CITY OF WODONGA VIC

Belvoir and Willow Parks Master Plan (revised September 2022)



recreation
open space
and sport
specialists

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Disclaimers:

This master plan was prepared by an independent consultant in conjunction with Wodonga Council. The master plan represents a higher level vision for the two parks and the House Creek Trail that joins them and is subject to further consultation and consideration by the council.

All illustrative plans, perspectives and imagery contained within this report are indicative impressions to illustrate conceptual ideas only and are subject to further resolution, consultation, detailed design and approvals.

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Executive summary **5**

1. Introduction **7**

Project overview 7

What is a master plan? 7

Project objectives 8

Process **8**

2. Strategic context **11**

Literature review 11

Demographic considerations 13

Trends considerations 14

3. Site analysis **17**

Site description 17

Planning considerations 17

Site elements - Belvoir Park 18

Site elements - Willow Park 21

Site elements - House Creek Trail 24

4. Demand analysis **26**

Consultation summary 26

Environmental considerations 30

5. Design considerations **34**

Opportunities and constraints - Belvoir Park 34

Opportunities and constraints - Willow Park 36

Opportunities and constraints - House Creek Trail 38

6. Master plan **41**

Vision - Belvoir Park 42

House Creek Trail 46

Belvoir and Willow Parks Master Plan 48

7. Implementation plan **51**



Executive summary

Introduction

Belvoir Park and Willow Park are two feature open spaces located centrally within the city of Wodonga.

The two reserves are joined by the House Creek Trail and together provide a range of passive and active recreation opportunities. While recreation is a key or major focus of both sites, they also offer formal sporting activities, at a local and district level respectively.

The master plan is aimed at developing an overarching approach and plan for the use and development of Wodonga's two main public open spaces and the trail that connects them. The plan has considered a range of recreation, leisure and sporting needs for the city including all ages play and fitness equipment, walking, running, biking, cycling, and both formal and informal sports. The plan recognises and responds to the natural features and unique character of each site.

Environmental sustainability is a key issue for both sites and the House Creek Trail, driven by the presence of House Creek and the significant water bodies in Belvoir Park. While the Belvoir and Willow Parks Master Plan is not a detailed environmental management plan or a waterway action plan, it has been developed with these factors in mind, and is intended to be used in conjunction with existing environmental plans for the sites and House Creek.

Demand for upgrade

Demand for development at the two sites has been established through consultation with councillors, council officers, user groups and the local community. Consideration has been given to both existing and planned nearby opportunities, in addition to that of the potential environmental impacts of weather trends and events.

Design directions

Key directions influencing the preferred layout include:

- ☐ Potential to balance the range of opportunities across the two sites;
- ☐ Importance of environmental considerations; and,
- ☐ Recognition the reserves are highly valued by the community and that there is a reluctance to see major developments at either site.



1. Introduction

Project overview

ROSS Planning was commissioned by Wodonga Council to develop an updated master plan for both Belvoir and Willow parks and the House Creek Trail that connects them. This report provides the master plans in three distinct sections and also provides an overall view of all three sites.

Through site analysis and community engagement, the master plan represents an opportunity to build upon the existing recreation, sport and event uses and to provide a clear strategic (and sustainable) vision for each park and the connecting trail.

What is a master plan?

A master plan provides a vision for a site, identifying what it could look like, how it should function and how it should be managed and maintained into the future. It establishes a strong and consistent direction by providing a framework for ongoing improvement. It considers the interrelationship between:

- Current character and functionality of the landscape;
- Public expectations and needs;
- Emerging issues and trends; and,
- The realities of the economic, social, environmental and legislative context of the time.

The result is a plan that balances community use and needs across a range of often conflicting interests. The master plan does not necessarily suggest that all elements of the plan should proceed immediately, or that council or the user groups should be responsible for all capital costs, in respect of those items that are progressed.

It is important to note that the intent of a master plan is to provide a framework for future development of the site or precinct over an extended period of time so that ad hoc improvements are avoided and community use and long-term viability are maximised. To ensure this intent is achieved, a master plan should be monitored regularly to ensure the outcomes continue to meet community needs in the best possible way.

Importantly, construction or development should not be the next outcome to come directly from a master plan. Following agreement on the elements proposed in this draft report to be included, an implementation plan will be included in the final master plan to direct further planning and development. It is noted that while there may be some elements the council can respond to directly from the master plan (eg. removing infrastructure that is no longer viable), it is likely that detailed planning and design work will be required for key elements.

Project objectives

The master plan will provide a planning and design framework for the future development and enhancement of the parks. It will guide the creation of leisure, recreation and sport facilities to cater for the needs of the community and user groups over the next 20 years. The master plan has the following objectives.

- ☐ To provide a framework for built infrastructure that appropriately supports recreation activities and events
- ☐ To encourage informal recreation activities to be enjoyed by the general community
- ☐ To enhance the natural environment through sustainable development and maintenance regimes
- ☐ To provide guidance for sporting infrastructure that allows the delivery of local and district level sporting activities without impacting on the amenity and functionality of the space for its other purposes
- ☐ To create safe access and integrated movement through and to the parks

Process

Given the impact of COVID-19 travel restrictions, the project program was adapted soon after initialisation to ensure the desired outcomes and time frames were achieved. The project spanned across eight stages and to date, has been delivered as follows.

Stage	Task/s
1	Project initialisation Inception meeting Initial site tours
2	Background research and analysis Document and policy review Trends analysis
3	Site analysis Desktop site assessment Desktop open space context
4	Consultation Council engagement User group engagement External stakeholder engagement
5	Detailed site assessments Detailed site inspections (in addition to Stage 3 - desktop site analysis)
6	Needs assessment Current and future gap analysis Situational analysis Options development
7	Draft plan preparation and presentation Preparation of the draft Presentation of the draft Public review of the draft
8	Review and finalisation Draft review Finalisation and adoption



Aerial imagery of Belvoir Park



Aerial imagery of Willow Park

North

2. Strategic context

Literature review

In order to present a clear picture of the background issues and opportunities influencing the potential development of the sites, a literature review has been undertaken. A summary of the relevant documents reviewed is included below, while key impacts for the development of the master plan are highlighted in the summary breakout box.

Active Living in Wodonga - Physical Activity Strategy 2021 to 2026

The *Physical Activity Strategy* is intended to guide the development of recreation facilities, services and programs for the next five years. It is underpinned by council's vision: "All Wodonga residents have the opportunity to live active, healthy and engaged lifestyles benefiting themselves and the wider community", and is further supported by the goal "To increase the number of Wodonga residents meeting the recommended National Physical Activity Guidelines".

The three priorities of the strategy are as follows.

- Plan, build and establish spaces and places that support active living
- Increase community awareness and activity through campaigns and initiatives that address sedentary behaviour and promote activity
- Support local community groups and networks that seek to increase physical activities for all people in the community.

Belvoir Park and Sumsion Gardens Draft Environmental Management Plan

This detailed plan raises many key environmental issues related to Belvoir Park and Sumsion Gardens and this master plan has been developed to ensure consistency between the two documents.

The objective of the management plan is to establish a framework that will enable the protection and enhancement of the natural values and features of Belvoir Park, in the context of the existing high level of public access and usage.

