

City of Kingston



Active Youth Spaces Strategy

October 2011



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1. Introduction

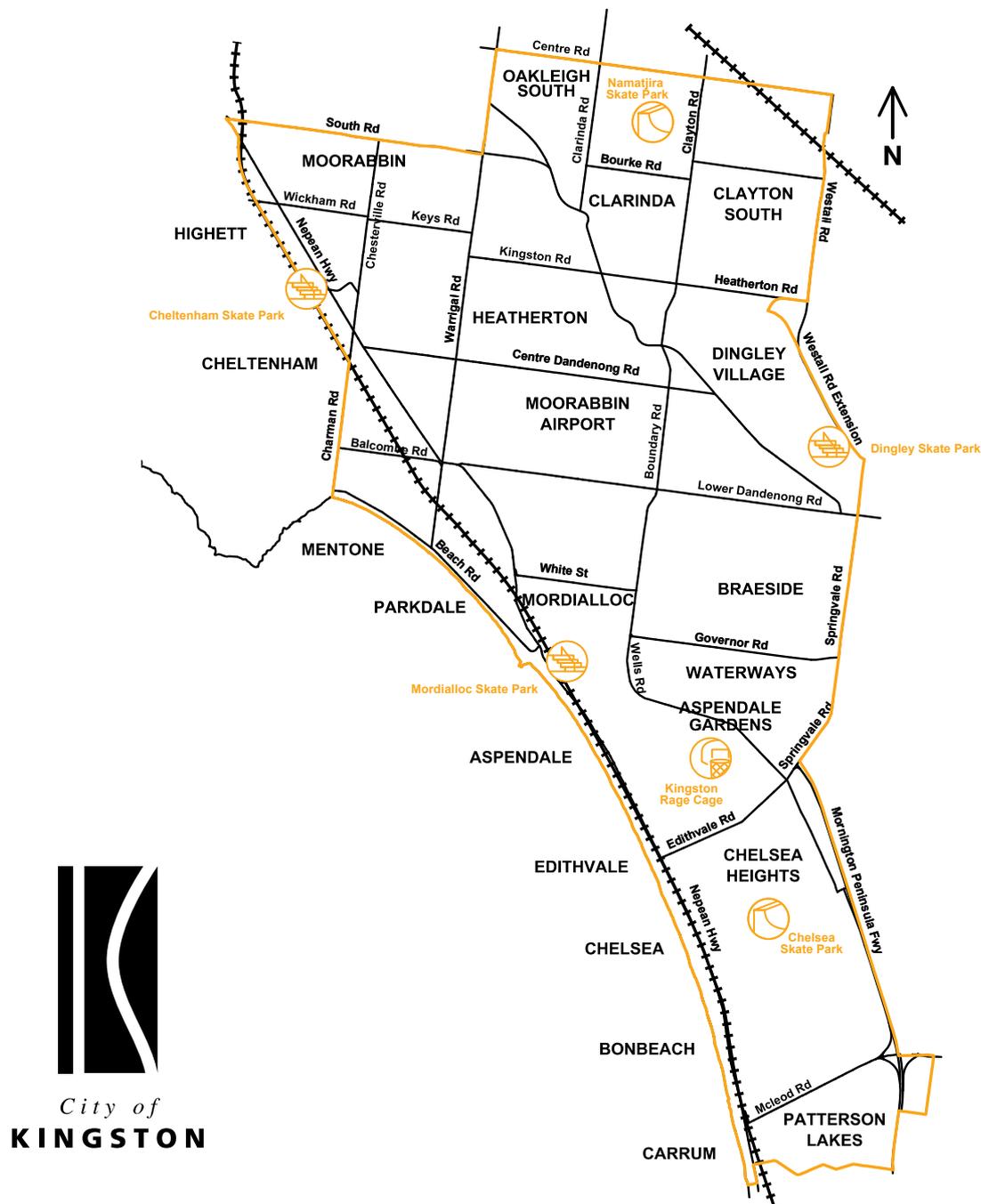
The City of Kingston is in Melbourne's south and has a population of approximately 149,000 residents (2011). The City reaches from Moorabbin in the north to Patterson Lakes and Carrum in the south and inland from Port Phillip Bay to South Oakleigh, Heatherton and Chelsea Heights.

