



SPORT AND RECREATION STRATEGY

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recreation
open space
and sport
specialists

ross
planning

This report has been prepared
by:

ROSS Planning Pty Ltd
ABN 32 508 029 959
Upper floor, 63 Bay Terrace
Wynnum QLD 4178

PO Box 5660
Manly QLD 4179

Telephone: (07) 3901 0730
Fax: (07) 3893 0593

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1. INTRODUCTION

Two Cities One Community is a partnership between AlburyCity and Wodonga Council with a commitment to work together to realise a shared vision to plan, develop and grow the Albury-Wodonga region.

Objectives of the partnership include adopting a holistic approach to regional planning and strategy to ensure successful implementation over the long term and the achievement of identified objectives. This approach maximises the benefits derived from the councils' limited capital funds by adopting a co-operative approach to planning, funding and implementing major infrastructure and facilities. By undertaking the *Sport and Recreation Strategy* together, the two councils can plan for the provision of sport and recreation facilities into the future with a regional approach in mind, thereby reducing the duplication of facilities across the two LGAs.

The strategy is intended to guide the development of facilities across the region of Albury and Wodonga in a manner that not only avoids the duplication of facilities but also allows both councils to maximise sport and recreation opportunities in the most effective manner. This includes a focus on improvements to existing facilities, not the ad hoc development of new facilities.

Sport and recreation activities play a major role in contributing to the Albury-Wodonga community's strong sense of wellbeing. The sporting networks are not limited by city and state borders and operate across both Albury and Wodonga, as well as servicing the broader region. With the community also hosting major sporting events at many of the existing facilities, it is important that both AlburyCity and Wodonga Council can plan for the future through a consolidated strategy.

The activities investigated in the *Sport and Recreation Strategy* are listed below. It is noted that aquatic facilities will be reviewed separately by both councils.

- Athletics
- Baseball
- Basketball
- Beach volleyball
- Cricket
- Croquet
- Cycling
- Football (Aust. Rules)
- Football (Soccer)
- Hockey
- Lawn bowls
- Netball
- Rowing
- Rugby league
- Rugby union
- Softball
- Table tennis
- Tennis
- Touch football
- Triathlon
- Volleyball

Findings of the strategy have been based on the following.

- A detailed review of existing background documents
- Current and expected trends in sport and recreation participation and facility provision
- Engagement with a range of stakeholders
- Inspections of relevant sport and recreation facilities across the local government areas.

The strategy will inform planning for both councils over the next 10 plus years and prioritises projects for future funding and grant applications.

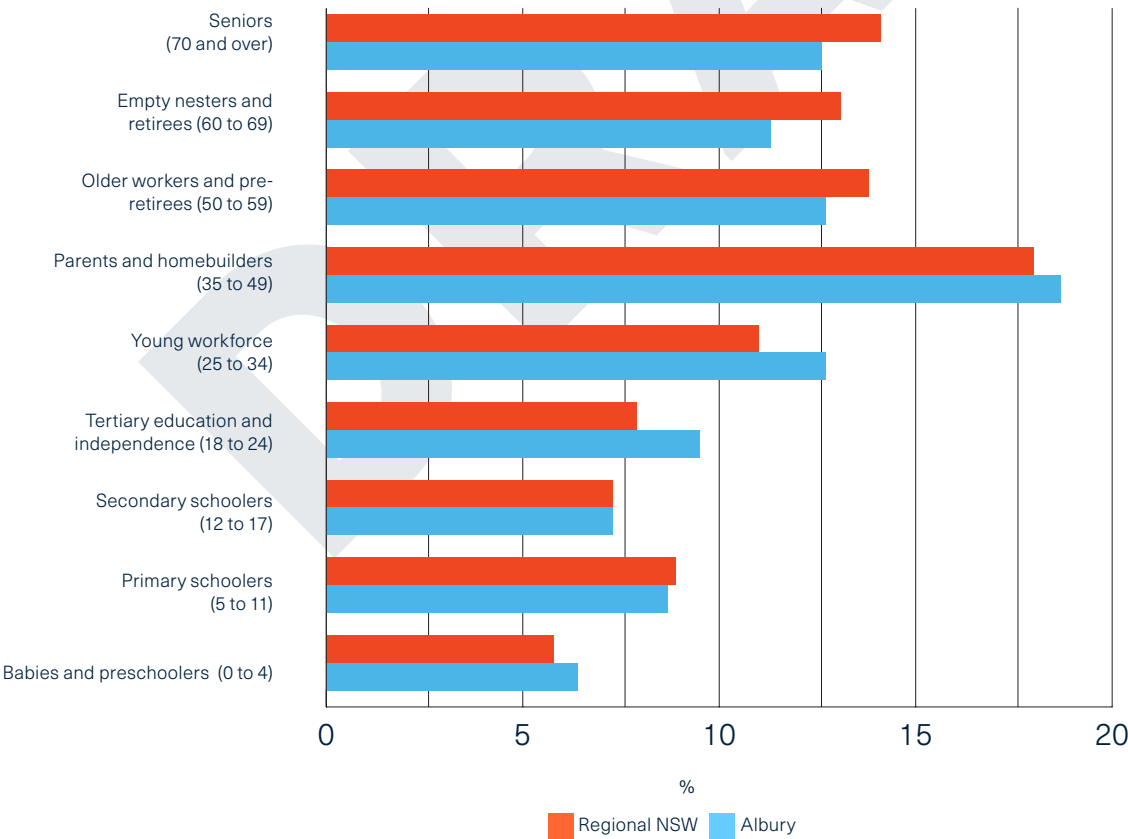
2. POPULATION PROFILE

The way in which a community uses the surrounding open space and participates in active recreation and sport activities is largely influenced by age. Understanding the spatial and demographic variations in communities, such as concentrations of older residents or youth, is fundamental to responding to, and planning for, the future provision of active recreation and sports facilities. Current and future population forecast figures presented in this section have been referenced from both councils' profile.id pages (<https://profile.id.com.au/albury> and <https://profile.id.com.au/wodonga>).

Current population

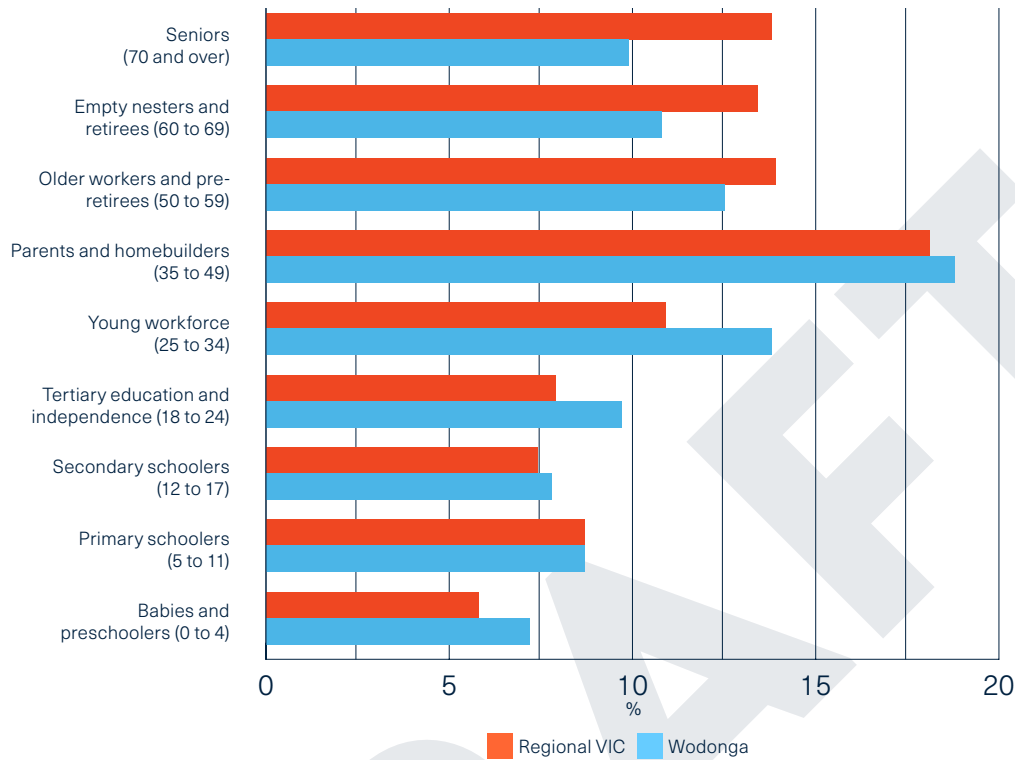
Albury

The AlburyCity Estimated Resident Population for 2021 is 56,036, with a median age of 39, lower than regional NSW's median age of 43. How this population is currently distributed across various age groups is illustrated in the table below.



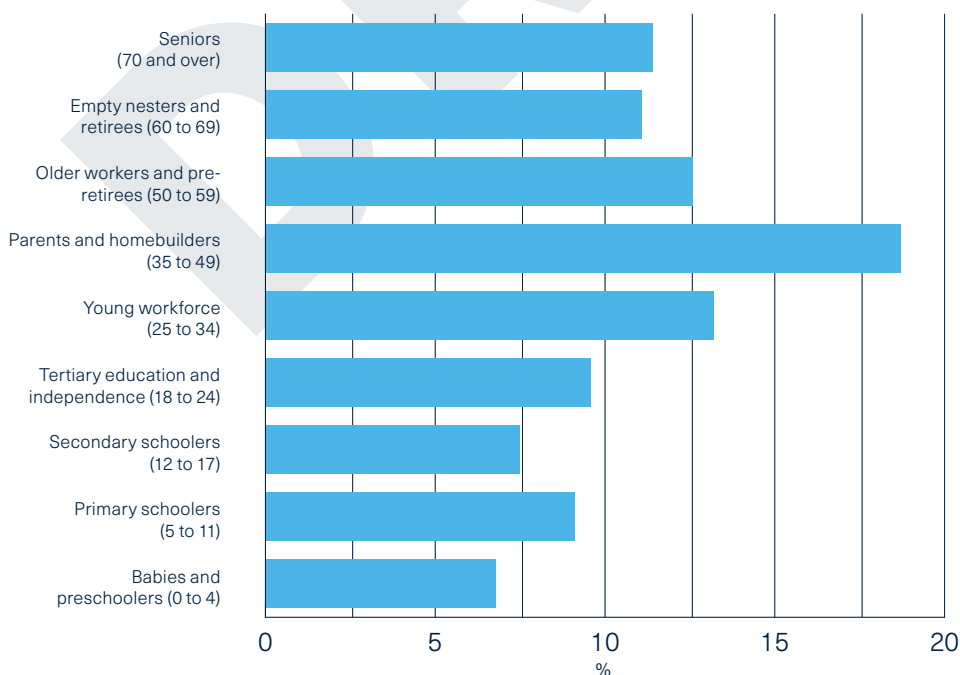
Wodonga

The city of Wodonga Estimated Resident Population for 2021 is 43,183, with a median age of 36, significantly lower than the median age of regional Victoria at 43. How this population is currently distributed across various age groups is illustrated in the table below.



Albury-Wodonga

The Albury-Wodonga region has a combined estimated population of 99,219 people, with the percentages of the various age groups represented in the table below.



Other notable characteristics of the population

Weekly household income

- Albury - in comparison to Regional NSW, there is a smaller proportion of high-income households (those earning \$3000 per week or more) and a similar proportion of low-income households (those earning less than \$650 per week). Overall, 14.9% of the households earned a high income and 19.0% were low-income households, compared with 16.7% and 19.0% respectively for regional NSW
- Wodonga - analysis of household income levels compared to regional Victoria shows that there was a similar proportion of high-income households (those earning \$3000 per week or more) and a lower proportion of low-income households (those earning less than \$650 per week). Overall, 14.5% of the households earned a high income and 16.7% were low-income households, compared with 14.9% and 19.3% respectively for regional Victoria.

Households with children

- Albury - analysis of the families with children in Albury compared to regional NSW shows that there was a larger proportion of couples with young children and a smaller proportion of couples with older children. There were a similar proportion of single-parent households with young children and a smaller proportion of single-parent households with older children
- Wodonga - comparing families with children in Wodonga compared to regional Victoria shows that there was a larger proportion of couples with young children, and a similar proportion of couples with older children. There were a larger proportion of single-parent households with young children and a similar proportion of single-parent households with older children.

Volunteering (for an organisation or group)

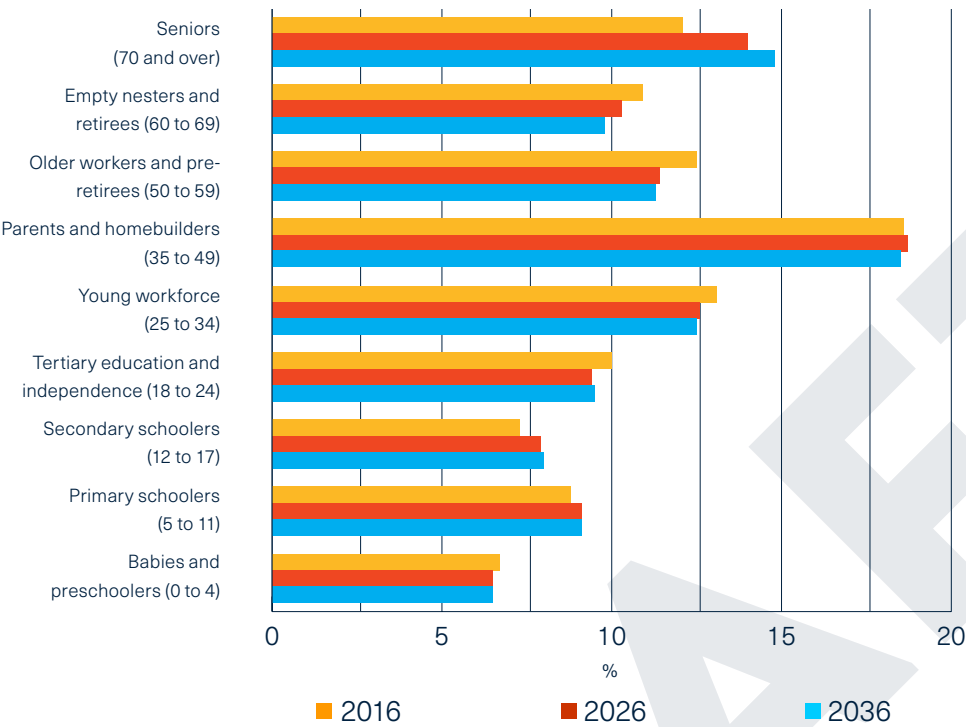
- Albury - Overall, 15.8% of the population reported performing voluntary work, compared with 15.5% for regional NSW.
- Wodonga - Overall, 14.5% of the population reported performing voluntary work, compared with 17.3% for regional Victoria.



Population projections

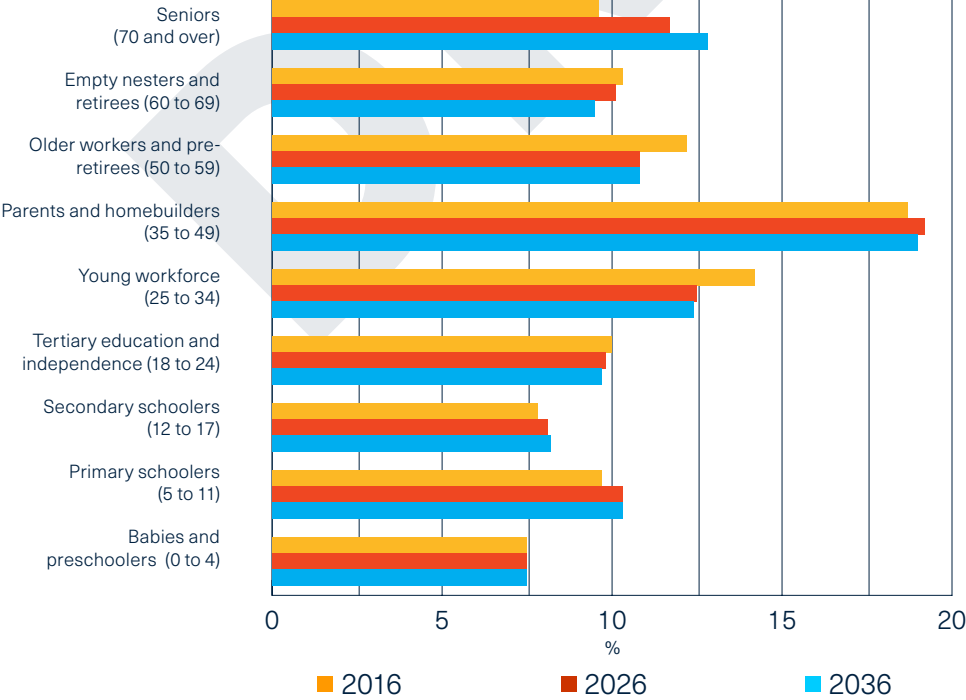
Albury

Projected 2036 population of 67,427



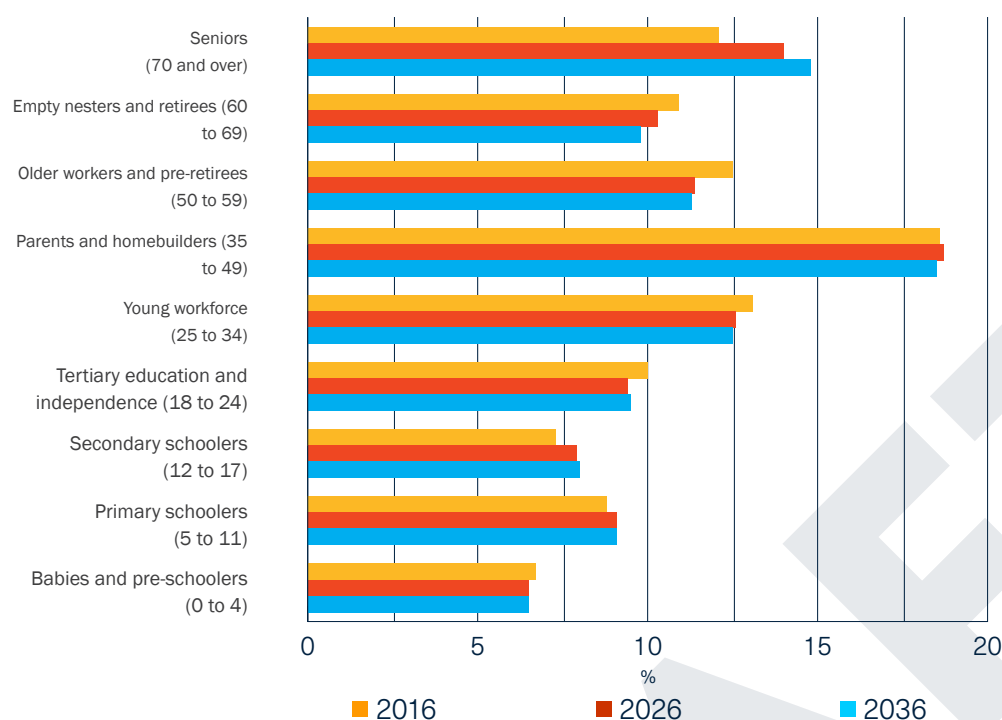
Wodonga

Projected 2036 population of 57,314



Albury-Wodonga

Projected 2036 total population of 124,741



Demographics analysis summary

Current

- Both cities have a lower median age than the relevant regional state median age.
- Both cities have higher proportions of families with young children than their state regional counterparts, indicating a need to provide a variety of sport and recreation opportunities for young children.
- Generally, in all age cohorts under 50, both cities have higher proportions than those for regional NSW and Victoria.
- While Albury's average household incomes are below that of regional NSW, Wodonga households have a higher average household income than regional Victoria, possibly demonstrating an increased ability to pay for sport and recreation opportunities.

- While Albury residents demonstrate a slightly higher proportion of those undertaking volunteering than regional NSW, Wodonga's level of volunteering is lower than that of regional Victoria. This may have an impact on the availability of volunteers for sporting clubs.

Future

- The proportion of seniors (over 70) in the region is expected to increase significantly by 2036, demonstrating a likely need for activities that cater for this age group.
- An increase in the proportions of children aged between five and 17 years is also expected and thus appropriate opportunities for this age group will also need to be considered.



3. EMERGING SPORTS TRENDS

Facility design

Sport precinct provision

There are acknowledged benefits of developing dedicated multiuse sports precincts (rather than single-field facilities).

Large flexible-use sites provide opportunities for shared use of infrastructure and maintenance requirements and enhanced ability to attract funding given the range of users. There are a number of existing multi-use facilities across the region. These larger facilities are important in attracting high-level events that often require large numbers of playing fields and courts.

There is increased need for suitable storage facilities, spectator shade and sufficient car parking at existing venues. Appropriate planning is required for consideration in the development of any new facilities and future planning of current venues.

Field sharing

With many sports extending the lengths of pre-season and season fixtures, sports are no longer classifying themselves as strictly summer or winter sports. This has led to the sharing of field space becoming more difficult. While providers strive to maximise the use of community resources (and state government espouses field sharing), the reality is that shared use of ancillary facilities (eg. clubhouses, car parks) rather than fields will be more likely.

Field and court quality

Facility providers face an increasing trend to develop and redevelop sporting fields and courts to a higher standard in order to increase carrying capacity. Upgrades - such as lighting, field irrigation and turf varieties - allow training and competition times to be

extended and increases the ability of turf playing fields to cope with the resulting wear and tear. Further, to achieve ongoing field quality, fields need “rest periods” (of up to four weeks) where necessary maintenance can be undertaken.

The replacement of turf fields with synthetic fields, however, can significantly increase carrying capacity by limiting maintenance-required field down time. A number of facility providers are moving toward the provision of synthetic fields (particularly for football and hockey where internationally certified surfaces are available). In determining the preferred sports for the rectangular field space area within the site, councils may consider demand for synthetic surfaces.

Field lighting

Councils across Australia are becoming increasingly aware that through the design and development of modern field lighting, the availability and use of many existing sporting venues can be greatly increased. This reduces the need to develop costly new facilities and to find the required land for such.

Gender equity, diversity and inclusion

Local and state government have developed strategies and policies, such as the NSW Government Her Sport, Her Way and the Vic Health/Victoria State Government fair Access Policy for the fair and equitable use of existing facilities and the development of new ones. These plans aim to address known barriers experienced by women and girls in accessing and using community sports infrastructure and recognises equal choices and opportunities to lead and participate.

In addition to gender equity, both councils have developed and implemented Disability Action Plans including the provision and promotion of inclusive sport and recreation activities. This is supported at state and federal government levels.

All relevant policies and strategies are to be considered and acted on in order to provide equity across the sport and recreation sector at all levels.

Choice and challenge

Move towards indoor sport and recreation

Anecdotally, there is an emerging trend toward sport participation indoors (eg. basketball, netball and fitness). Potentially, this move might be a result of a preference for activities in a controlled climate and/or greater mid-week opportunities (compared with outdoor activities and traditional Saturday or Sunday fixtures).

Diversification of sport

Road cycling, mountain biking and eco-tourism activities are all growing as non-traditional physical activities, while modified sports such as T20 cricket and 7s rugby are burgeoning. Changes are placing additional pressure on councils with regard to playing field capacity, facility flexibility and the need to plan for additional demand.

From extreme to mainstream

There has been a recent rise in adventure, extreme and alternative sports that are proving particularly popular with younger generations. These sports typically involve complex and advanced skills and often have some element of inherent danger and thrill-seeking. Examples include freestyle BMX and rock climbing. These sports are also characterised by a strong lifestyle element and participants often obtain cultural self-identity and self-expression through their involvement. International associations for adventure sports are working hard to obtain inclusion in Paralympic and Olympics events (with both skateboarding and rock climbing included as exhibition sports in the 2020 Olympic Games)

While participation rates in some mainstream and organised sports have been constant (or slightly) declined over the past decade, extreme and action sports have risen in both demand (participation) and supply (industry). These sports are gaining popularity among large segments of Generation Y who connect to a counter-culture of adventure and freedom of expression. At this point, however, solid longitudinal participation data in these sports and activities remains scant.

Busy lifestyles

Shiftwork, increases in part-time and casual employment and family commitments influence participation as:

- People do not have the time to commit as a regular participant or volunteer; and,
- People seek facilities and participation opportunities with flexible hours.
- Sporting and community organisations are required to prioritise tasks based on reducing volunteer numbers.

Open space and COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic had a massive impact on the lives of all Australians. Although much of this impact has been negative, there have been positive outcomes, one of which is the increased appreciation of parks and open space for sport and recreation purposes.

While much of the evidence for this increased appreciation and use is anecdotal at this stage, the following summarises some of the publications that have been released to date.