The considerations relevant to this Master Plan are included on Page 24 of this report.

Belvoir Park Master Plan (2012) and Willow Park Master Plan (2011)

Given that both documents are now 10 years old, this master plan has been developed as a new document, and not as a review. While some consideration was given to their proposed elements (many of which have been implemented), this plan has been developed on the latest research and consultation to ensure its relevance.

Other reviewed documents

Other documents that have been provided for review in the development of this master plan included the following.

- *Wodonga Open Space Strategy* (Wodonga Council - draft)
- *Wodonga Regional Waterway Action Plan* (North East Catchment Authority (NECMA) 2018)
- Documentation for the recently funded Integrated Water Management Program project - *Sumsion Lake and Wetland System - Environmental Enhancement, Social Connection and Stormwater Management*
- Submissions from Friends of Willow Park (including the possible 2011 staging plan and suggestions for this master plan).

LITERATURE REVIEW - KEY IMPLICATIONS

When considered together, the literature review highlights a number of key considerations.

- The development of parks that considers environmental issues is essential
- Council and the community acknowledge the importance of sport and recreation facilities and opportunities for the community
- The master plan should seek to provide a range of engaging opportunities for all ages and abilities.



Demographic considerations

In order to understand the make-up for the catchment of the two main sites, a snapshot of existing and future population and demographic characteristics has been undertaken.

Given the quality of experiences available at the sites, population characteristics for the entire city area have been the focus. It is acknowledged some participants will come from outside this catchment. Core participation, however, will come from within council's boundaries. It is important to note the site will also play a role as the "local" park for nearby residents.

Analysis of these characteristics[1] reveals:

- An estimated population of 43,186 in 2021, up from 36,025 in 2011 and 40,100 in 2016;
- Median age of 36 (seven years below the regional Victoria median and one year below the Victorian median);
- Population growth of 27 per cent projected through until 2036, with a resultant estimated population of 57,314[2];
- Higher proportion of young people 34 years and under (48.2%) compared with regional Victoria (40.7%);
- Lower proportion of older people 50 years and above (33.2%) compared with regional Victoria (41.1%);
- Very few households without a motor vehicle; and,
- 15 per cent of households without internet connection.

DEMOGRAPHIC CONSIDERATIONS - KEY IMPLICATIONS

In terms of impacts for the future development of Belvoir and Willow parks, these demographic considerations suggest:

- A range of recreation opportunities that are attractive across the ages but with consideration of a focus on younger residents, should be made available at the two sites;
- While residents and visitors are likely to drive to the parks, the provision of key path links will be an important consideration for those wishing to walk/cycle; and,
- Developments, programs and events at the parks should be advertised via a range of means.

1 *profile.id.com.au (2022)*
2 *forecast.id.com.au*

Trends considerations

Park design

Parks play multiple roles in establishing and maintaining a community's quality of life; ensuring the health of residents and visitors and contributing to economic and environmental well-being. The design of a park is critical in ensuring that it is attractive to the community. Public open spaces should include:

- Attractive and safe open areas with good lighting, seating, shade, shelters and areas for play;
- Well-lit, level and shaded walk/cycleways that provide links to open space, community and commercial areas;
- A range of play and activity elements and options attractive to people of all ages; and,
- Infrastructure that supports all abilities participation.

Creating connections

Numerous studies highlight the need for trails linking residential and commercial areas with parks and other types of open spaces. Walking continues to be the preferred physical activity for both men and women. ParkRun has experienced unprecedented growth and is one of the largest running events in the world. There is, therefore, a recognised need for path systems that provide good connectivity between places of activity (such as the Wodonga hospital and CBD), are aesthetically appealing, provide safe links for users and are easy to navigate.

Multi-use parks

Multi-use parks are a new type of park being developed more frequently. They generally feature multiple play areas to cater for different ages and abilities, gardens, water play areas, large open grassy spaces, shady picnic spots with quality facilities, areas of natural woodland and vegetation and kilometres of shared paths and boardwalks to explore. Natural elements are bringing risk back into play, enabling children to develop an awareness of limits and boundaries.

Nature play

In just one generation, there has been a dramatic shift in childhood activity from outdoors to indoors. This has been driven by factors such as computer technology, a significant reduction in the size of backyards and an increasingly risk-averse culture.

Nature play is an emerging trend particularly in urban environments, where access to nature is not readily available. Residents and visitors should be encouraged to engage with their natural environment. Awareness of the benefits of children's contact with nature is also growing and many councils are embracing the concept of developing nature play spaces within their parks and bushland reserves.

Move towards informal recreation

National participation rates in active recreation, particularly sport, have been declining for a number of years as participants move toward more informal recreation and outdoor recreation activities.

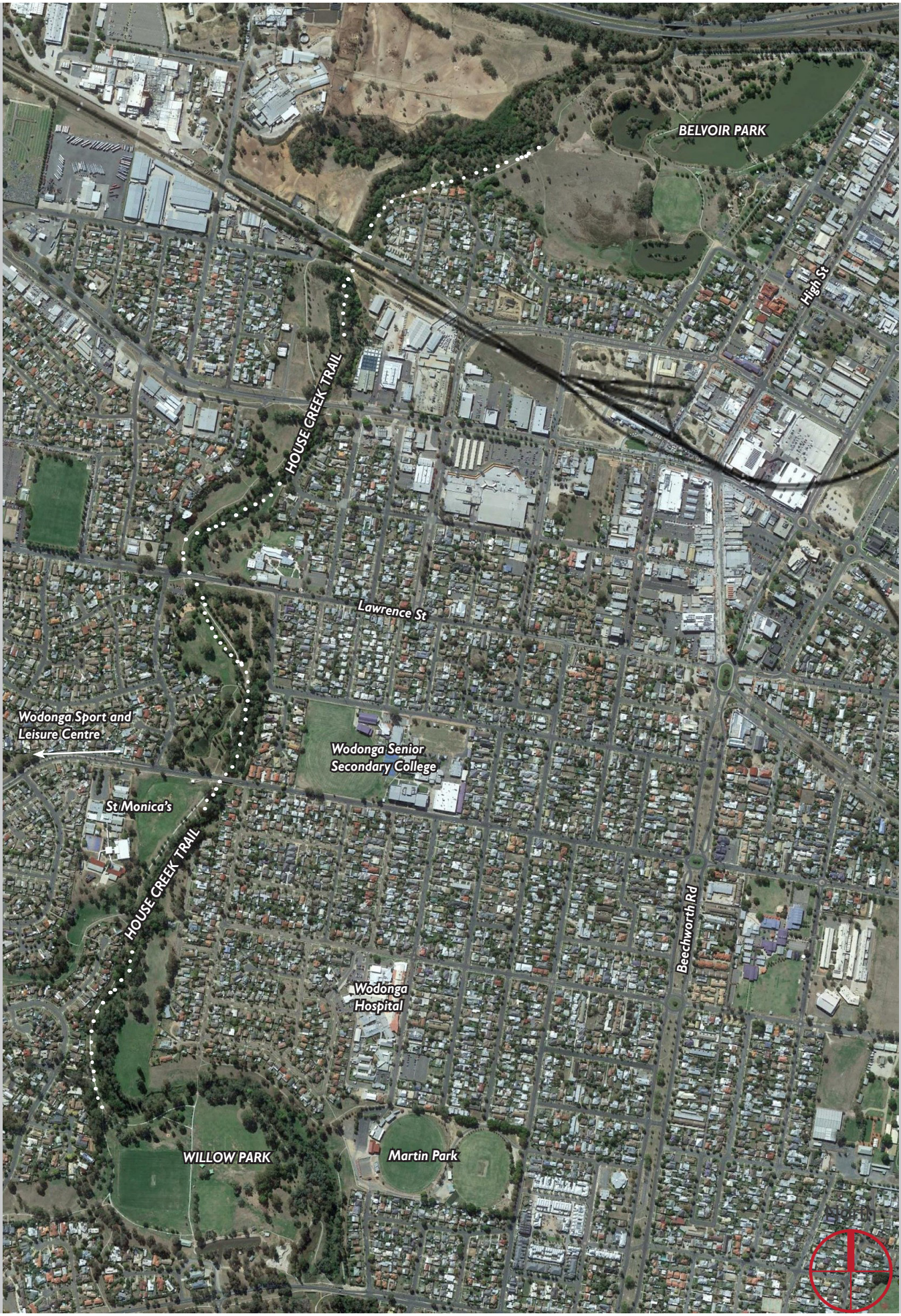
Changes in work patterns, shift work and the increasing numbers in part-time and casual employment and family commitments influence participation as:

