



Gladstone City Council



Open Space and Recreation Plan

June 2006





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1. Executive Summary

Gladstone has not completed a Recreation Plan since 1994. One of the significant challenges for Gladstone City will be to accommodate an extra 17,000 people in the next 20 years. The rate of growth, whilst manageable, will require careful planning to ensure that the quality of life the City is striving to achieve and maintain, is realised.

Gladstone is a modern industrial city with a young population. This particular mix of demographics and work environment has a strong influence on the way that sport and recreation is undertaken.

Shift-work is prevalent in Gladstone and with its variable and changing hours, it is hard for people to participate in formal sport, recreation or fitness programs that tend to have traditional and inflexible requirements. This issue, coupled with a trend to greater participation in lifestyle and individual activity pursuits, will result in people looking for opportunities where they can participate alone or in small informal groups. Access to a range of open space and walk-cycle networks is then critically important as an avenue for these types of activities and to meet the needs of an ageing population.


As you will see, the recommendations in this Open Space and Recreation Plan relate more to “quality” than “quantity”. Generally, Gladstone City has enough facilities. The need is to improve the low standard and condition of many of these. In most cases these are the Council owned or managed facilities. Privately owned facilities are generally of a higher standard than the publicly held facilities.

Gladstone enjoys a substantial quantity of open space, especially open space with utility, corridor and environmental values. The level of sport and recreation open space is 127.5 hectares but it is supplemented by a high level of privately owned land offering various sport and recreation activities and facilities. The expected population growth will require more active open space close to where they live. It is estimated that 54 hectares of sport and recreation open space will need to be acquired or developed to service this growth in the next 20 years. It is possible that much of the recreation land required (33 hectares) could be gained by embellishing existing open space. The protection and enhancement of existing sport and recreation open space is also critically important, particularly ensuring that existing private land used for this purpose is not lost to other activities (e.g. converted to housing).

There is a need to improve the presentation of key entry and signature destinations such as Memorial and Rigby Parks and the foreshore and harbour parks. These are key assets that can engender community pride, tourism and provide venues for local recreation and physical activities. These areas define a city in the eyes of locals and visitors alike. Council needs to consider preparing master plans for these key sites and incrementally improving them over time.

Redeveloping the Gladstone Aquatic Centre as a family friendly venue with contemporary water play features will, like the park improvements outlined above, be another project that will significantly improve the lifestyle of residents and engender further community pride.

The development of Ash Pond 7 as a major sport and recreation area will be an expensive undertaking. Even though it is large area, it will not be able to meet the needs of all groups that are currently expressing an interest in the site. A feasibility study will assist Council in making the best decision for its long term use. Sound planning and partnerships will be required to ensure that this important open space realises its full potential.



Gladstone has a youthful population compared to Queensland. Meeting the needs of children, youth and young adults is critical in encouraging and supporting a balanced lifestyle of work and family. Facility needs for youth and children are not well met, with the current provision poorly distributed, lacking diversity and of a low quality. A detailed assessment of Gladstone's playgrounds is provided in the separate Play Opportunity Assessment report which provides an overview of the state of play experiences in Gladstone and recommends a range of improvements.

Gladstone is fortunate to have many kilometres of pathways as well as the Round Gladstone Trail. There is a desire by the community to improve and expand the walk-cycle network, as well as being more actively involved in its planning and promotion. Detailed recommendations on improvements to the network, for a range of user types, can be found in the separate Walk-Cycle Improvement Plan.

Hard-to-locate activities such as motor sports, four-wheel driving, trail biking and mountain biking are legitimate sport and recreation activities and should be planned and developed regionally (e.g. with Calliope Shire Council).

Council needs to invest in its sport and recreation clubs. Currently sport is struggling with low quality facilities and a high degree of competition for revenue and resources. To maintain their viability community-based sport and recreation groups will need to address fundamental issues such as shared use, cooperative planning, management and facility upgrades. Support and assistance from Council should focus on the provision of financial assistance with performance based outcomes, facilitating club development, education and training, and improving facility planning and management.

Apart from the physical improvements proposed in this Plan Council has an important role in communicating, promoting and raising the level of awareness of the amount of parks, sport and recreation facilities, and attractions that Gladstone has to offer.

Council and the Gladstone community are fortunate to have the open space and sport and recreation facilities they do. The task now is to transform these often mediocre facilities or spaces to ones that display innovation and excellence – similar to the transformation that is now taking place in the central business district.

While the task will involve numerous sections of Council, the Sport and Recreation Officer could contribute more effectively to these quality driven outcomes through greater involvement in planning and management processes such as community facility leasing, open space planning and implementation of the Walk-Cycle Network Improvement Plan.

This Open Space and Recreation Plan will be an important resource for Council in meeting the challenge of its vision for Gladstone as the *"City of Choice for Lifestyle and Opportunity"*.



2. Recommendations

Council has progressively implemented to varying degrees the recommendations from the 1994 Gladstone Recreation Plan.

This updated 5 – 10 year plan is an opportunity for Council to improve upon the diversity and quality of facilities; provide attractive parks for locals and visitors, play spaces for children and young people, recreational cycling and walking paths and sporting facilities. Recommendation for play experiences and the walk–cycle network improvements are contained in separate reports.

Many of the following recommendations seek to improve on the work that Council has already commenced and undertaken, but will require resources and a commitment to the following:

- leadership from Council
- striving to achieve an excellence in the quality of facilities and service provision
- making difficult decisions and proactive planning.

The recommendations of this study are summarised below, and are grouped into six strategic areas. These are:

1. maintenance and improvement of existing facilities and programs
2. new facilities and programs
3. open space, recreation and sports park planning
4. viability of sport and recreation groups
5. management arrangements and policies
6. information and awareness.

Priorities are assigned for each action. The priorities are:

- Short = commenced and substantially implemented in Year 1 – 2
- Medium = commenced and substantially implemented in Year 3 – 5
- Long = commenced and substantially implemented in Year 6 and beyond
- Ongoing = continually maintained for an extended period once introduced.

2.1 Maintenance and Improvement of Existing Facilities and Programs

STRATEGY / ISSUE	ACTIONS	PRIORITY
Maintain a high standard of community facilities and services and improve these to cater for the broad needs of residents and visitors	<p>Encourage and support the Gladstone Show Society to work jointly with Council and the State to undertake a study that reviews the long term future of the Showground at its current location. Elements that need to be considered include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • investigate the possibility of relocating the premises to the Racecourse, Ash Pond 7 or other sites • identify an appropriate site and facilitate the relocation of the Speedway within this decision. (This should incorporate a regional approach to planning for such hard-to-locate activities) • identify funding mechanisms to support this relocation and the viability of the Show Society, delivery of the Show and sustained appeal of associated community events • ensuring that land tenure arrangement allow for optimal redevelopment of the site. • development of a structure and master plan for the land, taking into account the proximity of neighbouring parks and sports needs and the broader community needs for suitable housing options (esp. for an ageing population). 	Short (planning) and Medium (implement)
	<p>Develop and implement asset management plans for the following sport and recreation facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sporting Parks (esp. Palm Drive) • Skate and youth related facilities • Playground and recreation parks • Round Gladstone Trail • Walk – cycle network. 	Short and ongoing
Increase the function and presentation of major community sport and recreation parks and facilities	<p>Undertake precinct master plans for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barney Point, Friend and Prince Regent Park foreshore precinct • James Cook and Matthew Flinders Parks, and Auckland Lookout Harbour precinct • Memorial Park • Rigby Park. <p>(Memorial and Rigby Park precinct master plans should be cognisant of developments with the relocation of the Showground).</p> <p>Develop the parks in accordance with the master plan over time.</p>	Short/ Long
	<p>Undertake a feasibility study, master plan and business plan to progress a new vision and direction for the Gladstone Aquatic Centre. Develop and implement a staged re-development and upgrade plan for the Centre.</p>	Medium/ Long

STRATEGY / ISSUE	ACTIONS	PRIORITY
	Implement the recommendations identified in the Play Opportunity Assessment Report including the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • master planning • concept planning • development of a minor park improvement program. 	As proposed
	Work with the key stakeholders of the Racecourse to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increase the use of the site (particularly the inner track area) in the short term (e.g. for cricket) • improve the presentation of the site in the short term • undertake a feasibility study, management and development plan for the Racecourse to guide its future position and development. This would include investigating the possibility of relocating the premises to the Ash Pond 7 or other sites or consolidating compatible uses on the site (e.g. Showground and other animal related activities) • ensure that tenure and development options maximise the eligibility and access to grants/ subsidies. 	Short (planning) and Long (implement)
Encourage and support sport and recreation organisations in applying for grants from external sources to develop and improve facilities and increase shared use opportunities	Prioritise assistance to those organisations who have identified their needs in either this Plan or through other development plans lodged with Council or Sport and Recreation Queensland, in particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central Coast Car Club – identify and develop alternate facility to shopping centre car parks • Clinton Park (football, cricket and Australian rules) – lighting improvements • Curtis & District Trail Riding Club Inc – Gladstone Round Trail – development of safe and improved entry points and trail maintenance. Investigate and identify low cost agistment site for travellers and residents including management options • Gladstone Basketball – complete indoor court development • Gladstone Tennis complex – consolidate courts to fewer of higher quality (upgrade courts and lighting) • Hockey – lighting upgrades and clubhouse improvements • Karting club – track extension and upgrade and support facility improvements • Meteors Sportsground (rugby union) – lighting and amenities • Palm Drive (football, cricket) – continual upgrade and maintenance of fields and increased shade. By increasing the utility of key sporting parks through upgrade and infrastructure improvements shared use will become more viable and attractive.	Ongoing

STRATEGY / ISSUE	ACTIONS	PRIORITY
Continue the implementation of a well designed and connected pedestrian and cycle network for residents and visitors	Implement the recommendations identified in the Walk–Cycle Network Improvement Plan with priorities focusing on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • missing links • improvements to the existing network • expansion of network to meet various user needs • strategic alliances and promotion/ program development. 	As proposed
Improve parks, sporting and recreation facilities to meet a diverse range of user group needs and have safe and quality embellishments	Develop a schedule of capital and maintenance upgrades and include the following improvements to Council's sports and recreation parks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in conjunction with lessees and users a presentation improvement program for sports parks fronting major roads (e.g. Clinton Park, Memorial Park, Rigby Park) • develop a broad of mix infrastructure in signature/ district level parks catering for family orientated events and activities • strategic lighting of signature parks and pathways (e.g. Lions Park, harbour, foreshore and green belt parks) • encourage the provision of family/ group shelters (e.g. Marina, Spinnaker Park, foreshore parks) • improve the level of shade to sports grounds and visitor rest areas • ensure shade is provided for the new ramp (skate) park and visitor areas • provide water bubblers at high use areas and at active nodes along major paths (e.g. skate facility, Callemondah Lake/ Sun Valley bikeways) • designate dog off–leash areas enhanced with agility equipment closer to residential areas of the City (e.g. Clinton, New Auckland, Glen Eden) • enhance signature parks/ scenic lookout facilities and infrastructure for “grey nomads” and other visitors (e.g. signage, caravan parking) • expand the range of informal infrastructure for young people (e.g. half courts, dirt jumps) across the City. 	Medium and Ongoing



STRATEGY / ISSUE	ACTIONS	PRIORITY
	<p>Retain Clinton skate facility and undertake specific safety and minor upgrades including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spectator / parent seating • repainting of the half pipe • extend the bottom of the wedge bank and install a handrail • develop an informal dirt jump area • install rubbish bins and water bubbler nearer to the facility • increase maintenance of the facility. <p>The retention and improvements to this facility are very important in providing young people with a range of opportunities in proximity to where they live and play.</p>	Short and Ongoing
	<p>Commit to increasing, through a range of partnerships (e.g. with PCYC, community clubs), the development of a greater range of youth activities including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • expansion of the SunFest/ Inclusive Games activity program concepts for children and older youth and young adults with a disability • regular youth events and activity programs using local facilities and service providers (e.g. BMX/ skate skills development; youth adventure camps/ come and try programs). 	Medium
<p>Maximise benefits of investments in sport and recreation infrastructure by supporting and encouraging shared use and effective upgrades and maintenance</p>	<p>Develop a capital and major maintenance program for Council's sporting fields and facilities (e.g. Memorial Park, Meteors Sportsground and Palm Drive Sports ground). This program should include improvements to ground conditions, amenities, lighting and access to non-potable water (e.g. Callemondah Lake).</p> <p>The program should seek to increase shared use of fields and facilities.</p>	Short/ Medium

2.2 New Facilities and Programs

STRATEGY / ISSUE	ACTIONS	PRIORITY
Ensure that community, sport and recreation facilities are available to meet youth needs	Construct a new ramp (skate) facility at Memorial Park.	Short
	Develop and improve access to recreation facilities for young people on the southern side of the City. Include young people's needs in the development of new parks and major upgrades to parks such as Pluto Play Park and sporting parks such as Sun Valley and Harvey Road touch fields. Provide a range of informal recreation facilities and play settings within local parks. This will be most critical for new urban areas such as New Auckland, Glen Eden and Kirkwood South.	Medium
	Investigate the construction of youth orientated facilities such as challenge play, bike dirt jumps, half courts, facilities in the following areas (locations are only suggestions): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinton – potentially near the existing skate facility • Telina – Pluto Play Park • New Auckland – Sandpiper park • Gladstone – Carramar Park • Emerging urban development areas of New Auckland, Glen Eden and Kirkwood South. 	Medium
Ensure that sport and recreation activity programs are available to meet community demand and population changes	Facilitate partnerships to develop a range of physical activity program that are family friendly orientated and specific to target groups (e.g. shift workers; men's health program; active seniors walking, pram stroller's / young mum's program).	Medium
Develop a high standard of indoor facilities	Investigate the expansion of the PCYC or the expansion of the Basketball Stadium to accommodate future indoor activities or appropriately designed spaces to meet the specific needs of indoor and specialised sports (e.g. gymnastics).	Medium/ Long
Increase the outcomes and value of obtaining external funding by Council and the community	Consider employment of a shared grants officer with Calliope Shire Council. This position would seek external grant funding for initiatives in this plan and others and could assist the community to access grants by supplying information, training in grant writing and (time allowing) helping with key grant applications.	Medium



STRATEGY / ISSUE	ACTIONS	PRIORITY
Maximise the sport and recreation outcomes of Ash Pond 7 for the benefit of the region and Gladstone community	Thoroughly gain an understanding of the end product, cost of development and limitations to Ash Pond 7 development, particularly in terms of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • legislative requirements, • compositions and compaction of layers • limited vegetation coverage and cost of / and access to materials to improve the condition of the surface and growing medium • non-existent and limited infrastructure and services • topography and natural elements. 	Short
	Develop a hand-over program including a monitoring and management program.	Short
	Undertake a feasibility study to determine the optimal development mix for this site. This should include investigating the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • relocation of the Racecourse/ Showground or other key facilities • suitability to incorporate hard-to-locate activities (e.g. motor sports and club needs) • suitability to collocate a multi-sports field complex (e.g. meeting increasing demands and/ or relocation options) • consider suitable partnership arrangements. Once the feasibility study is complete undertake a master plan and develop associated management and business plans, if applicable.	Short (planning) and Long (implement)



STRATEGY / ISSUE	ACTIONS	PRIORITY
<p>Improve the management and facility outcomes for hard-to-locate sports</p>	<p>In conjunction with Calliope Shire Council develop a regional response to the identification, development and management of appropriate facilities for hard-to-locate activities.</p> <p>This could include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • negotiating access and development of the existing drag strip at Benaraby or an alternate site for the Central Coast Car Club's events and education/ driver training programs (e.g. for car club members, young people and emergency services) • identifying appropriate trail bike riding opportunities and providing club development support • piloting a development and management agreement with the 4WD club to facilitate their activities and education/ training programs on land identified as appropriate. A short term lease (minimum 2 years) should include performance criteria and review clauses • establishing a forum for mountain bikers using the Round Gladstone Trail and other trails to improve management and facility development opportunities. 	<p>Medium</p>

2.3 Open Space, Recreation and Sports Park Planning

STRATEGY / ISSUE	ACTIONS	PRIORITY
Ensure appropriate levels of sports and recreation park provision and embellishment	Review ROSS Planning's classification of open space for accuracy.	Short
	Develop a park infrastructure asset register and parkland service performance criteria to ensure appropriate and cost effective management and servicing.	Short/ Medium
	Review the internal structures and processes within Council to facilitate the increased involvement of key officers (e.g. Parks Coordinator and Sport and Recreation Officer) in open space planning and the development of park embellishment requirements and service levels.	Short
	Review the current open space provision levels and plan for future acquisition to meet the deficiencies of: 1. district active recreation. Such land should meet the standard requirements for district active recreation (e.g. 10 hectares min.) 2. active neighbourhood parks in emerging and urban development areas that are currently not well serviced (e.g. Glen Eden/ New Auckland). Such land should meet the standard requirements for active neighbourhood parks. Land for district active recreation may be found by adding to existing areas.	Short/ Medium
	Determine whether Palm Drive sporting fields should be retained for long term sporting purposes. Develop a feasibility study which should include an assessment of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • current and future provision needs for active recreation parks • re-use options for Palm Drive sports fields and building • remediation and maintenance whole-of-life costs (if it is kept for active recreation) • current and potential user groups and their needs. 	Medium
	If the Palm Drive sports fields are to be retained: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop an asset management plan that will determine on-going maintenance requirements • develop a cooperative implementation program with the management committee. 	Medium
	Commence a rolling improvement program to upgrade existing open space and parks to increase recreation values and functioning.	Medium

STRATEGY / ISSUE	ACTIONS	PRIORITY
Ensure the open space network meets the needs of the current and future population and provide clear forward direction for parkland provision	Establish and amend the draft Gladstone Plan to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> incorporate standards of provision for sports and recreation parks (e.g. recreation = 2ha/1,000 and sport = 2ha/1,000) include a set of standard design and development criteria for different open space/ park types and hierarchies to ensure adequate provision of open space and appropriate park embellishments, particularly for emerging residential areas around south Gladstone. 	Short
	Review the long term use of underutilised pocket parks and utility parks with the view to potential rationalisation or where retained, developing appropriate levels of servicing. Consider options for the disposal of surplus open space, particularly some of the land classified for corridor, utility and environmental functions.	Medium
	Investigate the long term open space value of the City's refuse facility prior to its closure as this site has the potential to augment particular open space, sport and recreation needs	Long
Ensure that privately owned sporting land contributes to the overall provision of quality sporting	Develop a range of strategies and programs that will monitor, protect and enhance privately owned and managed sporting parks to ensure that appropriate utilisation and development outcomes are achieved.	Short/ Medium
	Closely assess all development applications on open space land that may decrease the functioning of the land for sporting purposes.	As required
	Consider in light of other recommendation, purchase or negotiating long term access to Blain Park to supplement the City's need for active recreation land.	Medium

2.4 Viability of Volunteer Sport and Recreation Groups

STRATEGY / ISSUE	ACTIONS	PRIORITY
Provide support to the volunteer organisation and club sector to ensure the long term viability of sport and recreation provision in Gladstone City	<p>Facilitate a program of education and training for target sport and recreation groups across the City, focusing on identified training needs. Training and club development should initially focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • risk management • club governance and committee management • funding and grant applications • strategic business planning. <p>To improve efficiency Calliope Shire Council should be approached to jointly develop the training program. Work with Sport and Recreation Queensland to facilitate workshops specific to needs.</p>	Short and Ongoing
	<p>Pilot an annual forum for community based sport and recreation organisations. The forums should aim to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • review maintenance (mowing) standards and develop initiatives to increase efficiency • develop strategies to improve management and increase utilisation • promote information and resource sharing • provide networking opportunities • open communication between Council and sport and recreation groups • encourage education and training program coordination within the sport and recreation delivery sector • seek, reward and retain quality leaders and administrators. <p>The forum could be delivered in partnership with Sport and Recreation Queensland and should provide a platform to coordinate the delivery of information for the benefit of both community and Council.</p>	Medium/ Long
	<p>Facilitate regular management and planning forums for Palm Drive Sports Complex, Memorial Park, Meteors Sportsground, Rigby Park and Clinton Park users focusing on improving relationships, sharing of resources and strategic forward planning. Involve user clubs and or the management committees of privately owned sporting facilities.</p>	Medium



STRATEGY / ISSUE	ACTIONS	PRIORITY
	Increase the effectiveness of Palm Drive Sports Complex management committee by initiating a cooperative program of planning and development that includes the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the establishment of feedback mechanisms to Council • improved reporting between the parties in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – expenditure contributions – the establishment of equitable use and cost sharing arrangements – the development of a suitable maintenance program. 	Short and ongoing
	Assist and support key sports to develop and implement facility asset management plans to help guide future decisions. Initially provide support to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gladstone & District Tennis • Gladstone Amateur Basketball • Gladstone Kart Club • Gladstone Touch. 	Short
	Facilitate closer working relationships between the Gladstone 4WD Club and other groups looking for similar opportunities to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop a more thorough proposal to secure access to land suitable to their needs • provide planning support to develop a club and facility development plan • explore all management options. 	Short

2.5 Management Arrangements

STRATEGY / ISSUE	ACTIONS	PRIORITY
Ensure appropriate internal structures and processes are established to optimise the open space, parks, sport and recreation outcomes for Council and the community of Gladstone	<p>Improve the effectiveness and involvement of the Sport and Recreation Officer position by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> aligning the position and role more appropriately/ effectively in Council's structure ensuring consistent and clear communication channels refocusing/ increasing the role's involvement in facility planning and management such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> lease policy review and processes walk-cycle network improvements sports park facility planning and management. 	Short
Ensure Council policies protect and encourage maximum utilisation of assets	<p>Review Council's lease/ use agreement policies with a view to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> developing alternative and more efficient models of management for existing providers improving awareness of policies and procedures clarifying roles and responsibilities including performance measures and development requirements in agreements increasing the involvement of key Council Officers (e.g. Sport and Recreation Officer) in the granting and renewal processes. 	Short
	<p>Consolidate all donations, grants and loan assistance programs into a single financial support package with the view to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> improving awareness ensuring equity and fairness of access ensuring support is based on performance clarifying roles and responsibilities <p>Increase the involvement of key Council Officers (e.g. Sport and Recreation Officer) in the review and policy development process.</p> <p>Performance measures should be developed to ensure that a cost benefit analysis can be undertaken</p>	Short
	<p>Develop a Recreation Activity and Events Policy to guide Council's financial support of recreation activity programs and events. Specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> review Council's contribution to regular activity programs and events (e.g. SunFest, Inclusive Games, ropes course training at Tondoon Botanic Gardens) develop an understanding of Council's and the community's investment and recognise the economic and social benefits of recreation activity events and programs establish performance criteria for ongoing Council support. 	Medium



STRATEGY / ISSUE	ACTIONS	PRIORITY
	Improve planning and communication channels with schools, particularly around improving community use of school facilities and contribution of schools to maintenance and improvement of Council owned and community managed sport and recreation facilities. (e.g. Gladstone State High School – oval upgrade and Toolooa High School – proposed indoor court facility).	Ongoing

2.6 Information and Awareness

STRATEGY / ISSUE	ACTIONS	PRIORITY
Provide information on sporting and recreation opportunities in the City	<p>Develop a promotion and awareness raising campaign that includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the development and implementation of a signage suite across Gladstone (e.g. way finding and advisory signage) for key parks, community facilities, the Round Gladstone Trail and walk-cycle network investigate the adoption of a branding banner for parks, recreation/ physical activity programs in the City (e.g. "Gladstone Grooves") develop a range of regular features and published maps, brochures and communication strategies focusing on promoting Gladstone's lifestyle attributes such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the walk-cycle network Round Gladstone Trail parkland attractions and key activity nodes location of facilities and amenities upcoming events and activity programs. <p>Information should be updated regularly and widely distributed across the City and made available to new residents and at tourist information and visitor accommodation. Existing channels such as rate notices, the Gladstone Focus and regular Mayor columns can be used.</p>	Medium
	<p>Include in the New Residents Kits information on local sporting clubs (and how to join) and expand on the presentation of other sport and recreation opportunities available in the City.</p>	Short
Ensure a strong working relationship across government sectors and between community based organisations	<p>Liaise with Sport and Recreation Queensland to improve the coordination of an annual process for clubs to notify changes to addresses. The addresses should be available to interested parties (i.e. address privacy requirements).</p>	Short
Improve communication channels with Council and awareness by community organisations, especially lessees of their roles and responsibilities	<p>Develop and trial an information and communication strategy that aims to inform community, sport and recreation organisations of key Council contacts, policies and processes. This should relate to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> leasing and facility management and maintenance (e.g. standard roles and responsibilities for lessees where appropriate). feedback and reporting procedures between Council/ community groups to ensure communication is two-way (e.g. mowing and maintenance schedules) 	Short and ongoing



STRATEGY / ISSUE	ACTIONS	PRIORITY
	Information should then be delivered through a range of mediums and forums. Coordinate distribution annually with Sport and Recreation Queensland. This should specifically include available funding programs and helpful funding application hints (e.g. develop a grants application information sheet).	Short
Support promotion of community sport and recreation group activities and events	Provide practical assistance in promoting existing sport and recreation facilities (i.e. public and private), through regular inclusion in Council's promotional and information packages.	Medium
	Expand the web based calendar of community events and festivals with sport and recreation activities/ program information, dates, contacts etc. This should include updating the community services directory and search features for sport, recreation and community groups.	Short



3. Background

3.1 Study Purpose

The purpose of the study was:

“to provide Council with a document that can be used as a planning tool for decision–making in relation to the future acquisition/ retention of open space and the provision of recreation facilities, programs and services.”