While these articles concentrate more on recreation than organised sport, they do highlight the growing trend of people desiring informal recreation activities over that of formal sporting activities. This is an important consideration when planning for future sport and recreation facilities and opportunities.

¹Infrastructure Australia interim report

This report noted the following.

- A 23% increase in utilisation of national parks and green spaces nationally.
- There has been a sharp increase in the use of national parks and green spaces during COVID-19, with the exception of Victoria due to tighter restrictions.
- Visits to green spaces have increased significantly across Australia with the exception of Victoria.
- In a survey conducted by the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, 46% of respondents claimed to have spent more time in parklands and gardens with many (94%) using these spaces to undertake personal exercise.
- Further, 72% of NSW survey respondents cited that local parks have been “especially useful” or “appreciated more” during COVID-19, with Hermitage foreshore and Western Sydney Parklands and Centennial Park visits up by 144% and 100% respectively compared to the prior year.
- Given this evidence, it is likely that green spaces and corridors have also played an important role in supporting active and “utility” transport.
- Research also shows that 87% of Australians have noticed a positive shift in community attitudes towards urban green space, particularly amongst those living in high density areas.

Preventing Chronic Disease article

²This article outlined long-term recommendations for the provision of open space, based on learnings from the pandemic.

Create built environments for all users

- Ensure that including green space is prioritised on streets in neighbourhoods that lack them.
- Consider access for all users through various approaches. Install bicycle lanes or pedestrian connections to local trails, paths, parks, and green spaces. Increase parking for bicycles at parks and green spaces. Ensure public spaces comply with the relevant access for people with disabilities requirements.
- Plan for maintenance and regular improvements of green spaces and parks.

Consider where to locate parks and green spaces

Ensure quality parks and green spaces are located in close proximity to people, regardless of where they live.

Conduct ongoing monitoring and evaluation

To ensure any strategies implemented work in the expected ways, plan for ongoing monitoring and evaluation. This should include examining any unintended consequences, such as decreased sanitary conditions, litter, substandard bathroom facilities and increased crime.

Summary of COVID-19 impacts

The positives to take out of the pandemic and the subsequent restrictions on “normal” life include:

- A greater appreciation of parks and open space by the majority of the population;
- Anticipated higher use of these spaces to continue afterwards, resulting in a more active and healthy population in general; and,
- Greater emphasis on developing and improving such spaces in government budgetary processes, hopefully including grant funding from state and federal governments for local councils.

1 (Source: Infrastructure beyond COVID-19: A national study on the impacts of the pandemic on Australia. December 2020. https://www.infrastructureaustralia.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-12/Final_COVID%20Impacts%20on%20Infrastructure%20Sectors%20Report_14%20Dec%202020.pdf)

2 (Source: www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2020/20_0204.htm • Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

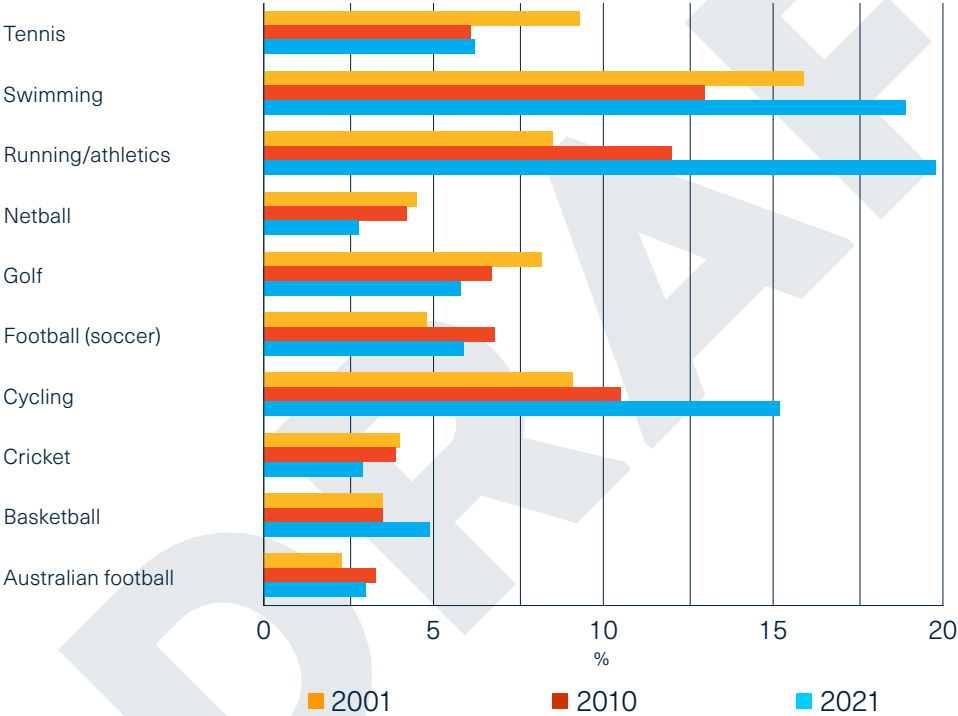
Participation trends

At a national-level, the reduction in available leisure time has resulted in a trend for adults to move away from organised sport toward physical activity and non-organised (social) sport. The ABS conducted a nation-wide Participation in Sport and Physical Recreation Survey for adults over 15 years of age in 2005-2006, 2009-2010 and 2011-2012. The survey showed that participation in organised sport reduced slightly while non-organised sport reported increases. This trend has continued to the present and is expected to continue into the future.

The data utilised to provide the summaries in this section was sourced from AusPlay, a large scale national population tracking survey funded and led by Sport Australia (<https://www.clearinghouseforsport.gov.au/research/ausplay/results>). This data was last updated in October 2021.

National

The graph below shows a summary of the national participation rate (% of National population) trends for the 10 most popular sports across Australia from 2001 to 2021.

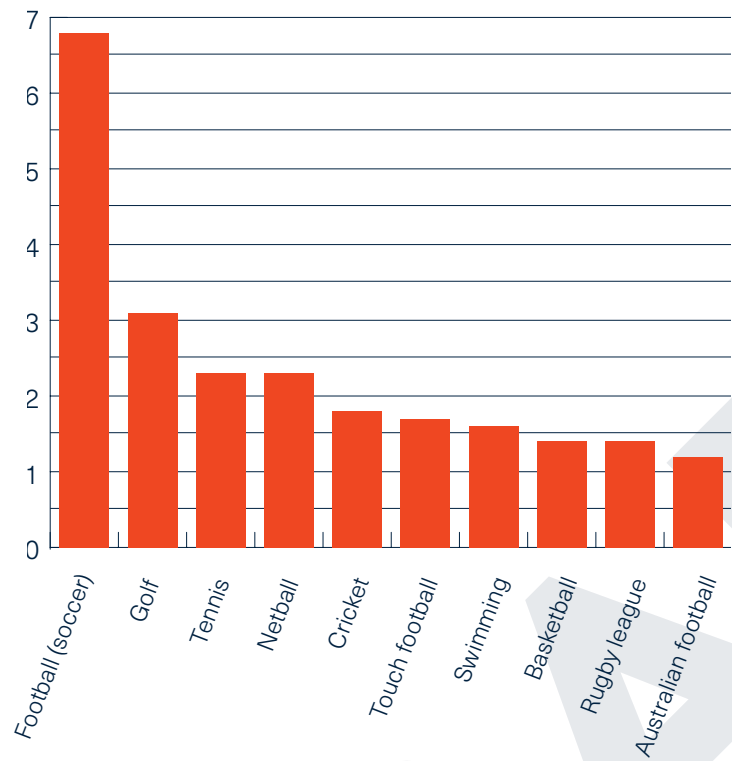


It should be noted that the activities demonstrating the most significant growth (swimming, running/athletics and cycling) include people undertaking the activity in an informal and individual manner.

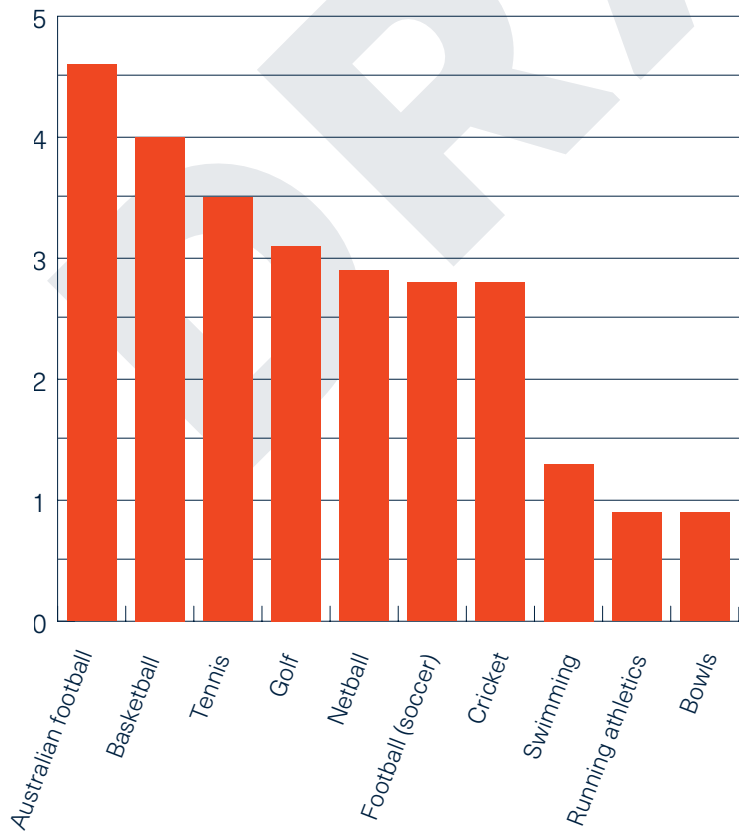
State

The following graphs represent the 2021 participation rates (% of state population) for the 10 most popular sports for each state.

NSW



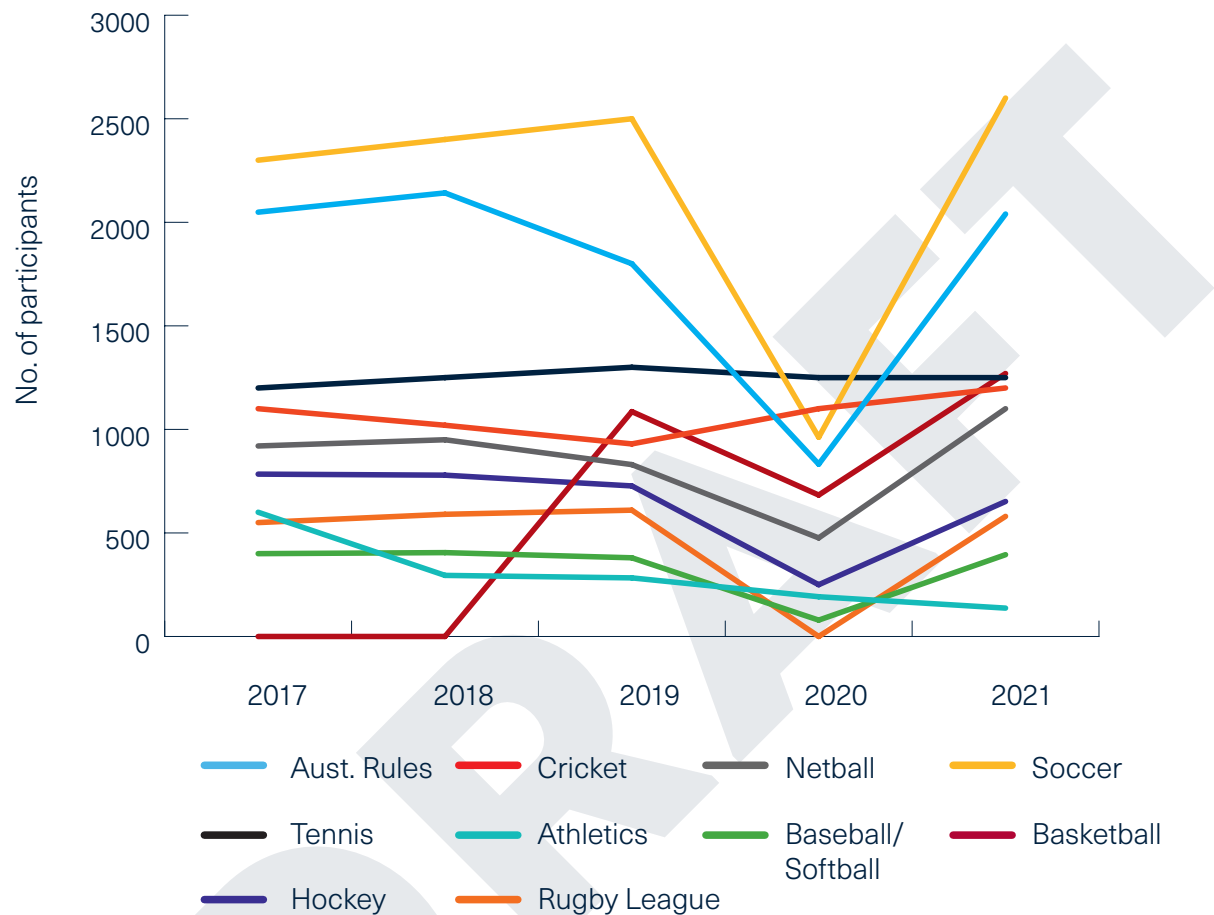
Victoria



Local

Local participation rates at this stage are based on figures for the major sporting clubs in Albury and Wodonga and represented in the graph below. Where possible, actual participation registrations were used and in their absence, assumptions were made based on state participation rates. It should be noted that many competitions were cancelled in 2020 due to COVID-19.

Further observations regarding the participation levels of each sport are included in the Current Supply section.



4. ENGAGEMENT

A range of tools and techniques have been utilised to engage stakeholders (such as state sporting organisations, Albury and Wodonga sporting clubs/organisations and council officers) including:

- Emails introducing the project and seeking input;
- On-site and telephone discussions with stakeholders regarding facility issues;
- Sporting club online survey;
- School principal survey; and,
- Telephone interviews and MS Teams meetings.

Council feedback

Various meetings have been held with relevant council personnel with the main outcomes summarised as follows.

Wodonga

- There is a perceived lack of available training spaces across the region.
- An additional site for Auskick programs is needed - the sites currently used are the racecourse, Baranduda Reserve, and Brian Esler Park (Melrose Primary School Oval)
- More cricket practice nets that are available to the public are needed.
- An accurate demand analysis for facilities will be important, especially in regard to the development of Baranduda Fields and determining if current facilities can accommodate future growth.
- There are very limited opportunities for expanding the footprints of existing facilities (would most likely require land acquisitions).
- Community expectations regarding the quality of sporting facilities are very high.
- Seasonal over-runs at shared facilities are resulting in maintenance issues.
- Partnerships with schools should be investigated.
- It was believed that existing sites could be more multipurpose.
- Population growth is significant (especially in the south of Wodonga).
- One model to determine council/club maintenance responsibilities is needed and the current rates and charges are being reviewed.
- The provision of female-friendly facilities is generally not too bad but is lacking at certain facilities (such as Birallee and Martin parks).

Albury

- Upgrading playing surfaces and field lighting needs to continue with a number of grounds complete.
- Clubs need to be educated in regard to the need for rest periods for field maintenance.
- At present, annual permits are provided to sporting groups. Providing clubs with a longer-term agreement (three to five-year permit) will provide clubs with some level tenure of the area. This will streamline processes and reduce administrative burdens.
- A range of change room and amenities buildings are in different phase of development. It's acknowledged that a number of sports ground buildings do not meet female and male participation demand or minimum standards for their sport.
- Albury has 25 grass courts at the Albury Tennis Association (which are not utilised all year round) and 13 other tennis facilities (total of 72 other courts) through the LGA which suggests an over-supply of courts and under-utilisation of assets.
- Softball/baseball facilities are difficult to develop due to the large size required.
- Council undertakes all maintenance except where a lease or licence agreement is in place. A collaborative approach is taken to all capital improvements.
 - Stage 1 of the Lauren Jackson Centre master plan is currently being implemented with Stage 2 to include an extension to the centre - mainly to cope with the growth of basketball
 - Sarvaas Park sports pavilion upgrade
 - Melrose Park sports pavilion redevelopment
 - Most sports ground lighting projects have been completed with financial contributions from user groups through cash, in-kind, sourced grants and/or interest free loans
- Outdoor training opportunities for basketball should be investigated, such as South Albury Active Space or the PCYC
- There are challenges associated with out-of-town sporting clubs wanting to use facilities.

Online surveys

Two online surveys have been utilised, for both sporting clubs and school principals. The closing date for the completion of these survey was extended to ensure the most possible responses were received prior to the development of this draft strategy. A summary of both online survey responses provided the following.

State sporting organisations

While all state sporting organisations were contacted for feedback, none expressed a significant need for additional facilities for their respective sports. In fact, feedback regarding the provision of facilities in the region was highly positive, with only minor improvements required.

Where relevant, this feedback has been included in the Demand Assessment section of the strategy. Where the organisations have relevant facility guidelines, these were reviewed and considered in the development of this report.

Sporting club survey summary

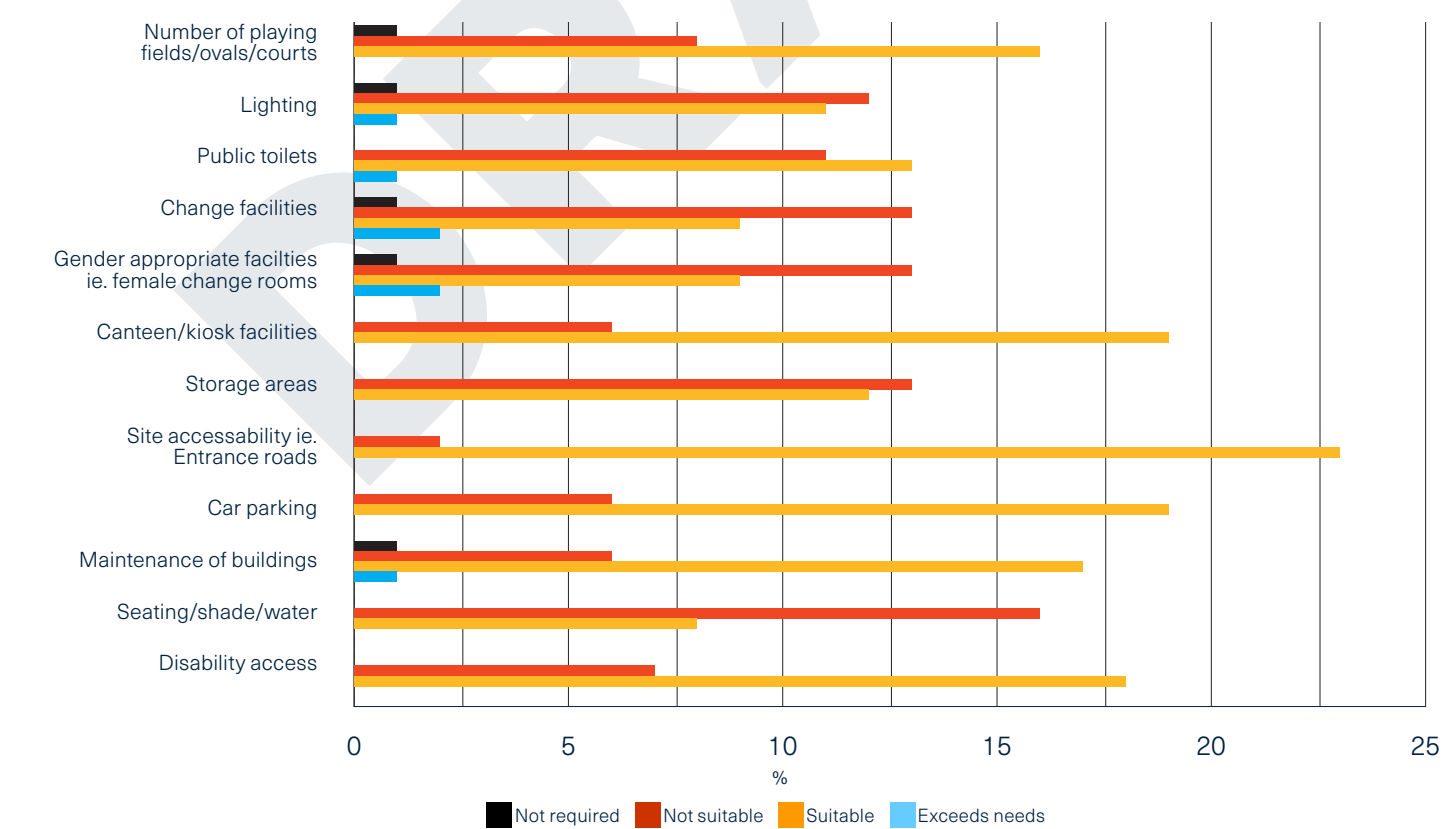
The online survey asked local clubs to identify facility and operational issues currently impacting their club. Responses were received from the following clubs/organisations (in order of receipt).

- Wodonga Junior Football Club
- Murray United Football Club Inc
- Volleyball Albury Wodonga
- Baranduda Tennis Club Inc
- Gateway Lake User Group Wodonga
- Albury Wodonga Table Tennis Association Inc
- Wodonga Saints Football and Netball Club Inc
- Netball Wodonga Inc
- Wodonga Raiders Cricket Club
- Wodonga Wombats RLFC
- Hockey Albury Wodonga Inc
- Wodonga Raiders Sports Club Inc
- Wodonga Cricket Club
- Softball Albury Wodonga Inc
- Wodonga Hockey Club
- Twin City Wanderers FC
- Albury Croquet Club Inc
- Belvoir Cricket Club
- Albury Wodonga Mountain Bikers
- Albury Little Athletics
- Albury Wodonga Rugby Union Club
- Wodonga Tennis Centre Inc
- Wodonga Little Athletics Centre Inc
- Wodonga Raiders Jnr Football Club

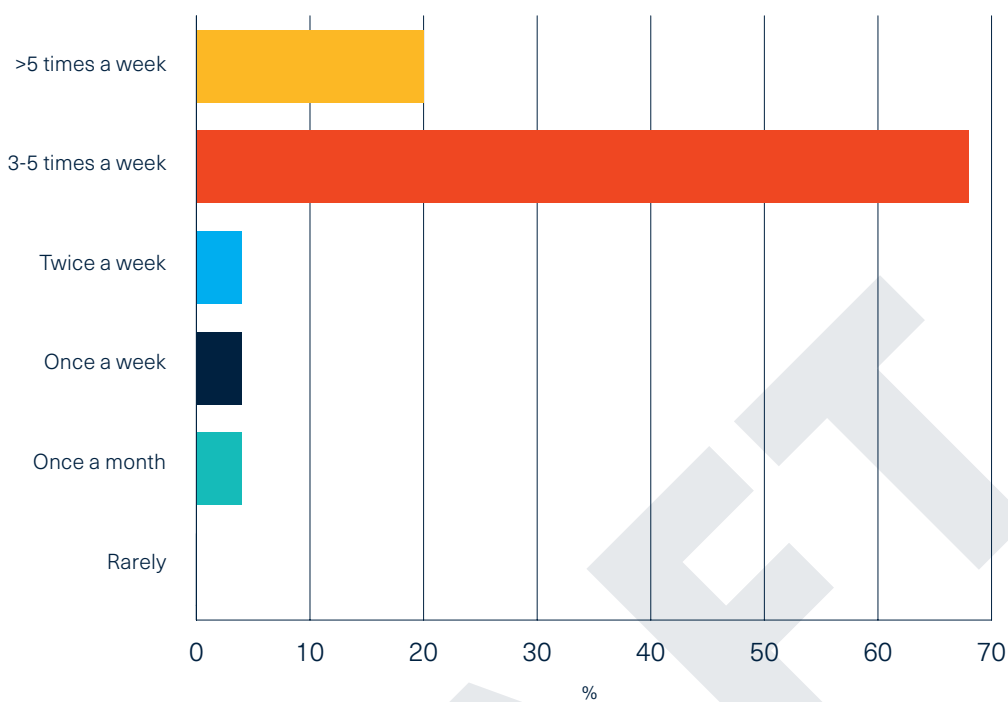
An excerpt of responses received reflect some of the trends identified, are summarised following.