- People do not have the time to commit to active recreation and social clubs as a regular member or volunteer; and,
- Participants are seeking facilities that are accessible when they have available time, not set hours (such as training).

TRENDS CONSIDERATIONS - KEY IMPLICATIONS

So what do the trends mean for the master planning of Belvoir and Willow parks? As the master plan has been developed, we have:

- Ensured the provision of a range of high-quality recreation experiences (including low-cost recreation experiences so that the facility has broad appeal);
- Catered for all age groups and considered the needs of the aged and less physically mobile;
- Considered the location of the parks within the wider town context to ensure quality path connections; and,
- Proposed increased passive recreation and nature play opportunities.


BELVOIR PARK
High St
HOUSE CREEK TRAIL
Lawrence St
Wodonga Sport and Leisure Centre
Wodonga Senior Secondary College
St Monica's
HOUSE CREEK TRAIL
Beechworth Rd
Wodonga Hospital
WILLOW PARK
Martin Park

3. Site analysis

Site description

Location

Belvoir Park is located in the north-eastern aspect of Wodonga within walking distance of the CBD, with Willow Park south of the CBD but being essentially located in the geographic centre of the city. The two parks are joined by the House Creek Trail, which generally takes a meandering north-south direction. Willow Park is about 2.8km south-south-east along the House Creek Trail from Belvoir Park (about 2.3km in a direct line). The location of the subject sites is shown left.

Belvoir Park (about 23 ha), commonly referred to as Sumsion Gardens, is a highly attractive park featuring three distinct bodies of still water, the largest being the focus of the park. The park has high-quality embellishments and contains a significant network of pathways.

Willow Park (about 22ha) is Wodonga's second largest reserve and provides high-quality recreation opportunities and district level sporting facilities. The site's large, open spaces are highly valued by the community.

The House Creek Trail is a well-maintained concrete pathway connection between the two sites that traverses several reserves and recreation features along its length. Due to the four underpasses along its length, users can remain off-road for the entire journey between the two reserves.

Elements of the sites are provided in more detail on the following pages.

Planning considerations

Belvoir Park

The vast majoriy of Belvoir Park is within the Public Park and recreation Zone (PPRZ), with a small area to the immediate south of the playing field being within the Farm Zone (FZ).

Willow Park

All of the Willow Park site is within the PPRZ.

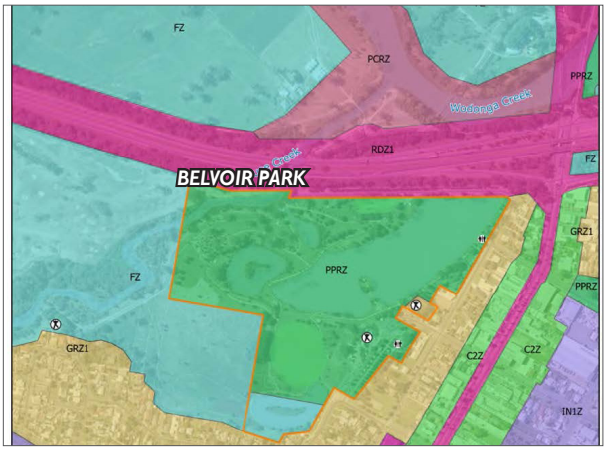
The zoning maps for each of the sites are provided below.

The purpose of the PPRZ is:

- To implement the Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework;
- To recognise areas for public recreation and open space;
- To protect and conserve areas of significance where appropriate; and,
- To provide for commercial uses where appropriate.

Importantly, the upgrades and development proposed within the master plan align well with these objectives.

Due to the variety of environmental issues associated with the subject sites, it is noted that there could be an opportunity in the future to explore more explicit zoning of natural habitat areas, future revegetation areas, open space and active recreation areas.





Site elements - Belvoir Park

Site characteristics

The site is dominated by the bodies of water (lakes), especially the largest, commonly referred to as Belvoir Park Lake.

Informal recreation is the focus of the site with the junior playing field only being utilised sporadically by formal sports.

Central on the southern boundary of the main lake is the hub of infrastructure providing various informal recreation opportunities including a regional playground (soon to be extended), various picnicking facilities (including a large community pizza oven), public amenities and the Celebration Garden.

To the north of the main lake, and connected by concrete pathways, are more informal recreation opportunities in a more natural setting including fenced dog parks, some picnicking features and outdoor fitness equipment.

Embellishments

- ☐ Playground
  - Regional level with various elements, including liberty swing
  - Well-maintained with natural softfall
  - Partially shaded with inter-connecting pathways and various seating options for parents/carers
- ☐ Dog off-leash areas
  - Well-maintained and popular
  - Two sections - one for more active dogs and another for first timers or timid dogs
  - Obedience and mobility features
- ☐ Significant pathway network connecting activity areas
- ☐ Other embellishments
  - Celebration Garden
  - Junior sports field
  - Various high-quality picnicking features
  - Modern public amenities
  - Children's maze
  - Car parking areas
  - Two fitness equipment stations
  - Three separate barbecue shelter areas
  - Rotary Peace Bell

Activity areas

- ☐ Playground
- ☐ Picnic/gathering node











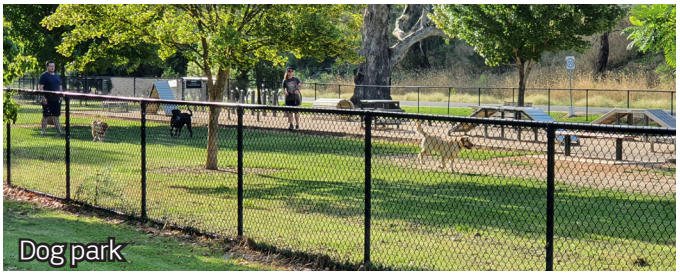
Existing facilities

1. Playground
2. Celebration Garden
3. Car parking
4. Dog parks (large and small dogs)
5. Junior sports field
6. Children's maze
7. Privately owned land
8. Picnic/gathering node

Other features


Pathways


Pizza oven


Dog park


Celebration Garden

Lighting

Lighting is provided to the main pathways around the site but not to features such as the playground, sports field and dog parks.