The overall goals of the study can be summarised as:

- to develop a strategic framework to guide open space, sport and recreation planning, development, management and administration within Gladstone City
- to review the playground opportunities across the City
- to investigate the future opportunities for Ash Pond 7
- to review the existing bike–way network and develop an improvement plan.

The Open Space and Recreation Plan is the key outcome document with complimentary outcomes being captured in the Play Opportunities Assessment report and Walk–Cycle Improvement Network Plan.

3.2 Study Approach

The study was approached in four stages as per Figure 1.

Following an inception meeting in November 2005, Stages 1 and 2 commenced and were undertaken concurrently. Stage 3 analysed the results of the work to that point and was presented to the Steering Committee. That presentation also included a discussion of likely key recommendations to be made in the Open Space and Recreation Plan.

The research and consultation has been wide reaching and forms the basis for the recommendations made in Section 2.

Figure 1: Methodology





3.3 Review of Reports and Studies

3.3.1 Gladstone City Council – Towards 2010 Draft Corporate Plan 2005–2010¹

The draft corporate plan is a key planning document for Council guiding and directing it over a 5 year period. It captures a vision for the City *“Gladstone will be the City of Choice for Lifestyle and Opportunity”* as well as the mission statement for Council.

Open space, sport and recreation facilities and programs are significant to achieving the environment and lifestyle sought by the vision. Parks, playgrounds and public amenities, and sporting and recreation facilities scored above 78% in the community satisfaction survey¹.

Sport and recreation and open space outcomes are embedded in several of the key economic, environmental, and in particular, with the social/ community strategies including:

3.1 (b) Through interdepartmental collaboration provide “people” places, spaces, facilities and events that bring the community together creating a unique lifestyle for people of all ages and backgrounds.

3.1 (d) Develop a centralised Community Group Assistance and Funding Program.

3.2 (a) Advocate for the strengthening of social infrastructure to be considered as part of further industrial development of the City.

3.3 (b) Maintain service levels in equilibrium with community satisfaction for core educational, recreational, cultural and support services (e.g. Library, Art Gallery/ Museum, Aquatic Centre, Community Advisory Service, Entertainment Centre).

3.3.2 Gladstone Recreation Plan² 1994

This 1994 document was the last recreation plan completed for Gladstone. A summary of the main findings were captured within the following recommendations:

- ensure effective planning, administration and coordination through appropriate mechanisms including professional advice and the employment of appropriately qualified sport and recreation officer
- establish minimum guidelines for a system of recreation opportunities, standards of provision and maintenance and align budget to carry out reasonable repair and maintenance
- develop definitions and systems for the provision of basic recreation opportunities including developer contributions
- ensure facility compliance with accessibility codes and legislation
- develop procedures and mechanism for the community to become more involved in planning, management and maintenance of facilities
- develop funding programs, prioritisation mechanisms and support criteria
- prioritise provision of indoor sport and recreation facilities including joint development arrangements with Education Queensland
- develop appropriate conditions for use of Council facilities

¹ Gladstone City Council, Towards 2010- Corporate Plan 2005-2010 (Draft), 2005 (www.gladstone.qld.gov.au)

² Gladstone City Council, Gladstone Recreation Plan, prepared by Loder & Bayly Consulting group for Gladstone City Council and Department of Tourism, Sport and Racing, 1994

- develop opportunities for inclusion of people with a disability.

Many of the actions have been implemented fully, partially or negated through other developments and planning processes. For example Gladstone City Council employs a sport and recreation officer and within the last three years a multi-use indoor centre (PCYC) has been built housing a number of activities. Accolades have been noted for the Inclusive Games coordinated by Council. Less has been achieved in relation to joint facility development with schools and community involvement in facility planning and management.

Specific priorities for funding existing and proposed recreation facilities were also listed, covering issues such as access, funding accountability, risk management, information, open space and outdoor sport and recreation provision and management.

3.3.3 The Gladstone Plan 2005 – Shaping the Future (Draft)³

This draft document will be Council's Planning Scheme and as such is the primary document guiding future growth and development. The major components include:

- Introduction
- Interpretation
- Desired Environmental Outcomes
- Locality Codes
- Overlay Codes
- Assessment Criteria for Development of a Stated Purpose or Stated Type
- Infrastructure
- Performance Indicators
- Schedules
- Planning Policies
- Plans.

Open space, sport and recreation is captured within many of these chapters and outcomes. The Open Space Planning Policy provides guidance to the future planning, development and management of the open space system of the City. The City's open space system is intended to meet the following needs:

- a role in the image of the City which counterbalances its industrial setting
- a means by which to preserve environmental values and functions of specific landforms and waterforms
- a basis on which to meet the recreational needs of the community.

Key features of this planning policy include:

- conserving landscape character and environmental functions whilst providing a balanced range of recreation and other uses
- defining and differentiating living areas, whilst promoting a high degree of accessibility to open space opportunities
- providing green connections to activity nodes, including a comprehensive system of walking tracks, cycle ways and bridle paths
- retention of bushland qualities in southern portions and integrate into new urban development

³ Gladstone City Council, The Gladstone Plan 2005: Shaping the Future (Draft) (www.gladstone.qld.gov.au)

- integration within the open space system a range of active and passive recreation opportunities to meet community needs. Active pursuits will be located on less undulating land and where vegetation has already been substantially disturbed. Local areas of open space for active use will be also encouraged within new urban areas
- the “Round Gladstone Trail” being incorporated in the open space policy to provide extensive walking opportunities
- a bikeway/ pedestrian spine to link the Harbour to the Botanic Gardens along Auckland Creek.

Codes such as the Open Space and Recreation Code and Reconfiguring a Lot Code also detail specific outcomes, probable and acceptable solutions.

3.3.4 Boyne Island/Tannum Sands Sport and Recreation Facility Needs Study⁴

This report was developed in June 2005 for Calliope Shire Council with the purpose of identifying the need for the development of land, the appropriate facility mix, and any constraints associated with the area.

The issues that were raised for this area that have relevance to the Gladstone Open Space and Recreation Plan include:

- bikeways/ walkways are highly used and are very popular
- the number of field sports do not meet needs
- popularity of waterways and the need for access to them
- popularity of skate parks
- lack of area for trail bikes
- impact of shift-work.

Actions in the Plan that would benefit Gladstone City in working with Calliope Shire include:

- “linking bikeways/ walkways to local parks and sporting facilities
- search for a suitable venue for trail bike riders
- liaise with industries to identify ways to enhance participation for shift workers.”

⁴ Calliope Shire Council, Boyne Island/Tannum Sands Sport and Recreation Facility Needs Study, 2005



4. Planning Context

4.1 Community Profile

Understanding population size, growth and demographic characteristics are fundamental to responding to community needs and provision of open space opportunities, sport and recreation facilities and programs.

4.1.1 Population Growth

The estimated population of Gladstone as at 30 June 2004 was 28,503 people⁵. The population has increased each year at a relatively constant rate from 25,499 in 1993.

The population is expected to continue growing over the next 20 years at an average annual rate of 2.3%. By 2011 the population is projected to reach approximately 31,688 and the estimated population for 2026 is expected to increase to around 45,124⁶.

4.1.2 Demographic Characteristics

This section shows the demographic characteristics of Gladstone's Local Government Area compared to Queensland as a whole.

Data from the 2001 Census indicated that the median age of Gladstone residents was 32 years, which is somewhat less than the median for Queensland as a whole (35 years). However, the median age in Gladstone is projected to increase to 35 by 2026⁶ (versus 42 for Queensland). Gladstone will remain a young city comparatively to the State and other cities despite an ageing of the general population.

Table 1 shows the age breakdown comparisons for Gladstone and Queensland. There are a higher proportion of people between the 0 to 44 years age group, compared to Queensland as a whole. Conversely there is a lower percentage of people aged 45 and over in Gladstone, when compared to Queensland as a whole. The 65 and above age group represent only 7.8% of the Gladstone population compared to the 31.2% of those aged 25 to 44 years.

It is evident that Gladstone is a young city and tends to attract more working age people rather than retirees. This outcome is likely a result of Gladstone being a regional centre with industrially based employment attracting younger workers within certain industry sectors. The slightly higher percentage of population in the 0–14 years and 15–24 years age groups may also be attributed to the life stage of residents (i.e. young couples of child-bearing age).

⁵ Department of Local Government, Planning, Sport and Recreation; Planning Information and Forecasting Unit (PIFU), Population and Housing Fact Sheet, August 2005.

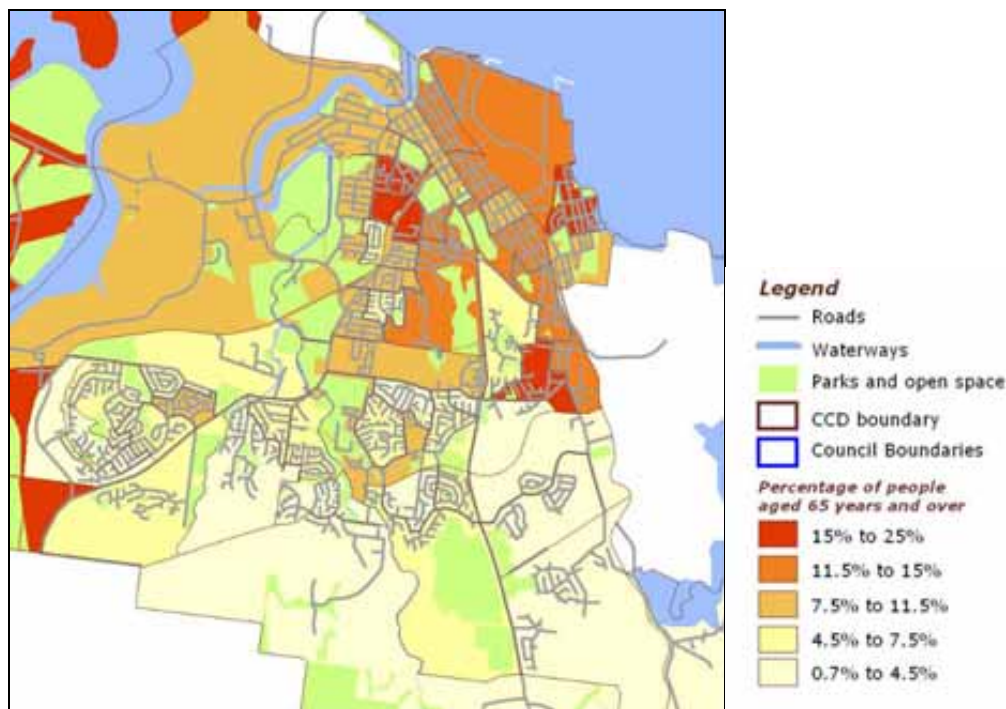
⁶ Department of Local Government, Planning, Sport and Recreation; Planning Information and Forecasting Unit (PIFU), Population and Housing Fact Sheet, August 2005 Medium series projections

Table 1: Age characteristics of Gladstone compared to Queensland

CHARACTERISTIC	GLADSTONE LGA	QUEENSLAND
Aged 0 to 14 years	24.8%	21.3%
Aged 15 to 24 years	14.3%	14.1%
Aged 25 to 44 years	31.2%	29.8%
Aged 45 to 64 years	21.8%	23.2%
Aged 65 and over	7.8%	11.6%
Median age	34	35

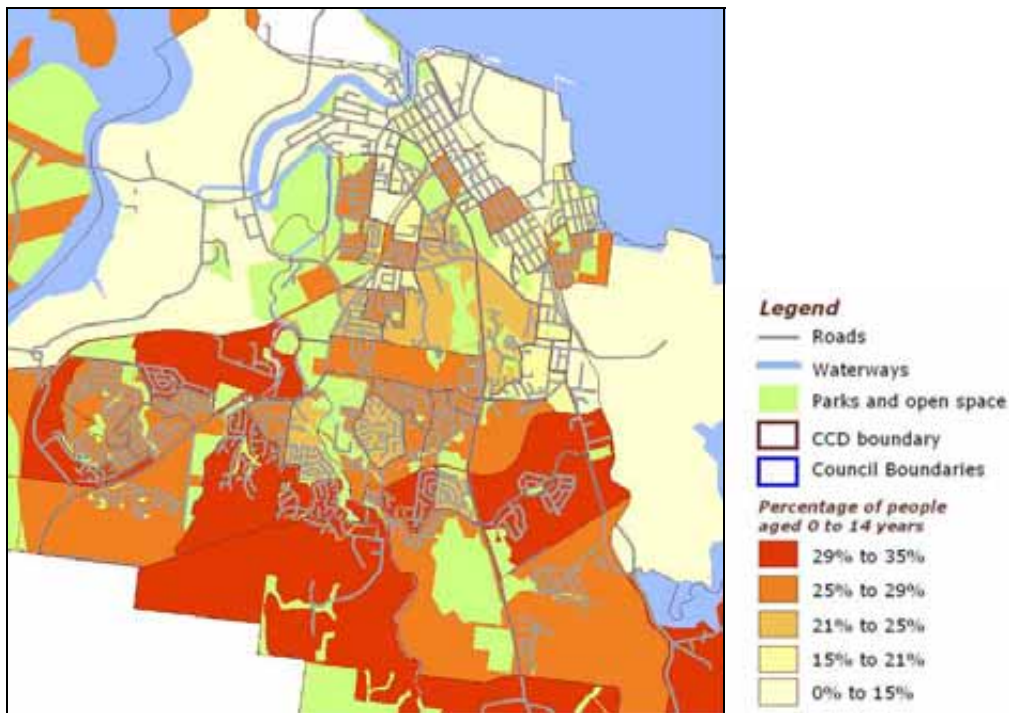
To understand the impacts on spatial provision of opportunities Figure 2 shows areas of higher concentrations of older adults. The higher proportions are located towards the inner city and older suburbs. Over time this pattern is likely to change as older people seek a different housing style or move closer to family or needed services. Some may relocate to areas with more lifestyle opportunities, such as walking paths and senior orientated venues and organisations.

Figure 2: Concentration of people aged 65+ years



Similarly, Figure 3 shows where people aged 0-14 are concentrated. Children rely on being taken to places where they can engage in play or sport. Young people also seek out places that are accessible to their homes for entertainment and recreation. Safe accessible routes, collocation of a range of opportunities and proximity to residential areas are important in providing facilities for young people. For example whilst there is demand for a new ramp (skate) facility at Memorial Park, there is an equivalent need to retain the existing facility (with minor safety improvements) at Clinton close to youth populations. There is also the need to investigate the provision of informal recreation facilities in the southern urban areas of Gladstone, where there are high concentrations of young people.

Figure 3: Concentration of people aged 0–14 years



As with much of Australia, Gladstone will experience an ageing of its population, though off a younger age base. There will be increasing proportions and numbers of persons aged 65 and over. Figure 4 shows the age comparison breakdowns between 2001 and 2026. Proportionally there will be fewer young people in the total population but with population growth actual numbers of young people in 2026 are estimated to be more than current numbers in 2006.

Figure 4: Age breakdown comparison 2001 to 2026

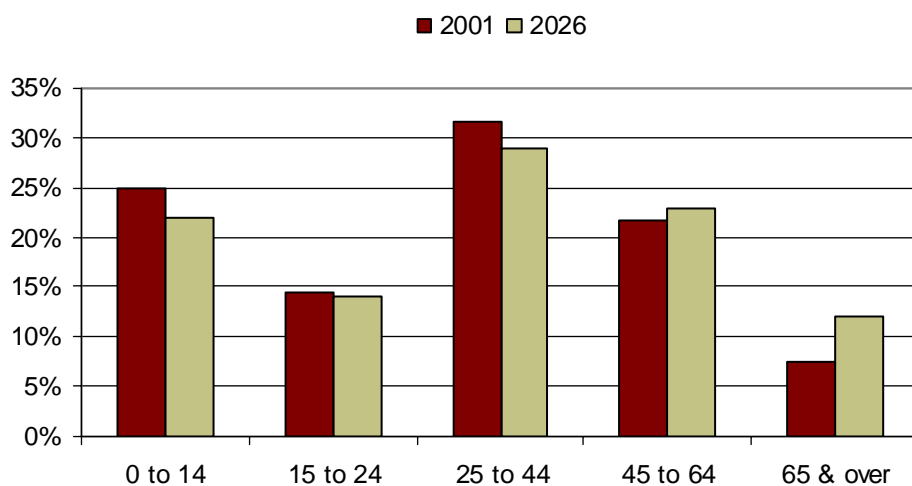


Table 2 provides a summary of demographic characteristics of Gladstone compared to the whole of Queensland.

Gladstone has slightly higher proportions of couples with children to that of Queensland. However, one-parent families and couples without children are slightly lower in Gladstone compared to Queensland as a whole. Gladstone appears to have a higher percentage of family households but a lower percentage for both lone person households and group households compared to Queensland⁷.

There are slightly higher proportions of people identifying as indigenous in Gladstone compared to that of Queensland and significantly lower proportions of people identifying as speaking a language other than English at home.⁷ Gladstone also has a slightly lower proportion of households with an income below \$500 than Queensland, which again may be a result of higher workforce participation and less retirees/pensioners.

Table 2: Demographic Characteristics of Gladstone Compared to Queensland


CHARACTERISTIC	GLADSTONE LGA	QUEENSLAND
Couples with children	48.7%	44.7%
Couples without children	34.4%	37.5%
One parent families	15.5%	16.0%
Family households	75.5%	72.3%
Lone person households	21.2%	23.2%
Group households	3.3%	4.5%
Identifies as indigenous	3.6%	3.1%
Speaks language other than English at home	2.6%	6.9%
Household income under \$500 per week	28.5%	33.7%
Mean Household Size	48.7%	44.7%

4.1.3 Implications for Recreation Planning

Council needs to have in place a range of planning and management tools that will assist in facilitating changes to and flexible use of its open space, sport and recreation facilities and programs to meet changing patterns of settlement, gentrification and demographic characteristics.

A vibrant and young population will continue to be a key feature of Gladstone for at least the next 20 years. The provision and location of family orientated informal recreation opportunities in close proximity to where families and young people live will continue to be important. This need for local recreation parks will continue in line with population growth. Council attention to the needs of children, youth and families should ensure that they have accessible and safe connections to key destinations such as parks and community facilities. This will be most critical for emerging urban areas.

⁷ ABS 2001 Census Data



Also with the encouragement of green modes of transport and an active ageing population the demand for a more extensive and integrated walk–cycle network will also increase.

As the population continues to grow the demand for the traditional sport areas will continue to increase (e.g. soccer and cricket fields, swimming pools and indoor areas). With changing trends in participation the demand may not be as considerable but the provision of functional sporting land for future use, and protection of existing opportunities (e.g. privately provided), will be important. This is discussed in section 6 where supply is assessed.

The retention of bushland, primarily undeveloped open space, is as important for the social well–being of a community as it is to the protection of significant landscapes, flora and fauna. Appropriate access, development and use of such open space to meet increasingly diverse community needs will be critical.

With approximately 28%¹ of people living in rental properties, alternate strategies for communication, promotion and awareness of sport and recreation opportunities for residents and visitors need to be developed (i.e. alternates for those not paying Council rates).

5. Demand Assessment

5.1 Community Engagement

Two sport and recreation forums and two community meetings were held in Gladstone. These forums aimed to provide residents and groups with the opportunity to identify and discuss sport and recreation needs and areas requiring attention or improvement.

A newspaper advertisement, media releases and letters sent directly to approximately 100 sport and recreation groups alerted the community to these forums. Numbers attending were overall extremely disappointing, which may have been due to the timing just prior to Christmas, lack of interest/motivation or that general community recreation needs are relatively satisfied.

Table 3 provides a summary of meeting attendance. Results from the sport and recreation forums and key facility providers are presented in section 5.3 and 5.5 respectively.

Table 3: Meeting Attendance Summary

MEETING DATE	TARGET AUDIENCE	NUMBER ATTENDING
12 December 2005	Community organisations and residents	3
13 December 2005	Community organisations and residents	0
12 December 2005	Sport and Recreation organisations	12
13 December 2005	Sport and Recreation organisations	4

5.1.1 Community Consultation Forums


While the numbers were extremely low, the three people that attended the community forum were generally well connected to their community and passionate about making Gladstone a better place for all, especially for children and adults with a disability. As a result the responses are somewhat directed towards meeting the needs of this cohort.

A summary of key points raised are noted with positive attributes including:

- interpretative signage along Auckland Creek
- vegetation protection
- Green Belt and node enhancement (e.g. fitness trail, Reg Tanna Park and duck ponds)
- walkway around Harbour Festival area and along Marina (acknowledging Port Authority contribution)
- that Council was increasing its level of control over development
- that a play swing accessible to children in a wheelchair had been provided.

Negatives and aspects disliked about sport and recreation in Gladstone included:

- access to the fenced accessible play swing is by key. Though this is held at a nearby fast food outlet difficulties are experienced at times in gaining access
- land clearing in the context of development approvals. This should be more selective and controlled
- heavy use of the pools by squad training and lap swimming, thus creating limited options for public



recreational access. Facilities are good but accessibility is less than adequate

- poorly located and presented skate park at Clinton.

Priority improvements and other constructive comments included:

- increase shade and improve public access to swimming facilities
- increase access to facilities and recreation programs for young adults especially for those with a disability
- install water fountains along pathways and facilities (e.g. sporting parks)
- increase the regularity of the Inclusive Games concept and increase the involvement of Sporting Wheelies
- develop a range of accessible family friendly orientated parks and play spaces, ensuring inclusion of all people (e.g. public bocce courts)
- develop a new skate/ BMX facility in a better location that is of a higher quality and amenity
- increase the accessible play options for children with disabilities
- ensure that all community facilities are accessible
- increase the level of shade around sporting parks
- build on the natural features of Byrellee Park to provide low-key nature based recreation opportunities
- increase promotion and knowledge of accessible facilities and program
- provide specialised change bench for carers of people with a disability in the change rooms at the Aquatic Centre
- access to accessible ramp into pool is restricted as it is sometimes not able to be accessed due to programming and location of other in-pool activities.

5.1.2 Community Questionnaire Results

A short survey was placed in the local free newspaper (The Port Curtis Post) in late November 2005. Only 21 responses were received, mostly from females in the 25–44 age group. This was a very low response rate given that the survey was delivered to most households in the City.

In our experience such a low response rate indicates that there are no “burning” issues in the community that motivate people to respond. As the survey response was so low the results should be considered alongside other consultation to establish recurring themes in the community.

