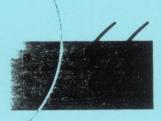
BATHURST CITY COUNCIL

BATHURST OPEN SPACE STUDY

NOVEMBER 1993



M A N I D I S R O B E R T S CONSULTANTS BATHURST CITY COUNCIL

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Funding
Principles for development control plans
Maintenance budgets per precinct

SUMMARY

This study has found that Bathurst is well supplied with open space in terms of quantity, and that in some areas there is an oversupply. However, the quality of open space should be urgently improved. There is potential for this to occur, particularly in key areas such as along the Macquarie River. The key findings of this report are that there is a need to:

- Adopt quality, rather than quantity, as the main criterion in developing open space.
- Develop and extend the open space corridor along the Macquarie River between Eglinton and the railway bridge near Kennerson Park.
- Provide recreation facilities specifically designed for young children and teenagers.
- Rezone unneeded open spaces for other purposes particularly surplus small parks, undeveloped parks and open space areas along roadsides — and to use the proceeds of land sales to improve the quality of key open space areas.
- Improve Council's skills base in recreation planning to help make best use of available resources.
- Increase and improve swimming opportunities.
- Develop additional bicycle paths for access to open space and commuting.
- Develop a civic space with a pedestrian focus.
- Improve dual use drainage areas for recreation.

On the basis of these findings, the priorities for Council are shown in **Table A**. The implementation of these actions will:

- Minimise Council maintenance expenditure on low quality, under-utilised open space.
- Improve recreation opportunities and quality of life of local residents.
- Raise the tourism profile of Bathurst as a high quality regional recreation area.

Table A: Priority actions for Council

Action	Achieve by	Estimated cost
Engage a suitably qualified specialist to prepare a plan of management and masterplan for the Macquarie River open space corridor.	end 1994	\$40,000-50,000
Rezone and sell surplus small parks, undeveloped parks and open space areas along roadsides for other purposes, and use the proceeds to improve the quality of key open space areas. Particular focus should be placed on surplus open space in Raglan, Kelso and Windradyne. Council to form limited term (sunset) committees for each precinct where open space is to be rezoned to ensure community input into the process.	1994-1996	Staff time of, say, 40-50 hours per precinct to identify surplus open space areas, and areas to improve, together with the community
Initiate a consultation process with teenagers with the aim of providing recreation opportunities specific to their needs. The formation of a limited term (sunset) youth committee is recommended.	mid-1994	Staff time of, say, 40-50 hours to identify open space needs
Engage a suitably qualified specialist to prepare a plan of management and masterplan for the development of a civic space.	end 1995	\$40,000-50,000
Employ a recreation officer with a specific charter to reduce the oversupply of open space, improve the quality of open space, and ensure the effective use of Council's resources.	end 1994	\$40,000-45,000 per annum (includes salary plus overheads)
Implement the recommendations of the 1993 Bathurst Bike Plan.	1994-2000	Costings are included in 1993 Bathurst Bike Plan
Prepare a plan of management for dual use drainage/open space areas in line with Department of Planning guidelines.	1994-1996	Staff time and resources
Redevelop the swimming pool to provide for year-round swimming.	end 1996	\$500,000-2,000,000 (depending on scope)

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

In recent years, the cost of developing and maintaining open space to an acceptable community standard has been increasing while funding resources have been decreasing. Many of the previous capital development grants are no longer available and general council rates have been reduced in real terms. At the same time, community demands and expectations for quality recreation opportunities have strengthened.

Open space is a significant item of local government expenditure. In 1990 in metropolitan Sydney, about 10% of the total expenditure by local government was on managing outdoor recreation and open space (Department of Local Government, 1991). However, it was estimated in 1992, that less than 1% of this open space expenditure was directed toward planning these areas (Department of Planning, 1992). These trends are similar in other local government areas in New South Wales. It is clear that more focus is required for planning, to ensure resources are effectively allocated.

Planning of open space is experiencing important changes. The major change is the shift from the *standards-based* approach (where a specified quantity of open space is provided per person) towards the *needs-based* approach (where the specific needs of the community are addressed). This *needs-based* approach recognises that because the character of each community and the nature of the surrounding land vary significantly, each community would have different needs. In addition, it is now recognised that planning should focus on providing *quality* open space areas with a diversity of recreational experiences as it has been found that simply maintaining a specified *quantity* of open space does not meet the community's recreational needs.

In recognition of this, Bathurst City Council engaged Manidis Roberts Consultants to prepare this open space study to meet the present and future recreational needs of the community. This study will enable Bathurst Council to clearly understand the issues relating to open space, apply strategies for effective management, and serve the community's diverse and changing needs.

1.4 THE PLANNING PROCESS

The key steps in the study (illustrated in Figure 1) were to:

- Prepare open space goals to guide the formulation of policies for all issues relevant to
 open space planning. This was achieved in a focus group session with Bathurst City
 Council. These goals strengthen the corporate direction of and support for the study.
- Identify issues through a review of background information and a series of workshops. These were held with Council, delegates from community and sporting groups, and a Year 9 and Year 11 class from both a State and private co-educational school. Numerous relevant state government authorities and other organisations were also contacted. (Refer to Appendix A.)
- Collect open space supply information. Bathurst Council's existing inventory of open space areas was redesigned and updated to include additional information, such as the classification of each space according to recreation setting and maintenance condition and budget allocations. Information on existing and proposed regional open space areas was obtained through consultation with the relevant government authorities.
- Collect demand information by:
 - Reviewing key background documents.
 - Analysing national information on recreation participation (DASET, 1991).
 - Assessing demographic data of the community.
 - A major consultation program which included the above mentioned workshops, discussions with officers of adjacent councils and government authorities, media release, letterbox drop of a specially prepared questionnaire (this was also made available at shopping centres and key community facilities), and a public exhibition.
- Combining supply and demand information to identify the imbalances in existing provision. To rectify the imbalances, each issue was addressed, policies formulated for future provision, and actions for implementation outlined.

1.5 REPORT STRUCTURE

The report is broadly divided into three sections:

- Section 1: goals for open space within the local government area.
- Section 2: existing supply of and demand for open space and facilities.
- Section 3: key open space issues and strategies for future provision.

2.2 APPROACH TO PLANNING

2.2.1 Recreation opportunity spectrum and the settings approach

The concept of the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) is a means of classifying opportunities for outdoor recreation. The basis of the ROS is that the recreational needs of a community are most likely to be satisfied if a range of experiences are provided through a range of settings. Using the philosophy of the ROS, the settings approach has been developed and is recommended by the State Government (Department of Planning, 1992). This approach involves classifying open space according to the character of its surrounds and the inherent recreational opportunities. Settings include bushland, parkland, formal gardens and outdoor facilities. By classifying open space according to setting, an immediate analysis of the range of recreation opportunities can be determined.

Bathurst has a relatively wide spectrum of recreation opportunities, ranging from structured activities in Learmonth Park, to unstructured activities along Macquarie River and in pocket parks.

Planning models

As outlined in *Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Guidelines* (Department of Planning, 1992), there are three models for planning outdoor recreation and open space. These models are for:

- Developed areas, such as central Bathurst, where the community can be directly
 consulted for their attitudes, participation rates and preferences as the open space
 system is already largely in place.
- Infill areas, which may undergo redevelopment urban consolidation, and remaining areas, such as in Kelso and Raglan, which are being developed for new residential purposes.
- New release areas, such as Macquarie Plains.

As Bathurst is predominantly a developed city, the developed areas model and infill areas model are most relevant.

SECTION ONE Goals

3 OPEN SPACE GOALS

3.1 BATHURST COUNCIL'S VISION

3.1.1 Overall visionary objective

Bathurst Council's mission statement, or overall visionary objective, (September 1992) is:

"The equitable development and maintenance of services provided for the general health and well-being of the citizens of Bathurst and the adjustment of these services to meet changing needs with adequate facilities provided for 40,000 people by the year 2006."

3.1.2 Open space objectives and actions

Council has a specific objective for open space and outdoor recreation which flows from the overall visionary objective:

"To develop a policy to meet the changing needs of the community in supplying quality passive and active recreational requirements, as well as to provide conditions that will enable individuals and groups to develop and facilitate Community Services."

The following actions relate to this specific objective:

- "Optimise the use of existing sporting facilities in catering for a variety of sporting needs through the development of quality, multi-purpose facilities rather than the supply of additional, active recreational grounds."
- "Provision of passive recreational needs that can supply a range of recreational opportunities rather than the limited recreational opportunities that currently exist."
- "Review the hectare/per capita, existing open space requirements, and investigate the supply of strategically located, quality facilities."

The salient resolutions were to:

- Identify all parks, playing fields, reserves and areas of open space.
- Identify those areas worthy of being retained and/or developed.
- Identify the status (ownership) of those areas not required and determine whether they can be sold or returned to the Crown. Determine the level of income yielded from any disposal.
- Decide on whether to dispose of unwanted areas.
- Allocate any funds received from sales, to the improvement of those areas remaining.
- Identify and allocate the lowest possible category to those areas that are not required, but cannot be sold. Plant out these areas and return them to native bush.
- Determine a Five Year Plan for maintenance and development of those areas to be retained.
- Divide the City into precincts based on population densities and their current and future needs for recreational facilities. This should be based on guidelines biased towards the provision of quality rather than quantity.
- Investigate in conjunction with Council's Town Planning Department, prior to development approval, the appropriateness of land for parks or open spaces in all new residential subdivisions, and provide Section 94 contributions where the appropriateness of land contributions is neither feasible nor practical.

SECTION TWO
Existing supply and demand

4 OPEN SPACE WITHIN & ADJACENT TO BATHURST

4.1 BATHURST CITY

Bathurst is located in the Central Tablelands of New South Wales, some 200 km west of Sydney (refer to **Figure 2**). It is located wholly within Evans Shire and is approximately 55 kilometres east of Orange.

It has an estimated (1992) population of 28,000 and a growth rate of 2.58%, the highest of any inland centre in the State.

Open space plays an important role in the landscape of the City. Of particular importance is the Macquarie River floodplain, which is one of the key open space areas catering for both structured and non-structured recreation. There are also numerous parklands throughout Bathurst providing both recreational opportunities and visual amenity.

For planning purposes, Bathurst is divided into 10 precincts:

- Central Bathurst
- includes Bathurst city centre
- Windradyne
- northwest, and adjoining Central Bathurst precinct
- Mount Panorama
- northeast of and adjoining Central Bathurst precinct
- Kelso
- directly east of, and adjoining, Central Bathurst precinct
- South Bathurst
- directly south of, and adjoining, Central Bathurst precinct
- Gormans Hill
- directly east of, and adjoining, Central Bathurst precinct

Rural

- completely surrounds Bathurst city and suburbs
- Raglan
- village seven km east of Central Bathurst
- Perthville
- village eight km south of Central Bathurst
- Eglinton
- village seven km north-west of Central Bathurst

4.2 OPEN SPACES ADMINISTERED BY BATHURST COUNCIL

4.2.1 Characteristics of existing spaces and facilities

Council administers 133 open space areas covering approximately 738 hectares (refer to **Figure 3**). Open space areas administered by Council vary in catchment, classification and size. An inventory of open space areas, including the details of each area, was prepared for this study by Council. An outline of the characteristics of the spaces is provided below.