Parking

The site's main car park is small but centrally located, directly servicing the playground, main lake foreshore area and picnic/gathering node. Further formal parking is available in the car park at the end of Bank St and this is due to be extended as part of the playground expansion.

There are currently various informal parking areas along the northern edge of the main lake.

Access, linkages and connectivity

The park has limited road frontage, with access to the main car park being off Huon St. Further access is available from the end of Bank St.

Connectivity throughout the site is excellent, with a significant concrete pathway network connecting all main features.

Shade

A mixture of native and exotic trees throughout the site provide a generally attractive shaded environment, complemented by various built shade structures over picnic nodes, play elements and gathering spaces.

Signage

There is a variety of signage at the site.

- Regulatory signage at features such as the playground and dog parks
- Informative signage within gathering spaces and picnic nodes, along walking paths and at features such as the Celebration Garden
- Some directional signage along main spines of walking path that is, however, sometimes ambiguous
- Memorial plaques



Site elements - Willow Park

Site characteristics

Willow Park is a large recreation reserve with attractive wide, open spaces and is also home to the Wodonga Heart Football Club (soccer) and Wodonga Parkrun. However, the park's main function is providing informal recreation opportunities to residents.

The park's only direct road frontage is to Pearce St in the south-eastern corner of the site, with vehicular access at only one point from Pearce St.

With House Creek running along the eastern and northern boundaries of the site, and the significant eucalyptus trees, nature experiences are a feature of the park. The James Scott Memorial Skate Park provides active recreation for the city's youth, while the playground provides opportunities for younger children.

Embellishments

- ☐ Sports pavilion and playing fields
  - Small but modern pavilion with the ability to extend
  - High-quality playing fields (including a turf cricket pitch between the two main fields), three of which with sports lighting
- ☐ Skate park
  - High-quality facility with a range of elements
  - Half-basketball court
- ☐ Playground
  - Spacious and well-maintained but dated and lacking shade, with a minor nature play element adjacent
- ☐ Park and picnic furniture
  - Quality, shaded elements
- ☐ Public amenities
  - High-quality and well-located

Skate park and picnic node













Sport facilities



Existing facilities

1. Sporting fields
2. Sports club pavilion
3. Wetlands
4. Skate park
5. Playground
6. Creek line nature walk
7. Car park
8. Picnic node and public toilets

Other features





Lighting

Modern, solar lighting is located on all major pathways around the site.

Sports field lighting is also high quality over two of the fields, with competition standard (for football (soccer)) on the two main fields.

Parking

The lined, sealed car park currently meets the site's needs.

Access, linkages and connectivity

Vehicular access is limited to the main entry off Pearce St, with pedestrian/cycle access from an additional six locations around the perimeter (including Martin Park) via the pathway network.

Connectivity within the site is excellent with a variety of concrete and gravel paths linking key activity areas.

Shade

While the park includes several significant eucalyptus trees that provide various areas of shade, the risk of sudden branch drop needs to be noted.

Other shade around the site is limited to shade sails for spectators of the sporting activities and the shelters provided at the picnic node.

Signage

Signage at the site includes:

- ☐ Informative signage at the wetlands area;
- ☐ Directional and information signage at the main pathway intersection;
- ☐ Regulatory signage at skate park; and,
- ☐ Memorial plaque.



Existing facilities

1. Underpass
2. Phill Adams Park
3. Pam Stone Park
4. Les Stone Park
5. Public toilets
6. St Monica's
7. Carl Fietz Park

Site elements - House Creek Trail

Site characteristics

The House Creek Trail is a shared walk and cycle path, about 2.8km long, that connects Belvoir and Willow Parks via several other parks.

- ☐ Phill Adams Park
- ☐ Pam Stone Park
- ☐ Les Stone Park
- ☐ St Monica's Oval (Gerard Moylan Park)
- ☐ Carl Fietz Park

The trail provides users with a generally flat pathway through various natural settings and creek lines. Four road underpasses provide safe off-road use for the entire length of the trail, which is also lit with solar lighting. Directional and information signage exists but could be improved, consistent to that recommended for Belvoir Park.

The pathway itself is well-maintained and in good condition with the exception of the need for upgrades to some of the underpasses and other points along the trail as illustrated below. These upgrades will complete the experience the trail offers and increase the perception of safety.













At right is an example of using murals to make the underpasses more inviting. In conjunction with improved lighting and signage, the perception of safety will also increase.



4. Demand analysis

Demand for development of the sites has been established through consultation with council, user groups and stakeholders; through review of demographics, facility design trends and impacts; and, combined with an analysis of opportunities.

Consultation summary

Council engagement

Potential opportunities and issues for consideration were discussed with councillors and council officers:

Belvoir Park

Issues

- ☐ Informal parking occurs regularly at the northern aspect
- ☐ Pathway in northern aspect is very close to the road

Opportunities

- ☐ Fitness stations are well-utilised
- ☐ Seen as an unofficial botanical gardens
- ☐ The large, privately owned open space in the south-west corner could be better utilised
- ☐ The urban waterways should continue to be preserved as wildlife habitats.

Willow Park

Issues

- ☐ Significant resistance to a proposed dog park in the recent past
- ☐ Any increased power requirements (field lighting, events) could result in the need for an expensive power upgrade to the site.

Opportunities

- ☐ Skate park is well-used but is a bit old
- ☐ Shared community and sporting use should continue
- ☐ Urban waterways should continue to be preserved as wildlife habitats
- ☐ Access to creek frontage could be improved

House Creek Trail

- ☐ Safety issues exist, especially in the underpasses

Community engagement

Four community drop-in sessions were held to provide residents the opportunity to give suggestions and feedback directly to the consultants. These sessions were as follows.

Belvoir Park:

- 11.30am-1.30pm (Thursday, February 3)
- 6.30pm-8.30 am (Friday, February 4).

Willow Park.

- 6.30pm-8.30am (Thursday, February 3)
- 5pm-7pm (Thursday, February 4).

The outcomes of these engagement sessions are summarised as follows and do not necessarily reflect the thoughts of council or the consultants but are a record of attendees' comments.

Belvoir Park

There was overwhelming support to not make significant changes to the park as it was believed it is currently highly attractive and functional as it is, with the exception of the need for additional car parking.

There was also strong support to continue the high level of maintenance of the site, while maintaining the natural settings throughout.

