Sports Plan 2020 – 2029

Making the City of Gosnells a great place

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Introduction

The City of Gosnells is located in the southeast corridor of the Perth metropolitan area, approximately 17km from the Perth CBD. The population of 124,081 people (ABS Estimated Resident Population 2019) resides across an area of 127sq km.

The City recognises that sport and recreation plays an important role in maintaining and improving the health and wellbeing of the Gosnells community. This Sports Plan will help the City to achieve its Strategic Community Plan mission of 'Making the City of Gosnells a Great Place'. In particular, it will assist to deliver the following Strategic Priorities:

- Places within the City are attractive and vibrant.
- The community is proud and harmonious.

The purpose of this Sports Plan is to provide a roadmap for development of new sport and recreation facilities as well as improved use of existing facilities to enable more people to be more active more often.

In order to develop the Sports Plan, the City engaged a consultant (A Balanced View Leisure Consultancy Services) to undertake a review of background information including relevant City plans, reports, studies, facility usage data and demographics, along with an audit of the City's existing facilities and active reserves.

The Sports Plan has identified:

- Existing sport and recreation services.
- Sport and recreation trends and challenges.
- Gaps within existing services within the catchment.
- Prioritised actions to enable the City to work with community stakeholders and respond appropriately.

The Sports Plan was endorsed by Council on 25 August 2020.

SECTION 1

Benchmark Provision and Analysis

Parks and Leisure Australia (WA) (PLAWA) has developed standards to provide a reference point and establish benchmarks for the provision of community infrastructure within existing or new developments. It is not the intention of this document to provide a standardised approach, however the suggested population bandings for various facilities indicate a threshold at which they should be considered by local governments.

The following tables present an assessment of how facilities provided by the City of Gosnells compare to PLAWA provision benchmarks (July 2020 Guidelines) and relevant sporting association guidelines. It is noted that some sports have both generic and specialised sports spaces, such as diamond pitch sports and hockey.

The tables also identify how many spaces or facilities would be required in Gosnells to meet the benchmark, based on the City's current population. With respect to population requirements, the City has generally rounded down to the minimum number of spaces, ovals etc.

Image: Gosnells Cricket Club Indoor Training Facility, Gosnells

TYPE OF FACILITY	BENCHMARK	CURRENT PROVISION	SUMMARY COMMENTS
Generic Sports Spaces (sp	aces may be used by multi	ple sports)	
Generic sports spaces (to potentially incorporate sports identified below) Generic open space for the provision of grass sporting infrastructure that can be flexibly used to incorporate seasonal variations in sporting use.	1:4,000 – 5,000 residents Requirement 24 sports spaces	The City has 20 generic sports spaces that accommodate a range of junior and senior sports. A number of these spaces accommodate more than one sport on each. A summary of the provision for each sport is detailed in the table below.	Under provision – The City of Gosnells has undertaken a gap analysis of sport spaces in the development of its Public Open Space Strategy. Based on current population, the Strategy also identified an undersupply of generic sports spaces.
Australian Rules Football Ovals	1:6,000 – 8,000 residents – senior-sized neighbourhood oval Requirement 15 senior Australian Rules Football ovals	The City currently provides 10 ovals suitable for senior Australian Rules Football and eight junior Australian Rules Football ovals: Senior • Harmony Fields (1) • Mills Park (2) • Walter Padbury Reserve (1) • Gosnells Oval (1) • Sutherlands Park (2) • Tom Bateman Reserve (2) • Canning Vale College (1) Junior • Harmony Fields (1) • Mills Park (3) • Sutherlands Park (2) • Tom Bateman Reserve (2)	Under provision – The City is under provided for in terms of senior-sized Australian Rules Football ovals. The WA Football Commission Strategic Plan (2017-2022) included a recommendation to develop a strategic facilities plan, with a focus on female- friendly facilities. Once completed, the City will have regard to the plan and the AFL's Preferred Facility Guidelines when upgrading or developing Australian Rules Football ovals.