Bathurst provides a range of regional, district and local open space areas, as follows:

- 67% of spaces serve a local catchment catering to a local community, being unnamed predominantly pocket parks scattered throughout the City.
- 14.5% serve a district catchment and typically cater to residents from across Bathurst
 City. Bicentennial Park and Raglan Oval are recorded as district open space areas.
- 19.5% serve a regional catchment. Key regional open space areas include the Mount Panorama area, the Sportsground and Proctor Park. Regional open space areas serve more than one local government area and users are prepared to drive significant distances to visit the area.

The size of the open space areas is also variable but there is a predominance of small open space areas (under one hectare). As shown in **Table 1**:

- 47% of the open space areas are under one hectare, with 31% under 0.5 hectare.
- 33% are between 1.0 and 5.0 hectares.
- 20% are greater than 5.0 hectares and considered to be significant in size. Seven of these large open space areas are over 20 hectares Learmonth Park (28 ha), Sir Joseph Banks Nature Park (48 ha), Conrod Straight Park (53 ha), Rifle Range (194 ha) Hector Park (24 ha), the Cemetery (38 ha) and Ben Chifley Dam (24 ha in land and 573 ha in water). Together these spaces represent 55% of the total open space in Bathurst administered by Council.

Table 1 shows that, as a whole, Bathurst has sufficient small parks and that Council should aim to increase the number and percentage of larger multi-purpose parks with a district catchment.

Table 1: Size of open space areas administered by Bathurst Council

Size (ha)	Number of open space areas	% of total open space areas
< 0.5	41	30.8
0.5 - 1.0	21	15.8
1.0 - 5.0	44	33.0
5.0 - 10.0	13	9.8
10.0 - 20.0	7	5.3
> 20.0	7	5.3
TOTAL	133	100.0

The majority (81%) of open space areas are classified as unstructured spaces. These areas provide space and facilities suitable for casual recreation. The remaining 19% of spaces are classified as structured spaces, providing specific facilities for sports such as racing, rugby, hockey, cricket, netball, and tennis.

4.2.2 Range of recreation settings and opportunities

The range of recreational settings is considered on two levels: on a city-wide basis and on a precinct basis.

City-wide assessment

Bathurst provides a variety of recreation opportunities through the range of recreation settings provided by Council. Thirteen open space settings are represented, ranging from formal gardens to outdoor facilities. As shown in **Table 2**:

• The most common setting is small parks, representing 17.7% of total settings. However, this setting has an average of 0.3 ha per open space area and therefore incorporates only a small portion of the total open space in Bathurst.

- There are 15 open space areas in the 'adjacent to road' setting, representing 8% of settings. This is potentially problematic given the poor useability of many of these areas.
- The recreation setting of civic space is not provided in Bathurst. Civic spaces, such as malls, are popular in other regional centres, such as Armidale and Dubbo.

The salient findings of this City-wide settings assessment are:

- There is an apparent oversupply of the small parks, playgrounds, adjacent to road and undeveloped settings.
- There is an apparent undersupply of the river/foreshore, bushland and civic settings.

Precinct assessment

There is considerable variation in the number and range of recreation settings between the precincts in Bathurst (see **Table 3**).

Table 3: Distribution of recreation settings per precinct in Bathurst

Precinct*											
Setting	RUR	WIND	MTP	СВ	SB	GOR	KEL	RAG	PER	EGL	Total
Indoor facilities			<u> </u>	1		1		1			2
Formal gardens				3						1	3
Small parks		4 5		9	2 2	1	10	2	1	4	33
Playgrounds		5	1	9	2	1 3	1	1 3		1	21
Outdoor sports facilities		1	6	9	1	3	3	3	1	1	28
Parkland		10	3	8	1	1	6	1		1	30
River/Foreshore	1	2	2	5			4		1		13
Bushland		1		1		1					4
Adjacent to road		8	2	lî			4				15
Undeveloped	1	4	2 2 5	4		3	5	6		1	28
Zoological	1		1		1	~			1	1	1
Drainage reserve		1	1		2		2	2			7
Total (# settings in each precinct)	2	35	20	50	8	9	35	16	3	7	185

* Precincts abbreviated above are:

RUR	-	Rural	GOR	-	Gormans Hill
WIND	-	Windradyne	KEL	-	Kelso
MTP	-	Mount Panorama	RAG	-	Raglan
CB	-	Central Bathurst	PER	-	Perthville
SB		South Bathurst	EGL	-	Eglinton

4.2.3 Maintenance and management

Maintenance level

The maintenance level of the open space areas and assets varies, according to a maintenance service level classification. This is:

- A-B Maintained to a high standard on a full-time basis, being inspected daily.
- C-D Inspected and maintained on a weekly basis.
- E-F Inspected and maintained on a six weekly basis.
- G Not maintained, but are inspected upon specific requests.

Table 4 shows the maintenance levels across the open space areas in Bathurst. About 38% are inspected and maintained on a six-weekly basis. Only 7% are maintained on a daily basis and 16% on a weekly basis.

Table 4: Maintenance level of open space areas in Bathurst City

Level +	No. of open space areas	% of total open space
AB	9	7.1
CD	21	16.5
CD/EF	18	14.2
EF	48	37.8
G	31	24.4
TOTAL	128 *	100.0

^{*} Note - six open space areas were categorised as not maintained by Council. These include Hector Park (basketball facility), Macquarie View Reserve (tennis), Alec Lamberton Field (soccer), Pistol Range (Mt Panorama), Boundary Road Park (archery), and Rifle Range (Mt Panorama).

+ Refer to text for definition of levels

A cross reference of the maintenance condition with setting indicates that:

- The formal gardens setting requires high maintenance. Each of the four formal gardens in Bathurst receives daily inspections and maintenance.
- The bushland setting generally receives low maintenance. Three of four open space areas in this setting are not maintained.
- The small park setting is mainly inspected and maintained on a six weekly basis.

- The river/foreshore setting receives a low budget per hectare given the high importance of this setting.
- It would be desirable to reduce the adjacent to road budget/hectare given the poor recreation opportunities which the setting offers.

The budget for each setting varies between the different precincts in Bathurst. **Appendix D** details the maintenance budget per precinct. The main trends are:

- The overall precinct average is highest for Central Bathurst at \$3,195/ha. Windradyne is the second highest at \$839/ha.
- Currently, no budget is allocated to the rural precinct, and \$278/ha is the average for the Mt Panorama precinct.
- In Central Bathurst, the budget for the formal garden setting is significantly higher than all other settings.
- In Kelso and Perthville, there is an equitable distribution amongst settings.
- In South Bathurst, a significant proportion of the budget is spent on small parks and playgrounds.
- In Windradyne, 55% of budget is spent on parkland.

Management and maintenance structure

Open space in Bathurst is primarily administered by the City Engineers Department, which is responsible for parks, gardens and playing fields, Mt Panorama, cemetery management, footpaths, tree planting and maintenance, drainage, cycleways, parking, lighting, traffic and parking, signage and cleaning in open space.

4.3 OTHER OPEN SPACE IN BATHURST

4.3.1 Open space areas administered by Charles Sturt University

The University significantly contributes to the provision of open space and outdoor recreation facilities in Bathurst and complements the spaces and range of recreation opportunities provided by Bathurst Council.

Outdoor facilities include five playing fields for rugby, soccer, hockey and cricket, two outdoor basketball courts, a nine-hole golf course, four tennis courts, and a large area of parkland.

Open space settings in Charles Stuart University include outdoor facilities, indoor facilities, and parkland.

4.3.2 Open space areas administered by other authorities or groups

Additional open space within Bathurst is provided and managed by other authorities or organisations. The catchment, classification, approximate size and open space setting within each of these areas is presented in **Table 5**.

These spaces contribute to the range of structured recreation opportunities available to the Bathurst community, particularly through outdoor and indoor facilities. The majority of these spaces have a district catchment.

4.3.4 Regional open space near Bathurst

As people naturally venture outside their local government area to meet their open space needs, it is important to consider the recreational catchment of the Bathurst community, particularly spaces in adjacent local government areas, in order to successfully define the range of recreation opportunities available. These areas, and their main characteristics, are presented in **Table 6** and discussed below.

Table 6: Characteristics of regional open space areas near Bathurst

Open space area	Catchment	Classification	App. size (hectares)	Setting
Kanangra Boyd National Park	regional	unstructured	68,300	bushland, river/foreshore
Blue Mountains National Park	regional, state	unstructured	247,000	bushland, river
Evans Crown Nature Reserve	regional	unstructured	425	bushland
Wambool Nature Reserve	local	unstructured	200	bushland
Winburndale Nature Reserve	local	unstructured	9,300	bushland
Hill End Historic Site	regional	unstructured	NA	parkland, civic spaces
Jenolan Caves	regional, State, national	structured, unstructured	2,200	indoor facilities, formal gardens, parkland, bushland
Abercrombie Caves	regional	structured, unstructured	2,200	indoor facilities, parkland, bushland
Wyangala State Recreation Area	regional	unstructured	1,200	parkland, foreshore, outdoor sports
Burrendong State Recreation Area	regional	unstructured	1,200	bushland, foreshore, outdoor sports
Vulcan State Forest	regional	unstructured	35,000	bushland, parkland
Dog Rocks State Forest	local	unstructured	3,500	bushland, parkland, foreshore
Lowes Mount State Forest	local	unstructured	1,500	bushland, parkland
Hampton/Jenolan State Forest	regional	unstructured	14,000	bushland, parkland
Sunny Corner State Forest	local	unstructured	21,500	bushland, parkland
Newnes State Forest	regional	unstructured	30,000	bushland, parkland
Canobolas State Forest	local	unstructured	7,500	bushland, parkland
Macquarie Woods State Forest	regional	structured, unstructured	700	bushland, parkland
Carcoar Dam	regional	unstructured	NA	foreshore, outdoor sports
Chifley Dam	regional	unstructured	NA	foreshore, outdoor sports

State forests

There are numerous state forests near Bathurst, managed by the NSW Forestry Commission. The main role of state forests lie in the provision of timber and the provision of recreational facilities is a secondary objective.

The most important state forests for recreation are Sunny Corner and Macquarie Woods, about 30 km from Bathurst. Both have picnic areas and an arboretum. To the south-east, Vulcan State Forest, near Oberon, attracts visitors for fossicking and mushroom gathering, while Dog Rocks, near Rockley, offers camping and fishing.

All the forests feature pine plantations and some, like Newnes, also have native forest. All plantations have extensive road networks suitable for rallying, touring, trail bike riding and walking. However, some restrictions on road use apply during the bushfire season and wet weather.

Caves

Two of the State's most famous caves, Jenolan Caves and Abercrombie Caves, are within easy access of Bathurst. Jenolan Caves is an hour's drive from Bathurst, while Abercrombie Caves is about 30 minutes' drive. Both offer the opportunity to explore limestone caves, walking trails, bushland, wildlife/bird-watching, and historic buildings. Jenolan also has accommodation at historic Caves House. Both areas are managed by the Jenolan Caves Reserve Trust.