Other comments and suggestions

- There was a split in support for the plantings of exotics or natives
- Strong support for the pathway network within the park
- Concentrate any developments (but only minor) to the northern area to reduce the congestion elsewhere
- There were concerns the traffic and congestion along Church St would worsen if major developments occurred
- Formalise at least some of the car parking throughout the northern aspect of the park
- More interpretive and informative signage would be appreciated
- Would like to see the large unused area in the south-west to be better utilised
- Attractive fencing around the junior sports field would make it more attractive
- More fitness stations would be good
- Developing dog parks in other parts of the city to alleviate pressure on the Belvoir Park facility
- Increase the shade wherever possible, especially over seating and over more of the playground
- A reduction in fauna has been noted since the removal of many willow trees

Willow Park

As for Belvoir Park, there was strong support to not over-develop the site as it is believed it currently functions very well. There was also a very high level of satisfaction with the large open spaces offered by the park.

Other common suggestions included widening the pathways, increased shade, improved playground (including more nature play features) and maintaining the natural area and pathway along House Creek.

Other comments and suggestions

- The amount of community events held at the park is just about perfect
- The park is quite flood prone
- A fenced dog park is not wanted
- Large gum trees should continue to be monitored by an arborist
- The wetland area could be improved
- Access to the creek for children should be provided
- Car parking was generally seen as adequate for normal activities, however not for larger events such as when Saturday football (soccer) is being held.
- Quality and quantity of fitness stations could be improved
- the mix of concrete and gravel paths is a positive feature of the park.

Stakeholder engagement

Willow Park

Friends of Willow Park

The Friends of Willow Park community group work closely with the council and other agencies to ensure the park continues to meet the needs of the community. Discussions with representatives occurred on site to discuss suggestions for the master plan. The key points raised by the group, in no particular order of importance were as follows.

- The new toilets identified for the northern aspect of the park in the previous master plan are not needed
- It is felt the council needs increased staff resources, especially in the area of open space planning and management
- There is the right mix of concrete and gravel paths, with no need for additional concrete paths
- Knowledge of the Indigenous people and their culture who lived in the area could be enhanced
- Improved access to Martin Park could help alleviate car parking issues on Sundays
- Entry to wetlands area from the south could be landscaped and tidied up
- Would not like to see an increase in the park hosting larger events
- The park and designated off-leash areas are very popular with dog owners and there is a subsequent need for additional bins and biodegradable dog waste bag dispensers
- The small nature play area could easily be extended
- Lighting or possibly a surveillance camera may assist in deterring vandalism of the book library
- Funding has been approved for the removal of woody weeds
- A bush tucker area could be established in the very south-east corner of the park near the wetlands
- Although not perfect, flood mitigation has generally worked well at the site
- The park would benefit from increased interpretive and informative signage
- It is hoped that a collaborative approach is undertaken for any future developments/improvements/ initiatives, including an implementation plan that identifies the roles and responsibilities of community groups

Wodonga Heart Football Club

The club is generally happy with the facilities at Willow Park and has a good relationship with the council.

Issues identified that would assist in the provision of their sport include the following.

- An extension to the pavilion to include female change rooms
- The existing, separate storage shed needs to be upgraded, with limited storage available in the existing pavilion
- Widening the main path through the park would greatly assist volunteers transporting equipment to field four.



Parkrun

Parkrun is held at Willow Park (and up to Les Stone Park and back) every Saturday, generally between 7.30am and 9.30am, with an average of about 100 participants. Participation in the 5km event is free.

The key points raised in discussions with this group were as follows.

- There are various flood-affected areas over the course
- Residents regularly voice concerns over parking issues, especially if the Parkrun coincides with football (soccer) games or training
- The group has a good relationship with the council and is provided access to the storage and toilets at the sports pavilion. It was noted dedicated, improved storage would greatly enhance their operations.
- The group works closely with the Albury Parkrun group that caters to an average of 200 participants.

Albury Wodonga Football Association

The association identified the tenant club at Willow Park, Wodonga Heart, is one of the largest junior football (soccer) clubs in the region and is growing. The association holds their MiniRoos program (an introductory program aimed at 4 to 11 year olds) at Willow Park on Saturdays.

The main improvements identified for the facilities at Willow Park that would enhance provision of the sport were as follows.

- Female change rooms (an issue across the cities)
- Storage facilities for the association to assist delivery of the Miniroos program
- Improved standard of the playing surfaces and field lighting
- Removal of the turf cricket pitch would enhance football delivery

Cricket Albury Wodonga

The regional association didn't identify any significant facility needs at the site for improved provision of the sport, except for the provision of practice nets that are open to the public.

It was identified this is an issue across the city and would greatly enhance Willow Park, albeit their location could be problematic due to the existing infrastructure, trees and use of the park.

Belvoir Park

Cricket Albury Wodonga

The junior field has a synthetic grass pitch is used by the association for under 12s and wnder 14s games.

The association feels the Council maintains the playing field well and did not identify any new infrastructure needs at Belvoir Park, although the lack of practice nets open to the public across the city was noted.

Remote control boats

The group operates on the main lake twice a week on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

The group's main desire was to have a dedicated access point in the car parking area (one space would be adequate) along Church St. Other points identified were as follows.

- The concrete embankments along the north-eastern edge of the lake are perfect for launching the boats
- The lack of weed and rubbish in the lake makes it a great location for their activities
- The installation of eight permanent buoys would be greatly appreciated.

It should be noted several stakeholders did not respond to phone call/email requests to discuss the master plan, however, they will be sent a draft directly for comment following council approving it for public display, with follow-up phone calls/emails to be undertaken if required.

Environmental considerations

Belvoir Park

The (draft) Belvoir Park and Sumsion Gardens Environmental Management Plan (EMP) details environmental issues that have been considered in the development of this master plan. The main issues are outlined following, with the relevant recommendations included in the design rationale for this master plan.

The water bodies that dominate the site have been modified over time to provide stormwater treatment from the surrounding urban area. The site contains a combination of large remnant red gums and planted exotic trees and shrubs, ranging from juvenile to mature. Aquatic vegetation is limited to mostly rushes and the parkland itself is mainly pasture and lawn grass. These waterways and vegetation provide significant habitats for wildlife (including the Murray turtle, platypus and a large range of bird life).

In addition to the ongoing maintenance of the site, there has recently been an emphasis on tree planting and revegetation with works to avoid flood inundation also being undertaken.

It is noted the site plays an important role in dealing with climate change, providing a cool and accessible public space via its canopy and water bodies. Further, the stormwater treatment function of the lagoons increases the potential for algal blooms and aquatic weed growth and the management of these issues may conflict with community expectations of permanently full lakes and lagoons.

The site hosts a range of native and introduced flora and fauna, with particular note of two regularly observed turtle species (Murray Short-neck and Broadshell Snake-necked), listed as vulnerable and endangered respectively.

Any future developments and management practices at the site will need to be cognisant of the EMP's objectives to:

- Improve the extent and quality of the park's aquatic habitat;
- Maintain and enhance the existing terrestrial habitat in the park, with emphasis on wildlife connectivity to House Creek and Wodonga Creek corridors;
- Mitigate threats to the environmental values, with particular emphasis on protection of significant species;
- Facilitate stakeholder participation in the monitoring and management of environmental values;
- Identify specific objectives for the delivery of environmental water to the site; and,
- Improve the quality of stormwater treatment through the lagoons.