CURRENT PROVISION

TYPE OF FACILITY

BENCHMARK

ASSESSMENT AND

TYPE OF FACILITY	BENCHMARK	CURRENT PROVISION	ASSESSMENT AND SUMMARY COMMENTS
Athletics Facilities	1:250,000 residents – Regional level (synthetic facilities) 1:40,000 – 50,000 residents – District level (grass facilities) Requirement 2 district athletics facilities	The City currently provides two athletics facilities at: • Langford Oval • Harmony Fields Langford Oval hosts a District level sport association.	Adequate provision – Athletics presents a potential opportunity for joint use with a school as many schools operate an athletics program and mark ovals accordingly. Four of the local clubs operate from primary school sites. The Little Athletics WA Strategic Plan (2016- 2019) recommends the development of a strategic facility plan for athletics in WA. Once completed, the City will have regard to this plan when upgrading or developing athletics facilities.
Cricket Ovals	1:5,000 – 8,000 residents Requirement 15 cricket ovals	 The City currently provides 12 ovals at: Harmony Fields (2) Mills Park (2) Walter Padbury Reserve (2) Sutherlands Park (5) Canning Vale Oval (1) 	Under provision – The City is under provided for in terms of cricket ovals. The WACA State Infrastructure Strategy (2019- 2028) provides direction on future planning, provision and development of community cricket facilities. The City will have regard to this strategy and Cricket Australia's Community Cricket Facility Guidelines when upgrading or developing cricket ovals.
Diamond Pitch Sports (Baseball, Softball, Tee Ball)	1:10,000 – 14,000 residents – senior-sized diamonds Requirement 8 senior diamonds	 The City currently provides 10 senior and nine youth diamonds at: Langford Oval (4 senior) Sutherlands Park (8 youth) Tom Bateman Reserve (3 senior plus 1 youth) Mills Park (1 senior) Walter Padbury Reserve (1 senior) Gosnells Oval (1 senior) Langford Oval and Sutherlands Park host District level sport associations. Four permanent diamonds are located at Langford Oval. 	Adequate provision – In total the City's diamond pitch sports provision is adequate. Softball WA included a target in its 2020 Strategy to develop a state-wide facilities plan covering all levels of softball competition. Once completed, the City will have regard to this plan when upgrading or developing diamond pitch sports infrastructure.

TYPE OF FACILITY	BENCHMARK	CURRENT PROVISION	ASSESSMENT AND SUMMARY COMMENTS	
Gaelic Sports Fields	No PLAWA benchmark. To be determined by local circumstances and demographics	The City currently provides one Gaelic Football ground at Tom Bateman Reserve. Tom Bateman Reserve hosts a District level sport association.	Adequate provision – The City's Gaelic sports fields provision is adequate. Gaelic sports can be accommodated on existing grounds.	
Hockey Pitches	No PLAWA benchmark for grass pitches. To be determined by local circumstances and demographics	The City currently provides three hockey pitches at Sutherlands Park, with potential for more. One synthetic hockey pitch is also located at Sutherlands Park.	Adequate provision – In total the City's hockey pitch provision is adequate. The Hockey WA State Sporting Strategic Facilities Plan (2009-2025) includes facility provision standards and future facility recommendations. The City will have regard to this plan when upgrading or developing hockey pitches.	
Rugby Union/ League / Touch Fields	1:20,000 – 50,000 residents Requirement 2 rugby fields	There are currently no rugby clubs based in the City of Gosnells.	Under provision – The City is under provided for in terms of Rugby Union/ League/Touch fields. All disciplines of Rugby will be considered as part of any future planning in consultation with State Sporting Associations	
Soccer Pitches	1:4,800 – 6,600 residents – Full-sized pitches Requirement 18 soccer pitches	 The City currently provides seven senior grass soccer pitches at: Mills Park (1) Sutherlands Park (2) Walter Padbury Reserve (4) All sites have numerous junior pitches Two synthetic soccer pitches are located at Mills Park. 	Under provision – The City is significantly under provided for in terms of soccer pitches. The Football West Strategic Plan 2018-2022 states that the organisation will take a strategic approach to facilities planning, undertake an audit of facilities and develop a Facilities Development Plan. Once completed, the City will have regard to this plan when upgrading or developing soccer pitches.	

