

City of STONNINGTON

Draft Sports Infrastructure Plan 2026–36

We acknowledge the City of Stonnington is situated on the Traditional Lands of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and Bunurong peoples of the East Kulin Nations and pay our respect to their Elders past and present.

We extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We acknowledge their living connection to Country, relationship with the land and all living things extending back tens of thousands of years.

Contents

Mayor's message 3

Plan on page 4

PART A: About this Plan

Why are we planning for sport? 6

What this Plan covers 7

How this Plan works with others 7

How this Plan was developed 9

Progress to date 11

PART B: The evidence base

Our community 13

Network overview 16

Network performance 24

PART C: The Plan

Our priorities 31

Our decision-making principles 31

Monitoring and evaluation 35

Mayor’s message

To be written post-exhibition.

Plan on page

What we're working toward

A sports infrastructure network that supports more people to participate, more often, in more ways

Our priorities

MORE PLACES TO PLAY

Create additional playing opportunities through new, adapted or shared facilities

BETTER FACILITIES

Make existing facilities safer, more accessible and ready for the future

SMARTER MANAGEMENT

Plan, use and manage the existing network more effectively

Our decision-making principles

1. EVIDENCE-LED

Invest where need is clearly demonstrated

2. FAIR AND INCLUSIVE

Support equitable participation

3. FIT-FOR-PURPOSE

Safe, functional and appropriate facilities

4. SHARED COMMUNITY BENEFIT

Support multiple users and uses

5. SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT

Plan for a changing climate

6. RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT

Prioritise practical, affordable solutions

What success looks like

The number of publicly accessible playing areas within Stonnington is increased

All Council sportsgrounds and courts have fit-for-purpose playing surfaces and lighting

All physical fair access limitations in Council pavilions and clubhouses are resolved

PART A

About this Plan

Why are we planning for sport?

Sport does far more than keep people fit. It brings people together across generations, cultures and backgrounds. It helps children learn teamwork and resilience, gives adults a way to stay active and connected, and builds pride and sense of belonging. It also contributes to Stonnington's local economy – supporting local jobs, attracting visitors and strengthening neighbourhood activity.

Our sports facilities make all this possible. They are places where lifelong healthy habits are formed, friendships are built, and volunteers, families and clubs come together.

Well-designed facilities make sport safer, easier to access and more environmentally sustainable. They help clubs grow their membership, allow people of all genders and abilities to participate fully, and make the experience more enjoyable for players, coaches, volunteers, officials and spectators alike.

Investment in sports infrastructure is an investment in health, wellbeing and the liveability of our city.

> *"Research shows that every dollar invested in sport-based programmes can return five to six dollars' worth of social value, and sometimes much higher than that. Few other investments deliver such wide and lasting benefits for so little cost."*
>
> – Kirsty Coventry, International Olympic Committee President (2025)

Why now?

Many of Stonnington's sports facilities have served the community for generations. In recent years, we have invested significantly in renewing and upgrading key sites, but the network is under growing pressure. We need a clear, practical plan to guide future investment, make better use of what we already have, and respond to opportunities as they arise.

Growing community

More people will need places to play, train and stay active as Stonnington grows and housing density increases.

Changing participation

More women and girls are playing sport, and there is rising demand for flexible, social and casual participation options.

Ageing facilities

Older facilities don't meet today's expectations for inclusion, environmental sustainability or functionality.

Limited land

Stonnington is a compact, densely developed city, with little available land for new sportsgrounds, courts or other large facilities.

Funding constraints

Funding is limited and competitive, so investment must be prioritised and backed by strong advocacy and partnerships.

Figure 1. Pressures on Stonnington's sports infrastructure network.

What this Plan covers

This Plan focuses on Council-owned sportsgrounds, pavilions, courts and specialist facilities that support **organised sport** in Stonnington. These facilities include playing surfaces and buildings, as well as supporting infrastructure such as sports lighting, goal posts, nets, wickets, practice areas, scoreboards, fencing, and other elements that make them safe, functional and fit for purpose.

Council-owned facilities are only one part of the **broader sporting network**. Schools, neighbouring councils, private providers, clubs and commercial operators also provide facilities that contribute to participation opportunities in and around Stonnington. Some of these facilities are publicly accessible, while others are restricted to students, selected members or specific user groups. This plan considers non-Council and neighbouring facilities where they affect local access, demand, partnership opportunities or future planning.

Sport is part of a wider spectrum of physical activity

Most sport facilities support more than one activity type. A sportsground may support club competition, school sport, dog walking and exercise and casual activity. A pool may serve lap swimmers, learn to swim classes, squads training and families playing together. This means planning for sport has to work alongside planning for other activity types and open space uses.

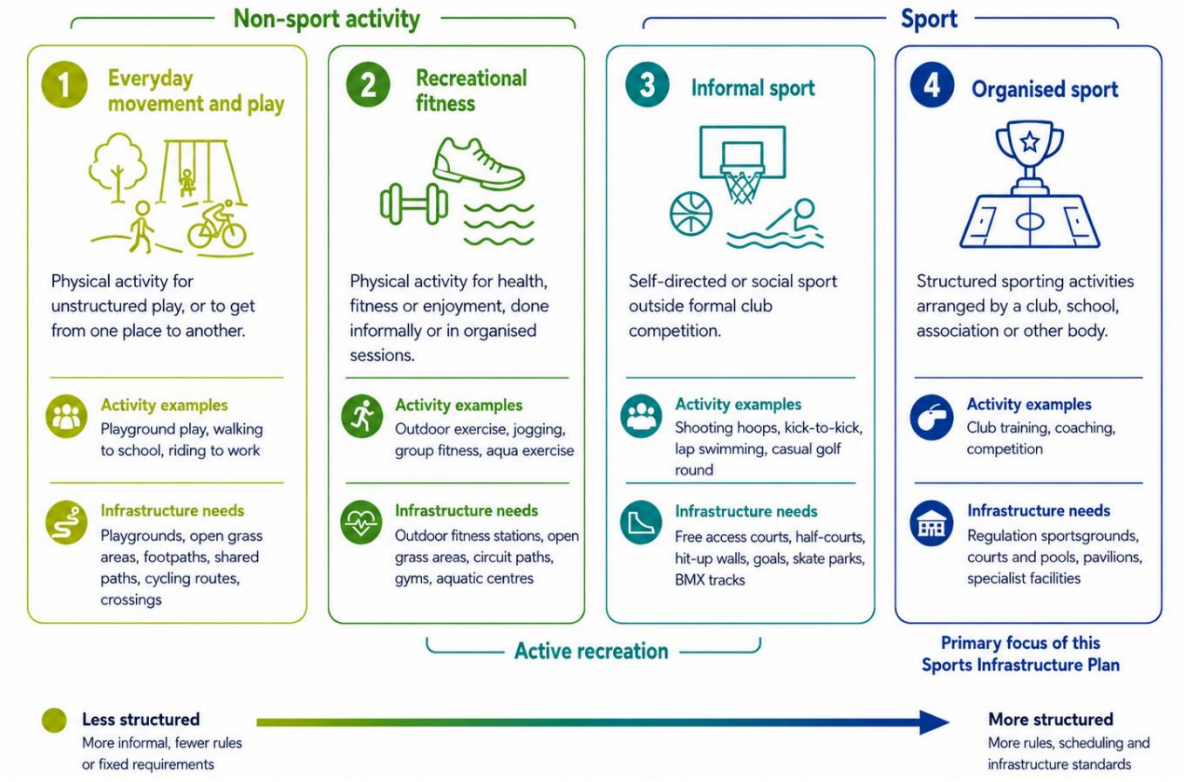


Figure 2. Organised sport and other types of physical activity.

How this Plan works with others

The Sports Infrastructure Plan is one part of Council's broader planning for a healthy, active community.

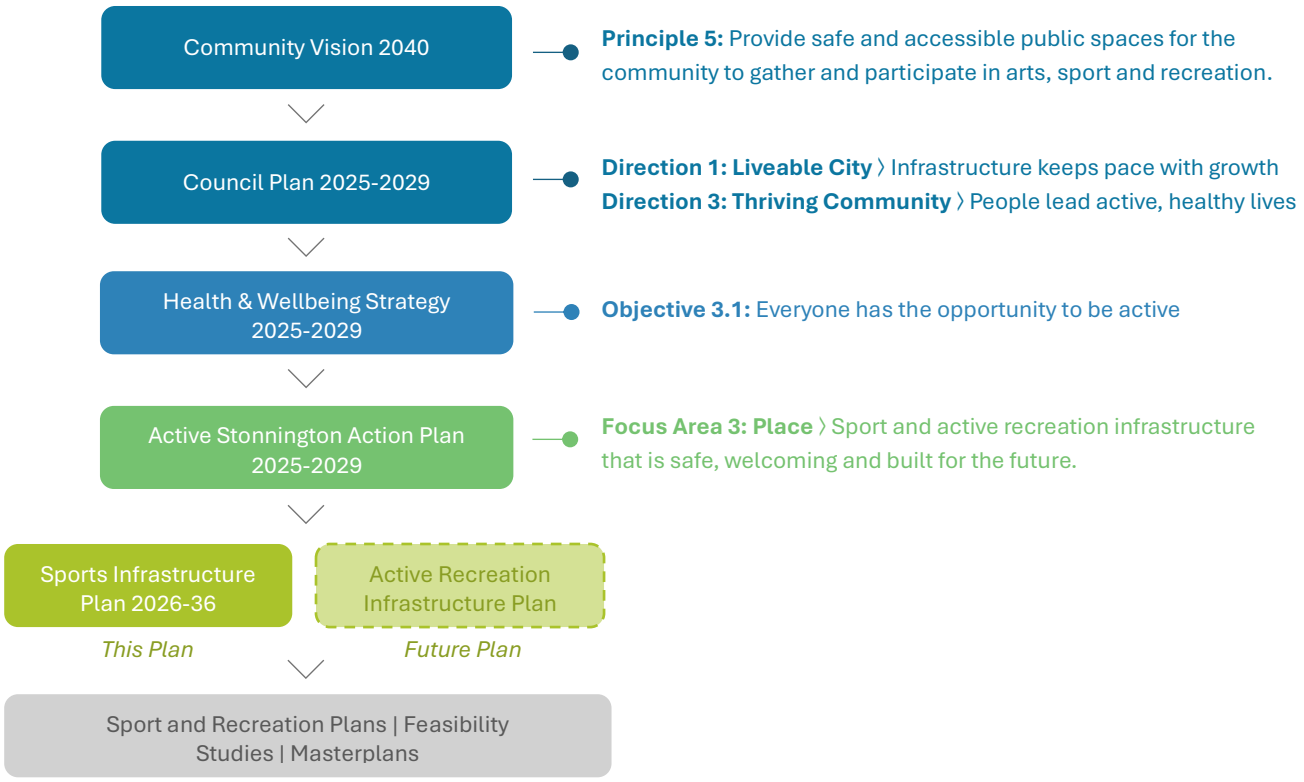
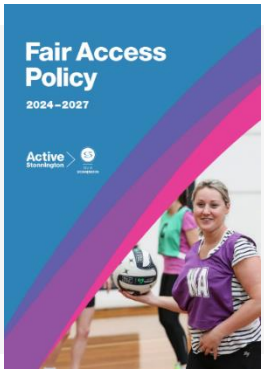


Figure 3. Sport and Active Recreation Planning Framework

Several other Council strategies and plans also help manage the different ways people choose to be active, and balancing competing demands on our parks, reserves and facilities. These include:

- **Asset Plan 2025-2035:** Guides the bigger picture of investment in Council's significant infrastructure portfolio
- **Transport Strategy 2040** & **Sustainable Transport Action Plan 2026-2030**: Plans for infrastructure that supports walking, cycling and other active travel.
- **Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029:** Manages competing demand on sportsgrounds and open space for dog exercise.
- **Open Space Strategy (in development):** Shapes our broader open space network, including the parks and reserves that contain sports facilities.
- **Sustainable Stonnington 2040 (in development):** Guides how sports facilities reduce their environmental impact and adapt to pressures like flood, drought and heat.



Fair Access

Women, girls and gender-diverse people still face barriers to accessing community sport, from facility design to how playing time is allocated.

Our **Fair Access Policy 2024-2027** guides how we address this. It commits to providing equitable access to facilities and playing time, designing spaces that support inclusion and diversity, and helping clubs build their capacity to welcome all participants. Fair access is a key principle guiding this Sports Infrastructure Plan.

External planning context

Our planning is influenced by a range of state and national policies that shape the way sport is played, funded and governed. Key frameworks are outlined below.

- **National Sports Participation Strategy – Play Well 2023-33:** Australia's national plan to grow participation and ensure sporting environments are safe, inclusive, welcoming and enjoyable for all.
- **Victorian Sport and Active Recreation Framework – Active Victoria 2022-26:** Sets the State Government's priorities for participation growth, gender equality and community wellbeing through sport and active recreation.
- **Fair Access Policy Roadmap (Victorian Government):** Requires local governments to ensure women, girls and gender-diverse people have equitable access to community sports facilities.
- **Sporting sector strategies and facility guidelines** including regional and state facility plans which provide sport-specific participation forecasts, facility planning benchmarks and design standards.
- **Building and infrastructure standards** for safety, accessibility, anti-discrimination and environmental sustainability ensure facilities are safe, inclusive and compliant.
- **Funding programs** such as Sport and Recreation Victoria's *Local Sports Infrastructure Fund* can influence the timing, scope and feasibility of future projects.

How this Plan was developed

This Plan was informed by detailed analysis of Stonnington's sports infrastructure network, including how our current facilities are provided, used and performing, and how demand for sport is likely to change over time. This evidence identified the gaps, pressures and opportunities that shaped this Plan's priorities and recommendations.



Community and club insights

How we engaged

To inform the development of both this Sports Infrastructure Plan and our Active Stonnington Action Plan 2026-29, we undertook an extensive engagement program between February and May 2025. More than 500 people contributed their views through surveys, pop-ups, workshops, and online activities. This included targeted sessions with sports club representatives, women and girls, youth advisory groups and older adults.



Figure 3. Engagement overview

We also drew insights from other recent engagement projects that reached users of our sportsgrounds. Feedback gathered through each of these processes has provided a detailed understanding of how people in Stonnington use sports facilities, what helps or prevents them doing so, and how our facilities can better support participation.

What we heard

Community feedback confirmed that the quality, accessibility and availability of facilities have a major influence on whether people can take part in sport. Key insights are outlined below.

Experience of our facilities varies widely

While many people spoke highly of Council's sports facilities and recent upgrades, others described facilities that felt tired, unsafe or difficult to access. Clubs noted that some venues lack the amenities or lighting required for their competition level or growing membership, particularly for female and junior teams.