Local dams

Chifley Dam and Carcoar Dam are also important recreational resources for the Bathurst community, providing locations for sailing, water-skiing and fishing. Chifley Dam, located 25 km south of Bathurst and managed by Council, is particularly important. It has 20 sites for camping. A proposal to raise the dam height by 3.5 metres is currently being assessed by Public Works Department. Council indicated that this proposal would have a negligible impact on the area available for land-based recreation but will substantially increase opportunities for water-based recreation.

Conclusion

Bathurst residents are well supplied with a range of excellent regional open space resources, particularly those with bushland, parkland and foreshore settings.

- Average housing density is low, with new release areas averaging 7.5 dwellings per hectare.
- 64% households in Bathurst own or are purchasing their dwelling. 32% of households are renting.
- The majority of dwellings are separate houses (76%), followed by 10% of dwellings being medium-density (semi-detached row, terrace or town houses). 10% of households live in a flat or apartment with presumably little or no private open space.
- Some 12% of households do not have a car while 45% have one car. This points to a reasonable level of mobility and access to regional recreational opportunities.
- 68% of persons have lived within Bathurst city for five years or more indicating a relatively stable population compared to Sydney.

5.1.2 Population projections

Bathurst has grown strongly over the last 15 years. Almost 70% of the City's growth between 1986 and the present occurred on the suburban fringes, in the villages and rural areas. The major growth areas were Raglan (33%), Windradyne (28%), Eglinton (30%) and Kelso (14%). Central Bathurst also grew strongly, largely due to further subdivision and redevelopment of inner city blocks, growth in medium-density housing and increasing popularity of inner-city living.

The ABS projects that this trend of strong growth will continue. Assuming a medium growth rate of 2%, the ABS estimates that the City population will grow to 30,000 by the year 1994, 40,000 by 2009 and 50,000 by 2020. Even with a low growth rate of 1.25%, population will grow to 30,000 by 1997 and 40,000 by 2020. Bathurst District is also growing at about 2%.

Council projects the 2.5% annual growth rate to continue over the next 10 years (resulting in a population of about 35,000 in 2001) while the Department of Planning (1992) estimates a slightly weaker growth rate of 1.95%.

This growth will intensify the pressure on quality open space.

Table 8: Participation in activities undertaken away from home over past seven days

Activity	% of country respondents participated in activity over past seven days	% of national respondents participated in activity over past seven days	
Attending picnic/BBQ	16	43	
Spectator at sport	8	43	
Going for a drive for pleasure	25	47	
Visiting parks	8	29	
Bird watching/nature sketching	3	44	
Walking the dog	16	40	
Walking for pleasure	28	39	

Source: DASET (1991)

From **Table 7**, it is evident that all activities in the country subsample were similar to the national percentages, except for bird watching, walking the dog and spectator at sport. It is likely that going for pleasure drives, attending picnics and BBQs and walking for pleasure are the activities residents of Bathurst are most likely to participate in each month.

Activities likely to be undertaken over a seven-day period vary significantly between the country subsample and the national results. **Table 8** illustrates that residents in country areas participate less in the indicated recreation activities than Australians in general over a seven-day period. During this timeframe, the most popular activities in Bathurst are likely to be walking for pleasure and driving for pleasure.

5.2.2 Bathurst studies

There is relatively little data on the recreation patterns and needs of the Bathurst community. A summary of the more relevant findings is presented below.

Mt Panorama study

This study prepared by Planning Workshop (1984), sought to provide the blueprint for the future development of the Mt Panorama motor racing circuit. The study found that the recreational benefits of Mt Panorama to Bathurst residents are relatively small.

5.2.3 Relevant studies from Armidale City

Due to the lack of hard data on open space and recreation in Bathurst, reference was made to studies in Armidale. The data obtained from these studies are noteworthy for Bathurst given the similarity in terms of the population size, age structure and rural setting.

Armidale Creeklands study

In 1984, a study by Taylor evaluated open space along Armidale's Dumaresq Creek using a child-centred approach to demonstrate the complexities involved in urban open space usage and the need to focus on quality, accessibility and distribution as factors of importance in planning for the needs of children in open space. She drew the following major conclusions:

- There was a strong tendency for children in the 7-13 age group to prefer activities
 which involved natural features. This was particularly evident for 7-9 age group
 children. Vegetation was central to many preferred activities, providing opportunities
 for secrecy and privacy.
- The BMX track was very popular with children in the 7-13 age group, with the most regular users being boys towards the upper limit of the age group.
- Pre-schoolers were the primary users of playground equipment, even though the equipment had been designed for older children. Older children regarded the play equipment as an intermittent activity rather than a destination.

Armidale regional recreation sites study

The recreational patterns of four water-based recreation sites in the Armidale district - Wollomombi Falls, Dangars Falls, Dumaresq Dam and Blue Hole - were investigated in 1991. These locations would equate with, say, Chifley dam and the Macquarie River.

It was found that over 75% of the users at these four sites were from the Armidale local government area. Most users were in groups of two to five people and were generally frequent visitors, with over one third of the people visiting the sites more than two, three or four times annually. An average of 3.3 visits per annum per user was calculated. The

Table 9: Open space areas within Bathurst considered to be the most important

Open space area	Total responses	% of responses
River/Peace Park/cycleway/Bicentennial Park	98	61
Machattie Park/Kings Parade	70	44
Olympic swimming pool	27	17
Sportsground, Morse and Carrington parks	25	16
Top of Mt Panorama	18	11
Centennial Park	12	8
Joseph Banks Reserve	11	7
Golf Course	11	7
George Park	8	5
Learmonth Park	7	4
Showground	7	4
		A 40 (507)

NB: most respondents nominated more than one area, so percentages do not add to 100.

Most important open space areas outside Bathurst

When asked to nominate the most important open space area outside Bathurst, over 30 locations were nominated. As shown in **Table 10**, water-based recreation by far outweighs all other categories in attracting Bathurst residents. These include Ben Chifley Dam; picnic spots along the Macquarie, Turon and Fish rivers (eg at Flat Rock); dams such as Wyangala, Carcoar, Oberon and Burrendong; and Lake Canobolas. Also popular are bushland areas in national parks and nature reserves such as Blue Mountains National Park, and Abercrombie and Jenolan Caves.

Table 10: Open space areas outside Bathurst considered to be the most important

Open space area	Total responses	% of responses
Ben Chifley Dam	33	21
Macquarie, Turon and Fish rivers	33	21
National Parks and Nature Reserves	24	15
Other dams, lakes (Wyangala, Carcoar, Canobolas)	24	15
Abercrombie and Jenolan caves	22	14
Blue Mountains National Park	14	9
Historic villages (eg Hill End, Sofala)	12	8
State forests	10	6
Cook Park, Orange	10	6
Macquarie Woods	7	4

NB: most respondents nominated more than one area, so percentages do not add to 100.

Assessment of existing open space

The survey also found that 53% of respondents feel that existing types of recreation facilities and services are not meeting their needs, and 50% feel that there is insufficient variety of open space in Bathurst.

Open space demands

When asked to suggest improvements to Bathurst's open space, almost all respondents made at least one suggestion, as shown in **Table 11**. The most common demands were for:

- Interesting playground equipment for children (5-10 year-olds), particularly in south Bathurst, and new estates like Marsden and Kelso.
- Better picnic areas with seating, shelters, barbeques, and toilets.
- More trees (eg in George Park, Centennial Park, the pool and Kelso, and along streets/gateways to Bathurst).
- Development of the parks along the Macquarie River.
- More bicycle tracks.
- Fun areas for teenagers (eg roller-skating, skateboard ramp, BMX track, water slides, controlled 'wild space').
- More scenic walking tracks (eg Sir Joseph Banks Reserve).
- A mall, preferably in lower William Street.

Table 11: Suggestions for improved open space in Bathurst

Suggestion	Total responses	% of responses
Creative children's play equipment	27	14
Develop picnic areas	18	9
More trees in parks and along streets	18	9
Develop Macquarie River parks	15	8
Bicycle paths	13	7
Teenage fun areas	10	5
Scenic walking tracks	10	5
Mall	10	5
Cleaner (eg dog-free) parks	8	4
Botanic garden/landscaped gardens	8	4
Covered, heated pool	6	3
Diving pool	6	3
Bushland	6	3
Repair unsafe play equipment	5	3

NB: most respondents nominated more than one area, so percentages do not add to 100.

Open space maintenance level

About 59% of respondents feel that the level of maintenance in open space areas in Bathurst is satisfactory, allowing recreational activities to continue. Suggestions for improvements were:

- Toilets to be cleaner.
- Clean up areas along the Macquarie River.
- Drains in parks to be covered, dog excreta to be kept out of parks and vandalism to be reduced.
- Grass to be mown more frequently, particularly in children's play areas.
- Bicycle paths to be kept free of broken glass.

Ease of access to open space

Some 69% of respondents feel that access to open space is easy. The most common suggestions to improve access were:

- Cycle paths to link and access open space areas (eg Eglinton, Kelso, Perthville).
- Improve signposting, and distribute maps and information on open space.
- Improve access to the river.
- Better footpaths for prams and wheelchairs.
- Better car parking.

5.3.2 Information leaflet - Precinct basis

Of the 168 completed information leaflets, it is possible to provide some assessment of findings on a precinct basis. However, it must be realised that the average response per precinct was relatively low (eg. some precincts had only 4 or 8 responses). Thus, some summary findings may not be representative of the actual precinct feelings/opinions.

Responses were highest in Central Bathurst precinct (45), while 27 were received from Kelso/Raglan, 18 from Windradyne, 13 from West Bathurst, 8 from Eglinton, 8 from South Bathurst and 4 from the Rural Precinct.

Most important spaces

Central Bathurst respondents indicated that their most important spaces are Machattie Park and the Macquarie River. Sports areas and Peace Park were also rated highly.

Kelso/Raglan respondents also rated Machattie Park and Macquarie River as the most important open space areas.

Of the 18 Windradyne respondents, 5 indicated Machattie Park as the most important, however almost as many indicated the importance of the Golf Course, the Olympic Pool and the sportsgrounds.

Similarly, with West Bathurst respondents the importance of Machattie Park and Macquarie River is emphasised. Eglinton respondents, however rated the Eglinton Oval as most important, followed by the Olympic Pool and Macquarie River. Centennial Park was rated highly for respondents in South Bathurst, as was Machattie Park and Mount Panorama.

The low response in the rural precinct makes this analysis a little doubtful, however, Machattie Park received the greatest number of responses.

The majority of responses (59%) in the Central Bathurst precinct considered that the recreational facilities/services were inadequate. Responses considered that more trees, more picnic areas/equipment (including amenities), better playground equipment, more youth facilities (eg. rollerblading/skateboarding area), and extension of the swimming season (upgrade heating in the swimming pool). In addition, these responses considered that there was insufficient variety in the open space areas in Bathurst. The kinds of open space required were civic spaces and wilderness areas as well as more walking and bike tracks.

The eight responses from the Eglinton precinct considered that there was a need for more picnic areas (with amenities) and to upgrade the swimming pool (with the possibility to include a diving pool). The majority of these responses (62.5%) considered that there was sufficient variety in the open space. Other responses requested more riverfront/foreshore areas and civic spaces.