Facilities

Q: Please indicate whether the current facilities provided to your organisation are suitable to your requirements

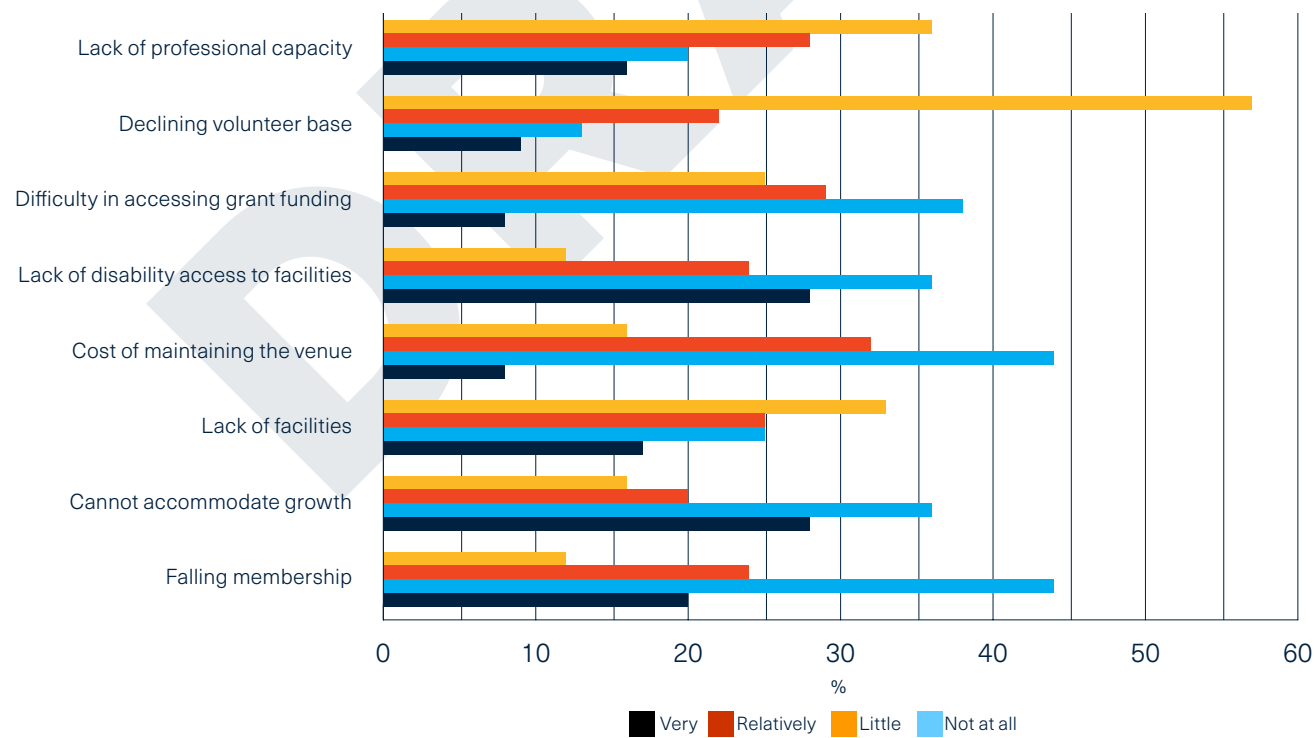


Q: How often do you use your home reserve/facility/venue?



Operational

Q: Please indicate the extent that the following issues are having on your organisation



Other key issues

The majority of other general issues raised by clubs were related to the shared use of facilities and lack of their own fields and ancillary facilities. These issues included those involved with seasonal overlaps, a lack of fields/courts and the lack of field lighting.

Unfortunately, it is unrealistic to meet expectations of individual clubs having their own specific facility, both in financial and available space terms. Such a model would also result in most facilities being highly under-utilised and not operationally viable.

There are, however, various initiatives that can address these issues, such as:

- A co-ordinated field lighting upgrade plan across the region;
- Adoption of a design guide for the upgrade/ replacement of clubhouses and change facilities that include components such as female-friendly facilities, shared canteen/kiosk facilities with separate food storage areas, flexible components (such as operable walls) and the ability to extend; and,
- A uniform tenancy arrangement that fully details issues such as club responsibilities (including maintenance), applicable fees and charges and times of use.

School principal survey

Thirteen responses to the survey were received from the following schools.

- St Patrick's Primary School
- James Fallon High School
- Trinity Anglican College
- Kandeer School SSP (School for Special Purposes)
- Thurgoona Public School
- The Scots School
- Lavington Public School
- Albury Public School
- Baranduda Public School
- Albury North Public School
- Lavington East Public School
- Wodonga Middle Years College

Issues identified by respondents relevant to the strategy included the following.

- All schools indicated that they made use of council facilities for the provision of sport and recreation.
- More than 75% of respondents indicated they were either totally/ satisfied with the quality of council facilities utilised.
- Several respondents identified a need for facilities to be more multipurpose in nature.

Time out workshop

A workshop with local clubs was held to provide the opportunity to discuss issues being faced and possible solutions. Twenty representatives from various clubs attended, with the main outcomes of discussions summarised as follows.

- The lack of car parking was a common issue identified by attendees.
- The lack of storage was also identified and Wodonga clubs expressed the desire for council to relax its stance on the placement/use of shipping containers due their suitability for this purpose.
- The lack of female-friendly change rooms was identified by the majority of attendees as an issue, as was inadequate sports field lighting that allowed more training times/opportunities.

Engagement Summary

- The majority of sporting clubs in the region were generally happy with:
 - The condition and number of playing fields/courts; and,
 - Site accessibility and car parking.
- The main facility improvements identified as needed by sporting clubs were:
 - Storage;
 - Field/court lighting;
 - Female-friendly change facilities; and,
 - Lack of shade/seating/water.
- No significant facility needs were identified by state sporting organisations for the future provision of their respective sports.
- Feedback from Council staff identified:
 - The lack of training opportunities for clubs;
 - High expectations from clubs and the community; and,
 - Generally, existing facilities could be better utilised with minor upgrades before new major facilities were constructed.
- Schools that regularly access council facilities are satisfied with their quality but believe they could be developed into more multipurpose facilities.

Urana Rd Oval, Albury



5. CURRENT SUPPLY

The following section provides a snapshot of existing facilities across the two local government areas. Background information regarding each of the sites was reviewed, followed by site inspections.

Inspections

All venues under council control in both local government areas were inspected to determine:

- The number and quality of fields/courts;
- The range of features within each site;
- The carrying capacity of playing fields (including assessment of current wear and tear issues);
- Overall functionality of the site and any opportunities for expansion;
- The level of field/court lighting;
- Quality and functionality of pavilions;
- The level of shade and spectator facilities provided; and,
- Car parking and site access.

The following pages provide a snapshot of the current supply of sport and recreation facilities across both local government areas.

Included in the snapshots for each sport is a map showing the distribution of that sport's facilities' distribution across the region and summaries of its supply and distribution, participation trends and how demand for the sport is being/will be met.

The region has several existing (and planned) elite facilities that, due to the high quality of playing surfaces and general size, provide opportunities for higher level competitions and hosting sporting carnivals. Some examples of these facilities include the Lavington Sports Ground, the Les O'Brien Athletics Precinct, Greenfield Park, Kelly Park and the Baranduda Fields development. The development of more of this type of facility in the future provides improved local pathways for residents, increased interest in local sport and the economic benefits to the region of hosting larger sporting carnivals.

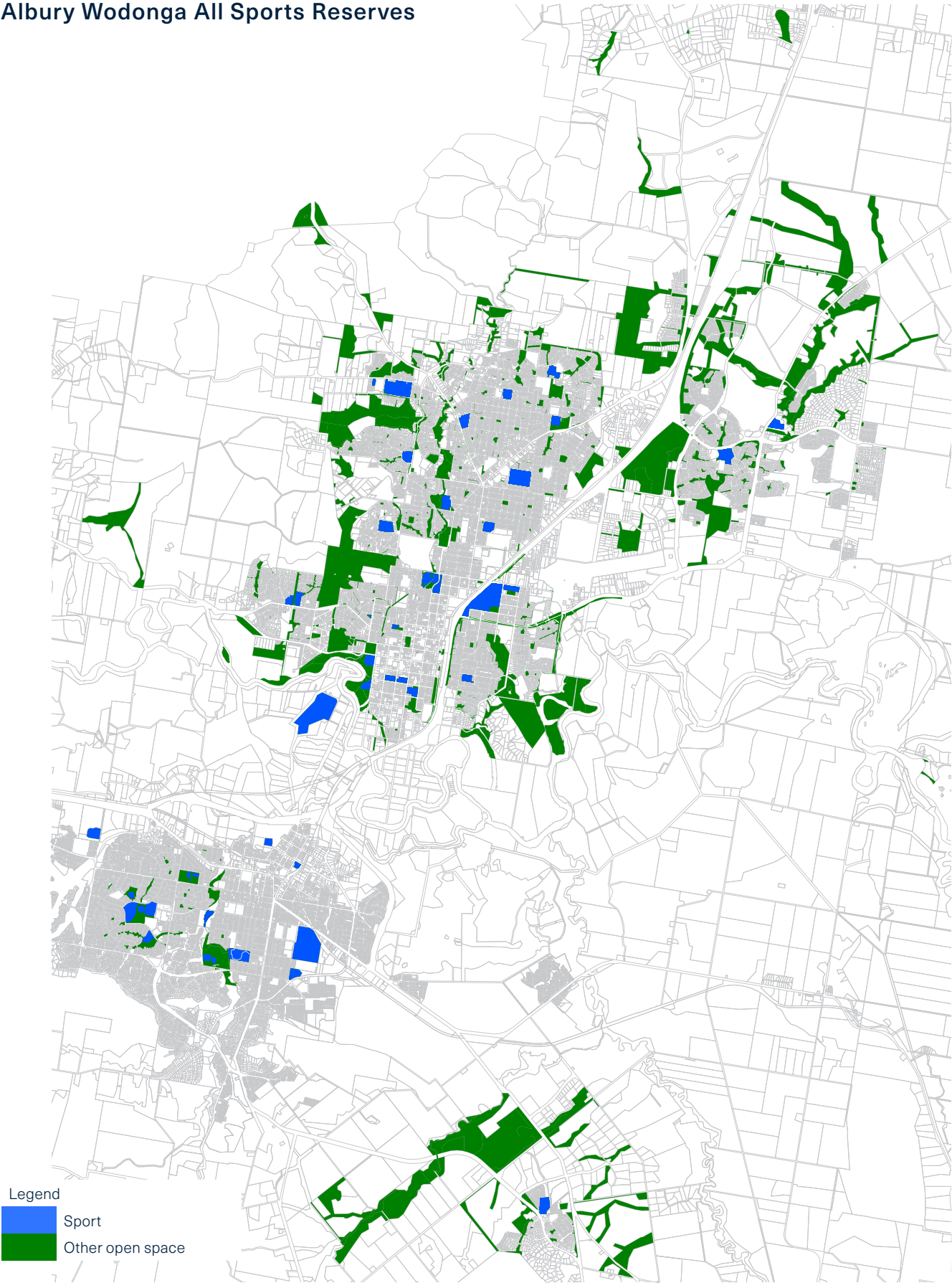
It should be noted that due to the nature of the sport and a lack of a specific facility, the sport of triathlon is not included in the snapshot. It is noted that the Albury Wodonga Triathlon Club currently uses Lake Hume and Allan's Flat (Indigo Shire) for the swimming component of the sport.

It is also noted that the Albury Wodonga Rowing Club currently bases its activities at Gateway Lakes, Wodonga, a site that is due to be master planned in the near future (subject to funding). Specific needs of the sport/club will be addressed through the master planning process.

Additional water sports activities and user groups not included in the scope of this strategy utilise Gateway Lakes, the Murray River and Lake Hume.

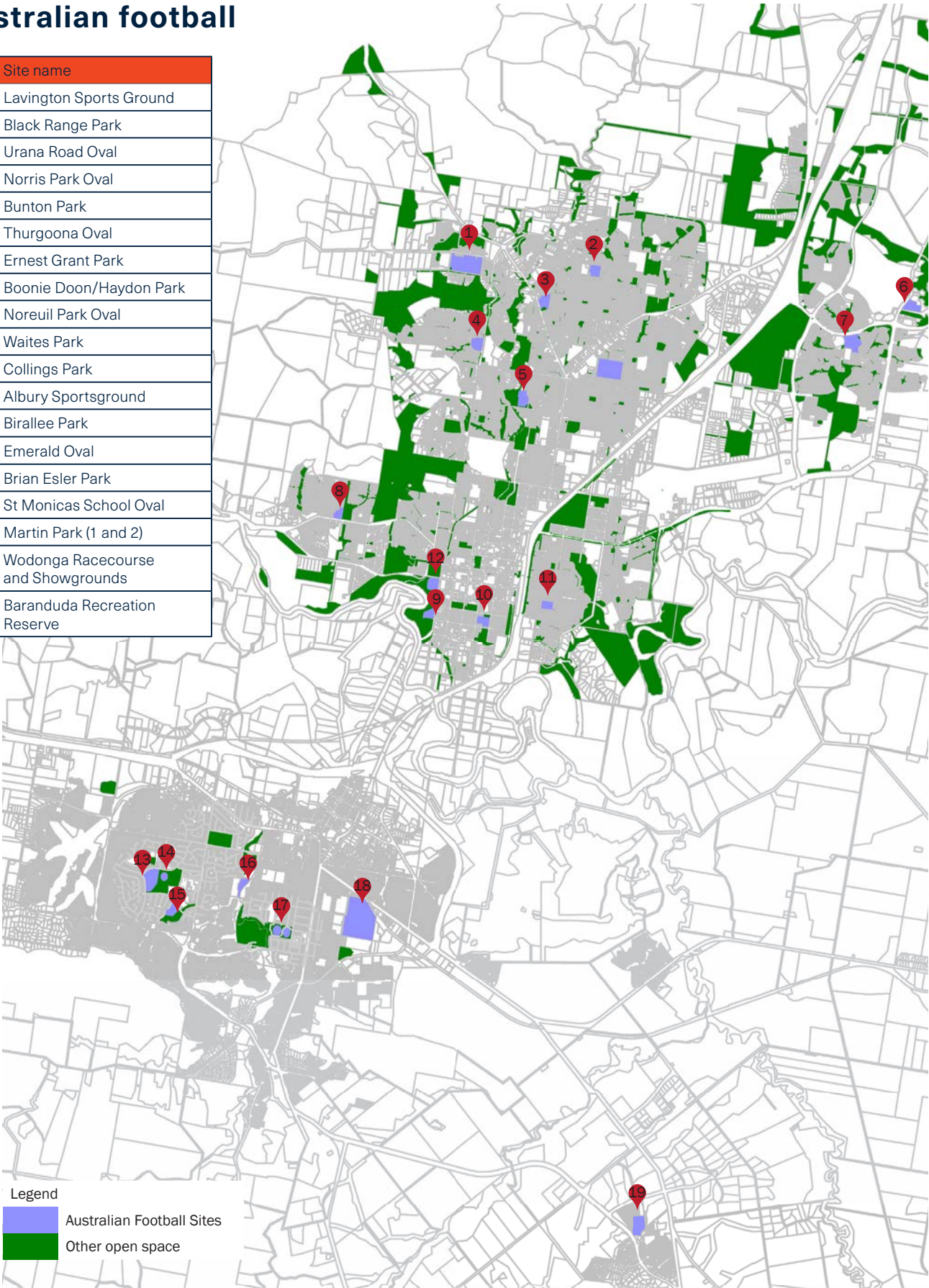
Prior to a sport-by-sport snapshot, an overview of all sporting facilities across the Albury Wodonga area is provided on the next page.

Albury Wodonga All Sports Reserves



Australian football

Ref	Site name
1	Lavington Sports Ground
2	Black Range Park
3	Urana Road Oval
4	Norris Park Oval
5	Bunton Park
6	Thurgoona Oval
7	Ernest Grant Park
8	Boonie Doon/Haydon Park
9	Noreuil Park Oval
10	Waites Park
11	Collings Park
12	Albury Sportsground
13	Birallee Park
14	Emerald Oval
15	Brian Esler Park
16	St Monicas School Oval
17	Martin Park (1 and 2)
18	Wodonga Racecourse and Showgrounds
19	Baranduda Recreation Reserve



Venues

It should be noted that the main features of inspected sites related to this particular sport are detailed here. The majority of venues are multipurpose and other features of each site may be included in another sport's section.

Albury

Lavington Sports Ground

- Function centre
- Two elite Australian Football fields
- Grandstand and amenities building
- Two car parks and street parking available
- Field lighting on main area requires upgrade to meet elite sport and television levels

Black Range Park

- Average quality playing surface with no perimeter fencing and synthetic pitch in the centre, old goal posts, no spectator facilities and evidence of limited use
- Small, neat and tidy pavilion
- No field lighting
- Poor grass and gravel car parking

Urana Rd Oval

- Very high quality playing surface with attractive perimeter fencing and bench seating, electronic scoreboard and turf pitch block
- New attractive pavilion with terraced bench seating, storage shed
- Training standard lighting with four poles, each with two old fittings

Norris Park Oval

- Very well-maintained junior oval with synthetic pitch, surrounded by grassed banks with shade trees
- Neat and tidy, small pavilion serviced by small gravel car park
- No field lighting or spectator facilities

Bunton Park

Not accessible at time of inspection, but with the key elements.

- Very high quality field with turf pitch block and field lighting
- A range of buildings are located on site with a building design process underway to review useful life, adequacy of facilities and to address facility shortfall
- Medium-sized, sealed car park
- Significant spectator facilities/stands.

Thurgoona Oval

- Average quality playing surface (requiring sub-surface drainage and levelling) with synthetic pitch and significant sponsorship signage
- Three pavilions on site
 - One older (identified for demolition when new building complete)
 - One larger brick currently being used as main pavilion, with only spectator facilities on site
 - One large under construction at time of inspection which will meet the needs of users
- Mix of older and new field lighting that would provide at least high level training standard very limited on site parking

Ernest Grant Park

- High quality playing surface with grass banks, synthetic grass pitch and no spectator facilities
- Small toilet block with small informal car park no field lighting or shade
- New car park and district level play space (with small skate park) currently being constructed on western side of the ground

Bonnie Doon Park/Haydon Park

- Small junior field with average playing surface and no spectator facilities very limited field lighting
- Basic change facility shared between two sports grounds

Noreuil Park Oval

- Good quality playing surface with synthetic pitch, shade trees around the perimeter
- Basic but functional pavilion with spectator veranda, separate basic change facilities/toilet block, parking shared within precinct
- Training lighting via four poles, each with two old fittings

Waites Park

- Two average playing areas
- Two lights from beach volleyball servicing one field

Collings Park

- Average playing surface with synthetic pitch surrounded by grassed banks but no spectator facilities
- Old public toilet block but no pavilion, field lighting or shade

Albury Sports Ground

- High quality, single playing field
- Main club pavilion older style brick building (licensed club)
- Field lighting recently upgraded to competition standard
- Limited on-site parking but access to street and precinct parking nearby
- Site master plan included in the Murray River Experience master plan review

Auskick venues

- Alexandra Park (North Albury Auskick)
- Waites Park (Albury Auskick)
- Jelbart Park (Lavington Auskick)
- Ernest Grant Park (Thurgoona Auskick)

Wodonga

Birallee Park

- One oval with very high quality playing surface and significant spectator facilities, turf pitch block and media platform.
- Various built structures including large pavilion and past player's pavilion, function room and terraced seating
- Competition field lighting
- Large sealed car park complemented by informal gravel area
- Change facility, including public toilets are outdated and does not meet female friendly requirements.

Emerald Oval

- Above average playing surface on single oval with synthetic pitch
- Small amenities building and small sealed car park
- Training level lighting
- Football oval dimensions are sufficient for junior football only. Expansion is required for senior football utilisation.

Brian Esler Park

- Small well-maintained junior oval surrounded by unwelcoming perimeter fence (due to location within school)
- No field lighting, pavilion, shade or spectator facilities

St Monica's School Oval

- Average quality junior sized playing surface with no spectator facilities
- No pavilion but amenities block, parking available at the school
- Four light poles each with three led fittings

Martin Park Oval 1 (John Flower Oval)

- Very high quality playing surface, electronic scoreboard and turf pitch block
- Older style, large pavilion, two grandstands (with facilities under newer stand), other spectator areas
- Car parking currently limited but planned for expansion
- Competition standard field lighting
- Les Cheesley Oval (Martin Park 2) also has a very high quality playing surface with turf pitch block but limited spectator facilities also used for Australian Rules matches

Baranduda Recreation Reserve

- High quality playing surfaces in a flexible layout with synthetic and turf pitches, some shaded areas for spectators but limited
- Modern, multi-purpose pavilion with adjacent shade sails and storage sheds
- Field lighting limited to four poles with older fittings, servicing a very large expanse

Auskick venues

- Wodonga Racecourse and Showgrounds
- Baranduda Recreation Reserve
- Brian Esler Park

Supply and distribution

The current number of high quality facilities and how they are distributed across the region generally caters well for Australian football now and into the future.

Impact of participation trends

The latest projected growth figures from AFL Victoria's facilities development strategy (Growing the Heartland) indicate that growth is expected to continue and this should be considered in future developments as per below.

The developments at Baranduda Fields and the possible sport ground developments as part of the *Thurgoona Wirlinga Precinct Structure Plan* will also help to meet future demand.

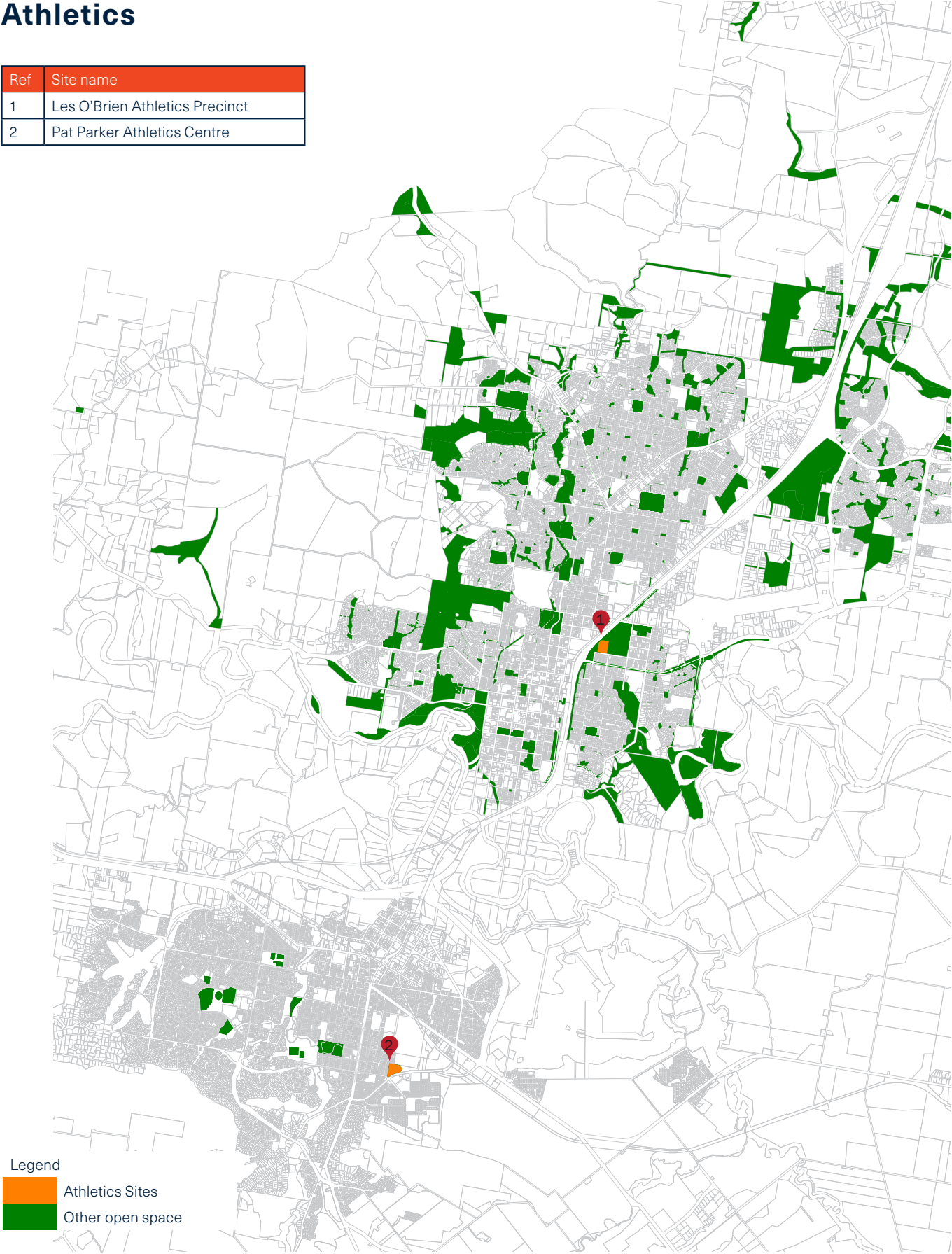
Demand snapshot

At this stage, improvements to existing facilities (in addition to the two proposed facilities above) will meet the future demands of the sport. AFL Victoria have not identified Wodonga (and Albury) as a major growth area. However, consideration could be given of incorporating a training space and playing oval as part of the *Thurgoona-Wirlinga Precinct Structure Plan* sports ground designs. The increasing demand of out of town clubs for the use of facilities should also be monitored.