Safe, inclusive and accessible design matters

Good lighting, well-designed change rooms and well-maintained spaces were seen as essential for safety and inclusion, especially for women and girls. Many people said better lighting and visibility would make it easier and safer to use facilities year-round, particularly during the darker winter months.

Capacity and access are ongoing challenges

Residents and clubs reported limited booking availability and competition for space, with many sites heavily used at peak times. Broader community feedback also showed that people don't always know what facilities are available or how to access them, highlighting the importance of clear, well-targeted communication.

Balancing uses is important

People generally supported shared use of ovals for sport, recreation and dog walking, but some also noted tension between formal and informal users. Feedback emphasised the importance of lighting, signage and clear boundaries to keep shared spaces safe and fair for everyone.

Progress to date

Over the past 10 years, we've invested significantly in Stonnington's sports infrastructure, renewing ageing facilities, improving access and preparing the network to meet future demand.

The recent projects below reflect the breadth of this investment, from major redevelopments to targeted upgrades that keep local facilities safe, accessible and fit for use. This investment has been made possible through a combination of Council funding, external grants, and contributions from sporting clubs and associations.



Percy Treyvaud Memorial Park Masterplan 2022-2026

Total project cost: **$50 million**

Council and Victorian Government

New stadium, four indoor sports courts, seven hybrid-clay courts, and an eight-lane bowling green. Reconstruction of ovals, cricket nets and floodlighting.



Toorak Park Masterplan 2018-2024

Total project cost: **$15 million**

Council, Victorian Government and sports clubs

Full redevelopment of the site, including oval, pavilions, and lighting, and supporting infrastructure, and surrounding pathways and access.



Orrong Park Tennis Court Redevelopment 2021-2023

Total project cost: **$1.5 million**

Council, Victorian Government and sports clubs

Complete replacement of the courts with Plexi cushion multiline courts for tennis, netball, and pickleball.



Basil Oval Practice Nets 2024

Total project cost: **$0.5 million**

Council and Victorian Government

Install new practice nets for cricket and hitting practice



Harold Holt Swim Centre Improvements 2024

Total project cost: **$0.95 million**

Council

Restoration of the dive pool and heritage dive tower. Installation of 50 metre pool access ramp.



John Landy Oval (Central Park) Sports Lighting 2025

Total project cost: **$0.6 million**

Council and Victorian Government

Complete replacement of the courts with Plexi cushion multiline courts for tennis, netball, and pickleball.

These are a few of the many projects, large and small, that have improved Stonnington's sports facilities over the past decade. They provide a strong foundation for our next phase of planning.

PART B

The evidence base

Our community

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

114,038 Residents

4,449 persons per square km (density)

37 Median age

$2,310 Median weekly household income

52.30% Female

47.70% Male

DIVERSITY

22.2% Speak a language other than English at home

31.5% People born overseas

14.5% People who identify as LGBTIQA+

12.8% People who identify as living with a disability or chronic health condition

0.4% People who identify as First Peoples (Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander)

FAST FACTS

74.6% Medium and high-density housing

8,300 Residents living in low income households[1]

38.1% adults who are sufficiently physically active[2]

EXPECTED GROWTH

23% (+25,000 residents) by 2045

This estimate is likely to grow with the State Government's new Activity Centre program and a target of 50,000 new homes in Stonnington by 2051.

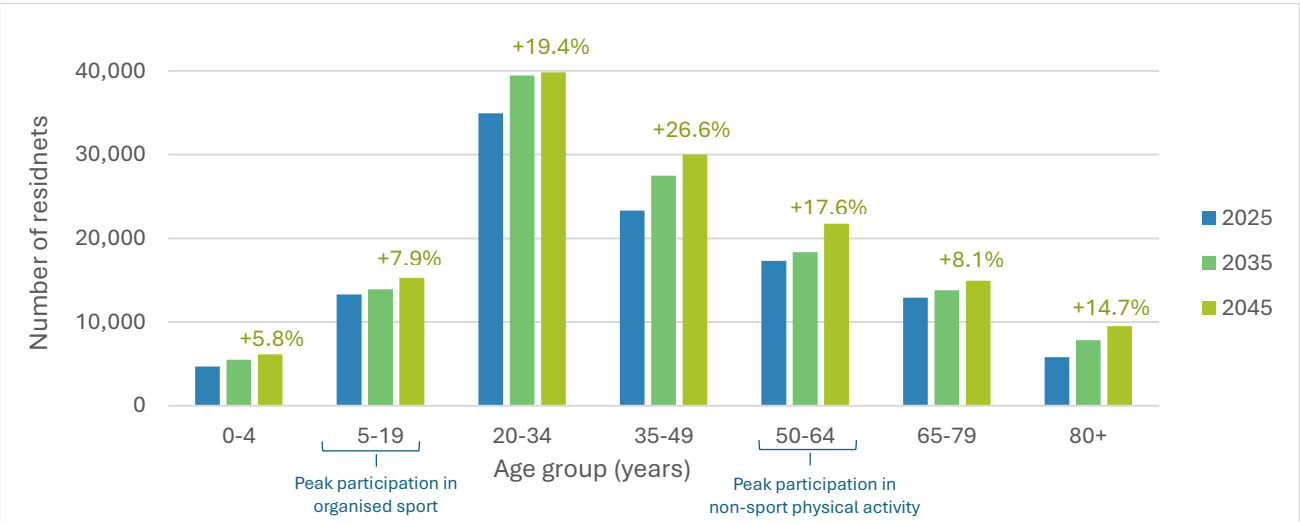


Figure 5. City of Stonnington forecast population growth over 20 years, by age group[3].

[1] 2021 Census
[2] Victorian Population Health Survey 2023
[3] Forecast .id

Sport in Stonnington

Council-owned sport infrastructure

20 outdoor sportsgrounds

14 sports pavilions

41 tennis courts
across 8 facilities

6 indoor courts
at 2 facilities

2 leisure centres
with 3 pools

1 bowls club
with an 8-lane green

2 rowing boathouses

1 public golf course
18-hole

Sport participation

54 clubs and associations
based in Stonnington

15,880+ registered players
across Stonnington clubs and associations

Highest growth sports (2023-2025)

1. Baseball (+96%)
2. Soccer (+76%)
3. Netball (+13%)

Reflects membership-based participation in Stonnington clubs and associations. Casual, social and informal activity, which is a significant proportion of participation in some sports like swimming and golf, isn't captured in this data.

+7,800 additional players by 2045

across current sports, based on club-based participation

Based on current population growth forecasts, which may prove conservative. Doesn't include casual, social or informal participation, or emerging sports not yet reflected in today's data.

A growing community, changing demand

Over the next 20 years, population growth will place increasing pressure on Stonnington's sports infrastructure network. More people will need places to play, train, compete and stay active, but future demand will be shaped by age, housing density, participation preferences, available facilities, and factors such as accessibility and affordability that influence people's options.

More people, more pressure

Sport participation in Stonnington is already strong, with more than 15,880 registered players across local clubs and associations. By 2045, current participation patterns suggest demand could grow by close to 50%, or around 7,800 additional players. This does not fully capture casual, social or informal participation, or the potential for future growth in emerging sports and women's and girls' participation.

Children and young people

Participation in club and competition sport typically peaks during the school years, when children are most likely to join teams and play regular fixtures.

Growth in this age group is projected to be modest, but will still create pressure on junior clubs, training times, change rooms and family-friendly facilities given high participation rates.

Adults

Close to half of total population growth is expected among adults aged 20-49, which is an age group with more mixed participation.

Many adults continue to participate in traditional club sport, but work, family and lifestyle pressures often increase demand for more flexible options. This includes social competitions, casual bookings, modified formats, and fitness-based activity.

Facilities that can support different formats, shared use and activity across more hours of the week will therefore become increasingly important.

Older adults

For older adults, participation is more likely to shift toward low-impact, social and accessible activities. Swimming, tennis, bowls, golf, and emerging formats such as walking netball and pickleball all offer opportunities to stay active while supporting connection and wellbeing.

As Stonnington's older population grows, facilities will need to be easy to access, comfortable to use and welcoming for people with different levels of mobility and fitness levels.

Across all age groups, factors like cultural background, gender, disability and income all influence whether people are able to participate in sport and feel welcome and confident doing so. Accessible paths and entryways, changerooms, toilets, viewing areas, lighting, signage and welcoming club environments all help people participate as players, coaches, volunteers, officials and spectators.

Stonnington's high-density housing also means many residents have limited private open space, making local sportsgrounds, courts, pools and pavilions more important for everyday activity, social connection and wellbeing. As density increases, Stonnington's sports facilities will need to carry more demand and support a broader mix of users and uses within the same limited footprint.

Network overview

Council facilities in context

Stonnington's sports infrastructure network is made up of many different types of facilities, owned and managed in different ways.

This Plan focuses on Council-owned facilities because these are the places we can plan, manage and invest in most directly. These include sportsgrounds, pavilions, outdoor and indoor courts, aquatic facilities, the golf course, bowls facility and rowing boathouses. Some are managed directly by Council, while others are leased, licensed or managed under other arrangements with clubs or operators.

Other providers also add to the sporting opportunities on offer in and around Stonnington, including schools, private clubs, commercial operators and neighbouring councils. Some of these facilities are broadly available through bookings, standard memberships or casual use, while others are restricted to students, selected members or specific groups.

This broader network is important. While we cannot rely on non-Council facilities alone to meet local demand, we do need to plan for Council-owned facilities within the context of what else is available nearby.

Different facilities play different roles

Sports facilities do not all need to provide the same level of service. Some facilities support local junior and community sport, while others host higher-level competition, larger catchments or more specialised uses.

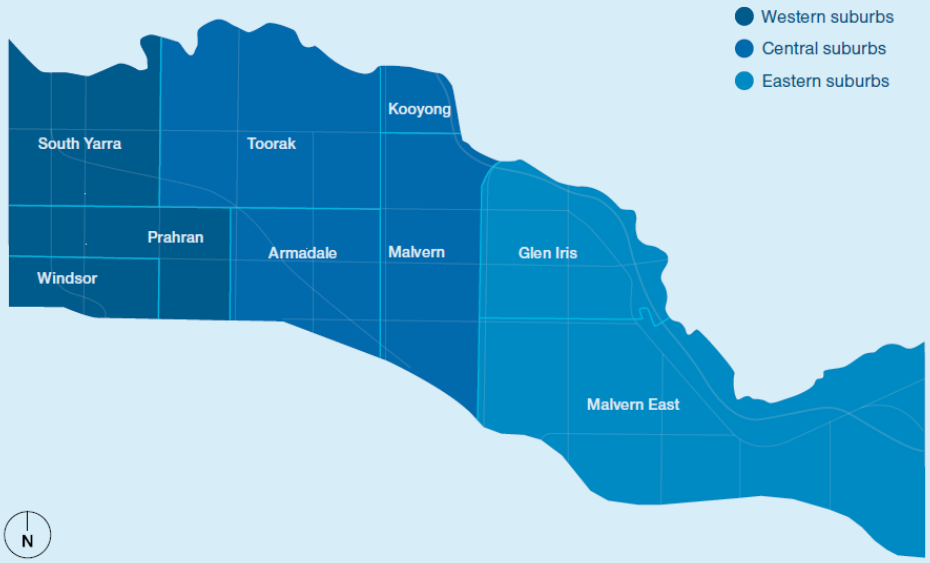
To guide planning and investment, we use a sports facility hierarchy. It provides a consistent way to understand the role each facility plays in the network and the level of service it should support.

Level	Role within the network	Council-owned facility examples
State / National	Supports elite competition, major events or specialist training needs across a metropolitan, state or national catchment.	Council does not own any facilities at this level
Regional	Supports higher-level competition, larger catchments and significant participation or spectator use.	Toorak Park Oval and Pavilion, Margaret Connellan Stadium
District	Supports club competition, training and participation across a wider local catchment.	DW Lucas Oval and Dunlop Pavilion, Malvern Valley Golf Course
Local	Supports neighbourhood-level participation, junior sport, training and community use.	Central Park Oval and Pavilion, Ardrie Park Tennis Centre
Practice	Supports informal training, skill development and casual use, but is not designed for formal competition.	Como Park North, Princes Gardens Basketball Court

Planning precincts

For planning purposes, we've considered Stonnington's sports infrastructure across three precincts.

These precincts do not reflect hard boundaries for participation. Many people travel across Stonnington, or into neighbouring municipalities, to access the sport, club, facility or competition that suits them. However, the precincts help show how facilities are distributed across the city, where different pressures are emerging, and how local context influences future planning.



Western suburbs

Prahran, South Yarra, Windsor

The western precinct is the most densely populated part of Stonnington, with more residents aged under 35. With limited land for large sportsgrounds, it has the lowest supply of Council-owned field sport facilities, but includes important court, aquatic and rowing facilities. It also contains one of Council's three indoor facilities, although the courts are non-regulation size. Residents also benefit from nearby open spaces just outside the municipal boundary, including the Royal Botanic Gardens, Fawkner Park and Albert Park.

Central suburbs

Toorak, Armadale, Malvern, Kooyong

The central precinct has a higher median age, more residents aged over 60 and more people living alone. Overall, it has the lowest provision of Council-owned sporting infrastructure, but includes Sir Zelman Cowen Park, Council's largest multi-sport precinct, along with three single-oval fields, two tennis centres and a primary school with an active joint-use agreement.

Eastern suburbs

Glen Iris, Malvern East

The eastern precinct has a lower population density than the west and central precincts, and more households with children. It contains the largest share of Council-owned sports infrastructure, including major field sport, court sport, aquatic, bowls and golf facilities. This reflects the larger reserves and greater land availability in this part of the city. It plays a major role in supporting participation across Stonnington.

The maps on the following pages show Council-owned sports facilities in each precinct, alongside non-Council and neighbouring facilities that contribute to the broader sporting network.