74% of the Kelso/Raglan precinct responses considered that the recreational facilities were inadequate, particularly in terms of playground equipment (better equipment required), picnic facilities (more required), and youth facilities (more required). Additional variety to open space was considered important through provision of wilderness areas, civic spaces and more riverfront areas.

Of the four responses from the Rural precinct, there was demand for more picnic facilities and to upgrade the swimming pool. It was considered that more playground and civic spaces were required to increase variety in the open space areas.

In South Bathurst, the responses called for more cycleways, local parks and trees to improve their open spaces.

In West Bathurst, 85% of responses considered that recreational facilities services were adequate, with some additional playgrounds required. It was also considered that more picnic facilities and river-front open space area would increase variety in open space.

Three-quarters of responses from the Windradyne precinct considered that recreational facilities and services were inadequate, and that more playgrounds, trees, and shrubs were needed. These responses also indicated a need for the swimming pool to be upgraded to increase variety in open space, and more riverfront/foreshore areas and more civic spaces.

5.3.3 Questionnaire to educational institutions

The same questionnaire was distributed to the principals of all schools and the Charles Sturt University. Salient findings were that:

- There is no strong trend regarding open space needs among responses from preschools, primary schools or high schools.
- Most schools believe that open space provision and variety is satisfactory.
- The needs that were nominated included creative playgrounds, particularly in South Bathurst; a larger swimming pool; a heated pool; and specific requests for a basketball court and softball areas in Macquarie View Park, and sports facilities near Kelso Public School.
- Cycleways and walkways were strongly recommended by Charles Sturt University for use by students.

5.3.4 Workshops

Workshops were held with: Councillors and officers of Bathurst Council, delegates of community groups, delegates of sporting groups, Year 9 and Year 11 pupils from Bathurst High School and All Saints College. These workshops provided qualitative data on open space use and needs. (Refer **Appendix A** for list of attendants.) Special workshops were held with school students because it was felt by many in the community that teenagers' needs have been overlooked in the provision of open space. These schools were selected as they are co-educational and representative of the needs of pupils in the State and private school systems. The key issues raised at the workshops are summarised below.

Workshops with Council, community and sporting groups

- Sporting groups are well catered for and no major improvements are necessary in the short to medium term. Future sports fields should be planned in groups of 10 -12 fields to reduce costs.
- The main problems relate to unstructured open space areas.
- Open space maintenance is not considered a problem, and many sporting groups contribute to the maintenance of the sporting fields which they lease.
- The swimming pool should be enlarged to eight lanes, lengthened to 50 metres, semienclosed (possibly with a permanent roof and folding walls), solar-heated, a diving pool installed and the changeroom facilities improved.
- A major need is to improve cycling facilities, including a bikeway system connecting
 the basketball stadium, the golf course and the university; the extension of the bike
 path along the river to Eglinton, and from Kelso to Raglan; and a new path down
 Jordon Creek.
- The community should be involved in fostering a sense of 'ownership' of local parks.
- Where possible, undeveloped parks should be revegetated with native species, and imaginative plans should be drawn up to improve them. Where possible, car parks should also be landscaped.
- The Macquarie River is the most important existing and future open space system in Bathurst because of the water-based recreation opportunities offered, its central location, accessibility, and the facilities available for unstructured recreation. The complexity of its open space should be improved (including play areas, picnic areas, and a series of weirs to extend swimming possibilities), and links with the showground should be explored. A landscape plan for the riverland system is a priority.
- The Department of Housing should be encouraged to begin development of open space near the Housing Commission properties in Kelso (off Boyd Street) as a priority.

- A new mall should be considered in lower William Street to give the city a focus. A
 landscape plan for the mall is needed.
- The improvement of Centennial Park is a priority given the lack of open space in south Bathurst.
- Open space in some areas is over-abundant and very costly to maintain and a plan to rationalise open space should be explored.
- Bathurst's gateways should be enhanced with trees and signage.

Workshops with school groups

While there were slight differences between the age groups, schools and sexes, of the participants in the workshops, the similarities in open space demands are very strong. The most common unsolicited complaint of all groups was that there is nothing to do in Bathurst for the 11-18 years age group, which is not allowed into clubs and hotels, and mostly cannot drive to areas outside the City. There is a feeling of being neglected by the City, and of the imposition of too many restrictions and prohibitions.

Most found it hard to nominate a favourite open space area as "they're all dull". The most frequented areas are water-based: the river areas, Flat Rock/Fish River and the swimming pool.

The most common needs are for excitement, self-expression, privacy, safety, place to make a mark and let off steam. Specific demands are for:

- An affordable, integrated adventure complex by the river featuring skateboard ramps, a graffiti wall, basketball courts, mini-golf, exercise/fitness circuit, roller-skating area, waterslide, and teenagers' play equipment.
- The drive-in (at Mt Panorama) and the skateboard ramp (at John Matthews Sports Complex) to be reopened.
- The riverside open space to be cleaned up.
- Some interesting open space at either Eglinton and Kelso, and a bike track connecting Eglinton with the city.
- More, and wider, bike paths.

SECTION THREE
Strategies

6 ISSUES, POLICIES AND ACTIONS

The proposed open space strategies for Bathurst were developed through community consultation, liaison with Council and other appropriate government authorities, and interpretation of the regional patterns of outdoor recreation. For each open space goal (outlined in Section 1), issues were identified as well as policies, actions and resources. Each issue is presented in a standard format (across two pages) for ease of reading, as shown below.



The identified problem or issue.



A statement relating to the issue, upon which decision by Bathurst Council will be made.



The action of Bathurst Council (and in some cases other groups) to solve the issue.

Actions are prioritised to facilitate implementation.



The resources by which Bathurst Council will achieve the desired actions.

OPEN SPACE GOAL

To meet the changing open space needs of the community, capitalising on Bathurst's natural and cultural attributes.

The provision of open space of a range and quality that meets the recreational, environmental and social needs of the community is vital. Open space and outdoor recreation facilities must also be sufficiently flexible to meet the changing needs of the future community.



Recreational experiences for children

There is a limited range of recreational facilities specifically designed for the young children of Bathurst. This is particularly recognised at the district and regional level.

POLICIES

Council to work towards increasing the quality and variety of recreational facilities specifically designed for young children, in line with the community needs.

- Council to research and determine the most appropriate settings, facilities and locations to meet the needs of young children in Bathurst. In particular, Council to research the feasibility of developing a large playground along the river, which has potential to attract visitors from a regional catchment. Examples of regional playgrounds include: Grant Reserve, Coogee (Sydney); Weston Park, Canberra; Maitland Park, Maitland; Duffy's Road Reserve, Terrigal.
- 2 Council to ensure that new playgrounds provide a wide range of experiences for a broad age group.
- 3 Council to continue to ensure that all existing equipment is safe for use.
- 4 Council to ensure adequate seating and shade for adults supervising children at playgrounds.

Responsibility	Capital cost
Town planning Department	\$50,000 for regional playground
Engineers Department	
Engineers Department	_
Engineers Department	\$500 per bench

SSUES

Develop Macquarie River parks

There is a strong demand for development and extension of the open space corridor along the Macquarie River between Eglinton and the railway bridge near Kennerson Park. Current zoning and the flood prone nature of the land supports the use of this corridor as open space.

POLICIES

Council to work towards establishing the river corridor, from Eglinton to the railway bridge near Kennerson Park, as Bathurst's prime quality open space focus.

- Relevant Councillors and officers to visit high quality waterside open space areas in other cities (eg Canberra, Sydney, Armidale, Randwick).
- Council to prepare a Plan of Management (with concept landscape plan) to develop the river land. Key elements to be specified in the brief for the plan of management are:
- Creatively landscaped areas that focus on river ecosystems and a bushland setting.
- Sheltered picnic areas.
- · Recreation/commuter bicycle paths.
- Improved swimming areas.
- Network of scenic walking tracks.
- Regional children's play area.
- Integrated teenage fun area with, for example, skateboard ramps, graffiti wall, exercise/fitness circuit, teenagers' adventure play area, BMX track, minigolf.
- Bridle track.
- Signage and information.
- · Staging.
- The Plan of Management to investigate and evaluate areas to be included in the corridor, priority areas and undertake actions for establishing the corridor system (including purchase, access agreements etc). Consideration to be given to prioritising the purchase of a strip of land up to 40 metres wide on the eastern side of the river from the low level bridge at Hereford Street to Macquarie Street, to tie in with the 1993 Bike Plan and a strip up to 40 metres wide on the western side of the river up to Macquarie Street.
- 4 Council to seek funding for alternate sources for development of the riverside open space. Development should be staged to meet the financial requirements of Council.
- 5 Council to stage the development of the riverside land.

Resources

Responsibility	Capital cost
Town Planning Department/	
Engineers Department	
Town Planning Department	\$40,000 - \$50,000

Town Planning
Department/
General Manager's
Office

General Manager's
Office
Town Planning \$0.5 - \$2 million
Department



Swimming improvements

There is a demand to increase opportunities for recreation in the pool by enclosing and heating it, extending it and installing a diving pool. There is also demand to improve swimming opportunities along the river.



Council to increase swimming opportunities at both the pool and along the river.

- 1 Council to seek advice from developers and managers of pool complexes to investigate construction of a diving pool, extension of the pool into a true Olympic-size pool and the feasibility of other options to increase the pool's use by the local community. During this period, Council to investigate needs of potential organisational users eg medical and sporting organisations.
- Council to investigate the potential to improve and extend swimming possibilities in the river, and include options in the Plan of Management (see previous issue - Macquarie River parks).
- 3 Relevant Council staff to visit pools where redevelopment has occurred (eg Sydney's North Sydney pool, Leichhardt pool and Enmore Park pool) to investigate design possibilities.
- 4 Council to obtain quotes for design and redevelopment from suitable experts, and establish a program for redeveloping the pool complex, including timing, funding and management.
- 5 Council to initiate redevelopment process.
- 6 Council to promote the swimming pool complex, including inviting use from medical and rehabilitation organisations (eg for hydrotherapeutic use), sporting and training groups and exercise fitness groups (eg for aquarobics).
- 7 Council to investigate the potential of developing Chifley Dam as a regional swimming and recreation attraction.

Responsibility	Capital cost
Town Planning Department	
Town Planning Department	-
Town Planning Department/ Engineers Department	_
Engineers Department/ General Manager's Office	_
Engineers Department	\$500,000- \$2 million (depending on scope of work)
General Manager's Office/	_
Health & Building Department	
Engineers Department	



Additional bushland recreation

There is a demand for recreation experiences in a bushland setting.

POLICIES

Council to encourage development of bushland settings in suitable existing open space areas to increase the variety of recreation opportunities, meet community needs, and help reduce overall maintenance costs.

ACTIONS

- 1 Council to develop Mt Panorama, (particularly Sir Joseph Banks Fauna Reserve), areas of the riverside and areas within Stewart/Windradyne Heights as bushland parks. Investigate community involvement options (eg bushland regeneration).
- Council to develop a bushland/riverside theme in the extension to Macquarie River parkland (refer to issue - Macquarie River parks).
- 3 Council to design and implement a variety of recreation opportunities, particularly accessways, education/interpretation facilities and tables and chairs, in bushland parks.