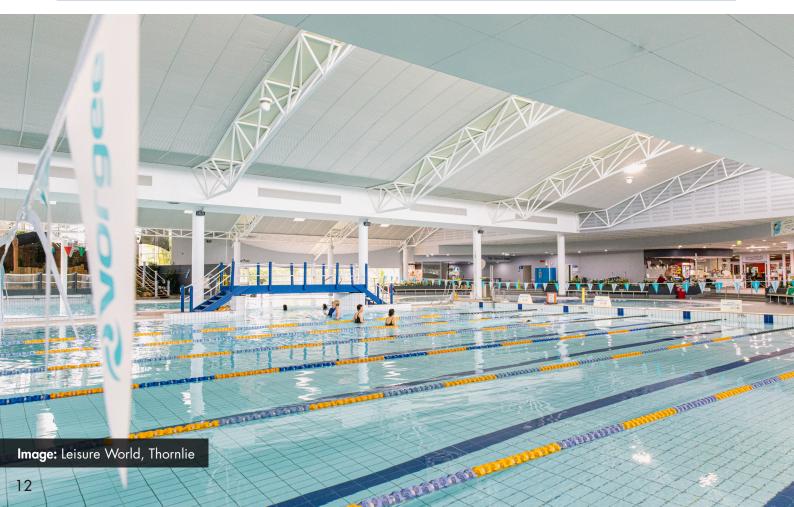
TYPE OF FACILITY	BENCHMARK	CURRENT PROVISION	ASSESSMENT AND SUMMARY COMMENTS
Netball, Basketball and V	olleyball Courts		
Basketball Courts (indoor and outdoor)	1:3,000 – 4,000 residents (outdoor court) 4 plus courts (indoor) for a regional / sub-regional facility Requirement 31 outdoor courts	The City currently provides five basketball courts: Outdoor • Mills Park (2) Indoor • Richard Rushton Community Centre (1) • Langford Community Centre (1) • Thornlie Community Centre (1) The courts at Langford and Thornlie Community Centres are not full sized courts and therefore cannot accommodate formal competitions.	Under provision – The City is significantly under provided for in terms of basketball courts. Basketball WA's Strategic Facilities Plan (2015) included a recommendation for the organisation to work with the City in undertaking a planning study to develop additional community based leisure facilities, including basketball courts.
Netball Courts	 1:5,000 – 8,000 residents – (outdoor courts) for training purposes. 10-12 outdoor courts minimum for an association – District / Sub-regional facility Requirement 15 outdoor courts 	The City currently provides 24 outdoor netball courts: • Langford Netball Complex (22) • Mills Park (2) Langford Netball Complex hosts a District level sport association	Adequate provision – In total the City's netball court provision is adequate. It is noted that there are a further 22 outdoor courts at schools that could be accessed under an agreement with the Department of Education and/or the individual schools. Netball WA's Strategic Facilities Plan (2015) included a recommendation for the organisation to work with the City in undertaking a planning study to develop additional community based leisure facilities, including netball courts.
Volleyball Courts	To be integrated with basketball / netball centres.	The City currently provides one indoor volleyball court at Thornlie Community Centre.	Under provision – Based on an under provision of basketball and netball courts, volleyball opportunities can also be viewed as lacking. Volleyball WA included an outcome in its Strategic Plan (2018-2021) to develop a Facilities Strategy (Places to Play). Once completed, the City will have regard to this plan when upgrading or developing volleyball courts.

TYPE OF FACILITY	BENCHMARK	CURRENT PROVISION	ASSESSMENT AND SUMMARY COMMENTS
Specialised Sports Ground	ls (spaces can only be used	l by a single sport)	
Archery	No PLAWA benchmark. To be determined by local circumstances and demographics The City currently provides one archery range for multiple disciplines at Sutherlands Park.		Adequate provision – The City's archery provision is adequate.
BMX Facilities	1:5,000 – 10,000 residents – Neighbourhood level dirt track 1:50,000 – 200,000 residents – Regional level bitumen track Requirement 12 Neighbourhood dirt tracks, or 1 Regional bitumen track (or a combination of Neighbourhood and Regional tracks)	There are currently no specialised BMX facilities within the City that meet the benchmark for the current population. The City partially provides BMX, along with other small- wheeled sports, at: • Thornlie Skate Park • Jean Garvey Park Skate Park • Mills Park Skate Plaza • Westfield Street Reserve	Under provision – The City is under provided for in terms of BMX facilities.
Croquet Courts	No PLAWA benchmark. To be determined by local circumstances and demographics	The City currently provides two outdoor croquet courts at Mazzucchelli Park.	Adequate provision – Current croquet provision is adequate.
Diamond Pitch Sports (Baseball, Softball, Tee Ball)	1:10,000 – 14,000 residents – senior sized diamonds Requirement 8 senior diamonds	 The City currently provides five permanent senior diamonds: Langford Oval (4) Tom Bateman Reserve - Baseball WA facility (1) 	Adequate provision – In total the City's diamond pitch sports provision is adequate.
Equestrian Facilities	No PLAWA benchmark. To be determined by local circumstances and demographics.	The City currently provides one multi-discipline equestrian facility at Karinya Equestrian Park.	Adequate provision – The City's equestrian provision is adequate.