Council-owned sports facilities today

Non-Council facilities

Como Park South Yarra 1
Como Park Pavilion
District

Number of sports surfaces
AFL (1 oval), Cricket (2 pitches), Cricket practice nets

Como Park North South Yarra 2
(Wesley College Boathouse)
(Powerhouse Rowing Boat Shed)
Local

Number of sports surfaces
Rowing (2 boathouses)

Princes Gardens Prahran 3
Regional

Number of sports surfaces
Skate/BMX (1 skate park), Tennis (3 courts), Netball (3 courts), Futsal (2 courts), Basketball court (1 court)

Princes Gardens Prahran 4
(Prahran Aquatic Centre)
Local

Number of sports surfaces
Swimming (1 pool)

Windsor Siding Windsor 5
Local

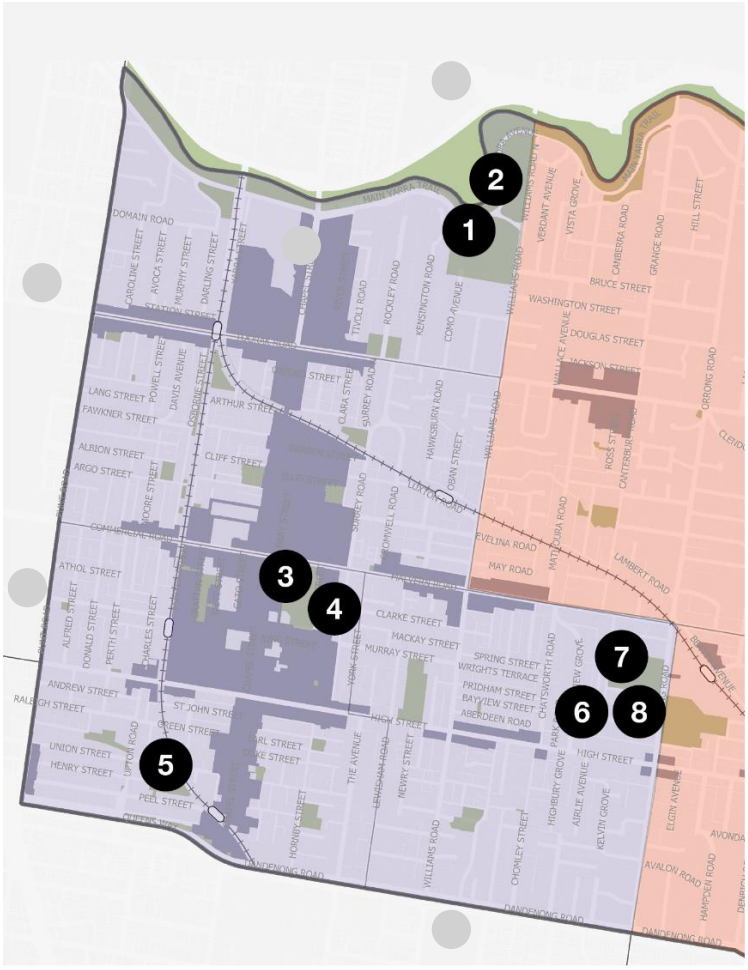
Number of sports surfaces
Skate/BMX (1 pump track)

Orrong Romanis Reserve Prahran 6
Hickey Pavilion
District

Number of sports surfaces
Rugby (1 field), Cricket (1 pitch), Cricket practice nets

Orrong Romanis Reserve Prahran 7
(Recreation Centre)
District

Number of sports surfaces
Netball (2 courts), Basketball (2 courts), Futsal (1 court), Volleyball (1 court)



Orrong Romanis Reserve Prahran 8
Orrong Tennis Centre
District

Number of sports surfaces
Tennis (5 courts), Netball (5 courts), Pickleball (8 courts)

Toorak Park Armadale 9
Toorak Park Pavilion
Regional

Number of sports surfaces
AFL (1 oval), Cricket (1 pitch), Cricket practice nets

Union Street Gardens Armadale 10
Malvern Tennis Centre
District

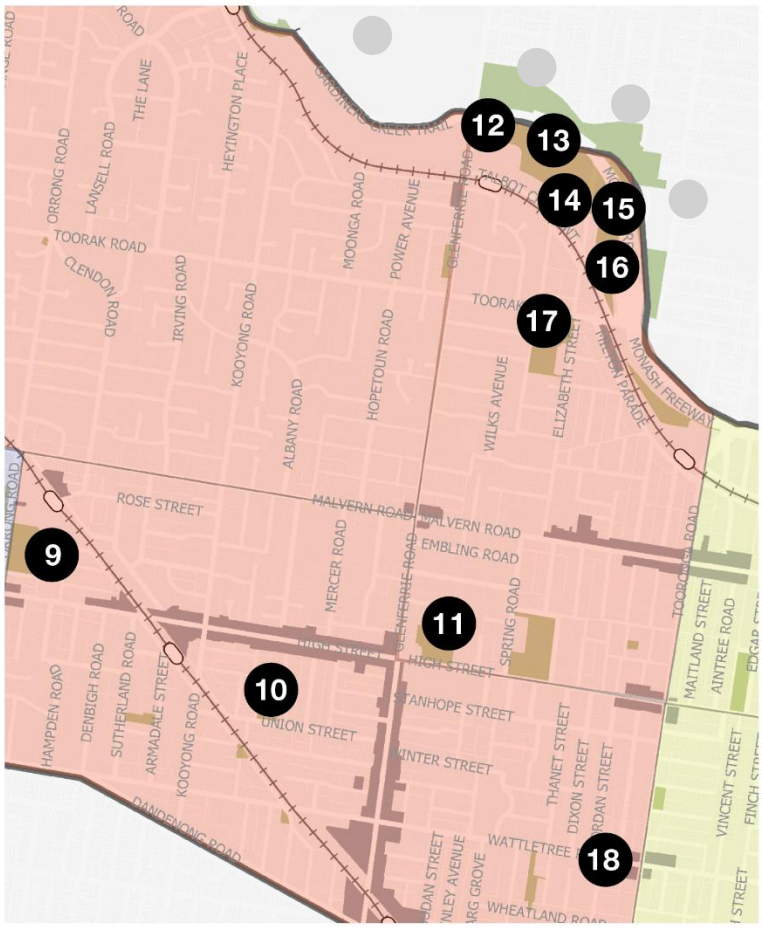
Number of sports surfaces
Tennis (5 courts)

Malvern Cricket Ground Malvern 11
Lansbury Pavilion
District

Number of sports surfaces
Lacrosse (1 field), Cricket (1 pitch), Cricket practice nets

Sir Zelman Cowen Park (Birrell reserve) Kooyong 12
Pollack Pavilion
Local

Number of sports surfaces
Soccer (1 pitch)



Sir Zelman Cowen Park (Wadsworth field) Kooyong 13
Pollack Pavilion
District

Number of sports surfaces
Baseball (1 diamond), Soccer (1 pitch), batting cage

Sir Zelman Cowen Park (McAlpine reserve) Kooyong 14
Pollack Pavilion
District

Number of sports surfaces
Soccer (1 pitch), Athletics (1 field), Frisbee (1 field), long jump pit

Sir Zelman Cowen Park (Righetti Oval) Kooyong 15
Muir Pavilion
Local

Number of sports surfaces
AFL (1 oval), Cricket (1 pitch), Athletics (1 field)

Sir Zelman Cowen Park (Ferri Oval) Kooyong 16
Muir Pavilion
Local

Number of sports surfaces
AFL (1 oval), Cricket (1 pitch)

Sir Robert Menzies Reserve Malvern 17
Menzies Pavilion
Local

Number of sports surfaces
Soccer (1 pitch), Cricket (1 pitch), Cricket practice nets

Glendearg All Saints Malvern Tennis Centre Malvern 18
Clubhouse
Local

Number of sports surfaces
Tennis (2 courts)

Harold Holt Swim Centre 19
Glen Iris
District

Number of sports surfaces
Swimming (2 pools)

Gardiner Park 20
Glen Iris
Gardiner Park Pavilion
District

Number of sports surfaces
AFL (1 oval), Soccer (1 pitch)

Gardiner Tennis Club 21
Glen Iris
Clubhouse
Local

Number of sports surfaces
Tennis (5 courts)

Central Park 22
Malvern East
Central Park Pavilion
Local

Number of sports surfaces
Soccer (2 pitches), Cricket (2 pitches)

TH King Oval 23
Glen Iris
TH King Pavilion
District

Number of sports surfaces
AFL (1 oval), Cricket (1 pitch)

East Malvern Tennis Club 24
Malvern East
Clubhouse
District

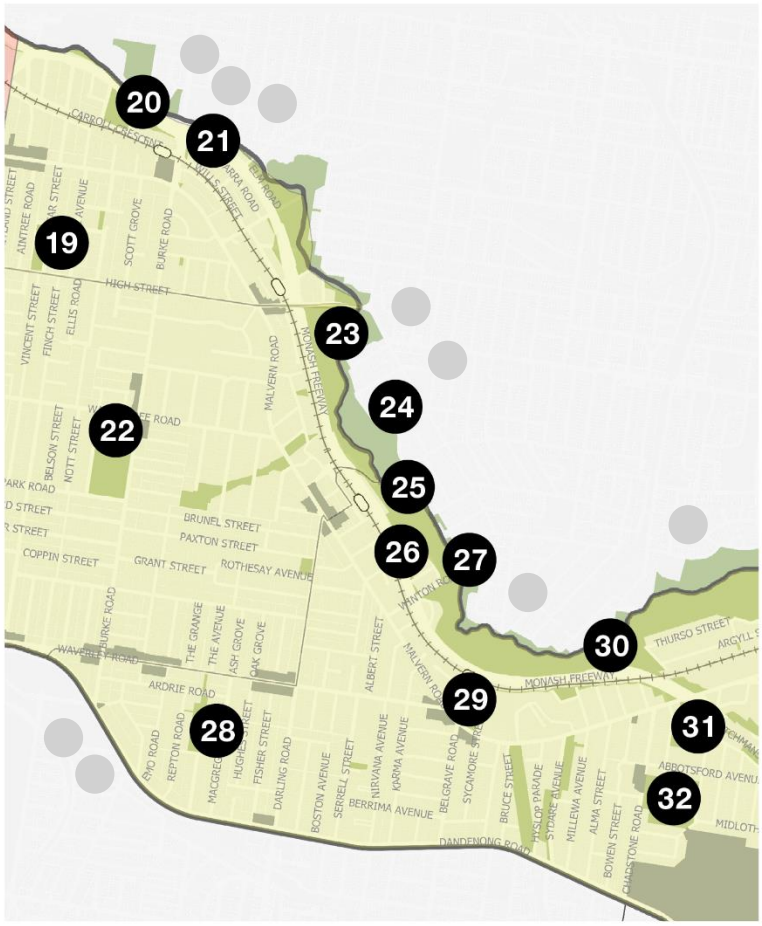
Number of sports surfaces
Tennis (10 courts)

DW Lucas 25
Malvern East
Dunlop Pavilion
District

Number of sports surfaces
AFL (1 oval), Cricket (1 pitch), Cricket practice nets

Basil Reserve 26
Malvern East
Sheridan Pavilion
Local

Number of sports surfaces
AFL (1 oval), Cricket (2 pitches), Cricket practice nets



Stanley Grose 27
Malvern East
Sheridan Pavilion
Local

Number of sports surfaces
AFL (1 oval), Cricket (1 pitch)

Ardrie Park 28
Malvern East
Clubhouse
Local

Number of sports surfaces
Tennis (4 courts)

Waverley Oval 29
Malvern East
Bert Healy Pavilion
District

Number of sports surfaces
AFL (1 oval), Cricket (1 pitch), Cricket practice nets

Malvern Valley Public Golf Course 30
Malvern East
District

Number of sports surfaces
Golf (1 course)

Phoenix Park 31
Malvern East
Local

Number of sports surfaces
Netball (1 court), Basketball (1 court), Skate/BMX (1 skate park)

Percy Treyvaud Memorial Park 32
Malvern East
Stonnington Sports Centre
Regional

Number of sports surfaces
Netball (4 courts), Basketball (4 courts), Pickleball (9 courts), Volleyball (2 courts), Badminton (3 courts), Lacrosse (2 courts), Cricket (2 courts), Cricket practice nets, Lawn bowls (8 greens), Tennis (7 courts)

Balancing sport, biodiversity and waterway health

Many of Stonnington's sportsgrounds are located along or near KooyongKoot (Gardiners Creek), one of the city's most important waterways and biodiversity corridors. These reserves support organised sport and community activity, but they also provide habitat and tree canopy, and contribute to cooling, local air and water quality, and managing flood impacts.

In recognition of the importance of waterways to our First Peoples and the critical role waterways play in the health of Country, the land along the KooyongKoot is also within an area of Cultural Heritage Sensitivity and protected by a Special Landscape Overlay. Together, these planning controls impose requirements to protect the sensitive landscapes and heritage of the waterway.

As demand for sport grows, there will be pressure to increase the capacity and intensity of use at some sites. As we plan for the future of sport, climate change, and the health of our green spaces, we need to balance the potential negative impacts of this increased use with the role these places play in supporting biodiversity, waterway health and climate resilience, and ensure we comply with our obligations under relevant planning controls.

Future planning should look for solutions that improve sporting capacity while also protecting and enhancing the environmental value of these corridors and avoiding negative impacts to the greatest extent possible. This may include better surface management, sensitive lighting design, water sensitive drainage, tree and vegetation protection, habitat planting, careful siting of infrastructure, stronger integration with open space and environmental planning, and collaborating with sports clubs and players to care for sensitive sites.



Network gaps

Provision ratios compare the number of playing areas available with indicative benchmarks used across the sport and recreation and local government sectors. They demonstrate whether the number of facilities available is broadly aligned with expected demand.

These ratios are most useful in growth areas where land can be planned for sport. Stonnington is an established, high-density municipality with very limited opportunities to develop or acquire land for new facilities. Therefore, the results of this assessment should not be interpreted as construction targets. Where shortfalls are identified, Council's focus will primarily be on capacity, access, partnerships and facility quality.

How to read the supply position

The supply position is based on Council-owned facilities and other accessible facilities in Stonnington. Restricted-access and nearby facilities are shown as broader network context but are not counted because access is limited, or because they are subject to their own demand pressures.

Category	Meaning
Strong supply	More than two playing areas above the indicative provision ratio. Provision ratios do not consider the quality, condition, functionality or accessibility of each facility.
Adequate supply	Supply is up to two playing areas above the indicative provision ratio. Provision ratios do not consider the quality, condition, functionality or accessibility of each facility.
Manageable supply	Supply is close to the indicative provision ratio, or any shortfall is small enough to be managed through existing facilities and restricted-access or neighbouring supply.
Minor or emerging shortfall	Supply is up to two playing areas below the indicative provision ratio, or is expected to move into shortfall over time. This indicates pressure that should be monitored.
Significant shortfall	Supply is more than two playing areas below the indicative provision ratio. This indicates a clear structural gap that cannot be addressed through minor changes alone.

How different facilities are counted

The supply position is based on **Council-owned facilities** and **other accessible facilities in Stonnington**. Restricted-access facilities and nearby facilities are shown as broader network context but are not counted in the provision ratio assessment because access is limited, or they subject to their own demand pressures within the municipalities they are located.

Category	Meaning
Council-owned facilities	Facilities Council owns and can plan, manage or invest in directly.
Other accessible facilities	Non-Council facilities in Stonnington generally available through bookings, standard memberships or casual use.
Restricted-access facilities	Facilities in Stonnington mainly limited to students, selected members, or specific groups.
Nearby facilities	Facilities within approximately 2km of Stonnington's boundary that may support local access.