Responsibility	Capital cost	
Engineers Department	\$10,000 for removal of weeds and rubbish and bush regeneration	
Town Planning Department/ Engineers Department		
Engineers Department	\$10,000 for interpretative information per park \$50/metre for accessways \$3,000 per set for table and chair units	



Increase planting

Planting trees in parks and along streets was a popular demand, to increase shade and the aesthetics of the area.

POLICIES

Council to undertake and encourage the planting of trees in open space areas and along streets to provide shade and improve aesthetics.

ACTIONS

	CALLERY OF THE COLUMN TWO IS NOT THE OWNER OF THE CALLERY OF THE C	recoponistonity	Cupital Cont
1	Council to plant additional trees in open space areas, particularly around the edges of sporting fields to provide sun protection. Priority areas include Learmonth Park, John Matthews Sports Complex, Ralph Cameron Park, Centennial Park, and Eglinton Reserve.	Engineers Department	\$ according to type and size of plants.
2	Council to ensure that shade planting along the river is in line with the proposed plan of management (see issue - Macquarie River parks).	Engineers Department	
3	Council to initiate a Green City Project, similar to that in Newcastle in the 1980s, to raise awareness and prioritise streets where planting is needed, and involve the community in planting and maintenance. Priority areas to include open space in the 'adjacent to road' setting, (eg in Kelso and Windradyne).	Town Planning Department	\$20,000
4	Council to consider requiring developers of new estates to plant street trees in accordance with Council's street trees program.		
5	Council to liaise with Tidy Towns and relevant Council committees to develop green gateways to the City. Gateways to be designed and integrated with uniform and attractive signage.	Engineers Department	_
6	Council to design and construct shade structures integrated with trees to	Engineers Department	— ?

provide further protection from the sun.

Responsibility

Capital cost



Develop more bicycle paths

Additional bicycle paths are needed for recreation, access to open space and commuting. The 1993 Bike Plan has mapped out a strategy to achieve this.

Policies

Council to develop Bathurst's cycleway system to enhance recreational opportunities, access to open space and commuter opportunities, in line with the 1993 Bike Plan.

		Responsibility	Capital cost
1	Council to provide for bicycle corridors along main desire lines. In particular,	Engineers Department/Town	\$100/metre length
	Council to implement the findings and recommendations of the Bathurst Cycling Survey (1990) and 1993 Bike Plan. Particular priority to be placed on links to and along the river (particularly connecting Eglinton and town), Windradyne to town, Bathurst CBD to Charles Sturt University, Kelso to Raglan. In new release areas, bicycle corridors to be developed linking residential areas and major open space areas and facilities.	Planning Department	
2	Council to liaise with RTA in relation to providing safe commuter cycleways along arterials.	Engineers Department	_
3	Council to incorporate planned, safe cycleways in all new road proposals (including widening and upgrading projects).	Engineers Department	
4	Council to install cycle parking areas in all open space, with priority given to areas along the river and at parks most frequented by residents below the legal driving age.	Engineers Department	\$500 - \$2,000 per parking unit
5	Council to ensure bicycle parking areas are provided in shopping centre development proposals, and to seek to have them phased into existing shopping centres.	Engineers Department	
6	Council to ensure that cycleways are wide enough to enable safe riding, particularly where joint cycleway/ walking trails are developed.	Engineers Department	_
7	Council to encourage the formation of neighbourhood cycleway maintenance groups to report on cycleways made unsafe by broken glass, overhanging branches or potholes.	Engineers Department/General Manager's Office	



More walking trails

Develop walking/jogging trails in scenic areas for unstructured outdoor recreation.



Council to support the development of pedestrian movement corridors to meet the recreation and movement needs of the Bathurst community.

5

		Responsibility	Capital Cost
1	Council to provide for pedestrian movement corridors along main desire lines. In new release areas, corridors to be developed linking residential areas and major open space areas and facilities.	Engineers Department	\$50 per metre length
2	Council to develop a walking trail system along the river which also links with nearby open space, such as the swimming pool, John Matthews Sports Complex and Learmonth Park.	Engineers Department/General Manager's Office	\$50 per metre length
3	Council to develop attractive walking trails along drainage lines.		\$40,000
4	Council to ensure that where pedestrians are to share walking tracks with cyclists, the path is wide enough to permit safe overtaking and passing by cyclists.	Engineers Department	_

Engineers

Department

Council to provide adequate signage indicating direction and information on

the movement corridors. Council to

ensure signage complements other visual elements of the parks.

RESOURCES

\$500 - \$2,000 per sign or information board



Need for a mall

Development of a civic space with a pedestrian focus would give a much-needed focus to the City.



Council to support the development of a high quality civic space to provide a civic focus for the people of Bathurst.

1 Council to liaise with Department of Planning (Main Streets Project) and councils like Armidale Council (which have developed successful and popular malls) to establish principles and strategies for creating a civic space, including communications/public relations strategies, and advice on any economic, tourism and civic advantages that would stem from the civic space. 2 Council to commission a qualified traffic consultant and urban design consultant to develop the theme of a civic space. Council's Malls Committee, to provide input into civic space study.

- 3 Council to announce a preferred civic space location and liaise with local landowners regarding likely effects/ benefits.
- 4 Council to plan adequate alternative parking well in advance of the civic space's development.
- 5 Council to ensure that the objectives of quality and useability drive the development of the civic space so that it becomes a focal point in the City.

Responsibility	Capital cost
Town Planning Department/ Engineers Department	
Town Planning Department/General Manager's Office	\$40,000 - \$50,000
Town Planning Department	_
Town Planning Department	_
Town Planning Department	_



Dual use open space

Most dual use drainage/open space areas occur along creeklines, which are valuable open space areas. However, Bathurst's dual use areas generally lack variety, are too linear, and do not form part of the overall open space system.

Policies

Council to develop quality dual use drainage/ open space in new release areas using an interdisciplinary approach to balance engineering, recreation, landscape design and maintenance objectives.

Engineers/Town Council to approach dual use planning Planning/Health & in an interdisciplinary manner, Building incorporating engineering, town Departments planning, landscape architecture and recreation planning disciplines from the beginning. 2 Council to adopt quality, variety and Engineers usability as the driving objectives. Department 3 Council to ensure that new dual use Engineers areas link with other parks in the overall Department/Town Planning Department open space system. Engineers 4 Council to retain existing creekline Department vegetation wherever possible. Engineers 5 Council to plan sportsfields in detention, Department retention and retardation basins, ensuring adequate cross-fall so that fine sediment does not affect open space areas after flooding. 6 Council to ensure that basins are Engineers relatively flat, with a high proportion of Department shallow water during flooding, with aquatic plants around the perimeter to draw water and attract birdlife. 7 Council to prepare a plan of management Engineers for all dual use drainage/open space Department

areas, consistent with the Department of Planning's "Better Drainage" guidelines and the Local Government Act 1993.

ESOURCES

Capital cost

Responsibility

OPEN SPACE GOAL

To encourage community participation in developing and managing open space.

Participation by the local community in the development and management of open space strengthens these processes and ensures preservation of the areas. Encouraging public involvement in maintenance and providing additional opportunities in the planning process generates a sense of pride and ownership in open space. Community involvement can also greatly assist Council, but more importantly, can enhance the quality of the open space area. Several sporting organisations already assist Council in maintaining their sporting grounds, while some community groups assist in planting trees in small parks.

ISSUES

Maintenance

Many of the sporting groups within Bathurst assist in the maintenance of sporting fields. Community participation could be extended to include all sporting groups and other community groups.

POLICIES

Council to strengthen the involvement of community groups and interested individuals in physical maintenance activities in open space areas and to build a sense of ownership in local open space areas, particularly small parks and playgrounds.

required by the community.

		Responsibility	Capital cost	
1	Council to contact each local community group involved in open space and recreation activities to determine their key open space areas.	Parks and Gardens	_	
2	Council to consult with other community groups and nominate one or more groups to each open space area.	Parks and Gardens	_	
3	Council to organise meetings with each community group to provide an understanding of the objectives and goals of community participation in maintaining open space and provide each group with the standards and procedures required.	Parks and Gardens	_	
4	Council to organise and participate in programs for community involvement in open space maintenance, each tailored to meet the individual needs of the community groups and open space areas.	Parks and Gardens		
5	Council to further assist with maintenance activities through provision of materials, such as lawn mowers, as	Parks and Gardens		

ISSUES

Decision-making

The Bathurst community has only a limited role in decision-making on open space and outdoor recreation facilities. Teenagers feel particularly alienated from the decision-making process.

Policies

Council to support further involvement of the community in decision-making relating to open space and outdoor recreation, particularly groups with a direct association with an area or facility.

ACTIONS

- 1 Council to review charters of existing committees, with the aim of establishing recreation as a pollicy concern.
- 2 Council to revise strategies for community participation to suit the community and maintain involvement.
- Council to advertise the formation of a 20-member youth council spanning the 12-17 years age groups to advise Council on their open space and other social/recreation needs. The youth council to be representative of the full spectrum of the City's youth. This should operate at arm's length and independent of Council, initially for 3-4 meetings, with the ongoing need for a youth Council to be reviewed at that point.
- 4 Council to appoint an 'in-touch' person, on a voluntary basis, to coordinate the youth council and ensure that their needs are being addressed by Council.

Responsibility	Capital cost
Town Planning/ General Manager's Office	_
Town Planning/ General Manager's Office	
Town Planning Department	
Town Planning Department	_

GOAL

To develop an affordable and manageable open space system for existing and new release areas.

With declining revenues and increasing costs, Council needs to provide an open space system that can be developed and maintained to the highest possible standard. With 133 parks covering 738 hectares under Council's care and control, and additional parks planned in new release areas, affordability and manageability are increasingly important issues affecting open space provision.



Develop an information base

Information on open space, including physical characteristics and community attitudes, is an important planning and management tool. A sound knowledge of the types of open space, (classify according to settings) maintenance regimes and costs, use patterns and potential future needs of the community would enable strategies to be developed with confidence. There is a need to comply with this aspect of the 1993 Local Government Act.

POLICIES

Council to update and supplement existing information on the supply of and demand for open space and outdoor recreation facilities and expand the data base on areas close to the City to enable effective open space planning.

		Responsibility	Capital cost
1	Council to reclassify all open space according to setting rather than maintenance, in accordance with the recommendations of the Department of Planning.	Engineers Department	_
2	Council to annually update the open space inventory.	Engineers Department	_
3	Council to inform all officers involved in open space and recreation of the inventory and its use as a management tool.	Engineers Department	
4	Council to establish a visitor use monitoring program to:	Town Planning/ Engineers	\$25,000 if specialist input required
•	Survey users and non-users of open space.	Department	
•	Record the demands, attitudes and needs of the users and non-users.		
•	Ensure that maintenance and management regimes reflect community needs.		
5	Council to liaise with Charles Sturt University with a view to using students on a regular basis, possibly as part of research projects.	Town Planning Department	

ISSUES

Limiting surplus open space

Over 18% of open space in Bathurst is in the small park setting and a further 8% is adjacent to roadsides, much of which occurs in strips along the roadside. Many of these are under-utilised and the majority provide very limited recreation opportunities. The high number of homes with large gardens, and cul-de-sacs in new areas (which are used as play areas by children), reduces the need for these pocket parks and roadside open space. In addition, Windradyne has a surplus of parkland, much of which is under-used and expensive to maintain. The new Local Government Act is expected to make it easier for councils to determine the most appropriate land use of land owned in fee simple terms by councils.