TYPE OF FACILITY	BENCHMARK	CURRENT PROVISION	ASSESSMENT AND SUMMARY COMMENTS
Golf Courses	No PLAWA benchmark. To be determined by local circumstances and demographics	The City currently contains one 18-hole golf course at Gosnells Golf Club (private club).	Adequate provision – Currently the City's golf course provision is adequate.
Hockey Pitches	No PLAWA benchmark for synthetic pitches. To be determined by local circumstances and demographics	The City currently provides one outdoor Synthetic hockey pitch at Sutherlands Park.	Adequate provision – In total the City's hockey pitch provision is adequate.
Lawn Bowls Greens	1 bowling green:35,000 to 50,000 residents – District Requirement 3 to 4 bowling greens	to 50,000 residents – District eight bowling greens at : Gosnells Bowling Club – 4 synthetic greens Thornlie Bowling Club	
Skate Parks	1:25,000 to 50,000 residents – Regional 1:10,000 to 25,000 residents – District 1:5,000 to 10,000 residents – Local Requirement 2 Regional, or 5 District, or 12 Local (or a combination of regional, district and local skate parks)	The City currently provides four skate parks at: Regional: • Mills Park – district • Jean Garvey Park • Westfield Park • Thornlie Skate Park	Adequate provision – The City's provision of skate parks is adequate. A new Regional skate park should be considered in any appropriate future youth spaces.
Synthetic Surfaces	No PLAWA benchmark. To be determined by local circumstances	The City has a synthetic pitch at Mills Park that provides: • Soccer • 5-a-side soccer • Other sports as requested	Adequate provision – The City's provision of synthetic surfaces is adequate.
Tennis Courts	1:15,000 – 30,000 residents – District 1:30,000 – 60,000 residents – Regional 16 outdoor courts minimum for a Regional facility Requirement 4 courts – District, or 2 courts – Regional	 The City currently provides 16 tennis courts at: Thornlie Tennis Centre (9) Memorial Park Tennis Centre (4) The Avenues (2) Mills Park (1) 	Adequate provision – The City's provision of tennis courts is adequate. The Tennis West Strategic Facilities Plan (2018 and beyond) recommended the development of Regional tennis hubs in growth areas (including the City).

TYPE OF FACILITY	BENCHMARK	CURRENT PROVISION	ASSESSMENT AND SUMMARY COMMENTS
Leisure and Recreation Ce	entres		
Aquatics Facility (Leisure Centre)	1:150,000 residents – Regional – (50m pool – FINA standard) 1:75;000 residents – District (25m or 50m pool) 1:30,000 residents – Local (25 m + leisure pool) Requirement 1 pool Regional, or 1 pool District, or 4 pools Local (or a combination of Regional, District and Local aquatics facilities)	The City currently provides one Local indoor aquatic facility at Leisure World (8 lane 25m indoor heated pool with a zero depth beach pool entry leisure pool).	Under provision – The City is under provided for in terms of aquatics facilities.
Indoor Sports Facility (Recreation Centre) A multi-functional, sport recreation and community meeting place	1:250,000 residents – Regional – (6/7 indoor courts with ancillary spaces) 1:50,000 – 100,000 residents – District – (Minimum of 3 indoor courts with ancillary spaces)	 There is currently no indoor sports facility within the City that meets the benchmark. The City partially provides three sports facilities at: Richard Rushton Community Centre (1) Langford Community Centre (1) Thornlie Community Centre (1) The three indoor courts are used for badminton, futsal (indoor soccer), volleyball and basketball training. They are also utilised for community fitness programs. 	Under provision – The City is under provided for in terms of indoor sports facilities.

TYPE OF FACILITY	BENCHMARK	CURRENT PROVISION	ASSESSMENT AND SUMMARY COMMENTS
Pavilions and Change Roo	oms		
Sports Club Rooms and Change Rooms	No benchmark All active sporting reserves should have associated facilities. The facilities will be tailored to each site requirements and will include: • Change rooms • Kiosk • Public toilets • Storage • Social space (optional)	The City of Gosnells provides a number of pavilions and change room facilities. All of the main sporting reserves have sports club rooms and change facilities adjacent to the playing fields at: • Canning Vale Oval • Gosnells Oval • Gosnells Dval • Gosnells Bowling Club • Harmony Fields • Karinya Equestrian Park • Langford Netball Centre • Langford Oval • Mazzucchelli Park • Memorial Park Tennis Centre • Mills Park • Sutherlands Park • Thornlie Tennis Centre • Thornlie Tennis Centre • Thornlie Bowling Club • Tom Bateman Reserve • Walter Padbury Reserve	Adequete provision – The City's provision of sports club rooms and change rooms is adequate. New pavilions will be required to service additional sporting reserves recommended in this report.





SECTION 2

Spatial Representation

The City has developed a Sports and Recreation Master Plan map to provide a visual display of facilities across the City (Appendix 1 – 5 refers).

The map captures the existing sports spaces, Leisure World, indoor sports facilities, community centres and sports pavilions within the City boundaries. The existing school sites are shown on the map, including those identified for potential shared use arrangements. A number of potential sites for future recreation facilities have also been noted on the map, as well as a selection of the larger, private (non-City) recreation facilities.

Major recreation facilities located within 2km outside of the City boundaries are also captured on the map.

SECTION 3

Sport and recreation trends

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Image: Mills Park Oval, Beckenham

There are a number of relevant National, State and Local sport and recreation trends that need to be considered when planning for future sporting infrastructure. A summary of these is listed below for facilities, community and participation.