These improvements include features such as field lighting and upgraded amenities such as change rooms, canteens and storage. The upgrade of change rooms is particularly relevant to Australian Football (as recognised in *AFL Victoria's Strategic Plan 2017-2022*), largely due to the increasing participation rate of females in the sport.

Athletics

Ref	Site name
1	Les O'Brien Athletics Precinct
2	Pat Parker Athletics Centre



Venues

Les O'Brien Athletics Precinct - Albury

- High quality, regional athletics facility (IAAF Class 2 certification) with synthetic running track surrounded by stunning shade trees around perimeter
- Various quality throw cages, covered mats, synthetic track jump pits, storage sheds and shaded, tiered seating for more than 400 people
- Older pavilion with well-maintained surrounds and parking shared within the Alexandra Park precinct
- No lighting

Pat Parker Athletics Centre - Wodonga

- Well-maintained grass running track with a grassed bank for spectators but limited natural shade and no opportunity for expansion
- Various throw cages, synthetic track jump pits, shade structures and some solar lighting around track
- Older brick pavilion in good condition that has recently undergone canteen and change room upgrades, with significant security measures and well maintained surrounds
- Good sized, sealed car park (but does exceed capacity during large events)

Supply and distribution

The current athletics facilities are well-positioned to cater for the sport now and into the future. Across the region, participants have access to a synthetic track facility and a grass track facility, providing a range to cater for all levels of participation, as confirmed by Little Athletics Victoria.

Impact of participation trends

Current and future participation rates in organised athletics/little athletics are steady at best and new facilities are not seen as necessary in the foreseeable future.

The proposed new facility at Baranduda Fields should therefore be considered a medium-long term priority (at least 10 years) to meet any future demand that is demonstrated. Future facilities in the Leneva-Baranduda precinct may also include a combined athletics/cycling track development.

Demand assessment

Before implementation of the above medium-long term priority of a new facility at Baranduda Fields, consideration should be given to undertaking improvements to existing facilities to allow them to better meet the needs of existing and future users. However, consideration may be given to a potential multipurpose facility at Baranduda Fields catering for cycling, athletics and rectangular field sports.

Little Athletics Victoria confirmed that no new facilities are needed for the sport in the foreseeable future.

These proposed improvements may include items such as lighting and other ancillary amenities such as toilets and change rooms, and upgrades to canteens/kiosks.

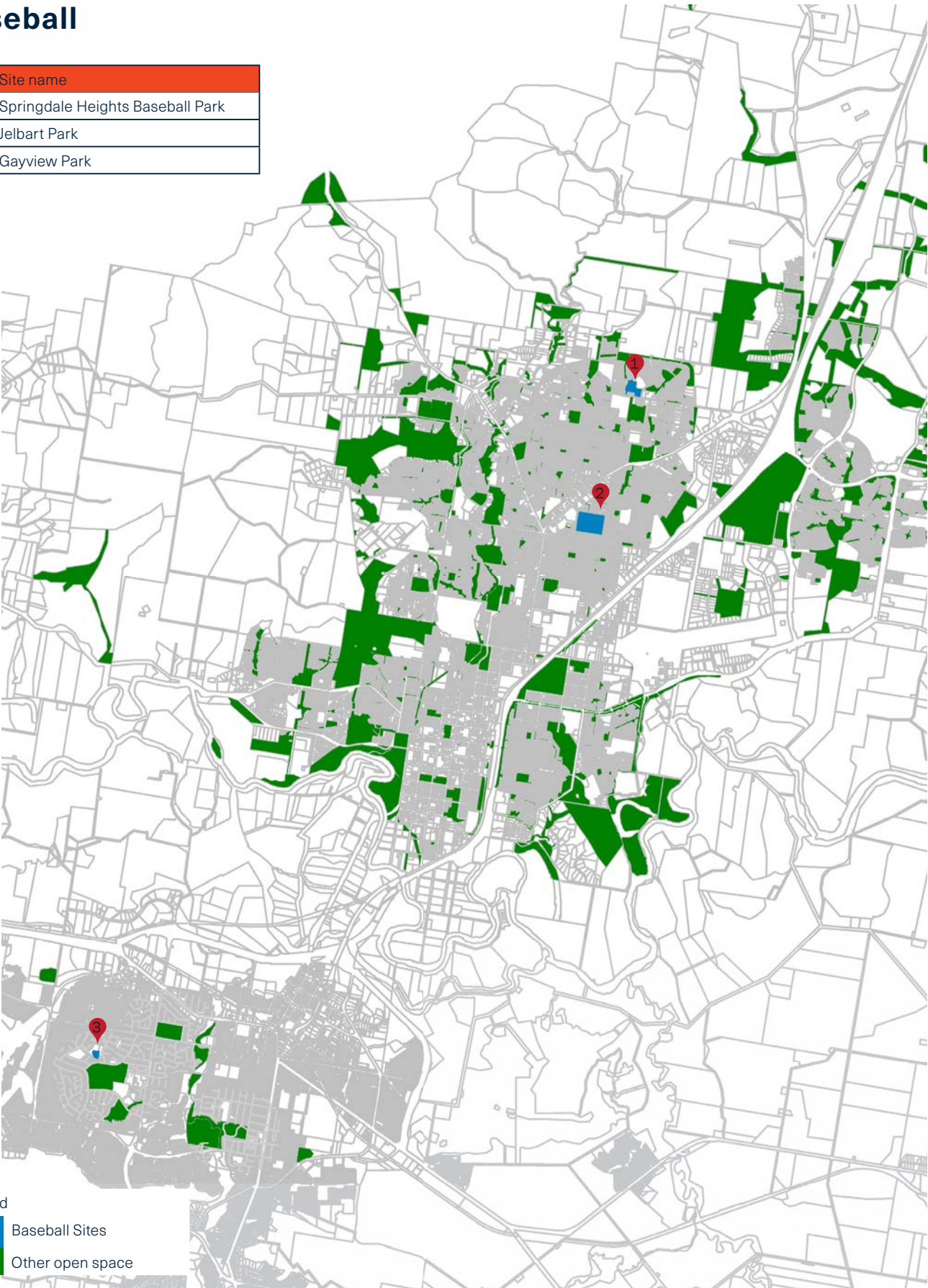
Baseball

Ref	Site name
1	Springdale Heights Baseball Park
2	Jelbart Park
3	Gayview Park

Legend

Baseball Sites

Other open space



Venues

Springdale Heights Baseball Park - Albury

- One fully grassed diamond in average condition and with evidence of little use
- Extensive backnets, basic dugouts, elevated scorer's box on small clubroom and large shade trees
- No lighting, spectator facilities or public toilets and only informal parking on grass surrounds
- Site constraints (location of adjoining residents and retention basin function) will limit improvements such as buildings and sports ground lighting

Jelbart Park

- Good quality playing surfaces with flexible layout that allows training and occasional games (shared with football (soccer))
- Large, older pavilion (including a two-storey section) with various functional areas and separate toilet block servicing secondary field area
- Extensive field lighting over site with eight poles each holding six to seven fittings but not to baseball competition standard
- Small sealed car park

Gayview Park - Wodonga

- Combined baseball/softball facility but appears predominantly baseball
- One diamond in fair condition with decomposed granite baselines and grass infield, player dugouts and large (unfenced) outfield
- Small but functional pavilion, separate toilet block and no dedicated spectator facilities (or shade), with only informal parking available on grassed areas
- Very well lit with five poles each holding three LED fittings but unlikely to be competition standard (due to high lux levels required).

Supply and distribution

Although only two baseball facilities exist in the region, one in each city, there is adequate provision for the sport.

Impact of participation trends

The sport continues to experience low participation rates which show no indication of improving.

Demand assessment

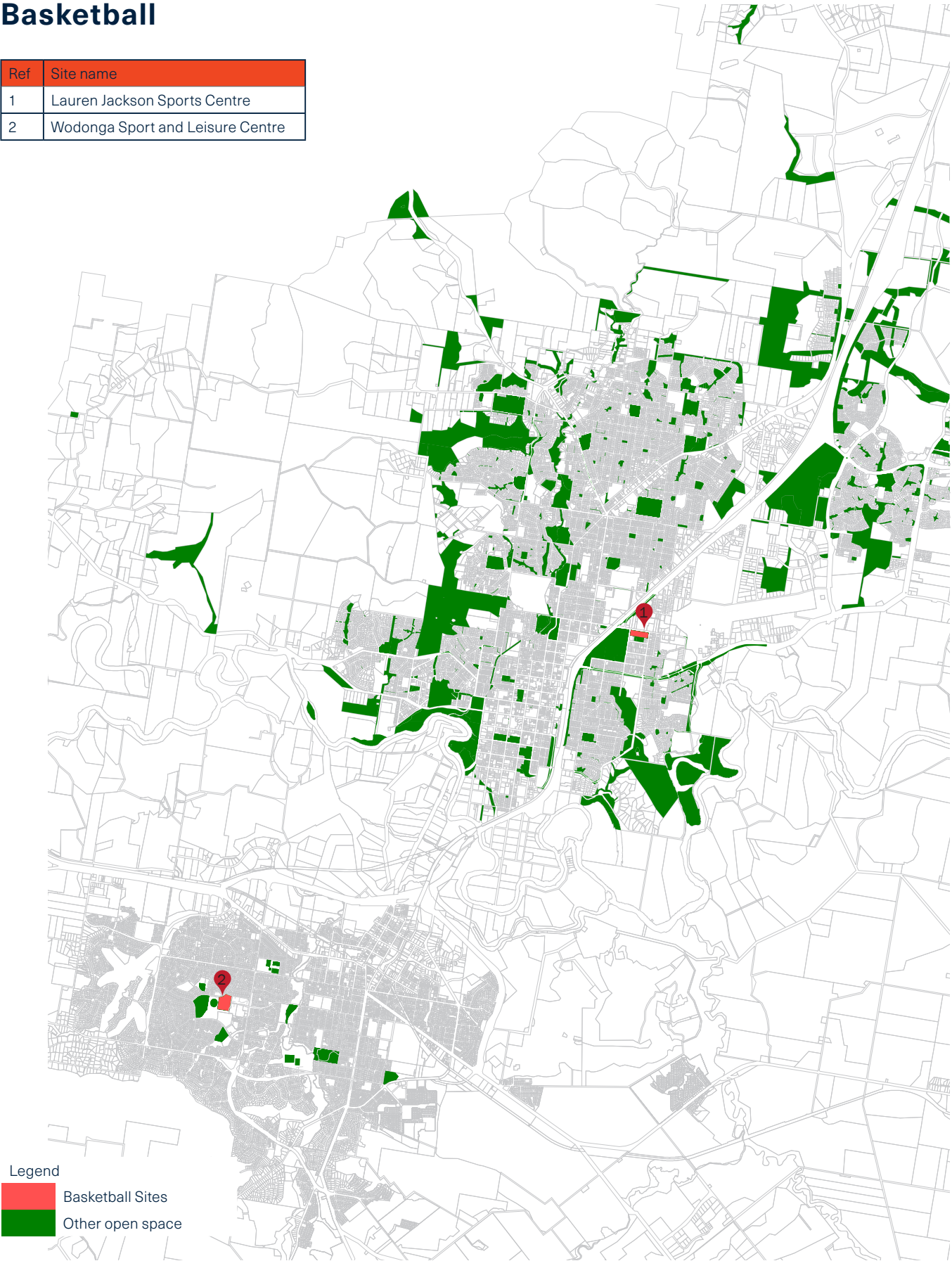
Given the lack of demand for additional facilities and the large amount of land required to cater for the sport's playing area, the proposed dedicated baseball/softball diamonds with training facilities and associated amenities at Baranduda Fields (within 11 to 25 years) should only be considered if the demand is demonstrated at that time to replace the existing Gayview Park or Jelbart Park (baseball/softball) facilities. Given the constraints of the existing venues, another option is to consider including baseball/softball facilities in the *Thurgoona-Wirringa Precinct Structure Plan* sports field developments.

It might be more prudent to undertake minor facility improvements at Gayview Park, such as increasing the lighting (currently at 100 lux), subject to a suitable design that will not negatively impact on surrounding residences.

It is noted that while demand is currently met for playing fields, there are no batting cage facilities in neither Albury nor Wodonga and this could be considered at Gayview Park with suitable space. This could be developed as a multiuse baseball/softball cage/cricket nets (to also address the significant lack of public cricket nets).

Basketball

Ref	Site name
1	Lauren Jackson Sports Centre
2	Wodonga Sport and Leisure Centre



Legend
Basketball Sites
Other open space

Venues

Lauren Jackson Sports Centre - Albury

- Five indoor courts, including one show court
- Spectator seating for up to 1000 people
- High level lighting
- Corporate boxes, PA system and electronic scoreboards
- Kiosk, toilet and change rooms, and large sealed car park

Wodonga Sports and Leisure Centre

- Five indoor courts with electronic scoreboards
- Limited spectator facilities (less than 100 to 200 without the use of temporary stands)
- Two separate toilet/change facility areas
- Adequate court lighting and cafe
- Large sealed car park

Supply and distribution

The sport of basketball is currently catered for in the region by the two large indoor centres above.

There is a full sized outdoor basketball court at Waites Park and PCYC, with Waites Park not utilised for organised sport. Various half-court facilities are located in parks across the region. There are also various courts located within schools across the region that warrant further investigation if a demand is demonstrated.

Impact of participation trends

Consistently in the top 10 most popular sports in Australia, NSW and especially Victoria, basketball is expected to enjoy growing popularity, especially with the general trend of people increasingly seeking indoor sporting opportunities. The ever-growing access to the American NBA and European competitions through streaming media also indicates the sport will continue to grow.

Demand assessment

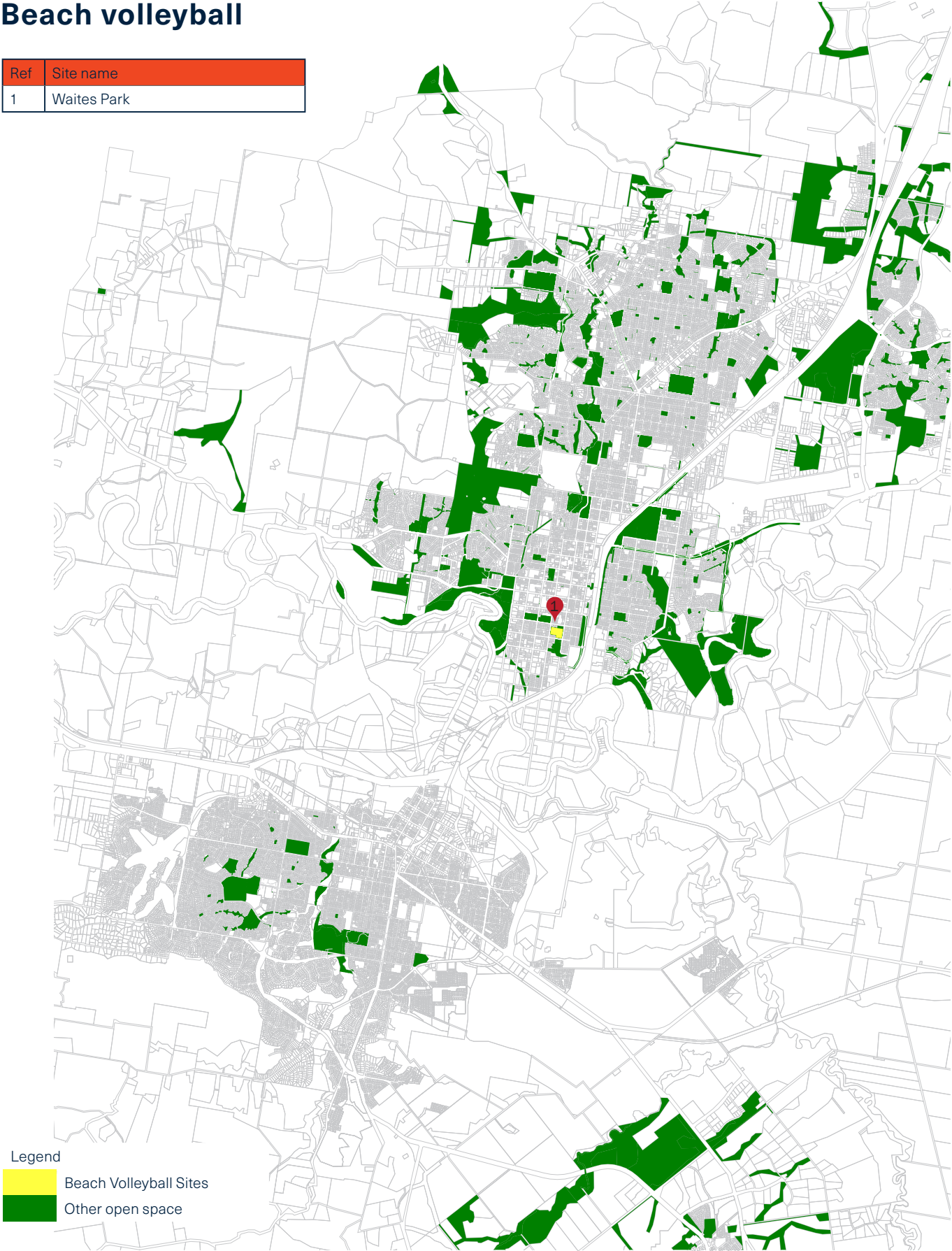
The existing facilities above are very well-utilised and currently struggle at times to provide adequate training opportunities in addition to demand for competition games for basketball and other indoor sporting activities.

It is noted that future stages of improvements proposed for the Lauren Jackson Sports Centre include additional courts, which may meet future demand for the sport.

One initiative that could be considered is the inclusion of multipurpose outdoor courts adjacent to existing/new facilities (such as Baranduda Fields) in the design of any upgrades/new developments. This may allow increased training opportunities for many user groups. Informal participation is also catered for by various outdoor half-court facilities across the region.

Beach volleyball

Ref	Site name
1	Waites Park



- Legend
- Beach Volleyball Sites
 - Other open space

Venue

Waites Park - Albury

- Three quality courts in a tidy, fenced enclosure
- Small but practical pavilion but no change rooms
- Lighting via the two light poles not to standard

Supply and distribution

Adequately provided for at the Waites Park facility with three courts.

Impact of participation trends

The sport continues to have low participation numbers and no significant growth.

Demand assessment

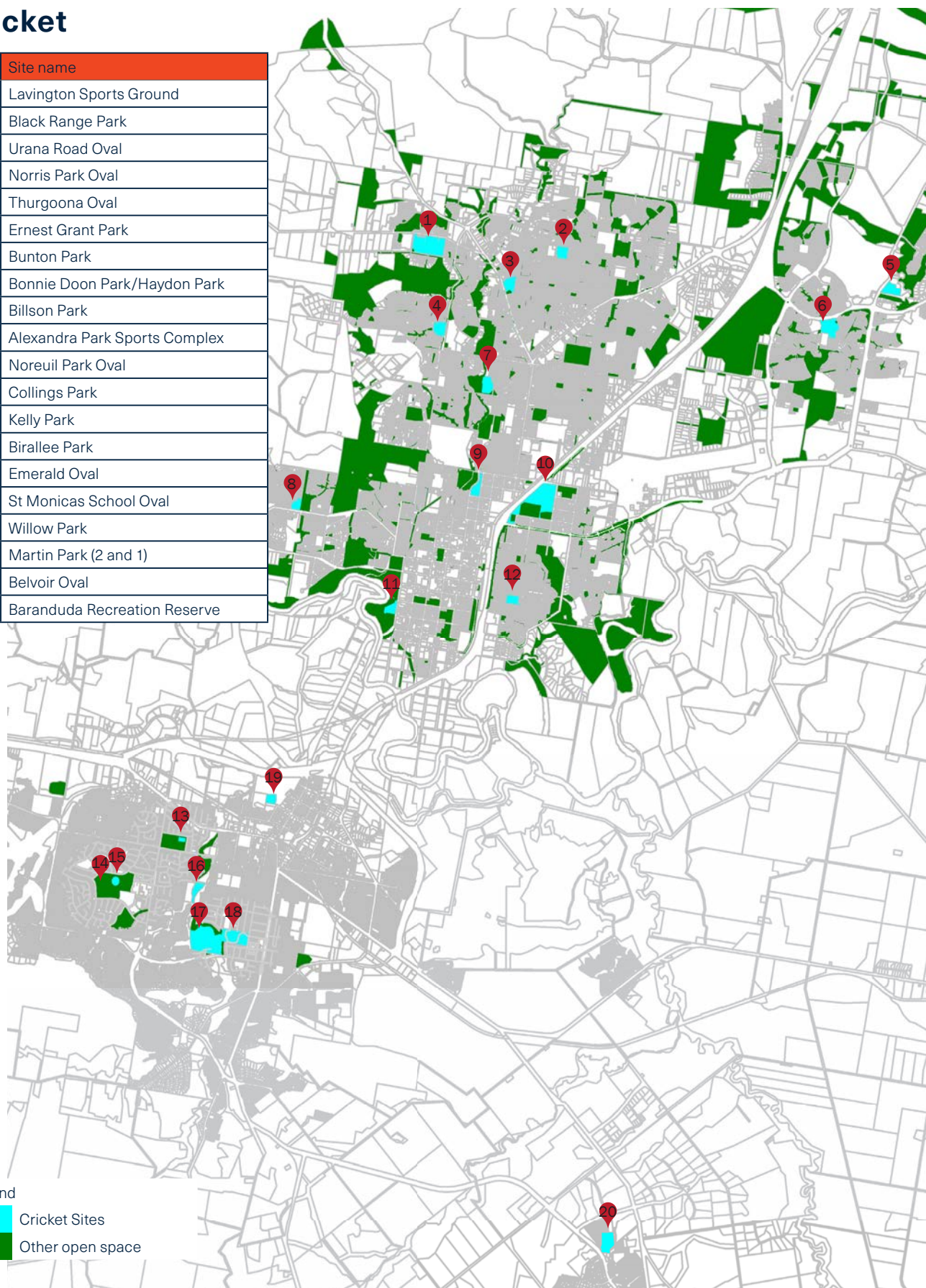
The existing facilities meet the current and expected future demand of the sport. If a demand is demonstrated in the future, consideration may be given to the development of ancillary facilities that would allow the attraction of tournaments. However, it might prove more efficient to support the association in attracting tournaments through a co-operative approach in providing temporary/portable facilities for such events.

Waites Park, Albury



Cricket

Ref	Site name
1	Lavington Sports Ground
2	Black Range Park
3	Urana Road Oval
4	Norris Park Oval
5	Thurgoona Oval
6	Ernest Grant Park
7	Bunton Park
8	Bonnie Doon Park/Haydon Park
9	Billson Park
10	Alexandra Park Sports Complex
11	Noreuil Park Oval
12	Collings Park
13	Kelly Park
14	Birallee Park
15	Emerald Oval
16	St Monicas School Oval
17	Willow Park
18	Martin Park (2 and 1)
19	Belvoir Oval
20	Baranduda Recreation Reserve



Venues

The main features of inspected sites related to this particular sport are detailed here. The majority of venues are multipurpose and other features of each site may be included in another sport's section.

Albury

Lavington Sports Ground

- Function centre
- Two elite sporting fields with turf blocks
- Turf and synthetic practice nets
- Grandstand and amenities building
- Shared parking around centre

Black Range Park

- Average playing surface with a synthetic pitch and no perimeter fencing
- Small but functional pavilion, some shade trees but no lights or spectator facilities and only informal parking
- Evidence of little use

Urana Road Oval

- Very high quality playing surface with turf pitch block, attractive perimeter fencing and electronic scoreboard
- New pavilion (with terraced seating at front) and practice nets (with lighting), storage shed, bench seating around field
- Field lighting consists of four poles, each with two old fittings - not suitable for cricket

Norris Park Oval

- High quality playing surface with synthetic grass pitch surrounded by grassed banks
- Small but neat pavilion serviced by a small informal parking area
- No field lighting

Thurgoona Oval

- Good quality playing surface with synthetic pitch, significant sponsorship signage
- Three pavilions on site
 - One older (identified for demolition when new building complete)
 - One larger brick currently being used as main pavilion, with only spectator facilities on site
 - One large under construction at time of inspection which will meet the needs of users
- Mix of older and new field lighting but not suitable for cricket
- Very limited on site parking

Ernest Grant Park

- High quality playing surface with grass banks, synthetic grass pitch and no spectator facilities
- Small toilet block with small informal car park no field lighting or shade.