Supply assessment

Note: Supply position figures indicate relative pressure and are not targets for new facilities.

	Actual supply (2025)		Indicative supply position		Other facilities (not counted)	
Sports / playing areas	Council facilities	Other accessible facilities	Current (2025)	Long-term (2045)	Restricted access facilities	Neighbouring facilities
Field sports						
Australian rules football ovals	10	1	-11.8	-16.5	2	17
Athletics fields	1	1	1.0	0.9	6	6
Baseball pitches	1	0	-1.3	-1.7	0	2
Cricket ovals	19	1	-2.8	-7.5	2	3
Hockey fields	0	1	-0.1	-0.4	0	2
Lacrosse fields	3	0	1.1	0.7	1	12
Rugby fields	2	0	0.1	-0.3	0	6
Soccer pitches	7	2	-13.8	-18.5	7	5
Court sports						
Basketball courts (indoor*)	7	1	-6.3	-9.2	0	13
Netball courts (indoor or outdoor)	14	2	-3.0	-6.9	38	14
Tennis courts	41	9	4.4	-5.0	117	82
Other sports						
Golf courses**	1	0	-0.1	-0.4	0	4
Lawn bowls greens	1	5	-1.6	-3.2	0	11
Swimming pools	3	0*	1.2	0.9	0	2^

*Competition basketball cannot be played on outdoor courts. **Provision standards do not account for size of course.

^Only includes public pools equivalent to Council's provision. Private swim schools and gyms with pools are not included.

What this tells us

There are clear structural gaps in some field sports and indoor court sports. Australian rules football, soccer, cricket, basketball and netball all show significant shortfalls now, and these pressures are expected to continue over the long term. These are also the facility types that are hardest to expand because they require large sites, significant capital investment and ongoing operating costs. Therefore, improving capacity, access and performance of existing facilities for these sports will be critical to meeting demand.

For some sports, restricted-access and nearby facilities provide important context for interpreting the supply position. Tennis is the clearest example. Stonnington has a large number of courts in private clubs, which have not been counted in the provision ratio because access is more exclusive, but they still support participation for many Stonnington residents. This means the long-term shortfall is likely to be partly managed through the broader tennis network, rather than requiring new Council-owned courts.

Across all sports, the supply position only tells part of the story. Provision ratios count the number of playing areas, but they do not account for the quality, functionality, accessibility or practical capacity of each facility. A facility may exist in the network but still be constrained by poor surface condition, limited lighting, ageing pavilions, accessibility barriers, change room capacity, scheduling constraints or site layout. These factors affect how much use a facility can support, who can use it, and whether it meets contemporary expectations for inclusive community sport.

Network performance

Facility numbers alone do not show how well the network is performing. The capacity of the network also depends on the quality, functionality and accessibility of existing facilities and how they are operated.

What we assessed

To develop this Plan, a comprehensive assessment of our sports facilities was undertaken that considered a range of utilisation, condition, functionality and accessibility measures. These detailed results of this assessment have been used to inform the recommendations and implementation roadmap.

Facility type	Performance measures considered
Field sport facilities	Ground utilisation in summer and winter, ground condition, known site constraints, supporting infrastructure condition, sports lighting condition and functionality, pavilion utilisation, condition, accessibility and functionality.
Court sport facilities	Court utilisation, court and building condition, known site constraints, supporting infrastructure, sports lighting condition and functionality, indoor facility or clubhouse condition, accessibility and functionality.
Specialist facilities	Facility utilisation, condition, accessibility, and lighting where present.

Findings are summarised in this Plan to show key facility performance issues across the network.

Field sport facility performance

Field sport facilities include sportsgrounds and pavilions that support sports such as Australian rules football, cricket, soccer, rugby, lacrosse, baseball and athletics.

These facilities support both summer and winter sport, and broader community activity across the year. Because most are natural turf, there is a practical limit to how much use they can support before surface quality, safety and renewal needs are affected.

80%
of sportsgrounds at or exceeding capacity for at least one season each year

9 of 20
sportsgrounds expected to require full reconstruction over the next 10 years

9 of 14
pavilions have functional or access constraints needing improvement

4
limited to junior competition due to size

2
grounds with overlapping pitch boundaries

10 of 19
sports lighting systems below competition standards

Sportsground performance

Most of our sportsgrounds are heavily used. While we want facilities to be well used, sustained high use can affect turf quality, maintenance needs, scheduling flexibility and the ability to support future growth.

Most grounds remain usable with careful scheduling and regular maintenance, but some have surface limitations, irrigation or drainage issues, wear patterns or design constraints that reduce practical capacity. For example, Peter Birrell Reserve is intentionally rested during summer to allow for turf recovery.

Five sportsgrounds have been reconstructed within the past five years and are generally performing well. However, most grounds are expected to need full reconstruction over the next 10 years. The synthetic surface at Gardiner Park is also approaching renewal in the short term.



Synthetic surfaces

Synthetic sports surfaces can support substantially more hours of use than natural turf and can help relieve pressure where demand is high and land is limited, like in Stonnington. They can also provide more reliable training and competition surfaces and reduce the need for seasonal turf recovery.

However, synthetic surfaces also involve important environmental trade-offs. They require significant upfront investment, planned renewal, specialised maintenance and end-of-life management. They can also increase local heat impacts and create player safety risks in hot weather, contribute to chemical and microplastic pollution of local habitats and waterways, increase local flood impacts, and change the character of open spaces.

For these reasons, synthetic surfaces need to be considered carefully and only where they provide a clear network benefit, can be managed over their full life cycle, and are appropriate to the role of the reserve as both a sporting and environmental asset.

Pavilion performance

Some pavilions are constrained by ageing layouts, limited storage, change room capacity, accessibility barriers or shared-use pressures. These limitations affect players, officials, volunteers and spectators, and can be a particular barrier for women, girls, gender-diverse people, people with disability and clubs sharing facilities across seasons.

Hickey Pavilion (at Orrong/Romanis Ovals), Central Park Pavilion, and Bert Healy Pavilion (at Waverley Oval) have the most significant functional constraints which restrict fair and inclusive access. A further six pavilions require improvement to support access and meet contemporary standards.

The cumulative investment required to bring all pavilions up to contemporary standards will be substantial. This means renewal will need to be prioritised carefully, with a focus on the facilities where current condition, access and functionality most limit participation. The availability of external funding opportunities may affect the timing and delivery of pavilion works.

Sports lighting performance

Several sites have lighting that does not meet contemporary competition standards and, in some cases, training standards. Menzies Oval has no sports lighting at all, which restricts evening use for both organised sport and informal community use.

Well-designed lighting can extend usable hours, improve safety, support fairer access to training times, reduce energy use and increase the practical capacity of existing grounds. Poor or ageing lighting can limit when facilities can be used, even where the surface itself has capacity.

Staged upgrades can extend the life of existing facilities

Recent functional upgrades at Menzies Pavilion have improved condition and delivered fair access outcomes for the medium to long term. This shows how targeted, manageable works can meaningfully extend a facility's useful life, rather than waiting for full redevelopment.

Designs for similar upgrades to Lansbury Pavilion will also be completed in 2026-27, which should defer the need for more significant works by several years. This kind of staged investment will be essential to making steady progress across the network without needing to redevelop every pavilion at once.



Court sport facility performance

Court sport facilities include indoor and outdoor courts that support organised sports such as basketball, netball, tennis, volleyball, badminton, futsal and pickleball.

Court facilities perform differently to field sport facilities. Their capacity is not constrained by turf limitations, so they can support higher levels of use and are typically managed to maximise utilisation. However, court condition, dimensions, lighting, supporting amenities, accessibility, and booking arrangements can all influence what a facility can support and how much practical capacity is available.

3 of 7
Indoor courts are non-regulation size

3 of 8
outdoor court facilities with low use

8 of 11
facilities have functional or access limitations

2 of 11
facilities with underperforming lighting

What about outdoor basketball courts?

This Plan focuses on courts that are programmed and managed for organised sport. It does not include free-access outdoor basketball courts in parks and open spaces, like the courts at Princes Gardens and Chris Gahan Reserve.

Basketball competition standards require indoor facilities, while free-access outdoor courts do not typically provide the amenities, run-off areas or supporting infrastructure needed for formal netball use.



These will be considered in future active recreation infrastructure planning.

Indoor court capacity

Council owns three indoor court facilities, but only one (Margaret Connellan Stadium) is suitable for formal competition. It is highly used and performing well and is critical to supporting indoor sport competition capacity in Stonnington.

Orrong Romanis Recreation Centre and Phoenix Park also provide indoor court space, but their non-regulation court sizes limit their capacity beyond training, junior activity, modified formats, casual use and community programs. Upgrading these facilities to regulation court size would require significant building works and may require a larger building footprint, so any future changes would need to be considered through broader site planning.

Outdoor court performance

Council owns a substantial outdoor court network, with facilities spread across the municipality. Two facilities (Princes Gardens and Orrong Park Tennis Centre) include multi-lined courts that support additional sports and formats, including netball, pickleball and futsal. The remaining facilities support tennis only.

Utilisation varies significantly across the network, reflecting differences in size and quality, club operations and programming, booking arrangements, and supporting infrastructure. With growing demand and limited opportunities to provide new courts, improving utilisation of existing tennis facilities will be important. This may include better promotion, easier booking, more flexible access, programming, coaching, casual play opportunities, social formats and clearer management expectations.

Court surfaces and lighting are generally performing well, but several facilities have clubhouses or supporting buildings with significant limitations, including access barriers, ageing condition or limited supporting amenities. These constraints influence the practical capacity of each facility and whether it can support inclusive participation.

Multi-lined courts

Multi-lined courts can add to the network by creating opportunities for more sports and activity formats within the same space. This is particularly valuable where land for new courts is limited, and it supports the growing preference for flexible, social and mixed-format participation.



However, only one use can occur on a court at a time, and scheduling can be difficult when different sports, clubs, coaches, casual users and programs are seeking access to the same space. Multi-lined courts also require hard-court surfaces which may not be preferred by all tennis users, and too many line markings can reduce visual clarity.

For this reason, multi-lined courts need to be planned and managed carefully. Their role is strongest where they support training, junior sport, casual play, social competition, modified formats or emerging activities, rather than replacing the need for fit-for-purpose competition facilities.

Specialist facility performance

Specialist facilities include aquatic facilities, golf, bowls and rowing facilities. These facilities play different roles in the network and cannot be assessed in the same way as sportsgrounds or courts. Each has a different catchment, operating model, facility standard, participation pattern and broader community role.

Swimming

Stonnington's aquatic facilities support a broad mix of sport, recreation, learn-to-swim, squad training, rehabilitation, fitness and community wellbeing. Harold Holt Swim Centre operates as a larger district-level facility, while Prahran Aquatic Centre provides a more local service.

Recent improvements have included changeroom upgrades, safety works, accessibility improvements, and major projects such as the restoration of the heritage dive tower and dive pool at Harold Holt Swim Centre.

Some works identified in existing planning, particularly at Prahran Aquatic Centre, have been deferred due to competing infrastructure demands. Both facilities have ageing components and gas-powered plant systems that create ongoing renewal, operating cost and sustainability challenges.

Updated planning will provide the basis for sequencing renewal, accessibility, electrification and service improvements. In the meantime, essentials works will continue to keep both facilities safe, reliable and fit for use.

Rowing

Rowing facilities are highly specialised and serve a more defined user base than most other sports infrastructure. Stonnington's two rowing facilities are located alongside each other in a prominent riverfront setting close to Como Park North. They support boat storage, training, club activity and access to the Birrarung (Yarra River).

The facilities are leased exclusively to two different user groups. While one facility has recently been upgraded, the other is ageing and has some functional and access limitations.

Because rowing facilities occupy high-value riverfront land and leased for specialised use, future planning should consider their long-term role and any opportunities improve broader community value.



Lawn bowls

Bowls supports formal competition, social participation and community connection. It is particularly valuable for older adults and people seeking lower-impact sport, but it has also grown in popularity as a social option for younger adults through barefoot bowls, casual bookings, events and more flexible formats.

The redeveloped Percy Treyvaud Memorial Park precinct includes a new eight-lane green providing a contemporary facility for club activity, casual participation and social or corporate event bookings.

As a newly constructed facility, it is performing very well with no condition or functionality constraints. Therefore, the focus should be on utilisation, programming, accessibility, club sustainability and opportunities to broaden participation through social, casual and modified formats.

Golf

Malvern Valley Golf Course is one of the few public 18-hole golf courses in inner Melbourne. It provides access to a traditional golf offer and attracts consistent use.

The course also forms part of Stonnington's broader open space network, meaning its role extends beyond golf alone. It contributes to landscape character, vegetation, drainage, habitat, cooling and open space value in a highly developed municipality.

Growing interest in shorter, more social and flexible golf formats creates opportunities to consider complementary activities such as mini golf, driving range, simulator facilities, coaching, events or other formats that broaden access and appeal while retaining the site's core sporting role.

Future planning should consider the long-term role of the golf course in the context of participation trends, environmental performance, financial sustainability, broader open space value and the needs of a growing community.



Trends shaping the future

Stonnington's sports infrastructure network is already under pressure from growth, limited land, ageing assets and uneven facility performance. Looking ahead, broader sport and recreation trends will shape how this pressure is felt, and what future facilities need to support.

National research by the CSIRO and Australian Sports Commission identifies several megatrends shaping the future of sport in Australia.



Figure X. National sport megatrends. Adapted from 'The Future of Australian Sport' (CSIRO, 2022)

These trends reinforce the need for a sports infrastructure network that supports more flexible and inclusive ways to participate, while continuing to provide for formal club and competition sport. The network will also need to be planned, operated and renewed more sustainably and efficiently.

PART C

The Plan

Our priorities

Stonnington has strong participation, growing demand, limited land for new facilities, ageing assets, and a network that performs well in some places but is constrained in others.

We need to work toward a sports infrastructure network that supports more people to participate, more often, in more ways.

To get there, we need more than one type of response. This Plan is built around three connected priorities.



These priorities work together, Smarter management is the foundation, helping us make the best use of the facilities we already have. Renewing and upgrading the current network builds on this, while adding capacity is the most ambitious response. We will pursue all three priorities concurrently.

Our decision-making principles

The following principles will guide how sports infrastructure priorities are assessed, planned and delivered.

1. EVIDENCE-LED

Decisions will be guided by demonstrated need, participation trends and facility performance, meaning investment will be directed to projects and opportunities that respond clearly to identified network pressures.