The survey tried to gauge how Council was performing in providing sport and recreation opportunities and the following provides a summary of the main responses.

Respondents liked (in order of frequency of responses):

- level of maintenance of parks and sporting fields
- specific parks (e.g. Botanic Gardens, Marina, Canoe Point, Spinnaker Park, Friend Park)
- parks conveniently located and more user friendly (e.g. large shelters, dog off leash park)
- diversity and choice of sports
- quantity of parks and open/ green space
- major facilities (e.g. PCYC/ Aquatic Centre)
- walking tracks and fitness trails.



Respondents disliked (in order of frequency of responses):

- lack of shade, taps and seating (esp. around sports fields/ playgrounds and inappropriately designed seating for older adults)
- poor quality and standards of facilities at key parks and recreation areas (e.g. lack of large shelters, more barbecues desired, no toilets or not open)
- general lack of opportunities (e.g. not open during day for shift workers or not conveniently located)
- lack of dog off leash areas
- poor level of maintenance and up-keep of parks (i.e. graffiti, broken glass and grass not mowed) and sporting areas
- state of repair of sporting facilities (e.g. tennis courts, basketball courts)
- lack/ poor diversity (e.g. lack of facilities which cater for cultural alternatives)
- lack of children and youth parks/ play areas
- lack of walking paths.

Key suggested improvements included:

- provide family orientated water play park (e.g. foreshore/ or Aquatic Centre)
- provide additional skate park/ activities for young people
- provide parks in new residential areas and these should be embellished (e.g. Emmadale)
- continue pathways and bikeways construction
- improve quality of parks (e.g. increased shade, seating, barbecues and update play equipment)
- provide more dog off-leash areas
- improve general maintenance.

5.1.3 Other Consultation – Industry employees

Whilst discussing improvements that could be made to Gladstone's walk and cycle network the following open space and sport and recreation comments were noted:

- compliments were paid to Council on irrigating parks which has improved their attractiveness and appeal.
- general agreement that the open space around Gladstone was not very inviting nor challenging especially for teenagers. The Marina was seen as a pleasant and popular place though it only caters for toddlers. An extra skate facility, basketball hoops/ half courts should be provided for youth.
- that too few conditions were placed on new developments. Council should ensure that developers provide playgrounds, open space, bikeways/ footpaths. There was concern that Council had let poorly provided subdivisions be approved.
- Spinnaker Park is difficult to fish from, due to the rock wall and this could be improved with some small platforms.
- there appears a lack of usable open space in certain areas, such as Kin Kora.
- parks seem to act more as environmental and drainage corridors than usable recreation areas.
- industry historically provided much of Gladstone's open space and recreation facilities (e.g. QAL – Green Belt and Awoonga Dam projects).

5.1.4 Consultation with Young People

An X-treme BMX demonstration was held at the Clinton Skate Park in January 2006, where young people were approached to comment on the sport and recreation opportunities in the City. Approximately 80–90 young people and 40 adults attended. Though the majority of young people were from Gladstone, others



had travelled into Gladstone from Calliope Shire.

A variety of comments were gathered from young people in regards to the positives, negatives and possible improvements that could be made for the skate park and youth opportunities in Gladstone. Parents and guardians attending on the session also provided comment on the needs for young people.

Favourable comments included:

- proximity of existing skate/ BMX park to residents
- Marina playground
- the diversity of sporting choices
- good variety of events (e.g. PCYC– rap nights, blue light discos)
- supportive group of teenagers helping younger children learn at the Clinton skate facility.

Facilities appreciated by young people and parents outside of Gladstone included rock climbing and squash at Tannum Sands, the play experience and monorail at the Rockhampton Botanical Gardens, Boyne Island Skate Park, flying fox and slide; and the Calliope Skate Park. Several parents commented that not all facilities had to be on their doorstep as most people were prepared to travel if the experience was of quality.

Many of the aspects that were disliked related to the existing skate facility and included:

- poor level of maintenance with trees leaving a lot of mess
- the existing facility is too small and too crowded
- the elements are not well designed and mainly suited to beginners
- dangerous trees in the middle of the skate park
- some bullying in the area near the skate park (from 2pm onwards)
- not a high level of surveillance and inappropriate activities take place in the area after dark.

Other negatives included:

- poor provision of facilities in Koorinya Park
- lack of challenging and adventurous spaces for children (i.e. seven years and older)
- poor level of contribution from industry (e.g. Marina Park is appreciated but does not seem finished)
- limited activities organised for school holidays (e.g. SunFest age range is discrete and it does not have all age sessions that cater for siblings of different ages)
- shift–work affects options to take children to facilities and access sporting opportunities
- concern with youth and binge drinking (especially young males).

The focus of improvements and opportunities were as follows (listed in order of frequency):

- a new BMX/ Skate Park. There was consistent concern as to why a facility had not been provided when other much smaller towns and localities had a higher level of provision (e.g. Agnes, Calliope, and Boyne). Locations suggested included near the PCYC, Sun Valley or near high populations of children
- specific improvements to the existing skate park including provision of water bubbler, shelter, seats, rubbish bins, tables and barbecues
- keep the existing skate facility. It is central to residents and children can ride to it easily. Improve on what is existing by making it safer and more attractive
- develop a water play area or rock pool at Barney Point

- Glen Eden is lacking in the provision of facilities especially for ages 5–12 years. *“There is only one boring playground along the bikeway.”*
- install more informal facilities, such as basketball/ netball hoops nearer to residential areas
- develop a bike training facility for children to learn to ride safely. Locate near PCYC or new skate facility
- provide accessible open space for informal play areas with barbecue facilities for families, shaded play areas and seating
- develop more adventure/ challenging facilities for young people (e.g. dirt jumps, mazes)
- more bikeways are needed to link key places especially in new subdivisions.
- install bike racks at key destinations, especially where young people go (e.g. Clinton takeaway shop)
- install low key fishing platforms. It is unsafe to use the rail bridges and there are no public jetties or places suitable for children
- improve the signage to the BMX/ skate park
- re-install a dry/ wet slide in the pools as there was one removed from the John Dahl Pool
- improve access for spectators in wheelchairs to junior rugby league grounds. It is difficult/ not viable to access as key needs to be obtained from the Leagues Club.

Suggestion made by Tim Wood⁸ as a professional BMX rider and BMX/ skate facility designer:

- seating should be provided but designed to allow or prevent use from riders as a street obstacle (depending on location and integration into the park)
- ramp needs to be painted to reduce slipperiness (i.e. paint then top coat in a flat colour)
- the bottom of the wedge bank should be extended and a handrail installed (it is a safety issue). The direct drop has no riding purpose and is a fall risk
- keep the facility rather than wasting resources on demolition
- maintenance should be increased with a blower vac being used to clean the area once a week
- install vandal proof bins
- the new facility should be completely concrete and not bitumen flatland as this makes it a much less usable space for skateboarding/ scooters
- develop an informal dirt jump area where kids can build their own jumps without fear of them being knocked down. This area needs to include:
 - screened clean clay base fill for the jumps
 - shade so the jumps do not dry out. Shade also provides a pleasant environment for riders
 - water for construction and maintenance (this prevents crumbling and therefore decreases maintenance costs and minimises/ reduces dust)
 - access to water bubbler for riders
 - constructed preferably on a slight slope
 - motivated group of young people to take ownership and responsibility for the site.

⁸ Tim Wood – as part of the BMX demonstration provided his expert opinion on the existing facility

Photograph 1: Youth at X-treme BMX demonstration



5.1.5 Consultation with the Active Aged

A Photovoice exercise was used to try and engage with active aged adults. Unfortunately no single group was able to undertake the exercise therefore images of Gladstone and themes relevant to older adults were presented to representatives from seniors and civic organisations. Though participation numbers were again not high the comments and discussion were insightful and reinforced, in the majority, other community comments.


The following were listed as positives and appreciated features for this age cohort:

- quantity of undeveloped open space, bushland and environmental areas
- diversity/ choice of sports and activities for all ages especially junior sports
- some major park settings and features (e.g. Botanical Gardens, Reg Tanna Park, Spinnaker Park and Marina boardwalk and parkland area)
- provision level of public conveniences
- amount of walk-cycle paths
- some well developed parks with an accessible playground, seating, water, shade, car parking, toilets and pathways linking a mix of experiences (e.g. Lions Park and Callemondah Lake)
- Harbour and foreshore parks (e.g. Barney Point)
- wide range of community facilities and activities (e.g. aquatic therapy sessions, seniors activity centres).

Though some of these features were considered as valuable assets there was also general agreement that some could be further improved, maintained better or developed to increase utilisation.

A number of elements were discussed negatively or were disliked. The following improvements were suggested (in no particular order):

- improve the variety, overall appeal, quality and underutilised nature of parks by:
 - providing areas to accommodate large group gatherings for socialisation and activities. (e.g. appropriate group seating and large shelters and shaded areas)
 - changing the use of some park to be more family friendly (e.g. barbecues, water bubblers, mix of



activity spaces and shade)

- providing more shade in key parks
- providing appropriately designed seating for older adults (e.g. with backs and at correct height)
- improving the grass/ lawn condition
- increasing the level of support infrastructure in key parks and along walk–cycle paths (e.g. water bubblers)
- developing/ continuing a program of improving access to parks and facilities for people with mobility and other disabilities (e.g. signage, lighting, access)
- Barney Point foreshore parks are underutilised and underdeveloped. Suggested improvements included an all tide clean water swimming area, connecting paths, increased lighting, increased activities in the parks and improved entry roads presentation and promotion
- develop accessible information and promotion of City parks, scenic lookouts, bushland, foreshore areas and their attributes for visitors and locals, thus increasing a level of awareness and use by:
 - actively encourage use of existing parks and community facilities (i.e. increase use of parks for community events and activity programs)
 - increasing and improving signage – directional and interpretative (e.g. signs to public toilets)
 - ensure that quality/ presentation of experience matches promotion and information
- provide other dog off leash opportunities closer to residential areas and linked to major open space areas and walking paths (i.e. not just Webb Park)
- ensure that new areas of residential development have well-located, well-connected and appropriately embellished parks
- better integration and coordination of sporting opportunities (i.e. more effective management leading to more efficient responses to utilisation and maintenance of existing facilities)
- relocate Showground/ Racecourse to Ash Pond 7 with other sports (e.g. Speedway) to provide central area for much needed housing mix options for active older adults
- develop a city–wide presentation improvement program that will address the sense of loss of civic pride and community ownership:
 - improve signage and promotion of attractions
 - improve key City entry gateways and open spaces (e.g. entry statements/ street scaping and enhanced key open space and recreation areas)
- continue a rolling program of developing and maintaining walk–cycle paths including:
 - facilitate a connection between Barney Point and Flinders Park
 - maintenance of existing paths (e.g. Fun and Fitness Trail)
 - providing support facilities such as lighting, water bubblers and seats along key paths (e.g. Reg Tanna, Callemondah Lakes)
- create quality and appropriate spaces for children and young people:
 - begin (get on with) building the skate park near the PCYC
 - provide legal “street art” (graffiti) sites and programs that support this activity.

The group was then asked to identify the most important issues or priorities for Council to tackle. Two priorities were discussed and agreed upon as having strategic outcomes for the City, which would benefit active older adults as well as the broader community.

Strategic priorities:

- proactively pursue the relocation of the Showground/ Racecourse and development of Ash Pond 7. It is viewed that these actions would have a significant multiplier effect and greatly benefit older adults

- develop a whole-of-city response to improving civic pride and sense of community ownership (e.g. develop a presentation improvement program including promotion, gateway entries and signage).

5.1.6 School Survey Results

School principals were given the opportunity to comment on sport and recreation issues as they affected the school and youth in the City. The following are a summary of the responses received.

Six (6) schools responded to the survey from the fourteen (14) distributed. All schools that responded made use of sport and recreation facilities in the community. Those that appeared to be accessed the most include:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| • PCYC facilities | • Gladstone Aquatic Centre |
| • Tondoon Botanic Gardens | • Yaralla Cricket oval and nets (private) |
| • Memorial Park | • Gladstone Lawn Bowls |
| • Gladstone Tennis Courts | • Rugby League Grounds (private). |

Four of the six schools were satisfied with the level and quality of Council's sport and recreation facilities.

Schools suggested the following improvements to Council provided sport and recreation facilities/ programs that could be of benefit to the community:

- upgrading the quality of facilities in Memorial Park (e.g. upgrade the netball courts)
- increase accessibility of facilities to schools (e.g. cheaper rates for hire)
- provide more economical learn-to-swim programs at the City Pool (e.g. for families)
- develop beach volleyball facilities (publicly owned)
- provide facilities for bocce and goal ball which can be accessed by schools and the community
- set aside more days for inclusive recreation activities
- develop more playground equipment which is wheelchair friendly
- develop a bike riding program and facility
- provided more information regarding clubs and facilities (e.g. sign on days for recruiting students).

Most schools indicated that they made their sporting facilities available for community use, which include tennis courts, cricket pitch and nets, ovals, sporting fields, athletics tracks, netball courts, indoor/ undercover courts, lecture theatre and hall. Though a moderate level of community use is achieved the following issues and barriers were outlined:

- security concerns
- insurance coverage concerns
- current lack of quality facilities
- lack of amenities close to facilities
- no floodlit facilities
- users need to be responsible for the storage/provision of equipment
- lack of compliance with user regulations
- poor condition of field surfaces.

New sporting and recreation facilities planned by schools in the next five years are shown in Table 4 below. Many indicated that the proposals were dependent on securing funding.

Table 4: Schools proposed facility development

SCHOOL	PROPOSED FACILITY DEVELOPMENT
Gladstone Central State School	Redevelopment/ resurfacing of all courts. Development of a fitness trail.
Gladstone State High School	Top dressing and upgrade of oval, subject to securing funds.
Kin Kora State School	Upgrade playground equipment.
Rosella Park School	Upgrade playground equipment
St Stephens Lutheran College	Upgrade oval surface and add cricket nets, seating and amenities block
Toolooa State High School	Build a multi-purpose court for tennis and basketball..

Key needs within the local community for young people were identified as:

- the lack of sporting and recreational options available for students and adults with disabilities
- high costs and poor access and lack of motivation for young people.

Several walk-cycle network improvement suggestions were noted and have been included in the Walk-Cycle Network Improvement Plan.

5.2 Sport and Recreation Organisations

The Gladstone City Sport and Recreation Organisation Survey was distributed to approximately 100 organisations providing sport and recreation in the City of Gladstone. Several surveys were sent to sporting and recreation groups based in Calliope where they were providing regional opportunities (e.g. surf life saving). The survey included a letter from the Mayor, explaining the study and importance of clubs' involvement.

The purpose of the survey was to identify:

- membership details and trends
- current usage of facilities
- levels of satisfaction with existing facilities
- essential facility needs
- ranking of issues affecting the organisation
- training and development needs.

The importance of the completion of the surveys was reiterated at forums and in follow-up newspapers articles. Follow-up and reminder phone calls were also made to key providers who had not returned their surveys by the due date. Even with these strategies of the 100 surveys distributed 42 surveys were eventually completed and returned giving a 42% return rate.

Appendix 1 lists the clubs and organisations which responded to the survey.

5.2.1 Membership Trends

Sporting and recreation organisations were asked to indicate the current membership (senior and junior) as well as their membership in 2003. Some of the larger clubs and associations did not provide a record of previous membership but have high numbers currently participating. These and the most notable changes in participation are shown in Table 5 (note: senior and junior memberships are combined).

Appendix 2 has a full list of membership details.

The most notable increases were in football (soccer), gymnastics, karting, touch, cricket, Australian Rules and hockey. Gymnastics, with a stable and suitable venue at the PCYC, have shown considerable growth. Football (soccer) has been experiencing growth across Australia in recent years and is likely to continue with Australia's qualification for the World Cup and increasing appeal as a sport for all ages and genders. Touch football retains its popularity as a more social sport that does not require a high level of training commitment and suits those that wish to "pay and play" (e.g. shift workers).

The membership numbers for tennis, rugby union and athletics have decreased considerably since 2003. Concern about the standard of tennis facilities and a lack of suitable grounds for athletics may be part of the reason for the decline in numbers. Rugby union has lost over 60 junior players and has only slightly increased their senior ranks. Rugby union is seeking to improve their facilities and thus support.

Table 5: Significant memberships and/ or changes between 2003 and 2005/6

ORGANISATION	CURRENT MEMBERSHIP 2005/06	MEMBERSHIP 2003	CHANGE IN MEMBERSHIP
Clinton Park Sport's Association	758	-	n/a
Clinton Soccer Club Inc	395	295	100
Football Gladstone (Gladstone & District Junior Soccer Assoc. Inc)	1,520	-	n/a
Gladstone Amateur Basketball Association Inc	201	-	n/a
Gladstone and District Hockey Assoc Inc	609	558	51
Gladstone and District Tennis Assoc Inc	180	277	-97
Gladstone Athletics Club Inc	83	113	-30
Gladstone Australian Rules Football Club	186	70	116
Gladstone Gymnastic Club Inc	453	200	253
Gladstone Junior Tennis Association Inc	126	182	-56
Gladstone Kart Club	146	90	56
Gladstone Rugby Union Football Club	50	105	-55
Gladstone Softball Assoc.	120	60	60
Gladstone Touch Association	800	600	200
Meteors Hockey Club	180	120	60
Port Curtis Division Ladies Bowling Assoc.	317	-	n/a
Tannum Sands Surf Lifesaving Club	289	-	n/a

Groups were asked to predict what they thought their membership would be in three years time. Twenty-seven (over half) of the forty-two organisations predicted that their membership numbers would increase over the period. The other groups expected membership to stay relatively static with two expecting a decline.

5.2.2 Facility Usage and Satisfaction

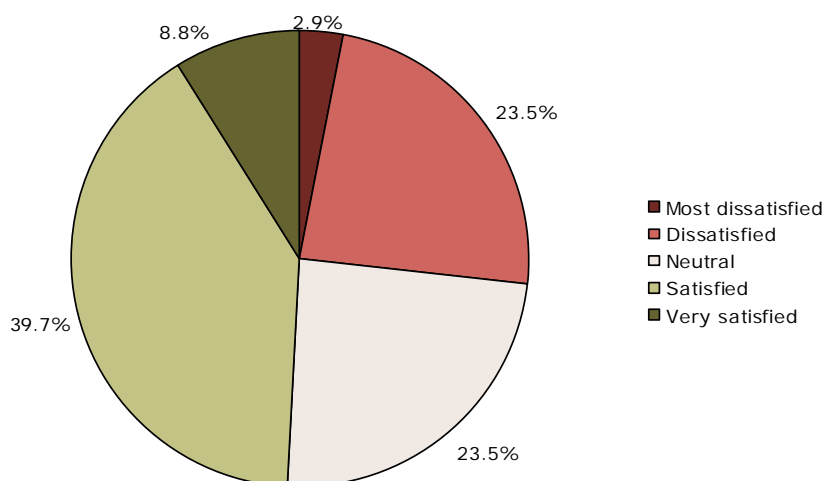
Organisations were also asked to specify:

- facilities utilised
- frequency of use

- satisfaction with facilities
- issues with facilities.

Approximately forty-nine percent (48.5%) indicated they are “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with their facilities. However 26.5% were “dissatisfied” or “most dissatisfied” with their facilities (refer Figure 5).

Figure 5: Satisfaction with facilities



Facility usage, level of satisfaction and description of issues with facilities are shown in Table 6.

Table 6: Facility usage and satisfaction

ORGANISATION	FACILITY NAME	FREQUENCY	ACTIVITY	SATISFACTION	DESCRIPTION OF ISSUES
Central Coast Car Club (Gladstone) Inc	K-Mart car park	3-4 x year	Motorkhanas	Dissatisfied	Difficult site to ensure that safety regulations and insurance conditions are met
Clinton Junior Soccer Club	Palm Drive Sports fields	1x weekly	Soccer	Dissatisfied	Fields uneven and too hard to play on
Clinton Park Sport's Association	Clinton Park fields and clubhouse	4 – 6 x weekly year round	Football (Soccer) Australian Rules Cricket	Satisfied	Training lights required for field 2
Clinton Soccer Club – Senior Section Inc	Clinton Park Sports Assoc Sports fields	5 x weekly x season	Soccer training and games	Neutral	Shared with Australian Rules and Cricket and fields are constantly in use
	Palm Drive Sports fields	1x weekly	Soccer games	Dissatisfied	No shade areas for spectators
Curtis & District Trail Riding Club Inc	Round Gladstone Trail	2-3 x day x year for club and daily for some members	Horse riding	Very satisfied	Prefer not to share road space with traffic

ORGANISATION	FACILITY NAME	FREQUENCY	ACTIVITY	SATISFACTION	DESCRIPTION OF ISSUES
Dolphin Sea Scout Group	Sea Scout building	4 x weekly	Scout training youth members	Very satisfied	
Football Gladstone (Gladstone & District Junior Soccer Assoc. Inc	Palm Drive Sports fields	5 x weekly x season	Soccer training and games	Neutral	Fields uneven and too hard to play on
Gladstone & District Darts Assoc. Inc	Darts and Pool Club house	8 x weekly	Darts and Pool (8 ball) and social events	Neutral	Needs air-conditioning
Gladstone & District Hockey Assoc Inc	Rigby Park	7 x weekly	Hockey	Satisfied	No room to expand more fields required
Gladstone & District Rugby League Inc	Marley Brown Oval	4-5 x weekly	Rugby League training and playing	Very satisfied	
Gladstone & District Tennis Assoc Inc	Tennis Complex – 18 courts	7 x weekly	Tennis playing and training	Dissatisfied	16 of the 18 courts need upgrading. Courts are in such a poor state of repair. Currently seeking funding to upgrade.
	Tennis Complex – licensed clubhouse	2-3 x weekly	Tennis and social functions	Dissatisfied	Kitchen is too small and needs upgrading. Clubhouse and furnishings need an injection of funds
Gladstone Amateur Basketball Association Inc	Indoor bowls	20 x yearly	Indoor bowls	Satisfied	Elderly participants have to use stairs. No acceptable accessible entry
	Ken Broome Stadium	5 x weekly	Basketball	Neutral	Hire PCYC for Friday night junior games. With improved facilities more players could be accommodated
Gladstone Athletics Club Inc.	TAFE oval	1 x weekly	Athletics training and competition	Satisfied	
Gladstone Australian Rules Football Club	Clinton Park fields and clubhouse	3 x weekly	Australian Rules	Dissatisfied	Training lights required for field 2
Gladstone Bowls Club Inc	2 greens – Gladstone Bowls Club Inc	5 x weekly	Lawn Bowls	Very satisfied	Could still spend \$200k on repairs, maintenance – fencing, plumbing, lighting etc.

ORGANISATION	FACILITY NAME	FREQUENCY	ACTIVITY	SATISFACTION	DESCRIPTION OF ISSUES
Gladstone Clay Target Club	Clay Target Range	2 x monthly	Clay target shooting competition and training	Satisfied	Renewal of lease and impact of noise legislation due to encroaching land sub-divisions
Gladstone Cricket Inc.	BITS Club	all day Saturday	Cricket	Satisfied	
	Boyne Island State School	Saturday (4 hours)	Cricket	Satisfied	
	Calliope	Saturday & Sunday (4 hours)	Cricket	Satisfied	
	Calliope State School	Saturday (4 hours)	Cricket	Satisfied	All school grounds have no toilet facilities available to players and supporters
	Clinton Park	Friday, Saturday, Sunday (5 hours)	Cricket	Neutral	Shared facility with soccer and AFL. Condition of field at takeover is not good.
	Gladstone West State School	Saturday (4 hours)	Cricket	Satisfied	Wicket a bit low
	Leagues Club	Saturday (4 hours)	Cricket	Satisfied	
	Palm Drive Sports field	Saturday (all day) Sunday (4 hours)	Cricket	Dissatisfied	Unable to use Field 1 or Field 3
	South State School	Saturday (4 hours)	Cricket	Very dissatisfied	Field too small
	Sun Valley	Saturday & Sunday (5 hours)	Cricket	Satisfied	
	Yaralla Sports Club	Friday & Saturday (5 hours)	Cricket	Dissatisfied	Field not always available or maintained. Cost of lights increasing.
Gladstone Croquet Club Inc	Croquet greens	3 x weekly	Croquet	Very satisfied	
Gladstone Gropers Masters Swimming Club Inc	Aquatic Centre Indoor Pool	3 x weekly	Swimming	Satisfied	Less control over activities than at John Dahl Pool.
	John Dahl Pool	3 x weekly	Swimming	Satisfied	Need for storage. More shade over pool.