It is noted funding (from the Integrated Water Management Program) has recently been approved for an environmental project at the site (Sumsion Lake and Wetland System - Environmental Enhancement, Social Connection and Stormwater Management). The aims of the project, due to occur from June 2022 to January 2024, are:

- To deliver improvements to the functioning of the Sumsion Lake and wetland system, for the enhancement of environmental values;
- To facilitate the bio-remediation of stormwater from central Wodonga, before outfall to the Murray River;
- To explore opportunities to harvest and reuse urban stormwater for greenspace irrigation; and,
- To engage and educate the community about integrated water management, urban stormwater, wetland and riparian environments, and indigenous connections to land and water.

Willow Park and House Creek Trail

Wodonga Regional Waterway Action Plan (Wodonga Urban Landcare Network 2018)

This waterway action plan (WAP) investigates three reaches of House Creek, with recommendations for the mid and lower reaches being most relevant to the subject sites. These are summarised as follows.

Mid Reach (Willow Park and House Creek Trail)

- ☐ The existing willows are contributing to the bed form and channel stability within this reach. Any willow management works undertaken within this reach will need to consider the role the willows provide in relation to channel stability. Conversely, as the willows age, they will have an increasing tendency to collapse into the channel, potentially contributing to bank instabilities.
- ☐ The rehabilitation goals within this reach will be strongly related to the riparian management practices (zones) that exist within this reach.
- ☐ The channel and near riparian zone adjacent to Willow Park generally has lower weed densities and with ongoing maintenance could maintain good native vegetation and stream condition.
- ☐ The majority of the remaining reach from Willow Park to Melbourne Rd has relatively high woody weed infestation. This section is in poor condition and the ongoing seeding of weed species will further choke and degrade the creek line. This reach requires substantial control works and ongoing management to reduce weed cover and competition and allow native vegetation to thrive and recruit naturally.

Lower Reach (House creek Trail and Belvoir Park)

- ☐ Riparian vegetation is contributing to bank stability within this reach,
- ☐ The creek line and lower floodplain is heavily infested with woody weeds that will continue to impact on the native species present. If left uncontrolled, these weeds will slowly out-compete existing native plants and prevent natural recruitment.
- ☐ The weeds on the hillslope adjacent to the abattoir may be subject to high nutrient run-off. Therefore, weeds on that hill slope should only be controlled and replaced with natives if they are not currently performing nutrient stripping.

Although no environmental management plan for Willow Park was reviewed, investigations and consultation has identified the following additional environmental considerations for the site.

- ☐ Vegetation around the site is dominated by large gums, with significant risk of sudden branch drop.
- ☐ The wetland area, intended to capture water run-off from the road, does not seem to flow effectively during rain periods.
- ☐ Exotic plantings may be an effective strategy to deal with the effects of climate change.
- ☐ Diversity is crucial for building resilience amoung a tree population to reduce the risk of impacts such as pests and disease incursions or drought.
- ☐ The removal of large woody weeds from house creek is needed.
- ☐ The site would benefit from more interpretive and informative signage and plant labelling (including their ability to attract fauna).
- ☐ Increased monitoring of nest boxes to control invasive species and to collect occupancy data.
- ☐ Increased indigenous food plants for pollinators, birds and native animals.
- ☐ The mix of concrete and gravel paths is a positive feature of the park.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS - NOTE

As mentioned previously, while this master plan is not a specific environmental plan, it must be used to guide the development of the subject sites in conjunction with such environmental stategies and action plans as:

- The (draft) Belvoir Park and Sumsion Gardens Environmental Management Plan (Wodonga Council); and,
- The *Wodonga Regional Waterway Action Plan* (Wodonga Urban Landcare Network 2018)





5. Design considerations

Opportunities and constraints - Belvoir Park

ISSUE	OPPORTUNITIES/CONSTRAINTS	DESIRED OUTCOMES/DESIGN DRIVERS
Movement		
Entry	The site is relatively easy to access given it has two vehicular entry points and several pathway connections There is little naming signage at the site The soon-to-be expanded playground and car park extension could become the main entry	Develop a secondary entry statement at the Bank St/Osburn St entry point Enhance primary entry statement/ improved signage on the Huon St entry
Parking	The new extension to the car park and improved informal parking opportunities to the north of the site should provide adequate car parking for the site	Continue with the proposed car park extension and realign paths in the northern aspect to improve informal parking opportunities
Pedestrian network	Significant existing internal path system Directional signage somewhat ambiguous	Improve directional and information signage throughout site and at external connections
Fencing	The park is currently un-emcumbered by fencing, providing large, open, accessible spaces ☐ Informal parking areas lack bollards/kerb stops	Install bollards/kerb stops in informal parking areas in the northern aspect
Buildings and structures		
Amenities	Public amenities and picnicking/ gathering structures are modern and very well-maintained No other significant buildings or structures are on the site, enhancing the natural environment it provides	Continue high level of maintenance to built infrastructure Ensure the site continues to be unconstrained by significant built infrastructure

ISSUE	OPPORTUNITIES/CONSTRAINTS	DESIRED OUTCOMES/DESIGN DRIVERS
Open space		
Recreation facilities	The regional playground (soon to be expanded) provides a range of play activities The lakes/lagoons provide various, but somewhat limited, passive recreation opportunities Various kick-about spaces exist throughout the site, including the junior sports field Fitness stations provide opportunities for physical fitness activities Significant picnicking/gathering features and furniture are located throughout the site Children's maze operates in isolation	Complete playground expansion as programmed Develop boardwalk and nature play features with improved waterfront access adjacent to children's maze
Landscaping	Existing landscaping a significant feature of site, including the use of attractive but unobtrusive stone features	Continue current landscaping theme to protect the natural environment provided by the site
Lighting	Suitable lighting is provided throughout site	Ensure any park improvements are adequately lit, consistent with existing lighting infrastructure

Opportunities and constraints - Willow Park

ISSUE	OPPORTUNITIES/CONSTRAINTS	DESIRED OUTCOMES/DESIGN DRIVERS
Movement		
Entry	The park has no real street frontage with the closest being the section of Pearce St at the site's south-eastern corner near the wetlands The only vehicular entry is from the roundabout on Pearce St, however, there is no entry statement or directional signage into the site There are various pathway entry points into the site, including that from Martin Park in the site's north-eastern aspect	Develop a primary entry statement/ avenue from the Pearce St roundabout Install directional/informative signage at the various pathway entrances
Parking	The one car park on site located to the east of the sports pavilion is adequate	No further car parking required
Pedestrian network	The internal pathway network is significant and a mix of well-maintained concrete and gravel paths Various pedestrian entry points to the site exist	Retain gravel paths through natural areas Consider widening most popular existing concrete paths to better accommodate shared use and allow improved access to the northern sporting field
Fencing	No fencing exists within the park, adding to the natural atmosphere and openness of the site	Fencing of any proposed improvements to the site to be avoided wherever possible/practical
Buildings and structures		
Sports pavilion	The modest and modern pavilion, located to the west of the car park and overlooking the two main playing fields, is small but has the ability to be extended	Extension of the pavilion with an appropriate design to include female change rooms and increased storage
Storage shed	The small storage shed located immediately to the west of the pavilion is unattractive and not highly functional	Remove, subject to the above
Amenities	The sole amenities building is modern and well-maintained and is located at the eastern aspect of the car park, servicing the picnic/ gathering node, playground and skate park	Retain amenities building and maintain high level of maintenance.

