserve to ensure new structures/features are consistent with the existing character of the Reserve.
- Retain and upgrade the timber bridge across the River.

6.2 Sporting Associations

Ballarat Cricket Association

The Cricket Association was asked for its general views on Brown Hill Recreation Reserve as a cricket venue and its thoughts on a turf wicket and indoor cricket training centre being provided at the Reserve. Its comments were:

- The reserve is an attractive setting for cricket. The field is a good size. However, the surface holds water after heavy rain and dries out quickly during hot periods. The changerooms are basic. The works required at the Reserve include drainage, irrigation and pavilion upgrade.
- In principle, the Association supports the provision of additional turf wickets across Ballarat. However, their installation needs to be the subject of a feasibility study/business case. With respect to Brown Hill, the Association supports the installation of a turf wicket. However, it is concerned that:
 - There may not be a suitable alternative location/s for the synthetic teams that would be displaced from Brown Hill
 - The general loss in playing capacity resulting from converting a synthetic wicket to turf.
- In principle, the Association supports the provision of an indoor cricket training venue somewhere in Ballarat but again stressed that the merits/feasibility of developing the facility needs to be carefully investigated.

Ballarat Football Netball League

The Football Netball League was asked about the desire of the Brown Hill Auskick Program to field some low age junior teams in BNFL competitions. It advised that:

- The League is currently undertaking a strategic review of junior football in Ballarat. The review is specifically looking at football provision in Ballarat East.
- It has been approached about the notion of the Auskick program fielding some junior teams and is not opposed to it.
- The East Point Club being so near would not be a barrier to a new junior club starting in Ballarat East.
- The League would need to be convinced that the Club would be sustainable and that, in time, it could field teams in every junior age group. It would be expected that the Club could provide for netball.
- The League would also need to be assured that the Club had access to suitable facilities – pavilion, lights, good playing surface, netball court/s.

6.3 Local community

The local community was asked through surveys and a community drop in session to comment about the role of the Reserve, its positive and not so positive attributes and the improvements that are needed at the Reserve. The responses of the community are described in detail in Appendix B. A summary is as follows.

Brown Hill Progress Association (BHPA) – Community Survey

Residents were asked some set questions, e.g., whether they support the closure of the pool, and, if they did, what should it be replaced by? Residents were given a list of potential improvements to the Reserve and asked to indicate the importance of these improvements. Residents were also invited to make comments about any matters relating to the Reserve:

- 330 people answered the survey.
- With respect to the Reserve and the listed improvements:
 - Improving amenity and safety was considered to be highly important, particularly enhancing toilet facilities, providing more shade (natural) and park furniture and installing drinking fountains
 - Some of the listed major projects were also considered by many respondents to be of high importance, in particular a splash park, basketball hoop/half court, climbing frame and communal garden.
- The comments about the future of the pool were mixed and ranged from retaining and upgrading the pool through to replacing the pool with a splash park. A sample of the comments is as follows:
 - With little children we have not visited the pool in recent years as the toddler pool has been closed, and the water is far too cold. But we would love a pool that was heated somehow and had a toddler area.
 - I love the idea of the pool, but the reality was, I'd try Eureka as it had warmer water and opening hours that suited a morning swim
 - We loved the pool when it was community ran and used it a lot. We would use the pool more in summer but the facility is dated and our children complain that the water is colder than other facilities.
 - It's sad that we could potentially lose the pool, Eureka is far too crowded, kids need to be able to swim and have a space to practice
 - It would be wonderful for the community to have improved infrastructure/equipment at the Reserve to compensate for the loss of the pool and its recreational activities
 - If the Council closes the pool, I think they should (must) put some other recreational equipment in place, the people (children especially) of Brown Hill, are just as important as those in the "newer" areas
 - We would like to see the Ballarat Council put more thought into the continuing improvement of facilities on the Eastern side of town. Brown Hill has experienced a rapid rate of residential growth but very little improvement in surrounding infrastructure.
- The comments about improvements to the Reserve were also mixed. Many related to the provision of toilet and play facilities, shade and park furniture. Some commented about the importance of retaining the attractiveness of the Reserve. Many said that the Reserve should offer recreational opportunities for all ages. A sample of the comments is as follows:
 - We use the walking track and playground casually but would use it much more if it had better facilities and was more attractive to children
 - I live close by the Reserve and often see elderly walkers, carers and their wards, young mothers and babies walking through and enjoying the Reserve
 - We enjoy going to the oval for a kick of the footy and using the playground. I also take disabled clients to the Reserve weekly to go for a safe walk in a relaxing atmosphere. I'd hate to lose the lovely relaxing atmosphere of the Reserve
 - A toilet block closer to the playground is required. It is hard to take a child that is toilet training that far to the cricket oval
 - Fencing please for young kids near the creek and road, and some space to park bikes too. I think a multi-purpose playground would be great like other suburbs have developed in Ballarat, i.e., big slides and playground, small climbing wall, half basketball court

- I think the pool is outdated and the site could be used for a more friendly site i.e., splash pool
- I think we definitely need to think to the future and what kids enjoy doing! A skate park, splash zone, basketball court etc, they are the things that will get families back out and involved in the community. We have none of those things over this side of town, and let's face it, we're only growing!
- Brown Hill Recreation Reserve has always held attraction to its residents because of its picturesque natural surroundings. Aside from the redevelopment of the pool site, it would be beneficial if any change to the Reserve was sensitive to this. Large amounts of concrete and steel, such as a skate park, would detract from the natural landscape
- Please think of the space as an inclusive space to welcome people of all ages. Ensure that the redevelopment has something for younger and older children, where families and friends can gather.

Online Survey - Council

Short survey

Local residents were invited through an online survey to provide their thoughts on the attributes of Brown Hill Recreation Reserve and the improvements that are needed at the Reserve. A summary of the main findings of the survey is as follows (see Appendix B for full analysis):

- 96 residents responded to the survey.
- Regarding their most favourite aspects of the Reserve:
 - 49 respondents commented about the location, setting, layout, spaciousness, beauty and peacefulness of the Reserve. Some liked the rural feel and openness of the Reserve – many the bush setting, others the views of the hill and the serenity of the Reserve
 - 25 commented that they like the walking track near the Reserve. 15 mentioned the playground as being their favourite component of the Reserve. Others mentioned the pool, BBQ facilities and seating.
 - 10 commented on the Reserve's community feel and accessibility. Others liked that the Reserve was multi-functional and provided for all age groups.
- Regarding their least favourite aspects of the Reserve:
 - 20 commented about the poor condition of the existing public toilets in the Reserve and the lack of toilets near the play area/BBQ facility
 - 14 commented about the poor condition and the frequent closure of the pool
 - 8 commented about the basic design of the playground. Some were concerned that the playground was not shaded or fenced.
 - 8 were concerned about the declining condition of the buildings in the Reserve.
 - 5 said that the Reserve lacked drinking fountains
 - Others commented about the poor condition of the oval and the tracks in winter. Some said the Reserve lacked facilities for teenage children.
 - With respect to what they would like to see added at the Reserve, recommended works included (top 10 in popularity order):
 - Erecting a new toilet block near the play area
 - Installing more park furniture
 - Upgrading and expanding the play area and providing shade
 - Retaining and upgrading the pool
 - Installing a splash park
 - Installing a basketball half court
 - Providing a fenced area for dogs
 - Upgrading the oval surface

- Installing drinking fountains
 - Introducing more native vegetation.
- Regarding the ranking of potential projects in order of preference:
 - Public toilets near the playspace and rotundas was given the highest preference (note - the lower the score, the higher the preference)
 - Improved carparking and consolidated buildings were given the lowest rankings.

Project	Ranking	Raw score out of 9
Public toilets near playspace and rotundas	1	2.97
More seating, tables and shade	2	3.67
Improved play space	3	3.70
Extended the path network	4	4.48
Exercise equipment/stations	5	5.51
Extended/upgraded pavilion	6	5.67
Replacement of pool with a splash park	7	5.68
Improved carparking	8	5.88
Consolidated buildings	9	6.49

- Regarding other comments, again the respondents' views related to the projects listed in the table above. Some respondents argued strongly against closing the pool, suggesting that the pool's low patronage was due to the condition of the pool and its lack of heating rather than the community's lack of interest in the pool. Some other valuable comments were:
 - The Reserve is used by the 2nd biggest Auskick program in Ballarat. The oval needs to be improved for this activity
 - Internal paths should be connected to outside paths
 - Parking within the Reserve should be limited
 - The heritage value of the hut occupied by the Band should be recognised
 - A bridge should be provided across the creek at the back of cricket nets
 - Nothing needs to be added or taken away from the Reserve. The Reserve just needs updating.

Deep dive

Local residents were invited to make more detailed responses to specific questions about the facilities in and potential improvements/changes at Brown Hill Reserve. 43 people responded to the survey. Their comments were as follows:

- *Item 1 – Replacing the pool with a splash park:* the respondents were divided on the issue. Some fully supported the replacement of the pool with a splash park, a similar number wanted the pool retained and upgraded, some wanted the 25m pool retained and the toddlers' pool converted to a splash park. Some were concerned that the splash park would only provide for younger children. A small number had no opinion about the future of the pool.
- *Item 2 – Consolidating/removing buildings at the Reserve:* Again, the respondents had a diversity of views. Some wanted all the buildings to be retained and upgraded. Many wanted the toilet block to be removed and replaced with a new facility near the picnic area and playground. Some wanted the band hall updated; there were no suggestions that it be removed. Some supported the concept of redeveloping the pavilion as a pavilion/community centre. One respondent said that, if money was not an issue, consideration

- should be given to replacing at the buildings at the Reserve with a centrally located sports/community building.
- *Item 3 – Expanding the path network:* Some respondents were content with the paths as they are but requested that they be better maintained. Some liked the idea of a circuit path; many wanted a path connection from the cricket club pavilion to the community hall.
 - *Item 4 – Constructing a new toilet block:* There was strong support for the provision of a new toilet block. The preferred location was near the playground and rotundas. Many said that the new block should replace the existing toilet block, some said that the existing block should be kept and upgraded.
 - *Item 5 – Upgrading the existing playspace:* There was also strong support for this item. Some wanted the play facilities to be more diverse and capable of catering for all ages and abilities. Some wanted facilities like flying foxes, sensory areas, basketball half courts, exercise equipment. A small number wanted the playground (and the Reserve) to remain as is.
 - *Item 6 – Upgrading the pavilion:* Many residents that were familiar with the layout of the pavilion suggested that it should be extended - larger social rooms and some changerooms. Many wanted it to be a sports facility/community building. Some made recommendations about external facilities to complement the pavilion – seats, water fountains, larger veranda.
 - *Item 7 – Upgrading the carpark:* The majority view was that the existing carparks were sufficient. Some said that the bays should be defined. Others said that carparking capacity would need to be reviewed if a decision was made to proceed with the splash park.
 - *Item 8 – Installing additional seating and shade:* There was strong support for this item. The preferred location for more seating was near the playground and around the oval. Regarding shade, the preference was for natural shade (trees) rather than structures. However, some supported the erection of a shade structure over the playground.
 - *Item 9 – Providing outdoor exercise equipment:* There were mixed views on the value of providing exercise equipment. Some said the stations would not be used, others said that they would be a good addition to the park. Some said that only 3 or 4 stations should be provided.
 - *Item 10 - Improving habitat and biodiversity:* A diverse range of comments were made in response to this item. The main comments were about planting more native trees and removing the weeds in the creek.
 - *Items 11 – Mitigating against climate change:* Suggestions included solar panelling, more trees and recycle bins.
 - *Items 12 – Improving the Reserve for users groups:* Comments included drinking taps and toilets near the footbridge, drainage, irrigation and lighting of the oval, upgrading the pool, a stage area, a wider footbridge, shelter on the northern side of footbridge, upgrading the pavilion.
 - *Item 13 – Introducing changes to make the Reserve more appealing:* Suggestions included easier access for people with disabilities, not cluttering up the Reserve, more play facilities, formal entrance to park, better signage, community garden, skateboard facilities.

Drop-in-session

45 local residents attended the session. Attendees were invited to view site analysis and key actions plans, comment on the contents of the plans and suggest changes or additions. There were also directed to the on-survey on Council's My Say page or given the choice to complete a hard copy of the survey. There was general agreement with the key actions plans. The following comments/recommendations were made (some are opposing views):

- Agree with the pool being replaced by a high quality splash park.
- The pool should be retained and upgraded.
- The pavilion redevelopment should be similar to that undertaken at Russell Square.