Bunton Park

Not accessible at time of inspection but with the key elements as follows.

- Very high quality field with turf pitch block and field lighting
- A range of buildings (serviced by medium sized, sealed car park) are located on site with a building design process underway to review useful life, adequacy of facilities and to address facility shortfall
- Four enclosed practice nets
- Significant spectator facilities/stands

Billson Park

- Very well-maintained playing surface with turf pitch block and old steel perimeter fence
- Small pavilion (being worked on at time of inspection), practice nets, separate change/toilet facilities (in poor condition), shade trees around site and limited informal parking
- Field lighting limited to two poles each with two old fittings

Alexandra Park Sports Complex

- Not fully accessible at time of inspection but high quality playing surface with turf pitch block and large practice net compound
- Site enclosed in very unwelcoming steel and barbed wire fencing
- One main pavilion (older) with additional, newer clubrooms closer to playing field
- Training standard field lighting via four poles

Noreuil Park Oval

- Good quality playing surface with synthetic pitch, shade trees around the perimeter
- Basic but functional pavilion with separate toilet block, spectator veranda and parking shared within precinct
- Training lighting via four poles, each with two old fittings - not suitable for cricket)

Collings Park

- Average playing surface with synthetic pitch surrounded by grassed banks but no spectator facilities
- Old public toilet block but no pavilion, field lighting or shade

Other Cricket facilities not managed by council include The Scots School, Xavier High School (two wickets) and Albury High School.

Wodonga

Kelly Park

- Immaculate playing surface with turf pitch block and no perimeter fencing
- New pavilion on site but no spectator facilities, except for some shade trees
- Four enclosed practice nets and maintenance shed
- Significant field lighting through two poles each with LED lights (although unlikely to meet the high lighting levels required for competition cricket).

Birallee Park

- One oval with very high quality playing surface and significant spectator facilities, turf pitch block and media platform.
- Various built structures including large pavilion and past player's pavilion, function room and terraced seating
- Competition field lighting
- Large sealed car park complemented by informal gravel area

Emerald Oval

- Above average playing surface on single oval with synthetic pitch (due for upgrade in 2022-2023 financial year)
- Small amenities building and small sealed car park
- Field lighting at training level, however, poles and light fittings are older style and could be upgraded.

St Monica's School Oval

- Average quality junior sized playing surface with no spectator facilities
- No pavilion but amenities block, parking available at the school
- Four light poles each with three LED fittings.

Willow Park

- Quality playing surface with turf pitch block on main oval, synthetic pitch and average playing surface on secondary field
- Small modern pavilion but no practice nets or spectator facilities (except for shade sails overlooking secondary field)
- Large sealed car park
- High level field lighting on main oval (but not to cricket competition standard)

Les Cheesley Oval (Martin Park 2)

- Very high quality playing surface with turf pitch block and attractive perimeter fencing but limited spectator facilities (except for shade tress around oval). Martin Park Oval 1 also with quality playing surface and turf pitch block
- Modern, attractive pavilion with veranda and relocatable building adjacent, block of four practice nets very well maintained, storage sheds and public toilets
- Training lighting with four poles, each with two older fittings
- Large gravel car park and small playground
- John Flower Oval (Martin Park 1) also utilised for matches

Belvoir Oval

- Average playing surface with synthetic pitch and no perimeter fencing
- Some bench seats and shade sails for spectators but no pavilion or field lighting
- Shared parking with Belvoir Park/Sumsion Gardens

Baranduda Recreation Reserve

- High quality playing surfaces in a flexible layout with synthetic and turf pitches, some shaded ares for spectators but limited
- Modern, multipurpose pavilion with adjacent shade sails and storage sheds
- Field lighting limited to four poles with older fittings, servicing a very large expanse

Supply and distribution

The number and distribution of cricket facilities across the region is adequate to cater for the sport, now and into the future. Facility inspections confirmed the high quality of the existing playing fields, pitches and practice nets, however, the majority of practice facilities require upgrades to meet Cricket Australia standards and the vast majority of the practice nets are not accessible to the public.

Impact of participation trends

Consistently in the top 10 most popular sports in Australia, NSW and Victoria, the sport has recently been experiencing some increased participation, largely due to the increased level of female participation.

Given the sport is by far the most popular summer field sport, any new sporting field developments across the region should consider the ability to cater for cricket if an existing or future demand is demonstrated at the time.

Demand assessment

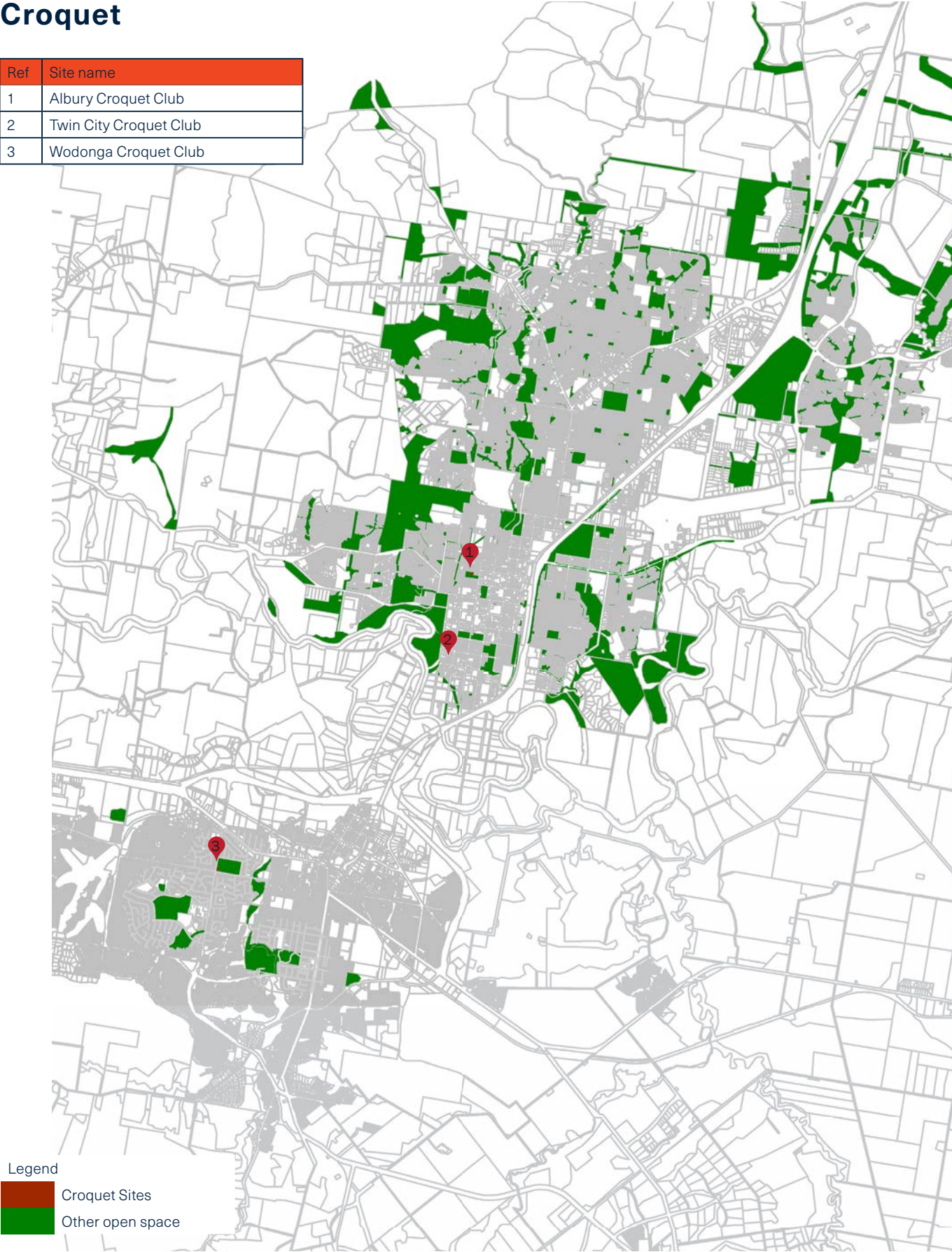
Club respondents to the online survey did not identify the current number of fields available as an issue. They did, however, identify that seasonal cross-over is becoming more of an issue. To address this into the future, the development of adequate training and ancillary facilities at sites that can be utilised during these season cross-over periods would be effective.

Supporting this was the identification by council staff and Cricket Albury Wodonga of the need for upgrading existing facilities to Cricket Australia standards and more practice nets that are open to both clubs and the public.

It is also noted that the oval in the first stage of the Baranduda Fields development will help address future demand for the sport. AlburyCity has also identified sites for three new synthetic cricket wickets when required at Alexandra Park (Ian Barker Fields, Glen Park and Melrose Park).

Croquet

Ref	Site name
1	Albury Croquet Club
2	Twin City Croquet Club
3	Wodonga Croquet Club



Venues

Albury Croquet Club

- Adjacent to the Albury Tennis Club, the venue is very neat and tidy, including the pavilion, with high quality playing surfaces
- It is located in a residential area and has no court lighting, with an informal shared parking area at the rear of venue

Twin City Croquet Club

- Operates from the Albury Tennis Association's courts, three days per week

Wodonga Croquet Club

- This club utilises up to three of the grass courts (at the western end of the tennis centre) within Kelly Park
- The courts are in immaculate condition and lighting is available if required. The club has a small shed on site which is used for storage/clubroom purposes

Albury Croquet Club



Supply and distribution

With at least one facility in each of the cities, the sport is adequately catered.

Impact of participation trends

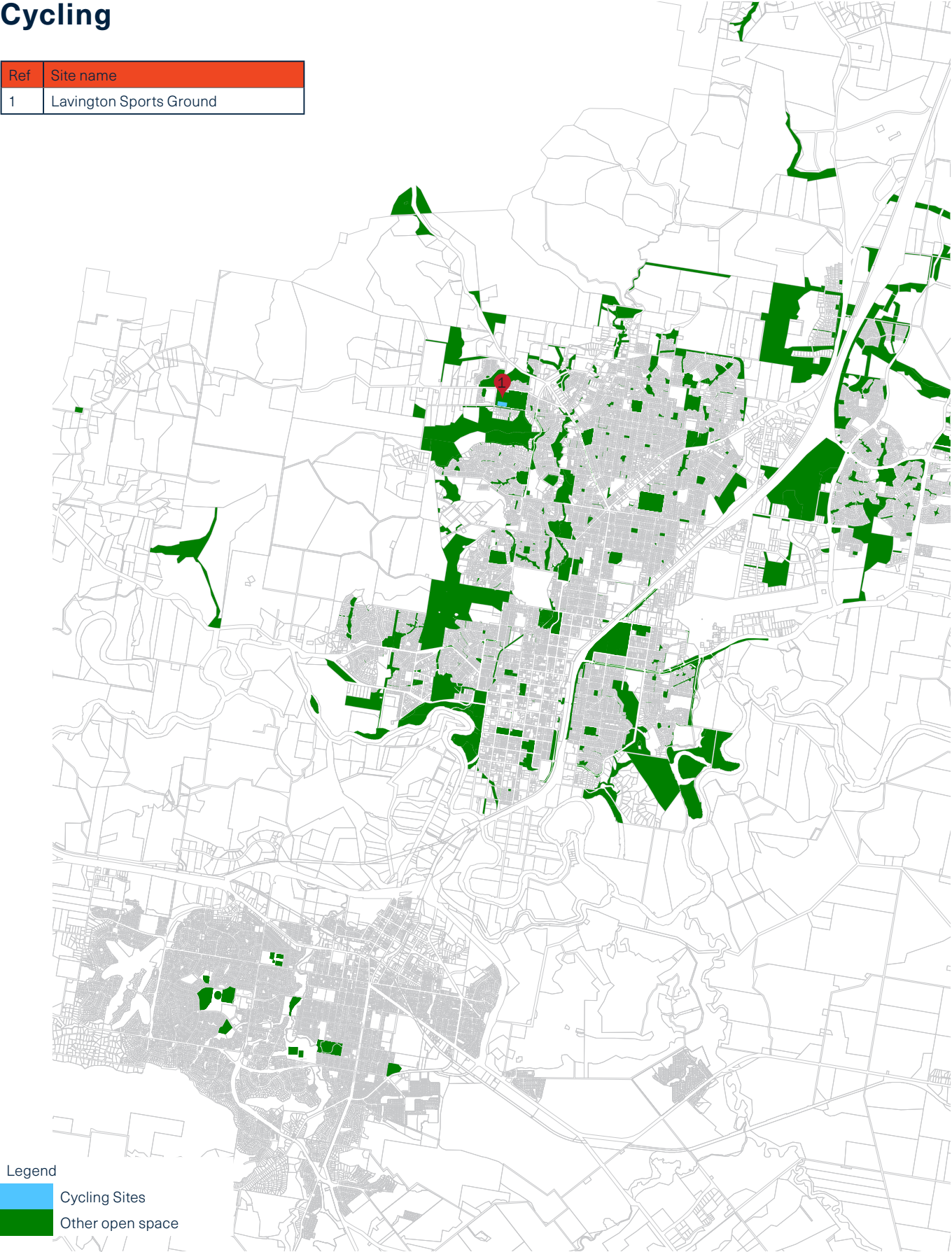
A sport with a consistently low level of participation that is expected to continue into the future. While there will continue to be an ageing population (the traditional participants of the sport), elderly residents are increasingly seeking informal recreation activities, not organised sport. Participation trends therefore, do not indicate a need for additional croquet venues across the region.

Demand assessment

Any future demand for the sport, although considered unlikely, could be catered for by the improvement of existing facilities. These improvements could take the form of upgraded club rooms and canteen/kiosks, or possibly the extension (and improved lighting) of court areas to accommodate increased player numbers. Priorities for these improvements should consider the development of one facility to cater for elite competition in either Albury or Wodonga.

Cycling

Ref	Site name
1	Lavington Sports Ground



Legend

Cycling Sites

Other open space

Venue

Lavington Sports Ground, Albury

- Banked concrete velodrome with lighting but ancillary facilities limited to shaded viewing area and some terraced seating that does not meet the current standards for high level competition.

Supply and distribution

The dedicated velodrome at the Lavington Sports Ground is sufficient for the relevant cycling disciplines for which it caters. Given the rising popularity of cycling in general (especially informal cycling), the inclusion of a flat track at any new developments (such as Baranduda Fields) should be considered.

Impact of participation trends

Participation in the formal sport of cycling is considered to be enjoying a slight increase, however, accurate data is currently not available due to the current data collection tools grouping participants in the sport with informal cyclists. It is believed that these informal cyclists are the main component of cycling participation rates currently available.

Demand assessment

With consideration to the above, the development of flat tracks would meet the demands of both the sport of cycling (and its various disciplines) and the community in general. Such facilities, if appropriately designed, also provide walking paths, facilities that are highly sought by all age groups.

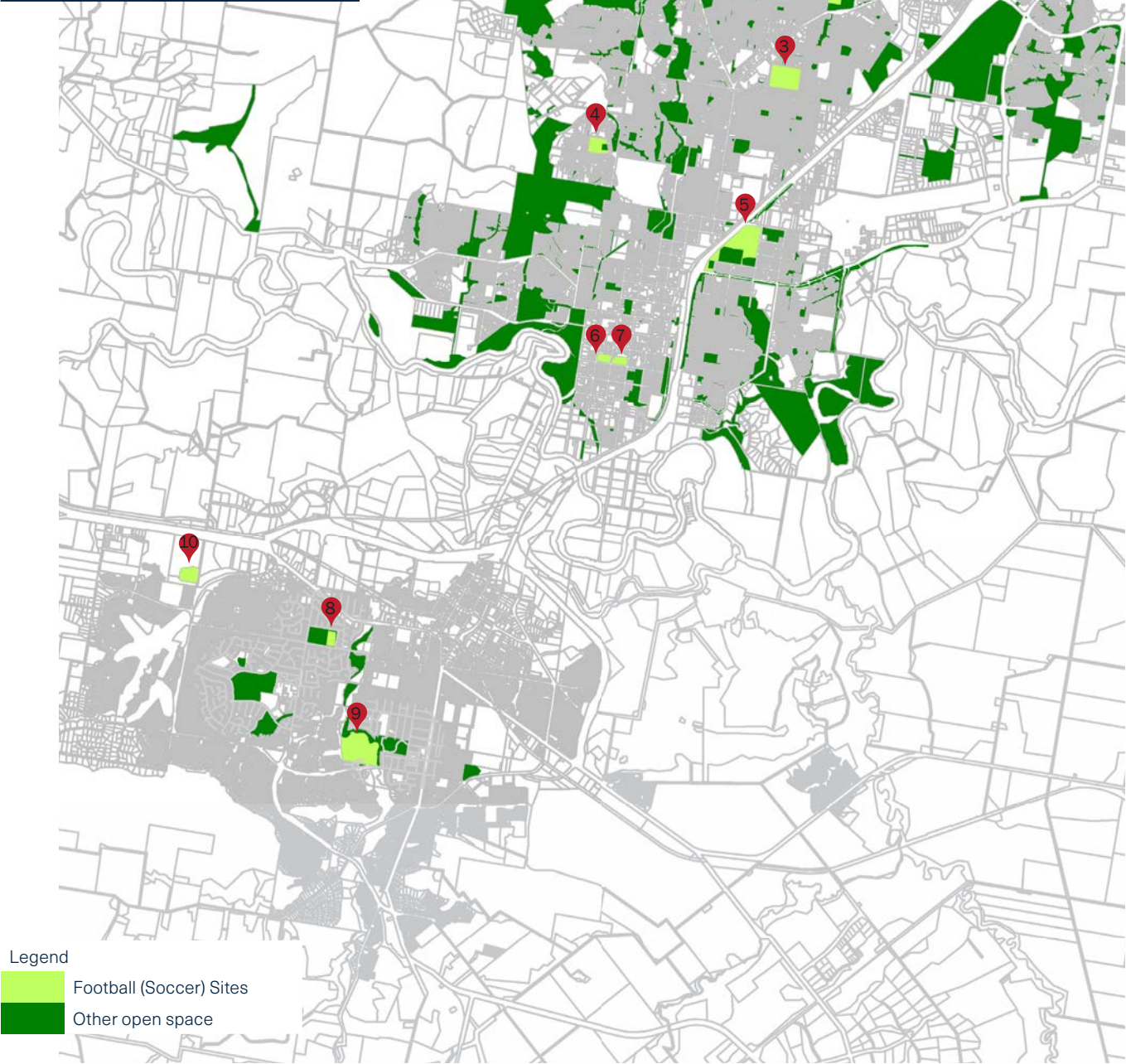
Consideration may be given to a potential multipurpose facility at Baranduda Fields catering for cycling, athletics and rectangular field sports and it is recommended that AusCycling, the sport's governing body, be consulted to ensure an appropriate design for the facility.

Lavington Sports Ground, Albury



Football (soccer)

Ref	Site name
1	Lavington Sports Ground
2	Melrose Park
3	Jelbart Park
4	Glen Park
5	Alexandra Park Sports Complex
6	Lambert Park
7	Aloysius Park
8	Kelly Park
9	Willow Park
10	LaTrobe



Venues

The main features of inspected sites related to this particular sport are detailed here. The majority of venues are multipurpose and other features of each site may be included in another sport's section.

Albury

Lavington Sports Ground

- No home club with limited use for elite matches
- Function centre
- Two elite sporting fields
- Grandstand and amenities building

Melrose Park

- Good quality playing surface on two senior fields (running east/west) with no spectator facilities except for some shade trees
- Old, unattractive pavilion identified for demolition, small warm-up area and only informal and on-road parking available
- Extensive field lighting
- New pavilion in detailed design phase with allocated funding for construction

Jelbart Park

- Home of two clubs and extensive small sided program
- Good quality playing surfaces and with the flexibility of the layout, up to seven senior fields could be utilised at once
- Large, older pavilion (including a two-storey section) with various functional areas, four change rooms and separate toilet block servicing secondary field area
- Extensive lighting with only two pitches compliant with competition standard
- Small sealed car park between two main field areas that would likely be inadequate at peak use times.

Glen Park

- High quality playing surfaces on well set-out fields with grassy banks for spectators, but limited shade. Lower area could cater for mini-fields and/or training

- Older, but functional brick pavilion with large veranda area but no other dedicated spectator facilities on site and parking limited to informal gravel and grassed area
- Field lighting to competition standard with three-four LED fittings on each pole
- Inadequate change facilities to meet male and female participation demand, no dedicated public toilets

Alexandra Park Sports Complex

- Quality surfaces on main playing fields and average on secondary field area (Ian Barker Fields) that has training lighting - noted that Ian Barker Fields upgrade scheduled in 2022-2023 to increase available sports ground by two pitches and additional lighting
- Large, older pavilion with a separate shaded carport adjacent with no other shade on site

- Shared, sealed car parking areas in the precinct

Lambert Park

- Average playing surface on single field (aligned east/west) with shade limited to some trees
- Unattractive toilet block and poor quality shaded viewing area, no pavilion
- Field lighting may be close to competition standard with four poles each with three fittings and two other poles each with two fittings
- No parking except for that across the road at Aloysius Park

Aloysius Park

- Above average surface on single playing field (aligned east/west) with spectator facilities limited to some shade trees
- Aged and unattractive pavilion serviced by small gravel car park, small playground at eastern end of site
- Field lighting training standard with four poles each with three older fittings
- Funding available for design development of new pavilion at Aloysius Park and Lambert Park

Wodonga

Kelly Park

- Immaculate playing fields with no perimeter fencing
- New pavilion on site but no spectator facilities, except for some shade trees
- Maintenance shed adjacent to pavilion (identified by draft master plan to be removed with pavilion extension)
- Significant field lighting through eight poles each with LED lights

Willow Park

- Two main playing fields with high quality surfaces and turf pitch block, third field adjacent with slightly lower standard surface and a fourth at northern aspect of site with average quality surface
- Modern and functional pavilion (planned for future extension to accommodate additional change rooms)
- Competition level lighting on two main fields and training level on third field
- No spectator facilities and shade is limited to two shade sails overlooking fourth field and some trees around site
- Large, sealed car park adjacent to pavilion that meets normal operations but not larger events.

LaTrobe University

- Very high quality playing surfaces on all fields (two senior and one junior) but no shade on site except for pavilion. Main field, with attractive perimeter fencing, showing signs of wear and tear
- Highly functional, large pavilion with tiered seating
- Overlooking main field with electronic scoreboard
- Current field lighting project to increase levels on main field to 200 lux and 100 lux on ground two
- Various sealed parking areas available within university

Supply and distribution

The current number and distribution of football (soccer) facilities across the region caters well for the sport. Respondents to the survey confirmed that the number of fields available were suitable.

Impact of participation trends

The sport has been enjoying steady growth over the past 10 years and this is expected to continue. Growth in female participation is even higher than for males and this will result in a further need to develop female-friendly facilities at both existing and new sporting facilities.

One advantage football (soccer) has is being a rectangular field sport. These fields are smaller than Australian Rules/cricket ovals and are therefore easier to locate within sporting sites. Further, given the sport's growth compared to the decline of other rectangular field sports, there might be the opportunity in the future to re-purpose rectangular fields for its use.

Another advantage of the sport is the flexibility of its small-sided games for juniors, providing further flexibility in providing the maximum number of playing spaces.

Demand assessment

Given the expected continued rise of participation in the sport, it is likely that both upgraded and new/re-purposed facilities will be needed into the future.

The proposed sporting fields (minimum of two, possibly four) at Baranduda Fields will meet much of this demand while the inclusion of rectangular fields should be considered in the design development of the *Thurgoona-Wirlinga Precinct Structure Plan* sports fields. The extension of Alexandra Park (Ian Barker Fields) from two to four soccer fields will also assist in addressing the shortfall. Further, other sites have been identified during the facility inspections that show evidence of being under-utilised and that could be re-purposed for the sport.