ISSUE	OPPORTUNITIES/CONSTRAINTS	DESIRED OUTCOMES/DESIGN DRIVERS
Open space		
Landscaping	Landscape treatments, ranging from garden bed buffers to natural bushland throughout the site, are of a high quality and well-maintained	Current landscaping practices and maintenance schedules should be continued
Lighting	The two main sports fields to the north of the pavilion are lit to competition standard, with training standard lighting on the third field (immediately north of the car park) Solar lighting is installed along the main pathways The skate park is well lit with large spotlights	Increase lighting levels in picnic/ gathering node and associated pathway along northern edge of car park Investigate increasing field lighting to third field, if a demand is demonstrated
Recreation facilities	The existing playground is dated and not shaded and has an adjacent very small area for natural play (rocks and logs) The skate park is large with a good variety of skate features, as well as a shaded gathering point and half basketball court, and naturally shaded areas There are a total of four sporting fields, including the two main fields immediately to the north of the pavilion that are of high quality and include a turf cricket pitch in the centre. The field to the east of these and to the immediate north of the car park is also of an acceptable standard while the fourth (in the northern aspect of the site), is of a lower quality. Large sails provide shade for spectators A picnic/gathering node (including barbecues) has been developed at the north-eastern end of the car park with modern and functional structures and furniture The wetland area provides additional passive recreation opportunities, including informative signage	Upgrade the existing playground equipment and provide at least partial shading with sails consistent with those existing within the site Develop a larger nature play area adjacent to the playground, including safe access to House Creek and meandering gravel walkways that connect to the existing gravel path along the creek Develop further features between the skate park and proposed nature play area that may include a learn to ride track and a combined rebound/ bouldering wall (that may also include a public cricket practice net in its final design) Provide additional picnic/ gathering features as a demand is demonstrated Increased maintenance to the fourth sporting field would allow it to cater for a wider range of sporting activities Upgrade/slightly increase number of fitness stations throughout site

Opportunities and constraints - House Creek Trail

ISSUE	OPPORTUNITIES/CONSTRAINTS	DESIRED OUTCOMES/DESIGN DRIVERS
Pathways	Single use (narrow) concrete pathway for the majority but well maintained along its entire length, including verges Well-connected to features it passes along its length	Continue maintenance program, monitoring for required repairs Where/when possible, monitor usage levels to determine if widening necessary in certain areas
Underpasses	Functional but unattractive access under roads (and old, unused train bridge) Perceived safety issues due to hidden/dark nature Connection under old railway bridge and creek crossing (under Forrest Marrs Ave/South St) particularly unattractive, with a mix of concrete/bitumen/gravel surfacing and dilapidated gate	Make aesthetic improvements to underpasses, such as murals and painting of harsh surfaces Ensure connection points use consistent surface materials and are free from trip hazards
Lighting	The entire length of the trail is lit with solar lighting No lighting was apparent in the underpasses	Install lighting to improve the safety of underpasses - designed to not negatively impact on traffic/ residences (and also consider the use of feature lighting for aesthetic purposes)
Signage	Attractive informative/naming signs are located at each of the reserves and key features (such as the Les Stone Park wetland) connected by the trail Directional signage is very limited (but a Wodonga Pathways sign is located in Pam Stone Park)	Install consistent directional signage at all key junctions, including distance to points of interest information



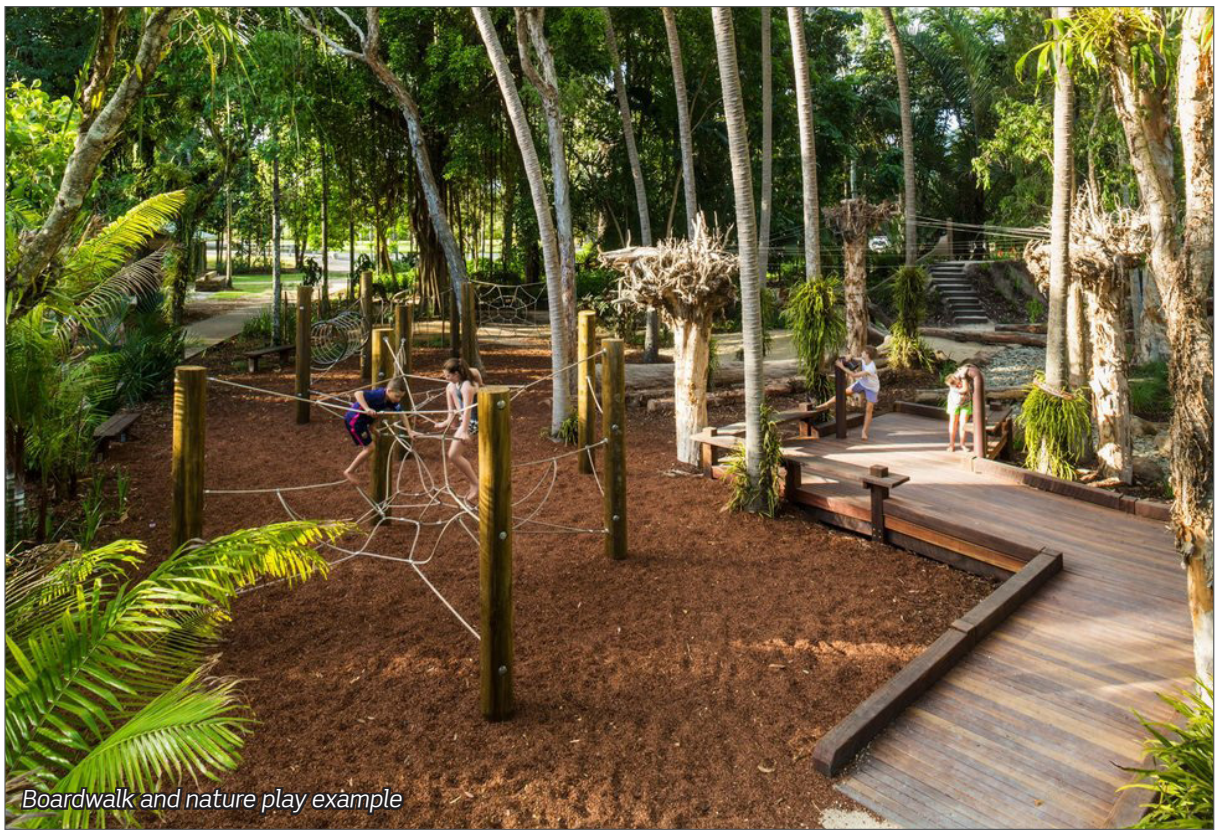
6. Master plan

Maintaining a current master plan is a key requirement to guide facility development (to avoid ad hoc and piecemeal progress) and can be a key resource in assisting to attract funding.

The master plan has been developed by considering all consultation, appropriate strategic contexts and previous research. Overall, it provides an ideal opportunity to enhance the capacity of the two parks and connecting trail to meet the needs of the user groups and also the recreation needs of residents and visitors.