- The pavilion should be extended and made suitable for sports and general community groups.
- The playground redevelopment should be as per the Midlands Play Area redevelopment (bigger and more diversity, pump track).
- Facilities are needed in the park for teenagers – e.g., half court, rebound wall.
- A skate park should be provided.
- Exercise equipment should be similar to that provided at Mt Pleasant Oval.
- Lighting over the oval is not required. Concern about the impact of wildlife. Lights are provided over the playing field at Russell Square. This is sufficient.
- Provide better security lighting and oval lighting to accommodate night-time running.
- Create gate access to the eastern side of the oval.
- Provision of an indoor cricket facility should be considered. Needed in Ballarat because of inclement weather.
- Lit netball courts and extension to cricket nets should be considered.
- Oval should be extended to provide for junior football. Lighting should be provided.
- Consider provision of a central turf wicket table.
- Consider provision of a pump station (there was disagreement to this).
- Consider café on eastern side of Reserve.
- Provide water fountains at suitable locations.
- Make provision for a community garden.
- Provide new deck at the rear of the community hall.
- Provide more BBQs, rotundas, seating and benches.
- Better care for open grassed areas in eastern section of the Reserve.
- Beautify area around the footbridge – clear weeds and plant natives.
- The creek needs better care.
- Modify hall toilets to make externally accessible in daylight hours. Provide cubical like toilets at splash park. Include externally accessible toilets in redeveloped pavilion.
- Provide a basic stage area.
- Recognise the role the pipe band played in establishing the Reserve and contributing to the construction of the toilets.

Some important messages also emerged from the casual discussions held on the night. These were:

- There was support for the splash park. However, there were a few attendees who strongly argued that the pool should be retained.
- There was unanimous support for providing additional play facilities and park furniture. However, some residents were concerned that the Reserve would get too cluttered
- Many residents commented that they like the ‘balance’ in the Reserve – active recreation/family-play zone/community buildings/vegetation areas. Some cautioned against doing anything to disturb this balance, e.g., enhancing the oval so it is intensively used in winter.
- There was support for consolidating the buildings on the western side of the Reserve and for extending and redeveloping the pavilion as a community recreation building. Attendees, however, did not want to see the pipe band displaced.
- There was agreement that the existing toilet block should be removed. Several replacement options were proposed - make hall toilets externally accessible in daylight hours, provide cubical like toilets at splash park, externally accessible toilets in redeveloped pavilion, toilet block near children’s playground.

6.4 Council officers

Council officers involved in the planning, management, development and maintenance of Brown Hill Recreation Reserve and its spaces/facilities were asked to indicate what they consider to be the role of the Reserve, the positive and negative attributes of the Reserve, the changes that are occurring around the Reserve that might have implications for the masterplan and the improvements they thought were needed at the Reserve. They were also asked to respond to the comments made by the community about improvements to the Reserve. Their thoughts/comments were as follows:

- Brown Hill Recreation Reserve is an important open space area with a diversity of roles. It:
 - Provides for community sport and recreation activities, informal play and family/community activities
 - Provides for passive recreation where local residents can walk, run, ride, spectate, relax and contemplate
 - Is used as a thoroughfare by people walking to and from the Yarrowee Trail, Monte Christo Bushland Reserve, Brown Hill Kindergarten and Brown Hill commercial/retail area and residential precincts
 - Provides a visual break from the commercial and residential properties along Humffray Street North and Reid Court.
- The positive aspects of the Reserve are its size and shape, open grassed areas, beautiful backdrop, attractive view-lines and landscape, accessibility and close proximity to residential areas. The not so positive aspects are its ageing buildings and safety issues related to the carpark areas.
- The changes occurring around the Reserve include increased housing density with multiuse developments, less trees on smaller blocks and residential growth north of the Reserve.
- The pool is ageing and consideration should be given to replacing it with a splash park.
- The Reserve hosts events/activities that can attract large numbers of cars. The carparking areas in and around the Reserve should be reviewed to enhance their efficiency, capacity, safety, accessibility, integration and appearance. Angle parking may need to be provided on Humffray Street North. Th internal carparks should be sealed and lined.
- There are plans to extend the kindergarten to enable it to cater for more children. This will add to the demand for the carpark near the pavilion. This should be considered in the parking review.
- The condition, location and size of the footbridge across the Yarrowee River needs review to enhance access to the Yarrowee Trail. The footbridge should be widened and relocated to the west.
- The playing field is too small for all grades of junior football. It is not viable to extend the field to make it suitable for all grades - this would compromise other open spaces and alter the character of the Reserve.
- The playing field should retain its current role main as an important venue for cricket in summer and a low key ground for variety of sports in winter. The playing surface should be upgraded. This will improve conditions for the cricket club and provide for sports like lacrosse and ultimate frisbee. Lights may be needed in the long term.
- The Reserve is a hard cricket wicket venue. Converting the wicket to turf has been suggested. The installation of a turf wicket would potentially prevent junior and lower grade senior cricket being played on the Reserve. A broader discussion with Brown Hill Cricket Club and the Ballarat Cricket Association and agreement from these organisations that the turf table should be provided is required. An alternative location for the junior and lower grade senior cricket played at the Reserve would have to be found. The BCA and City of Ballarat would have to agree to amend its strategic partnership in line with any developments to address Brown Hill Recreation Reserve and its impact on Western Oval (the turf wicket reserve currently used by Brown Hill Cricket Club).
- The band hall is ageing and lacks facilities. Its future needs review. The potential of the pipe band relocating to the community hall (or another venue) should be investigated.
- Indoor cricket nets have been proposed previously. Brown Hill Reserve is not considered an appropriate location for the venue.

- There are several buildings/structure on the Reserve. They should be consolidated/rationalised, where feasible.
- The pavilion should be redeveloped to make it female friendly and provide suitable players and umpire changerooms.
- Consideration should also be given to the following works:
 - Installing fitness stations
 - Upgrading or replacing the public toilets
 - Expanding the play facilities and path network

7. SUMMARY OF SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENTS/ASSESSMENT OF MERIT

Table 9 lists the improvements to the Reserve that were identified in the literature review, audit of the Reserve and consultation process. The table includes assessments of the merits of the improvements and make recommendations about whether the improvements should be included as actions in the Reserve masterplan.

Table 9 – Assessment of Merit

	SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENTS	CONSIDERATIONS	RECOMMENDATIONS
1	<p>Retain and upgrade the pool</p> <p>Retain and upgrade the 25m pool and plant. Convert the toddlers' pool to a splash park</p> <p>Replace the pools with a splash park. Combine with new play facilities – rebound wall, half court, climbing frame. Retain the existing BBQ, picnic tables, shelter and seats at the pools, if feasible</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Appendix C 	<p>Replace the pool area with a splash park. Combine with new play facilities – rebound wall, half court, climbing frame etc. If feasible, retain and upgrade the existing BBQ, picnic tables, shelter and seats at the pool. Review and redesign the carpark area.</p>
2	<p>Upgrade the carparks and define the carparking bays</p> <p>Seal and line the carparks</p> <p>Enhance or remove the carparking at the rear of the pool</p> <p>Extend the community hall carpark</p> <p>Make provision for an expansion of the pavilion carpark, if needed for the kindergarten and/or for oval users in the future</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is general agreement that the carparks should be sealed and the parking bays better defined. This view was strongly put by the Reserve user groups and supported by the community. • The kindergarten advised of the importance of the pavilion carpark to its operation and indicated that more parking in the Reserve may be required in the future if the kindergarten buildings required further expansion and encroached into the parking on the kindergarten site. An area should be set aside for additional carparking, if needed in the future. • The removal of the band hall will provide space for additional carparking, if needed in the future. • The carparking area at the back of the pool is randomly configured and unsightly. It should be removed. • Angle parking may be needed on Humffray Street North if a splash park is provided. • The community hall carpark and the on street carparking on Humffray St Nth have sufficient capacity to cater for the current needs of hall and general park users. 	<p>Seal the pavilion and community hall carparks and define the carparking bays</p> <p>Make provision for an expansion of the pavilion carpark, if needed in the future.</p> <p>Remove the carpark at the rear of the pool as part of the splash park/play space development.</p> <p>Review the provision of car parking on Reid Court and Humffray Street North in the detailed planning for the splash park.</p>
3	<p>Create a main entrance to the Reserve</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Reserve has two main vehicle entrances – off Reid Court and Humffray Street North. Both serve distinct parts of the Reserve. Both function well and are prominent. A more developed entrance is not required. 	<p>No action required</p>

	SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENTS	CONSIDERATIONS	RECOMMENDATIONS
4	<p>Provide a reserve name sign at the entrances to the community hall and pavilion carparks</p> <p>Review the advertising signage in and around the pavilion and cricket nets</p> <p>Ensure consistency in the style of signage on the buildings in the Reserve</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is only one reserve name sign on the boundary of the Reserve – about 50m east of the Humffray Street North entrance. • As mentioned above, there are two entrances to the Reserve. There are no signs at these entrances. Reserve name signs as per the Council's style guide should be erected at these locations. • The signs on the structures in the reserve are not consistent in style or size. They are visually satisfactory. 	<p>Provide reserve name signs at the entrances to the community hall and pavilion carparks</p>
5	<p>Upgrade the existing path network:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better drainage • Seal • Widen to make suitable for wheelchair access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sections of the paths in the Reserve get boggy and often erode after rain. They become difficult to use, particularly by people with frames, walkers or prams. • Some people want the paths to be sealed. Most want the granitic sand surface to be retained but upgraded and better drained. • A few commented that the paths should be widened to provide for wheelchair access. The widths of the path sections vary but are all comfortably over 1.2m, the minimum width for one-way wheelchair access. 	<p>Upgrade the existing path network - better drainage, even path surface.</p>
6	<p>Extend the path network:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From pavilion to the path at rear of community hall • Humffray St Nth to play space • From rotunda around the eastern and northern boundaries of the oval to the pavilion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The path network in the Reserve is not extensive and is limited to the eastern section of the Reserve. There is no path connection directly off Humffray Street North to the children's playground. There is no path connection from the western section of the Reserve to the community hall and family play zone or around the eastern side of the playing field. • The community strongly supports the walking path network being extended. They particularly support a link path being constructed between the pavilion and community hall. • There was also some support for a circuit path around the Reserve. This cannot be achieved as there is insufficient space for a path at the northern end of the oval between the oval fence and the river. The oval would have to be reduced in length to accommodate the path. This is not feasible. 	<p>Extend the path network:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From the pavilion to the path at rear of community hall (including a connection to the propped toilet block at the splash park – see item 1) • From Humffray Street North to the existing playground • Around the oval, from rotunda one to the north east pocket of the playing field • From the rotunda to the relocated footbridge
7	<p>Demolish the existing toilet block</p> <p>Retain and upgrade the toilet block</p> <p>Provide an additional toilet near the playground</p> <p>Provide an externally accessible toilet in an extended and reconfigured pavilion</p> <p>Provide toilets in the splash park</p> <p>Reconfigure the toilets in the community hall to make</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing suitable public toilet facilities at the Reserve was the community's highest priority. • The existing toilet block is in poor condition. However, it appears to be reasonably well used, particularly by travellers and tradies. • The band hall does not have an internal toilet. Band members use the external toilet block. • The toilets in the sports pavilion can be used by the public but are 	<p>Provide toilets in the splash park.</p> <p>Provide public toilets in the redeveloped pavilion.</p> <p>Demolish the existing toilet block.</p>

	SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENTS	CONSIDERATIONS	RECOMMENDATIONS
	them externally accessible	<p>only available when the pavilion is open.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The toilet facilities in the community hall are only available to hall users and again are only accessible when the hall is open. There is no toilet near the children's playground. This report recommends that the pavilion be extended and redeveloped – externally accessible toilets could be provided in this redevelopment. These toilets would again only be open when the pavilion is in use. The splash park will need a toilet facility. It will be about 120m from the children's playground. The toilet facility at the splash park could provide for the existing playground. 	
8	<p>Refurbish the band hall</p> <p>Extend the sports pavilion to provide suitable space for the band hall</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The band hall is ageing and in poor condition. It has no toilet facilities. The hall is an old army hut. It was brought to the Reserve by the Pipe Band. The Band met all the costs associated with its relocation and subsequent upkeep. The Band uses the hall twice a week. The Highland Dancers use it once a week. The Band's preference is to stay at the hall. The Band concedes that the Hall is in poor condition. It is prepared to relocate if an alternative suitable facility is provided, e.g., a suitable space in the redeveloped pavilion – i.e., guaranteed access to the social room and a smaller practice room two times per week, access to dedicated storage area. The band hall could be demolished if the Band relocates. This would open up the western edge the Reserve. The area could be returned to open space or be used for carparking, if needed in the future 	Extend the sports pavilion to provide a suitable space for the pipe band. Demolish the band hall
9	<p>Reconfigure the community hall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extension of main hall stage Redevelopment of the Humffray St foyer as a display/reception area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These works have been requested by the hall committee. It argues that the works will increase the capacity of the hall and make it more functional. 	Reconfigure the community hall – stage extension, foyer converted to display/reception area.

	SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENTS	CONSIDERATIONS	RECOMMENDATIONS
10	Address accessibility issues in the sports pavilion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Installation of ramp to veranda Widening of the corridor to the bathrooms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These works have been requested by the Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council. The Council has used the sports pavilion since 2021 for CALDB social support programs. It uses the pavilion twice a week and is keen to use it more often for various social and support activities. The Council is concerned about accessibility issues with the pavilion – the narrowness of the corridor and the lack of wheelchair access to the front veranda. These issues limit its activities at the Reserve. 	Address accessibility issues in the sports pavilion as part of overall redevelopment planning for the building.
11	Redevelop the pavilion as a sports/community building: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Larger veranda Enhanced general storage for users Dedicated storage for pipe band Female friendly player and umpire changerooms Larger social room and new meeting/practice room Internally and externally accessible amenities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The pavilion is primarily used by the cricket club. It is also regularly used by the Auskick program, athletics club and Regional Multicultural Council. It is available for community hire. The pavilion is basic – small social room, toilets, kitchen, storeroom, small changerooms. The Pipe Band would need a new location if a decision was made to demolish its building. The Regional Multicultural Council want to use the pavilion more often and for bigger numbers. They need more space. The Auskick program is growing and needs more space. The pavilion is the home facility of a growing cricket club that plays in the highest grade of cricket in Ballarat. There is strong community support for an expansion of the pavilion and its conversion into a sports/community building. 	Redevelop the pavilion as a sports/community building: veranda, extension of social room, meeting room, suitable spaces for Pipe Band, enhanced storage, female friendly player and umpire changerooms, internally and externally accessible amenities
12	Upgrade the playing field: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Returf with suitable species Irrigation and drainage Barrier net at north end Pine trees shading the oval removed and replaced with suitable vegetation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The condition of the playing field limits its use. It has no drainage system and only a manual irrigation system. The field holds water in winter and after heavy rains in summer. The turf has a mix of grass species: couch, fescue, rye, winter grass, paspalum and oxalis. Preferably, it would be couch and rye. Roots from the pine trees are protruding on the playing field. A significant section of northern end of the field is shaded by the high pine trees on the hill. The area is damp and grass cover is weak. The load on the field is increasing. An upgrade is justified. 	Upgrade of playing field: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Returf with suitable species Provision of irrigation and drainage Erection of barrier fence at northern end Erection of lights over the playing field Remove pine trees shading the playing field at the northern end and replace with suitable vegetation
13	Erect lights over the playing field	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently, there is one user that requires lights – the Auskick program. It hires portable lights at a significant cost. Council indicated that more lit fields are needed in Ballarat. It advises that the Brown Hill playing field would be used more if its surface was 	Consider erecting lights over the playing field in the long term (if feasible due to demand)

	SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENTS	CONSIDERATIONS	RECOMMENDATIONS
		<p>upgraded and lights were erected. Football clubs could use the field as an overflow training facility. Lower profile sports could use the field as a home facility – e.g., ultimate frisbee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is unlikely that a junior or senior football club would be based at the Reserve. • Some residents are opposed to lights being erected. They do not want the Reserve to get busier. They liked the current balance between active and passive use. They also said that lights would alter the character of the Reserve. • Lights should be included in the masterplan but described as a long term. 	
14	Terrace the embankment area at southern end of oval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although not high, the embankment is steep and poses a safety risk. • Soil and leaves from the embankment are washing down to and placing strain on the oval boundary fence, causing it to lean. 	Terrace the embankment area at southern end of playing field
15	Install a turf wicket table	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brown Hill Reserve is the home base of the Brown Hill Cricket Club. The Club's first XI play in the highest level of cricket competition in Ballarat. This is a turf wicket competition. • Brown Hill Reserve has a concrete wicket. Therefore, the Club has to play its first and 2nd XI home games at another venue – Western Oval • A 5 wicket turf table would be needed at Brown Hill. This would take up an area of around 16mX25m in the centre of the oval. It could fit on the Brown Hill playing field but the boundaries would be comparatively short. The cost of installation would be around \$160,000. Curating equipment – mowers, rollers, line markers etc may would also be needed. • The playing field would have less playing capacity for cricket if it was converted to a turf wicket. A synthetic wicket can be used every day for competition, training and informal play, a turf wicket only one or two times per week and mainly for competition. • The Club wants a turf wicket at Brown Hill Reserve. However, the Club's lower grade senior and junior teams that currently play on the synthetic wicket at the Reserve will be displaced. An alternative location would have to be found for these teams. The Club is suggesting the playing field at Woodman's Hill Secondary College as this location. A synthetic wicket would have to be installed. • The Ballarat Cricket Association generally supports the provision of additional turf wickets. However, it too is concerned about the loss of 	<p>Construct a 5 wicket turf table at Brown Hill Reserve.</p> <p>Note this action is dependent on</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The establishment of hard wicket venue for junior/lower senior grades teams elsewhere and endorsement by BCA. 2) BCA and City of Ballarat agreeing to amend its strategic partnership 'in line with any developments to address Brown Hill Rec Res Oval and impact on Western Oval'

	SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENTS	CONSIDERATIONS	RECOMMENDATIONS
		<p>synthetic wickets - from an alternative location perspective and the loss of capacity. It says that a business case is needed for the conversion to turf.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council has indicated that the provision of turf wicket at Brown Hill is dependent on the establishment of hard wicket venue for junior/lower senior grades teams elsewhere and endorsement by BCA. It advises that an amendment to Strategic Partnership Agreement between BCA and City of Ballarat would be required 'in line with any developments to address Brown Hill Rec Res Oval and impact on Western Oval which is currently the turf wicket used by Brown Hill CC'. 	
16	Provide new, enclosed cricket nets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council is undertaking a net replacement program where older open net facilities are being replaced by enclosed nets. • The dimensions of a 5 bay net facility are 19m wide and 41m long. This size facility could not fit at the Reserve off the playing field. The open nets may have to be retained. 	Retain and upgrade the open cricket nets at the Reserve.
17	Erect an indoor training facility for cricket and other sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Cricket Club is advocating for the provision of this facility. The suggested location is to the west of the cricket nets. • An indoor cricket training facility would be a valuable asset. The question is – if there is to be a training facility in Ballarat, is Brown Hill Reserve the best location for the facility or should it be at one of the major reserves? • The community does not want more buildings in the Reserve. Also, trees may be lost. • The BCA supports the concept but wants a feasibility study to be undertaken. 	Not recommended
18	Expand, diversify and provide shade over the play space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The existing playground is comparatively small and basic. • The provision of additional play facilities at the Reserve was given a high priority by the community. Many commented that the Reserve offered little for teenagers. • Natural elements, half court, rebound wall, climbing frames, skate facilities, pump track were mentioned as additional play facilities. • All these elements should be considered (except pump track and skate park - see 19). The questions are what should be provided in the Reserve and where should they be located, i.e., should they be together or split across two or three locations. • A criticism of the splash park is that it only provides for young 	Extend and add diversity to the children's playground. Provide natural shade over the play ground. Locate the half court, rebound wall with the splash park

	SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENTS	CONSIDERATIONS	RECOMMENDATIONS
		<p>children/facilities. This could be addressed by placing some of the teenage play elements with the splash park – e.g., half court.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some want the children’s playground to be kept separate from the noisy and busy splash park. 	
19	Provide a skate park and pump track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The community expressed concerns that there were no facilities for youth at Brown Hill Reserve. Skate parks and pump tracks are district level facilities. The nearest skate park is at Len T Fraser Reserve, 3.8kms from Brown Hill Reserve. The nearest pump track is at Chisholm Reserve, 1.6kms from Brown Hill Reserve. These are considered to be within acceptable distances of Brown Hill Reserve. The facilities would add more clutter to the Reserve. 	Not recommended
20	Install exercise stations at strategic locations around the Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was some support for provision of some exercise stations in the Reserve. Some did not support; arguing that the stations would not be used. The closest stations are at Russell Square, 1km away. The station would add some diversity to the park. They are likely to be popular with elderly people, a growing demographic in Brown Hill. 3-5 stations should be provided along the path network. 	Install exercise stations at strategic locations around the path network in the Reserve
21	Provide drinking fountains at suitable locations around the park – play space, splash park, footbridge, pavilion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was strong community support for the provision of drinking fountains in the Reserve. The suggested locations were the children’s playground, splash park, footbridge and pavilion. 	Provide drinking fountains at suitable locations around the Reserve – children’s playground, splash park, footbridge, pavilion
22	<p>Replace and widen the footbridge</p> <p>Erect shelter just south of the footbridge</p> <p>Erect a second bridge across creek to the north of the cricket nets</p> <p>Beautify area around the footbridge</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The footbridge is narrow and rotting and splitting. It needs to be replaced. The bridge is located on the eastern edge of the Reserve. A wider bridge should be provided. It should be more central in the Reserve. 	<p>Replace and widen the footbridge (2.2m). Move it to a more central location</p> <p>Erect shelter just south of the footbridge</p> <p>Beautify area around the footbridge</p>
23	<p>Provide additional seats/tables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Near play space On eastern side of oval and along the propped new path On the proposed new path from Humffray Street North to the play space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are only a handful of seats and tables around the Reserve. Most are near the pavilion. There is only one seat near the children’s playground and no seats on the eastern side of the playing field. The provision of additional park furniture was considered a high priority by the community. 	Provide additional seats/tables.
24	<p>Create a dog off leash area</p> <p>Provide dog drinking, bags and litter facilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve is a popular location for dog walkers. Most use the playing field but the grassed areas are also used. 	Provide dog drinking, bags and litter facilities around the reserve

	SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENTS	CONSIDERATIONS	RECOMMENDATIONS
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walkers can get almost unrestricted access to the playing field during winter. In summer, access is restricted because cricket is played on the oval. However, dog walkers can still use the surrounds. • The nearest dog off leash Reserve is Chisholm St Reserve in Black Hill. 1.6kms from Brown Hill Reserve. • Providing a dedicated dog area at the Reserve is not supported. • The Reserve does not have dog bins etc. They are needed. 	
25	Erect a permanent stage facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Progress Association is keen for a permanent small stage to be provided in the Reserve. This could be used for events, etc. • The issue is whether a permanent facility should be provided or an area be nominated in the reserve that can be used when needed for events. • Residents have indicated that they do not want the reserve to be cluttered by structures. An events area is probably more suitable. 	Make an area of the Reserve suitable for events, concerts etc – power etc.
26	Plant more native trees in the Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Reserve has a good framework of established, healthy trees. • The community is asking for more shade to be provided in the Reserve. Its preference is for trees rather than sails or structures. • The community also likes the grassed areas and does not want the Reserve to get too cluttered. • Some additional trees should be provided at the splash park, around the playground and near the paths but only a small number. 	Plant more native trees at suitable locations in the Reserve – along the paths, near the playground, at the proposed splash park. Consider the following species: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eucalyptus obliqua – Messmate • Eucalyptus viminalis – Manna Gum • Acacia melanoxylon – Blackwood • Acer freemanii “Autumn Blaze” – Nowegian Maple • Ulmus procera “Van Houtei” – Golden Elm
27	Provide community garden beds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The closest community garden facility is in Ballarat East, 2.4kms from Brown Hill Reserve. • A community gardens could be popular facility and help with social connectivity. However, it would take up available space in the reserve and add to the clutter. 	Not recommended.

8. MASTERPLAN

8.1 Key objectives of masterplan

The key objectives of the masterplans are as follows:

- Enhancing the safety and visual amenity of the Reserve.
- Providing high quality passive and active recreation infrastructure which is fit for purpose and meets current and future community recreation needs.
- Increasing the capacity and durability of the recreation infrastructure in the Reserve.
- Increasing opportunities for participation in sport.
- Increasing the scope and quality of residents' passive recreation experiences in the Reserve – water play, general play, spectating, walking, running, relaxing, socialising, enjoying the environment etc.
- Optimising the use of the facilities in the Reserve.
- Making the Reserve more accessible and environmentally sustainable.

8.2 Actions, timelines and costs

An action plan for the Reserve is provided in Table 10. The priority and timelines for the works listed in the table are described as high (0-3 years), medium (4-6 years) and low (7-10 years). Circumstances may arise where it may be more practical to undertake a low priority item above a medium or high priority item. For example, the State Government may introduce a special funding program for the improvement of a facility type that is ranked in the masterplan as a low priority item. Council may choose to take advantage of this funding and complete this item ahead of a medium or high priority item. Also, sufficient funds may not be available to carry out a more expensive high priority item but enough funds are available to undertake a medium or low priority item. In this circumstance, Council may choose to undertake the lower priority item.

The costs provided in the table are broad estimates and will need to be confirmed in the schematic and detailed design phases of the masterplan development and implementation process.

8.3 Recommendations

1. That the Plan as detailed in Table 10 and Figures 6 and 7 be adopted as the redevelopment masterplan for Brown Hill Reserve.
2. That the allocations listed in Table 10 be referred to Council's capital works and operational budgets as appropriate.