Facilities

- Increased sharing of facilities with education providers.
- Increase in level of amenity required in pavilions for some sports, in particular Australian Rules Football and soccer. This may include additional change rooms, first aid rooms, umpire rooms, office/match rooms, storage, commercial-type kitchens and covered spectator facilities.
- Rise in popularity and installation of synthetic surfaces for large ball sports such as soccer.
- Greater consideration is now being given to holistic facility planning for multi-purpose community buildings (Community Hub model), rather than isolated facility development.
- Increase in statutory obligations, for example compliance with the City's Disability Access Inclusion Plan, risk management and occupational health and safety.
- Greater compliance requirements with the principles of universal design by facilitating access to and use of the facility and its spaces by all individuals and groups regardless of age, ability, cultural background or level of social or economic advantage or disadvantage.
- Increasing trend to focus on all aspects of sustainability including financial, environmental, materials, energy usage and user groups/ tenants.
- Water restrictions and reductions from water providers along with reduced rainfall and higher temperatures that impact upon the City's ability to maintain grass ovals to the standard required by sports and the capacity of grounds to sustain high usage.

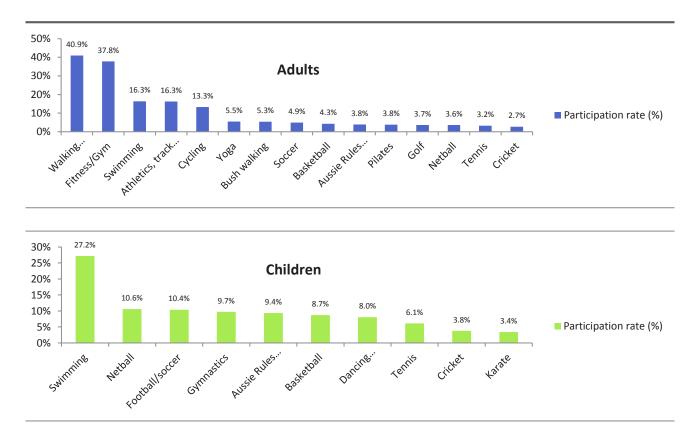
Community

- Greater reliance from community on locally accessible and lower cost recreation opportunities such as walking/running trails and outdoor fitness equipment by those without the resources to travel or pay for more expensive pursuits.
- There is an increase in older people seeking low cost and low impact activities at more convenient and flexible times of the day.
- Intensification of density in urban areas has impacted upon the amount of private open space available which has resulted in more people using public facilities to hold events that would previously be held at private residences.
- Growth in awareness of the effect increased housing density can have on health and wellbeing. This is particularly important in areas with higher population density, smaller blocks and limited private open space.
- Changes in family structures including a greater number of single parent families, an increase in families with both parents in full-time employment and an increase in fly-in-fly-out families put pressure on the capacity of families to participate in sport.
- Greater community diversity (a higher proportion of the City of Gosnells population born overseas (48.8%) compared to the Western Australian average (39.7%)).

Participation

- Growth in female participation in traditional 'male' sports, in particular cricket and Australian Rules Football.
- Increase in modified games and alternate offerings of sport with shorter games or smaller teams, for example, to help attract new participants, reduce time commitments or make sports more affordable.
- Growth in technology and equipment that helps people to participate in sport and recreation at home or on their own, without needing to join a sports club.

The Federal Government (through Sport Australia) releases AusPlay data each year, on the number of people participating in sport and physical activity. They also report on how many people participate per nation, state or territory. The following is a summary of the 2019 results of top organised activities in WA for adults and children.



Top 15 Activities for Adults and Top 10 for Children in WA





SECTION 4 Priority Projects

The City acknowledges that while it provides extensive sporting opportunities, there is more to be done in some areas.