ORGANISATION	FACILITY NAME	FREQUENCY	ACTIVITY	SATISFACTION	DESCRIPTION OF ISSUES
Gladstone Gymnastics Club	Anna Turetschek Gymnastics Arena at PCYC	6 days = 42 hours per week	Gymnastics	Neutral	Parent viewing areas is too small. Only one office space – need more. Car parking lacking. No access road. Street lighting lacking.
Gladstone Junior Tennis Association Inc	Tennis Complex – 18 courts	1 x weekly	Tennis	Dissatisfied	Complex needs major upgrading
Gladstone Kart Club	Gladstone Kart Track	7 x weekly 1x month	Practice daily and monthly meetings	Neutral	Need to improve and extend bitumen track and facilities. Provide shade over large grandstand. Develop safe children's play area. Upgrade canteen.
Gladstone Netball Association Inc.	Netball courts	1 x weekly (5 hours) & 5 x weekly (3 hours)	Netball practice and games	Satisfied	None
Gladstone Road Runners Club Inc	Various bikeways	1 x weekly	Running	Neutral	No lights. No connections to establish distance courses.
Gladstone Rugby Union Football Club	Meteors – Main Field	2 x weekly x winter season	Rugby competition	Neutral	No showers No lights No toilets No seating
	Meteors – Training Field	2 x weekly x winter season	Rugby training	Neutral	No showers
Gladstone Softball Association Inc.	Memorial Park Hanson Road	Fixtures (6 hours) & training sessions for clubs	Softball	Satisfied	Maintenance due to vandalism. Ant nest problems.
Gladstone Swimming Club Inc.	Gladstone Aquatic Centre	8x weekly (16 hours); 10 x annually (40 hours)	Swimming training and swim meets	Neutral	Lack of maintenance, lower hygiene standards and lack of staff knowledge of set-up requirements.
Gladstone Touch Association Inc.	Club house	3 x weekly	Canteen, office, function room, meeting room	Satisfied	Building needs air conditioning for functions. Hall hire is main fundraising source. Disabled access is not complete.
	Playing fields x 6	2 x weekly	Touch Football	Dissatisfied	Unsatisfactory level and standards of mowing by Council. Cost of watering.

ORGANISATION	FACILITY NAME	FREQUENCY	ACTIVITY	SATISFACTION	DESCRIPTION OF ISSUES
Gladstone United Soccer Club	United Soccer Grounds	7 x weekly x 4 hrs per day	Soccer Training	Neutral	No clubhouse
Gladstone Volleyball Association	Gladstone State High School (beach courts)	1 x weekly	Volleyball	Satisfied	
	Gladstone State High School Hall (indoor courts)	2 x weekly	Volleyball	Satisfied	
	PCYC	1 x yearly	Volleyball	Neutral	No volleyball equipment. Need to supply/ bring everything.
Glen Cricket Club	Sun Valley	1 x weekly	Cricket	Satisfied	
Harbour City BMX Club Inc.	Track & amenities	Race 1x weekly. Train 2xweekly	BMX racing	Neutral	Dirt road access not easily seen/located
Meteors Hockey Club	Rigby Park	2 x weekly (10hrs)	Hockey	Satisfied	Inadequate parking facilities poses a danger to children and adults crossing the Dawson Highway
Meteors Junior Soccer Club	Palm Drive Sports fields	2 x weekly x winter season	Playing and training for soccer	Dissatisfied	Poor condition of fields and lack of shade
Port Curtis Division Ladies Bowling Assoc.				No Response	
Tannum Sands Surf Life Saving Club	Boat shed – Gladstone	Daily	Rowing	Satisfied	
	Tannum Sands Beach	Every Saturday & Sunday in season + every 2nd day	Beach patrols, Carnivals and Training	Neutral	Require flat high ground for patrol tower
	Tannum Sands Surf Life Saving Club facilities	Daily	Training, patrols, storage, community functions	Satisfied	Require more space for storage of equipment
Valleys Netball Club	Gladstone Netball Association Courts		Training and games	Neutral	
Western Suburbs Swimming Club	John Dahl Pool	7 x weekly	Swimming training, teaching and social functions	Satisfied	

ORGANISATION	FACILITY NAME	FREQUENCY	ACTIVITY	SATISFACTION	DESCRIPTION OF ISSUES
Wolves Soccer Club	Wolves sports ground – fields	4 x weekly	Senior Football (Soccer)	Dissatisfied	No clubhouse. Need to upgrade toilets and change rooms. Upgrade car parking area.
	Wolves sports ground – fields	1 x weekly	Junior Football (Soccer) training	Dissatisfied	
	Wolves sports ground – fields	4 x weekly	Hockey training for masters and juniors	Dissatisfied	
	Wolves sports ground – fields	6 x weekly	Golf Driving Range	Satisfied	
Yaralla Cricket Club	Clinton Park	2 or 2 x weekly	Cricket	Satisfied	Mowing of grounds
	Palm Drive	1 or 2 x weekly	Cricket	Very dissatisfied	Fields unplayable. Outfield uneven. Mowing of grounds.
	Yaralla Sports Club	3 x weekly	Cricket	Very satisfied	Grounds well maintained to a high standard
Yaralla Hockey Club	Yaralla Sports Club	2 x weekly	Hockey	Satisfied	Lights not to standard

5.2.3 Future Activities

Organisations were asked if they were proposing to introduce any activity programs in the future, who they were targeting, rationale and venue proposed to be used. Future activity programs primarily focused on:

- introduction to a sport (junior primarily)
- social play (e.g. night, pay and play)
- utilisation of existing facilities.

There were no broad community physical activity programs being proposed. The Central Coast Car Club indicated introduction of a broad driver skills and education training program, and the Gladstone Gropers Masters Swimming Club a program for persons with a disability. Table 7 provides details of proposed activity programs.

Table 7: Future Activity Programs

ORGANISATIONS	PROPOSED ACTIVITY PROGRAM	TARGET	RATIONALE	VENUE PROPOSED TO BE USED
Central Coast Car Club (Gladstone) Inc	Drivers skills education and training	All drivers	Need across community	Alternate venue to K-Mart car park

ORGANISATIONS	PROPOSED ACTIVITY PROGRAM	TARGET	RATIONALE	VENUE PROPOSED TO BE USED
Clinton Soccer Club – Senior Section Inc	Increased training programs	Soccer community	Extra teams with increased facility usage	Clinton Park Sports fields
Gladstone & District Darts Assoc. Inc	Schools program – continue to expand the program of darts as a teaching aid for math.	Schools	Membership drive for juniors	Existing facilities
Gladstone & District Hockey Assoc Inc	Hook in 2 hockey	Junior players and older players to introduce the game	To increase the player base, to expose the sport to the community	Rigby Park and local School ovals
Gladstone & District Tennis Assoc Inc	Social Tennis Nights	Whole community	To help provide tennis for shift workers and casual players	Existing facilities
Gladstone Athletics Club Inc.	Hammer throw	For athletic members	As athletes like to compete in it	TAFE Oval
Gladstone Australian Rules Football Club	Summer training	All players looking for pathways to play at a higher standard	To give juniors more opportunities to improve themselves	Clinton Park fields – though lights needed
Gladstone Bowls Club Inc	Corporate Bowls Junior Bowls Night Bowls	Whole community	To increase membership	Existing facilities
Gladstone Clay Target Club	Tower shooting and sporting clays	All club member and visitors	Introduce other members to all forms of clay target shooting	Existing range facilities
Gladstone Cricket Inc.	Have a go cricket	Juniors aged 4–8 years	To increase numbers of players and volunteers	Palm Drive, Sun Valley, Yaralla, Calliope, BITS Club
Gladstone Gropers Masters Swimming Club Inc	Programs to support people with disabilities	Club members	To increase membership	John Dahl Pool or Aquatic Centre
	Other activity programs	Club members	For cross training	John Dahl Pool
Gladstone Gymnastics Club	Expansion of disciplines	Club members	Extend skills	Arena – PCYC * unlikely to commence due to lack of facilities and coaches availability
Gladstone Junior Tennis Association Inc	Saturday morning fixtures	Junior players	To give players who are currently unavailable for Friday afternoon fixtures a chance to play	Existing facilities

ORGANISATIONS	PROPOSED ACTIVITY PROGRAM	TARGET	RATIONALE	VENUE PROPOSED TO BE USED
Gladstone Kart Club	Pocket Rocket and Motor bike events	Club members	To make facility a multipurpose motor sports area	Gladstone Kart Track
Gladstone Rugby Union Football Club	Re-introduction of Juniors	Community	Development of rugby and club growth	Meteors sports grounds
Gladstone Softball Association Inc.	Social slow pitch and diamond ball	Whole community	To increase interest in the sport to variety of community	Memorial Park
Gladstone Swimming Club Inc.	CQ Championships and QLD School Championships	Whole CQ and regional swimmers	To reduce the travelling required for Gladstone swimmers. To improve the level of competition in Gladstone. To promote Gladstone	Gladstone Aquatic Centre
Gladstone Touch Association Inc.	Austouch program for Juniors	Young children	To give children opportunities to learn the basic skills of touch before playing in junior competition	Harvey Road Touch Fields
Gladstone United Soccer Club	Off season six a side soccer	Whole community	Fundraising opportunity	United Soccer Grounds
Gladstone Volleyball Association	Spike zone mini volleyball	Primary schools	Part of a national roll- out (get active)	PCYC if they get badminton courts
Harbour City BMX Club Inc.	Currently adding Mountain Bike class to our club nights	Mountain bikers/ current members	Increase membership by adding diversity to the type/style of bikes used	Current facility
Western Suburbs Swimming Club	Swimming training and teaching	Whole community	To provide these activities all year round	John Dahl Pool
Wolves Soccer Club	6-a-side soccer	Whole community	To improve club viability by developing revenue sources	Wolves Sports ground
Yaralla Cricket Club	Have a go program	Children aged 5-10 years	Increase numbers in the junior ranks	Yaralla Sports Club
Yaralla Hockey Club	Hook in 2 hockey	Aimed to junior players	Allows the club to grow and survive	Schools and Yaralla oval

5.2.4 Adequacy of Facilities

Responding organisations were asked to indicate if their current facilities are adequate for their future membership needs. Sixty-seven percent (67%) respondents specified "no".

5.2.5 Essential Facility Needs

Organisations were also asked to detail their requirements for updating existing facilities or the development of new facilities within the next five years. A description of these facilities, the rationale and

the organisations assigned priority is detailed in Table 8.

Table 8: Essential facility needs

ORGANISATION	FACILITY	DESCRIPTION	RATIONALE	PRIORITY*
Central Coast Car Club (Gladstone) Inc	Alternative facility than shopping centre car park	(70m x 100m bitumen or concrete)	Need home base and therefore increase activities and education and training programmes	High – Medium
Clinton Park Sport's Association	Clinton Park	Additional training light fittings to added to existing poles servicing field no. 1	To cater for the volume of training requirements and to minimise potential conflicts	Medium
Clinton Park Sport's Association	Clinton Park	Installation of training lights to field no. 2 or 3	To cater for the volume of training requirements and to minimise potential conflicts. Potential to increase use and also 'field' conditions by programming spelling periods for the main field	High
Clinton Soccer Club – Senior Section Inc	Clinton Park	Second set of lights on 2nd cricket field	To allow resting of main field and to allow for Aussie Rules and Soccer to train on same nights. It will also allow soccer to continue to grow in area. Participation in extended league will improve player depth in club. Allows full use of fields to both AFL and Soccer especially considering the growth of soccer	High
Curtis & District Trail Riding Club Inc	Round Gladstone Trail	Improve access to trails and create designated safe entry area. Maintenance of existing trail network	Development currently encroaching on Trail entrances. No designated/ safe entry area	High
Dolphin Sea Scout Group	Sea Scout building	Upgrade flag pole	Used as part of ceremony. Trouble experienced replacing the flag pole ropes	High
Football Gladstone (Gladstone & District Junior Soccer Assoc. Inc	Palm Drive Sports fields	Upgrade of fields	Particular fields are becoming very uneven and due to this it will become too dangerous for children to play on. Certain fields are so hard that the players can incur injury if they fall over.	High
		More shade cover needed	Not enough shade for participants and spectators (parents)	High
Gladstone & District Darts Assoc. Inc	Darts and Pool Club house	Provide accessible toilet facilities	To meet the required standards and service members (existing and potential)	High
		Air-condition the main hall	Cater for the whole community and the comfort of players and supporters	High
		Designate an outdoor smoking area	Meet legislation requirements and cater for the whole community	High
Gladstone & District Hockey	Rigby Park	Installation of lights	Currently only have one lit field, everyone trains at Rigby so need two fields lit for training and fixtures	High

ORGANISATION	FACILITY	DESCRIPTION	RATIONALE	PRIORITY*
Assoc Inc		Clubhouse upgrade	Need to replace current amenities block	Medium
		Artificial surface development	Required for state championships player development/skills	Medium
Gladstone & District Rugby League Inc	Marley Brown Oval	Increase level of lighting lux	No longer meet the required standard	Medium
Gladstone & District Tennis Assoc Inc	Tennis Complex – 18 courts	Upgrade and installation of lights to courts 12–18	Current lit courts are going into a state of disrepair and will require major works to repair them	High – 1st priority
	Tennis Complex – licensed clubhouse	Upgrade kitchen and furniture and building air–conditioned	Needed for the comfort of members and to be able to secure more events/ functions thus improving financial status	High – 2nd priority
	Tennis Complex – 18 courts	Upgrade and repair courts 1–9 or replace if funds can be secured.	Unable to play on if not upgraded / repaired	High – 3rd priority
Gladstone Amateur Basketball Association Inc	Basketball Stadium	Complete development of indoor court	Ability to run carnivals for both juniors and seniors	Medium
Gladstone Australian Rules Football Club	Clinton Park	Installation of training lights to field 2	To cater for the volume of training requirements and to expand existing junior programs	High
		Spectator stands and extra toilet facilities	To attract a higher standard of game, thus in turn attracting events and in turn generating income for the City	Medium
Gladstone Clay Target Club	Clay Target Range	Fully automatic trap machines (one remaining trap)	Manual traps are being phased out due to workplace health and safety requirements	High
Gladstone Cricket Inc.	Various sites	More available fields	If there should be an increase in numbers it would be difficult to accommodate within current fields available	High
		More shade	Sun safety	High
		Covers for turf wickets	Presently miss a lot of games due to wet weather. Need to minimise costs (i.e. pay for groundsman but don't receive any ground fees for washed out games). Cannot guarantee visiting representative sides that all games can be played	High
Gladstone Gropers Masters Swimming Club Inc	John Dahl Pool	Shade over outdoor pool	Prevent of skin problems/ cancer	High
		Windbreaks	Decrease turbulence in pool	Medium
		Disabled access	Cater for swimmers with disabilities	Medium
	Aquatic Centre	Improve gym	Cross training purposes	High

ORGANISATION	FACILITY	DESCRIPTION	RATIONALE	PRIORITY*
Gladstone Gymnastics Club	Anna Turetscher Gymnastics Arena	Road upgrade to access back of building	Potholes appear when it rains	High
		Office space	Desperately need a coaches office	High
		Parent viewing area and parent collection foyer area	Parents want to stay to watch children's classes but no viewing area. Foyer too small with 40 children leaving at the same time	High
Gladstone Junior Tennis Association Inc	Tennis Complex – 18 courts	as per Gladstone District Tennis Association (GDTA) information	as per GDTA information	as per GDTA information
Gladstone Kart Club	Kart track	Track extension	Extend sport competition	Medium
		Track upgrade – bitumen resurfacing	Essential to sport of karting	High
		Improve tower facilities	Safety of volunteers	High
		Canteen upgrade	Meet regulatory hygiene and standards	High
		Create safe children's play area	High number of children with no safe play area	High
		Construct caretaker facilities	Reduce thief and improve maintenance	High
		Upgrade (concrete) pit areas	Reduce environmental impacts	High
		Maintenance of equipment	Meet changing standards	High
		Improved (permanent) public address system	Ensure spectator involvement	High
Gladstone Netball Association Inc.	Netball courts	Upgrade 7 courts	Safety	High
Gladstone Rugby Union Football Club	Meteors Grounds	Lights	Summer games can be played (when cool and not 43 degrees)	Medium
		Seating	No spectators = no support = no growth	Low
		Showers and Change rooms	Increase socialising after training/ games	High
Gladstone Swimming Club Inc.	Gladstone Aquatic Centre	Extend grandstand to full length of pool	Additional shaded area. Additional sitting area	Medium
		Upgrade car park	Provide improved safe access	Medium
		Heat the 50m pool	Conform to competition standard. Provide all year round swimming	Medium
		Extend pool width to 10 lanes (50m outdoor pool). Needs to be 25m wide.	Additional pool space. Conform to competition standard for Queensland and Australian swimmers. More swimmers can compete	High

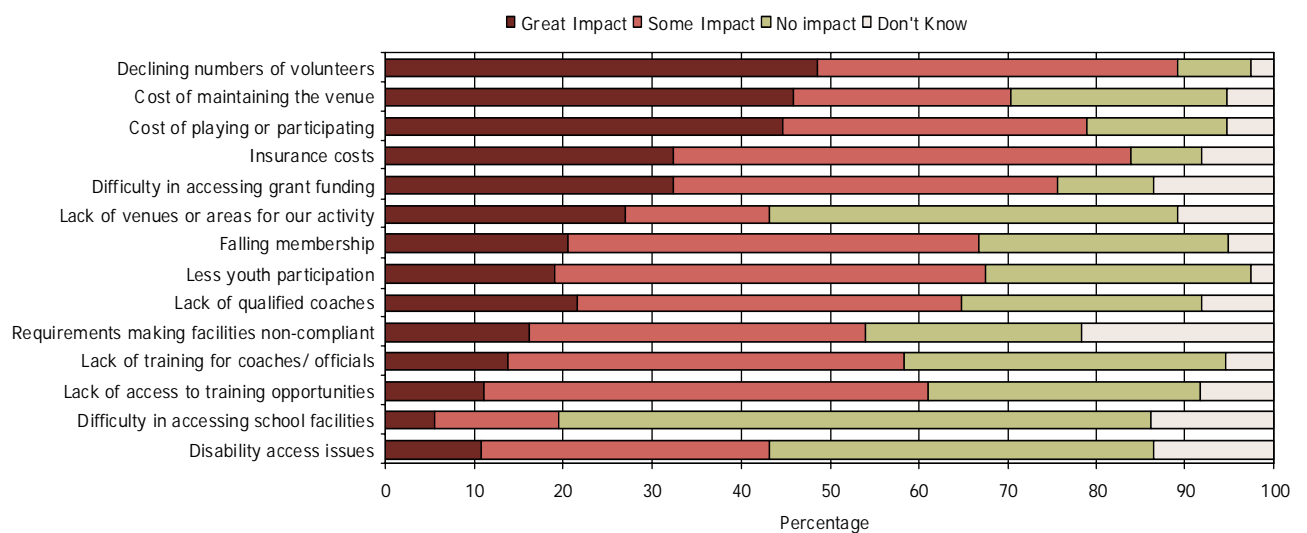
ORGANISATION	FACILITY	DESCRIPTION	RATIONALE	PRIORITY*
		Modify the 50m outdoor pool to "wet deck" design	Access and egress to/ from pool is improved. Safety improved with additional water depth (1.35m). Conform to competition standards. Improves hygiene	High
Gladstone Touch Association Inc.	Playing fields	More fields	With the growth of junior and senior touch alteration to play schedules will be needed (e.g. extra days and later times) to fit all the games on the present facility. The shortage of referees and coaches makes running the competition difficult as well.	High
Gladstone United Soccer Club	Gladstone United Soccer grounds	Upgrade amenities	To comply with Council requirements	High
Harbour City BMX Club Inc.	BMX track	Replace start mechanism	Meet safety standards required for hosting regional, state and national events	High
		Start hill gate	Insurance requirement	High
		Purchase machinery for track maintenance	Currently hire or borrow machinery – cost prohibitive	Medium
		Construct a new registration hut/ club room	Current facility is too small, old and not easily maintained. (e.g. not weatherproof).	Medium
Meteors Junior Soccer Club	Palm Drive Sports fields	Improved playing fields surface (i.e. grassed and level)	Safety of players	High
Port Curtis Division Ladies Bowling Assoc.	Various sites	Shade installation	All greens should have shade covers over them for the comfort of players and spectators	High
Tannum Sands Surf Life Saving Club	Tannum Sands beach	Permanent patrol tower on flat–high ground	View of patrol area. Storage of rescue equipment – continually dragging equipment back and forward from clubhouse, increasing the risk of injury and damage	High
	Tannum Sands surf life saving club facility	Gym for weight, resistance and power training	Fitness of surf life savers	Medium
Western Suburbs Swimming Club	John Dahl Pool	Shade over outdoor pool	To allow year round use	High
		Upgrade BARBECUE and recreation facilities	To allow for increased social functions	High
Wolves Soccer Club	New club facilities	Build new club house amenities including toilets, change rooms, referees room, medical room and canteen	Non–existent or inadequate for current users and future needs	High
	Car park	Upgrade, seal and line mark	Unsafe and improved efficiency	Medium

*High = in the next 1–2 years, Medium = 3–4 years, Low = 5 or more years

5.2.6 Issues Affecting Activities

Sport and recreation organisations were asked to respond to a number of statements to indicate the impact that a specific issue is having on their organisation. The results are shown in Figure 6.

Figure 6: Issues affecting organisations



The major issues were:

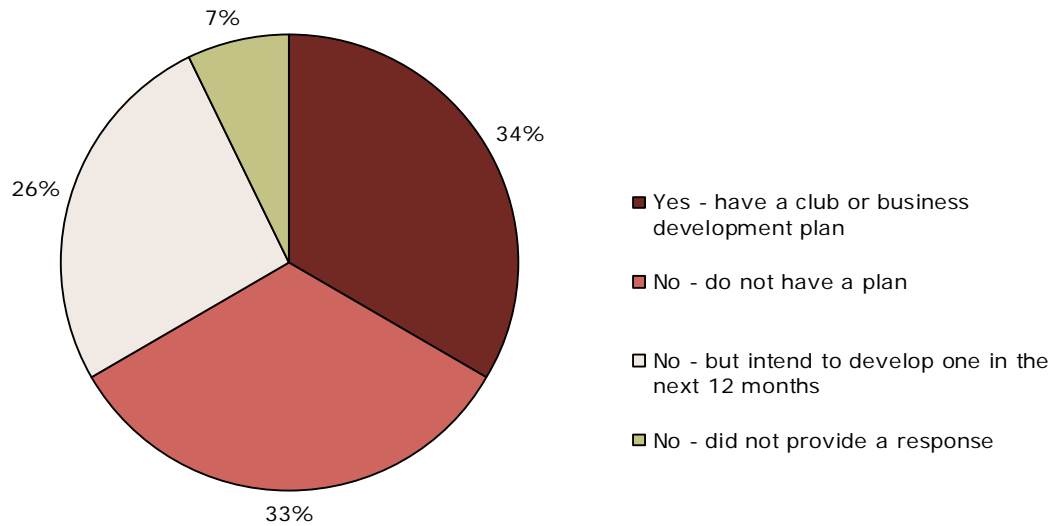
- The declining numbers of volunteers is affecting the delivery of sport with 48.6% reporting this as having a “great impact”.
- Cost of maintaining the venue for activities is the next area affecting cost of sport with 45.9% of sporting organisations reporting this as having a “great impact” and another 24.3% noting it as having “some impact”.
- The three (3) highest areas reported as having “some impact” were insurance costs with 51.4%, the lack of access to training opportunities with 50% noted, and less youth participation with 48.6% indicated.