Table 10 – Action Plan

REF	ACTIONS	Est. Cost \$	Priority
1	Provide reserve name signs at the entrances to the community hall and pavilion carparks.	3,000	High
2	Seal the pavilion and community hall carparks and define the carparking bays.	200,000	High
3	Make provision for an expansion of the pavilion carpark for the kindergarten and/or oval users, if needed in the future.	80,000	Low
4	Retain the existing toilet block in the short term. Provide an externally accessible toilet in an extended and reconfigured pavilion. Demolish the existing toilet block when the pavilion toilets are constructed.	25,000	Medium
5	Replace the pool area with a splash park. Combine with new play facilities – rebound wall, half court, climbing frame etc. Retain the existing BBQ, picnic tables, shelter and seats at the pool. Provide toilet facilities. Remove the carpark at the rear of the pool as part of the splash park development. Review the carparking along Humffray Street North and Reid Court when undertaking the detailed planning for the splash park.	3,000,000	High
6	Redevelop the pavilion as a sports/community building: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of suitable spaces for the pipe band • Addressing accessibility issues – ramp to veranda, widen internal corridors • Larger veranda • Extension of social room • Enhanced general storage • Dedicated storage for Pipe Band • Female friendly player and umpire changerooms • Larger social room and new meeting/practice room • Internally and externally accessible amenities. Demolish the band hall.	3,000,000	Medium
7	Reconfigure the community hall: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extension of main hall stage • Redevelopment of the Humffray Street North foyer as a display/reception area. 	100,000	Medium
8	Upgrade the playing field: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Returf with suitable species • Provision of irrigation and drainage • Erection of net barrier at northern end • Removal of pine trees shading the playing field at the northern end and replacement with suitable vegetation 	1,200,000	High
9	Construct a 5 wicket turf table at Brown Hill Reserve. Note this action is dependent on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The establishment of hard wicket venue for junior/lower senior grades teams elsewhere and endorsement by BCA. • BCA and City of Ballarat agreeing to amend its strategic partnership 'in line with any developments to address Brown Hill Rec Res Oval and impact on Western Oval' 	160,000	Medium
10	Erect lights over the playing field, if justified in the long term	500,000	Low

REF	ACTIONS	Est. Cost \$	Priority
11	Terrace the embankment area at the southern end of playing field	20,000	High
12	Retain and upgrade the open cricket nets at the Reserve.	200,000	Medium
13	Upgrade the existing granitic sand path network - better drainage, even path surfaces, widen to make suitable for wheelchair access	100,000	High
14	Extend the path network: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> From the pavilion to the path at rear of community hall From Humffray Street North to the existing playground Around the oval, from rotunda one to the north east pocket of the playing field. From the rotunda to the new footbridge 	50,000	High
15	Extend and add diversity to the children's playground.	400,000	Medium
16	Relocate and widen the footbridge. Erect shelter just south of the footbridge.	200,000	High
17	Install exercise stations at strategic locations along the path network.	60,000	Low
18	Provide drinking fountains at suitable locations around the Reserve – children's playground, splash park, footbridge, pavilion.	15,000	Medium
19	Provide additional seats/tables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Near children's playground On eastern side of the playing field along the proposed new path On the proposed new path from Humffray Street North to the children's playground. 	80,000	High
20	Provide dog drinking taps, poos bags and litter facilities at suitable locations around the reserve.	10,000	High
21	Make an area of the reserve suitable for events, concerts etc – power etc.	20,000	Medium
22	Plant more native trees in the Reserve. Consider the following species: Messmate, Manna Gum, Blackwood, Norwegian Maple and Golden Elm.	15,000	High

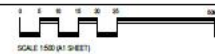
Figure 6 – Action plan (draft) (for higher resolution see separate Attachment Three – Figure 6 Draft Action Plan)



SUGGESTED ACTIONS	
1	Provide reserve name signs at the entrances to the community hall and pavilion carparks.
2	Seal the pavilion and community hall carparks and define the carparking bays.
3	Make provision for an expansion of the pavilion carpark for the kindergarten and/or oval users, if needed in the future.
4	Retain the existing toilet block in the short term. Provide an externally accessible toilet in an extended and reconfigured pavilion. Demolish the existing toilet block when the pavilion toilets are constructed.
5	Replace the pool area with a water park. Combine with new play facilities - rebound wall, half court, climbing frame etc. Relocate one or two existing BBQ, picnic tables, shelter and seats at the pool. Provide toilet facilities. Remove the carpark at the rear of the pool. Review carparking arrangements on Reid Street and Humfray Street north.
6	Redevelop the pavilion as a sports/community building: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of suitable spaces for the pipe band Addressing accessibility issues - ramp to veranda, widen internal corridors Larger veranda Extension of social room Enhanced general storage Female friendly player and umpire changerooms Larger social room and new meeting/practice room Internally and externally accessible amenities. Demolish the band hall.
7	Reconfigure the community hall: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extension of main hall stage Redevelopment of the Humfray Street North foyer as a display/reception area.
8	Upgrade the playing field: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Returf with suitable species Provision of irrigation and drainage Erection of net barrier at northern end Removal of pine trees shading the playing field at the northern end and replacement with suitable vegetation
9	Construct a five wicket turf table at Brown Hill Reserve. Note this action is dependent on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The establishment of a hard wicket venue for junior/tower senior grades teams elsewhere and endorsement by BCA. BCA and City of Ballarat agreeing to amend its strategic partnership 'in line with any developments to address Brown Hill Rec Res Oval and impact on Western Oval'
10	Erect lights over the playing field if justified in the long term
11	Terrace the embankment area at the southern end of the playing field
12	Retain and upgrade the open cricket nets at the Reserve.
13	Upgrade the existing granitic sand path network - better drainage, even path surfaces and widen to make suitable for wheelchair access.
14	Extend the path network: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> From the pavilion to the path at the rear of the community hall From Humfray Street North to the existing playground Around the oval, from rotunda one to the north east pocket of the playing field.
15	Extend and add diversity to the children's playground.
16	Relocate and widen the footbridge. Erect a shelter just south of the footbridge.
17	Install exercise stations at strategic locations along the path network.
18	Provide drinking fountains at suitable locations around the Reserve - children's playground, water park, footbridge and pavilion.
19	Provide additional seats/tables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Near the children's playground On the eastern side of the playing field along the proposed new path On the proposed new path from Humfray Street North to the children's playground.

SUGGESTED ACTIONS - CONTINUED	
20	Provide dog drinking taps, poos bags and litter facilities at suitable locations around the reserve.
21	Make an area of the reserve suitable for events, concerts etc - power etc.
22	Plant more native trees in the reserve.

L2 DRAFT ACTION PLAN
BROWN HILL RECREATION RESERVE
 CITY OF BALLARAT



Amendments:
 24.10.2022 REVA - Revised plan as per feedback
 08.12.2022 REV8 - Revised plan as per mark ups
 First Issue:
 20.06.2022 Emailed to A. Fernon
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 Title: L2 Draft Action Plan - Brown Hill Recreation Reserve, Ballarat
 Client: City of Ballarat

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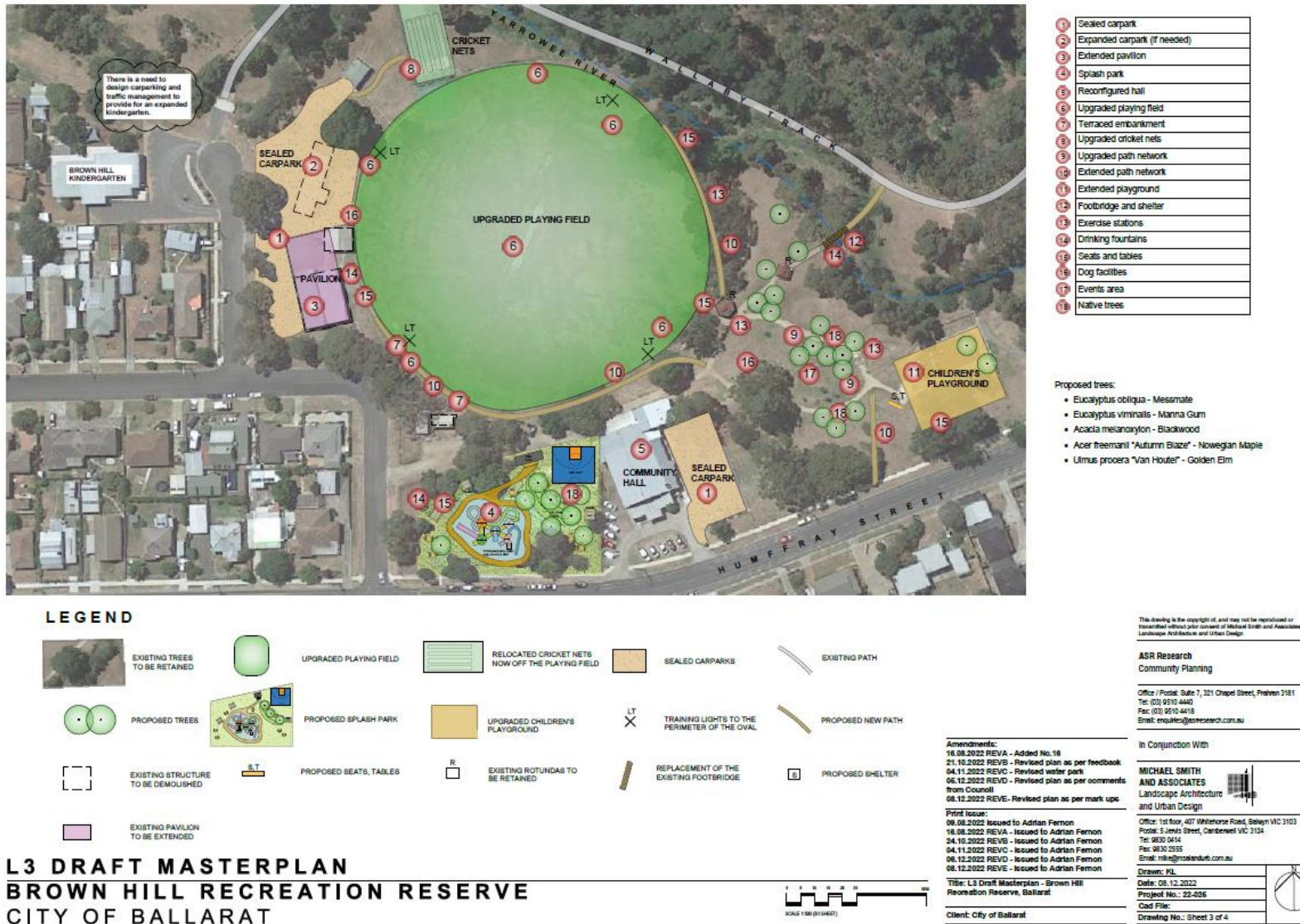
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In Conjunction With

Drawn: K/L
 Date: 20.06.2022
 Project No.: 22-6626
 Cad File:
 Drawing No.: Sheet 2 of 3



Figure 7 – Draft Concept masterplan (for higher resolution see separate Attachment Four – Figure 7 Draft Concept Plan)



APPENDICES

Appendix A – Literature Review

Documents	Purpose/relevance	Implications for the Brown Hill Recreation Reserve Masterplan
BCC Council Plan 2021-2025	<p>This Plan outlines Council’s goal and priorities for the 2021-2025 period. The goals and priorities contained in the Plan that have relevance for the Brown Hill Recreation Masterplan are as follows:</p> <p>Goal 1: An environmentally sustainable community Goal 2 – A healthy connected and inclusive community</p> <p>Key things that Council will deliver:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inclusive and accessible infrastructure, services, information, events, activities, programs and initiatives to meet the needs of all community members and celebrate our diversity - More quality spaces and infrastructure to support active lifestyles, recreation and social connections - Initiatives and priorities from our Active Ballarat Action Plan 	<p>The location and design of the buildings in the Reserve should be consistent with the commitments made in the Council Plan, i.e., inclusive and accessible infrastructure, more infrastructure to support recreation opportunities.</p>
Today, Tomorrow, Together; The Ballarat Strategy 2040	<p>This Strategy outlines a long-term plan for a greener, more vibrant and connected Ballarat. The relevant actions relate to the vision of creating a 10 minute city. These actions are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work towards all urban residents being able to access most of their daily needs within 10 minutes walk or cycling from home - Place greater emphasis on people at the centre of infrastructure design in public places - Support community led opportunities for a healthier, safer, more active and inclusive community - Improve town centres to provide better gathering and meeting spaces, appropriate to their roles as community centres - Where feasible, aggregate community facilities in community hubs. 	<p>The objectives of creating a 10-minute City and aggregating facilities in community hubs should be considered when framing the directions of the masterplan.</p>
City of Ballarat Community Vision 2021-2031	<p>This document provides a vision for Ballarat. It says that Ballarat is a city</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Where every person feels part of their community and can participate fully in life. - That values and celebrates diversity in all its forms. - Where social connections are strong across generations, cultures and backgrounds - Where services, infrastructure and amenity meet community needs and everyone has the opportunity to lead a healthy lifestyle in a well-designed city. - Where residents are invested in their community and take an active role in decisions that affect them. 	<p>The masterplan should be consistent with and aim to achieve Council’s vision, especially the vision of Ballarat’s resident living healthy and active lifestyles.</p>
BCC Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2031	<p>The Plan outlines the Council’s key principles and priorities with respect to the health and well-being of its community and the actions it will implement to improve the health and well-being of the community. The priorities that have implications for/relevance to the Brown Hill Recreation Reserve Masterplan are as follows.</p> <p>Priorities: Increasing active living and improving mental wellbeing</p> <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increasing opportunities for walking and bike-riding - Providing high quality, equitable and accessible community facilities, services and events 	<p>The key principles/actions of the health and wellbeing plan should be considered when framing the directions of the masterplan; these being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Accessibility, equity - High quality facilities - More recreation opportunities - More opportunities for walking and cycling