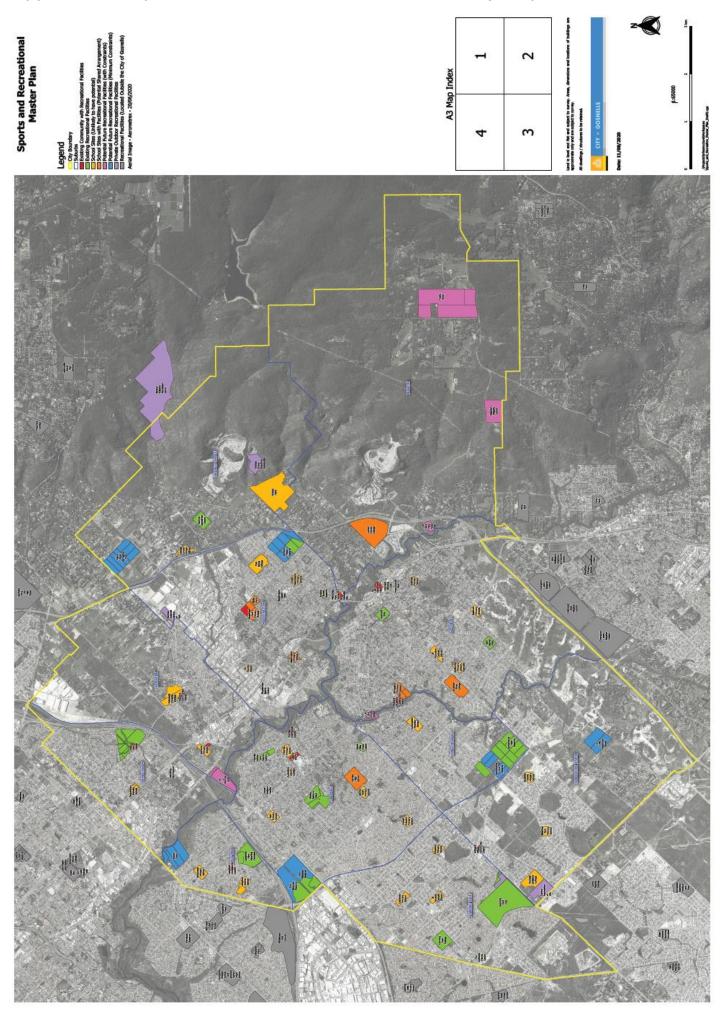
In consideration of the City's benchmarking against current provisions and the key sport and recreation trends, a series of projects to improve the provision of both organised and casual active recreation across the City within the next decade (by 2030) have been identified. The following table outlines these projects. As a guide:

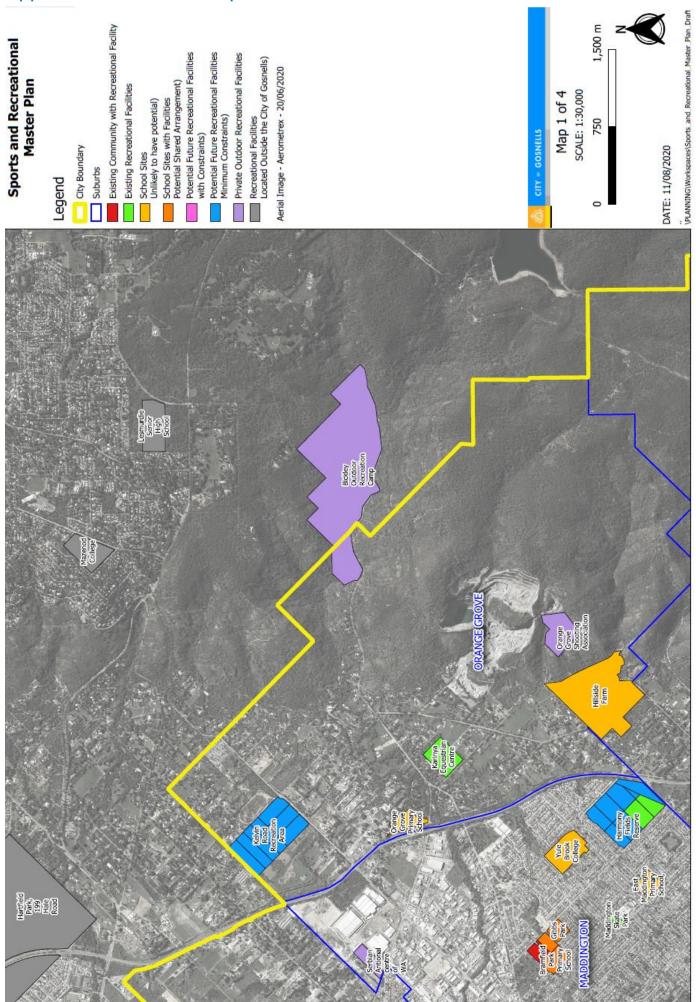
- Priority one projects are currently being undertaken by the City.
- Priority two projects are planned to be undertaken by the City in the next 2-5 years.
- Priority three projects are planned to be undertaken by the City in the next 5-8 years.
- Priority four projects are planned to be undertaken by the City in the next 8-10 years.