Policies

Council to support limiting the number of small parks and roadside open space (particularly strip parks) in low-density residential areas which are well provided with quality open space as well as those small parks not linked to other open space systems and under used. Resources generated from this process to be used to enhance other open space areas to match community need.



1 Council to investigate methods for rezoning unneeded open space for other land uses, particularly residential. Areas to consider are shown in Figure 4, and include:

Kelso: Roadside open space on Gilmour Street, next to St Michael's Hostel; and land straddling the access to Holy Trinity School from Gilmour Street. (1)

Raglan: Three open space areas in the block bounded by Napoleon/Godfrey/Landseer/ Nelson Streets. (2)

Raglan: Drainage land on the corner of Christie and Nelson Streets. (3)

Raglan: The shopping centre site, Frome Street. (4)

Raglan: Old Raglan Oval. (5)

Windradyne: Roadside open space along western side of Booth Street, from Stack Street to Suttor Street. (6)

Windradyne: Open space at end of Elphinstone Place and Scottford Place. (7)

Windradyne: Open space on Evernden Road, opposite Lorimer Street, and down to the detention basin fence. (8)

Windradyne: Open space block on the southeast corner of Suttor Street and Alexander Street. (9)

- 2 Retention of pocket parks to be based on the principles of : usability, maintenance costs, proximity to nearby parks and size (not less than 0.5 hectares).
- 3 Council to direct monies collected from this process into embellishing surrounding open space areas or other open space areas or recreational facilities of major community demand.
- 4 Council to restrict further acquisition of pocket parks, unless they are adjacent to existing open space or part of a movement corridor to a district or regional open space area.
- 5 Council to form limited term (sunset) committees in each precinct where open space is to be rezoned to ensure community input into the process, and help set priorities for the precinct's open space development.
- 6 Council to implement the visitor use monitoring program (see previous issue - information base), to allow Council to gain a sound understanding of use and non-use of small parks.

	RESOURCES	
	Responsibility	Capital cost
	Town Planning	
	Department	
i.		
	Town Planning Department	
	_ · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
	Town Planning/ Finance Departments	
	i manee Departments	
	Town Planning Department	
	Department	
	Town Planning/	X
	General Manager's Office	
1000	-	
	Town Planning Department	-
6	- oparimon	



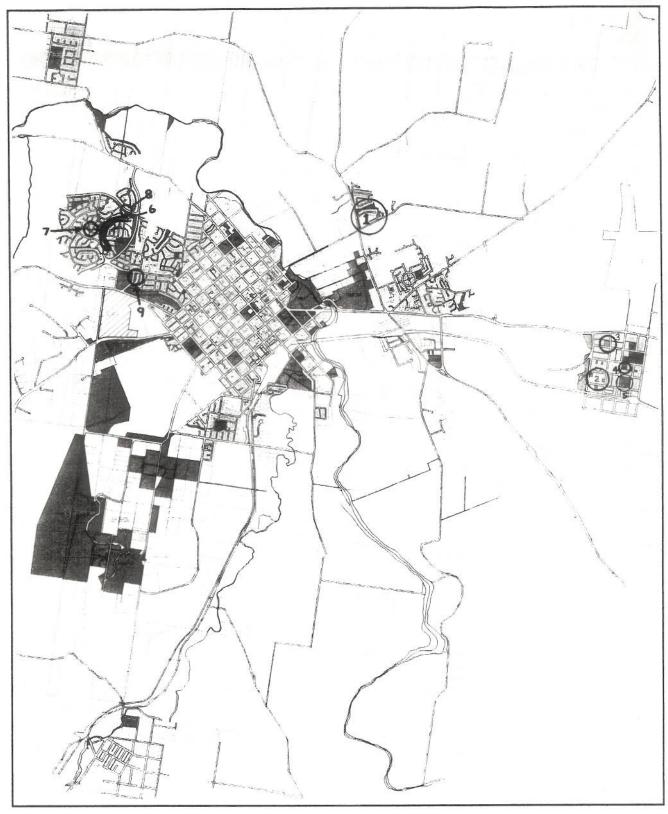


Figure 4



Rationalisation of playgrounds

Bathurst's young population lacks a system or hierarchy of playgrounds and, particularly, a large playground with a regional visitor catchment (refer to issue - recreational experiences for children).

POLICIES

Council to provide opportunities for a wider range of recreation experiences and high quality children's playgrounds.



1	Council to develop a hierarchical playground system based on one or two regional level playgrounds (eg beside the river and in West Bathurst, perhaps near the basketball stadium), one district level playground in each suburb (say, 6-8 altogether), and enough minor neighbourhood playgrounds to ensure that all urban dwellings are within 500
	metres of a park (say, 20-25 altogether). Regional playgrounds would generally need to be driven to, suburban playgrounds would generally be accessed by special movement corridors (cycleways and footpaths) and neighbourhood playgrounds would be within easy walking range.

- Council to investigate with local communities the most appropriate parks in which to locate district and neighbourhood playgrounds.
- 3 Council to remove old play equipment when it becomes unsafe, and only replace it in designated playgrounds.
- 4 Council to ensure that there are no parks with only one piece of play equipment.
- 5 Council to remove play equipment from locations in which playgrounds are oversupplied or under-used.
- In new release areas, Council to adopt the standard for provision of one local children's playground within 500 metres of each house and one district level playground for each new suburb.
- 7 Council to provide comfortable seating and shade for adults supervising children close to the equipment and within clear sight of the equipment.
- 8 Council to follow the communications strategy outlined in this report.

RESOURCES

1	Desponsibility	Capital cost
ll ll ss tt 	Responsibility Town Planning Department	Capital cost 1 x Regional playground @ \$50,000 8 x District playgrounds @ \$30,000 5 x Neighbourhood playgrounds @ \$20,000
l s	Town Planning/ General Manager's Office	
t	Engineers Departmen	nt —
s	Engineers Departmen	
1	Engineers Departmen	nt —
t l s	Town Planning/ Engineers Departments	_
g n r	Engineers Departmen	nt —
S	General Manager's Office/Town Plannin	g

Departments

ISSUES

Future development of sportsgrounds

Sportsgrounds in the past have been developed individually, rather than in groups, increasing maintenance costs.

There is also a need for flexible/multi-use/ informal sportsgrounds with attractions for a range of open space purposes, including nonstructured sporting pursuits.

POLICIES

Council to move away from developing single sports fields to developing groups of fields sharing amenities, possibly with more than one focus.

ACTIONS

- 1 Council to develop all new sports grounds in groups of at least two to four fields with shared amenities.
- 2 Council to individually assess existing isolated sportsfields. Council to rezone existing single sportsgrounds which are expensive to maintain to other uses, or charge maintenance on a user pays basis, or hand over maintenance to the relevant user group(s).
- 3 Council to consider a plan of management for Ralph Cameron Park with the aim of creating a high quality, multi-use park.

Responsibility	Capital cost
Town Planning Department/Engineers Department	_
Town Planning Department/Engineers Department/General Manager's Office	
Engineers Department/ Town Planning Department	\$25,000



Communication with the community

Communication with the local population on the procedures for managing open space, particularly in meeting the changing needs of the community is limited and critical to gaining acceptance.

POLICIES

Council to effectively communicate strategies to the Bathurst community. Where rationalisation is impossible, Council to encourage local 'ownership' of open space to minimise Council's maintenance spending.



- Council to develop a communication strategy for the promotion and understanding of processes relating to open space. Council to seek specialist input from suitably qualified experts if required.
- Council to sensitively promote the concept of changing existing open space to meet community needs, and why it is necessary to reduce expenditure and increase open space quality. This to be achieved through direct contact and indirect contact (eg letter) with sporting, recreation and community groups, and through the local media (media releases).

RESOURCES

Responsibility

Capital cost

Town Planning \$20,000 if specialist Department/General input required Manager's Office

Town Planning Department/General Manager's Office



Coordination of responsibilities

Bathurst Council has four departments to manage and maintain open space. This reduces coordinated management and dilutes responsibility and decision-making. Maintenance is expensive and resources must be allocated wisely to ensure the best return for the community. Streamlining and coordinating open space/recreation management is essential in managing and minimising costs. Particularly given growing community demands for quality open spaces and the declining ability for Council to fund them.



Council to coordinate and, where possible, aggregate decision-making and management responsibilities for open space and recreation.

Skills base

Maintaining an appropriate skills base can help limit long-term costs. Different recreational settings require different maintenance levels. For example, bushland areas require less maintenance than formal gardens. The skills for management and maintenance of open space in Bathurst do not include the variety of skills required to meet the existing demands on open space.

Council to ensure that the recreational and open space skills within Bathurst Council will meet the management and maintenance challenges of the 1990s.

Actions

Council, in the short term, to consider forming a 'centre' for decision-making and management for open space and recreation focused on the Parks Manager.

Resources

Responsibility	Capital cost	
General Manager's Office	_	
Engineers Department	-	
General Manager's Office/Engineers Department	_	

1	Council to engage a Recreation/
	Interpretative Planner in the short to
	medium term (say, by 1995) to provide
	specialist open space, recreation and
	interpretation skills to the Bathurst
	district.

- 2 Council's Recreation/Interpretative Planner to establish a data base on visitor information within the local government area that is regularly updated to maintain an understanding of user demand and needs.
- 3 Council to encourage the use of specialist input to assist the Recreation/ Interpretative Planner when required, such as students from the university to implement visitor surveys.

General Manager's \$40,000 - \$45,000 Office

Parks and Gardens

Parks and Gardens

REFERENCE LIST

Anon (1991) Results of survey of residents of Eglinton Reserve.

Bathurst City Council (1991) Annual report.

Bathurst City Council (1991) Town Planner's report to Parks and Gardens Committee Meeting.

Bathurst City Council (1991) Analysis of Bathurst cycling survey.

Bathurst City Council (1992) Parks Manager's report to the Parks & Gardens Committee.

Bathurst City Council (1992) Revised corporate aims and objectives as at 1 September 1992.

Department of Planning (1992) Outdoor Recreation and Open Space - planning guidelines for local government; report prepared by Manidis Roberts Consultants.

Department of Planning (1992a) Section 94 Contributions Plans Manual, DoP, Sydney.

Department of the Arts, Sport, the Environment and Territories (1991) Recreation Participation Survey.

Gutteridge Haskins & Davey (1990) Machattie Park management plan, prepared for Bathurst City Council.

Keirnan C (1992) Historic landscape study and analysis report for Bathurst Heritage Study.

Manidis Roberts Consultants (1992) Armidale outdoor recreation and open space strategy, Armidale City Council.

Markham D (1990) Bathurst District recreation profile — an inventory of existing facilities and resources, prepared for Bachelor of Social Science (Recreation), Charles Sturt University (Mitchell).

Midstate Marketing Services (1987) 1986/87 Bathurst & District tourism survey, prepared for Bathurst and District Tourism Management Committee.

