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Sport, Recreation and Open Space Strategy

The City of Victor Harbor will continue a strong focus on ensuring community has access to a variety of open spaces following the adoption of its Sport, Recreation and Open Space Strategy at the July Ordinary Council meeting.

The strategy has been developed to help Council plan for, maintain, and activate its open spaces. It identifies current gaps and provides a range of low, medium and high priority recommendations to improve sport and recreation opportunities.

The overall long-term vision is to maintain, conserve and promote a diversity of open spaces for the enjoyment and benefit of Victor Harbor's community and visitors.

City of Victor Harbor Deputy Mayor, David Kemp, said Council works hard to maintain its open spaces, acknowledging that active wellbeing and biodiversity are important aspects the local lifestyle. In the 2023/24 Annual Business Plan and Budget, 9c from every dollar of Council rates is to be spent on parks, playgrounds and sports facilities.

"The City of Victor Harbor has an enormous task managing 142 open spaces, including 42 recreation spaces, 12 sporting spaces, 77 nature spaces and 11 public realm spaces. That's 1,326 hectares of open space in total," said Deputy Mayor Kemp.

The development of the Sport, Recreation and Open Space Strategy was identified as a priority during planning for the Regional Community, Sport and Recreation Precinct (The Precinct). While The Precinct addresses an immediate need for growing indoor sport and recreation needs, the strategy takes a holistic approach and predominantly looks at outdoor spaces.

The strategy is evidence-based and informed by audits of Council's open spaces and facilities, benchmarking analysis, and feedback from the community.

Deputy Mayor Kemp wanted to thank the community and key stakeholders for their contributions to the development of this strategy.

"Over the past 18-24 months, a significant amount of community consultation and stakeholder engagement was undertaken in relation to sport and recreation. Once again, community feedback has been essential to plan for Victor Harbor's future," said Deputy Mayor Kemp.

“One of the key themes that emerged was the high importance that our community places on access to open spaces and recreation facilities. This is supported through other research we’ve conducted where maintenance of parks, gardens and reserves is highlighted as an important service area.”

Engagement with the community also demonstrated that there are gaps in the variety of facilities available to support different demographics.

“In line with what we’ve heard, the Sport, Recreation and Open Space Strategy looks at enhancing our existing open spaces,” said Deputy Mayor Kemp.

“Some of the strategic actions outlined in the strategy will be implemented immediately and ongoing. This includes ensuring that new open spaces are developed based on the appropriate hierarchy, function and are accessible by the immediate community.”

“Further projects, like master plans for key recreation reserves and sites, will be considered by Council through annual budgeting processes over the next decade.”

To learn more and view the Victor Harbor Sport, Recreation and Open Space Strategy, visit www.yoursay.victor.sa.gov.au/open-space