Table 2 – Future Priority Projects

PRIORITY	SITE	PROJECT	COMMENT
1	Thornlie Park	Additional tennis courts	To help improve the City's provision of tennis courts, the City will construct an additional three courts at Thornlie Tennis Club.
1	Gosnells Oval	Improvement Plan	To provide increased community recreation opportunities, support the growth in female football, reduce water usage and meet sports' requirements, the City will finalise an Improvement Plan including upgrades to the grandstand, play facilities and reticulation.
1	Sutherlands Park	Master Plan	To maximise opportunities for sport and recreation, the City will finalise a Master Plan including new and improved clubroom facilities, sports spaces, sporting infrastructure, recreation spaces, as well as associated parking. In order to improve the provision of aquatic and indoor sports facilities, the City will also investigate the feasibility of a new recreation and aquatic centre on site.
2	Former Kelvin Road Tip site	Alternative sports centre	The eastern area of the former tip site (approximately 30 hectares) will be rehabilitated to provide public open space for recreation activities such as horse-riding, bush walking, passive recreation, dog walking, cycling and children's nature play. The site could also be connected to existing trails (walking and cycling) on the Darling Scarp
2	Southern River College	Additional shared oval	There are a number of schools across the City that have facilities/areas that could be shared/developed in order to improve the provision of sports spaces including soccer, rugby and netball/basketball. The City will work in partnership with Southern River College to achieve this.
2	Langford Park Sporting Complex	Indoor netball/ basketball courts	There is sufficient space at Langford to construct new clubrooms and a new indoor four court facility. The City will investigate the feasibility of this facility, which will help to improve the provision of netball/basketball courts.
3	Gosnells Bowling Club	Replacement clubrooms	The City will investigate the feasibility of replacing the existing clubrooms, relocating one bowling green and potentially relocating croquet courts to this site. This would help to provide increased community recreation opportunities and improve sustainability of the facility and club.
3	Hester Park	Redeveloped ovals	There are two existing ovals which are not currently used as sports spaces at Hester Park. The redevelopment of this site, including 210 new housing blocks, would support the reconstruction of the two ovals, and provision of improved passive recreation spaces, walk trails, a pump track, half-court basketball courts and potentially an off-leash dog park. This would provide additional community recreation opportunities and help to improve the provision of BMX facilities.
4	Harmony Fields	Additional oval	Previously, limited groundwater has restricted further development of this site. The City has identified an alternative water source which would allow for another oval to be constructed, which would help to improve the provision of facilities for soccer or rugby. If water availability is not sufficient at Harmony Fields for these facilities, the City will investigate other sports spaces that do not require water to maintain their facilities including netball/basketball as these sports are under-provided for within the City.
4	Jean Garvey Park	Casual soccer pitch	Informal use of the current facilities for soccer has clashed with organised sports. This project provides an opportunity to develop a soccer pitch and provide additional community recreation opportunities for casual users.

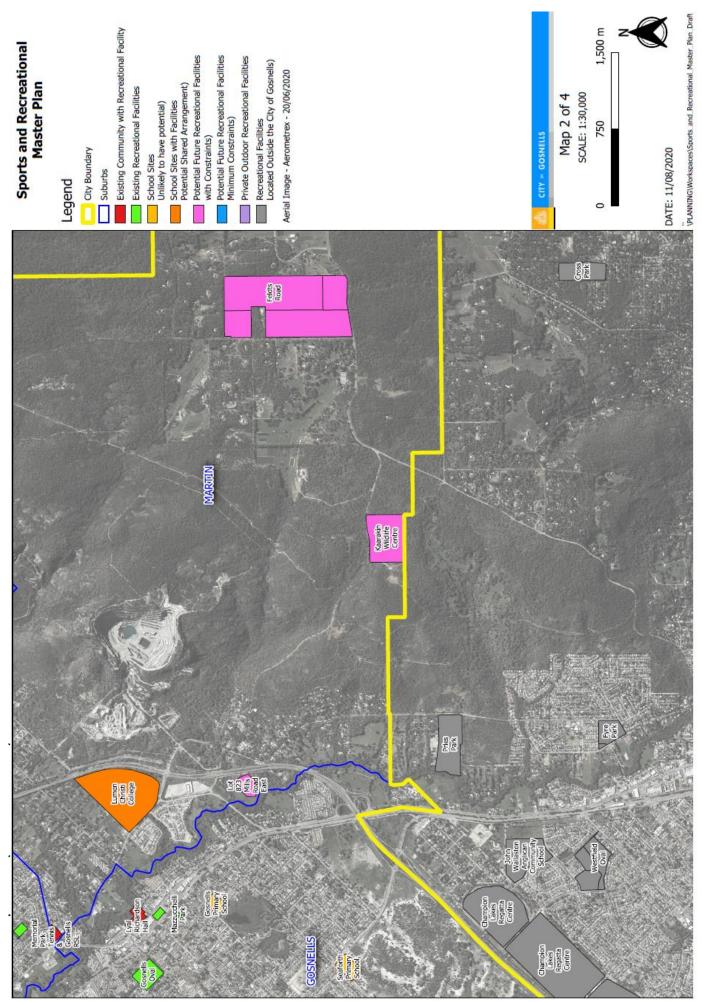
Appendix 1 – Sports and Recreation Master Plan (full City map)