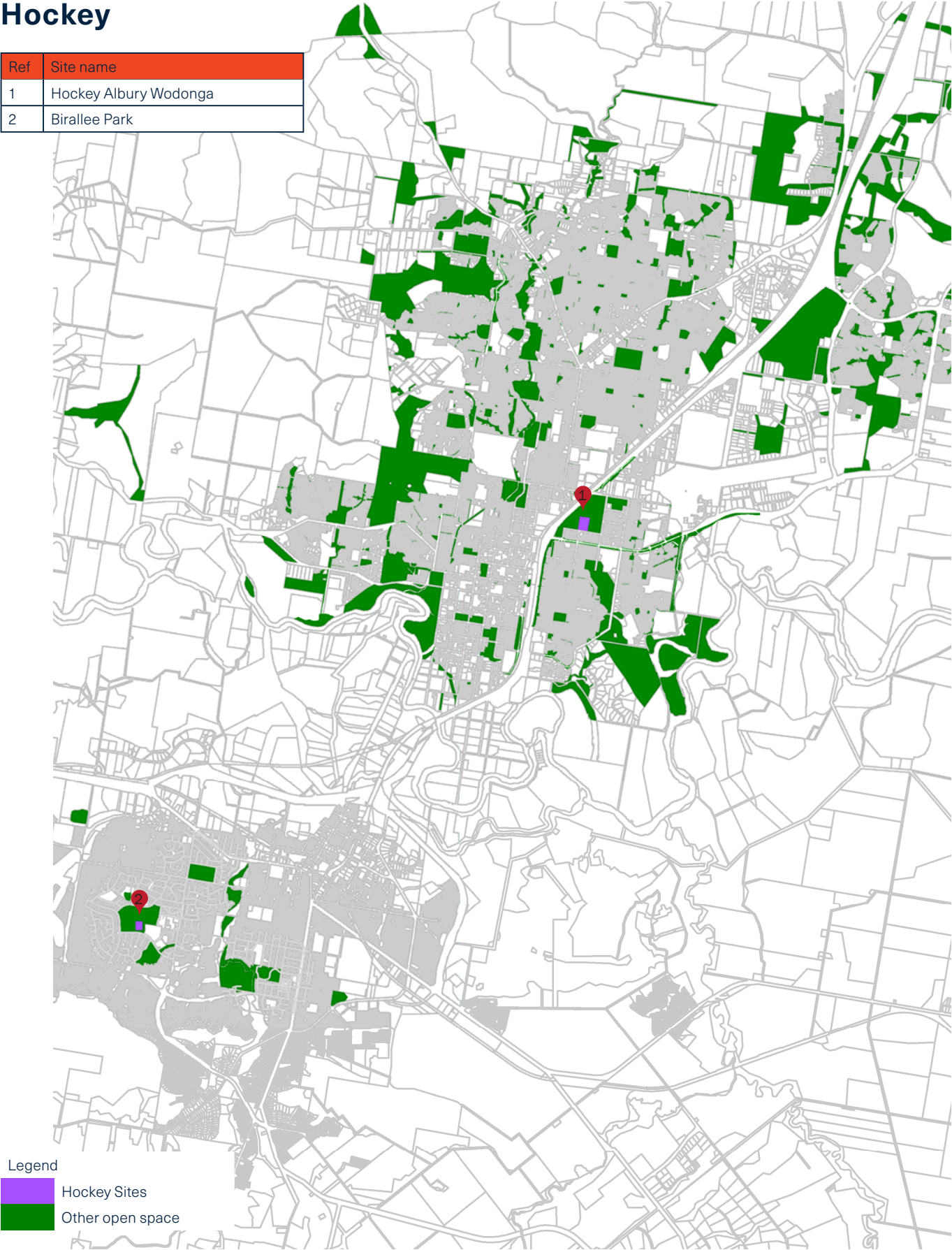
Existing facilities can also be upgraded to better meet future needs with upgrades to field lighting and storage, while council should continue in developing appropriate change facilities to cater for the increasing number of females participating in the sport. Albury Wodonga Football Association highlighted that this lack of female change rooms across the region is a major issue.

Melrose Park, Albury



Hockey

Ref	Site name
1	Hockey Albury Wodonga
2	Birallee Park



Legend

- Hockey Sites
- Other open space

Venues

Alexandra Park - Albury

- Two high quality synthetic fields within the compound (not accessible during inspections) and two grassed fields
- One pavilion housing three separate clubs and the association, however, change facilities not meeting elite sports requirements (shared with athletics). At the time of facility inspections, initial planning had commenced for the redevelopment of the existing venue pavilion.
- There are additional opportunities for spectator facilities outside the existing small, shaded grandstands.
- Small sealed car park between hockey and athletics facility but other parking available within precinct
- Design process under way for new pavilion to address hockey and athletics needs

Birallee Park - Wodonga

- One high quality synthetic field with very limited shade and spectator facilities
- At time of inspection construction of new pavilion and refurbishment of existing change rooms was under way
- While it might not be feasible to achieve match standard field lighting, an upgrade to the existing lighting may be warranted
- Medium-sized sealed car park (that also services the adjacent BMX facility)

Supply and distribution

With two synthetic and two grass fields in Albury and a synthetic field in Wodonga, hockey is well catered for across the two cities, considering its relatively low participation rate.

Impact of participation trends

Participation rates in the sport are not growing and are not expected to do so in the future. Minor improvements that allow improved operations at the existing centres should cater for the sport into the future.

Demand assessment

Given the high costs involved with developing the required synthetic playing fields (even if they are built as upgrades to existing grass fields), significant growth in the sport would need to be demonstrated for consideration to be given for additional facilities across the region. Subsequently, consideration, and that of water-based pitches should be given to changing the proposed medium-term priority of developing two pitches at Baranduda Fields to at least a long-term priority, if at all.

Birallee Park, Wodonga



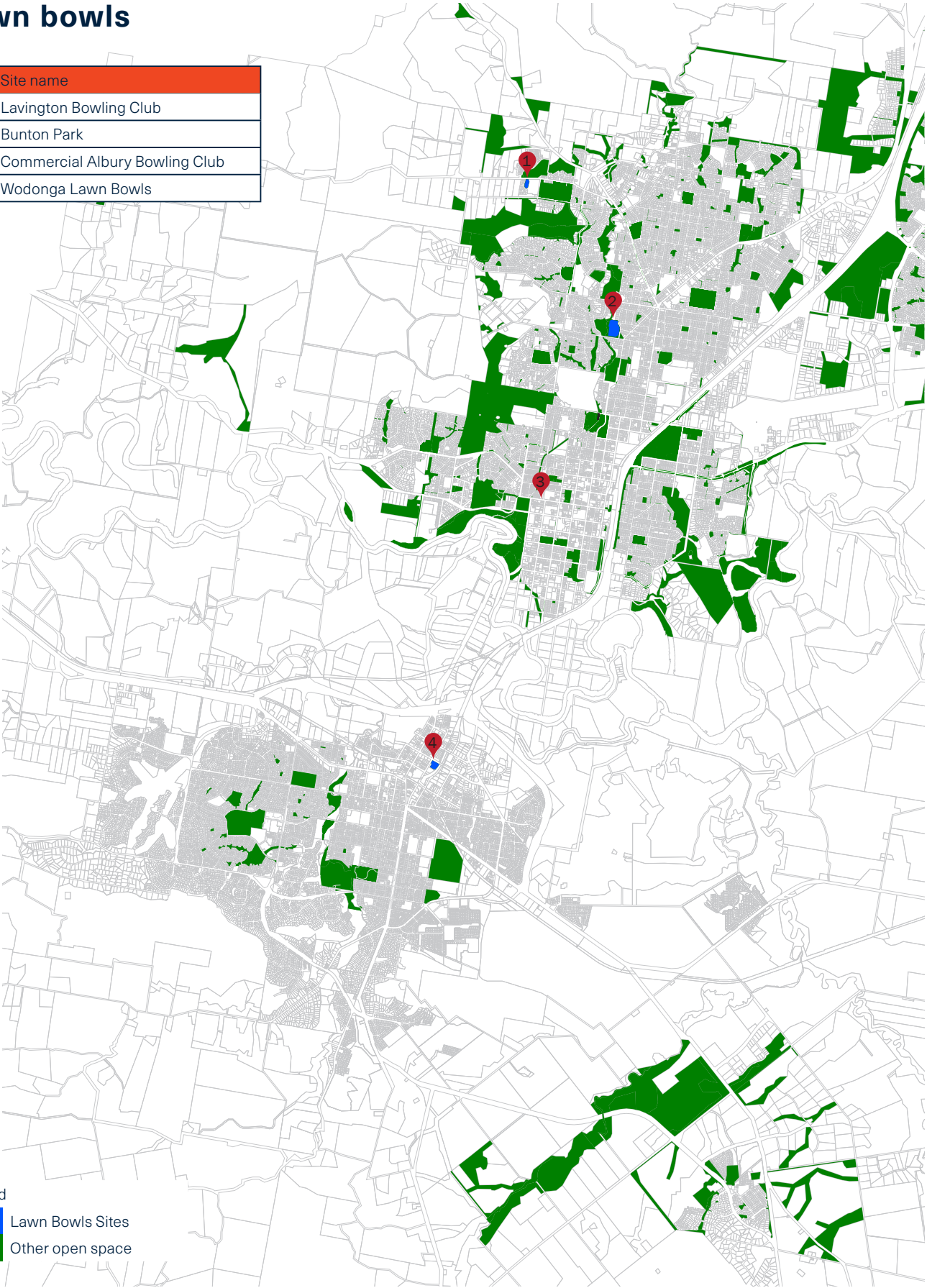
Lawn bowls

Ref	Site name
1	Lavington Bowling Club
2	Bunton Park
3	Commercial Albury Bowling Club
4	Wodonga Lawn Bowls

Legend

Lawn Bowls Sites

Other open space



Venues

Albury

Lavington Panthers Bowling Club

- Located on Centaur Road, Hamilton Valley with two quality greens
- Separate pavilion overlooking greens
- Greens are lit and club has access to large sealed car park

North Albury Bowling Club (Bunton Park)

- Two high quality greens
- Small club buildings overlooking greens but with access to large football netball club pavilion
- Greens are lit and club shares medium sized, sealed car park

Commercial Albury Bowling Club

- Part of Commercial Club Albury (privately owned)
- Two high quality synthetic greens with lighting.

Wodonga

Wodonga Bowling Club (privately owned)

- Three very well-maintained greens with associated shaded areas at the ends, all lit
- Large, attractive club house between the greens
- Medium sized sealed car park in need of repairs

Wodonga Bowling Club, Wodonga



Supply and distribution

The existing lawn bowls facilities across the region meet the sport's needs:

- Lavington Panthers Bowling Club - two high quality greens
- North Albury Bowling Club - two high quality greens
- Commercial Albury Bowling Club - two high quality synthetic greens
- Wodonga Lawn Bowls - two high quality greens.

Impact of participation trends

The sport has been suffering a significant decline in participation across Australia, NSW and Victoria for many years. This decline is expected to continue and results in no need for the development of new facilities.

Demand assessment

Minor improvements to existing facilities such as increased shade, upgraded club rooms and amenities will meet any expected future demands for the sport.

Clubs are also investigating reducing operational costs by upgrading to synthetic surfaces and establishing covered greens.

There is also the potential to develop bowls facilities at Baranduda Fields, Leneva and Thurgoona-Wirlinga in the future.

It is noted that Commercial Albury Club and Wodonga's only facility are both private clubs and therefore councils have no control over whether these will continue to operate in to the future.

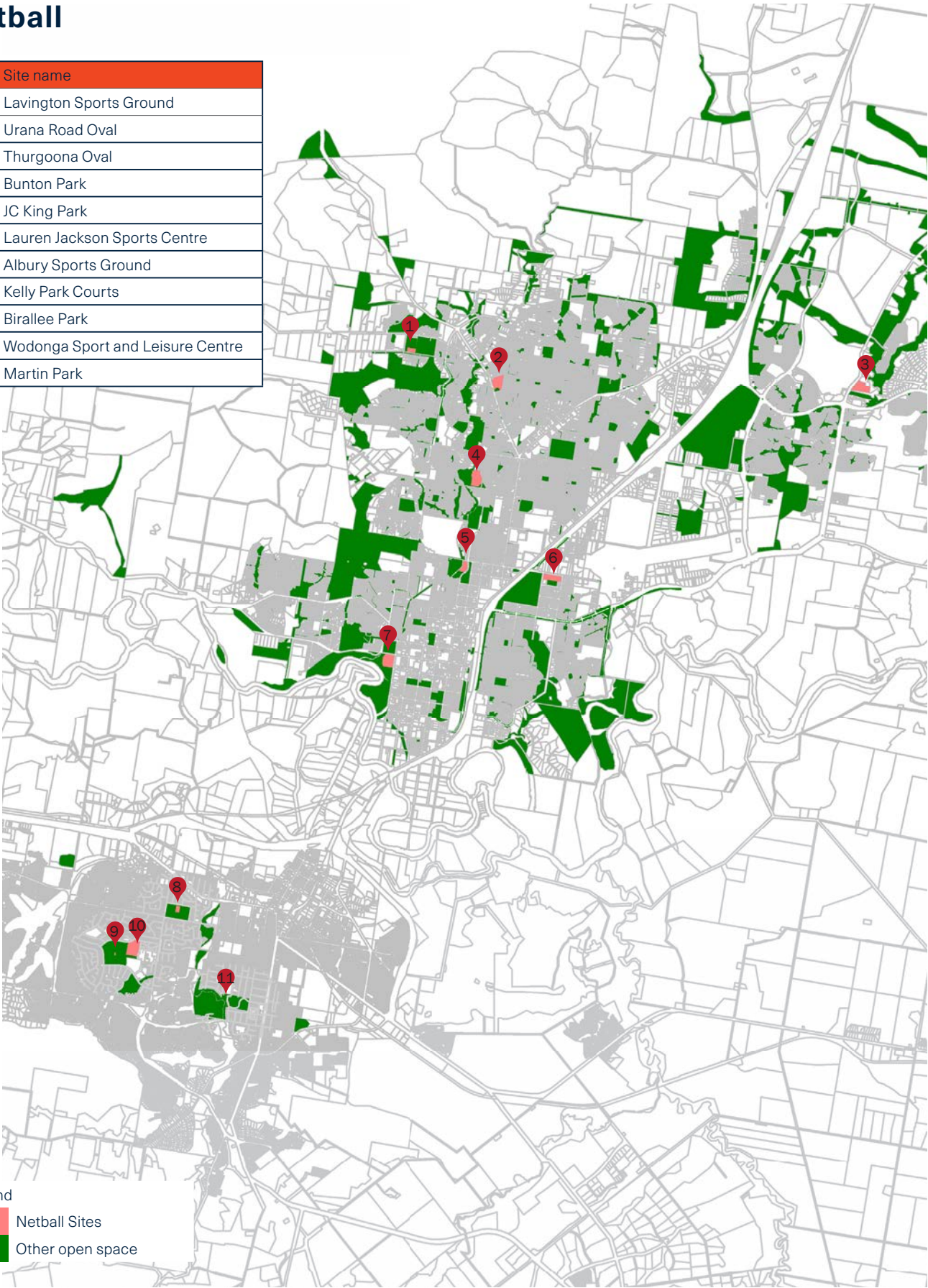
Netball

Ref	Site name
1	Lavington Sports Ground
2	Urana Road Oval
3	Thurgoona Oval
4	Bunton Park
5	JC King Park
6	Lauren Jackson Sports Centre
7	Albury Sports Ground
8	Kelly Park Courts
9	Birallee Park
10	Wodonga Sport and Leisure Centre
11	Martin Park

Legend

Netball Sites

Other open space



Venues

Albury

Lavington Sports Ground

- One court adjacent to, and one practice court within, velodrome (second court under construction)
- Tiered seating and shelter along one side of main court
- No dedicated parking, but centre parking available
- Minimal change facilities available adjacent to the courts, however, change options are available on site

Urana Rd Oval

- Two synthetic hard courts in fair condition
- Old and unattractive car port shade structure and dugouts, some bench seating for spectators and sub-standard toilets
- No change facilities
- Minimal lighting

Thurgoona Oval

- Two synthetic hard courts in good condition
- Various small, unattractive shade structures around courts
- Adequate lighting but courts adjacent to new pavilion (under construction) so ancillary facility provision and access will improve, including access to change facilities

Bunton Park

- One court, lit, tucked away between oval and bowls club
- Shaded spectator area on one side of court but no other shade or spectator facilities
- Car parking in shared car park but a distance away
- No change facilities but design process under way that will identify suitable location

JC King Park (Albury Netball Association)

- Very high quality facility with 12 synthetic hard courts all in good condition and with adequate run-offs
- New, modern pavilion joining a large amenities wing, shaded dugouts throughout and marshalling area
- All courts well lit
- All parking at venue dedicated for committee members with limited additional parking at new skate park

Lauren Jackson Sports Centre

- Five indoor courts
- Spectator seating for up to 1000 people
- High level lighting
- Corporate boxes, pa system and electronic scoreboards
- Kiosk, toilet and change rooms and large sealed car park

Albury Sports Ground

- One court a long distance from main club pavilion
- Small change facility and shade trees
- On-street parking close to court
- Murray River Experience Master Plan review will consider future options for netball facilities.

Wodonga

Kelly Park - (Netball Wodonga)

- Nine bitumen courts in good condition and with new dugouts
- Large pavilion with veranda overlooking courts that are all lit, new toilet block on site
- Large sealed car park shared with other tenant sports

Birallee Park

- Two synthetic hard courts, with one in fair condition and the other brand new
- Modern, small clubroom building, some bench seating and a colourbond dugout
- Existing court lit and lights in place for new court

Wodonga Sports and Leisure Centre

- Five indoor sports, all able to cater for local level netball, however, extensions (as identified in council's *Sport and Recreation Plan 2014 to 2040* and in the *2015 Wodonga Sports and Leisure Centre Master Plan*) would be required to host higher level (regional or state) competitions
- Access to change, toilet and canteen facilities within the centre
- Access to the centre's large, sealed car park

Martin Park

- One bitumen court in fair condition (with a slight slope) tucked away behind football facilities and second court behind car park in poor condition but with training lights (that result in non-compliant run-offs)
- Evidence of little, if any, use of the second court
- Main court is well lit with good amenities building and terraced spectator seating on opposite side
- Master plan for site has recommended a new court and car parking for the site

Supply and distribution

Under the two structures of football/netball clubs and townbased associations, netball is currently well catered for across the region.

Impact of participation trends

Regularly in the top five most popular sports in Australia, New South Wales and Victoria, the sport is expected to enjoy continued growth.

This growth will most likely result in both the need to upgrade existing facilities to better cater for the sport (e.g. lighting), and the development of new facilities such as those outlined below.

Demand assessment

Planned future developments of the Lauren Jackson will increase its ability to cater for future growth. Consideration could also be given to Netball Victoria's preferred model of delivery of venues that provide a combination of indoor and outdoor courts.

Other initiatives to meet the sport's future demands include two new courts at Baranduda Fields in Stage 1 of the development, plus any indoor courts that are included in the final design of the proposed indoor multi-use facility at the site. Further, where netball is associated with AFL, two netball courts should be considered to cater for any further growth in the grades.

In addition to the above, upgrades to existing facilities such as court lighting, change facilities, storage and making courts compliant can be undertaken as required to meet demand.

The lack of female friendly change facilities at football netball clubs was identified as an issue by Netball Victoria.



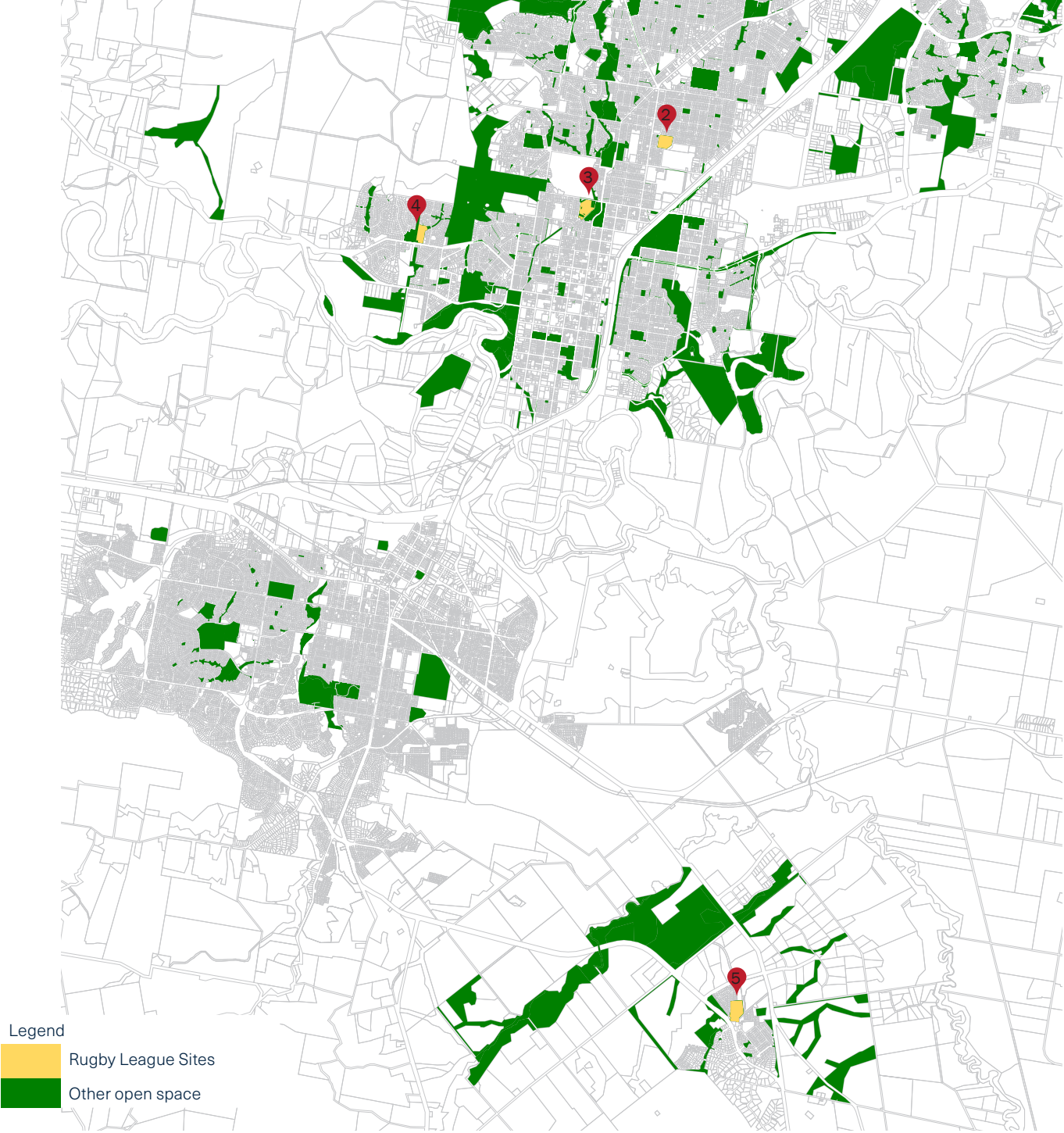
Birallee Park, Wodonga

Urana Rd Oval, Albury



Rugby league

Ref	Site name
1	Lavington Sports Ground (elite games)
2	Sarvaas Park
3	Greenfield Park
4	Bonnie Doon Park/Haydon Park
5	Baranduda Recreation Reserve



Venues

Albury

Sarvaas Park

- Both fields in good condition but with no spectator facilities except for some gum trees for shade
- Old brick pavilion with significant security, serviced by small gravel car park
- Field lighting is limited to training level on one field but designs are complete to light the entire area for training and games

Greenfield Park

- Good quality playing surface on the single field that has an older style perimeter fence with some bench seating and grass banks for spectators, with shade limited to some trees
- Large, older brick two storey pavilion with viewing veranda and scorer's box adjacent. Separate buildings on site for pigeon racing and fishing clubs with a detailed design process under way for a new sport pavilion
- Field lighting most likely competition standard through four poles, each with four fittings

Bonnie Doon Park/Haydon Park

- Single field in fair condition, surrounded by grassed banks (effectively a detention basin) with shade trees
- No pavilion but a toilet/change building and car park is uneven gravel with street parking available
- Lighting is training standard and a small skate park is located at the front of the site

Wodonga

Baranduda Recreation Reserve

- Overall playing surface is high quality
- Modern, multi-purpose pavilion with adjacent shade sails and storage sheds
- Field lighting limited for the large expanse to four poles with older fittings
- Limited street parking along front of site

Supply and distribution

Given the sports participation numbers across the region, and confirmed by facility inspections, it is well provided for by the existing facilities.

Impact of participation trends

Participation rates in the sport are steady (at best) at both a national and state level and are not expected to rise in the future. Participation levels would actually be falling if not for the recent increase in female participation.

This results in no significant need for new facilities to be developed for the sport.

Demand assessment

Upgrading the existing facilities to better suit the sport's operational needs should be sufficient to meet any demands for the sport.