5.2.7 Organisation Planning

To gain an understanding of the level of forward planning organisations were asked whether they had a club development or business plan or whether they did not but were intending to develop one in the next twelve months.

Only 34% of responding organisations had a club or business development plan. Approximately 60% currently operate without any forward plan or guide. (see Figure 7)

Figure 7: Club planning



5.2.8 Training and Development Needs

Organisations were asked to indicate their level of awareness and access to a range of training and development areas. Groups chose the response that best describes their organisation from the following options:

- aware of opportunities but have not accessed them
- aware of opportunities and members have attended training
- not aware of opportunities, but would like to know more
- not interested.

Table 9 shows the percentage of responding organisations that indicated they are aware of opportunities within each training and development category. Thirty-five (35) out of the 42 responding organisations are aware of training opportunities in the area of coach and official accreditation courses and clinics. Organisations were least aware of training opportunities in advertising and marketing, volunteer management and risk management.

Table 9: Percentage of respondents aware of training and development opportunities

TRAINING/ DEVELOPMENT CATEGORIES	AWARE OF OPPORTUNITIES
Coach and official accreditation courses and clinics	92%
Player development clinics/ camps	78%
Funding and grant applications	75%
Club governance and committee management	74%
Risk management	69%
Strategic and business planning for clubs	68%
Volunteer management	63%
Advertising and marketing	54%

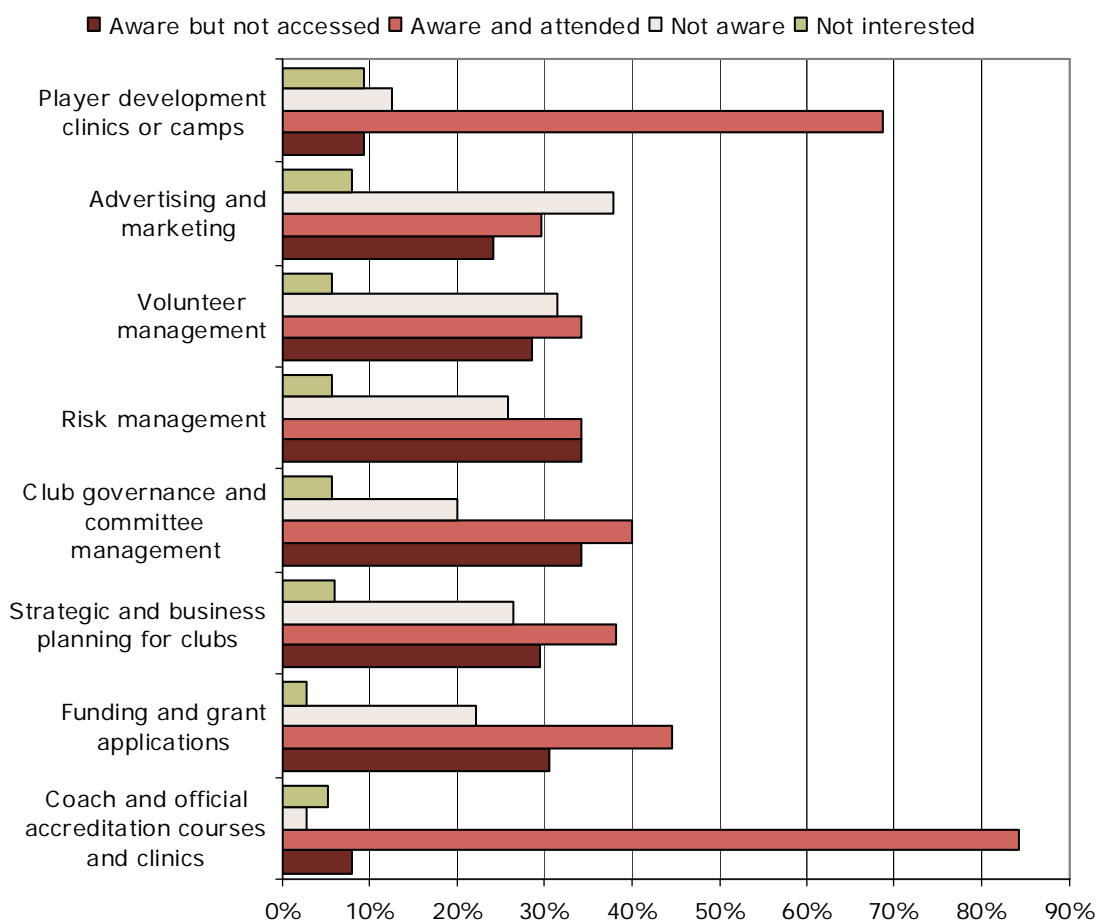
Of those organisations that indicated they are aware of training options in each category there is a considerable difference in the number of groups accessing such opportunities (refer Figure 8).

Organisations have most frequently attended training and development opportunities in the areas of:

- coach and official accreditation courses and clinics
- player development clinics and camps
- funding and grant applications.

Organisations indicated the least frequently accessed areas of training are in the areas of risk management, club governance and committee management, funding and grant applications and strategic and business planning for clubs. These categories could be utilised by Council and Sport and Recreation Queensland to target training material to organisations. To assist Council, a list of suggested training suppliers for the above courses can be found at Appendix 3.

Figure 8: Awareness and access of training opportunities by organisations



5.3 Sport and Recreation Organisation Forums

Two forums for sport and recreation organisations were held on two consecutive nights. These forums were in addition to the community workshops, individual meetings with the larger organisations and the survey. Though the forums were not well attended there were other opportunities for input that may have been taken as noted above.

Those that attended enthusiastically discussed the positives, negatives and opportunities to improve Gladstone's sport and recreation facilities and programs.

The two groups thought that Gladstone City Council was doing well with:

- a long history of Council providing grounds and supporting clubs, with early provision boosted by industry contributions
- the Tondoon Botanic Gardens
- Reg Tanna Park and duck ponds are appreciated green space features
- providing an outlet for children through sporting grounds and clubs
- providing grants to support sporting club development
- blending industry, residential areas and green space
- promoting and achieving a Tidy Town status.

Issues/ concerns and negative elements included the following:

- uncertainty at lease renewal times as clubs are not sure of accountabilities and requirements. There is concern that Council does not proactively support use of crown (state) land for non-traditional activities and that these will be forced off and Gladstone will lose choices.
- lack of coordination of events. Often there is a conflict in hosting events (e.g. no accommodation when the yacht race is on at Easter).
- lack of support to clubs needing to find alternatives venues. Some facilities are no longer available or appropriate and Council should assist in identifying appropriate venues and help in negotiating tenure or use arrangements (e.g. Darts Club is now seen as a sport and it is no longer appropriate to be held in hotels).
- manage/ coordinate a better response to single use facility demands. Single use facilities should not be allowed to be developed because of "personality" clashes within groups.
- clubs are struggling to retain volunteers. Young people are not volunteering and there is little succession planning.
- lack of school sports being played.
- limited use of school facilities with insurance costs touted as the possible reason for non-use.
- some facilities are of a poor standard for their current use (e.g. Meteors sportsground)
- rugby union is unable to access/ develop facilities that can provide a revenue stream. This affects the ability to establish a supporter's base and identity.
- lack of park information.
- poor levels of park provision in new estates. It appears that recent estate developments have scrimped on usable green space (e.g. New Auckland Estate).
- poor linkage and pathway systems.
- perception that softball fields are rarely used.
- Showground management is too insular and controlling.
- speedway once well supported but location with noise and dust is now problematic.

- allocation of funds by Council is not always transparent. Concern regarding the criteria that is being used to make these decisions.
- sport and recreation facility planning and management arrangements are average and are not optimal to the community needs.
- Palm Drive sports fields are in poor condition and have issues with ongoing maintenance (e.g. difficult to aerate due to irrigation being laid too high).
- improvements and upgrades of sports grounds and facilities are being undertaken in a reactive manner. This is due to facilities being of an age, run down and tired, and poor planning. Upgrades and redevelopment should only occur if use is established and justified.
- the Gladstone Car Club does not have a venue in close proximity to the City. They are able to access the K-Mart Car Park for low speed events. They are seeking a street track in an industrial area in Gladstone for sprint type events. An option previously presented was knocked back because spectators may have spilled onto railway land. Ash Pond 7 could be a location for hard-to-locate sports (e.g. motor sport activities).

Suggestions of where Council could improve its services or planning included the following:

- develop several high standard complexes shared between a number of groups (e.g. fields, indoor and hard-to-locate activities). Ash Pond 7 could be a suitable site for such a development. People would travel to Ash Pond 7 if of high quality. Council needs to drive the planning and development of the multi-sport facility. Council can play a lead role in facilitation where multiple clubs are involved, ensuring that sports that share are compatible. Developing a multi-sport complex of a high quality would have a number of benefits including:
 - help encourage and develop junior participation
 - would suit parents as they have less travel with children all in one place
 - by show casing the positives of multi-use facility it would encourage others to become interested
 - better quality facilities would attract more players/ events
 - a quality home facility or grounds can help give clubs a positive identity.
- a new pool could be incorporated into the multi-sports complex to allow for cross-training needs of other sports
- Showground should be relocated with the site's redevelopment including recreation and sport. (The group acknowledged that Council/ State may have other priorities for the Showground redevelopment). Racecourse and Showground should be relocated to Ash Pond 7
- Palm Drive Junior Sports Complex would benefit from having access to recycled or non-potable water. Access would need to meet health standards and be cheaper than potable water
- noisy sports need to be accommodated and should be located appropriately (e.g. expand go kart or drag strip sites to include speedway)
- convert the centre of the Racecourse to football codes or fully develop for sports if Racecourse is moved to Ash Pond 7 with Showground.
- schools should be encouraged to play on the same day to provide increased interschool competition
- Council to review its funding programs and provide grants to clubs on private land as this will decrease demand on public facilities
- develop a map of parks that will allow people to explore the network
- parks need to be defined and developed better with general and interpretative signage
- sporting fields should have more signage to help identify the fields and access points
- Round Hill Lookout could be improved with interpretative signage and viewing platforms. Make a feature of the summit
- Phillip Street bushland should be protected and developed sensitively

- new estate areas need parks provided for children's play and green space
- pathways need to be better linked with existing communities and destinations
- increase the utilisation of existing facilities before developing new facilities (e.g. Leagues Club and others)
- there needs to be more sharing of existing facilities and Council's Sport and Recreation Officer needs to facilitate this sharing and amalgamation as appropriate
- avenues for communication need to be set up especially where multiple users are on one site
- leasing of sporting facilities, especially fields, needs to be reviewed and tightened to get better results for Council and the community
- Council should use its purchasing power to buy irrigation equipment that clubs can then purchase helping to minimise costs and maximise value.

The suggestions that received the highest priority were:

1. initiating a multi-sport complex that has economic benefits to the City, community, teams travelling for training and competition
2. improving the promotion of recreation and sporting options
3. improve the standard of existing fields and facilities
4. facilitate all sports coming together to discuss improved management and utilisation
5. improve utilisation and presentation of Memorial Park south along the green belt to Reg Tanna Park
6. increase the level of functional open space in new development areas
7. provide assistance to meet insurance and registration costs. If these costs were decreased then greater membership might be encouraged
8. develop a facility for driver training which could be used by car clubs and services' training (e.g. police/ ambulance and fire) and in educating and training young people.

The implementation of the Open Space and Recreation Plan was seen as critical. It was agreed that Council should have an implementation strategy and commit to the Plan.

5.4 Aquatic Centre Survey

As part of this study ROSS Planning was asked to consider potential options for the further development of the Gladstone Aquatic Centre, exploring community desires and needs that could be best accommodated at the centre.

Discussions were held with centre management and Council officers regarding the issues faced and the potential developments that could be undertaken. A short feedback sheet was made available at the Centre, Library and Council Administration Centre over a period of approximately a month in early 2006.

Ninety-two (92) responses were received mainly from regular non swimming club users who were not members of the swimming club. The typical age group was 18–44 years. Figure 9, Figure 10 and Figure 11 provide details of the respondents' age, attendance type and the status of users.

Figure 9: Respondents' attendance type

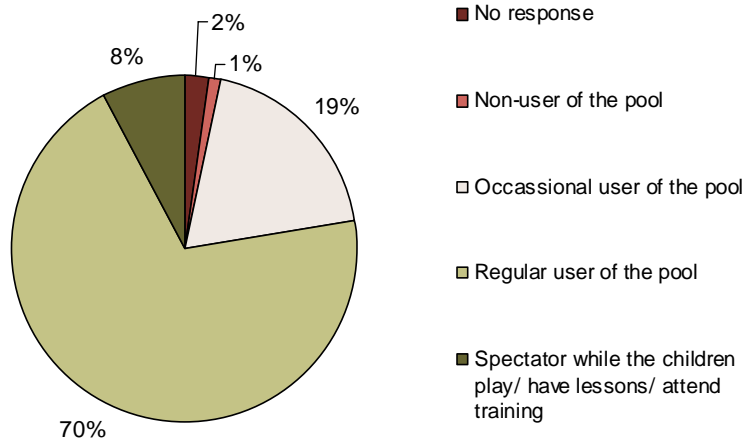


Figure 10: Respondents' age groups

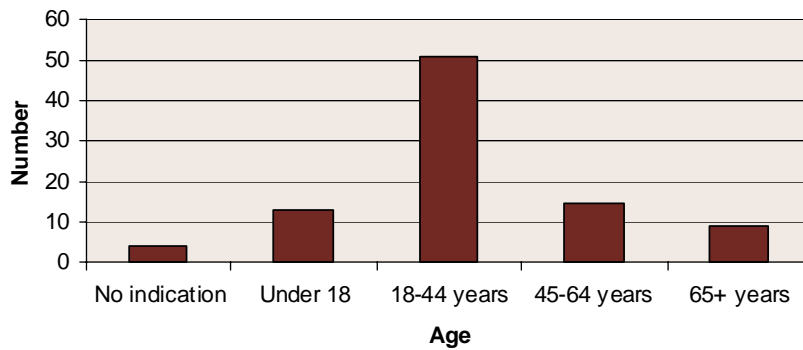
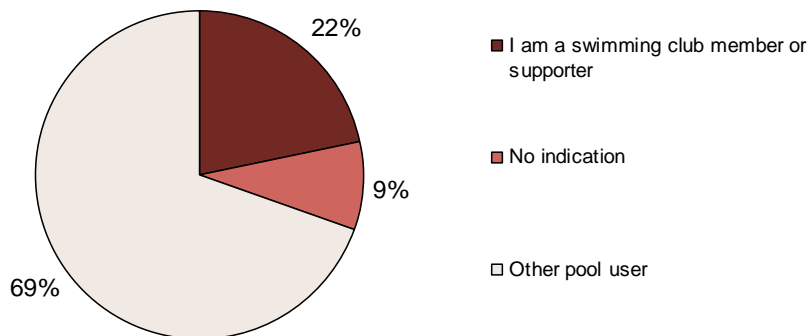


Figure 11: Respondents' user status



The most frequently cited elements of the Centre that are liked and appreciated were:

- training programs (e.g. lessons)
- customer service/ staff friendly
- maintenance and grounds presentation (e.g. grassed areas)
- pleasant environment
- safety.

Aspects that were noted as being disliked and unsatisfactory included:

- lack of shade
- untidy/ unhygienic / pools and amenities not clean
- length of opening hours
- staff communication/ interpersonal skills
- lack of children's play areas/ activities/ fun equipment
- lack of supervision/ control/ and catering to specific user needs (e.g. lap swimmers)
- pricing structure (e.g. cost, no family passes)
- limited family/ parent facilities and activities (e.g. barbecues, coffee shop).

Most frequently suggested improvements included:

- shade over the pools
- interactive water play facilities
- shaded areas for relaxing and sitting
- improved barbecue and picnic facilities
- improved café/coffee shop
- gymnasium/aerobics area.

Overwhelmingly respondents (61%) indicated the vision for the future of The Gladstone Aquatic Centre should be a place for fun and families. (see Photograph 2 as an example of water play elements which can create the environment clients are seeking). There was moderate support for the Centre as a place for health and fitness (21%).

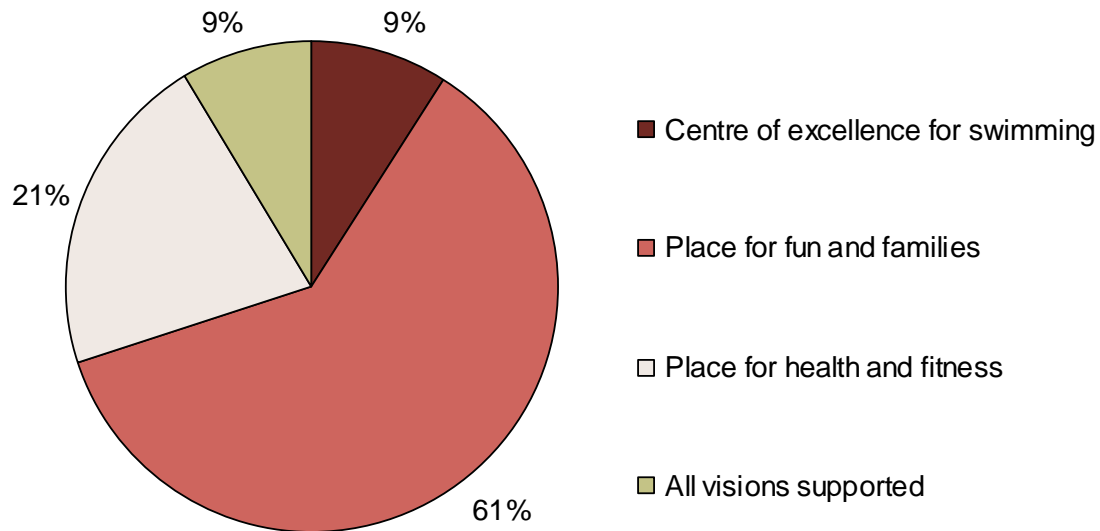
Figure 12 details the level of support for the different visions. Some respondents included their own vision descriptions such as:

"A play ground area with continuous waterfalls and spray water for kids to stand and play around" "More colour"



Photograph 2: Example of water play elements

Figure 12: Vision for the future direction of The Gladstone Aquatic Centre



The feedback from this survey is a starting point for Council and management to begin to consider the future upgrade and development of the Aquatic Centre. The centre is more than 30 years old now and while some elements are working well other elements could be improved to broaden the appeal, and thus improve the revenue take of the centre.

Council's next step is to consider the suggested improvements and family friendly vision and develop a feasibility study and master plan. This analysis would determine the overall benefits (social, environmental and financial) of pursuing the redevelopment.

5.5 Facility and Program Manager Interviews

A number of key facility and program managers were invited to comment directly on their needs or issues. For those that took up this opportunity the discussions are summarised below:

5.5.1 Police Citizens Youth Centre (PCYC)/ Pulse Centre (Memorial Park)

The PCYC was constructed at an approximate cost of \$3.6m and has been opened for about 2 years. With a recent change in management this facility is slowly increasing its profile and the activity programs are increasingly focused on youth and sport and recreation development. The venue is widely used with a number of regular sport and recreation groups including gymnastics, boxing, school sports and basketball as well as for special events and activities such as holiday programs, the Inclusive Games and Blue Light discos.

An area close to the PCYC has been identified as the site for the new ramp (skate) facility. A master plan of Memorial Park would help integrate other possible recreation needs and ensure high levels of access, amenity and functionality.



5.5.2 Gladstone Amateur Basketball Association (Memorial Park)

Even though the Association is travelling well, they are still experiencing similar issues to other sporting clubs including the lack of volunteers, referees, increasing sport industry and player/ spectator expectations as well as succession planning for the executives of the Association. The Association is expected to be administered at such a high level that it is difficult to get volunteers to hold executive positions. The Association actively seeks to remain relevant and promote their program. Junior numbers are steadily increasing again, thanks to recent promotion.

The Association has one indoor court, one undercover court, several outdoor courts and access to two courts at the PCYC for Friday night juniors. A second indoor court is desirable. It is yet to be determined whether the best option is to extend on the existing centre or enclose the covered outdoor court.

Currently the Association's only revenue is from membership and court fees which make long term planning difficult.

Suggestions for improvements included:

- complete improvements to undercover outdoor court as soon as possible to make this court more functional and useable
- cooperate in the development and management of facilities, supported or possibly driven by Council, to maximise efficiencies and minimise costs to community based clubs
- Inclusive Games should be conducted again and on a more regular basis with the Association's involvement continuing as well.

5.5.3 Gladstone District Tennis Association (Rigby Park)

The eighteen court centre was one of the best in the region but is now deteriorating and showing its age. A point of contention with the Council⁹ is the underground water damage to approximately a third of the courts, which has exacerbated the deterioration of several courts. The dramatic decrease in membership appears to have coincided with surface deterioration.

No long term planning has been undertaken to upgrade or replace courts. At this point it is probably best if some courts are retired.

The intention is to align the facilities with Tennis Queensland's strategic plan. This Plan seeks to upgrade regional tennis centres. Funding could be sought through approach.

Council has provided a reasonable level of support to this Association. As an example a grant was received from Council to upgrade courts and lights. This grant is being used to seek further funds from Sport and Recreation Queensland to undertake the project. Further Council support could include sharing resources such as contractors or machinery.

An integrated plan for the future of Rigby Park, including the hockey, Aquatic Centre and tennis facilities should be undertake particularly with any possible relocation and re-development proposals for the Showground.

⁹ Despite assurances from Council some members of the Tennis Association contend that the water damage is caused by leaks from the Gladstone Aquatic Centre



5.5.4 Gladstone and District Hockey Association (Rigby Park)

All hockey played is based at Rigby Park. The Gladstone and District Hockey Association is seeking to expand the number of fields and upgrade the standard of the fields to increase their ability to host championships (e.g. synthetic surfaced field). Car parking and access is limited on the site. If the Showground was to be relocated the Gladstone and District Hockey Association would like to add an additional field and improve access and car parking.

5.5.5 Football (Soccer) Gladstone (Palm Drive Sports Complex)

Overwhelming the major concern for this high membership Association was the issue of poor quality fields at the Palm Drive Sports Complex and the long term location for junior soccer. Palm Drive Sports Complex is in a poor condition. Recently the fields were declared unsafe and approximately 320 junior players have had to be relocated.

Council responded to this problem by bringing in an expert who provided an assessment of the fields and helped direct Council in a remediation and maintenance program prior to the commencement of the 2006 winter season.

The future needs for football in Gladstone include a complex with:

- one (1) international size field with lighting and seating
- minimum of two (2) full size fields with training lighting
- several modified fields
- clubhouse with storage, canteen, meeting space, toilet
- change room facilities including referee rooms, first aid area
- ancillary facilities such as shades areas, player benches, drinking taps and car parking.

Though the management arrangements were seen as relatively positive for Palm Drive Sports Complex, with representation from user clubs and the Council, it was agreed that there could be further improvements to cost sharing arrangements and transparency of Council's expenditure of fees paid by the user clubs.

5.5.6 Gladstone Cricket Inc (Palm Drive Sports Complex, Clinton Park and other sites)

The most pressing issue was the condition of the Palm Drive fields (i.e. uneven and hard). As noted above, Council has taken some action to improve this situation. This quality issue required one grade to be moved to Sunday play. Seniors also play on pitches at Yaralla, Sun Valley, Boyne, Calliope and at Clinton Park. Clinton Park has two ovals with a third nearing completion.

Palm Drive is in a good central location with an adequate level of facilities (e.g. training nets, clubhouse, storage and car parking). The clubhouse is currently underutilised as the adjacent field is unusable. Council provides mowing on the site with the Club providing other maintenance and pitch preparation through a grounds person.

There is some interest in expanding to night cricket due to sun safety and competing weekend activities. Lighting would need to be provided or upgraded on primary sites to allow this to occur. Lighting to this level at Clinton Park would likely be restricted due to the airport requirements. A desire was expressed to investigate the option to develop the centre of the Racecourse or Showground arena for cricket and other sports.