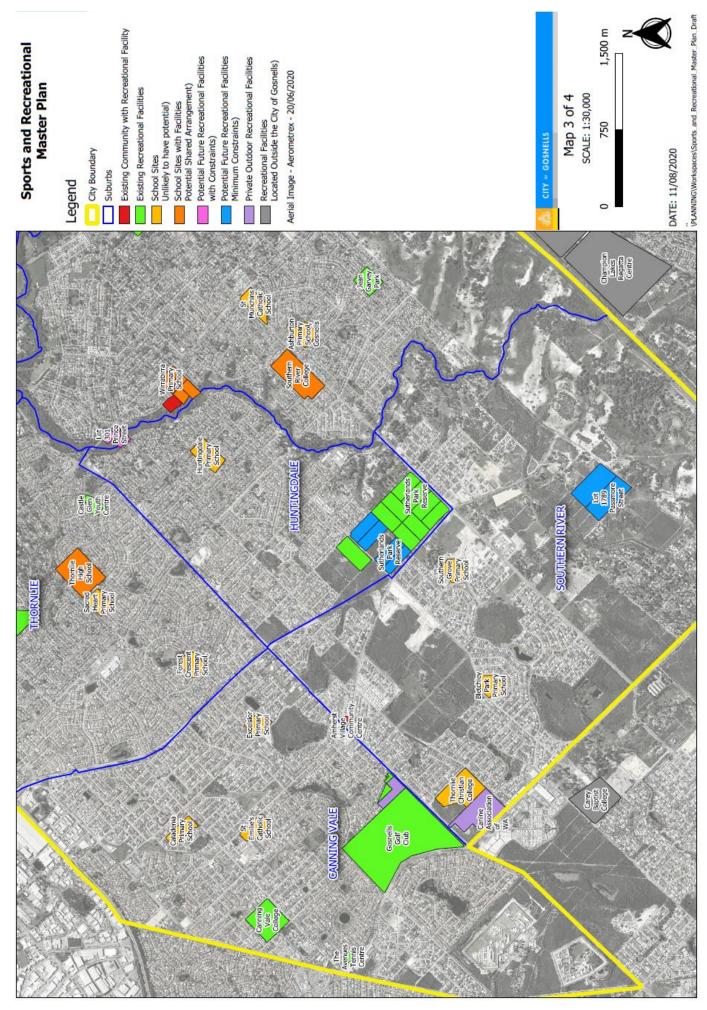




Appendix 2 – Detailed Map (North East section)

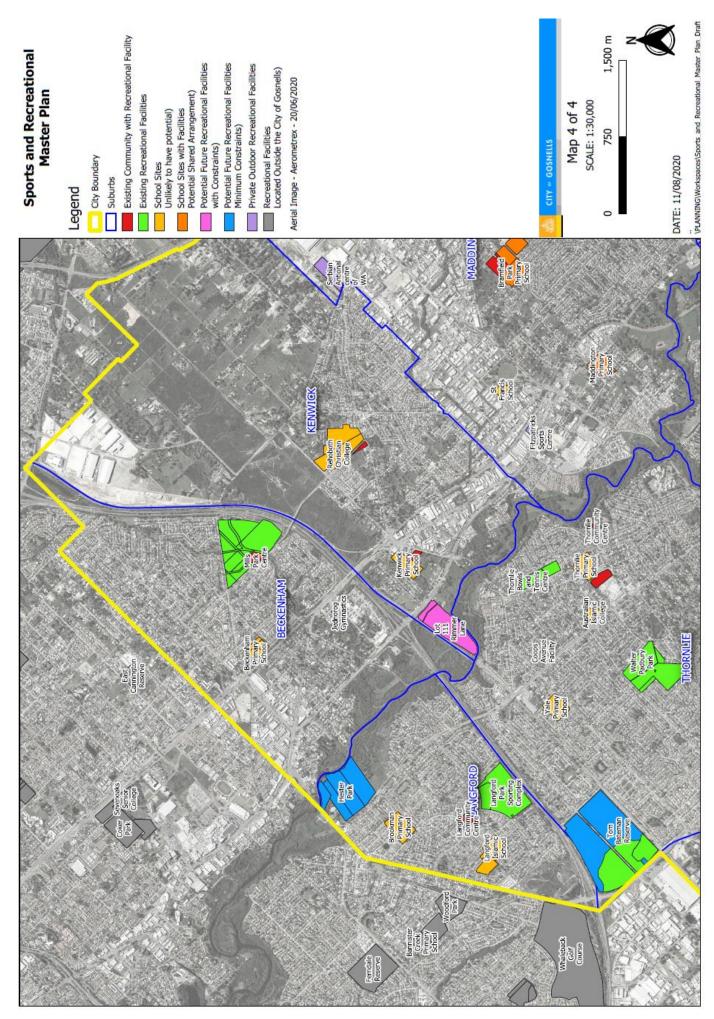
Appendix 3 – Detailed Map (South East section)





Appendix 4 – Detailed Map (South West section)

Appendix 3 – Detailed Map (North West section)





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