2. FAIR AND INCLUSIVE

Sports infrastructure should support equitable participation for people of all genders, ages, abilities, backgrounds and participation types. This includes players, coaches, officials, volunteers and casual users.

3. FIT-FOR-PURPOSE

Facilities should be planned and upgraded to match their role in the network. Not every facility needs to provide the same level of service, but each should be safe, functional and appropriate for the level and type of use it supports.

4. SHARED COMMUNITY BENEFIT

Sports infrastructure should provide broad community benefit wherever possible. Many facilities support clubs, schools, casual users, and the wider community. This should be considered in planning, design, allocation and investment decisions.

5. SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT

Future investment should consider environmental impact and climate resilience of materials and operations. Sports facilities need to be planned for a changing climate while protecting the environmental value of the places they sit within.

6. RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT

Priorities should be practical, staged and financially responsible. This means considering cost and value for money, as well as resourcing and deliverability. It also means leveraging external funding and partnerships where possible.

More places to play

Create additional playing opportunities through new, adapted or shared facilities.

The evidence base identifies substantial pressure in several field and court sports, particularly Australian rules football, cricket, soccer, basketball and netball. Renewing facilities and managing them more effectively will help increase capacity, but these measures alone will not meet all current and future demand.

With very limited land available, creating more places to play will not usually mean building entirely new facilities. More often, it will involve adapting or expanding existing spaces, supporting new formats of sport, and increasing community access to restricted facilities through shared-use agreements and partnerships. We will also pursue opportunities arising through future precinct and open space planning.

Pickleball & Padel

Commercial providers are driving participation in pickleball and padel by adapting underutilised existing spaces with pop-up/ temporary courts throughout Melbourne. Council can help progress these opportunities by working with providers to identify appropriate locations and provide pre-planning

Recommendations

1.1 Investigate opportunities for sport in existing open spaces

Ongoing priority

Through the development and implementation of the Open Space Strategy, identify parks and reserves that could accommodate practice areas or other community-based sport without compromising their broader open space function.

Example: Como Park North
Como Park North already accommodates occasional overflow training by sporting groups based at Como Park. Future planning should assess whether it could support more regular training or small-sided games while retaining access and amenity for other users.

1.2 Pursue strategic opportunities to expand the network

Ongoing priority

Identify and progress opportunities to create new sports facilities through strategic land acquisition, partnering with others to deliver new facilities, or working with developers to integrate sports infrastructure into new developments.

Related action: Shared user of school facilities
This work complements Action 3.5 of the Active Stonnington Action Plan 2026-2029, to 'Pursue joint-use arrangements with schools to enable broader community access to existing sports facilities outside school hours.'

1.3 Adapt or expand existing sports facilities to create additional capacity

Ongoing priority

Investigate opportunities to expand or reconfigure Council-owned sports facilities to support additional uses or users. This could include adding playing or training areas during redevelopment or converting single-use facilities to multi-sport configurations where appropriate.

1.4 Increase formal capacity of outdoor basketball courts

Medium-term priority

Investigate and trial options to enable Council's existing public outdoor basketball courts to support some organised training and club use. This could include targeted upgrades like new surface treatments, line markings, rings or lighting. Larger-scale options may include upgrading or relocating nearby public amenities to improve access, safety or usability.

Better facilities

Make existing facilities safer, more accessible and ready for the future.

Many of Stonnington's sports facilities are well used and highly valued, but they are under increasing pressure to support more people, more diverse participation and higher contemporary standards than many were originally designed for.

The challenges vary across the network. Some sports lighting does not meet current training or competition standards. Some pavilions have limited change rooms, open showers, insufficient storage or layouts that make shared and inclusive use difficult. Our aquatic facilities have ageing components and gas-powered plant systems that create renewal, operating cost and emissions challenges.

Responding will require sustained investment over the life of the Plan. We cannot fully redevelop every facility, or replace every lighting system, in the short term. In some cases, targeted upgrades can improve safety, accessibility and functionality, extend the useful life of facilities and defer larger works. We will prioritise investment according to network need, risk and feasibility, while pursuing external funding and appropriate contributions from partners and user groups.

Modular and prefabricated pavilion

Modular or prefabricated pavilion designs are increasingly being used to streamline delivery, reduce construction time, and improve cost certainty. They can offer a more efficient approach to delivering upgrades across a network of facilities, particularly where needs are consistent.

However, these approaches may also limit flexibility to respond to site-specific conditions, club requirements, or unique design opportunities. The suitability of modular solutions will vary depending on the function, scale and context of each facility.

Recommendations

2.1 Deliver priority renewal and upgrade projects — Ongoing priority

Progress renewal and upgrades to sportsgrounds, lighting, pavilions, clubhouses and supporting infrastructure in line with the indicative project pipeline set out in Appendix A.

2.2 Use targeted upgrades to address immediate needs — Ongoing priority

Where major redevelopment is not yet feasible or scheduled, deliver smaller-scale functional upgrades that improve safety, accessibility, inclusion or capacity and extend the effective life of a facility.

2.3 Plan for regulation-sized indoor courts — Long-term priority

When planning future renewal or redevelopment at Orrong Romanis Recreation Centre or Phoenix Park Community Centre, assess options to provide regulation-sized indoor courts, including options requiring an expanded building footprint.

2.4 Investigate opportunities for synthetic turf conversion — Short-term priority

Explore where conversion of a natural turf sportsground to a synthetic playing surface can help Council manage demand while also balancing the environmental trade-offs.

2.5 Coordinate aquatic renewal and electrification — Medium-term priority

Establish a pathway for long-term facility improvement for Harold Holt Swim Centre and Prahran Aquatic Centre. Sequence investment so near-term works support the transition away from gas-powered systems.

Smarter management

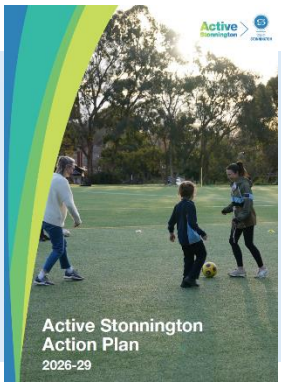
Plan, use and manage the existing network more effectively.

With limited facility supply and strong demand, how facilities are planned, allocated and shared has a major influence on how much participation the network can support. Some facilities are under intense pressure, while others face access constraints or may have capacity to support broader use.

Smarter management means using consistent evidence to guide facility planning, allocation, booking, partnerships and review. It will help us make the best use of available capacity, respond to changing participation, manage pressure on facilities and direct investment where it can deliver the greatest community benefit. It also means being clear about the role each facility should play in the network, the level of service it should provide and when management arrangements need to change to support better outcomes.

How this links to Active Stonnington

The **Active Stonnington Action Plan 2026-2029** includes related actions on sportsground allocation, leases and licences, facility data, communications and joint-use arrangements. This Sports Infrastructure Plan supports that work by providing the long-term evidence base for facility planning, investment priorities and infrastructure-related management decisions.



Recommendations

3.1 Develop hierarchy-based facility standards

Short-term priority

Develop and adopt planning and design standards aligned with the sports facility hierarchy, and use them to guide consistent project scoping and investment decisions. The standards should define the scale, function, amenities and specialised infrastructure appropriate at each level, while embedding expectations for accessibility, inclusion and environmental performance.

3.2 Increase use of facilities with available capacity

Ongoing priority

Identify facilities with sustained low utilisation and work with clubs and tenants to increase participation, broaden community access and make better use of available capacity. This may include agreed utilisation expectations, expanded programming, partnerships with other users, or changes to access and operating arrangements. Monitor progress and review management arrangements where utilisation remains low.

3.3 Establish a coordinated funding and shared investment approach

Short-term priority

Recognising the significant scale of investment required to deliver on this Plan, undertake a review of all Council and external funding sources and options with a view to accelerating the delivery of priority investments that are not included in the Council's current 10-year financial forecast. Such review to be completed by September 2027.

3.4 Pursue regional solutions

Ongoing priority

Work with neighbouring councils and other regional partners to identify opportunities for shared facility planning, joint investment and coordinated advocacy, particularly where land constraints or project scale make a local solution impractical.

Monitoring and evaluation

This Plan provides a 10-year direction for Stonnington's sports infrastructure. Recommendations will be progressed through ongoing planning and management, capital works delivery, and suitable partnership, development or acquisition opportunities as they arise.

The investment priorities in Appendix A will inform updates to our 10-year Capital Works Program and annual budget. The timing and delivery of individual projects will depend on available funding and organisational resources, detailed planning, approvals, external contributions and opportunities that arise. Projects may be staged or reprioritised as circumstances change.

Measuring progress

A focused set of indicators will be used to understand implementation progress and changes across the network. Indicators will draw on existing data wherever possible and may be refined as new data becomes available and improved measures are developed.

Indicator	What we will monitor
Network capacity	Number and type of publicly accessible playing areas and changes in available capacity (usable hours) at each facility
Facility utilisation	Bookings, utilisation, participation and changes in use at each facility
Facility performance	Facility condition and the extent to which playing surfaces, lighting and buildings meet standards for accessibility, inclusion, functionality and environmental performance.
Capital investment	Status of investment priorities in Appendix A within the 10-year Capital Works Program, including projects funded, commenced and completed.
Funding and partnerships	External grants and co-investment secured, shared-use arrangements established and regional partnerships progressed
Recommendation delivery	Status of recommendations and completion of significant milestones. *Note: We will aim to implement high priority recommendations in the first 1-3 years, moderate priority recommendations in years 4-7, and long-term priorities in years 8-10. Ongoing priorities will remain a focus across the life of the Plan.*

Key targets

By the end of the Plan's term, our aim is that:

The number of publicly accessible playing areas within Stonnington is increased

All Council sportsgrounds and courts have fit-for-purpose playing surfaces and lighting

All physical fair access limitations in Council pavilions and clubhouses are resolved

Reporting progress

Significant achievements and capital delivery progress will be included in our Annual Report. Additionally, we will prepare a Sports Infrastructure Plan progress update every four years, which will consider:

- progress against the recommendations and investment priorities
- changes in community participation and facility demand
- updated asset condition and utilisation information
- changes to funding, policy or partnership opportunities
- whether investment priorities or implementation approaches need to be adjusted.

An earlier review may be undertaken if there is a significant change in population growth, policy or funding environment. A full evaluation will be completed toward the end of the Plan's 10-year term to inform the next Sports Infrastructure Plan.

Appendix A. Indicative project pipeline

This appendix sets out an indicative project pipeline to deliver on **Better Facilities** (Recommendation 2.1). The tables identify proposed renewals, upgrades and new infrastructure, including their indicative sequence and the broad period in which physical delivery is expected to occur.

Projects are prioritised based on assessments of functionality, condition, utilisation, and participation trends to address the most critical fair access deficits and service need first.

The pipeline is a strategic guide, not a fixed or fully funded capital works program. The scope, timing and sequencing of projects may change as further investigations are completed and new information becomes available. Delivery will be subject to asset condition, feasibility and design work, site dependencies, approvals, Council budget decisions, external funding and organisational capacity. Projects at the same or nearby locations may also be coordinated where this would reduce costs or disruption.

Projects need to be phased carefully across the life of the Plan. This reflects the significant funding required, Council's capacity to plan and manage major projects, and the need to minimise disruption to clubs, competitions and facility users. As a general guide:

Indicative delivery assumptions

Project type	Lead times (from planning to completion)	Construction costs	How we've factored this into our pipeline
Pavilion redevelopment	Four years	$3 million - $10 million (depending on size and site constraints)	Generally, one major pavilion project would move into construction each year. Planning would begin earlier, meaning multiple projects may be progressing concurrently through investigation, design and delivery.
Pavilion functional upgrades	Two years	$200,000 to $600,000	Depending on extent of works, a functional upgrade may occur in the same year as a major pavilion project.
Sportsground renewals	One year	$500,000 - $1.3 million	Generally, one ground renewal would be delivered each year. Two may be possible where projects are co-located or can be coordinated efficiently.
Court resurfacing	One to two years	$300,000 - $800,000	Delivery of one facility across one to two years depending on the number of courts. Projects are generally staged according to surface type and use and may be sequenced with lighting renewals.
Sports lighting	Two years	$500,000 - $650,000	Up to two locations may be delivered each year, depending on available project complexity and organisational capacity.
Practice facilities	One to two years	$500,000 - $3 million	Projects are generally staged according to asset condition, operational and user impacts and opportunities to coordinate works.

Indicative delivery period

The time spans shown in the tables is the broad period in which construction is expected to commence. Planning, feasibility, consultation, design, approvals and funding processes may commence in an earlier period, particularly for complex projects such as pavilion redevelopments.

- **Short term:** 1-3 years (FY27 – FY29)
- **Medium term:** 4-7 years (FY30 – FY33)
- **Long term:** 8-10 years (FY34 – FY36)
- **Future term:** 11+ years (beyond the term of this Plan)

Inclusion within a delivery period does not indicate a confirmed construction year or funding commitment. Detailed sequencing will occur through Council's annual planning, budget and capital works processes.

Depending on available funding and organisational resources, the timing and delivery of individual projects may change.

Renewal programs: Timing and delivery of projects is dependent on available funding and organisational resources.

Sportsground renewals	
1. Menzies Oval	Short term
2. Waverley Oval	Short term
3. Gardiner Park	Short term
4. John Landy Ovals	Medium term
5. Orrong Oval	Medium term
6. Romanis Reserve	Medium term
7. Peter Birrell Reserve	Medium term
8. McAlpine Reserve	Medium term
9. Wadsworth Reserve	Long term
10. Malvern Cricket Ground	Long term
11. Righetti Oval	Long term
12. TH King Oval	Future term
13. DW Lucas Oval	Future term
14. Basil Oval	Future term
15. Stanley Grose Oval	Future term
16. Como Oval	Future term
17. Peter Ferrie Oval	Future term
18. Toorak Park Oval	Future term
19. Percy Treyvaud Oval (east)	Future term
20. Percy Treyvaud Oval (west)	Future term

Sportsground lighting renewals	
1. Waverley Oval	Short term
2. TH King Oval	Short term
3. Wadsworth Reserve	Short term
4. Peter Birrell Reserve	Short term
5. DW Lucas Oval	Short term
6. McAlpine Reserve	Medium term
7. Stanley Grose Oval	Medium term
8. Basil Oval	Medium term
9. Righetti Oval	Medium term
10. Como Oval	Medium term
11. Gardiner Oval	Long term
12. Orrong Oval	Long term
13. Romanis Oval	Long term
14. Peter Ferrie Oval	Future term
15. Toorak Park	Future term
16. Percy Treyvaud (east)	Future term
17. Percy Treyvaud (west)	Future term
18. John Landy Ovals	Future term
19. Malvern Cricket Ground	Future term

Note: For recommendations on installation of new lighting, see page 40.