The City of Kingston is bordered by the municipalities of Glen Eira, Bayside, Monash, Greater Dandenong and Frankston.

The City currently provides six specialist skate/BMX and youth activity spaces, specifically

- Cheltenham Skate Park, Sir William Fry Reserve
- Namatjira Skate Park, Namatjira Reserve, Clarinda/Clayton South
- Dingley Skate Park, Dingley Village
- Bicentennial Park, Chelsea
- Aspendale Gardens Rage Cage, and
- Mordialloc Skate Park, Attenborough Park

These facilities are shown on the map below:



1.1 Report Structure

The Active Youth Spaces Strategy is presented in two sections:

- i. Part One incorporates the main body of the report and includes recommended strategies to address the identified Active Youth Space needs of the community.
- ii. Part Two presents a range of background support material including a review of the community profile, participation trends and consultation results.

1.2 Strategic Basis

Kingston City Council has a strong commitment to enhancing the quality of life for all residents and recognises the valuable contribution that recreation and leisure make to community health and wellbeing. The City currently provides and facilitates access to a range of sport, recreation and leisure opportunities across the municipality. Leisure facilities are recognised as important physical assets that contribute to providing a social focus and influence people's perception of their community.

Development of the Kingston Active Youth Spaces Strategy is a direct outcome of Council's 2010-2014 draft Active Leisure Plan and the 2006 Youth Leisure Needs Study. They both highlighted Council's need to provide opportunities for young people to be involved in leisure and recreation through providing appealing, affordable and accessible facilities for young people.

Whilst it is recognised that skate, BMX and active youth spaces attract users from a wide age range, this project will primarily concentrate on people aged 5-24 years as these are considered the core target audience and highest users of facilities.

It is acknowledged that the profile of skaters and BMX riders is changing and that it is becoming increasingly common for people to continue to participate in these activities well into their late twenties, thirties and beyond, however the proportion of users in these latter age groups remain a significant minority (and will be adequately catered for within the same scope of recommended facilities).

The considerable age range of core users (that is, 5-24 years) means varied skill levels from beginner to advanced and therefore reinforces the importance of providing appropriate facilities that can cater for participation pathways and skill development.

1.3 Project Purpose and Objectives

The Active Youth Spaces Strategy:

- i. Provides a dependable and robust framework for the provision of Active Youth Spaces in Kingston, which complements existing KCC strategic documents.
- ii. Identifies site requirements and potential locations for such facilities.
- iii. Defines a program of implementation including cost estimates and project timeframes.

This Strategy replaces Kingston's Skate and BMX Strategy which was developed in 2002 and has subsequently been largely implemented; any recommendations which remain incomplete have become too outdated to progress without reviewing of the information on which they were based.

2. Strategic Provision Principles

Active Youth Space developments within the City of Kingston will be guided by the following 10 strategic provision principles.

- i. The City recognises the health and wellbeing benefits of physical activity participation and will therefore provide and/or facilitate access to a diverse range of leisure opportunities based on identified community needs.
- ii. Facility provision will reflect a hierarchy of venues which acknowledges that different standards, scale and scope of infrastructure is appropriate depending on the primary target audience and catchments being serviced (refer to Part Two for additional discussion).
- iii. Council facility provision will concentrate on quality, rather than quantity, of sites in accordance with the defined hierarchy of provision.
- iv. Skate and BMX facilities provide an anchor for the development of broader (family friendly) active youth spaces, including places for social interaction and casual physical activity participation. Well designed and managed active youth spaces provide something for young people to do and can reduce the potential for crime in local areas.
- v. Appropriate infrastructure and amenities will be provided to support broad community use of the active youth spaces.
- vi. The City acknowledges that Active Youth Spaces are utilised by a broad age range, therefore a mix of skill levels and development opportunities will be considered in individual site design.
- vii. The City values and will encourage the ongoing involvement of young people in the design, development and management of Active Youth Spaces.
- viii. It is acknowledged that activities undertaken at skate and BMX venues are inherently risky, however Council will minimise unnecessary risk through appropriate design, signage and risk minimisation initiatives.
- ix. Council recognises the significant capital investment that has occurred to provide (and will be required to enhance existing) skate and BMX facilities across the City and will therefore establish dedicated *Asset Management Plans* for these asset categories in order to effectively provide for facility maintenance, lifecycle costs and overall asset management.
- x. Council will actively consider ways in which to enhance participation in skate/BMX activities in order to maximise the use of existing facilities.