Documents	Purpose/relevance	Implications for the Brown Hill Recreation Reserve Masterplan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increasing inclusive sport and active recreation - Providing and promoting flexible, diverse and accessible recreation and leisure opportunities - Planning, providing and maintaining sporting facilities and grounds and playspaces - Increasing tree planting across the city 	
BCC Open Space Strategy 2008	<p>This document outline the Council's vision, key objectives and strategic directions for open space provision in the City. It also contains a set of specific actions for Rural East – the local area in which Brown Hill Reserve is located. The sections of the document that have relevance for the masterplan are as follows:</p> <p>Strategic directions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve access across the municipality to ensure residents in urbanised areas are within 500m of recreation open space. - Promote shared use and maximum public access to all open space and associated facilities will be a priority. <p>Rural East Analysis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brown Hill Reserve, classified as District Open Space - Open space provision in Rural East exceeds the provision target of four hectares per thousand people. - There is a good mix of parks which provide a wide range of recreation opportunities - Access to open space in high density residential areas is adequate - Some developing residential areas in Brown Hill have poor access to open space 	The masterplan should recognise the status of the Brown Hill Recreation Reserve a district level Reserve and the deficit in open space provision in the new development areas in Brown Hill.
BCC Active Ballarat Strategy 2021	<p>This strategy outline the actions Council will take with respect to the provision of active recreation programs and buildings. The actions that have relevance to Brown Hill Recreation Reserve are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve equitable access to recreation facilities – striving towards having all facilities female friendly - Increase investment in our public open spaces to leverage opportunities for community engagement 	The masterplan should contain actions aimed at achieving the objectives of the Active Ballarat Strategy, in particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensuring recreation facilities are female friendly - Increased investment in public open space

Documents	Purpose/relevance	Implications for the Brown Hill Recreation Reserve Masterplan
BCC Community Infrastructure Planning Policy 2020	<p>This document contains guiding principles for the development of community infrastructure. The principles that have relevance for the updated Facilities Plan and the provision of a Community Hub are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community infrastructure responds to and is integrated with the surrounding area, encouraging social connection, building a sense of place and contributing to developing social capital and capacity building. - Community hubs which encourage social interaction, creativity and economic and environmental vitality are fostered, creating a strong sense of community and local identity. - Preferred sites for new community infrastructure will consider liveability and accessibility including 10 Minute City principles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-located or adjacent to other services and facilities • Accessible by public transport, pedestrian and cycle path networks • In a highly visible civic space, adjacent to public open space • Have adequate car and bicycle parking onsite or in close proximity - Community facilities are planned and designed for the broadest possible use by a range of groups, services and activities, and are multi-purpose in nature. - Where possible community facilities are fit for purpose and delivered according to appropriate infrastructure standards and best practice, with internal layouts that can respond to changing community priorities, the accommodation of special interest groups, and opportunities for expansion. - Assets which are no longer able to meet community needs and cannot feasibly be modified to do so should be rationalised to facilitate reinvestment in more appropriate infrastructure. 	<p>The principles outlined in the Community Infrastructure Planning Policy relating to the location and design of community hubs and the rationalisation/disposal of outdated community should be taken into consideration when framing the masterplan and assessing the merits of consolidating the buildings at Brown Hill Recreation Reserve Masterplan.</p>
BCC Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2022-2026 (draft)	<p>This Plan outlines Council's goals and strategic objectives with respect to improving opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in community life. The Plan commits Council to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Providing welcoming and inclusive spaces - Reviewing City of Ballarat's Public Toilet Strategy to ensure appropriate provision of accessible facilities - Reviewing accessibility and inclusivity of City of Ballarat facilities 	<p>The masterplan should aim to enhance the accessibility of the Reserve and its buildings.</p>
Ageing Well in Ballarat Strategy and Action Plan 2022 – 2026 (Draft)	<p>This document outlines the actions Council will take to help residents age healthily, with dignity and as part of the community. The actions that have relevance to the Brown Hill Recreation Reserve Masterplan are as follow:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plan, design, improve and maintain Council spaces, places, and buildings to secure universal access for all our residents and celebrate people of all ages and abilities - Collaborate with the Ballarat community so that people feel welcome and safe and have equitable access to our city's places, spaces, and buildings. - Encourage community connection in public spaces and provide the opportunity for all 	<p>The masterplan should ensure that it contains actions which support the key actions of the Ageing Well in Ballarat Strategy, these being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Physical and equitable access to community spaces for elderly people - Inclusive welcoming spaces.

Documents	Purpose/relevance	Implications for the Brown Hill Recreation Reserve Masterplan
	<p>people to enjoy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Encourage shared community facilities and settings to be inclusive, welcoming and facilitate social connection in the community 	
BCC: Active Women and Girls Strategy 2018	<p>This Strategy discusses the priority issues identified within the municipality that may be constraining women and girls' involvement in sport or physical activity, either as leaders or participants and the actions Council will take to address these issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Make improvements to facilities and infrastructure to support increased female participation - Enhance the suitability of facilities for women and girls – formal sport and informal recreation through using Universal Design principles within design. - Audit existing facilities to determine suitability for females use and establish a prioritised schedule of works to improve venues when budgetary and funding opportunities arise or as required. Identify improvements to facilities, child play areas and basic amenities such as lighting, seating, access to toilets and water fountains. - Continue to identify opportunities for paths, tracks and trail improvements to support informal physical activity 	<p>The audit of the buildings conducted for this Study should assess their suitability for use by women. The location and design of the buildings should ensure that it provides suitable facilities for women.</p>
Ballarat Cycling Action Plan 2017-2025	<p>This Document outlines the actions that will be taken to expand and enhance the safety of Ballarat's Bicycle Network including the provision of end of trip facilities at significant locations in Ballarat.</p>	<p>The masterplan should review the findings and recommendations of the Cycling Action Plan with respect to the provision of end of trip bike facilities around the Reserve.</p>

Appendix B – Consultation Outcomes

1. Local community

1.1 Brown Hill Progress Association (BHPA) – Community Survey

In 2021, the BHPA conducted a survey to gather the views of local Brown Hill residents about the works that should be considered for Brown Hill Reserve. The survey was delivered to around 2,500 households. The main focus on the survey was the swimming pool at the Reserve. Residents were asked some set questions, e.g., whether they support the closure of the pool, and, if they did, what should it be replaced by? Residents were given a list of potential improvements at the reserve and asked to indicate the importance of these improvements. Residents were also invited to make comments about any matters relating to the reserve.

A summary of the responses to the set survey questions and the list of improvements were as follows:

- 330 people answered the survey. 258 respondents were from Brown Hill, 72 were from outside Brown Hill but were users of the pool. 51% were aged 30-44 years, 29% were aged over 45 years and 13% under 18 years. 42% of respondents lived in family with children households.
- With respect to the pool:
 - 10% of respondents indicated that they use the pool on a weekly basis in summer, 46% use it occasionally and 39% never use the pool. 46% use the pool for casual activities. Only 7% for learn to swim classes.
 - 81% of respondents indicated that they would support the closure of the pool if it was to be replaced by another pool
 - 72% indicated that they would expect the community to be compensated in some way if the pool was closed
 - 56% indicated that they did not want the pool to be retained. 30% were unsure and 14% wanted the pool to remain
- With respect to the reserve and the listed improvements:
- Improving amenity and safety was considered to be highly important, particularly enhancing toilet facilities, providing more shade and park furniture, installing drinking fountains,
- Some of the listed major projects were also considered by many respondents to be of high importance, in particular a splash park, basketball hoop/half court, climbing frame and communal garden.

A sample of the comments made about the pool at the reserve were as follows:

- With little children we have not visited the pool in recent years as the toddler pool has been closed, and the water is far too cold. But we would LOVE a pool that was heated somehow and had a toddler area.
- I love the idea of the pool, but the reality was, I'd try Eureka as it had warmer water and opening hours that suited a morning swim. This past summer, the writing was on the wall when Council didn't open up on the hottest days of the year - which are the only days we can take the cold, cold water!
- We loved the pool when it was community ran and used it a lot. We would use the pool more in summer but the facility is dated and our children complain that the water is colder than other facilities.
- It's sad that we could potentially lose the pool, Eureka is far too crowded, kids need to be able to swim and have a space to practice. Both options would be good.
- Understand that pools are expensive. Black Hill pool is very close by.

- If the Pool goes a new one would be great, I feel it is too small and very old fashion. I feel Brown Hill is growing and it needs revamping to a more modern pool and an area for bigger gatherings
- If the pool were to be replaced, a small indoor heated pool would serve a wider cross section of the community and would be able to be used year-round.
- Although I don't use the pool myself, it's an important community resource for this side of town. We have so little over here as it is and the permanent removal of the pool is not good for the community.
- Keeping the pool would be good, but it is old and dated. A new pool or splash park would be loved by the community.
- I love we have a local pool. But Ballarat's weather isn't fantastic, but also the pool is known to be freezing and the grounds are not very appealing.
- The existing pool doesn't offer what the community needs, with less maintenance and opening hours we have all seen the change since the council took over the pool and the culture changed with it too.
- Regarding the idea of 'compensation' for the Brown Hill community if the pool were to be closed: I'm not sure the future construction of a new pool would be justified, given Black Hill and Eureka pools are not far away. However, I think the local area should be compensated by having some form of recreational facility replace the existing pool.
- It would be wonderful for the community to have improved infrastructure/equipment at the reserve to compensate for the loss of the pool and its recreational activities
- If the council close the pool, I think they should (must) put some other recreational equipment in place, the people (children especially) of Brown Hill, are just as important as those in the "newer" areas.
- The existing pool is a privilege, not a right. The cost for any 'compensation' comes from council funds which is basically our rates.
- Brown Hill needs a place where the community can get together and if the pool is removed, it needs to be replaced with a similar community asset.
- We would like to see the Ballarat Council put more thought into the continuing improvement of facilities on the Eastern side of town. Brown Hill has experienced a rapid rate of residential growth but very little improvement in surrounding infrastructure.

A sample of the general comments made about other parts of the reserve were as follows:

- We use the walking track and playground casually but would use it much more if it had better facilities and was more attractive to children
- I have two young kids and we often, use the walking track and then do a stint at the playground.
- I live close by the reserve and often see elderly walkers, carers and their wards, young mothers and babies walking through and enjoying the reserve.
- We enjoy going to the oval for a kick of the footy and using the playground. I also take disabled clients to the reserve weekly to go for a safe walk in a relaxing atmosphere. We then have a BBQ lunch there. I'd hate to lose the use of BBQ and the lovely relaxing atmosphere of the reserve.
- My major concern is that the layout of any toilet block must ensure there is ease of access for disabled with enough room for carers as well; change tables for babies & toddlers; disability group needs to be consulted on any design.
- Requires a toilet block closer by. Hard to take a child that is toilet training that far to the cricket oval. We live in Gracefield Rd and there are no playgrounds with toilets near us or close to our home.
- Toilet block to be designed to cater for the general public out walking and a divided wall be built for showers and toilets for the use of pool patrons. We should be thinking big.
- Picnic table with shading/shading for play area. Not enough seating to watch children play on equipment.

- Keep play equipment natural, appreciate what nature can provide and utilise it. Minimise the plastic in playgrounds.
- Fencing please for young kids near the creek and road, and some space to park bikes too. I think a multi-purpose playground would be great like other suburbs have developed in Ballarat, i.e., big slides and playground, small climbing wall, half basketball court.
- Stage area to the side of Hall with accessible power points; accessible power at Rotunda;
- Water fountains throughout the Reserve area – drinking water; outside toilet – or access to toilet facilities within the Hall; the idea of a Water/Splash Park that could be multipurpose as a flat area for games during winter months; more seating around Reserve.
- Splash park is a great idea, but if the pool is not included in the redevelopment project, then I think it will never come back, which would be a real shame. It was already greatly missed last summer.
- Our family love the idea of a splash park as our young kids regularly use the one in Ballarat North so one that is much closer would be fantastic.
- I think the pool is outdated and the site could be used for a more friendly site i.e., splash pool. The pool space would work well as a splash park and therefore could be multi-use over the different seasons as we all know that its only hot summer for a few months of the year. In the cooler months, a half basketball court, skating area or a nature playground could be incorporated.
- It will be a tragedy for future residents if we don't fight for our pool. The water "parks" are a disgrace.
- The basketball half court would be good for the children but the location needs some more thought. Could it be part of the possible splash park area?
- I would like a skate park and a picnic area. Half-court basketball – excellent idea. We need an area promoting activity and family participation.
- I understand that a skate park would be good for the older children and teenagers but it would be better located in a more suitable area north of the freeway where there are no such activities for children.
- I think we definitely need to think to the future and what kids enjoy doing! A skate park, splash zone, basketball court etc, they are the things that will get families back out and involved in the community. We have none of those things over this side of town, and let's face it, we're only growing!
- The idea of a skatepark and or pump track is a great idea as it is something every member of my family and many friends in Brown Hill would use particularly a pump track.
- I do not wish for a concrete jungle skatepark and nor do my teenagers. I wouldn't put a skatepark in the reserve, because skateparks are noisy. Instead, it would be great to have a bike track, similar to the Creswick Pump Track which is very popular with kids.
- Not keen on the skate park – sorry!
- I'm a skater myself so would love a skate park to use, but I also know that skate parks become very busy and I don't like that idea.
- Understand the difficulty in organising community events e.g., Brown Hill Community Festival, where a temporary stage is required. To have a permanent stage would be an advantage for whenever a community/school group would wish to hold a wider community event.
- Caledonian Primary School - I could definitely see us utilizing a stage area, as this would be a great resource during Mother's Day, Father's Day and Christmas time.
- Community gardens - especially vegetable patches - maybe family zones - once again if well thought and planned, they build community engagement as well as environmental awareness and healthier humans - mentally and physically. Native plantings - showcase the diverse and beautiful range of native plants we have - "grow" awareness
- I hope that the council will listen to the residents. We need a fenced dog park in Brown Hill as there are a number of us that walk dogs in the reserve plus more waste bins and waste bags for the dogs. There are plenty of places in the reserve where one could be established.