Practice facility renewals	
1. DW Lucas practice nets	Short term
2. Romanis practice nets	Short term
3. Waverley Oval practice nets	Medium term
4. Malvern Cricket Ground practice nets	Medium term
5. Toorak Park practice nets	Long term
6. Menzies Oval practice nets	Future term
8. Basil practice nets	Future term
9. Wadsworth batting cage	Future term

Bowling green renewal	
1. Chadstone bowling green	Future term

Note: Aquatic centres are not listed due to having a separate, detailed renewal schedule for building and plant components. Malvern Valley Golf Course is also subject to detailed component planning separately.

Renewal programs (continued)

Outdoor courts renewals	
1. East Malvern Tennis	Short term
2. Malvern All Saints Glendearg Tennis Centre	Short term
3. Malvern Tennis	Medium term
4. Gardiner Tennis	Medium term
5. Princes Gardens	Medium term
6. Orrong Park Tennis	Long term
7. Ardrie Park	Future term
8. Chadstone Tennis	Future term

Sports lighting (outdoor courts) renewals	
1. East Malvern Tennis	Short term
2. Malvern All Saints Glendearg Tennis Centre	Short term
3. Malvern Tennis	Medium term
4. Gardiner Tennis	Medium term
5. Princes Gardens	Medium term
6. Orrong Park Tennis	Long term
7. Ardrie Park	Future term
8. Chadstone Tennis	Future term

Building projects *Note: future term works scope to be determined.*

Pavilions	
1. Central Park (redevelopment)	Short term
2. Lansbury Pavilion (functional upgrade)	Short term
3. Bert Healy Pavilion (redevelopment)	Medium term
4. Hickey Pavilion (redevelopment)	Medium term
5. Pollack Pavilion (redevelopment)	Long term
6. Como Park (functional upgrade)	Long term
7. Menzies Pavilion	Future term
8. Muir Pavilion	Future term
9. Sheridan Pavilion	Future term
10. Dunlop Pavilion	Future term
11. Gardiner Park	Future term
12. TH King Pavilion	Future term
13. Toorak Park Pavilion	Future term
14. Sports Centre Pavilion	Future term

Indoor courts	
1. Orrong Romanis Recreation Centre	Long term
2. Phoenix Park Indoor Basketball Court	Future term
3. Margaret Connellan Stadium	Future term

Clubhouses	
1. Ardie Park Tennis Centre (functional upgrade)	Short term
2. East Malvern Tennis (redevelopment)	Medium term
3. St Andrews Gardiner (redevelopment)	Long term
4. Malvern Tennis Centre	Future term
5. Malvern All Saints Glendearg Tennis Centre	Future term

Note: Hickey Pavilion (used as clubhouse for Orrong Park Tennis is listed under Pavilions)

Boathouses	
1. Powerhouse boathouse	Future term

New infrastructure and facility upgrades (next 10 years)

Project scope and timings are indicative and are subject to change based on further investigation, design, availability of funding, and may be coordinated with other works.

Project	Scope	Timing
Sports lighting		
1. Menzies Oval	**New training and competition standard sports lighting** to improve user safety and extend ground capacity into the evening, particularly during winter season.	Medium term
2. Como Park North	**New training standard sports lighting** to enable increased formal allocation capacity for club training use.	Medium term
Pavilions		
1. Central Park	**Full redevelopment** to address fair access deficits and provide female-friendly changerooms and toilets, and a suitable pavilion that supports junior and senior club training and competition. A feasibility study will identify options to guide design and scoping.	Short term
2. Lansbury Pavilion	**Functional upgrade** to address fair access deficits, remove communal showers, and provide female-friendly changerooms and toilets to support club training and competition.	Short term
3. Bert Healy Pavilion	**Full redevelopment** to address fair access deficits and provide female-friendly changerooms and toilets that support club training and competition.	Medium term
4. Hickey Pavilion	**Explore options** in conjunction with Orrong Romanis Recreation Centre for **full redevelopment**. Alternatively, **functional upgrades** may be appropriate to improve player changerooms and toilets and enable better use of multi-courts and sportsground. Master planning will identify any other options available for the site.	Medium term
5. Pollack Pavilion	**Explore options** to provide additional player amenities at the Sir Zelman Cowen Park, including full redevelopment of Pollack Pavilion. Modular facilities may be appropriate for better use of Birrell sportsground. Master planning will identify options available for the site.	Long term
6. Como Pavilion	**Functional upgrade** to address access and functionality deficits.	Long term
Clubhouses		
1. Ardrie Park	**Functional upgrade** to improve accessibility to clubhouse and player toilets.	Short term
2. East Malvern tennis centre	**Full redevelopment** to address fair-access deficits and provide accessible, inclusive changerooms and toilets appropriate for juniors and players of all abilities.	Medium term
3. St Andrew Gardiner	**Explore options** in conjunction with court improvements, to provide accessible clubhouse and amenities that support broad use, club activities, and casual bookings. A feasibility study will identify options to guide design and scoping.	Long term
Indoor Courts		
1. Orrong Romanis Recreation Centre	**Explore options** in conjunction with Hickey Pavilion for **full redevelopment** to provide compliant indoor courts. Master planning will identify any other option available for the site.	Long term

PART D

Supporting material

Supporting material

This section contains the supporting material that underpins **the evidence base** (section B) and the findings summarised in this Plan. This includes assessments that form participation patterns and facility performances.

Many assessments are point-in-time measures that will require updating over the life of the Plan. A description of each assessment methodology is included to provide context for each data point and assessment limitation. When interpreting these findings, a holistic view of the broader network should be taken.

Findings were analysed in 2025. Notations have been made in the Plan and this section where recent improvement works may have changed the assessment results or findings.

Participation patterns

Population data alone does not tell us how many people actually play sport in Stonnington. Many residents join clubs outside the municipality, while people from neighbouring areas travel in to play here. Participation data helps us understand which sports are most popular and how players are distributed by age and gender.

Methodology

Dataset	Description
Club membership data	**Purpose:** Shows how many people (residents and non-residents) are playing in Council-owned facilities. **Source:** Provided directly by clubs allocated at Council-owned facilities. Includes age and gender of players, as well as volunteer and committee information. **Limitations:** Data does not capture clubs playing at non-Council facilities – therefore, player numbers may understate actual participation in some sports. Data is a single-year snapshot, and club participation can fluctuate from season to season. To provide context, commentary has been included alongside the quantitative results to highlight notable patterns or emerging trends.
State Sporting Association (SSA) registration data	**Purpose:** Shows how many Stonnington residents are registered to play a given sport, whether in Stonnington or elsewhere. **Source:** Provided by each SSA, reporting the number of members registered with a Stonnington postcode, and in some cases, the clubs they are affiliated with. **Notes:** Some postcodes cross municipal boundaries. Where available, non-playing members were excluded, but not all sports provided this breakdown. Not all SSAs were able to provide up to date data for comparison, therefore AusPlay data has been relied on as the basis of future demand forecasting.
Estimated resident participation	**Purpose:** Shows how many residents would be expected to participate in an organised sport, based on state average participation rate. **Source:** AusPlay **– Rate of participation through an organisation (VIC)** online data portal. Data can be further refined by age, gender and participation type where needed. **Notes:** Shows the proportion of people in Victoria who participated in a given sport through an organisation at least once in the past year (data is from 2024 calendar year and 2023-24 financial year). Participation is defined as having participated at least once in the past year. An 'organisation' includes more than just sports clubs and associations, for example gym/fitness club/sports or leisure/aquatic centre, personal trainer or coach, private or commercial business, work, event, etc.
Additional projected demand	**Purpose:** Provides a baseline scenario for the scale of growth in demand over time.

Source: 'AusPlay – Rate of participation through an organisation (VIC)' (see above) applied to Stonnington's projected 2045 population (sourced from forecast .id). Where 'Actual players compared to estimated participation rate' column is above 100%, results have been scaled to reflect this higher than estimated demand.

Limitations: This approach assumes participation rates are equal to the state average, and will remain steady over time, when demand is shaped by the many factors discussed in this report. It also doesn't account for the flow of residents in and out of the city.

Interpreting results

Each datasets provides valuable insights but also have limitations. Because they are collected in different formats and levels of detail, they cannot be combined to reliably measure the flow of residents in and out of Stonnington to play. In addition, club membership data only captures groups formally allocated to Council facilities and does not reflect casual use or participation at non-Council facilities.

Participation is shaped by both supply and demand. The number, type and quality of facilities naturally limit how many people can play a given sport. At the same time, many people are flexible in the way they participate, choosing whichever sport is accessible and fits their lifestyle.

Importantly, participation figures do not capture latent demand – the people who might participate if more opportunities were available.

Key for column 'Actual players compared to estimated participation rate':

- **Data not comparable:** Club membership understates actual participation as many people participate through casual bookings, coaching programs or social play, or participation is occurring at private/non-Council facilities. Estimated participation rate is the better indicator of potential demand.
- Club membership is **below** (<75%) expected participation level based on state average. May indicate facility constraints, scheduling limits, or some local demand being absorbed outside SSA registered leagues (e.g. school sports, casual participation).
- Club membership is **meeting** (75%-125%) expected participation based on state average. Does not necessarily indicate all local demand is being accommodated locally. May indicate strong local interest, good facility availability or clubs serving a broader regional catchment.
- Club membership is **exceeding** (>125%) expected participation based on state average. May indicate strong local interest, good facility availability or clubs serving a broader regional catchment.

Table 5. Participation patterns in Stonnington

Sport	Clubs using Council facilities (2024)	Total players (2024)	Growth/ reduction from previous year	Age • Junior • Senior	Gender • Male • Female • Other	Volunteers	Committee members	Notes	Residents registered with SSA (Year)	Estimated resident participation rate (2025)	Total players compared to estimated participation rate	Additional demand projection (by 2045)
AFL	11	3,817	↑ 11%	57% 43%	80% 20%	906	106	Female participation has risen by a third to over 760 players in 2024.	3,668 (2024)	3,819	100%	+895
Athletics	2	408	↓ 5%	79% 21%	54% 46%	63	19	Decline driven by fewer junior participants.	Not reported	1,364	30%	+318
Baseball	3	441	↑ 96%	44% 56%	79% 21%	70	24	Growth primarily due to an increase in the number of boys participating.	Not reported	362	122%	+101
Basketball	0	0	Clubs occasionally book indoor courts, but there are no regular users of Council facilities. However, 4,731 Stonnington residents are registered with basketball associations with 'home' facilities outside the municipal border (66% juniors, 30% females).						4,731 (2024)	4,530	104%	+1,099
Cricket	7	1,547	↓ 3%	65% 35%	89% 11%	133	55	Decline driven by lower registrations among seniors. Female participation is increasing.	Not reported	2,335	66%	+539
Golf	4	370^	Not reported	2% 98%	76% 24%	Not reported	29	Total players do not include casual or recreation use	Not reported	2,393	15%	+530
Hockey	0	0	No Council-owned infrastructure however, 639 residents were registered with Hockey Victoria in 2025 (34% juniors, 41% females)						639 (2025)	470	0%	+107
Lacrosse	2	257	↓ 11%	43% 57%	72% 28%	8	13		95 (2025)	104	248%	+60
Lawn bowls	1	107	Not reported	100%	80% 20%	Not reported	Not reported		Not reported	801	13%	+176
Netball	1	1,687*	↑ 13%	72% 23%	6% 94%	Not reported	Captured in total players	Growth driven primarily by juniors.	4,261* (2023)	2,468	68%	+571
Rowing	2	364	Not reported	71% 29%	32% 68%	4	Not reported		440 (2024)	145	251%	+83
Rugby union	1	575	↓ 5%	57% 43%	93% 7%	90	9	Decline due to fewer senior female participants.	Not reported	129	444%	+133
Soccer	6	2,322	↑ 76%	84% 16%	83% 17%	280	29	Participation has increased by over 100% since 2022, with female participation tripling.	2,210 (2024)	4,035	58%	+947
Swimming	5	731	Not reported	Not reported	41% 58% 1%	Not reported	52	Participation only refers to formal clubs and not casual or recreation use	Not reported	5,617	13%	+1,385

Tennis	7	3,476	Not reported	41%	59%	53%	47%	29	30	Participation references to club members and not casual or recreation use	Not reported	2,927	119%	+801
Ultimate frisbee	1	150	↑ 4%	13%	87%	57%	43%	9	8		Not reported	72	208%	+33
													Total additional demand projected	**+7,811**

*Netball Victoria reports participation as players, umpires, coaches and committee members.

Facility performance assessment

This section assesses the performance of Council-owned sports facilities across four key dimensions: utilisation, condition, accessibility, and functionality. Together, these metrics provide an evidence-based picture of how well facilities are used, how they are holding up physically, and how effectively they support contemporary community needs.

Because different facility types have different characteristics and benchmarks, results are grouped by sport category:

» **Field sports:** Sportsgrounds and pavilions

» **Court sports:** Courts and clubhouses

» **Other sports:** Specialist facilities

This structure allows results to be compared within like categories, while highlighting the specific challenges and opportunities unique to each sport type.

Functionality assessments evaluate the facility's performance against its intended use, not structural condition. Where facilities are classified as unfit for purpose or in need of attention, a risk assessment is undertaken to inform the required management controls, which may include changes to scheduling, the level of play, or ground closure, when appropriate.

Field sports (sportsgrounds and pavilions)

Methodology

Metric	Detail
Sportsground utilisation	**Source:** Council's allocation and booking data (2023-2025), manually reviewed to address known gaps. Includes club allocations and casual bookings by schools, clubs or other sports groups. **Methodology:** Average hours of use per week were calculated for each season. Capacity thresholds (100% utilisation) were set at **25 hours per week for turf grounds** and **60 hours per week for synthetic fields**, based on industry benchmarks for turf management. Note the benchmark for synthetic turf is conservative as some capacity ratings were as high as 80 hours per week. **Limitations:** Does not account for how turf wear varies according to user group (juniors vs seniors, number of players) and weather conditions. However, it is the best available metric available at this time and still provides a useful comparison of usage levels between grounds. **Results scale:** Utilisation as a percentage of the capacity threshold. Low (<60%), Moderate (60-100%), High (100-140%), Very high (≥140%)
Sportsground condition	**Source:** Open space condition audits (2025). **Methodology:** Individual assets were rated on a 1-5 scale (whole numbers). For this summary report, assets are grouped into three categories: » **Surfaces** (playing fields, cricket pitches) » **Sports lighting** (poles, towers) » **Supporting infrastructure** (goal posts, practice wickets/nets, scoreboards, etc.) Where assets within a category had different scores, an average condition score was calculated.