5.5.7 Gladstone and District Four Wheel Drive Club

Though this group is quite small in numbers it is keen to pursue access to land in Gladstone City to provide a facility that supports a range of training and education programs and 4WD club activities. As with many non-traditional pursuits participation in recreational four-wheel driving and touring is increasing. Though still somewhat tainted with images of “hooligans bush-bashing” the majority of current club participants are family oriented with cultural, environmental as well as lifestyle interests pursued through the activity.

The major goals of the club are to:

- train vehicle operators in the correct and safe use of off-road vehicles and equipment
- promote the outback and touring experience
- train a wide variety of people in correct vehicle recovery processes to prevent injury or damage to persons, environment or vehicle
- educate club members and the public at large to environmental awareness and sustainability, and land use management issues in conjunction with safe and responsible off-road recreational use.

The group have identified a section of Lot 319 CL 40130 as the land most suitable to achieving these goals due to its proximity and topography. In partnership with Council they hope to develop a facility of high quality over a 5 year period and an education and training program.

There is a need for the club to work closely with Council, and other groups looking for similar opportunities, to develop the proposal more thoroughly and to harness support to implement a staged development and management plan.

Council is in a unique position to directly influence and determine for the best outcomes for this activity, other such outdoor pursuits and the broader community. With improved communication, Council's support and proactive management, such outdoor recreation can be a legitimate part of Gladstone's recreational pursuit choices and be undertaken in a manner that has limited environmental impact but significant social and recreation benefits.

5.5.8 Gladstone Little Athletics (TAFE)

Though a small club the Gladstone Little Athletics are one of the few sports not on Council or private land, being based at the TAFE. This arrangement is restrictive to some degree as the club are less able to access funds to develop facilities. As an example the club noted that they were unable to access Sport and Recreation Queensland (SRQ) funds due to their tenure arrangement and the nature of the proposed structures (i.e. removable / non-permanent shade structures are ineligible under SRQ funding guidelines and permanent structures are not permitted by TAFE). If the Association wish to upgrade their facilities further a more suitable arrangement or venue would need to be found.

5.5.9 Community Clubs on Private Land

The land available at Yaralla Sports Club contributes to the overall supply of sporting land for Gladstone, as do other sites/ clubs such as Gladstone United Soccer, Blain Park, Wolves Soccer and Gladstone Rugby League. These facilities are very important to the provision of sporting parkland in Gladstone. The importance of this land is discussed further in section 6.2.4.



Yaralla Sports Club

Yaralla Sports Club was established by Queensland Alumina Ltd on land in Barney Point. This site has been developed with several sports regularly training and playing on the site including bowls, hockey and cricket. Other sports and recreation activities such as fishing, netball, basketball and soccer are under the banner of Yaralla. Recently the Club has become involved in the administration of the Gladstone Golf Course.

Gladstone United Soccer Club

This single field site is owned by the Club and is located between residential development and Auckland Creek/ Carthurbie Creek junction. Though identified in the draft planning scheme as open space land, the ability of the land to function as quality sporting land in the future is relatively constrained by its size, access, location and configuration. Most field sports, and particularly those experiencing growth such as football, require a minimum of two fields, high level street frontage and buffering from residential areas.

Wolves Sports Grounds

The Wolves Soccer Club owns this site and have developed it with two football (soccer) fields, irrigation, lighting on the main field and a basic level of change room, canteen and club facilities. Interestingly the site also operates as a golf driving range all week when not being used for training purposes. The site is not used for the playing of football on the weekends as this is the peak time for golf practice.

There is a desire to improve the clubhouse facilities and car parking arrangements on the site.

Gladstone Rugby League Football Club and Leagues Club

This site is privately owned, with the Gladstone District Rugby League Football Club and Leagues Club on a 10 year + 10 year option lease. The land known as Marley Brown field is zoned open space and parkland. The facility is of a high standard; consisting of change room facilities, covered grandstand, lit full size field and a training area used by junior cricket. The Leagues Club is adjacent.

Though financial difficulties were experienced several years ago, the Clubs are both operating viably with the senior competition including five clubs, fielding a minimum of three grades.

Apart from regular games the main field is also used for senior training and school boys (primary and high) competitions. The Gladstone Junior Rugby League Football Club leases land adjacent to the senior club directly from the State and are again experiencing increased junior numbers after several years of decline.

Major concerns included:

- future impacts of proposed Harvey Road widening and extension
- cost of potable water
- escalating rents in the lease agreement.

The needs for the future well-being of rugby league were identified as:

- 3–4 fields as a minimum
- field lighting
- car parking
- Leagues/ clubhouse
- grandstand.



5.5.10 Council Role

Sport and Recreation Officer

Council currently employs a Sport and Recreation Officer who is based with the Community Advisory Services. This Service is physically separated from Council's main administrative centre. The role appears to be poorly linked to Council's sport and recreation facility planning, development and management roles. The Sport and Recreation Officer role is valued and is appreciated in the community especially in relation to the development and delivery of activity programs (e.g. SunFest, Inclusive Games) and in assisting Council and the community to secure funding.

An opportunity exists for Council to review the focus of the Sport and Recreation Officer's role to improve its influence and effectiveness by aligning and locating the Officer closer to the sections responsible for sport and recreation facility planning and management. This would assist in improving communication and desired outcomes for aspects such as walk-cycle network, leasing and facility development coordination.

Maintenance of Council Sporting Fields

There is a perception within the sporting community that there is an inconsistent approach and allocation of resources (e.g. mowing) to sporting clubs and facilities within the City. The process and transparency for allocation of resources is not clear to these groups.

Funding/ Grant Support

Consultation found that there is a general lack of understanding of Council's funding policies and allocation of resources. Access to information on other funding opportunities was also sought by community clubs. With strategic planning and an appropriate, well developed budget and grant program, Council can significantly increase the outcomes and value of external funding for Council and the community. This is generally achieved by Council combining funds with club funds to seek grant funds from another agency (often the State government).

Leasing and management arrangements

Council operates leases for the majority of its grounds. Some such as Clinton Park and Palm Drive Complex are managed by committees made up of the various user groups, whilst others are single entity leases. There was some general confusion over lessees' and Council's roles and responsibilities. Some clubs also expressed a level of dissatisfaction with the leasing and renewal process. The system appears to be disjointed and lacking any performance based outcomes (i.e. perception if you had a lease you will automatically receive a renewal without any evaluation). New clubs find it difficult to negotiate use arrangements or secure tenure as the existing sites are permanently leased with no expectations concerning performance.

Access to non-potable/ recycled water

Many clubs raised the issue of the cost of potable water to maintain good quality field surfaces. Such costs are impacting on the viability of clubs and sports. Though major recycled water infrastructure passes by some significant sporting facilities there is no option for community use at this point with industry paying for and taking approximately 95–98% of the available supply. Council in partnership with industry, other Councils and the community should be able to improve access to non-potable water for sporting clubs. Alternate options such as Callemondah Lake may provide a limited non-potable water storage supply for adjacent and close by facilities.



6. Supply Assessment

6.1 Open Space Planning

The provision of open space is changing from the provision of discrete parks to networks of linked and diverse open spaces. The rationale for linked networks is that interconnected open spaces are more amenable to encouraging exercise (e.g. walking–cycling) and that environmental outcomes can be better managed (e.g. remnant vegetation and water management). There is an argument that Gladstone City needs to retain a balance of discrete yet functional active parks as well as open space networks, especially with its relatively young/family demographic characteristics.

ROSS Planning undertook on–site inspections and a desktop assessment of open space areas across Gladstone City to assess broadly the function, quantity and future needs. Comment on the quality of some recreation parks and playground experiences has been captured in the Play Opportunity Assessment report.

This section offers comment in relation to the findings and focuses mostly on achieving and improving the land supply for sport and recreation outcomes for Gladstone.

6.2 Sport, Recreation and Open Space Analysis

6.2.1 Quantity of Land

An analysis of the amount of land for recreation and sport was undertaken using spatial data supplied by Council. ROSS Planning applied a function to this open space data.

A detailed list is provided in Appendix 4 and a digital layer has been provided to Council for reviewing and updating. Functionality was applied based on limited on–ground knowledge and should be reviewed to ensure accuracy of calculations.

Gladstone has a significant amount of open space, over 1,700 hectares, much of which functions for purposes other than recreation and sport, such as environmental, utility and corridor links. As an example over 250 hectares can be attributed to environmental/ trail functions.

Functions and Hierarchy of Open Space

Most areas of public open space have multiple values. By identifying the primary function, improved planning and management of the open space network can be achieved in a way that protects and enhances the existing values. Appendix 5¹⁰ provides an example of functions and hierarchy of open space. Council should consider amending existing and developing a clear set of definitions to assist with their planning and management of open space.

Table 10 provides a summary of functional recreation and sporting park land in Gladstone¹¹. Ash Pond 7

¹⁰ Extracted from Hervey Bay City Council, Discussion Paper – Plan for Trunk Infrastructure (Open Space), author ROSS Planning Pty Ltd, April 2006

¹¹ As classified by ROSS Planning

is shown in this table though it is not currently used for sport and recreation, it is seen to have great potential and has been gazetted for this purpose. Privately owned and managed sporting land equates to over 26% of the total sporting land in Gladstone, which is relatively high compared to other regional centres in Queensland

Table 10: Total hectares of different sport and recreation land in Gladstone

FUNCTION	AREA (HECTARES)
Recreation Parks	57.8
Sporting Parks	69.6
Specialised Sports	17.7
Private – Sports	24.0
Private – Golf	44.7
Racecourse	25.8
Showground	6.2
Ash Pond 7 total land	69.3
Ash Pond 7 – usable space (excludes battering and 10m wide buffer)	45.7

6.2.2 Ash Pond 7

Ash Pond 7 is approximately 69 hectares in total and is gazetted as a reserve for park and recreation purposes. ROSS Planning calculated the probable usable space of Ash Pond 7 as approximately 46 hectares, which excludes the landscaped batters and a 10–15 metre buffer around the rim of the remediated area (refer to Figure 13).

Existing agreements between landowners and participants have set a remediation program in place that has limited scope to be changed. This site has been progressively filled with ash from the Gladstone Power Station over approximately 10 years. The majority of filling will be completed by mid 2006, with landscaping completed by end 2006.

Appendix 6 provides the preliminary comments by Neil Power (Power Horticultural Services) of the suitability of Ash Pond 7 for park purposes and in particular for sports fields.

In summary development issues will need to take into account elements such as:

- legislative requirements
- fill layer composition, capping and finishing soil structures and compaction levels will affect construction solutions
- limited vegetation coverage and cost of / and access to materials to improve the condition of the surface and growing medium
- non-existent and limited infrastructure and services

Figure 13: Ash Pond 7 – usable area



currently (e.g. no electricity, water or sewerage, causeway is affected by high tides)

- topography and natural elements (i.e. high winds, flat).

Ash Pond 7 has potential to be progressively developed for a mix of sports or other uses (e.g. Racecourse/ Showground) over an extended period, though at a substantial cost. The site has the potential to accommodate a high standard multi-field sports complex for sports such as football (soccer), cricket, rugby union and softball.

It is apparent that the usable area of Ash Pond 7 will not be able to accommodate all potential demands and relocation opportunities and it is critical that a feasibility study be undertaken prior to master planning and staged development of the site.

6.2.3 Council Owned or Managed Sporting Parks

A brief summary is provided of sizeable Council owned or managed field sport parks.

The majority of these parks are located along the northern fringe of the City. On-site inspections and consultation revealed that the quality of field surfaces is average to poor and the standard of infrastructure average or non-existent. Infrastructure such as lighting, storage, shelters, canteen facilities, change rooms, adequate car parking are critical and contribute to the utility and functionality as a sporting park. Many of these parks are constrained in terms of their long term use and development as high standard sporting parks.

Specialised sporting areas such as the Harbour City BMX, the clay target shooting range and karting areas have not been included as their size, location and infrastructure requirements are less flexible and less likely to accommodate the needs of a range of different sports. These sites though are very important in ensuring non-traditional sport and recreation choices to the community.

Clinton Park

The active sporting area is approximately 10.3 hectares. The Park is leased to a management committee that is representative of its users. Currently the sports that train and play on Clinton Park include football (soccer), Australian rules and cricket.

Expansion and development for sport is somewhat constrained by its location adjacent to the airport and drainage features. Lighting of a second field and the completion of another cricket wicket will greatly improve the use of the Park. Lighting of all fields would enable this Park to operate at an optimal level, decreasing the pressure to find other training venues.

This Park is at a major intersection for visitors entering the City (i.e. Aerodrome Road and Dawson Highway). Its presentation, car park area and street frontage could be enhanced significantly.

Memorial Park

This is one of the largest (10.2 hectares) and most significant open space/ sporting areas in the City. It is located close to the central business district and fronts a major road (Glenlyon Road).

It has a significant level of sporting and recreation development accommodating the following sports:

- Netball (clubhouse, 10 hard courts and 6 grass courts)
- Softball (clubhouse and 7 diamonds)
- Basketball (single indoor stadium, single court covered outdoors and 3 outdoor courts)

- PCYC/ Pulse Centre
- Baseball (it is unclear as to whether this sport still operates)

This Park is also the proposed location for a new ramp (skate) facility near the PCYC.

Overall, with the majority of sports played on site being seasonal, or housed in structures to the rear of the Park, the site:

- appears underutilised
- provides limited informal recreation opportunities
- is not well connected to neighbouring residential areas or the central business district
- is poorly presented along a major road frontage and lacks amenity and appeal to the broader community and visitors
- does not present or promote any green belt qualities or features.

Council should consider reviewing the role of this significant park through the development of a precinct master plan with the aim of increasing its use and significantly broadening and improving its presentation and appeal.

Rigby Park

This 7.9 hectare Park includes the Aquatic Centre, tennis complex and hockey facilities located on the corner of two major roads, the Dawson Highway and Glenlyon Road.

With a vision for the future of the Gladstone Aquatic Centre as a place for fun and families, with water play, leisure water and picnic and barbecue features the site could be expanded, access and layout reconfigured to match this vision. Tennis is looking to improve the quality of their facilities and in the process rationalise and improve the layout and access to these improved quality facilities. Hockey has expressed a desire to expand the number and quality of fields and improve access. This would require use of some of the Showground site (subject to its relocation).


There is a great opportunity to review, reconfigure, consolidate and expand the recreation and sporting activities and facilities at Rigby Park. Within this there is also the prospect of improving access, presentation and increase the connectivity and contribution of the Park to the Green Belt outcomes. To achieve this, an integrated precinct master plan is required. This master plan should be aligned with the possible relocation and re-development proposals of the Showground.

Palm Drive Junior Sports Complex (Glen Creek Park)

The active sporting area of Glen Creek Park known commonly as the Palm Drive Junior Sports Complex is approximately 11 hectares in size and accessed from Blain Drive. Junior soccer, junior and senior cricket train and play at the Complex.

The sports complex sits on a former landfill site. The site has exhibited over time the classic symptoms of being a former landfill site, including undulating ground surface, uneven and poor grass cover and growing medium for shade trees, tendency to pond water and/ or not retain water in the soil substructure. Some fields have been remediated previously but are again showing initial signs of deterioration.

During the study period the surface conditions of fields 1 and 3 had become so problematic that they were deemed unplayable and unsafe by the primary user groups (e.g. highly compacted and undulating). Council responded to this issue by engaging a sports surface specialist to assess the site and provide



recommendations on remediation and future maintenance¹². Based on this assessment Council undertook immediate action to minimise the risk and make the surfaces playable, though at a substantial cost and inconvenience to users.

A number of Councils in south-east Queensland are reviewing and developing policies around the sporting use of former landfill sites. These policies and programs aim to improve the condition and usability, reduce capital and ongoing costs and improve the overall value of resources invested by Council and the community. Examples include:

- reviewing the need and role of the land as a sports park (e.g. quantity assessment)
- determining and establishing carrying capacities (if retained as a sports park)
- relocating sports off these areas permanently to more appropriate locations
- developing and implementing regular maintenance regimes
- developing and budgeting for programmed major remediation works.

It is recommended that Council assess the feasibility of Palm Drive Sports Complex being retained for sporting purposes. This feasibility study should include consultation with user groups. If it is decided that the Complex is to be retained for sports, a range of policies/ programs of long term asset management and maintenance should be developed and cooperatively implemented by Council and the community management committee.

Rugby League (Junior) and Touch Grounds (Harvey Road)

The junior rugby league and touch grounds are located along Harvey Road. The area is 9 hectares in size and accommodates approximately 2-3 rugby league and 6 touch fields. The land is directly leased from the State to the respective clubs.

The fields are on several levels and access to the site is somewhat constrained by an steep embankment. Amenities and support facilities for both the junior league and touch are not of a high standard. The land is located just to the north of major urban growth and Kirkwood Road extension, thus increasing its value. The site, with upgraded access and amenities, would improve its position in relation to neighbouring schools and the new urban development areas to the south (i.e. Kirkwood South).

Meteors Sportsground

This site of 8.8 hectares is leased for a 20 year period to the Meteors Sports Club, who acts as an umbrella organisation for sports including hockey and junior soccer. As the Sports Club did not respond to the club survey it is difficult to ascertain the level of use, activities or the management and maintenance arrangements. It would appear that hockey and soccer mostly use other grounds for training and games. Gladstone Rugby Union currently uses this Park as their main ground for training and play. A radio control car track has been developed on a portion of the land near Glenlyon Road.

There is a club house but limited other infrastructure servicing the sporting uses (e.g. lights, toilets, change rooms). A level of development would improve the utilisation of the site but unfortunately a high standard of sports function is likely to be constrained by the following:

- major power easement crossing the site and main field
- limited road frontage and few options to increase access

¹² Power Horticultural Services, Gladstone Palm Drive Sports Field Assessments, Remediation Recommendations and Training Report, February 2006

- poor access to the second field (separated from the main field and clubhouse by a watercourse)
- urban development surrounds the park and noise may become an issue.

6.2.4 Private Sporting Parks

The following privately owned areas contribute significantly to the provision of sporting parks in Gladstone. Though not classified as sporting parks all are shown in the draft planning scheme as open space and as such are afforded a degree of protection under the scheme from a material change of use. The retention of these site, access and use will become increasingly important as the City grows and as other sites reach capacity or are constrained in their development.

Table 11: Private Sporting Park Provision

PRIVATE SPORTING PARK	TOTAL AREA OF LAND (HECTARES)
Blain Park	7.9
Gladstone RLFC	4.6
Gladstone United Soccer	2.6
Wolves Sportsground	3.8
Yaralla Sports Club	5.1
TOTAL (Approximately)	24.0

Blain Park

This site of approximately 7.9 hectares and though developed and used as sporting fields previously it appears to have had little use in recent years. It is well located away from residential areas. Access is currently poor but could easily be improved. The field surfaces, lighting poles and some external fencing still exist as does a platform for viewing or amenities.

This Park with its size, location and former use should be re-activated as a sports park as demand increases and/ or there is a need to accommodate short term users or clubs in their initial development stages.

Council should consider a range of mechanisms to secure this site for sporting purposes, such as acquisition, negotiating a long term lease or facilitating suitable agreements between potential users and the owners.


Gladstone Rugby League Football Club and Leagues Club

This site is approximately 4.6 hectare in size and Marley Brown oval has been developed to a high standard with lit full size field, covered grandstand, training ground (also used for junior cricket) and clubhouse/ Leagues Club facilities.

The level and cost of infrastructure invested at this site is considerable. If the site is redeveloped for other uses it would be a significant loss to Gladstone.

Gladstone United Soccer

This site of 2.6 hectares consists of a single field with modest amenities. It is relatively constrained for higher level sporting use by its size, poor access and proximity to residents.



In the longer term the function of this land as sport should be reviewed and the Club supported if it considers relocating and consolidating use elsewhere in Gladstone.

Wolves Sports ground

Though this site is well utilised for various sports training and practice, the quality of amenities are currently below standard. The site is well positioned along a major road and between light industry, minimising impacts on residents. Though a little small (3.84 hectares) the site could be upgraded substantially.

Any major upgrades should ensure that appropriate revenue sources will provide a return for the capital investment and ongoing operations and maintenance. There is a need prior to any development that the Club undertakes a feasibility study, develops a master plan and associated management and business plans. Council needs to be supportive of appropriate development of this site for sporting outcomes.

Yaralla Sports Club

Yaralla Sports Club is situated on 5.1 hectares and provides for a range of sports. Redevelopment opportunities and upgrades to the licensed club facility over time could impact on the variety and quality of sporting facilities provided.

6.2.5 Recreation Parks

Though Gladstone has numerous recreation parks many of these could be further enhanced to improve their appeal to a range of users and diversify uses. Larger open space areas near urban areas should provide for an increased mix of infrastructure focusing on family orientated activities. This may include dog off leash and agility areas, passive and active children's and youth play experiences, (e.g. BMX dirt jumps) picnic facilities and connecting walk and cycle paths.

There is an opportunity to build on the Green Belt concept along Glenlyon Road by reviewing and undertaking a precinct master plan for Memorial and Rigby Parks. Though these are currently major sporting parks their lack of appeal, poor presentation, high profile frontages and proximity to the central business district invites Council and the community to beautify and reinvigorate these parks. It would be appropriate that this was undertaken in conjunction with any redevelopment of the Showground.


The Play Opportunities Assessment study also recommends that Council undertakes a number of master and concept planning exercises, asset management programs and minor park infrastructure improvements to enhance the functionality, amenity and use of these recreation parks. Some of the suggested recreation parks include:

- Foreshore Parks (especially Barney Point, Friend Park)
- Harbour Parks
- several local active neighbourhood parks.

6.3 Desired Standard of Service

6.3.1 Planning

With the introduction of the Integrated Planning Act 1997 and associated amendments and guidelines, many local governments across Queensland are changing the way they plan for sporting and recreational land and facilities. Councils are tending to move towards a standards-based approach, specifying a ratio



of land area per head of population. This is then supported by design and development specifications within statutory mechanisms to ensure open space is functional, attractive and accessible to communities.

The current planning scheme facilitates a 10% land or equivalent monetary contribution from developers. Minimal criteria has meant that Council has accepted unsuitable open space areas, though narrow areas alongside creeks and drainage lines have provided some opportunities for local circulation walking and cycling paths.

The new draft planning scheme³ provides details on Council's zones, policies and codes in relation to open space and recreation. The primary means to achieve the open space system is by securing land contributions from development assessment. As noted in the planning scheme the extent of land which can be achieved by this means is limited by development and Council intends to use other means including:

- easements
- development bonuses
- inclusion of publicly owned land (negotiating inclusion of crown land or purchasing land directly or including other Council owned land appropriate to functioning within the open space network)
- bikeway/ pedestrian path funding
- community involvement (e.g. corporate sponsorship)
- other (e.g. local laws).

It is appropriate that Council examines and uses all approved means to secure the amounts and quality of land required for active recreation use.

Specific objectives within the Open Space Planning Policy³ include:

- Open Space Structure Objective 3: To provide active recreation uses which require large areas or contiguous lands, consistent with the environmental land values of these areas.
 - Impact assessment criteria includes: district active open space of at least 10 hectares, flat topography and sparse vegetation.
 - Areas indicated for the Round Gladstone Trail will be required for dedication for public open space unless alternative paths are available or the land is not required for open space and legal access can be provided for the purpose of the trail
- Open Space Framework Objective 1: To develop an interlinked system of open space which preserves local drainage systems and areas of environmental value and integrates these areas into urban development to provide as range of district, neighbourhood and local open space, recreation and local circulation opportunities.
 - Impact assessment criteria includes: sufficient width to preserve environmental and drainage functions and landscape character and to allow for active recreation and circulation uses
- Open Space Framework Objective 2: To provide areas within the Open Space Framework which are suitable for development for neighbourhood active open space
 - Impact assessment criteria includes: dedication of one to two hectares of public open space for local playing fields and informal sporting activities.

It is recommended that Gladstone City Council reviews the types of open space and develop a set of standard design and development requirements for different open space/ park types and hierarchies. These could then be included as part of the Specific Outcomes and Acceptable and Probable Solutions for the Open Space and Recreation Code.