- Dog poo bin would be great. The reserve and the Yarrowee Trail have become an absolute dog toilet over the last few months, it's so disgusting.
- As the local Uniting Church, we aim to provide spiritual, physical and emotional support to members of the Brown Hill community and surrounding suburbs. We would therefore support any initiative by the Brown Hill Progress Association which would enhance local facilities and improve the lifestyle of our community. Brown Hill Uniting Church Council
- Our school would be able to use this a lot more during the year. We have a lot of new housing in Brown Hill and this would be an added attraction to the area for current and future residents.
- Your plans look great and thank you for highlighting publicly that the pool is nearing end of useful life, and for being on the front foot for our community in having plans for 'compensation' by council if/when it comes to that.
- Great opportunity to see Council allocate some resources to a developing area. Brown Hill is a long-standing suburb which seems to have been neglected in a number of areas in recent years. While we do not want the density of development as in the west the area has proven popular with (it would seem) an increase in young families and young people as well as older residents.
- It is imperative that the semi-rural feel is maintained and important assets such as the park (a central meeting point for the suburb) and Yarrowee trail/creek area are protected and upgraded/maintained to cater for resident needs.
- We don't want our council closing down public pools, but we do want our council to upgrade community facilities across ALL areas of Ballarat - not just within the state government "growth zones".
- Let's build upon the reserve foundations from its existing 120 years (or nearly) and set up the Brown Hill community with a wonderful asset that meets current and future needs better, is flexible and stands the test of time for the next 120 years. Brown Hill has a wonderful community feel, let's have the reserve be something that we can be even prouder of!
- There are a high number of young families in Brown Hill. New amenities need to meet the needs for the future of residents. Infrastructure for teenagers would be a great benefit. Whilst a pool is useful, what is more important is that the whole reserve is optimised as a community space that serves everyone across the seasons.
- Brown Hill has always held attraction to its residents because of its picturesque natural surroundings. Aside from the redevelopment of the pool site, it would be beneficial if any change to the reserve was sensitive to this. Large amounts of concrete and steel, such as a skate park, would detract from the natural landscape.
- Please think of the space as an inclusive space to welcome people of all ages. Ensure that the redevelopment has something for younger and older children, where families and friends can gather, where the larger community can gather and the planning reflects accessibility for everyone.
- We need community assets. Don't sell us out. The Council has significant rate payers increase in revenue in our area. We should capitalize on this. The pool has cost the council no money for many, many years. Community assets should be increased and outdoor activity promoted.

1.2 Online Survey

Short survey

Local residents were invited through an online survey to provide their thoughts on the attributes of Brown Hill Recreation Reserve and the improvements that are needed at the Reserve. The survey asked residents to provide information about/responses to the following:

- How often they use the reserve?
- If they do use the reserve, why?
- How long they stay when they use the reserve?
- What are their most and least favourite things about the Reserve?
- What would they like to see added to the Reserve?
- How would they rank some potential projects at the reserve?
- What should be the top priority for the masterplan?
- Other comments they would like to make about the reserve.

A full analysis of their responses is provided in Appendix B. A summary of the main findings of the survey is as follows:

- 96 residents responded to the survey. 60% of respondents were not associated with any club/group the reserve. 10% were from the Parkrun group and 6% the kindergarten.
- 2% use the reserve on a daily basis, 45% weekly and 18% monthly. 10% indicated that they do not use the reserve. 62% use the reserve for up to an hour when they visit.
- Regarding their most favourite aspects of the reserve:
 - 49 respondents commented about the location, setting, layout, spaciousness, beauty and peacefulness of the reserve. Some liked the rural feel and openness of the reserve – many bush setting, others the views of the hill and the general serenity of the reserve
 - 25 commented that they like the walking track near the reserve. 15 mentioned the playground as being their favourite component of the reserve. Others mentioned the pool, BBQ facilities and seating.
 - 10 commented on the reserves ‘community feel’ and accessibility. Others liked that the reserve was multi-functional and acted for all age groups.
- Regarding their least favourite aspects of the reserve:
 - 20 commented about the poor condition of the existing public toilets in the reserve and the lack of toilets near the play area/BBQ facility
 - 14 commented about the poor condition and the frequent closure of the pool
 - 8 commented about the basic design of the playground. Some were concerned that the playground was not shaded or fenced.
 - 8 were concerned about the declining condition of the buildings in the reserve.
 - 5 said that the reserve lacked drinking fountains
 - Others commented about poor condition of the oval surface and the tracks in winter. Some said the reserves lacked facilities for teenage children.
- With respect to what they would like to see added at the reserve:
 - 90 respondents suggested that improvements be made to the reserve. Recommended works included (in popularity order):
 - New toilet block near the play area
 - Retaining and upgrading the pool
 - Installing more park furniture
 - Upgrading and expanding the play area and providing shade
 - Installing a splash park
 - Installing a basketball half court
 - Providing a fenced area for dogs
 - Upgrading the oval surface
 - Installing drinking fountains
 - Introducing more native vegetation

- Building and indoor training venue for cricket
- Laying a turf wicket
- Constructing netball and tennis courts
- Regarding the ranking of potential projects in order of preference:

Project	Ranking	Raw score out of 9
Public toilets near playspace and rotundas	1	2.97
More seating, tables and shade	2	3.67
Improved play space	3	3.70
Extended the path network	4	4.48
Exercise equipment/stations	5	5.51
Extended/upgraded pavilion	6	5.67
Replacement of pool with a splash park	7	5.68
Improved carparking	8	5.88
Consolidated buildings	9	6.49

- Regarding the top priority project, the comment reflected the rankings above. A new project was added – updating the existing pool
- Regarding other comments, again the respondents' comments related to the results and projects outlined above. Some respondents argued strongly against closing the pool, suggesting that the pool's low patronage was due to the condition of the pool (and no heating) rather than people being interested in the pool. Some other valuable comments were:
 - The reserve is used by the 2nd biggest Auskick program in Ballarat. The oval needs to be improved for this activity
 - Internal paths should be connected to outside paths.
 - Parking within the reserve should be limited
 - The heritage value of the hut occupied by the Band should be recognised
 - A bridge should be provided across the creek at back of cricket nets
 - Nothing needs to be added or taken away from the reserve. The reserve just needs updating.

Deep dive

Local residents were invited to make more detailed responses to specific questions about the facilities in and potential improvements/changes at Brown Hill Reserve. 43 people responded to the survey. Their comments were as follows:

- *Item 1 – Replacing the pool with a splash park:* the respondents were divided on the issue. Some fully supported the replacement of the pool with a splash park, a similar number wanted the pool retained and upgraded, some wanted the 25m pool retained and the toddlers' pool converted to a splash park. Some were concerned that the splash park only provides for younger children. A small number had no opinion about the future of the pool.
- *Item 2 – Consolidating/removing buildings at the reserve:* Again, the respondents had a diversity of views. Some wanted all the buildings to be retained and upgraded. Many wanted the toilet block to be removed and replaced with a new facility near the picnic area and playground. Some wanted the band hall updated; there were no suggestions that it be removed. Some supported the concept of redeveloping the pavilion as a pavilion/community centre. One respondent said that, if money was not an issue, consideration should be given to replacing the buildings with a centrally located sports/community building.

- *Item 3 – Expanding the path network:* some respondents were content with the paths as they are but requested that they be better maintained. Some like the idea of a circuit path, many wanted a path connection from the cricket club pavilion to the community hall. Other suggested that the path connections
- *Item 4 – Constructing a new toilet block:* There was strong support for the provision of a new toilet block. The preferred location was near the playground and rotundas. Many said they new block should replace the existing toilet block, some said that the existing block should be kept and upgraded.
- *Item 5 – Upgrading the existing playspace:* There was also strong support for this item. Some wanted the play facilities to be more diverse and capable of catering for all ages and abilities. Some wanted facilities like flying foxes, sensory areas, basketball half courts, exercise equipment. Some wanted to the playground to remain as is.
- *Item 6 – Upgrading the pavilion:* Many that were familiar with the pavilion suggested that it should be extended - larger social rooms and larger changerooms. Many wanted it to be a sports facility/community building. Some made recommendations about external facilities to complement the pavilion – seats, water fountains, larger veranda
- *Item 7 – Upgrading the carpark:* The majority view was that the existing carparks were sufficient and should remain unsealed. Some said they should be better defined. Others said that carparking capacity would need to be reviewed if a decision was made to proceed with the splash park.
- *Item 8 – Installing additional seating and shade:* There was strong support for this item. The preferred location for more seating was near the playground and around the oval. Regarding shade, the preference was for natural shade (trees) rather than structures. However, some supported erection of a shade structure over the playground.
- *Item 9 – Providing outdoor exercise equipment:* There were mixed views on the value of providing exercise equipment. Some said the stations would not be used, others said that they would be a good addition to the park. Some said that only 3 or 4 stations should be provided.
- *Item 10 - Improving habitat and biodiversity:* A diverse range of comments were made in response to this item. The main comments were about planting more native trees and removing the weeds in the creek
- *Items 11 – Mitigating against climate change:* Suggestions included solar panelling, more trees and recycle bins/,
- *Items 12 – Improving the reserve for users groups:* Comments include drinking taps and toilets near the footbridge, drainage, irrigation and lighting on the oval, upgrading the pool, a stage area, a wider footbridge, shelter on northern side of footbridge, upgrading the pavilion
- *Item 13 – Introducing changes to make the reserve more appealing:* Suggestions included easier access for people with disabilities, not cluttering up the reserve, more play facilities, formal entrance to park, better signage, community garden, skateboard facilities.

1.3 Drop-in-session

45 local residents attended the sessions. Attendees were invited to view site analysis and key actions plans, comment on the contents of the plans and suggest changes or additions. There were also directed to the on-survey on Council’s My Say page or given the choice to complete a hard copy of the survey.

Site Analysis Plan

- The following points were shown on the Plan:
 - Swimming pool in decline. Area at back of swimming pool in unsightly condition
 - Carparking not delineated

- Oval not drained or irrigated
- Public toilets poorly located and in decline
- Band Hall ageing and in decline
- Limited path network
- Basic pavilion with small changerooms
- Basic playground
- Limited park seating and furniture
- Narrow and ageing footbridge
- Pine trees to the north shading the northern section of the oval in winter
- Build up of litter and debris at the southern oval fence
- There was broad agreement with the analysis plan. The following comments were made:
 - The analysis should acknowledge there is nothing for teenagers to do in the park
 - The sand paths need attention. Section of the paths get wet and eroded in winter. They need better drainage
 - The pine trees should be removed and replaced with trees that provide summer shade (there was some disagreement to this)
 - The pool should be replaced with a splash park
 - The toilets should be moved to a more central location
 - A basketball court is needed

Key Actions Plan

- The following actions were listed on the Plan:
 - Better define the gravel carparking areas
 - Returf, irrigate and drain the oval
 - Relocate the toilet block to a position near the play area at the east end of the park
 - Replace the swimming pool with a water/splash park.
 - Consolidate the buildings on the western side of the oval
 - Expand the pavilion to provide larger changerooms and a public toilet. Remove the existing toilet.
 - Update and expand the play area, including improved drainages
 - Expand the path network
 - Install more park furniture – seats, benches, tables
 - Replace the footbridge
 - Install adult exercise equipment as several stations along the paths
 - Incrementally thin out and remove the pines trees and replace with indigenous small trees and shrubs
 - Erect light over that oval
 - Erect an indoor cricket facility
- There was general agreement with the key actions. The following comments/recommendations were made:
 - Agree with pool being replaced by a high quality splash park
 - The pool should be retained and upgraded
 - The pavilion redevelopment should be similar to that undertaken at Russell Square
 - The Pavilion should be extended and made suitable for sports and general community groups
 - The playground redevelopment should be as per the Midlands Play Area redevelopment (bigger and more diversity, pump track)
 - Facilities are needed in the park for teenagers – e.g., half court, rebound wall
 - A skate park should be provided.