Metric	Detail
	Limitations: Grouped/average scoring can obscure variation, particularly for groups with many different assets, and creates a risk of outlier scores skewing averages. This detail is retained in the original source dataset. **Results scale:** Score between 1-5 (including decimals). Very good (>2), Good (2-2.99), Fair (3-3.99), Poor (4-4.99), Very poor (5)
Sports lighting functionality	**Source:** Sports lighting audit (2024). **Methodology:** Sports lighting was assessed to determine whether LUX and uniformity levels met Australian Standards for sports lighting for training and/or competition (AS2560.2.3). **Limitations:** Does not reflect the condition of structures, lighting types (LED/non-LED), or remote management enablement. **Results scale:** Classification by level of compliance. New (installed since audit was conducted), Fit for purpose (meets training and competition standards), Requires attention (meets training but not competition standards), Unfit for purpose (not meet training or competition standards)
Pavilion utilisation	**Source:** Council's allocation and booking data (2023-2025), manually reviewed to address known gaps. **Methodology:** Average hours of use per week were calculated for each season. Capacity thresholds (100% utilisation) were set at **53 hours per week**, equivalent to 5hrs per weeknight and 14hrs per weekend day. **Limitations:** Does not reflect concentration of use, which can impact the feasibility of increasing use. For example, it may be very difficult to attract additional bookings for a pavilion used for 30 hours a week, if all those hours are on weekends. **Results scale:** Utilisation as a percentage of the capacity threshold. Very Low (<35%), Low (35-59.99%), Moderate (60-79.99%) High (≥ 80%)
Pavilion condition	**Source:** Building condition audits (2024). **Methodology:** Pavilions were assessed across up to 11 building components (e.g. roof, walls, fixtures, etc.), resulting in a combined weighted score on a 1-10 scale (1 = best, 10 = worst). These were converted to Council's standard 1-5 condition scale for consistency with the Asset Plan. Decimals were calculated to show where a score sits within each band (e.g. 2.1 = Good, close to Very good, while 2.9 = Good, approaching Fair). **Limitations:** Reflects the structural integrity of assets and looks for visible defects, not presentation. A structurally sound pavilion may still look dated and impact user experience. **Results scale:** Score between 1-5 (including decimals). Very good (>2), Good (2-2.99), Fair (3-3.99), Poor (4-4.99), Very poor (5)
Pavilion disability access compliance	**Source:** Council pavilion audits (2024). **Methodology:** Site assessments considered whether pavilions met prescribed standards for physical access, including ramps, entrances, amenities and circulation space. **Limitations:** Yes/no results scale does not indicate the degree of compliance or practical impact. **Results scale:** Yes / no. Yes, No

Metric	Detail
Pavilion functionality	**Source:** Pavilion audits (2022) **Methodology:** Pavilions were assessed to determine how well they support contemporary use requirements, including factors like gender-equitable changerooms, umpire amenities, storage, social space, and overall layout. Up to 29 indicators (depending on facility type) were scored across three themes: » **Accessibility** – location and transport access » **Safety and ease of use** – safety, multipurpose features, and general usability » **Quality building features** – design, layout, and performance, including outdoor spaces All indicators and themes were scored evenly (i.e. no weighting applied) and averaged to produce a summary score for each pavilion. **Results scale:** Score between 1-5 (including decimals). Fit for purpose (<2.5), Requires attention (2.5-3.49), Unfit for purpose (≥3.50)

Table 1. Sportsgrounds and pavilions – Summary of performance

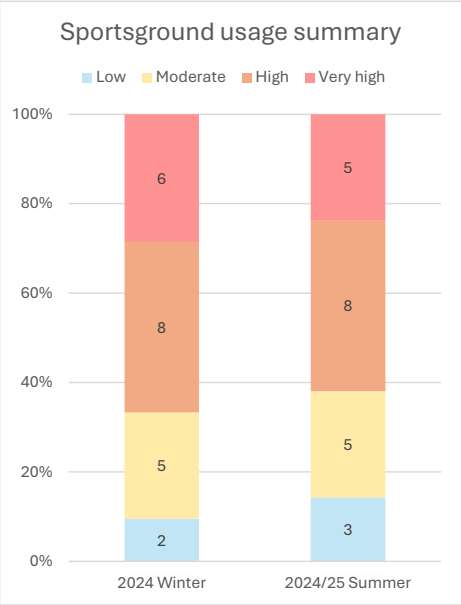
	Overview			Utilisation (%)		Condition (Score: 1-5)			Functionality	Pavilion	Use type	Utilisation (%)		Condition (Score: 1-5)	Disability access compliance (Yes/No)	Functionality (Score: 1-5)	Notes
Sportsground	**Location**	**Hierarchy level**	**Sports played**	**Winter 2024**	**Summer 2024/25**	**Surface**	**Sports lighting**	**Supporting infra.**	**Sports lighting**			**Winter 2024**	**Summer 2024/25**				
	Western planning area																
Como Oval	Como Park, South Yarra	District	AFL Cricket	Very high (151)	Moderate (98)	Fair (3)	Good (2)	Good (2)	Attention required	**Como Park Pavilion**	Seasonal allocation	High (81)	Moderate (66)	Good (2.52)	No	Attention required (2.92)	Works have addressed some changeroom and amenities deficits
Orrong Oval	Orrong Romanis Reserve, Prahran	District	Rugby Cricket	High (108)	High (102)	Good (2)	Good (2)	Fair (3)	Fit for purpose	**Hickey Pavilion**	Seasonal allocation	Low (43)	Moderate (76)	Fair (3.03)	No	Unfit for purpose (3.62)	Low winter (2024) pavilion use is attributed to reduced allocations, which has increased to moderate in subsequent years
Romanis Reserve		Local	Rugby Cricket	High (106)	Very high (140)*	Good (2)	Good (2)	Fair (3)	Fit for purpose								
	Central planning area																
Toorak Park Oval	Toorak Park, Armadale	Regional	AFL Cricket	High (128)	High (138)	New since audit (2025)				**Toorak Park Pavilion**	License	High (96)**	Moderate (63)	New since audit (2024)			
Malvern Cricket Ground	Malvern Cricket Ground, Malvern	Local	Lacrosse Cricket	High (116)	High (129)	Fair (3)	New since audit (2026)	Fair (3)	New since audit (2026)	**Lansbury Pavilion**	Seasonal allocation	Moderate (68)	High (81)	Fair (3.03)	No	Attention required (3.20)	
Menzies Oval	Sir Robert Menzies Reserve, Malvern	Local	Soccer Cricket	Moderate (82)	High (101)	Very good (1)	Not present	Good (2.5)	Not present	**Menzies Pavilion**	Seasonal allocation	Very low (26)	Very low (32)	Fair (3.06)	No	Unfit for purpose (4.21)	Works undertaken in 2026 have addressed access and umpire amenities deficits
Peter Birrell Reserve	Sir Zelman Cowen Park, Kooyong	Local	Soccer	High (134)	Low (40)	Good (2)	Fair (3)	Fair (3)	Unfit for purpose	**Pollack Pavilion**	Seasonal allocation	High (93)	High (109)	Good (2.91)	No	Attention required (2.91)	
McAlpine Reserve		Local	Soccer, Athletics, Frisbee	Very high (180)	Very high (162)	Good (2)	Fair (3)	Good (2)	Attention required								
Wadsworth Reserve		Local	Baseball Soccer	Moderate (70)	Very high (161)	Very good (1)	Fair (3)	Good (2.75)	Unfit for purpose								
Peter Ferrie Oval		Local	AFL Cricket	Moderate (77)	Low (48)	Good (2)	Good (2)	Good (2)	Not assessed	**Muir Pavilion**	License	Moderate (69)	Very low (30)	Good (2.87)	No		

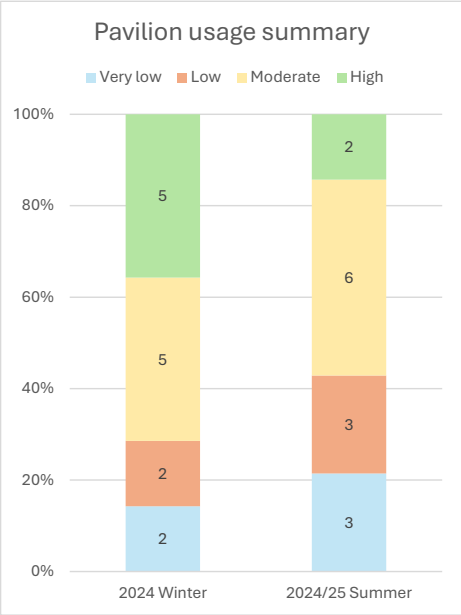
Sportsground	Overview			Utilisation (%)		Condition (Score: 1-5)			Functionality	Pavilion	Use type	Utilisation (%)		Condition (Score: 1-5)	Disability access compliance (Yes/No)	Functionality (Score: 1-5)	Notes
	Location	Hierarchy level	Sports played	Winter 2024	Summer 2024/25	Surface	Sports lighting	Supporting infra.	Sports lighting			Winter 2024	Summer 2024/25				
Righetti Oval		Local	AFL Cricket	High (132)	High (110)	Very good (1)	Good (2)	Good (2.5)	Attention required							Attention required (2.95)	
	Eastern planning area																
John Landy Oval (area 1)	Central Park, Malvern East	Local	Soccer Cricket	Moderate (71)	Moderate (96)	Very good (1.5)	New since audit (2025)	Very good (1)	New since audit (2025)	**Central Park Pavilion**	Seasonal allocation	Very low (18)	Very low (32)	Good (2.86)	No	Unfit for purpose (4.15)	Installation of sports floodlights in 2025 has added an additional 25+ hours per week in winter
John Landy Oval (playing area 2)		Local	Soccer Cricket	Low (50)	Moderate (90)			Good (2)									
Gardiner Oval	Gardiner Park, Glen Iris	District	AFL Soccer	Moderate (63)	Moderate (66)	Very good (1)	Good (2)	Fair (3)	Attention required	**Gardiner Park Pavilion**	Seasonal allocation	Low (58)	Moderate (64)	Good (2.19)	Yes	Attention required (2.50)	
TH King Oval	Glen Iris Park, Glen Iris	District	AFL Cricket	Very high (150)	High (129)	Very good (1)	Good (2.25)	Good (2)	Unfit for purpose	**TH King Pavilion**	Seasonal allocation (Gym leased)	Moderate (78)	Low (39)	Good (2.12)	Yes	Fit for purpose (2.19)	
DW Lucas Oval	Darling Park, Malvern East	District	AFL Cricket	Very high (145)	High (104)	Fair (3)	Good (2.2)	Fair (3.75)	Unfit for purpose	**Dunlop Pavilion**	Seasonal allocation	High (85)	Moderate (65)	Good (2.55)	Yes	Fit for purpose (1.92)	
Basil Oval		Local	AFL Cricket	Very high (147)	Very high (170)	Fair (3)	Good (2.2)	Good (2.6)	Attention required	**Sheridan Pavilion**	Seasonal allocation	Moderate (69)	Moderate (64)	Fair (3.26)	No	Fit for purpose (2.40)	
Stanley Grose Reserve		Local	AFL Cricket	High (116)	High (120)	Good (2.5)	Good (2.4)	Good (2.6)	Unfit for purpose								
Percy Treyvaud Oval 1 (East)	Percy Treyvaud Memorial Park, Malvern East	District	Lacrosse Cricket	Low (55)	Moderate (65)	New since audit (2026)	New since audit (2026)	New since audit (2026)	New since audit (2026)	**Stonnington Sports Centre**	Seasonal allocation	Moderate (76)	Low (43)	Very good (1.39)	Yes	New since audit (2023)	
Percy Treyvaud Oval 2 (West)		Local	Lacrosse Cricket	High (108)	Low (37)	New since audit (2026)	New since audit (2026)	New since audit (2026)	New since audit (2026)								
Waverley Oval	Waverley Park, Malvern East	Local	AFL Cricket	High^ (112)	High^ (121)	Fair (3)	Fair (3)	Fair (3)	Unfit for purpose	**Bert Healy Pavilion**	Seasonal allocation	High (107)	Low (53)	Fair (3.04)	No	Unfit for purpose (3.58)	Installation of unisex toilets and changerooms in 2022 has improved access

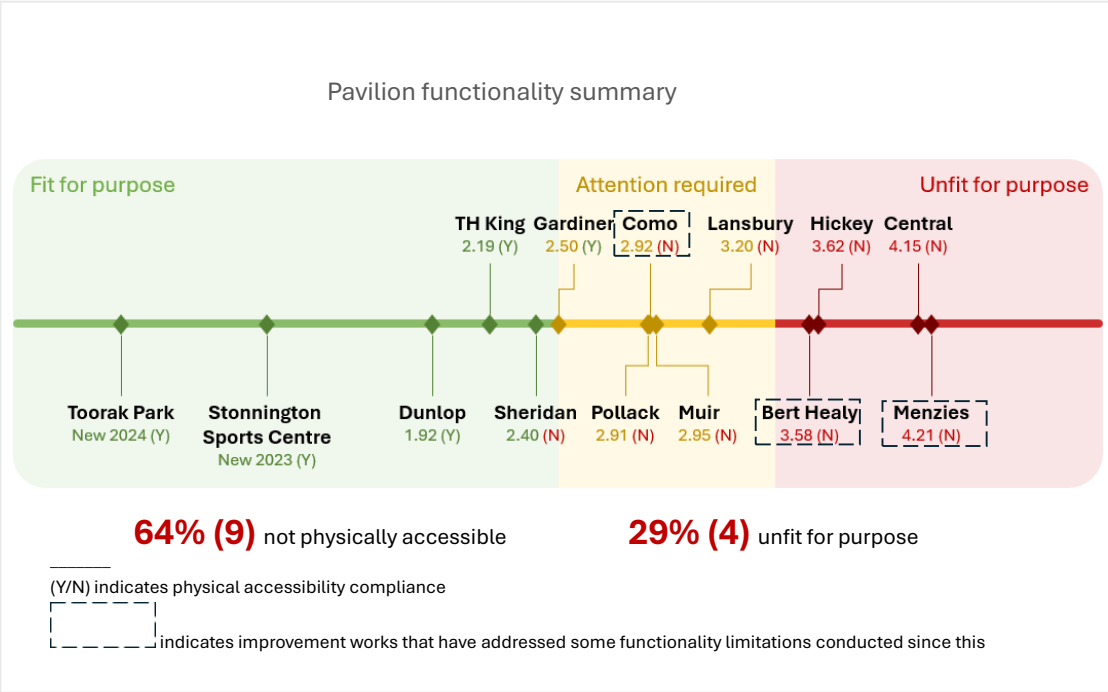
*Refers to 2023/24 season due to missing data.