3. Recommended Strategies

The following section presents the recommended strategies to address the identified Active Youth Space needs of the community. Strategies are presented for the City as a whole, as well as site specific directions. It is acknowledged that many of the recommendations require further planning work (that is, site specific concept plans/detailed design) prior to implementation, where appropriate this is reflected in the *Implementation Plan* which follows this section.

The priority for implementation is based on the following indicative timeframes:

- Short Term = 0-3 years from adoption
- Medium Term = 4-6 years
- Long Term = 7-10+ years
- Ongoing = ongoing as part of operational responsibilities.

3.1 City Wide Strategies

Issue	Strategies	Priority (Short, Medium, Long, Ongoing)	Indicative Resource Implication	Responsibility
City Wide Recommendations				
Hierarchy and distribution of facilities	1) With the exception of a specialist BMX facility, the current distribution of facilities is considered adequate to meet the needs of the community. No new sites are proposed, however the existing sites will require significant improvements in line with their hierarchy classification.	Ongoing	N/A	KCC Sport and Recreation
	2) Apply the following hierarchy classifications to existing facilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional = Cheltenham (Sir William Fry) and Chelsea (Bicentennial Park). District = Clarinda (Namatjira Skate Park). Local = Dingley, Mordialloc and Aspendale Rage Cage. 	Short	N/A	KCC Sport and Recreation
	3) As recommended in the previous Skate and BMX Strategy (2002), the small concrete half-pipe at Jack Grut Reserve does not contribute to the overall suite of active youth spaces and should be removed as a high priority.	Short	\$2,000	KCC Parks
Specialist BMX facility	4) Investigate requirement for a specialist BMX facility in the City.	Short	Initial planning investigation to be completed within existing operational resources. Future capital implications to be determined.	KCC Sport and Recreation
Improve skate parks as community gathering spaces	5) Consistent with the indicative infrastructure requirements for each venue hierarchy, proactively enhance existing sites to improve their capacity to function as community gathering spaces and active youth precincts. Priorities for enhancements include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing the scope of seating and moving it closer to skate parks. Provide concrete paths to skate parks. Shade/shelter provision. Improve provision of basic infrastructure such as water fountains and rubbish bins. Provide and/or improve connections and integration of facilities that support non-skating activity e.g. half court basketball, netball ring, adolescent play equipment etc. Install public art, sculptures, items of interest and cultural expression. Remove graffiti. 	Short	Incorporate opportunities in each site specific response.	KCC Sport and Recreation, and KCC Parks
Catering for diversity in ages and skill levels	6) Ensure facility designs provide adequate consideration of spaces/facility components that cater for a variety of skill levels and ages (consistent with the Hierarchy guidelines). Whilst all facilities should be well integrated into the site, consideration should be given to appropriate separation of facilities that cater for differing skill levels, particularly areas for scooter use by younger users.	Ongoing	Incorporate opportunities in each site specific response.	KCC Sport and Recreation
Graffiti removal	7) Graffiti and tagging should be removed from Active Youth Spaces at the earliest opportunities (ideally within 48 hours). However removal techniques must not make facility surfaces slippery or impact on the surface quality. Review Council's graffiti removal policy and procedures, including resource implications for improving response times (NB: training may be required to ensure Council approved graffiti art is not mistakenly removed).	Short	To be determined pending review of existing service levels and capabilities.	KCC Parks