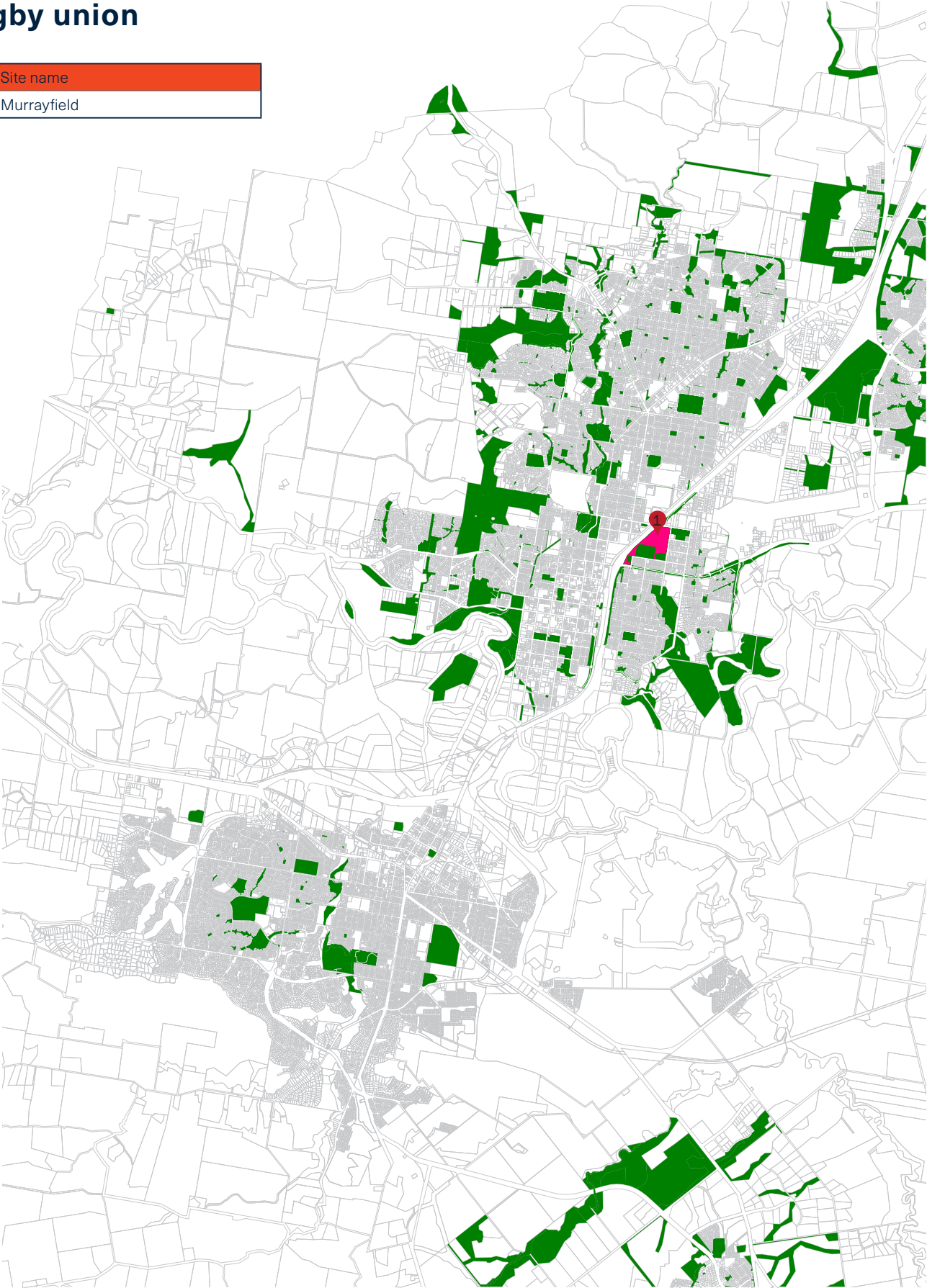
These upgrades should include improvements such as the development of female-friendly facilities and field lighting.

Future facility development opportunities at Baranduda Fields are to be explored (including the previously mentioned potential multipurpose facility catering for cycling, athletics and rectangular field sports). These might not be earmarked for a specific sport but be designed to cater for any of the major rectangular field sports so that they can cater to the relevant sports at that time. The Alexandra Park (Ian Barker Fields) upgrade scheduled in 2022-2023 will also increase available sports fields by two pitches and additional lighting.

It is noted that Greenfield Park has been identified as a boutique 5000 spectator facility for rectangular field games (rugby league, rugby union or football (soccer)). Where crowds are expected to exceed 5000 spectators for these high level games, Lavington Sports Ground should be the venue. For this to occur, additional training space should be considered for Albury Thunder (main user group for Greenfield Park) at Billson Park.

Rugby union

Ref	Site name
1	Murrayfield



Venues

Murrayfield (Alexandra Park) - Albury

- Co-user (with cricket) of the high quality oval within Alexandra Park complex
- Not fully accessible at time of inspection but high quality playing surface with turf pitch block and large practice net compound
- Site enclosed in very unwelcoming steel and barbed wire fencing
- One main pavilion (older) with additional, newer clubrooms closer to playing field
- Training standard field lighting via four poles

Supply and distribution

The single rugby union facility in Albury is currently sufficient to meet the sport's needs across the region.

Impact of participation trends

The sport has a low participation rate across Australia and in NSW and Victoria, and this is expected to continue and most likely, decline further.

Demand assessment

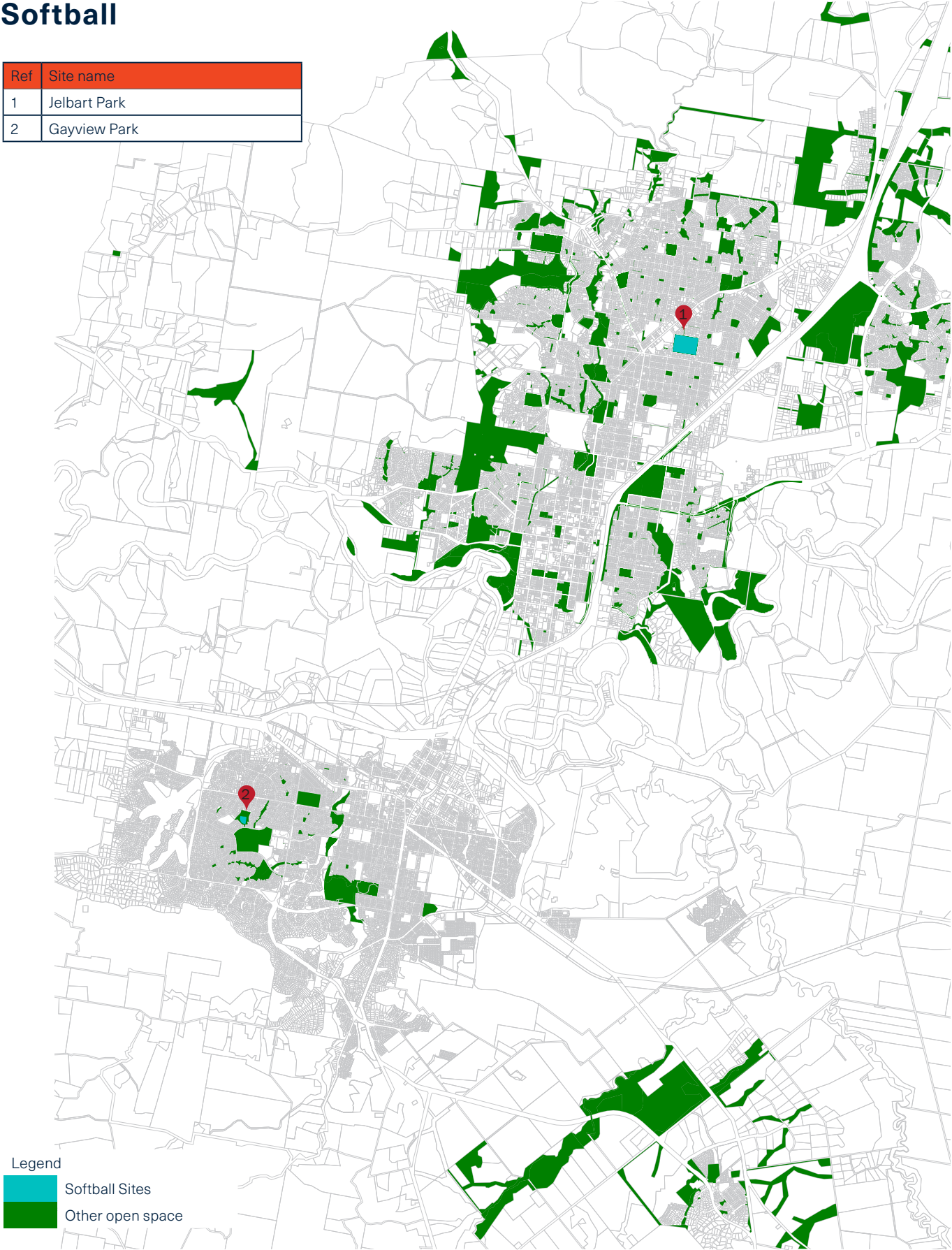
Facility inspections will determine the existing site's capacity to cater for any future growth and may also identify other rectangular field sites across the region that could cater for the sport into the future.

It is noted that during gala days, the sport utilises a large portion of Alexandra Park. The expansion of Ian Barker Fields will assist in catering for the increased participation on these days.

As for rugby league, the long term priority of developing two senior rugby fields and associated amenities at Baranduda Fields should be reviewed prior to implementation. At the very least the proposed fields should not be earmarked for a specific sport, but be designed to cater for any of the major rectangular field sports so that they can cater to the relevant sports at that time.

Softball

Ref	Site name
1	Jelbart Park
2	Gayview Park



Legend
Softball Sites
Other open space

Venues

Jelbart Park - Albury

- Good quality playing surfaces with at least five diamonds with backnets but no other apparent infrastructure for softball, shared outfields
- Large, older pavilion (including a two-storey section) with various functional areas and separate toilet block servicing secondary field area
- Extensive field lighting over site which does not meet softball standards
- Small sealed car park between two main field areas that would likely be inadequate at peak use times

Gayview Park - Wodonga

- Combined baseball/softball facility but appears predominantly baseball
- One diamond in fair condition with decomposed granite baselines and grass infield, player dugouts and large (unfenced) outfield
- Small but functional pavilion, separate toilet block and no dedicated spectator facilities (or shade), with only informal parking available on grassed areas
- Very well lit with five poles each holding three LED fittings, but unlikely to be competition standard (due to high lux levels required).

Supply and distribution

The two existing facilities, one in each city, adequately meet the current needs of the sport.

Impact of participation trends

Participation in the sport has been declining across Australia and in NSW and Victoria over many years and this is expected to continue.

This results in no need for new facilities for the sport in the foreseeable future.

Demand assessment

As for baseball, given the lack of demand for additional facilities and the large amount of land required to cater for the sport's playing area, the proposed dedicated baseball/softball diamonds with training facilities and associated amenities at Baranduda Fields (within 11 to 25 years) should only be considered if the demand is demonstrated at that time to replace the existing Gayview Park facility. Similarly, consideration could be given to a purpose-built softball/baseball facility as part of the *Thurgoona-Wirlinga Precinct Structure Plan* sports fields.

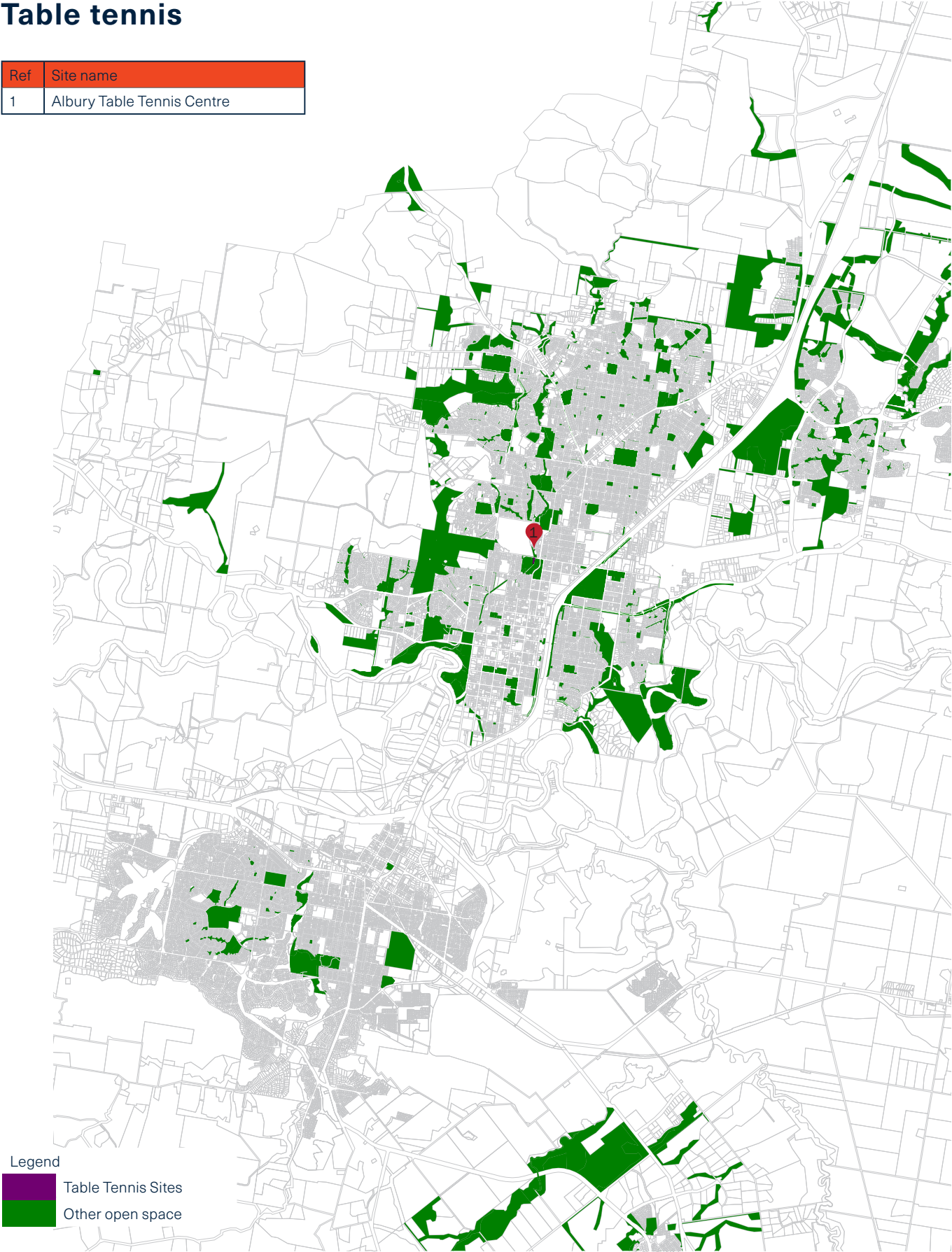
It might be more prudent to undertake minor facility improvements at Gayview Park, such as a potential lighting upgrade, subject to a suitable design that will not negatively impact on surrounding residences. The development of multiuse baseball/softball cage/cricket nets could also be considered.

Gayview Park, Wodonga



Table tennis

Ref	Site name
1	Albury Table Tennis Centre



Venue

Albury Wodonga Table Tennis Association

- Large building on North St, next to Greenfield Park
- Club has indicated a need for an additional four (six if possible) courts which could be accommodated by the existing facility
- Toilet and change facility upgrades are required to hold elite competitions at the facility

Supply and distribution

The single existing facility adequately meets the current needs of the sport.

Impact of participation trends

Participation in the sport is low across Australia and in NSW and Victoria, and this is expected to continue.

This results in no need for new facilities for the sport in the foreseeable future.

Demand assessment

Any increase in demand in the sport can be relatively easily met through a variety of appropriate (floor space and ceiling height) indoor facilities, including the hiring of court space within existing indoor sports centres.

Albury Wodonga Table Tennis Association, Albury



Tennis

Ref	Site name
1	Lavington Tennis Club
2	Glenly Tennis Club
3	Forest Hill Tennis Club
4	Albury Tennis Club
5	East Albury Tennis Club
6	Albury Tennis Association
7	Ulver Park Tennis Club
8	Red Gum Park
9	St Patricks Tennis Club
10	North Albury Sacred Heart Tennis Club
11	Thurgoona Tennis Club
12	Springdale Heights Community Centre
13	Kelly Park
14	Sunnyside Tennis Club
15	Baranduda Tennis Centre
16	Table Top (off-map)

Legend

Tennis Sites

Other open space

Venues

Albury

Lavington Tennis Club (Urana Oval)

- Four synthetic grass courts in seemingly good condition (had just been topped with sand at time of inspection)
- Low perimeter fencing without fencing between courts
- No court lighting (but lighting upgrade under way) and a small, old pavilion

Glenly Tennis Club (Glen Park)

- Total of eight courts, with four appearing to be used more than other four. Main four in fair condition with second four of lesser quality
- Old and unattractive steel fencing that is quite low with no fencing between courts
- Old but functional clubrooms, no lights on courts and very old public toilets

Forrest Hill Tennis Club

- Stand-alone facility with three courts in fair condition
- Low, unattractive perimeter fencing and not welcoming, with members only sign
- Small, old clubrooms, no court lights and evidence of limited use.

Albury Tennis Club

- Total of six synthetic grass courts, with four appearing to be recently re-surfaced and other two in poorer condition (with space available to reinstate two additional courts)
- Tidy and attractive clubrooms
- Low court fencing (without fencing between courts), older style lights (but appear adequate) and only street parking available

East Albury Tennis Club

- Eight synthetic grass courts, all in good condition
- Low, but well maintained court fencing and all courts lit (with older style fittings)
- Attractive clubrooms in well maintained surrounds with an informal gravel parking area

Albury Tennis Association

- 25 grass courts in good condition (not used year round) with no lighting and four synthetic courts with limited lighting
- Large functional clubroom serviced by sealed car park (shared with users of adjacent shops)
- Various small shade structures with limited player amenities servicing courts.

Table Top

- Four synthetic grass courts that have been recently resurfaced
- Limited court lighting
- Serviced by the adjacent community hall - access to toilets

Other Albury facilities (unknown at time of inspections)

- St Patrick's Tennis Club - 10 courts
- Brooklyn Fields - one court
- Redgum Park - one court
- Uiver Park Tennis Club - four courts
- Thurgoona Tennis Club - 16 courts
- North Albury Sacred Heart Tennis Club (private) - six courts
- Springdale Heights Community Centre (private) - one court

Wodonga

Kelly Park

- Premier tennis facility of the region with the following courts, all in very condition, especially the natural grass courts
 - 10 Synthetic hard courts (lit)
 - 30 Natural grass courts
 - Eight synthetic grass courts (lit)
- A large two storey pavilion services the courts
- Large sealed car park, various storage sheds and shaded spectator areas for northern grass courts

Sunnyside Tennis Club (privately owned)

- Three synthetic grass courts in good condition
- Adequate, but old-fashioned lighting
- Small club room and spectator/player area, low court fencing between road and neighbouring houses

Baranduda Tennis Centre

- Two synthetic grass courts in good condition
- Lighting to both courts
- At southern aspect of Baranduda Recreation Reserve, adjacent to skate park, playground, community centre and half basketball court

Supply and distribution

Tennis is very well-catered for both in Albury and Wodonga, with facilities of different sizes spread across the region. This includes the major regional centre at Kelly Park that contains the majority of Wodonga's courts. This, however, is not a distribution issue due to the fact that participants in the sport are known to travel to participate at an appropriate venue.

Impact of participation trends

Participation in the sport remains high across Australia and in NSW and Victoria, especially when casual participants are taken into account.

The sport is expected to remain popular across all age groups but given the current level of provision, no significant developments are likely to be required.

Demand assessment

Any increased demand for the sport could easily be catered for through the existing facilities, given the current over-supply of courts (especially grass courts). In fact, given the high maintenance costs and relatively limited use, consideration should be given to the rationalisation and/or repurposing of some tennis facilities.

Consideration should be given to making more courts open for general community use.

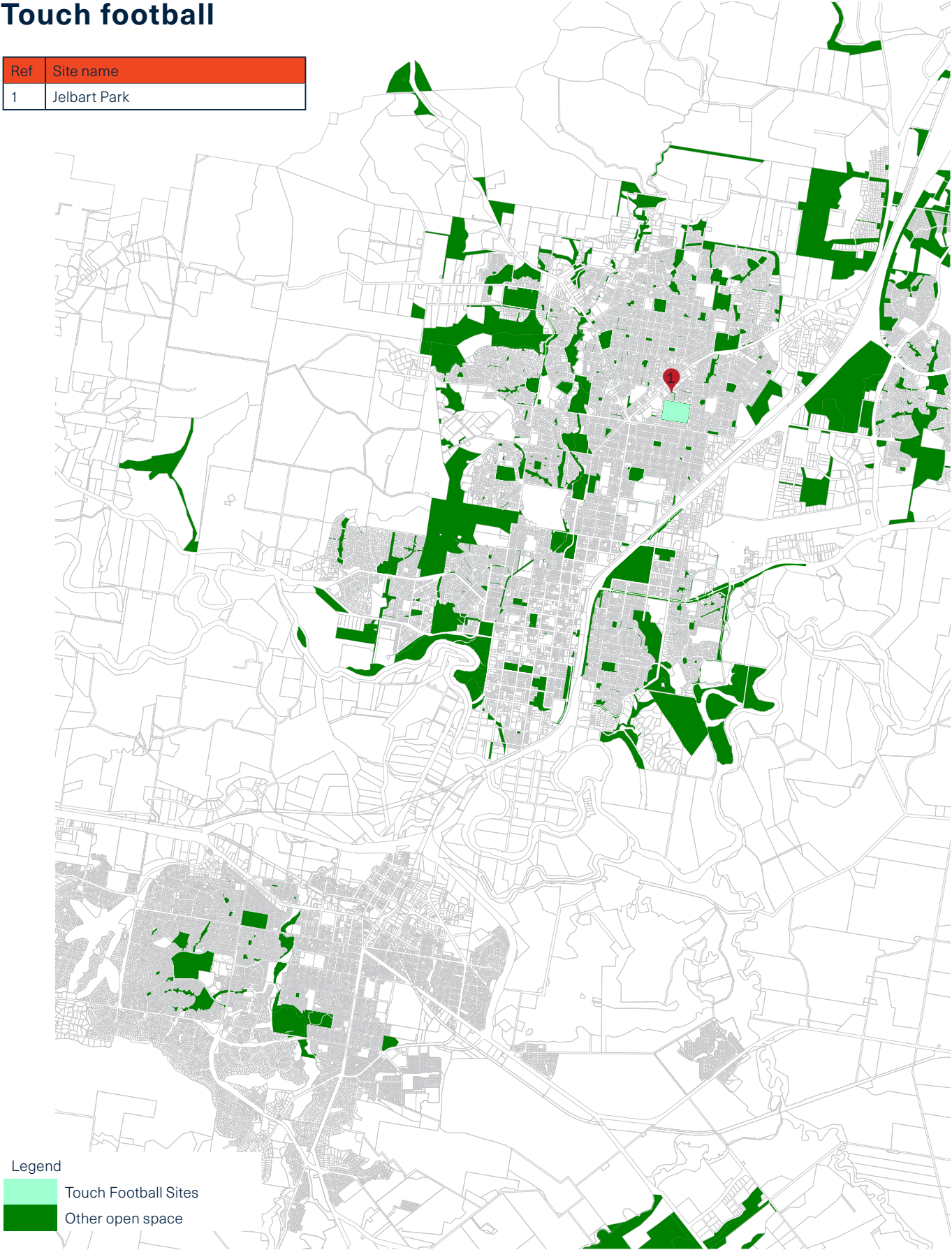
It is noted, however, that major upgrades are required at most facilities to meet Tennis Australia's facility guidelines.



Wodonga Tennis Centre, Wodonga

Touch football

Ref	Site name
1	Jelbart Park



Venue

Jelbart Park - Albury

- Good quality playing surfaces with a flexible layout that would allow more than 10 touch fields to be utilised at once
- Large, older pavilion (including a two-storey section) with various functional areas and separate toilet block servicing secondary field area
- Extensive field lighting over site with eight poles each holding six-seven fittings that be more than adequate
- Small sealed car park between two main field areas that would likely be inadequate at peak use times

Supply and distribution

The sport is adequately catered for across the region. Due its operational structure, the sport is best served from larger facilities with the ability to provide multiple fields.

Impact of participation trends

A sport with relatively low participation, the existing site has the ability to cope with increased use and as such, no new facilities should be needed into the future.