**Refers to 2025 season as Toorak Park was closed in 2024.

^Use does **not** include German Shepherd Dog Club allocation as they do not affect turf wear. Pavilion allocation to this club **is** included, as it falls within peak use hours.







Notes: John Landy Oval (Central Park) playing areas counted separately. Assessment made prior to installation of sports floodlights at John Landy Oval (Central Park). Does not include Como Park North (practice-level facility).

Court sports (courts and clubhouses)

Methodology

Metric	Detail
Tennis court utilisation	**Source:** Tennis Victoria facilities visitation data (2023-2024) supplemented with internal Council and club bookings data (2024-2025) that was not captured by Tennis Victoria. Includes club competition and training, social and casual bookings by schools, clubs or other groups. Does not include Margaret Connellan Stadium and Orrong Romanis Recreation Centre visits (see below – Indoor court utilisation). **Methodology:** Tennis Victoria visitation data was converted to an estimated number of court booking hours to align with Council and club booking data. Based on advice from Tennis Victoria, visitation figures were divided by three to approximate hourly court use. Annual capacity thresholds (100% utilisation) were set **at 5,250 hours per court**, based on a standardised availability of **15 hours per day** (7am-10pm) for 50 weeks of the year (accounting for some maintenance or holiday closure). **Limitations:** While the two datasets are not directly equivalent, the methodology provides a reasonable basis to align them on a consistent utilisation scale. The data does not reflect the number of individual players or use type. The selected capacity threshold represents a reasonable window of potential use, rather than an expectation that courts are fully booked across all hours. Actual availability varies by site and management model. **Results scale:** Utilisation per court as a percentage of the capacity threshold. Low (<40%), Moderate (40-59.99%) High (60-79.99%), Very high (≥80%)
Clubhouse / indoor court condition	**Source:** Building condition audits (2024). **Methodology:** Clubhouses and indoor courts were assessed across up to 11 building components (e.g. roof, walls, fixtures, etc.), resulting in a combined weighted score on a 1-10 scale (1 = best, 10 = worst). These were converted to Council's standard 1-5 condition scale for consistency with the Asset Plan. Decimals were calculated to show where a score sits within each band (e.g. 2.1 = Good, close to Very good, while 2.9 = Good, approaching Fair). **Limitations:** Reflects the structural integrity of assets and looks for visible defects, not presentation. A structurally sound building may still look dated and impact user experience. **Results scale:** Score between 1-5 (including decimals). Very good (<2), Good (2-2.99), Fair (3-3.99), Poor (4-4.99), Very poor (5)
Indoor court utilisation	**Source:** Internal court booking data (2025) from Margaret Connellan Stadium (MCS) and Orrong Romanis Recreation Centre (ORRC) **Methodology:** Total hours of court bookings per year for a facility, divided by the number of courts. Casual entry data for Margaret Connellan Stadium has been excluded from calculations (but noted for reference), as duration of use is not recorded and courts may be used by multiple users concurrently. Annual capacity thresholds (100% utilisation) were based on the number of bookable hours per court, accounting for any closure periods. This was **4,527 hours per court** for MCS (which is open between 13 hours and 14.5 hours per day), and **399 hours per court for ORRC** (which is open between 13 hours and 15.5 hours per day). **Limitations:** Does not show peak or off-peak times, and does not account for the number of individual players or the type of use per court. Includes court use for netball/basketball and other sports. **Results scale:** Utilisation per court as a percentage of the capacity threshold. Low (<40%), Moderate (40-59.99%) High (60-79.99%), Very high (≥80%)

Metric	Detail
Outdoor court condition	**Source:** Open space condition audits (2025). **Methodology:** Individual assets were rated on a **1-5 scale** (whole numbers). For this summary report, assets are grouped into three categories: » **Surfaces** (courts) » **Sports lighting** (poles, towers) » **Supporting infrastructure** (nets, goal posts if present, etc.) Where assets within a category had different scores, an **average condition score** was calculated. **Limitations:** Grouped/average scoring can obscure variation, particular for groups with many different assets, and creates a risk of outlier scores skewing averages. This detail is retained in the original source dataset. **Results scale:** Score between 1-5 (including decimals). Very good (<2), Good (2-2.99), Fair (3-3.99), Poor (4-4.99), Very poor (5)
Sports lighting functionality	**Source:** Sports lighting audit (2024). **Methodology:** Sports lighting was assessed to determine whether LUX and uniformity levels met Australian Standards for sports lighting for training and/or competition (AS2560.2.3). **Limitations:** Does not reflect the condition of structures, lighting types (LED/non-LED), or remote management enablement. **Results scale:** Classification by level of compliance. New (Installed since audit), Fit for purpose (meets training and competition standards), Requires attention (meets training but not competition standards), Unfit for purpose (not meeting training or competition standards)
Clubhouse disability access compliance	**Source:** Council audits (2024). **Methodology:** Site assessments considered whether pavilions met prescribed standards for physical access, including ramps, entrances, amenities and circulation space. **Limitations:** Yes/no results scale does not indicate the degree of compliance or practical impact. **Results scale:** Yes / no. Yes, No
Clubhouse functionality	**Source:** Pavilion audits (2022). **Methodology:** Clubhouses were assessed to determine how well they support contemporary use requirements, including factors like gender-equitable changerooms, umpire amenities, storage, social space, and overall layout. Up to 29 indicators (depending on facility type) were scored across three themes: » **Accessibility** – location and transport access » **Safety and ease of use** – safety, multipurpose features, and general usability » **Quality building features** – design, layout, and performance, including outdoor spaces All indicators and themes were scored evenly (i.e. no weighting applied) and averaged to produce a summary score for each pavilion. **Results scale:** Score between 1-5 (including decimals). Fit for purpose (<2.5), Requires attention (2.5-3.49), Unfit for purpose (≥3.50)

Table 2. Courts and clubhouses – Summary of performance

Courts	Overview			Use type	Utilisation (%)	Condition				Functionality		Disability access compliance (Yes/No)	Notes
	Location	Hierarchy level	Sports played			Surface	Building	Sports lighting	Supporting infra.	Building	Sports lighting		
Western planning area													
Orrong Romanis Recreation Centre	Orrong Romanis Reserve, Prahran	Local	Netball Basketball Volleyball Futsal	Seasonal allocation	High (68)	Good (2.73)			Fit for purpose (2.26)	Not assessed	Yes	Not assessed	Indoor courts are not regulation size for basketball/netball
Orrong Park Tennis Centre		Local	Tennis Netball Pickleball	Lease	High (74)	Good (2)	Fair (3.03)	Good (2)	Good (2.71)	Unfit for purpose* (3.62)	Fit for purpose	No	
Princes Gardens	Princes Gardens, Prahran	Local	Tennis Netball Futsal	Managed in-house	Moderate (58)	Good (2)	Not present	Good (2)	Good (2.4)	Not present	Fit for purpose	Not applicable	
Central planning area													
Malvern Tennis Centre	Union Street Gardens, Armadale	Local	Tennis	Lease	High (65)	Good (2)	Fair (3.04)	Good (2)	Good (2.3)	Not assessed	Fit for purpose	No	Limited physical access to clubhouse
Glendearg All Saints Malvern Tennis Centre	Malvern	Local	Tennis	Lease	Moderate (51)	Good (2)	Good (2.99)	Good (2)	Good (2)	Not assessed	Fit for purpose	No	Limited physical access to clubhouse
Eastern planning area													
Margaret Connellan Stadium	Percy Treyvaud Memorial Park,	Regional	Netball Basketball Badminton Pickleball	Seasonal allocation	High (70)**	Very good (1.39)			New since audit 2023	New since audit 2023	Fit for purpose	Yes	

Courts	Overview			Use type	Utilisation (%)	Condition				Functionality		Disability access compliance (Yes/No)	Notes
	Location	Hierarchy level	Sports played			Surface	Building	Sports lighting	Supporting infra.	Building	Sports lighting		
	Malvern East		Volleyball										
Chadstone Tennis Club		District	Tennis	Lease	Moderate (49)	Very good (1.5)	Very good (1.39)	Very good (2)	Very good (2)	New since audit 2023	Fit for purpose	Yes	
Ardrie Park Tennis Club	Ardrie Park, Malvern East	Local	Tennis	Lease	Low (18)	Good (2)	Fair (3.24)	Good (2)	New (2.25)	Not assessed	Attention required	No	Accessibility works planned for FY27
East Malvern Tennis Centre	Malvern East	District	Tennis	Lease	Low (26)	Good (2)	Fair (3.26)	Good (2.36)	Fair (3.1)	Not assessed	Unfit for purpose	No	Delivery of accessibility works indicated in FY27
Gardiner Tennis Club	Glen Iris	Local	Tennis	Lease	Low (10)	Good (2)	Good (2.29)	Good (2)	Good (2)	Not assessed	New since audit (2025)	No	Physical access limitation to clubhouse
Phoenix Park Indoor Basketball Court	Phoenix Park, Malvern East	Local	Netball Basketball	Licence	Not reported ^	Captured in building score	Good (2.43)	Not assessed	Not assessed	Fair (2.54)	Not assessed	Not assessed	Indoor court does not meet standards for basketball/netball

*Building associated with Orrong Park Tennis Centre is Hickey Pavilion, there is not a separate tennis clubhouse.

**MCS also had 6,695 casual walk-ins over the 12-month period which are not captured in this utilisation score.

^Phoenix Park indoor basketball court is booked for a variety of uses, predominantly non-sport uses.

Note: Table does not include Penpraze Park given it is not owned by Council.

Other sports (specialist facilities)

Methodology

Metric	Detail
Utilisation	**Source:** Council data (2024 and 2025). **Methodology:** Total number of visits over one year period. » **Leisure centres:** Total visits counted at the entry throughout 2025. Includes all entries including casual, member and learn-to-swim. » **Bowls club:** Total number of bookings throughout 2025, noting each booking would be for multiple people. » **Skate parks:** Total visits counted through people counter data throughout 2024. » **Golf course:** Total number of entries throughout 2024. Includes casual and season pass holders' entry. **Limitations:** Does not show peak and off-peak times or breakdown of use type. Leisure centre entries include spectator or caregiver entry. **Results scale:** Not shown as facilities are not comparable.
Building condition	**Source:** Building condition audits (2024). **Methodology:** Facilities were assessed across up to 11 building components (e.g. roof, walls, fixtures, etc.), resulting in a combined weighted score on a 1-10 scale (1 = best, 10 = worst). These were converted to Council's standard 1-5 condition scale for consistency with the Asset Plan. Decimals were calculated to show where a score sits within each band (e.g. 2.1 = Good, close to Very good, while 2.9 = Good, approaching Fair). **Limitations:** Reflects the structural integrity of assets and looks for visible defects, not presentation. A structurally sound pavilion may still look dated and impact user experience. **Results scale:** Score between 1-5 (including decimals). Very good (>2), Good (2-2.99), Fair (3-3.99), Poor (4-4.99), Very poor (5)
Other condition	**Source:** Open space condition audits (2025); Condition audits (2025) for leisure centre supporting infrastructure only. **Methodology: Open space condition audits (2025) –** Individual assets were rated on a **1-5 scale** (whole numbers). For this summary report, assets are grouped into three categories: » **Surfaces** (bowls green, skate ramp, track) Note audit excluded golf fairways, greens and bunkers). » **Sports lighting** (poles, towers) » **Supporting infrastructure** (ball catch netting, golf sand box etc.) Where assets within a category had different scores, an **average condition score** was calculated. **Condition audits (2025) –** Pool plant equipment was assessed across various components (e.g. circulation pumps, heat pumps, filters, ultraviolet systems, etc.), resulting in a condition rating score for each component between 1 (very good) to 5 (very poor). Scores were combined and averaged across components to give a supporting infrastructure score. **Limitations:** Grouped/average scoring can obscure variation, particular for groups with many different assets, and creates a risk of outlier scores skewing averages. This detail is retained in the original source dataset. **Results scale:** Score between 1-5. Very good (>2), Good (2-2.99), Fair (3-3.99), Poor (4-4.99), Very poor (5)

Metric	Detail
Sports lighting functionality	**Source:** Sports lighting audits completed as part of upgrade works (2023-24). **Methodology:** Sports lighting was assessed to determine whether LUX and uniformity levels met Australian Standards for sports lighting for training and/or competition (AS2560.2.3). **Limitations:** Does not reflect the condition of structures, lighting types (LED/non-LED), or remote management enablement. **Results scale:** Classification by level of compliance. New (Installed since audit), Fit for purpose (meets training and competition standards), Requires attention (meets training but not competition standards), Unfit for purpose (does not meet training or competition standards)
Facility disability access compliance	**Source:** Council audits (2024) **Methodology:** Site assessments considered whether buildings met prescribed standards for physical access, including ramps, entrances, amenities and circulation space. **Limitations:** Yes/no results scale does not indicate the degree of compliance or practical impact. **Results scale:** Yes / no. Yes, No

Table 3. Other sports – Summary of performance

Facility	Overview			Use type	Utilisation	Condition				Functionality	Disability access compliance (Yes/No)
	Location	Hierarchy level	Sports played			Building	Surface	Sports lighting	Supporting infra.	Sports lighting	
Western planning area											
Wesley College Boathouse	Como Park North, South Yarra	Local	Rowing	Lease	Not assessed	Good (2.69)	Not applicable	Not present			Not assessed
Powerhouse Boathouse		Local	Rowing	Lease	Not assessed	Fair (3.10)	Not applicable	Not present			No
Prahran Aquatics Centre	Princes Gardens, Prahran	District	Swimming	Managed in-house	104,502 visits	Good (2.57)	Not assessed	Not present	Good (2.46)	Not present	Upgraded since audit (2024)
Prahran Skate Park		Local	Skate	Managed in-house	114,296 visits	Not present	New since audit (2024)				Yes
Windsor Siding Pump Track	Windsor Siding, Windsor	Local	Skate/BMX	Managed in-house	Not assessed	Not present	Very good (1)	Not present			
Central planning area											
None present											
Eastern planning area											
Phoenix Park Skate Park	Phoenix Park, Malvern East	Local	Skate	Managed in-house	Not assessed	Not applicable	Very good (1)	Not present	Not present	Not present	Not applicable
Harold Holt Swim Centre	Malvern East	District	Swimming	Managed in-house	433,024 visits	Good (2.66)	Not assessed	Not present	Good (2.54)	Not present	Yes
Chadstone Bowls Club	Percy Treyvaud Memorial Park, Malvern East	Regional	Bowls	Lease	Not assessed	Very good (1.39)	Very good (1)	Very good (1)	Very good (1)	Fit for purpose	Yes
Malvern Valley Golf Course	Malvern	Regional	Golf	Lease	68,256 visits	Fair (3.35)	Not assessed	Not present	Good (2.76)	Not present	Not assessed