As an example the following¹³ could be used as a basis for consultation and refinement and inclusion.

CRITERIA	RECREATION PARK (LOCAL)	RECREATION PARK (DISTRICT)	RECREATION PARK (CITY-WIDE)	SPORT PARK
Minimum level of supply	2ha/1,000 (broad measure)			2ha/1,000 (broad measure)
Size	Minimum 1-2 hectares ¹⁴	Minimum of 2ha to 6ha of useable space	Minimum of 6ha	Minimum 10ha ¹⁵ To maximise the area available for playing fields, a square of circular shape is considered most efficient
Location and spatial distribution	Within 500m of 90% of the population it is intended to serve	Within 2.5km of the population	Within 5km of 90% of the population	Within 2.5km of 90% of the population
	Where possible provide linkages to other open space areas	Where possible provide linkages to other open space areas		
Accessibility	75% local road frontage where possible	75% of the parkland perimeter must have direct road frontage, to provide good physical access and visibility		75% of the parkland perimeter must have direct road frontage, to provide good physical access and visibility
		Accessible to public transport, where possible	Accessible to public transport	Allow adequate space for parking of between 25 and 50 cars (based on park type, catchment, size etc) Include safe bus set down area Accessible to public transport, where possible

¹³ Extracted from Gold Coast Planning Scheme Policies, Policy 16 Policy for Infrastructure Recreation Facilities Network Developer Contributions, 2003

¹⁴ Gladstone City Council, Open Space Planning Policy (Draft) indicates 1 – 2 hectares for local playing fields and informal sporting activities and major district active recreation open space will be determined at the time of the development application but will be at least 10 hectares, pp 15-12, 2005

¹⁵ Gladstone City Council, Open Space Planning Policy (Draft) indicates 1 – 2 hectares for local playing fields and informal sporting activities and major district active recreation open space will be determined at the time of the development application but will be at least 10 hectares, pp 15-12, 2005



CRITERIA	RECREATION PARK (LOCAL)	RECREATION PARK (DISTRICT)	RECREATION PARK (CITY-WIDE)	SPORT PARK
	To facilitate wheelchair access to parks, areas with a grade of 1:14 will also be provided, where possible	To facilitate wheelchair access to parks, areas with a grade of 1:14 will also be provided, where possible	To facilitate wheelchair access to parks, areas with a grade of 1:14 will also be provided, where possible	To facilitate wheelchair access to parks, areas with a grade of 1:14 will also be provided, where possible
Land Quality	Maximum grade of 1:10 for 80% area of the park.	Average grade of 1:10 for 80% of park		See below
	Access to water and power required (i.e. connection points located along primary street)	Access to water and power required (i.e. connection points located along primary street)		Access to water and power required (i.e. connection points located along primary street)
		Minimum 10% of area to be level and located above Q100 flood level (i.e. suitable for the establishment of facilities)		Minimum 10% of area to be level and located above Q100 flood level (i.e. suitable for the establishment of facilities)
		Retain natural vegetation and landscape features wherever possible		Design criteria specifications for: Maximum playing surface grade (e.g. 1:100) Grass cover and type Top soil depth Drainage requirements Orientation of fields Level of sports facilities

6.3.2 Standards Approach

To gain an indication of supply ROSS Planning have compared provision rates for Gladstone's current and future population against general industry benchmark standards. The benchmark standard being broadly adopted in South East Queensland and in larger Councils in regional areas is between four and five hectares of quality sporting and recreation land for every 1,000 people¹⁶.

The standard is generally broken down as follows:

- Recreation land = 2–3 hectares/ 1,000 population
- Sport = 2 hectares/ 1,000 population¹⁷
- Total = 4–5 hectares/ 1,000 population

The following Table 12 provides a level of assessment against Gladstone's estimated 2006 population of 28,604⁶.

If using the higher rate of provision (i.e. recreation = 3ha/1,000 and sport=2ha/1,000) there currently appears an oversupply of sporting land and undersupply of functional recreation parkland against these standard industry benchmarks. The calculations within this table do not include specialised facilities such as shooting ranges, motor sport facilities and the Racecourse, Showground and Golf Course as these tend not to be publicly accessible for recreation/ sport.

It is worth noting that Gladstone's 2006 provision rate of 2.0ha/1,000 for recreation land is at the lower end of the accepted standards (i.e. 2-3ha/1,000).

Table 12: Current sport and recreation supply assessment

FUNCTION	CURRENT SUPPLY (HA)	CURRENT PROVISION RATE (HA/1,000)	INDUSTRY BENCHMARK STANDARD (HA/1,000)	CURRENT DEMAND (HA) (IND STD)	CURRENT GAP (HA) (IND STD)
Recreation	57.8	2.02	3.0	85.8	-28.1
Sport	69.6	2.4	2.0	57.2	12.4
Total	127.5	4.5	5.0	143.0	-15.6
Private Sport	24.0	0.8			

Future provision has been calculated for estimated populations in 2016 of 35,788⁶ and for 2026 with an estimated population of 45,124⁶. Table 13 highlights the demand for land in 2016 and 2026 based on industry standards (i.e. 3ha/ 1,000 for recreation and 2ha/1,000 for sport) and the minimum land required to maintain Gladstone's current provision rates (i.e. 2.0ha/1,000 for recreation and 2.4ha/1,000 for sport).

¹⁶ Note: This standard does not generally include specialist or large area users such as pony clubs, motor sports facilities, shooting/ archery areas, golf courses, swimming pools or indoor sport and recreation centres.

¹⁷ The area classified as sporting park includes land for car parking, ancillary facilities and clubhouses as these are integral components of sporting provision. Land for specialised sport such as shooting motocross, equestrian, golf and other are not included in this quantity.

Table 13: Future sport and recreation supply assessment

FUNCTION	CURRENT SUPPLY (HA)	2016 DEMAND (IND. STD)	2016 DEMAND AT CURRENT PROVISION RATE	2016 MINIMUM LAND REQUIRED TO SUSTAIN CURRENT PROVISION RATE	2026 DEMAND (IND. STD)	2026 DEMAND AT CURRENT PROVISION RATE	2026 MINIMUM LAND REQUIRED TO SUSTAIN CURRENT PROVISION RATE
Recreation	57.8	107.4	72.3	14.5	135.4	91.2	33.4
Sport	69.6	71.6	87.1	17.5	90.2	109.9	40.2
Total	127.5	178.9	159.5	32.0	225.6	201.0	73.6

Based on a mix of industry and current provision levels the following additional amounts of sport and recreation land is required to be developed for Gladstone’s population in 20 years:

- Recreation: 33 hectares (based on a rate of 2ha/1,000)
- Sport: 21 hectares (based on a rate of 2ha/1,000).

It is possible that the demands for recreation land could be met adequately through the upgrade, enhancement and development of existing open space. This would include improving infrastructure and access by developing multi–use path networks and recreation nodes along corridor parks, trail and within less sensitive environmental open space areas. As an example a portion of the recently acquired Phillip Street land could be enhanced with several recreation nodes and connected multi–use trails. The remaining less valuable environmental and recreation land could be developed for other uses.

It is recommended that Council commences a rolling program of recreation park improvements and identifying and acquiring appropriate land for future sporting land.

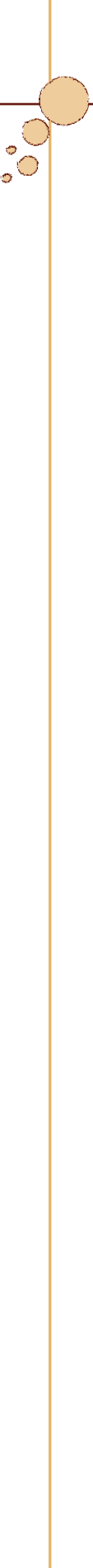
Council should also review the mechanism it has in place to protect private sports provision. The retention of private sporting parkland will be very important as this will assist in decreasing the demand for sporting land by potentially 24.0 hectares.

The use and staged development of Ash Pond 7 needs to be urgently resolved thus allowing Council to more clearly ascertain the need for additional sporting land and/ or increased utilisation of existing sports parks.

For Gladstone City Council the securing of embellishment contributions to improve and augment existing parks is as critical as achieving new land. Land should be acquired to assist in redistributing supply and to meet areas of deficiency or growth.

To redress the issues of quantity, distribution and quality ROSS Planning suggest that following priorities:

- acquire dedicated parkland (future parks or extension to existing parks) as land is developed for residential purposes including:
 - acquiring land for active neighbourhood parks (e.g. minimum of 1–2 hectares) in new urban development areas that are currently not serviced (e.g. Glen Eden/ New Auckland). Adding to existing open space and collocation is desirable. Such land should meet the standard requirements for active neighbourhood parks

- 
- acquiring land for district active recreation (e.g. Kirkwood South). Such land should meet the standard requirements for district active recreation (i.e. 10 ha minimum).
 - protecting and upgrading private lands contributing to sporting park land provision levels
 - upgrading of existing sports and recreation parks to meet standard requirements.

Additionally appropriate long term recreation and sporting uses should be investigated for several non-council owned sites (e.g. Gladstone United Soccer facilities and Blain Park ovals).

Appendix One: Organisations that responded to the Sport and Recreation Organisations Survey

RESPONDING ORGANISATIONS			
1	Central Coast Car Club (Gladstone) Inc	22	Gladstone Junior Tennis Association Inc
2	Clinton Junior Soccer Club	23	Gladstone Kart Club
3	Clinton Park Sport's Association	24	Gladstone Netball Association Inc
4	Clinton Soccer Club – Senior Section Inc	25	Gladstone Road Runners Club Inc
5	Curtis & District Trail Riding Club Inc	26	Gladstone Rugby Union Football Club
6	Curtis Coast Baden Powell Guild	27	Gladstone Softball Assoc.
7	Dolphin Sea Scout Group	28	Gladstone Swimming Club
8	Football Gladstone (formerly Gladstone & District Junior Soccer Assoc. Inc)	29	Gladstone Touch Association
9	Gladstone & District Darts Assoc. Inc	30	Gladstone United Soccer Club
10	Gladstone & District Hockey Assoc Inc	31	Gladstone Volleyball Association
11	Gladstone & District Rugby League Inc	32	Glen Cricket Club
12	Gladstone & District Tennis Assoc Inc	33	Harbour City BMX Club
13	Gladstone Amateur Basketball Association Inc	34	Meteors Hockey Club
14	Gladstone Athletics Club Inc.	35	Meteors Junior Soccer Club
15	Gladstone Australian Rules Football Club	36	Port Curtis Division Ladies Bowling Assoc.
16	Gladstone Bowls Club Inc	37	Tannum Sands Surf Lifesaving Club
17	Gladstone Clay Target Club	38	Valleys Netball Club Inc
18	Gladstone Cricket Inc	39	Western Suburbs Swimming Club
19	Gladstone Croquet Club Inc	40	Wolves Soccer Club
20	Gladstone Gropers Masters Swimming Club Inc	41	Yaralla Cricket Club
21	Gladstone Gymnastic Club Inc	42	Yaralla Hockey Club

Appendix Two: Membership Details of Sport and Recreation

RESPONDING ORGANISATIONS	MEMBERSHIP IN 2003	CURRENT MEMBERSHIP 2005/06	CHANGE IN MEMBERSHIP
Central Coast Car Club (Gladstone) Inc	55	48	-7
Clinton Junior Soccer Club		223	
Clinton Park Sport's Association		758	
Clinton Soccer Club - Senior Section Inc	295	395	100
Curtis & District Trail Riding Club Inc		47	
Curtis Coast Baden Powell Guild		14	
Dolphin Sea Scout Group		25	
Gladstone & District Darts Assoc. Inc	94	122	28
Gladstone & District Hockey Assoc Inc	558	609	51
Football Gladstone (Gladstone & District Junior Soccer Assoc. Inc)		1,520	
Gladstone & District Rugby League Inc			
Gladstone & District Tennis Assoc Inc	277	180	-97
Gladstone Amateur Basketball Association Inc		201	201
Gladstone Athletics Club Inc.	113	83	-30
Gladstone Australian Rules Football Club	70	186	116
Gladstone Bowls Club Inc	120	146	26
Gladstone Clay Target Club	48	41	-7
Gladstone Cricket Inc	486	509	23
Gladstone Croquet Club Inc	12	15	3
Gladstone Gropers Masters Swimming Club Inc	90	84	-6
Gladstone Gymnastic Club Inc	200	453	253
Gladstone Junior Tennis Association Inc	182	126	-56
Gladstone Kart Club	90	146	56
Gladstone Netball Association Inc	358	385	27
Gladstone Road Runners Club Inc	70	82	12
Gladstone Rugby Union Football Club	105	50	-55
Gladstone Softball Assoc.	60	120	60
Gladstone Swimming Club	80	120	40
Gladstone Touch Association	600	800	200
Gladstone United Soccer Club			
Gladstone Volleyball Association	35	35	0
Glen Cricket Club	130	140	10

RESPONDING ORGANISATIONS	MEMBERSHIP IN 2003	CURRENT MEMBERSHIP 2005/06	CHANGE IN MEMBERSHIP
Harbour City BMX Club	70	70	0
Meteors Hockey Club	120	180	60
Meteors Junior Soccer Club	140	111	-29
Port Curtis Division Ladies Bowling Assoc.		317	
Tannum Sands Surf Lifesaving Club		289	
Valleys Netball Club Inc		93	
Western Suburbs Swimming Club	60	83	23
Wolves Soccer Club		60	
Yaralla Cricket Club	76	117	41
Yaralla Hockey Club	45	53	8

Appendix Three: Education and Training Providers

Register of club development and training providers

Recreation and Training Queensland have a database of training providers available on their website, www.rtg.com.au. Follow the link through Services to the training.insportandrecreation page, where details of a range of providers are available.

Some of the key providers operating in south-east and central Queensland regions are provided below.

Representatives from government organisations and peak bodies, such as Sport and Recreation Queensland and Volunteering Queensland are generally able to provide training at no to minimal cost. Many of these groups have a role of providing training and education as part of promotion of their organisation.

Indicative fees for private consultants to facilitate workshops, provide training package or guest speaker functions start at around \$1,000. This would exclude travel to the Gladstone area but would include materials and resources. Locally based providers such as Sport and Recreation Queensland and Amarna Pty Ltd are likely to offer good value.

TRAINING CATEGORIES	POSSIBLE PROVIDERS	CONTACT
Funding and Grant applications	Sport and Recreation Queensland	Trudy Funch – (07) 4938 4805
	CPR Group	Michael Connelly – (07) 3806 5679
	Miriam Martin Consulting	Miriam Martin – (07) 3848 0339
	Premier Sports Marketing	Paul Gaffney – (07) 3891 5830
	Volunteering Queensland	Talia Van Gills – (07) 3002 7626
Strategic and Business Planning for Clubs	Sport and Recreation Queensland	Trudy Funch – (07) 4938 4805
	Amarna Pty Ltd	Crystal McGregor – (07) 4973 9074
	CPR Group	Michael Connelly – (07) 3806 5679
	International Pacific College Australia	Sam Mattiuzzo – (07) 3831 6999
	PathFINDER Pty Ltd	Paul Stapleton – (07) 3353 4865
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	Proactive Consulting	Graeme Lee – (07) 3843 1035
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	Volunteering Queensland	Talia Van Gills – (07) 3002 7626
Club Governance and Committee Management	Sport and Recreation Queensland	Trudy Funch – (07) 4938 4805
	Amarna Pty Ltd	Crystal McGregor – (07) 4973 9074
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Appendix Four: Allocated Function for Assessment of Open Space Supply

NAME	FUNCTION	LOCALITY	LOT_PLAN	TENURE	AREA_HA
Albion Park	Community Facility	Gladstone City	323ctn1654	RE	0.2598
Albion Park	Environmental	Gladstone City	323ctn1654	RE	0.2631
Albion Park	Sporting Park	Gladstone City	323ctn1654	RE	3.2017
Anzac Park	Recreation Park	Gladstone City	1g14221	RE	0.7075
Anzac Park	Sporting Park	Gladstone City	1g14221	RE	0.9297
Apex Park	Recreation Park	Gladstone City	6g14257	RE	0.7474
Archer Park	Recreation Park				0.2063
Ash Pond 7	Undeveloped Open Space	West Gladstone	200ctn2173	RE	23.6103
Ash Pond 7 – Usable Area	Undeveloped Open Space				45.7272
Auckland Creek	Corridor Link		48sp159669	AP	0.4788
Auckland Creek	Corridor Link		48sp159669	AP	0.0167
Barney Point Park	Recreation Park	Barney Point	400ctn801110	RE	0.5228
Beaumont Park	Lagoon	Clinton	2rp853992	RE	0.582
Beaumont Park	Lagoon	Clinton	2rp890630	RE	0.8294
Beaumont Park	Lagoon	Clinton	5sp116447	RE	0.7398
Beaumont Park	Recreation Park	Clinton	5sp116447	RE	1.006
Beaumont Park	Recreation Park	Clinton	3rp853992	RE	0.9435
Ben Lexcen Park	Recreation Park	Clinton	9rp807436	RE	0.3773
Beryl Park	Utility	New Auckland	500sp120916	RE	0.1294
Beryl Park Extension	Utility	New Auckland	280sp153030	AP	0.0754
Beryl Park Extension	Utility	New Auckland	280sp153030	AP	0.1292

NAME	FUNCTION	LOCALITY	LOT_PLAN	TENURE	AREA_HA
Beryl Park–Drainage	Utility	New Auckland	501sp120916	RE	0.6983
Billaroy Park	Corridor Link	Glen Eden	56ctn1567	RE	0.4115
Blain Park	Private Sports		0	B	7.8537
Bradford Park	Corridor Link	Telina	7rp620670	RE	0.3328
Briffney Park	Corridor Link	New Auckland	1cp861923	RE	0.5675
Bulgwoyn Park	Environmental	West Gladstone	361ctn2174	RE	7.2407
Bulgwoyn Park	Environmental	West Gladstone	361ctn2174	RE	18.9768
Byellee Wildlife Reserve	Environmental	Byellee	34pl646	FH	20.5246
Byellee Wildlife Reserve	Environmental	Byellee	1rp601557	FH	14.3056
Byellee Wildlife Reserve	Environmental	Byellee	32pl646	FH	17.8986
Byellee Wildlife Reserve	Environmental	Byellee	2rp615723	FH	17.9332
Byellee Wildlife Reserve	Environmental	Byellee	6rp601555	FH	19.7784
Byellee Wildlife Reserve	Environmental	Byellee	5rp601549	FH	2.7687
Carinya Park	Corridor Link	Clinton	3rp611406	FH	2.5302
Carinya Park	Corridor Link	Clinton	76ctn1622	RE	4.777
Carramar Park	Recreation Park	West Gladstone	378cp897416	RE	1.1284
Carramar Park	Undeveloped Open Space	West Gladstone	378cp897416	RE	2.4078
Cassy Lives Park – Drainage	Utility	New Auckland	1cp861923	RE	1.1964
Clinton Park	Community Facility	Clinton	206sp111013	RE	0.1843
Clinton Park	Corridor Link	Clinton	206sp111013	RE	5.5964
Clinton Park	Sporting Park	Clinton		B	7.9876
Clinton Park	Sporting Park	Clinton	206sp111013	RE	2.3305
Clinton Park– Drainage	Utility	Clinton	188ctn1838	RE	2.3986
Clinton Park–Drainage	Utility	Clinton	13rp859959	FH	1.4272
Clinton Park–Drainage	Utility	Clinton	205rp614239	FH	0.1913

NAME	FUNCTION	LOCALITY	LOT_PLAN	TENURE	AREA_HA
Coase Park	Corridor Link	West Gladstone	30g14159	RE	0.687
Cockatoo Park	Recreation Park				0.0946
Coon Street Park	Community Facility	South Gladstone	46g1434	FH	0.1051
Cumway Park	Recreation Park	New Auckland	2cp861923	RE	1.2999
Cypress Way Park	Corridor Link	Kin Kora	411ctn1707	RE	0.7839
Darts	Sporting Specialised	S	0	B	0.1145
Darts Car park	Utility	S	0	B	0.1849
Derribong Park	Recreation Park	West Gladstone	1g14260	RE	0.873
Emmadale Park	Corridor Link	New Auckland	107rp861409	RE	7.8263
Emmadale Park	Corridor Link	New Auckland	103rp841059	RE	2.2295
Emmadale Park	Recreation Park	New Auckland	103rp841059	RE	0.3741
Fairway Park	Environmental	Clinton	1rp848655	RE	0.4988
Fairway Park	Recreation Park	Clinton	1rp848655	RE	0.1409
Ferguson Park	Private Racecourse	S	0	B	25.7908
Friend Park	Recreation Park	Barney Point	77g147	FH	1.7867
Gladstone & District Rugby League	Private Sports		0	B	4.6197
Gladstone Cemetery	Cemetery	West Gladstone	389ctn1718	RE	5.4166
Glen Creek Park	Corridor Link	West Gladstone	1rp883982	FH	0.1061
Glen Creek Park	Corridor Link	West Gladstone	2cp851159	FH	1.7183
Glen Creek Park	Utility	West Gladstone	1rp615751	FH	0.1045
Glen Creek Park	Utility	West Gladstone	3rp883983	FH	0.0032
Glen Creek Park – Palm Drive Complex	Sporting Park	West Gladstone	2cp851159	FH	6.1936
Glen Creek Park – Palm Drive Complex	Sporting Park		1cp859456	RE	0.0884
Glen Creek Park – Palm Drive Complex	Sporting Park	West Gladstone	382cp859456	RE	4.8127
Glen Eden Gardens	Recreation Park	Glen Eden	900rp869389	RE	0.9007

NAME	FUNCTION	LOCALITY	LOT_PLAN	TENURE	AREA_HA
Glen Eden Gardens	Utility	Glen Eden	902rp885269	RE	0.1058
Glenlyon Environmental Reserve	Environmental		7sp169944	RE	32.6836
Golf Course	Private Golf			B	44.7496
Goonanaga Park	Corridor Link	South Gladstone	60rp883988	FH	0.3781
Goonanaga Park	Corridor Link	South Gladstone	61rp883988	FH	0.1647
Goonanaga Park	Lagoon	South Gladstone	8rp855472	RE	0.4806
Goonanaga Park	Recreation Park	South Gladstone	8rp855472	RE	0.2591
Hansen Crescent Park	Utility	Clinton	205ctn1222	RE	0.0471
Hansen Crescent Park	Utility				0.0753
Happy Valley Park	Environmental	South Gladstone	98ctn1531	RE	7.8328
Happy Valley Park	Sporting Park	South Gladstone	98ctn1531	RE	4.4903
Hector Johnson Park	Environmental	Barney Point	2rp618998	FH	0.9407
Illoura Park	Environmental	West Gladstone	2rp610960	FH	1.1475
Illoura Park	Recreation Park				0.3871
James Cook Park	Recreation Park	Gladstone City	192sp132778	FH	0.5395
James Cook Park	Utility	Gladstone City	192sp132778	FH	1.5174
Joyner Park	Corridor Link				0.2387
Jupiter Park	Corridor Link	Telina	53ctn1613	RE	0.1412
Kaleentha Park	Corridor Link	New Auckland	504sp130595	RE	0.6246
Kaleentha Park	Corridor Link		100sp150270	AP	1.4013
Kaleentha Park	Corridor Link		1sp164321	AP	0.2208
Kaleentha Park	Recreation Park	New Auckland	91rp848870	RE	1.0812
Kaleentha Park	Utility		503sp116500	RE	0.8149
Kaleentha Park– Drainage	Utility	New Auckland	501sp112321	RE	0.2621
Kaleentha Park–Drainage	Lagoon	New Auckland	133rp905529	RE	0.6145