Issue	Strategies	Priority (Short, Medium, Long, Ongoing)	Indicative Resource Implication	Responsibility
Improve maintenance	Throughout the course of the site assessments, a number of maintenance issues were identified ranging from poor drainage/ flooding of areas, poor landscaping, litter (including leaf and stick litter, glass etc), graffiti, damage to signage, degeneration of coping rails and rough concrete areas. Generally, the presentation and landscaping of many sites does not always appear to be visually consistent with surrounds. Furthermore, a number of maintenance improvement recommendations identified in the previous Skate and BMX Strategy (2002) do not appear to have been implemented. Therefore maintenance recommendations include: 8) Establish dedicated Asset Management Plans for skate, BMX and active youth space facilities and infrastructure. Ensure these plans link to Council's asset renewal budgets, annual maintenance plans and weekly operational schedules and service levels.	Short	Establish Asset Management Plans within existing operational resources. Future service and resource implications to be determined.	KCC Parks, KCC Depot Services
	9) Establish a program for regular inspection and process for rectification of minor maintenance (and risk) issues for all skate, BMX and active youth space facilities.	Short	Within existing operational resources.	KCC Parks, KCC Depot Services
	10) Improve Council budget allocations for ongoing maintenance of facilities including graffiti removal, litter collection, concrete and coping repair etc. As a guide, it is recommended that 3% of the capital development cost for each facility be allocated for ongoing annual maintenance.	Short	To be determined pending review of existing budget allocations to these facilities. It is likely that there may be a substantial operational funding gap.	KCC Parks, KCC Depot Services
	11) Encourage users to be actively involved in facility maintenance. Consideration could be given to establishing a secure locker at each venue which contains a broom and small shovel/brush for removal of tree litter and other debris by users prior to use (commence with a trial at Cheltenham, Chelsea and Namatjira sites).	Short	Allowance \$1,000 for each site (i.e. \$3,000 establishment cost).	KCC Parks, KCC Youth Services
	12) Establish a single point of contact for reporting all skate, BMX and active youth space maintenance issues within Council (this may be via Council's normal customer contact number).	Short	Within existing operational resources.	KCC Parks
Risk management	Similar to the maintenance issue above, there are a number of actions from the 2002 Strategy that do not appear to have been implemented. Relevant recommendations include: 13) Recognising that participation in these activities is inherently risky (which is part of the appeal for young people), develop and implement a risk assessment checklist in consultation with Council's insurer (covering potential hazards and degree of risk, scaled assessment from low to high risk and appropriate minimisation strategies).	Short	Within existing operational resources.	KCC Sport and Recreation, and KCC Parks
	14) Ensure appropriate signage at all facilities that outlines the potential risks associated with use and recommended use of safety equipment (NB: this signage exists at some locations, however has not been effectively maintained).	Short	Within existing operational resources.	KCC Sport and Recreation, and KCC Parks.
	15) Educate users through existing Council publications, marketing initiatives and events regarding responsible use of sites and use of safety equipment (e.g. guards, helmets, pads etc.), measures to avoid risk and process for reporting injury and/or hazards to Council.	Short	Within existing operational resources.	KCC Sport and Recreation.
Lighting	16) Install an appropriate level of lighting at Council's two Regional venues to increase available hours for use (particularly in winter). Lighting should be provided on a timer and turned off at 9pm.	Medium	Allowance \$40,000 per site.	KCC Sport and Recreation.
	17) Lighting of District and Local venues to facilitate evening use is not recommended.	Ongoing	N/A	KCC Sport and Recreation.
	18) Ensure all locations incorporate adequate lighting for safety and personal security, including path connections and ancillary facilities (e.g. public toilets, car parks, BBQ areas etc).	Medium	To be determined for each site.	KCC Parks

Issue	Strategies	Priority (Short, Medium, Long, Ongoing)	Indicative Resource Implication	Responsibility
Encouraging participation and use of facilities	19) Work with local users and industry retailers to host an annual exhibition/ demonstration at each Regional site in order to promote use and raise awareness of the existing facilities (i.e. aim for two major demonstrations per year).	Medium	Allowance of \$2,500 per event (plus in-kind support).	KCC Sport and Recreation, and KCC Youth Services.
	20) Consider opportunities for the establishment of an annual City of Kingston Skate competition (including different categories for gender, age and uses (i.e. skate, scooter or BMX). Engage relevant industry representatives to provide input into the proposed competition structure, requirements and funding/in-kind support.	Medium	Allowance of \$2,500 (plus in-kind support).	KCC Sport and Recreation, and KCC Youth Services.
	21) Establish and deliver an annual participation program (e.g. coaching and come and try sessions) utilising Regional and District facilities. The program should include female-only times and skill development sessions tailored to juniors, intermediate and advanced levels. The program should be delivered during school holiday periods and aim for the delivery of at least two programs per year.	Medium	Allowance of \$2,500 per event (plus in-kind support).	KCC Sport and Recreation, and KCC Youth Services.
	22) Explore opportunities to use a selection of local skaters/facility users as positive role models in Council publications and promotional material.	Short	Within existing operational resources.	KCC Sport and Recreation, Youth Services and Communications and Public Affairs
	23) Actively promote/facilitate positive media exposure by providing photos, images and media content related to the use of Council venues, aim for a minimum of four articles/exposure per year (i.e. one per quarter).	Short	Within existing operational resources.	KCC Sport and Recreation, Youth Services and Communications and Public Affairs