Planning Workshop (1984) Regional recreation planning study, Mt Panorama, Bathurst, prepared for Bathurst City Council.

Sproats K (undated) Strategies for the beautification of Bathurst, a project of Bathurst Tidy Towns Association.

Sproats K (1987) Bathurst City Council central area study, for Bathurst City Council.

APPENDIX A

APPENDIX A: CONSULTATION

GROUPS CONTACTED

Charles Sturt University (Mitchell)
Department of Community Services
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

Department of Conservation and Land Management

Department of Planning

Department of Sport, Recreation and Racing

Evans Shire Council Forestry Commission

National Parks and Wildlife Service

Oberon Shire Council
Orange City Council
Public Works Department
Roads and Traffic Authority
Southern Mitchell Electricity
State Rail Authority

ATTENDANCE AT FOCUS GROUPS

Workshop 1: Council representatives and officers

J Ross Councillor Councillor G Crisp Councillor R Allen Councillor L Lancaster Parks Manager L Searle Engineer N Allen Forward Planner J Clague Engineer K Hawken

Workshop 2: Community groups

P Haysom Sport and Recreation Council

H Flanaghan Senior Citizens
J Bingham Senior Citizens

A Peard Eglinton Hall and Park Committee
D Hobson Eglinton Hall and Park Committee
R Wood Bathurst Showground Trust

D Jenkins
B Smith
N Thomas
G Harris
B Showground Trust
Conservation Society
N Attional Trust
Bathurst Tidy Towns
B Smith
S Harris
B Showground Trust
Conservation Society
N Thomas
S Harris
B Showground Trust
B Showground Tr

Workshop 3: Sporting groups

Bathurst Rifle Club J Coghill Bathurst Croquet Club M McKay Bathurst Rugby Club K Laird Bathurst Aussi Swimming M Kell Bathurst Aussi Swimming H Gould Bathurst Aussi Swimming G Harris P Rossiter Group 10 Rugby League Bathurst Cycle Club J Burke

Workshop 4 Year 9, Bathurst High School
Workshop 5 Year 11, Bathurst High School
Workshop 6 Year 9, All Saints College
Workshop 7 Year 11, All Saints College

APPENDIX B

APPENDIX B: FUNDING

SECTION 94 CONTRIBUTIONS

Background

Section 94 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (1979) is the avenue through which Local government authorities can levy developers to provide public amenities and services required as a result of the development. The levy can be monies for acquisition of or capital improvements in existing open space or land dedicated as open space. Levying can only occur when a clear nexus between the proposed development and the need for open space can be clearly demonstrated.

Three key principles are central to proper administration of Section 94. These are, as outlined by the Department of Planning (1992a):

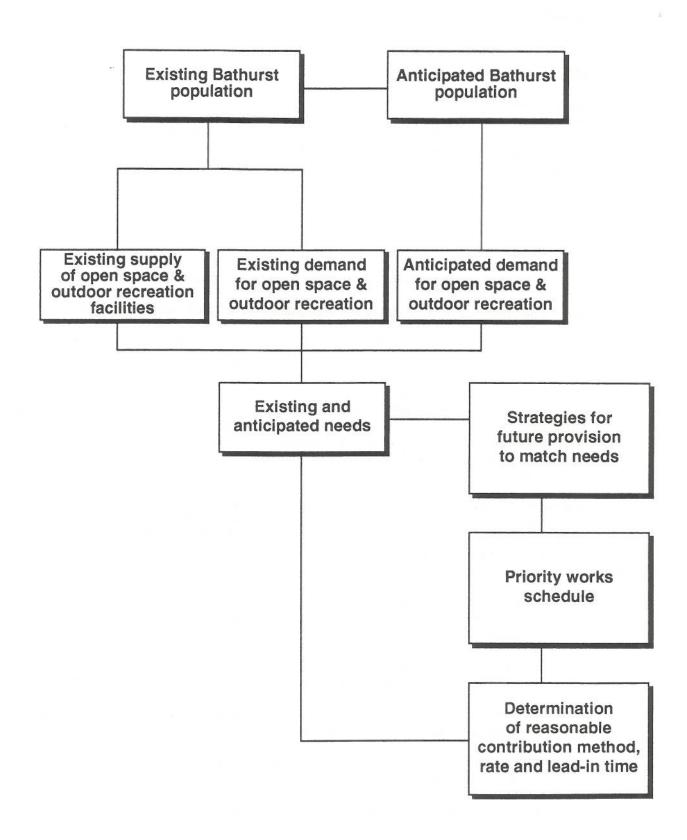
- The contribution must be for, or relate to, a planning purpose.
- The contribution must fairly and reasonably relate to the subject development.
- The contribution must be such that a reasonable planning authority, duly appreciating its statutory duties, can properly impose it.

The process for establishing a nexus between community needs and development in Bathurst City and subsequently determining the contribution rate is outlined in the following figure. The process combines a knowledge of the existing population and their open space needs with an understanding of the future population and their anticipated open space needs to determine the need for open space as a result of further development.

Purpose of a contributions plan

The prime aim of a Contributions Plan is to enable Bathurst Council, as a condition of development consent, to gain contributions toward the provision of open space and outdoor recreation facilities in a manner which is both publicly and financially accountable. Other objectives are to:

- Demonstrate the future demand for open space and outdoor recreation facilities through prediction of the future population and understanding of the current community needs.
- Identify the nexus between future residential and commercial development in Bathurst and the provision of open space and outdoor recreation facilities.
- Outline the priority community needs for funding through Section 94 in a works schedule with details on costs and staging.
- Establish principles and a formula for calculation of the open space contribution rate for development in Bathurst City.
- Provide an equitable strategy for the collection, expenditure, accounting and review of development contributions.



Priority community needs

The nexus between residential development and provision of open space and outdoor recreation facilities can be established through determination of the needs of the community. The needs for open space and outdoor recreation, particularly the unmet recreational needs, of the existing community have been established in the Open Space Study. The priority unmet recreational needs are outlined in **Chapter 6**.

Bathurst local government area is a small local government area that is well developed. It is reasonable to assume that new residents will generate the same needs for open space and recreation facilities as the existing community.

ESTABLISHING THE CONTRIBUTION

Principles behind levying

The key principles behind levying contributions from development towards open space are:

- To regard Bathurst City as one system and one community and therefore charge an englobo levy for Section 94 contributions over the whole city.
- All monies collected via Section 94 to be consolidated to provide recreational needs of significance to the Bathurst community as a whole.
- The settings approach, which classifies open space according to the character of
 its surrounds and the inherent recreational opportunities, to be used in distribution
 of resources to effectively relate to the community needs and activities within
 open space.
- Monies to be collected in preference to land, in order to embellish existing open space areas and outdoor recreation facilities, except:

if there is not access to local open space within 500 metres of the residential

development; or

- if the land will create or improve linkages between existing open space areas or access to existing open space areas; or
- All new open space areas to be a minimum size of 0.5 hectare to maximise use and minimise maintenance costs.
- Monies in existing open space trust fund to be used for capital works for embellishment of open space areas and outdoor recreation facilities as outlined within the Bathurst Open Space Study.
- Levying from commercial development in Bathurst to be included to provide funding for the civic space.
- Joint arrangement with adjoining councils to be sought to fund facilities of significance to both communities, if the present legal constraints under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act are altered.

Calculating the levy

The contribution rate for open space and outdoor recreation facilities has been determined according to the following formula:

Contribution = Total capital costs for priority needs
Anticipated number of new residential developments

The total capital costs for provision of open space and outdoor recreation facilities to meet the needs of the community would be itemised in the works schedule. Anticipated new residential development in Bathurst would be calculated.

Levies would be determined from the number of additional dwellings created by a development. The number of additional dwellings would be calculated as the difference between the number of dwellings in a proposed development and the number of existing dwellings or dwelling-houses at the date of the application received by the Council to redevelop the land. If the land is vacant, as a result of demolition having occurred prior to the application being received by the Council, the type and quantity of development which was demolished, including the number of dwellings or dwelling-houses, would be used to determine any net increase in dwellings. For subdivision purposes, additional allotments will be the difference between the number of allotments proposed and the number that existed at the date the application is received by the Council to subdivide the land.

OTHER FUNDING

DASET funding

The Community, Cultural, Recreation and Sporting Facilities program is run by the Commonwealth Department of Arts, Sport, the Environment and Territories (DASET). It provides financial assistance through the Community Cultural, Recreation and Sporting Facilities program to supplement that provided by State and/or local government authorities and community groups to meet recreation and sporting facility needs and to encourage the provision of such facilities.

Tree planting programs

There are a number of tree planting-based assistance schemes available to Council. These include:

- Landcare. The Federal Government recently announced they would allocate funding to employ youth on Landcare projects.
- National Soil Conservation Program.
- One Billion Trees program. This Commonwealth program provides assistance to help the community plant and regenerate one billion trees by the year 2000.
- Greening Australia. This group may help with resources for the rehabilitation of cleared areas and protective works. Enquires can be made at the Greening Australia office in Sydney or the head office in Canberra.
- Save the Bush. This Federal Government Program is directed at producing plans and implementing actions to maintain biological diversity of native vegetation.

NSW Department of Planning

The Department of Planning Greenspace Program is an annual program which aims to provide funding for the redevelopment or upgrading of open space areas. Applications received must be matched dollar-for-dollar by the applicant for the project.

NSW Department of Sport, Recreation and Racing Capital Assistance Grants The Department of Sport, Recreation and Racing's Capital Assistance Program funds development of local sporting and recreation facilities on a dollar-for-dollar basis up to 50% of the total project cost. Requests for retrospective funding, maintenance and

running costs, equipment, salaries, and private commercial ventures will not be

considered.

Local Capital Works Grants

Local Capital Works Grants are administered under the Local Government Development Program as part of the Federal Department of Local Government. This department has recently given significant grants to a number of western Sydney Councils.

Environmental Protection Agency - Environmental Trust Grants

Funds for environmental research, education, restoration and rehabilitation are available through these trusts, which are administered under the Environmental Protection Authority.

One -off grants

Both the Federal and State governments have occasional one-off grants for the development of community and recreation facilities.

Capacity of local groups to cater for their own needs

Given the high cost of providing open space and recreation facilities that today's communities desire, councils must consider implementing a 'user pays' system in some form. However, a "user pays" system can disadvantage people such as the unemployed and low-income earners who are least likely to have disposable income to pay entrance and use fees. These are the groups that should be encouraged to use recreation facilities. Options for groups generating their own funding should be encouraged by councils.

Some sporting organisations have the resources to cater for their own needs. Most sporting groups are willing to provide their own facilities, with varying degrees of assistance from Council. Council could provide the following assistance to groups:

- Leases land.
- Provides loans for land and equipment.
- Engineering and drainage works.
- Provides materials, such as detergent, for cleaning amenities blocks.

For those organisations that cannot generate sufficient revenue support themselves, the following options could be considered:

- Clubs mark lines, water fields, curate turf wickets and remove goal posts
- A percentage of any gate takings are forwarded to Council.
- Daily/seasonal/yearly charges per wicket/oval/netball court are charged by Council.