- Exercise equipment should be similar to that provided at Mt Pleasant Oval
- Lighting over the oval is not required. Concern about the impact of wildlife. Lights are provided at Russell Square. This is sufficient
- Provide better security lighting and oval lighting to accommodate night-time running
- Create gate access to the eastern side of the oval
- Provision of an indoor cricket facility should be considered. Needed in Ballarat because of inclement weather
- Lit netball courts and extension to cricket nets should be considered
- Oval should be extended to provide for junior football. Lighting should be provided
- Consider provision of a central turf wicket table
- Consider provision of a pump station (there was disagreement to this)
- Consider café on eastern side of reserve
- Provide water fountains at suitable locations
- Make provision for a community garden
- Provide new deck at the rear of the community hall
- Provide more BBQs, rotundas, seating and benches
- Better care for open grassed areas in eastern section of the reserve
- Beautify area around the footbridge – clear weeds and plant natives
- The creek needs better care.
- Modify hall toilets to make externally accessible in daylight hours. Provide cubical like toilets at splash park. Include externally accessible toilets in redeveloped pavilion
- Provide a basic stage area
- Recognise the role the pipe band played in establishing the reserve and contributing to the construction of the toilets

Casual discussions

- Some important messages emerged in the casual discussions held on the night. These were:
 - There was support for the splash park. However, there were a few attendees who strongly argued that the pool should be retained.
 - There was unanimous support for providing additional play facilities and park furniture. However, some residents were concerned that the reserve would get too cluttered
 - Many residents commented that they like the ‘balance’ in the reserve – active recreation/family-play zone/community buildings/vegetation areas. Some cautioned against doing anything to disturb this balance, e.g., enhancing the oval so it is intensively used in winter.
 - There was support for consolidating the buildings on the western side of the reserve and for extending and redeveloping the pavilion as a community recreation building. Attendees, however, did not want to see the pipe band displaced.
 - There was agreement that the existing toilet block should be removed. Several replacement options were proposed make hall toilets externally accessible in daylight hours, provide cubical like toilets at splash park, externally accessible toilets in redeveloped pavilion, toilet block near play area. However, there was no agreement.

2. Groups that use the reserve

Officials from the Club were asked to provide information about the following:

- The history of the groups

- Player, participant numbers
- Their use of the reserve
- How the facilities at the reserve be improved (not just the group's facilities).
- Any other matters they wanted to raise.

Their comments are provided below:

2.1 Ballarat Pipe Band

- The Band formed in 1909 and is one of the oldest pipe bands in Australia. It relocated to Brown Hill Reserve in 1975. It uses its hall at the reserve (an old Army Hut) up to two times a week. It also uses the oval for outdoor practice. It gets access to Wendouree Performing Arts Centre for practice on Wednesdays, when available.
- Highland Dancers use Hall on Wednesday nights.
- The Band has 28 playing members and 9 non-playing life members. Memberships peaked at 50 members in 2012. The age of the members range from 30-80 years. Band has won many Australian and international championships.
- In the late 1990s and early 2000s, the Band sought grants from Council and State Government to extend – second rehearsal area, some small studios. It was not successful. The Band is keen to stay at the Hall. It no longer wants to extend the Hall. It is just keen to revamp what it has.
- The Band concedes that the Hall is in poor condition (note: confirmed in by condition assessment). The Band has recently restumped the building and repaired the guttering.

2.2 Brown Hill Community Hall

- The Hall was built in 1966. It comprises two meeting rooms, hall, kitchen, foyer and store. It has been redeveloped twice in the last 5 years. The Committee is happy with layout and condition
- The Hall is occupied to near capacity before the pandemic. It only reopened in May 2022. It is heavily booked on weekends and weeknights but has spare capacity on weekdays. Its regular users include Parents Without Partners, Dance Group, Senior Group and Heart Health Group.
- Hall has very good facilities - kitchen, toilets, activity spaces etc.
- Main hall size is good and in-demand by user groups.
- Main hall stage is an asset. Needs to be slightly extended as requested by several user groups.
- Recent renovations have modernised the meeting rooms.
- Senior citizens would like a bar for their functions
- Carpark needs upgrading as dirt and dust constantly enter the hall and is not good for hall floor – dancing groups.
- Current hall cark park needs expanding as playground, BBQ and recreation users are constantly taking up carparks and hall users have limited access to remaining car parks. Removal of pub car park has made this a bigger problem.
- Main hall windows are rotting and need replacing.
- Humffray St foyer to be developed as historical foyer displaying photos of Brown Hill and developed into a reception area.
- Cover old bricks in Main hall with plaster to modernise the room.
- Wish list: Sound system for main hall and presentation system for meeting rooms.

2.3 Brown Hill Cricket Club

- The Club formed in 1947. It was originally located at Russell Square and began formally using Brown Hill Reserve in the mid 70s. Currently, it also uses Western Oval and Victoria Park No 2. The Club has 6 senior teams, 3 junior senior teams and a Milo program.
- The pavilion building at Brown Hill Reserve was erected by the Cricket Club. The Club later extended it to provide male and female toilet and shower facilities. The Club also erected and extended the cricket nets.
- The oval at the Reserve is not irrigated. The Club manually waters the field. The field is also not drained.
- The Club wants to pursue the installation of a turf wicket table. A table could fit on the oval but the concern is where the juniors and lower grade senior teams would play.
- Club is keen to pursue the indoor cricket training facility concept at Brown Hill.
- The Club's facility priorities are:
 - Lay a turf wicket table
 - Irrigate/drain the ground
 - Provide larger changerooms in pavilion (female friendly)
 - Enhance the area between the pool and playing field
 - Erect high fence at northern end to prevent balls going into the river area
 - Pursue the concept of an indoor training facility.

2.4 Brown Hill Kindergarten

- The kindergarten is adjacent to the Reserve. Parents use the Reserve carpark at drop-off and pick up times. The carpark gets boggy in winter. It is not lined and cars park haphazardly which is potentially unsafe.
- The kindergarten uses the oval and playground for activities. The oval gets muddy in winter. The playground is good but lacks diversity. A toilet is needed near the play area. The existing toilet block should be updated. More shade and shelter would be beneficial. More benches and tables and an extra BBQ are needed. Adult
- Consideration should be given to closing the pool and replacing it with a splash park. Adult exercise equipment should also be considered.

2.5 Brown Hill Auskick Program

- The Program started in 2021. It is not affiliated with a football club. Brown Hill Cricket Club supports the program. 110 participants, 85 boys, 25 girls, 55 from Brown Hill and 55 from other parts of Ballarat. The Program is held on Friday nights – 10 nights per year, 5pm-6.15pm. It has become a social outing. Parents gather under porch and stay after with their children for soup etc
- The Program hopes to start U/9 and older junior teams in the future (up to U/15s). Apparently tried this year, but knocked back, because it had not considered netball.
- The program facility needs are – drainage of oval, lights over oval, more storage, larger veranda and access to netball courts. Also, the toilets too far away from the play area and the play area and picnic facilities are basic.
- Suggested works:
 - Drain and irrigate the oval
 - Erect lights over the oval
 - Consider provision of netball courts
 - Line the carpark

- Replace pool with a splash park
- Erect toilets near play area and splash park
- Upgrade existing toilets if they are to remain
- Provide dog bins and bags

2.6 Eureka Athletics Club

- The Club formed in 1982 after a merger of the Ballarat East and Sebastopol athletics clubs. It has 80 members – aged 8-75 years. The Club has a 50:50 gender split. It participates in track, road and cross country events. It mainly uses the Brown Hill Recreation Reserve in winter on Saturdays as the start and end point for cross country runs. It sometimes use grass field for training - easier on legs than hard tracks. It would like to use the oval more but would clash with cricket. The Club is satisfied with its facilities at the Reserve.
- Suggested works:
 - Install distance markers on path
 - Improve oval drainage
 - Upgrade or replace public toilets.

2.7 Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council Inc

- The Council has used Brown Hill Reserve since 2021 for CALDB social support programs. Uses the reserve two times per week – for Tai Chi and drop in respite program. It has around 30 clients. It is keen to use more for all sorts of social and support activities, e.g., gardening group, walking groups. Its anticipated numbers will grow significantly
- The Council mainly use the pavilion but go outside on nice days. Reserve is great venue and location - pavilion is not too big, parking is good, clients can enjoy the views into the bushland
- The Council is looking for a permanent, and if possible, a dedicated facility for its activities.
- Suggested works:
 - Make the pavilion more accessible: seal the carpark, ramp to porch, wider corridor in the pavilion for wheelchair access to toilets.
 - Revamp public toilets
 - Provide garden beds near the pavilion

2.8 Wallaby Track Parkrun

- Parkrun is held at the reserve on a weekly basis. Participants complete a 5km walk, jog or run each Saturday morning at 8am. The program commenced in December 2019. Peak participation numbers prior to lockdown were 230 runners, 15 volunteers and 25 spectators, (average 130/10/25). Now after lockdown the figures are 65/10/20. Participants are aged 4 to 80. The majority are in the 20-60 age range.
- Lots of local family groups are involved in the program. Also, international and interstate visitors attend (around 15% of participants). Participants meet and finish near the footbridge. Many participants come before and stay and for some time afterwards to use the playground or catch up for a social walk/talk. They rarely use the public toilets due to their condition and distance from the play area.
- The attractiveness of the reserve is hidden behind the existing swimming pool and the community hall. On site car parking is limited. The children's playground is small and does not offer more mature challenges for older children.

- Suggested improvements:
 - Erect a new toilet block which is accessible to all reserve users
 - Provide more water points and drinking taps. A drinking tap near the Progress Bridge would be ideal
 - Provide a rotunda or covered area near the start/finish point of the parkrun
 - Create a formal entry point, paths and signage along Humffray St Nth
 - Upgrade the children's playground
 - Either demolish or upgrade the swimming pool
 - Provide more parking and shade.

2.9 Brown Hill Progress Association

The Association suggests the following improvements/changes to the Reserve. Its suggestions have been informed by community surveys and other consultation activities undertaken by the Association.

- Provision of a splash park. Facility to include the spray equipment, toilet block, climbing equipment, basketball hoop and drinking fountain. The existing BBQ, picnic tables, shelter and seats at the pool would be retained.
- Acknowledging and celebrating the history of and the community's involvement in the pool.
- Permanent stage facility
- Community garden
- Drinking fountain, picnic tables and seating near the playground. Shade over the playground
- Terracing around the oval where there are embankments
- Exercise stations located around the reserve
- Solar lighting for the reserve
- Overall landscaping plan to ensure new structures/features are consistent with the existing character of the park.

The Association made the following comments to elaborate on the comments above:

- The integrity and overall theme of the reserve needs to be enhanced, not overwhelmed, with improvement to amenity for a range of users.
- If the pool needs to be closed, then the replacement needs to provide activity for a range of ages.
- A splash park, 1/2 court, climbing frame, etc precinct was seen to be a reasonable replacement for the pool but as the splash park only caters for younger children there is the need to also provide for older children/teenagers. A skate park/pump track were put forward but the reserve is not big enough for such a facility. It was however seen as valuable additions to Brown Hill and the surrounding area.
- A small functional stage for community events would be a valuable addition to the reserve for our schools and community groups;
- The biggest priority for improving amenity of the reserve was the provision of public toilets. The most cost-effective way would be to utilise the existing infrastructure at the pool and to investigate how the hall toilets could be modified for external access.
- Other features could easily be incorporated into normal upgrade scheduling of council. i.e., strategically placed benches and picnic tables; shade over existing playground and other areas; security solar lighting; drinking taps;
- The best placement for an off-lead dog enclosure would be along the Wallaby Track.
- The small playground is well used and does not require much at all. The main thing it needs is functional shading; drainage would be good; ground cover kept in good condition. It should not be relocated to the

splash park area as it serves a different purpose especially for the casual family groups using the passive area of green space. There is no need to bunch everything together.

- Keep the timber bridge as it is part of the history of the reserve and in keeping with its rustic theme. Repair and strengthen it for safety. Do not make it wider.
- Three or four exercise stations around the edge of the reserve would be sufficient.