3.2 Site Specific Strategies

Issue	Strategies	Priority (Short, Medium, Long, Ongoing)	Indicative Resource Implication	Responsibility
Site Specific Recommendations				
Sir William Fry Reserve, Cheltenham	24) Reinforce the venue as a Regional standard active youth precinct by improving the quality, standard and scope of facilities and support infrastructure available (refer to issues and opportunities summary presented in Part Two).	Short	To be determined pending concept plan development	KCC Sport and Recreation.
	25) Address immediate maintenance issues e.g. repair damaged corners, improve surrounding surfacing and grass cover, remove litter and weeds, repair the basketball backboard.	Short	Allowance \$5,000	KCC Parks
	26) Develop a detailed concept design plan to guide future development, including placement and scope of support infrastructure as well as enhanced facilities to accommodate beginners, intermediate and advanced skill levels.	Short	Allowance \$20,000	KCC Sport and Recreation
	27) Implement the approved concept plan.	Medium	To be determined, likely to be in the order of \$350,000.	KCC Sport and Recreation
Bicentennial Park, Chelsea	28) Reinforce the venue as a Regional standard active youth precinct by improving the quality, standard and scope of facilities and support infrastructure available (refer to issues and opportunities summary presented in Part Two).	Short	To be determined pending concept plan development	KCC Sport and Recreation
	29) Address immediate maintenance issues e.g. repair damaged corners, improve surrounding surfacing and grass cover, remove litter and weeds.	Short	Within existing operational resources.	KCC Parks
	30) Develop a detailed concept design plan to guide future development, including placement and scope of support infrastructure as well as enhanced facilities to accommodate beginners, intermediate and advanced skill levels.	Short	Already funded in 2011/12.	KCC Sport and Recreation
	31) Implement the approved concept plan.	Short	To be determined, likely to be in the order of \$350,000.	KCC Sport and Recreation

Issue	Strategies	Priority (Short, Medium, Long, Ongoing)	Indicative Resource Implication	Responsibility
Namatjira Skate Park, Clarinda	32) Reinforce the venue as a District standard active youth precinct by improving the quality, standard and scope of facilities and support infrastructure available (refer to issues and opportunities summary presented in Part Two).	Ongoing	To be determined pending concept plan development	KCC Sport and Recreation
	33) Address immediate maintenance issues e.g. remove litter and weeds, uplift/prune trees.	Short	Within existing operational resources.	KCC Parks
	34) Develop a detailed concept design plan to guide future development, including placement and scope of support infrastructure as well as enhanced facilities to accommodate beginners and intermediate skill levels, including additional facilities to support BMX use.	Medium	Allowance \$10,000	KCC Sport and Recreation
	35) Implement the approved concept plan.	Medium	To be determined, likely to be in the order of \$120,000.	KCC Sport and Recreation
Dingley Skate Park	36) Reinforce the venue as a Local standard active youth precinct by improving the quality, standard and scope of facilities and support infrastructure available (refer to issues and opportunities summary presented in Part Two).	Ongoing	To be determined pending concept plan development	KCC Sport and Recreation
	37) Develop a concept design plan to guide future development, including integration with the adjacent underutilised tennis hit-up wall area, options for re-use of existing equipment and placement/scope of new infrastructure consistent with its Local status.	Short	Allowance \$10,000	KCC Sport and Recreation
	38) Implement the approved concept plan.	Short	To be determined, likely to be in the order of \$80,000.	KCC Sport and Recreation
Apsendale Gardens Rage Cage	39) Address general maintenance issues, including graffiti, damage to fencing, backboards and repaint all surfaces.	Short	Allowance \$10,000	KCC Parks
	40) Design and construct (single stage) an extension to the Rage Cage to establish a Local standard street skate facility on the grassed area, ensuring effective integration between the two areas, including appropriate seating, viewing areas and access through the end fencing (NB: the skate park component is not intended to be fenced).	Long	Allowance \$80,000	KCC Sport and Recreation
Mordialloc Skate Park, Attenborough Park	41) Address general maintenance issues, including graffiti and damage to equipment edging.	Short	Within existing operational resources.	KCC Parks
	42) Install seating and viewing areas at appropriate locations around the main facility components.	Short	Allowance \$10,000	KCC Parks
	43) Design and construct (single stage) additional linear street skate elements, including along the path network, as an extension to the existing facilities, reinforcing the skate park as a Local standard facility.	Long	Allowance \$50,000	KCC Sport and Recreation