APPENDIX C

APPENDIX C: PRINCIPLES FOR DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PLANS

Principles for open space provision

The following principles have been defined to ensure that an appropriate open space system is provided in new release areas to serve the needs of the local community:

- Buffer zone: An open space or naturally vegetated buffer zone should be retained or created around the perimeter of the new release area.
- Central area: At least one large, central common open space area (the village common concept) should be provided as a focus for community activities. It should be adjacent to or within close proximity to the commercial/institutional node of the area.
- Radial corridors: Corridors of open space should feed from the central area to the outer areas of the new release area and to the periphery buffer zone.
- Distribution: Every residential lot should be within 500 m from an open space area of at least 0.5 ha in size.
- Minimum size: All open space areas to be a minimum size of 0.5 ha. It can
 include linkages between open space areas (for example, two smaller areas of
 open space linked by a walkway could be combined to comprise a larger open
 space area, or an access way to an open space area from a cul-de-sac could be
 included).
- Shape: A variety of shapes of open space areas should be provided, recognising that a long thin shape results in additional maintenance costs and can limit recreational use.
- Variety: There has often been little variety in the type of recreation settings provided in open space areas of dual use (with drainage) in the past. Dual use open space often takes the form of featureless playing fields and parklands. Settings provided should include:
 - natural areas
 - water areas (creeklines, lakes)
 - parkland (including grassed corridors)
 - sports fields
 - playgrounds
 - recreation movement corridors.

It is important to ensure that one setting does not dominate to the exclusion of others.

- Retention of bushland: A high proportion of creekline vegetation and other bushland to be retained in a sustainable form.
- Presence of water features: Water features such as the water quality pond, natural creeklines and wetland filters should be retained or created.
- Dual use areas: In open space areas that have a dual purpose with drainage, access and usability for open space purposes must be maintained. Floodways to be used in all but rainy periods for recreation and to act as recreation movement corridors. Active playing fields to have similar playing conditions as traditional single use playing fields as measured by:
 - ability to play competitions. The main issue is not the frequency of inundation, but how quickly the field is playable after inundation.
 - crossfall of 1:80 to ensure flow of water and deposition of silt off the field.
 - provision of subsoil drainage where required.
 - quality of turf cover.
- Maintenance: Minimise handwork by planting perennial species and use natural species (that require minimal attention) wherever possible.
- Aesthetics: The visual appearance of the open space areas is important in creating a sense of place, providing a screen between areas and softening the visual effects of the built environment.
- Flexibility: District and regional open space should cater to a variety of needs, rather than to just one need. For example, the perimeter of a sports field could be mounded and landscaped, and include picnic shelters and barbecue facilities.

MACQUARIE PLAINS

According to the above principles, the Macquarie Plains Development Control Plan could be altered in terms of open space to:

- Include a periphery buffer zone.
- Include an identifiable central common area.
- Reduce the linear nature of some of the existing areas.
- Increase overall variety in the shape of open space areas, so that the majority of spaces are not linear or along drainage lines.
- Decrease the overall proportion of dual use/drainage open space.

In addition, it is important to ensure that:

- The quality of the open space areas is considered to be more important that the quantity of open space.
- There is variety in the settings provided in the open space areas.

• In areas that have a dual use role, that access and usability in terms of recreation is maintained.

WINDRADYNE-LLANARTH

According to the above principles, the Windradyne-Llanarth Development Control Plan could be altered in terms of open space to:

- Include radial corridors from the open space adjacent to Saw Pit Creek.
- Include an identifiable central common area.
- Ensure that every residential lot is within 500 metres of an open space area.
- Expand and/or join some of the pedestrian movement corridors indicated in the residential areas in the northern and western sections of the area.
- Increase overall variety in the shape of open space areas.

In addition, it is important to ensure that:

- The quality of the open space areas is considered to be more important that the quantity of open space.
- There is variety in the settings provided in the open space areas.
- In areas that have a dual use role, that access and usability in terms of recreation is maintained.
- Retain as much remnant bushland and natural features as possible.

KILACLORAN

According to the above principles, the Kilacloran Development Control Plan could be altered in terms of open space to:

- Increase variety in shape of open space areas, so they are not all linear or along drainage lines.
- Decrease the overall proportion of dual use/drainage open space and modify shape of drainage open space to include a broader, more usable area associated with the commercial node.
- Link additional open space to existing open space (such as to open space along south eastern edge of Por 43 or open space north south through centre of area).
- Increase road and hence parking access to major open space areas, that will become sporting fields.

In addition, it is important to ensure that:

• The quality of the open space areas is considered to be more important that the quantity of open space.

- There is variety in the settings provided in the open space areas.
- In areas that have a dual use role, that access and usability in terms of recreation is maintained.
- Retain as much remnant bushland and natural features as possible.

APPENDIX D

APPENDIX D: MAINTENANCE BUDGETS PER PRECINCT

Precinct: Central

Setting	Budget	На	Budget/hectare
Indoor facilities		7.8923	_
Formal gardens	\$172,909.00	4.26	\$40,588.97
Small parks	\$3,739.00	1.54055	\$2,427.06
Playgrounds	\$14,239.00	11.46895	\$1,241.53
Outdoor sports facilities	\$107,704.33	31.7932	\$3,387.65
Parkland	\$48,570.00	20.6641	\$2,310.17
River/foreshore	\$47,737.67	30.8285	\$1,548.49
Bushland	\$2,274.00	6,809	\$333.97
Adjacent to road	\$700.00	6.809	\$102.81
Undeveloped	\$230.00	2.5233	\$91.15
Zoological		-	_
Drainage reserve		_	
Total	\$398,103.00	124.5889	Overall precinct average = \$3,195.33/ha

Precinct: Eglinton

Setting	Budget	На	Budget/hectare
Indoor facilities			_
Formal gardens	-		_
Small parks	\$1,143	0.6785	\$1,684.60
Playgrounds	\$1,070	0.4	\$2675.00
Outdoor sports facilities	\$9,000	8.4	\$1071.00
Parkland			
River/foreshore			
Bushland			
Adjacent to road			
Undeveloped		0.0615	
Zoological			
Drainage reserve			
Total	\$11,213	9.54	Overall precinct average = \$1,175.37/ha

Precinct: Gormans Hill

Setting	Budget	На	Budget/hectare
Indoor facilities		 	
Formal gardens	_	_	_
Small parks	\$400	0.0333	\$12,012.01
Playgrounds	0	0.0333	0
Outdoor sports facilities	\$27,135	20,4051	\$967.23
Parkland	\$534	2.2375	\$238.66
River/foreshore	1	_	
Bushland	(<u></u>	_	_
Adjacent to road	_	_	_
Undeveloped	\$230	7.033	\$32.70
Zoological		_	_
Drainage reserve			
Total	\$28,299	29.7422	Overall precinct average = \$951.48/ha

Precinct: Kelso

Setting	Budget	На	Budget/hectare
Indoor facilities		 	
Formal gardens		_	_
Small parks	\$4,003	3.1193	\$1,283.30
Playgrounds	\$1,300	0.743	\$1,749.66
Outdoor sports facilities	\$29,107	32.302	\$901.09
Parkland 1	\$3,050	5.1291	\$594.65
River/foreshore	\$9,593	11.06235	\$867.18
Bushland	_		_
Adjacent to road	\$1,012	3.7698	\$1,015.77
Undeveloped	0	13.763	0
Zoological		- <u>1969</u>	
Drainage reserve	\$230	1.53605	\$149.73
Total	\$48,295	71.4246	Overall precinct average = \$676.17/ha

Precinct: Mt Panorama

Setting	Budget	Hai	Budget/hectare
Indoor facilities		_	
Formal gardens		_	_
Small parks	_	_	
Playgrounds	\$349	1.86	\$187.63
Outdoor sports facilities#	\$2,352	262.385*	\$8.96
Parkland	\$1,414	11.4865	\$123.10
River/foreshore	7		-
Bushland	1	-	
Adjacent to road	\$230	1.641	\$140.16
Undeveloped	0	23.6943	0
Zoological	\$86,300	24.8	\$254.03
Drainage reserve	_		
Total	\$90,645	325.8668	Overall precinct average = \$278.17/ha

Includes rifle range, which Council does not maintain Does not include Mt Panorama Racing Circuit

Precinct: Perthville

Setting	Budget	Ha	Budget/hectare
Indoor facilities	_	_	
Formal gardens		_	
Small parks	\$200	0.29895	\$669.00
Playgrounds			-
Outdoor sports facilities	\$2,649	4.48	\$591.29
Parkland	Secretario Sc		_
River/foreshore	_	-	
Bushland			_
Adjacent to road	200		_
Undeveloped	_		
Zoological			_
Drainage reserve			
Total	\$2,849.00	4.78	Overall precinct average = \$596.03/ha

Precinct: South Bathurst

Setting	Budget	На	Budget/hectare
Indoor facilities		 	
Formal gardens	_	_	_
Small parks	-	_	_
Playgrounds	\$1950	0.21765	\$8959.34
Outdoor sports facilities	\$625	1.896	\$329.64
Parkland	\$625	7.896	\$329.64
River/foreshore		_	_
Bushland		_	
Adjacent to road	ACT TO SERVICE AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY OF T	_	
Undeveloped	_	_	-
Zoological		_	
Drainage reserve	\$418	0.6323	\$255.92
Total	\$3,618	4.64	Overall precinct average = \$779.74/ha

Precinct: Raglan

Setting	Budget	На	Budget/hectare
Indoor facilities	\$230	1.554	\$148.01
Formal gardens	·	_	
Small parks	\$2,084	0.87525	\$2,380.90
Playgrounds	0	3.1855	0
Outdoor sports facilities	\$4,282	7.15995	\$650.56
Parkland	\$4,658	9.886	\$433.14
River/foreshore	8	_	_
Bushland		_	_
Adjacent to road	_		_
Undeveloped	0	1.633	0
Zoological		_	_
Drainage reserve			
Total	\$11,254	24.2937	Overall precinct average = \$463.25/ha

Precinct: Rural

Setting	Budget	На	Budget/hectare
Indoor facilities		_	
Formal gardens		_	-
Small parks		_	_
Playgrounds	_	_	_
Outdoor sports facilities		_	_
Parkland		_	_
River/foreshore	0	3.175	0
Bushland		_	_
Adjacent to road	<u> </u>	_	-
Undeveloped	0	3.175	0
Zoological	-	_	_
Drainage reserve			
Total	0	3.175	Overall precinct average = 0

Precinct: Windradyne

Setting	Budget	На	Budget/hectare
Indoor facilities			
Formal gardens		_	_
Small parks	\$3,557	1.8381	\$1,935.15
Playgrounds	\$734	3.3675	\$217.97
Outdoor sports facilities	\$9,282	2.5144	\$3,691.54
Parkland	\$23,338	23.293	\$1,001.93
River/foreshore	\$230	9.428	\$24.40
Bushland	0	0.364	0
Adjacent to road	\$1,276	7.33655	\$76.11
Undeveloped	\$2,496	0.5746	\$4,343.89
Zoological	_	q	_
Drainage reserve	\$1,676	2.05665	\$636.96
Total	\$42,589	50.77	Overall precinct average = \$838.90/ha