3. Council officers

Council officers involved in the planning, management, development and maintenance of Brown Hill Recreation Reserve and its spaces/facilities were asked to indicate what they consider to be the role of the reserve, the positive and negative attributes of the Reserve, the changes that are occurring around the reserve that might have implications for the masterplan and the improvements they thought were needed at the reserve. They were also asked to respond to the comments made by the community about improvements to the reserve. Their thoughts/comments were as follows:

- Brown Hill Recreation Reserve is an important open space area with a diversity of roles. It:
 - Provides for community sport and recreation activities, informal play and family/community activities
 - Provides for passive recreation where local residents can walk, run, ride, spectate, relax and contemplate
 - Is used as a thoroughfare by people walking to and from the Yarrowee Trail, Monte Christo Bushland Reserve, Brown Hill Kindergarten and Brown Hill commercial/retail area and residential precincts
 - Provides a visual break from the commercial and residential properties along Humffray St Nth and Reid Crt.
- The positive aspects of the reserve are its size and shape, open grassed areas, beautiful backdrop, attractive view-lines and landscape, accessibility and close proximity to residential areas. The not so positive aspects are its ageing community facilities ageing and safety issues related to its carpark areas.
- The changes occurring around the reserve include increased housing density with multiuse developments, less trees on smaller blocks and residential growth north of the Reserve.
- The pool is ageing and consideration should be given to replacing it with a splash park. This transformation has been successfully done in other LGAs
- The reserve hosts events/activities that can attract large numbers of cars. The carparking areas in and around the reserve should be reviewed to enhance their efficiency, capacity, safety, accessibility, integration and appearance.
- There are plans to extend the kindergarten to enable it to cater for more children. This will add to the demand for the carpark near the pavilion. This should be considered in the parking review
- The condition, location and size of the footbridge across the Yarrowee River needs review to enhance access to the Yarrowee Trail.
- The reserve is a hard cricket wicket venue. Converting the wicket to turf has been suggested. This would require a broader discussion with BHCC and the Ballarat Cricket Association (BCA). The installation of a turf wicket would potentially prevent local junior catchment from using the oval in Brown Hill to play.
- The band hall is ageing and lack facilities. Its future needs review.
- Indoor cricket nets have been proposed previously. Brown Hill Reserve is not considered an appropriate location for the venue.
- There are several buildings/structures in the Reserve. They should be consolidated/rationalised, where feasible.
- Consideration should also be given to the following works:
 - Installing fitness stations

- Upgrading the oval surface – returf, drainage, irrigation
- Upgrading the pavilion
- Upgrading or replacing the public toilets
- Expanding the play facilities and path network

Appendix C - Brown Hill Pool

Suggested improvements from research:

Retain and upgrade the pool.

Retain and upgrade the 25m pool and plant. Convert the toddlers' pool to a splash park.

Replace the pool area with a splash park. Combine with new play facilities – rebound wall, half court, climbing frame. Retain the existing BBQ, picnic tables, shelter and seats at the pool.

Assessment

General analysis

A range of views were expressed by residents about the Brown Hill Pool and its potential replacement by a splash park. However, there was no overwhelming view. Some residents fully supported the replacement of the pool with a splash park, a similar number wanted the pool retained and upgraded. Some wanted the 25m pool retained and the toddlers' pool converted to a splash park. Some were concerned that a splash park would only provide for younger children. A small number had no opinion about the future of the pool.

The residents who wanted the pool retained and upgraded held this view very strongly. They argued that the condition of the pool was allowed to decline and this has led to a fall in usage. They contended that usage would increase if the pool was updated. Many said that a splash park was a poor alternative to a fully functional pool. They were particularly concerned that a splash park only caters for young children and their parents. Some residents, who were prepared to accept the closure of the pool, did so reluctantly. They recognised that the pool was in poor condition and could be too costly to fix. Some residents were enthusiastic about the splash park as a modern alternative to the pool.

The pool is in physical decline. A recent condition report rates nearly all of the pool elements - plant room, kiosk, pool shell, pool concourse and plant etc - as being in poor to very poor condition. The cost of updating these elements to a functioning condition was estimated to be at least \$1.3M.

There are two outdoor pools within 2.4kms of Brown Hill Reserve – at Black Hill and Eureka. This is an acceptable distance for Brown Hill residents to travel. Some residents say these pools get overcrowded on hot days. Splash parks are being installed across Victoria. They are proving to be very popular, particularly those that are combined with other play facilities – such as basketball courts.

What is a splash park and what are its benefits:

A splash park, also known as a spray park, splash pad or water park, is a recreational area designed specifically for interactive water play. Unlike swimming or wading pools, splash parks are designed to have no standing water thus reducing the risk of drowning. These areas improve public spaces and provide an ideal setting for family recreation. The versatility of splash parks with their multiple play zones appeal to the 0-12 years age groups. Well-designed splash parks offer universal accessibility for all types of disabilities. Splash parks are often combined with general play areas and picnic facilities. The benefits of splash parks are as follows:

- Cost less to install, maintain and operate than a swimming or wading pool.
- Are safer than normal pools since there is no standing water.
- Do not require lifeguards or other staff.
- Are an ideal community recreational attraction and can attract people from a broad catchment area.

- Stimulate children’s senses and encourage young children and parents to socialise through interactive aquatic play.
- Can operate on cooler days and for longer hours during a typical day (for example, the Midlands Reserve Splash Park was operating and used every day in January 2021, whereas the Brown Hill Pool was closed for 17 days due to cool temperatures).

The main disadvantages of splash parks is that they do not provide for swimming and aquatic education and they are not overly popular with teenage children.

Cost of splash park

The cost of constructing the splash park will depend on a number of factors – the size of the park, the number of spray elements, the potential to re-use existing pool equipment and the quality of the spray items. Parkequipe, the designers and installers of the Midlands Reserve Splash Park, were asked to indicate what spray equipment could be provided (designed and installed) for the following cost scenarios: \$600K, \$1.2M and \$2M. They indicated that \$600K would provide at 200m² park similar to Midlands Reserve, \$1.2M a large 300m² park with lighting, shade, seating and \$2M a large 400m² park with an elevated structure and life-floor surface (see photos on pages 65-68).

The cost of operating a splash park is considerably less than the cost of operating a public swimming pool. There are two main types of splash pad systems: recirculating and pass-through. The cost varies based on the type of system used. Recirculating systems collect the water within a holding tank where it is treated, filtered and pumped back out to the spray nozzles. This system requires scheduled water monitoring and adjusting of chemicals. While it uses much less water, it is more expensive to monitor. A pass through system uses city potable water and drains directly to the sanitary system and therefore no monitoring is required. The main cost is the potable water. Some systems collect the water and reuse it. If there is no charge to the residents to use the splash park, staff to control access are not always required. Safety concerns, in general, are lower and do not require the hiring of lifeguards. Also, once built, maintenance costs for splash pads are significantly less compared to swimming pools. Equipment operating costs are much less, especially in a pass through system that does not use pumps, filters, and chemicals.

1. \$600K – 150-200m² area, similar to Midlands Reserve



\$1.2M – 300m2, large splash pad with lighting, shade, seating



2. \$2M – 400m2, large splash pad with an elevated structure and life-floor surface



Case study - Warburton Water Park

- Outdoor pool closed in 2009 due to significant issues with pool infrastructure. Site fell into disrepair. In 2015, Council started community consultation regarding future use of the pool site. Splash park concept was born and adopted by Council
- Splash park opened in 2020. Construction costs - \$4.6M. Federal Government provided \$1.7M through the Regional Growth Fund, the Warburton Advancement League \$20,000, and Warburton Sports Centre Committee \$120,000. Council contributed the remaining \$2.76 million.
- Park comprises: Spray park, general play equipment, benches, tables, BBQs, shelters, outdoor gym, 2 asphalt courts lined for basketball, netball and tennis, basketball ring, 2 netball rings, tennis net, 40 bay sealed carpark, 6 cubicle toilet block.
- Water park - 545m², water park, playground and picnic area 2490m², whole area 1.2ha





- Council pleased by high levels of use. Visits rose from around 10,000 per annum at the pool to 100,000+ at the splash park.
- Reasons for changing from the pool to the splash park - high operational cost of pool, relatively low use of pool, lower operational cost of splash park, prospect of the park being highly used, new Yarra Centre Indoor Pool developed 11 km (15 minutes) down the road.
- Benefits:
 - Community meeting place: social cohesion and the reduction of social isolation
 - Broader economic impacts: regional tourism and better use of limited Council resources
 - Water activity on cool days, e.g., 11.10.2022, 3.30pm, 16 degrees C, 16 children in water park and 5 parents on grass lawns in picnic area

Recommendation

Replace the pool area at Brown Hill Reserve with a splash park. Combine with new play facilities – rebound wall, half court, climbing frame etc. If feasible, retain and upgrade the existing BBQ, picnic tables, shelter and seats at the pool. Review and redesign the carpark areas around the splash park/teenagers playground.

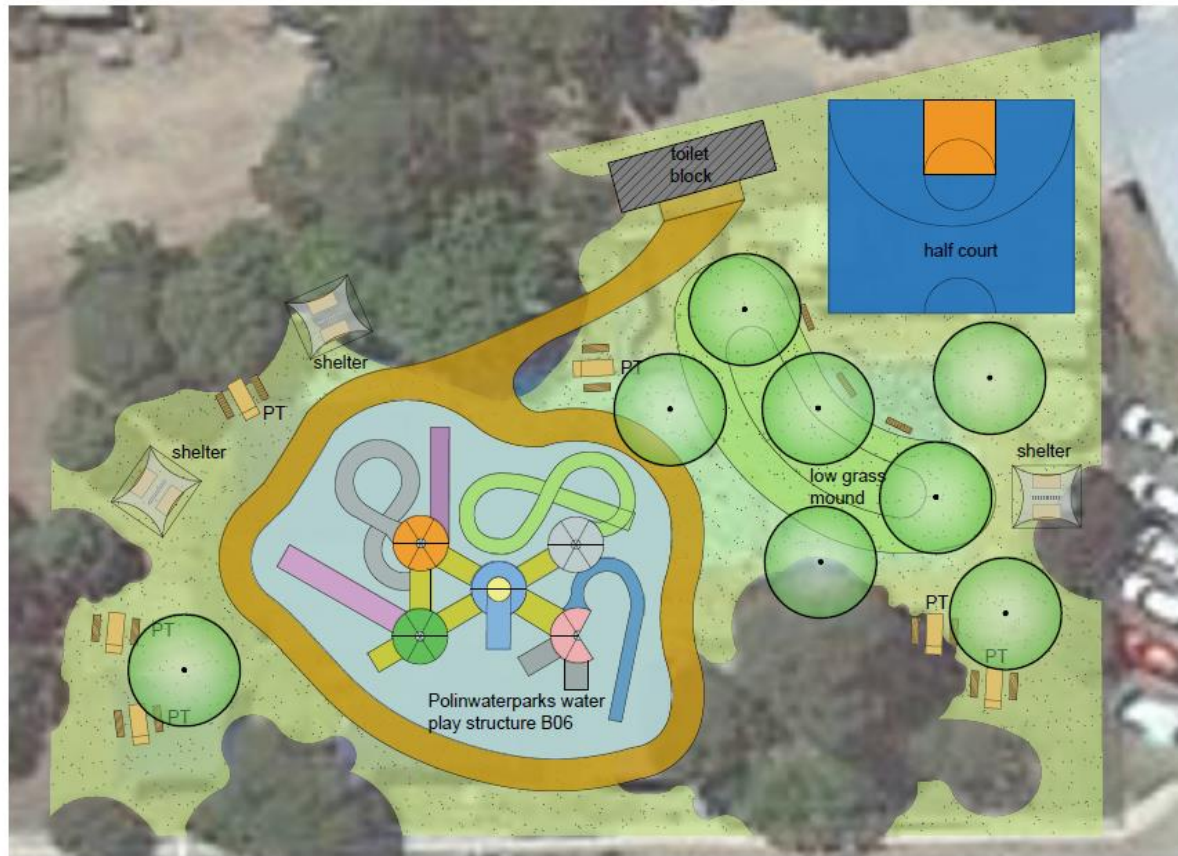
Plans of Splash Park/Teenagers Playgrounds

Basic concept plans for a Splash Park/Teenagers Play Space at Brown Hill are provided in the following pages. Note the plans do not show any changes to carparking. Changes will be needed which may include angle parking along Humffray Street North. Carparking arrangements should be determined through detailed review of parking needs.


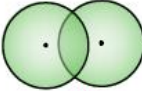








Photos of Warburton and Seville Splash Parks

See following pages.

Brown Hill Reserve – Draft Splash Park Layout (for higher resolution see separate Attachment Five – Figure Five Proposed Splash Park Concept Plan)



LEGEND

-  EXISTING TREE TO BE RETAINED
-  PROPOSED TREES
-  PROPOSED BARBEQUE SHELTER
-  PROPOSED WATER POOL WITH POLINWATERPARKS WATER PLAY STRUCTURE B06
-  PROPOSED TOILET BLOCK
-  PROPOSED HALF COURT
-  PROPOSED ACCESSIBLE PICNIC TABLE
-  PROPOSED GRASSED LOW MOUND AND SEATS
-  PROPOSED GRASSED AREA
-  PROPOSED COLOURED CONCRETE PATH

List of features for the water park play structure:

- Waterfall jets, water guns, water mill, water volcano and umbrella jet
- Pools, falls and daisy shower
- Waterslides, net bridge and net climb
- Interactive buckets

L4 DRAFT SPLASH PARK LAYOUT
BROWN HILL RECREATION RESERVE
CITY OF BALLARAT



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 08.12.2022 NEVB- Revised plan as per mark ups
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 08.12.2022 REVB - Issued to Adrian Fernon

Title: L4 Draft Splash Park Layout - Brown Hill Recreation Reserve, Ballarat

Client: City of Ballarat

In Conjunction With

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Date: 08.12.2022

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Cad File:

Drawing No.: Sheet 4 of 4



Warburton Splash Park





Seville Water Park