NAME	FUNCTION	LOCALITY	LOT_PLAN	TENURE	AREA_HA
Kathleen Shanahan Memorial Par	Corridor Link	Sun Valley	399ctn2104	RE	2.2312
Kooyong Park	Recreation Park	West Gladstone	58rp608665	FH	0.4104
Kooyong Park	Utility	West Gladstone	58rp608665	FH	0.0685
Kymead Park	Corridor Link	Clinton	38ctn801106	RE	2.2263
Lake Callemondah	Corridor Link	West Gladstone	201sp145527	RE	2.9144
Lake Callemondah	Corridor Link	West Gladstone	201sp145527	RE	2.3135
Lake Callemondah	Lagoon	Callemondah	201sp145527	RE	23.4475
Lamington Heights Park	Corridor Link	South Gladstone	115rp612894	FH	1.0361
Lamington Heights Park	Recreation Park	South Gladstone	115rp612894	FH	0.1349
Lions Park	Corridor Link	West Gladstone	272ctn1632	RE	2.6622
Lions Park	Corridor Link	West Gladstone	81ctn1718	RE	1.264
Lions Park	Recreation Park	West Gladstone	401ctn1618	RE	3.6708
Lions Park	Recreation Park	West Gladstone	272ctn1632	RE	1.3292
Lions Park	Recreation Park	West Gladstone	81ctn1718	RE	0.8344
Llewellyn Park	Corridor Link	Clinton	2rp886639	RE	0.3692
Lorikeet Park	Recreation Park	New Auckland	119ctn1483	RE	0.1519
Maroona Park	Corridor Link	Kin Kora	4rp883533	RE	0.5731
Maroona Park	Environmental	Kin Kora	1rp616995	FH	1.4175
Maroona Park	Recreation Park	Kin Kora	877rp858070	RE	0.5553
Marten Place Park	Recreation Park	South Gladstone	410ctn1602	RE	0.4919
Matthew Flinders Park	Recreation Park	Gladstone City	122ctn828	RE	0.1116
Memorial Park	Sporting Park	Gladstone City	377ctn1837	RE	10.1957
Mercury Park	Corridor Link	Telina	371ctn1771	RE	2.8727
Meteors Sportsground	Sporting Park				8.8173
Mount Biondello Botanic Garden	Environmental	Telina	1ctn2031	RE	16.8893

NAME	FUNCTION	LOCALITY	LOT_PLAN	TENURE	AREA_HA
Olsen Park	Corridor Link	New Auckland	2rp906082	RE	0.5268
Oxley Park	Corridor Link		3sp105084	FH	5.4379
Park	Utility	New Auckland	115rp864516	RE	0.5163
Pioneer Park	Corridor Link	Telina	62sp106102	FH	0.6981
Pioneer Park	Corridor Link		15sp137046	RE	0.5446
Pioneer Park	Corridor Link		9sp150267	RE	0.4686
Pluto Play Park	Recreation Park	Telina	52ctn1612	RE	1.1546
Port Curtis Cemetery	Cemetery	Clinton	6rp609370	FH	6.6933
Port Curtis Cemetery	Cemetery	Clinton	1rp617719	FH	0.3325
Port Curtis Cemetery	Cemetery	Clinton	2rp617719	FH	14.3146
Potters Park	Corridor Link	West Gladstone	393ctn2029	RE	0.6415
Power House Lookout	Scenic Amenity	Callemondah	7cp865949	RE	8.926
Power House Lookout	Scenic Amenity	Callemondah	6cp865949	RE	1.2301
Radar Hill	Utility	South Gladstone	134ctn886	RE	0.0445
Red Rover Park	Utility		153sp120211	RE	1.0617
Reg Tanna Park	Environmental	West Gladstone	114ctn1531	RE	2.5809
Reg Tanna Park	Lagoon	West Gladstone	114ctn1531	RE	2.1654
Reg Tanna Park	Recreation Park	West Gladstone	114ctn1531	RE	2.1082
Reservoir Park	Environmental		4rp911819	RE	0.3095
Reservoir Park	Utility	Clinton	342rp615977	FH	4.9814
Reservoir Park	Utility	Clinton	4rp890633	RE	0.3861
Rigby Park	Sporting Park	Gladstone City	408ctn1628	RE	7.9291
Robyn Hayes Park	Utility	South Gladstone	28rp801369	RE	0.0888
Rosslyn Park	Corridor Link	Clinton	101rp861405	RE	0.2663
Rotary Park	Recreation Park	South Gladstone	13rp618533	FH	0.0601

NAME	FUNCTION	LOCALITY	LOT_PLAN	TENURE	AREA_HA
Round Hill	Scenic Amenity	West Gladstone	6ctn840062	RE	4.0638
Round Hill	Scenic Amenity	West Gladstone	1rp835100	FH	0.3416
Rugby League (Junior) And Touch Grounds	Sporting Park		0	B	9.0081
Sand Piper Park	Corridor Link	New Auckland	109ctn1429	RE	0.4159
Scouts – Happy Valley	Community Facility		157ctn1188	SL	0.1098
Ses Park	Corridor Link	South Gladstone	22rp618444	FH	0.8405
Sharyn Park– Drainage	Utility	New Auckland	92rp848870	FH	0.3837
Sharyn Park –Drainage	Utility	New Auckland	94rp859971	RE	0.1855
Sharyn Park–Drainage	Utility	New Auckland	95rp859971	RE	0.3113
Shooting & Karts	Sporting Specialised		0	B	15.1725
Showground	Private Special		0	B	6.1706
Spinnaker Park	Recreation Park				8.5911
Sun Valley Park	Sporting Park				3.6598
Sun Valley Park	Sporting Specialised				2.4757
Tigalee Park	Corridor Link	Sun Valley	382ctn801184	RE	1.9708
Tigalee Park	Recreation Park	Sun Valley	382ctn801184	RE	0.0385
Tobruk Memorial Park	Utility				0.1078
Tondoon Botanic Gardens	Environmental	Telina	8rp620650	RE	0.8596
Tondoon Botanic Gardens	Environmental	Glen Eden	49ctn1940	RE	51.5636
Tondoon Botanic Gardens	Environmental	Telina	50rp861414	RE	0.7107
Tondoon Botanic Gardens	Environmental	Glen Eden	49ctn1940	RE	12.4335
Tondoon Botanic Gardens	Recreation Park		1rp614829	FH	14.4168
Tondoon Botanical Gardens Extension	Environmental		1sp165431	FH	7.7150
Toolooa Park	Corridor Link	Toolooa	31g14252	RE	1.4809
Toolooa Park	Recreation Park				0.2257

NAME	FUNCTION	LOCALITY	LOT_PLAN	TENURE	AREA_HA
Toonee Park	Corridor Link	Kin Kora	379ctn1836	RE	0.5056
Toonee Park	Corridor Link	Kin Kora	379ctn1836	RE	0.3379
Toonee Park	Corridor Link	Kin Kora	66sp155857	RE	0.3961
Toonee Park	Corridor Link		67sp155857	RE	0.597
Toonee Park	Recreation Park	Kin Kora	843rp801179	RE	0.6707
United Soccer Club	Private Sports			B	2.5924
Unnamed	Corridor Link		294sp153045	AP	0.0267
Unnamed	Corridor Link		20sp164326	RE	0.7834
Unnamed	Corridor Link		131sp164325	RE	0.5626
Unnamed	Corridor Link		128sp170941	RE	0.2299
Unnamed	Corridor Link		127sp170941	RE	0.3089
Unnamed	Corridor Link		56sp131467	FH	0.0186
Unnamed	Corridor Link		1ctn1647	RE	0.271
Unnamed	Corridor Link		200rp848675	RE	0.48
Unnamed	Corridor Link		2rp895848	RE	0.9071
Unnamed	Corridor Link		1rp895848	RE	1.1681
Unnamed	Corridor Link		44sp165451	RE	3.07
Unnamed	Corridor Link		904sp112420	RE	0.0231
Unnamed	Corridor Link		903sp112420	RE	0.0165
Unnamed	Corridor Link		24rp859970	RE	0.3259
Unnamed	Corridor Link		6rp853994	RE	0.069
Unnamed	Environmental		76cp903892	ID	100.815
Unnamed	Environmental		76cp903892	ID	167.915
Unnamed	Environmental		76cp903892	ID	27.1952
Unnamed	Environmental		76cp903892	ID	49.97

NAME	FUNCTION	LOCALITY	LOT_PLAN	TENURE	AREA_HA
Unnamed	Environmental		2sp167009	RE	7.5203
Unnamed	Environmental		3sp167009	RE	2.2446
Unnamed	Environmental		4sp167009	RE	0.1159
Unnamed	Environmental		1sp167009	RE	0.5094
Unnamed	Environmental		2rp619003	FH	0.3126
Unnamed	Environmental		72g1456	SL	0.829
Unnamed	Environmental		407ctn1235	RE	0.6126
Unnamed	Environmental		50sp111180	FH	5.7205
Unnamed	Environmental		13sp118590	FH	13.414
Unnamed	Environmental		14sp118590	FH	1.4459
Unnamed	Environmental		11sp118590	FH	3.061
Unnamed	Environmental		12sp118590	FH	3.8193
Unnamed	Environmental		15sp171154	AP	0.3888
Unnamed	Environmental		0	B	16.963
Unnamed	Trail		13rp905786	FH	0.7443
Unnamed	Trail		14rp905786	FH	5.4841
Unnamed	Trail		11rp905786	FH	0.3489
Unnamed	Trail		5sp100337	FH	17.2254
Unnamed	Trail		52rp906250	FH	18.1616
Unnamed	Trail		55rp906251	FH	18.6953
Unnamed	Trail		48rp906252	FH	6.31
Unnamed	Trail		2rp868285	FH	3.3934
Unnamed	Trail		68rp913540	FH	20.1979
Unnamed	Trail		20sp100312	FH	25.8233
Unnamed	Trail		98sp100306	FH	23.9508

NAME	FUNCTION	LOCALITY	LOT_PLAN	TENURE	AREA_HA
Unnamed	Trail		84rp913547	FH	3.8984
Unnamed	Trail		85rp913545	FH	1.6007
Unnamed	Trail		86rp913545	FH	0.6909
Unnamed	Trail		78rp913530	FH	5.5869
Unnamed	Trail		78rp913530	FH	21.2198
Unnamed	Trail		4sp118594	FH	9.8332
Unnamed	Trail		3sp125550	FH	4.3616
Unnamed	Trail		11rp861649	FH	0.4074
Unnamed	Trail		23rp907892	FH	4.3752
Unnamed	Trail		30rp907893	FH	5.1983
Unnamed	Trail		29rp907893	FH	4.6908
Unnamed	Trail		34rp907893	FH	11.0738
Unnamed	Trail		21rp907892	FH	3.5749
Unnamed	Trail		12sp100508	FH	0.4501
Unnamed	Trail		41rp906254	FH	27.6071
Unnamed	Trail		5sp105396	FH	1.0249
Unnamed	Trail		6sp105396	FH	2.1853
Unnamed	Trail		79rp913531	FH	2.6764
Unnamed	Undeveloped Open Space		2rp868285	FH	51.9928
Unnamed	Undeveloped Open Space		319cl40130	FH	196.3384
Unnamed	Undeveloped Open Space		24rp907892	FH	18.8606
Unnamed	Undeveloped Open Space		26rp907892	FH	7.2527
Unnamed	Utility				0.0001
Unnamed	Utility		344ctn1951	RE	0.7351
Unnamed	Utility		1rp885344	RE	0.0168

NAME	FUNCTION	LOCALITY	LOT_PLAN	TENURE	AREA_HA
Unnamed	Utility		2rp885345	RE	0.0761
Unnamed	Utility		3rp885346	RE	0.1155
Unnamed	Utility		129sp162268	RE	0.0376
Unnamed	Utility		128sp162268	RE	0.0383
Unnamed	Utility		16sp108403	RE	0.0962
Unnamed	Utility		15sp122583	RE	0.1159
Unnamed	Utility		100sp153036	RE	0.3243
Unnamed	Utility		24rp859966	RE	0.0125
Unnamed Drainage	Utility		22sp177775	RE	0.0532
Unnamed Drainage	Utility		902sp162138	RE	0.4712
Unnamed Drainage	Utility		125sp174123	RE	0.1711
Unnamed Drainage	Utility		124sp174123	RE	0.204
Unnamed	Corridor Link		117ctn1197	RE	0.2267
Unnamed	Corridor Link		906sp152523	RE	0.9927
Unnamed	Corridor Link		901sp159692	AP	0.2961
Unnamed	Corridor Link		501sp169962	FH	0.0571
Unnamed	Corridor Link		501sp169962	FH	1.1621
Unnamed	Corridor Link		501sp169962	FH	0.3599
Unnamed	Environmental		1rp618998	FH	0.0995
Unnamed	Environmental		6ctn1539	RE	24.0945
Unnamed	Utility		343ctn1656	RE	2.356
Unnamed	Utility		226ctn1210	FH	0.2876
Victoria Park	Recreation Park	Gladstone City	42sp132832	RE	4.0646
Walker Park	Corridor Link		7sp118308	RE	0.5999
Webb Park	Environmental	West Gladstone	381cp897417	RE	7.9559

NAME	FUNCTION	LOCALITY	LOT_PLAN	TENURE	AREA_HA
Webb Park	Recreation Park	West Gladstone	361ctn2174	RE	4.4099
William Miskin Park	Recreation Park	Gladstone City	225ctn1210	RE	0.9882
Wolves Soccer Grounds	Private Sports			B	3.8458
Yaralla Sports Club	Private Sports			B	5.1142
Yow Yeh Park	Undeveloped Open Space	Barney Point	2rp609797	FH	0.5728
Yow Yeh Park	Undeveloped Open Space	Barney Point	7rp608581	FH	0.1966
Yow Yeh Park	Undeveloped Open Space	Barney Point	1cp889907	RE	0.63
Total					1706.286

Appendix Five: Example Functions and Hierarchy of Parks

Functions of Open Space¹⁰

FUNCTION	DEFINITION/ DESCRIPTION
Recreation Park	Public Open Space areas used primarily for social, cultural and a variety of informal or unstructured recreational activities that people undertake in their leisure time (e.g. picnics, social gatherings, walking, relaxing and playing). These parks provide a range of opportunities and facilities for informal or unorganised activities and enhance the visual and scenic amenity and identity of the community.
Sport Park	Parks that primarily provide open space for a variety of structured or formal sport opportunities such as team competitions, physical skill development and training. These parks are characterised by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large flat open areas that meet formal sporting code parameters • Facilities specifically for undertaking competitive, organised sport • Ancillary facilities for clubs or organisations to support sporting activities (such as canteens, amenities blocks, clubhouses, storage facilities, car parks) • Free unrestricted access for informal use when formal sporting activities are not being undertaken.
Specialised Sport	Open space areas provided for sporting activities where: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The nature of the activity and subsequent land requirements result in provision on a regional basis (i.e. catchments are greater than district or citywide level) • The nature of the activity and/ or facilities precludes free, unrestricted access to members of the public when not in use for formal sport activities/ events. <p>Specialised sports are considered to include motocross/ motorcycling, equestrian, golf, shooting, car/ cart racing, model aeroplanes, lawn bowls, croquet, field archery/ bow hunting and cycling (velodrome).</p>
Community Purpose Land	Federal, State or Local Government owned land that contains existing or planned community infrastructure buildings which provide opportunities for indoor recreational, cultural, community or sporting activities.
Undeveloped Park	Land gazetted or dedicated for local recreation but does not contain recreational infrastructure. Undeveloped parks may provide opportunities for local informal recreation in the way of a kick-about space but are not developed or managed for anything other than occasional mowing and weed treatment. <p>In a number of instances these parks are constrained by poor access, visibility, small size and/ or proximity to residential housing. Increased recreational use may be undesirable for safety, maintenance or nuisance reasons and the areas may present opportunities to rationalise the open space network to improve overall quality.</p>



FUNCTION	DEFINITION/ DESCRIPTION														
<p>Natural Areas</p>	<p>Open space which primarily has an ecological purpose, being to conserve and protect natural and cultural heritage values.</p> <p>This open space protects and enhances biodiversity by providing habitat for flora and fauna and includes environmental corridors. These reserves are planned and managed to protect environmental values, but may also include some nature-based recreational use where this does not compromise the values for which the land is being managed. Natural areas include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Parks (as per State legislation for this land designation) • State Forests (as per State legislation for this land designation) • Conservation Parks (as per State legislation for this land designation) • Environmental Reserves • Natural Dunes and Foreshore 														
<p>Public Utility Reserve</p>	<p>Open space areas necessary for the provision of general infrastructure or to assist in management of other land values. These open space areas may contribute to scenic and visual amenity of areas, but have limited functionality for recreational use. These open space areas include land for:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td data-bbox="593 1003 917 1104"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water bodies/ canals </td> <td data-bbox="917 1003 1490 1104"> <p>Property parcel or part thereof that is covered by a permanent body of water such as a canal, lake or water feature.</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="593 1104 917 1211"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drainage reserve </td> <td data-bbox="917 1104 1490 1211"> <p>Land associated with waterways, creeks, drainage lines and stormwater infrastructure such as detention basins</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="593 1211 917 1321"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure reserve </td> <td data-bbox="917 1211 1490 1321"> <p>Land for utility infrastructure such as electricity transmission, telecommunications, water and sewerage</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="593 1321 917 1624"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access easement </td> <td data-bbox="917 1321 1490 1624"> <p>Land/ easements that do or could enable pedestrian/ cycle access between the road network and other land uses, such as residential or commercial areas. Characterised as small and/or narrow parcels of land, these reserves have no recreational function, but may have a formed path that facilitates transport/access.</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="593 1624 917 1731"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council works </td> <td data-bbox="917 1624 1490 1731"> <p>Land necessary for the undertaking of Council activities and services. This includes depots, land fills, refuse stations</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="593 1731 917 1780"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cemetery </td> <td data-bbox="917 1731 1490 1780"> <p>Land for cemeteries</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="593 1780 917 1908"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource reserve </td> <td data-bbox="917 1780 1490 1908"> <p>Reserves generally designated for local government purposes, for existing or future resource uses, such as gravel extraction or water resources.</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water bodies/ canals 	<p>Property parcel or part thereof that is covered by a permanent body of water such as a canal, lake or water feature.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drainage reserve 	<p>Land associated with waterways, creeks, drainage lines and stormwater infrastructure such as detention basins</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure reserve 	<p>Land for utility infrastructure such as electricity transmission, telecommunications, water and sewerage</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access easement 	<p>Land/ easements that do or could enable pedestrian/ cycle access between the road network and other land uses, such as residential or commercial areas. Characterised as small and/or narrow parcels of land, these reserves have no recreational function, but may have a formed path that facilitates transport/access.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council works 	<p>Land necessary for the undertaking of Council activities and services. This includes depots, land fills, refuse stations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cemetery 	<p>Land for cemeteries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource reserve 	<p>Reserves generally designated for local government purposes, for existing or future resource uses, such as gravel extraction or water resources.</p>
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FUNCTION	DEFINITION/ DESCRIPTION
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amenity Reserves <p>Parks that primarily protect and/ or enhance an area’s scenic or visual amenity value and landmarks/ signature points. These parks have no or very limited recreational value or use. These open space areas include land that is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ornamental gardens • Scenic outlooks, views and vistas • Memorials and monuments • Natural features such as escarpments, rock outcrops Steep slope/ topography • Small size or lacks access • Vegetation buffers to adjoining land uses

Hierarchy of Parks

HIERARCHY	DESCRIPTION
Citywide	Major recreation parks that offer a wide variety of opportunities to a broad cross section of the City’s population. These parks are large in size, well known amongst residents and they are major destinations in Hervey Bay.
District	Mid-sized parks providing a range of facilities and activity space for recreation. These areas have facilities to cater for large groups and are appealing to a range of users. They service several neighbourhoods/ suburbs and are fairly well known destinations for those people living within their catchment.
Local	Smaller parks providing a limited range of recreational opportunities for local residents. These parks contain facilities to facilitate recreational use, but generally cater for short visits only.
Recreation Corridor	Parks that primarily provide connections for recreation or commuting. These parks provide access and mobility between residential areas and community destinations such as schools, shopping centres, sport parks, recreation parks and the public open space network, or form a circuit. The land contains infrastructure to facilitate recreational use including a formed path and offers an attractive recreational setting.

Appendix Six: Ash Pond 7 Suitability Assessment

Preliminary comments of the suitability of the Ash Pond Land for Parks Reserves purposes, particularly Sports Fields.

Author: Neil Power

Date: February 2006

The Ash Pond site is a parcel of Crown land in the Parish of Auckland, County of Clinton described as Lot 200 on Plan CTN 2173 of approximately 71.5 hectares reserved for park and recreation purposes (Ash Management Agreement 31 January 1994). This site has been progressively filled various ash layers from the Gladstone Power Station over approximately 10 years. The layers comprised generally of a base compressed ash layer (from 5 metres down) then hydraulically placed ash (2 meter layer) and finally a dry conditioned waste ash (2 metres) which was tyre roller compacted to a typical 77% relative compaction (range 75% to 85%). A non saline capping material ranging from 100mm to 150mm was then placed to seal the surface of the ash layer.

The ash is described as dark grey sandy silt (<20% sand). Anticipated infiltration will be between 10mm to 20mm per hour. During the trial periods in 1993 saturated ash (with free surface water to 150mm deep) dried out within 24 hours.

The capping material was specified as being *“capable of retaining moisture and supporting grass cover while at the same time sealing the surface of the relevant reclamation areas.”* A sealed surface implies low infiltration rates which while it may support a grass cover; it is unlikely to support a grass of sufficient vigour to recover from moderate wear from sport (less than 2 user hours per square metre per year).

During the vegetation trial conducted in 1993, **the capping layer** (100mm to 150mm thick) **was ripped to 150mm** which implies that the sealing effect was broken. It should be determined if this is acceptable practice, as Gladstone area average annual rainfall (1020mm pa – up to 682mm in one month!) plus up to 5 megalitres per hectare of Sports field irrigation requirements can place a heavy leaching burden on the ash fill. However, it is suggested that leachate from the 1993 trial probably complies within the Environmental Schedule limits.


Common warm season grasses rooting zone (green and blue couch) can be as much as 1500mm deep (5000mm has been recorded on deeply draining Darling Downs soil) provided there is sufficient air and moisture within the rooting zone. Notice the couch roots found in the illustrated erosion pit extend to more than 1000mm.



A draft benchmark of a 500mm rooting zone was proposed for sustainable sports field wear recovery with moderate maintenance resources (Power and Whinnett, 2003).

To develop the surface of this ash ponds landfill it is recommended that between 300mm and 500mm depth of supporting growing medium be established (see attached specification).

It is understood that there is a capacity from the sewerage treatment works to supply biosolids for soil improvement. It is estimated that with Gladstone's approximately 12,000 sewerage connections that up to 5,500 tonnes of sewerage sludge could be produced per annum. When composted 1:4 with 50mm screened tub ground green waste for a minimum of 8 weeks, between **10,000 and 15,000 cubic metres** of compost may be produced per annum.



Empirical observations from 15 years of use of similar compost materials in sports fields is that a 50% site soil (12mm screened), 50% compost blend provides an excellent sports field growing medium.

An average rectangular sports field such as Rugby (league or union), soccer or hockey field will require around one hectare of area (with dead ball areas and goal movement opportunities), while oval sports fields such as cricket, athletics and AFL require closer to 2 hectares.

To develop a settled (75% compaction) 400mm deep growing medium around 2,500 m³ of compost and 2,500m³ of screened soil is required per field. If the biosolids estimates are within the ballpark, then up to 6 rectangular or 3 ovals may be developed each year provided sufficient screened soil can be obtained.

Under this projection it is likely that the site may be progressively developed for sports fields and other uses, over a 10 year capital works period.

The extent of the sports field and other uses mix should be considered in the context of the future sports field requirements of the Gladstone / Calliope sub region.

As suggested during our site visit on the 19th January 2006, it is suggested a number of small trials be undertaken over the next year with various biosolids, green waste, soil combinations and other treatments such as soil amendments (gypsum) as surface scarification or ripping, legume sowing and grass types.

Three months after establishment, each treatment should then be examined for depth of rooting, vigour and density.

Obtain mixed representative soil samples of existing biosolids, capping soil and ash layer for nutrient analysis.