4. Implementation Plan

The following table presents the indicative capital and financial costs for each recommendation within a 10-year implementation plan. It must be noted that a number of the recommendations will have financial implications for Council that are not able to be quantified at this stage pending further investigation, design and/or service review.

The Implementation Plan identifies the following indicative costs:

- **Short Term** = 0-3 years from adoption **\$527,500**
- **Medium Term** = 4-6 years **\$597,500**
- **Long Term** = 7-10+ years **\$180,000**
- **10-Year Total:** **\$1,295,000**

Rec #	Summary of Recommended Strategies	Short Term			Medium Term			Long Term			
		2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022
3	Remove the small concrete half-pipe at Jack Grut Reserve.	\$2,000									
11	Establish a secure locker at each venue which contains a broom and small shovel/brush for removal of tree litter and other debris by users prior to use (commence with a trial at Cheltenham, Chelsea and Namatjira sites).	\$3,000									
16	Install lighting at Council's two regional venues.					\$80,000					
19	Annual exhibition/demonstration at each Regional site in order to promote use and raise awareness of the existing facilities.	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
20	Establish an annual City of Kingston Skate competition.	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500
21	Establish and deliver an annual participation program (i.e. coaching and come and try sessions) utilising Regional and District facilities.	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
25	Sir William Fry: Address immediate maintenance issues e.g. repair damaged corners, improve surrounding surfacing and grass cover, remove litter and weeds, repair the basketball backboard.	\$5,000									
26	Sir William Fry: Develop a detailed concept design plan to guide future development, including placement and scope of support infrastructure as well as enhanced facilities to accommodate beginners, intermediate and advanced skill levels.			\$20,000							
27	Sir William Fry: Implement the approved concept plan.				\$350,000						
31	Bicentennial Park: Implement the approved concept plan.		\$350,000								
34	Namatjira Skate Park: Develop a detailed concept design plan to guide future development.				\$10,000						
35	Namatjira Skate Park: Implement the approved concept plan.					\$120,000					
37	Dingley Skate Park: Develop a detailed concept design plan to guide future development.			\$10,000							
38	Dingley Skate Park: Implement the approved concept plan.			\$80,000							
39	Address general maintenance issues, including graffiti, damage to fencing, backboards and repaint all surfaces.	\$10,000									
40	Aspendale Rage Cage: Design and construct (single stage) an extension to the Rage Cage to establish a Local standard street skate facility							\$80,000			
42	Mordialloc Skate Park: Install seating and viewing areas at appropriate locations around the main facility components.		\$10,000								
43	Mordialloc Skate Park: Install additional linear street skate elements.								\$50,000		
Annual Totals		\$32,500	\$372,500	\$122,500	\$372,500	\$212,500	\$12,500	\$92,500	\$62,500	\$12,500	\$12,500

5. Conclusion

The *Active Youth Spaces Strategy* has identified that the existing number of facilities is adequate to service community needs, however each of the existing sites require significant improvements in order to address the contemporary needs of users and improve their capacity to function as appealing places for young people to gather, interact and participate in informal physical activities.

In addition, the *Active Youth Spaces Strategy* also recommends that Council explore opportunities to establish a specialist BMX facility, however additional investigation is required to confirm the extent of demand and if necessary a preferred site. Once a site has been identified, a detailed concept plan will be required prior to capital development. The Strategy outlines key criteria to consider when reviewing possible site options.

The Strategy has also identified a need for service improvements, particularly operational maintenance and Asset Management Planning. There are also opportunities for Council to play a more active role in facility programming and encouraging participation, particularly by females.

In conclusion, the *Active Youth Spaces Strategy* provides a framework for Council to enhance facilities and services to cater for the informal active youth space needs of the community.

NB: Section Two - Supporting material should be used as a reference for any further facility redevelopments/upgrades.



Call **1300 653 356** for more information.