Demand assessment

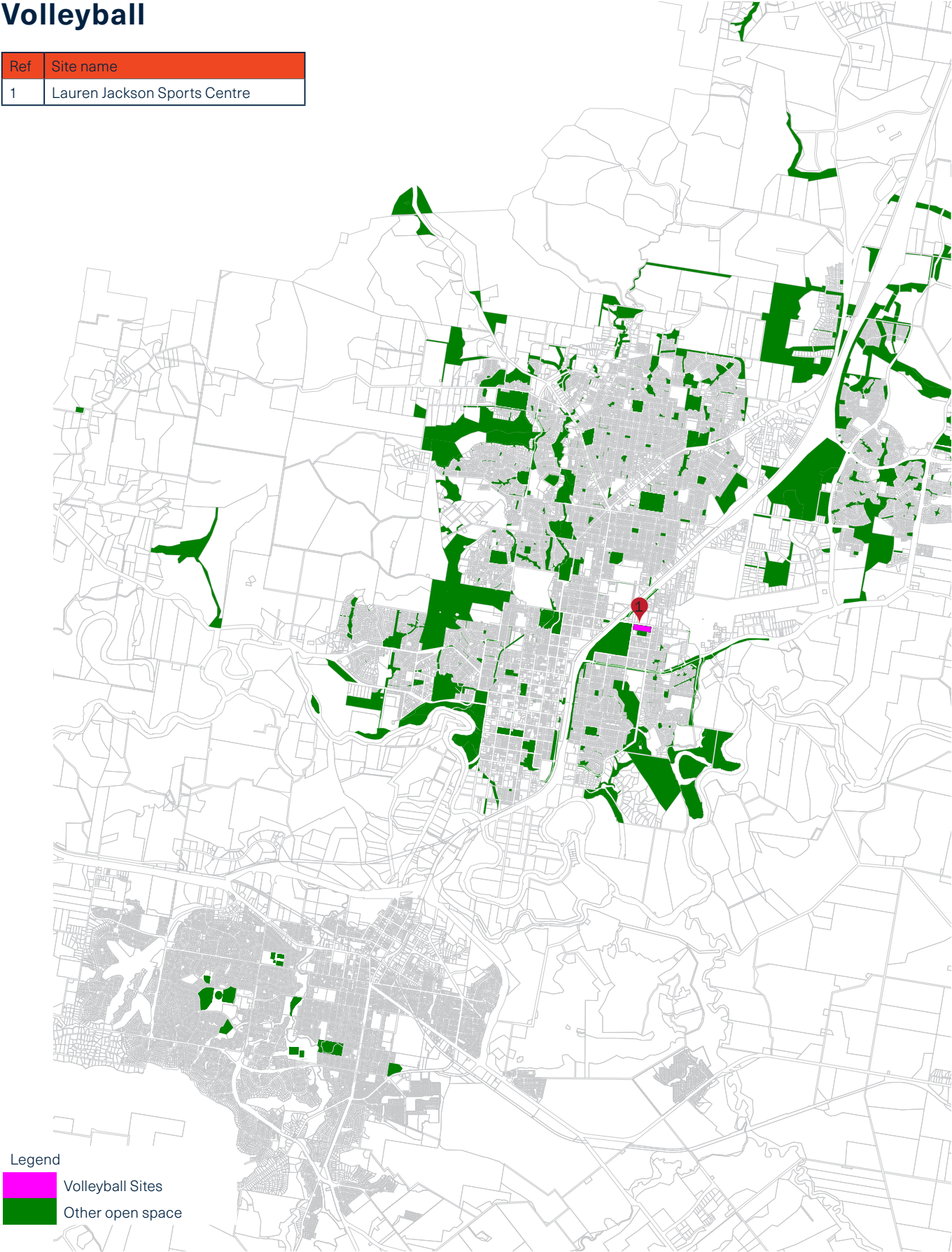
It is most likely that future demand can be accommodated at the current site.

Lighting requirements for games below regional and premier competitions are less than that for traditional football codes and subsequently, any increase in demand for this level of the sport in the future could be relatively easily accommodated at various sites across the region. However, higher levels would be required to host premier and regional level competitions.

Other ancillary facilities such as clubhouses and change rooms are traditionally not high priorities for the sport.

Volleyball

Ref	Site name
1	Lauren Jackson Sports Centre



Venue

Lauren Jackson Sports Centre

- Four indoor volleyball courts
- Players having access to centre's kiosk, electronic scoreboards, spectator seating, meeting rooms and large car park

Supply and distribution

Due its nature (courts, nets and required ceiling height), the provision of volleyball in council facilities only occurs within indoor sports centres. As such, it can be offered by both the Lauren Jackson Sports Centre and the Wodonga Sports and Leisure Centre.

Impact of participation trends

The sport has a low participation rate across Australia, NSW and Victoria and this is not expected to change in the future, resulting in no need for additional facilities.

The higher participation numbers in other indoor sports such as basketball, netball and Futsal have a negative impact on the sport and its ability to access indoor courts at times.

Demand assessment

It is most likely that future demand can be accommodated at the two existing indoor sporting centres.

Further, if the proposed medium term priority of a multi-court indoor facility at Baranduda Fields proceeds, the sport will have the ability to hire courts for its operations there.

Lauren Jackson Stadium, Albury



6. DEMAND ASSESSMENT

This section provides a summary of the demand snapshots provided previously in the individual sports section.

The current and future demand for each sport and for this summary has been based on:

- National, state and local participation rates and trends;
- Club survey responses;
- Input from council staff;
- Generally accepted provision rates for those sports where they are available;
- Feedback from state sport organisations;
- Facility inspections that helped determine current use, quality and functionality, and future carrying capacity; and,
- The distribution of facilities across the region.

For ease of reference, the outcomes of the demand assessment has been provided in the following main categories.

Sports fields/courts

For the sports where state participation rates in each state are available (only for the 10 most popular sports in each state), calculations have been undertaken to determine if the number of fields/courts are sufficient for current needs and projected needs of 2036.

It should be noted that:

- Participation rates for the sports that have available data have been averaged between Victoria and NSW;
- These participation rates have been applied to the combined current and future projected populations for the region to estimate the number of players for the relevant sports in the region; and,
- This estimated number of players has then been applied to the generally accepted players per field/court to determine any current or future surpluses or deficiencies.

The table on page 73 outlines the outcomes.

It should be noted that while basketball does not have a preferred player/court ratio, the generally accepted court provision rate is one court for every 10,000 residents. Therefore, based on current supply and expected future improvements to the existing indoor centres, the sport is catered for now and into the future.

Also to be considered for future field/court provision is the proposed key short-term facility development at Baranduda Fields, Wodonga to include:

- Two Australian Rules cricket fields (one with synthetic surface);
- Four tennis courts
- Two outdoor netball courts (in conjunction with Australian Rules field development);
- Synthetic athletics facility; and,
- criterium cycling circuit.

Demand summary

Given these factors, the region is very well-placed in regard to the provision of quality sporting fields and courts, with the following considerations:

- There is a current deficit of football (soccer) fields and this is expected to increase due to the growing popularity of the sport. New developments (such as Baranduda Fields and the sports fields identified in the *Thurgoona-Wirlinga Precinct Structure Plan*) need to recognise this deficit and include rectangular fields
- The slight deficit of cricket fields will be addressed by developments of both the Baranduda Fields and the *Thurgoona-Wirlinga Precinct Structure Plan*, and Albury's Ian Barker Fields upgrade. A lack of fields has not been demonstrated by other factors and the regional association believes the sport is well-catered for now, and into the future. However, the lack of publicly accessible practice nets has been noted by various stakeholders
- There is a significant over-supply of tennis courts across the region, especially in Albury. Many facilities do not meet Tennis Australia's facility guidelines. Councils should work with local and state tennis associations and Tennis Australia on the distribution of tennis facilities, identifying an upgrade or rationalisation program.
- In general, new facilities should only be developed after maximising the utilisation of existing facilities.

Sport	Participation rate (%)	Field/court to player ratio*	Estimated current players	Estimated players 2036	Required current fields/courts	Required 2036 fields/courts	Current fields/courts	Current surplus/deficit	2036 surplus/deficit
AFL	2.9	1:210	2842	3625	13.5	17	20	6.5	3
Cricket	2.3	1:96^	1580	2016	16	21	17	1	-4
Football (soccer)	4.8	1:150	4704	6000	31	40	26	-5	-14
Netball	2.6	1:154	2548	3250	17	21	36	19	15
Tennis	2.9	1:64	2842	3625	44	56	150	106	94

* Preferred provision ratios were developed in consultation with SSOs and field capacity experts. The ratios reflect service delivery that will not result in facility over-use and meets demand for training and/or matches.

^ The cricket ratio reflects demand for matches only given these are far more difficult to cater for due to the duration of the game and low number of participants.

Pavilions

As for sports fields/courts, the region is very well-placed in regard to the provision of pavilions.

The vast majority are well-maintained and functional, with the exception of the lack of female change facilities. This issue has been identified by a number of sports and the adoption of a standard design for these facilities including four change areas should be developed.

Both councils have a program in place to upgrade sports pavilions to meet change room requirements of male and female participation demands, public toilets, storage and community spaces. This should continue and be a high priority for both councils, guided by any relevant site master plans and identified in councils' long-term capital plans.

Field/court lighting

While many sites across the region have recently, or are currently, undertaking field lighting upgrades, there are some opportunities for other upgrades that will increase the available training opportunities. These upgrades will not only provide clubs with improved and flexible training options, they will also reduce wear and tear issues on playing surfaces.

The following sites have been identified as those able to increase their current lighting levels to provide these increased opportunities. It should be noted that some sites are considered as unsuitable for lighting upgrades due to the lack of a demonstrated demand, the quality of other site features, and/or their proximity to residential areas.

The sites identified for lighting upgrades (in priority order) are as follows:

Albury

- Urana Rd Oval (playing standard)
- Sarvaas Park (playing standard)
- Noreuil Park Oval (playing standard)
- Ernest Grant Park (training facility)
- Norris Park Oval (training facility)
- Billson Park

Wodonga

- Les Cheesley Oval (Martin Park 2) (playing standard)
- Emerald Oval (playing standard)
- Wodonga Hockey (playing standard)
- Baranduda Recreation Reserve (playing standard)
- Willow Park (third oval) (playing standard)
- Wodonga Tennis Centre (playing standard)

Ancillary facilities

The strategy has identified the need for improvements to a range of ancillary facilities as outlined following.

Spectator facilities

Although some of the larger venues across the region have significant spectator facilities, including some large grandstands, the majority of sites are very limited in this regard.

In addition to the overall increase in attractiveness and functionality of the sites, the improvement of such facilities will enable visitations to increase and be of longer duration, increasing the revenue-raising abilities of tenant clubs and organisations.

Shade

There is a distinct lack of appropriately shaded areas in many of the sites across the region.

Existing shade is largely limited to sparse shade trees, many of which are not suitably located and/or large gum trees that can present a danger due to falling branches.

While there is evidence of new plantings at some sites, this needs to increase and be complemented by the development of appropriate built shade structures, consistent with the design and materials of existing infrastructure such as pavilions and toilet and change buildings.

Storage

Facility inspections identified a wide range of storage facilities utilised by clubs, usually inconsistent with other structures on site.

In addition to change rooms, the previously mentioned standard design for pavilions should include allowances for increased storage areas, either within the building footprint or immediately adjacent. This will address the issue of the inconsistent and non-compliant structures across the region.

Kelly Park, Wodonga



7. ELITE SPORT AND MAJOR EVENTS

AlburyCity and Wodonga Council have several existing, in development and planned facilities that meet the standards of elite sports. These facilities provide the opportunity for elite level competitions and major sporting carnivals. The ability to attract and hold these events provide significant exposure and economic benefit for the region and social benefits for the local community.

Lavington Sports Ground can cater for, and has hosted, elite level events including A-League, AFL, NRL, Super Rugby and Big Bash Cricket. In addition to elite sport, Lavington Sports Ground has capacity to host state and national level sports carnivals. Further temporary or permanent lighting upgrades are required to ensure full television broadcast capabilities at the venue.

Greenfield Park can host elite rectangular field outdoor sports including football (soccer), rugby league and rugby union where spectator capacity is below 5000. Beyond this capacity would require relocation to Lavington Sports Ground.

Lauren Jackson Sports Centre is capable of holding a range of elite level indoor sports, including WNBL competition matches and NBL practice matches in addition to state and national indoor sports carnivals. The planned stage 1 development will further expand the venue's hosting capacity to include elite level netball.

Alexandra Park Hockey is utilised for State League competition and has capacity to host state and national carnivals.

Les O'Brien Athletics Precinct has an International Association of Athletics (IAAF) Class II certification and provides the opportunity to host regional and state athletic carnivals.

Both Albury Tennis Association and Wodonga Tennis Centre have capacity to host significant grass court carnivals at both state and national level. Wodonga Tennis Centre's 10 hardcourts can also be used for smaller single and multiday events.

Stage 1 of Baranduda Fields will have the ability to host elite rectangular field outdoor sports including football (soccer), rugby league and rugby union where spectator capacity is below 5000. Beyond this capacity would require relocation to Lavington Sports Ground. The venue will also be suitable for state and national events and carnivals. Further planned stages of the venue will increase the future opportunities.

Multiple facilities may and have been used collaboratively across AlburyCity and Wodonga Council to host significant sports events.

Other venues and facilities could benefit from additional upgrades or new construction to include capacity for elite level sports. This may be considered during future master planning.

In addition to venues and facilities, further opportunities may be investigated regarding the use of current and future infrastructure to facilitate local athletes and teams in state level or higher competitions. Potential development of elite pathways programs such as high performance academies and centres of excellence in consultation with state and federal government and associated sporting bodies could also be considered to improve opportunities and reduce the burden for local athletes.



8. ACTION PLAN

The *Sport and Recreation Strategy* represents an opportunity to maintain and build upon the diversity of sport and recreation facilities for locals and visitors.

Implementation of the recommendations outlined in this strategy will require strong leadership, appropriate resources from councils and a commitment to making some difficult decisions.

The dominant theme that came through the range of engagement processes and analysis is a direction to maintain and upgrade the existing network while continuing to provide for the population-related demand expected to grow in the next 10 years.

In essence, the focus of the strategy is to embrace the quality sport and recreation facilities that both councils and the community has achieved — to further activate existing quality sport and recreation facilities through tailored facility upgrades and programming opportunities.

A large number of sports facilities have council-endorsed master plans. Any future proposed improvements at each of the sites should align with the master plan. From time to time the master plan should be reviewed and amended (if required) to ensure the master plan is meeting the needs of the existing user groups and community demands. This is particularly illustrated by the projected growth of Australian Rules, where future developments will need to review demands based on participation rates, especially those experiencing trends such as increasing female participation.

In addition to specific participation rate and trends, consideration should also be given to any relevant government policies at the time of future developments, particularly regarding gender equity, diversity and inclusion.

In addition to these master plans, the precinct structure plans for Leneva-Baranduda and Thurgoona-Wirlinga propose the development of sporting facilities to cater for these growth areas and the region in general. At the time of detailed design, this strategy should be referenced, along with any emerging trends/demands, to ensure appropriate facilities are included. These facilities should be designed to be multipurpose with the ability to cater for a wide range of activities and changing trends.

While this strategy presents a key guiding vision for both councils and the community, the overlaying issue will be the capacity to fund it. Exact individual project timing will be dependent on the availability of necessary funding (be it from local clubs, council, state or federal governments).

The recommendations of this study are detailed below and are grouped into three strategic areas:

- Management*
- Existing facilities*
- New facilities*.

Priorities are assigned for each action. A high recommendation should be undertaken as soon as resources allow while medium (in the next five years) and low priorities (in the next five to 20 years) are not as urgent.

Action Plan Priorities

High	As soon as resources allow
Medium	< Five years
Low	Five - 20 years

* As this document is intended for strategic purposes, no financial costs have been attributed to the attached action plan. All proposed actions relating to existing and new facilities will be costed as part of the review process of the relevant facility master plans.

Management

ACTION NO.	ACTION	PRIORITY
M1	<p>Undertake a review of current tenancy arrangements with sporting clubs. Considerations to be included, but not necessarily limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Longer term permits (three to five years) to minimise administrative requirements for councils and clubs and provide increased security to clubs for future planning; ■ Councils continue undertaking the bulk of maintenance at reserves, with the relevant tenancy agreements in place; ■ Ensure details such as club responsibilities, applicable fees and charges and times of use are addressed. 	High
M2	Ensure an officer from each council is given the responsibility to take the lead role on overseeing implementation and review of the strategy, especially the ongoing management of sport and recreation reserves	High
M3	Develop a consistent community directory of sport and recreation clubs across both cities on the relevant websites to ensure they all include the location (facility or reserve) where their activities are run (to ensure they appear on Google Maps search function).	Medium
M4	Provide information to clubs on available programs to improve areas such as volunteer attraction and retention, accessing grants and general financial management, and increasing the professional capacity of committee members/volunteers	Ongoing
M5	Work with the state and federal governments, state sporting associations, and other peak agencies to ensure adequate policies (including relevant clauses in tenancy agreements) and guidelines (such as pavilion design) are in place for equitable access to facilities for females, people with a disability and other under-represented cohorts of the community.	Ongoing
M6	Investigate the utilisation of school facilities to meet the shortfall in any sports facilities	Ongoing
M7	Investigate opportunities with state and federal governments, associated sporting bodies and other peak agencies regarding the participation of local athletes and teams in state level of higher competitions and opportunities regarding elite pathways programs including high performance academies and centres of excellence.	Ongoing

Existing facilities

ACTION NO.	ACTION		PRIORITY
E1	Investigate lighting upgrades to increase training/competition opportunities (in priority order),		High
	Albury <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Urana Road Oval (playing standard)■ Sarvaas Park (playing standard)■ Noreuil Park Oval (playing standard)■ Ernest Grant Park (training facility)■ Norris Park Oval (training facility)■ Billson Park■ Lavington Sports Ground (elite and television standard)	Wodonga (all to playing standard) <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Les Cheesly Oval (Martin Park 2)■ Emerald Oval■ Wodonga Hockey■ Baranduda Recreation Reserve■ Willow Park third oval■ Wodonga Tennis Centre	
E2	Develop, review and implement standardised design guidelines for upgraded change facilities to provide flexibility and four separate change areas. Also ensure that components such as storage, shared canteen/kiosk facilities with separate food storage areas, flexible components (such as operable walls) and the ability to extend are included. Building designs should comply with facility guidelines for the respective sports played at the sports ground		High
E3	Liaise with cricket clubs to allow public access to at least one practice net where appropriate		High
E4	Develop a shade strategy for sport and recreation reserves to include both tree planting and built structures and continue roll out of spectator shade. Include in the strategy the staged replacement of gum trees with more appropriate species		Medium and ongoing
E5	Develop a strategy to assist clubs in providing improved spectator facilities, consistent with existing and planned infrastructure on site as outlined in facility guidelines of site specific master plans		Medium
E6	In conjunction with Albury Tennis Association, Wodonga Tennis Centre, Tennis NSW, Tennis Victoria and Tennis Australia, review the distribution of tennis facilities across Albury-Wodonga and develop an upgrade and rationalisation program that will meet the community and elite participation needs of the sport.		Medium
E7	Investigate the opportunity to re-purpose under-utilised fields for future use by football (soccer) once a demand is demonstrated		Low
E8	Continue the high level of maintenance and continual improvement program for sports field playing surfaces		Ongoing
E9	Continue to work closely with local sporting groups to improve utilisation of existing facilities, through better fixtures, additional offerings, modified programs and consideration of alternative playing times		Ongoing

New facilities

ACTION NO.	ACTION	PRIORITY
N1	Review the future planned inclusions of Baranduda Fields (Wodonga) and sports ground areas in the <i>Thurgoona Wirlinga Precinct Structure Plan (Albury)</i> to ensure a demand is demonstrated before facilities are developed	High
N2	Ensure that a flexible design be used for any new field developments that caters for the inclusion of both oval and rectangular fields and the appropriate number of netball courts	High
N3	Investigate the inclusion of solar panels on new built infrastructure such as pavilions and grandstands	Medium
N4	<p>Develop high level master plans for the district level sports ground and five local sports grounds identified in the <i>Thurgoona-Wirlinga Precinct Structure Plan</i>. Local sports ground should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Four hectares of lit playing surface that could cater for four rectangular fields, Australian Rules field and a central cricket wicket; ■ Sports pavilion to meet the male and female participation demands if all four rectangular fields are being used, storage, public toilets, canteen/kiosk and community room; ■ Car parking; ■ Accessible linking pathways; and, ■ Green space including play space 	Medium
N5	Review all sport and recreation reserve master plans every four-five years to update outstanding recommendations and to ensure they are still relevant	Ongoing
N6	Review existing council-managed land and identify areas that could be upgraded and utilised as sports grounds (training and/or games)	Ongoing

9. APPENDIX

Sports field venues

The following pages provide a summary of the sports venues (excluding tennis - reference pages 64-66) provided at each of the outdoor field venues across the two cities for easy reference. The page references direct to the relevant sections where more detailed information each venue has been provided.

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Albury

VENUE	SPORTS CATERED FOR	PAGE REFERENCE/S
Albury Sportsground	AFL, Netball	24, 26, 52-53
Albury Croquet Club	Croquet	40-41
Albury Wodonga Table Tennis Association	Table tennis	62-63
Alexandra Park Sports Complex	Cricket, Hockey, Football (soccer)	26, 36-38, 44-45, 48-49
Aloysius Park	Football (soccer)	44-45
Billson Park	Cricket	36-37
Black Range Park	AFL, Cricket	24-25, 36-37
Bonnie Doon Park/ Haydon Park	AFL, Cricket, Rugby League	24-25, 36, 56-57
Bunton Park	AFL, Cricket, Lawn Bowls, Netball	24-25, 36-37, 50-51, 52-53
Collings Park	AFL, Cricket	24, 26, 36-38
Commercial Albury Bowling Club	Lawn Bowls	50-51
Ernest Grant Park	AFL, Cricket	24, 26, 36-37
Glen Park	Football (soccer)	44-45
Greenfield Park	Rugby League	56-57
JC King Park	Netball	52-53
Jelbart Park	Football (soccer), AFL, Baseball/ Softball, Touch Football	26, 30-31, 44-45, 60-61, 68-69
Lambert Park	Football (soccer)	44-45
Lauren Jackson Sports Centre	Basketball, Netball, Volleyball	32-33, 52-53, 70-71
Lavington Panthers Bowling Club	Lawn Bowls	50-51
Lavington Sports Ground	AFL, Cricket, Football (soccer), Netball, Cycling, Rugby League (elite only)	24-25, 36-37, 42-43, 44-45, 52-53, 56-57
Les O'Brien Athletics Precinct	Athletics	28-29
Melrose Park	Football (soccer)	44-45
Murrayfield	Rugby Union, Cricket	58-59

VENUE	SPORTS CATERED FOR	PAGE REFERENCE/S
Noreuil Park Oval	AFL, Cricket	24, 26, 36-38
Norris Park Oval	AFL, Cricket	24-25, 36-37
Sarvaas Park	Rugby League	56-57
Springdale Heights Baseball Park	Baseball	30-31
Thurgoona Oval	AFL, Cricket, Netball	24-25, 36-37, 52-53
Twin City Croquet Club	Croquet	40-41
Urana Road Oval	AFL, Cricket, Netball	24-25, 36-37, 52-53
Waites Park (South Albury Active Space)	AFL, Beach Volleyball	24, 26, 34-35

Wodonga

VENUE	SPORTS CATERED FOR	PAGE REFERENCE/S
Baranduda Recreation Reserve	AFL, Cricket, Rugby League	24, 27, 36, 39, 56-57
Belvoir Oval	Cricket	36, 39
Birallee Park	AFL, Cricket, Netball, Hockey	24, 26, 36, 38, 48-49, 52, 54
Emerald Oval	AFL, Cricket	24, 26, 36, 38
Gayview Park	Baseball/Softball	30-31, 60-61
Kelly Park	Cricket, Football (soccer), Netball (Tennis and Croquet), Softball	36, 38, 44, 46, 52, 54, 64, 66
LaTrobe	Football (soccer)	44, 46
Martin Park 1 (John Flower Oval)	AFL, Cricket, Netball	24, 27, 36, 39, 52, 54
Martin Park 2 (Les Cheesley Oval)	Cricket, AFL	24, 27, 36, 39
Brian Esler Park (Melrose Primary School Oval)	AFL	24, 26
Pat Parker Athletics Centre	Athletics	28-29
St Monicas School Oval	AFL, Cricket	24, 26, 36, 38
Willow Park	Football (soccer), Cricket	36, 39, 44, 46
Wodonga Bowling Club	Lawn Bowls	50-51
Wodonga Croquet Club	Croquet	40-41
Wodonga Racecourse and Showgrounds	AFL	24, 27
Wodonga Sports and Liesure Centre	Basketball, Netball, Volleyball	32-33, 52, 54

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