The master plan integrates the existing site features with a limited range of new elements and embellishments. The two parks are already key recreation venues for Wodonga, highly valued by the community. Expansion of play and passive recreation elements, improvements to the functionality and attractiveness of existing elements, and maintaining and improving the natural environment of the sites will enhance the experience of users.

The Belvoir and Willow Park Master Plan can be found on the following pages. The plan includes an overall layout of all three sites (including the House Creek Trail) and more detailed concepts plans for the two parks.



Boardwalk and nature play example

Vision - Belvoir Park

To further establish the site as an area for recreation pursuits and passive experiences within an attractive and natural environment.

Facility design - Belvoir Park

ELEMENT	DESCRIPTION	RATIONALE
Recreation opportunities		
Natural recreation node	Construct a boardwalk along the north-western edge of the north-western lagoon, connecting to existing pathway Install nature play elements between the proposed boardwalk and the existing pathway Consider the future acquisition of the large parcel of privately owned land in the south-western aspect of the site	To complement the existing children's maze To enhance interaction with natural features To protect the private land from development and to create additional recreation spaces
Embellish ments	Install additional picnic furniture and associated shade structures to the immediate north of proposed natural recreation node Upgrade/slightly increase number of fitness stations throughout site	To further enhance the opportunities of the proposed natural recreation node To provide improved physical activity opportunities
Walk/cycle paths	Realign pathway along Reuss Rd at the northern edge of the park Install bollards/logs along Dick St section of pathway	To separate pedestrians and cyclists from traffic and informal parking To separate pathway from informal parking areas
Playground	Continue with proposed playground expansion	Final design under way
Common areas		
Entries and signage	Develop a secondary entry statement at the Bank St/Osburn St entry point Enhance the primary entry statement/improved signage on the Huon St entry	To provide focal entry points that guide park users Develop an enhanced primary entry statement at the Huon St entry
Landscaping	Maintain current low-impact landscapes	To enhance the natural environment and green amenity of the site
Signage	Improve directional and information signage throughout site and at external connections	To enhance use of the existing pathway network

Improvements proposed in the Master Plan are not significant but are designed to enhance existing features and improve connectivity/ functionality while maintaining the natural environment of the Park.



Directional signage and fitness stations to be improved


Entry statements to be improved


Pathway along Reuss Rd to be realigned

Vision - Willow Park

To balance quiet natural areas with inviting play and picnic elements ensuring that the park is attractive to a wide array of users. To ensure sporting activities are appropriately provided for without negatively impacting on other uses.

Facility design - Willow Park

ELEMENT	DESCRIPTION	RATIONALE
Recreation opportunities		
Sporting facilities	Extension of the pavilion with an appropriate design to include female change rooms and increased storage Subject to the above, remove external storage shed Continue current level of maintenance of three main sporting fields while increasing that to fourth field	To appropriately cater for increasing female participation To provide high quality fields that cater for a wider range of sporting activities
Recreation facilities	Develop a larger nature play area adjacent to the playground, including safe access to House Creek and meandering gravel walkways that connect to the existing gravel path along the creek Upgrade the existing playground equipment and provide at least partial shading with sails consistent with those existing within the site Develop further features between the skate park and proposed nature play area that may include a learn to ride track and a combined rebound/bouldering wall (that could also include a public cricket practice net in its final design)	To provide a wider range of play activities, consistent with current trends To provide an additional learning activity element and a multi-purpose feature complementary to existing and proposed features
Picnic facilities	Provide additional picnic/ gathering features as a demand is demonstrated	To ensure suitable covered areas for picnics/gatherings are available
Walk/cycle paths	Construct a pedestrian/cycle bridge over House Creek between Willow and Martin parks Retain gravel paths through natural areas Consider widening most popular existing concrete paths in line with path renewal program	To provide direct access to proposed nature play/creek access area To better accommodate shared use and allow improved access to the northern sporting field
Common areas		

ELEMENT	DESCRIPTION	RATIONALE
Entries and signage	Develop a primary entry statement/ avenue from the Pearce St roundabout Install directional/informative signage at the various pathway entrances. Informative signage to include information on relevant indigenous historical and cultural signficance	To provide a focal entry point to guide park users To provide information regarding the historical and cultural history of the site/key features To enhance the pedestrian links into the park
Wetlands area	Regularly monitor feature effectively performs its role of stormwater treatment	To provide additional visual amenity
Common areas (continued)		
Landscaping	Current landscaping practices and maintenance schedules should be continued	To retain the high quality of the existing low-impact landscape treatments
Lighting	Increase lighting levels in picnic/ gathering node and associated pathway along northern edge of car park Investigate increasing field lighting to third field to competition standard, if a demand is demonstrated	To cater for anticipated increased use and provide increased safety High quality field that would better cater for sporting competition (demand to be determined by Albury Wodonga Sport and Recreation Strategy (in progress))

House Creek Trail

ELEMENT	DESCRIPTION	RATIONALE
Pathways	Continue maintenance program, monitoring for required repairs Where/when possible, monitor usage levels to determine if widening necessary in certain areas	To ensure safety of users To cater for shared use where necessary
Underpasses	Make aesthetic improvements to underpasses, such as murals and painting of harsh surfaces Ensure connection points use consistent surface materials and are free from trip hazards	To utilise underpasses as actual features/points of interest To ensure safety of users and better define trail
Lighting	Install lighting to underpasses - designed to not negatively impact on traffic/residences/wildlife (and also consider the use of feature lighting for aesthetic purposes)	To improve safety of users without impacting on traffic/residents/ wildlife To utilise underpasses as actual features/points of interest
Signage	Install consistent directional signage at all key junctions, including distance to points of interest information	To improve user experience and confidence

Belvoir and Willow Parks Master Plan



Example of a revitalised creek and linear park corridor in Hanlon Park, Stones Corner, QLD (credit: space4cyclingbne)



Example underpass wayfinding treatments on The Dry Creek Trail, SA (credit: uncoolcyclingclub.com)



Directional sign on Norcia River Walk Interpretation Trail (credit: axiomdp)



Example historical interpretation node in Stringybark Creek (credit: Nature Tourism Services)

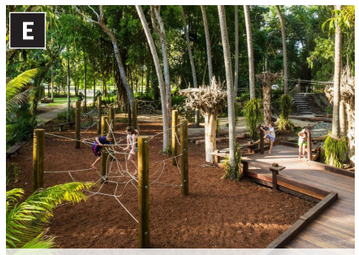


Example signage along the Alkimos Beach Intepretive Trail, WA





Example learn to ride track in Ryde Park, NSW



Example nature play trail in Centenary Lakes (designer: Landplan Landscape Architecture)



Example nature play in Centenary Lakes (designer: Landplan Landscape Architecture)



Example rebound wall from Box Hill, VIC (credit: ASPECT Studios and Andrew Lloyd)



Example bouldering wall - Cameron's Climb Woodhouse Activity Centre, Piccadilly, SA

ross planning
recreation
open space and
sport specialists

Legend

House Creek Trail features

1. Underpass improvements
2. Upgrade connection surfaces and aesthetics
3. Phill Adams Park
4. Pam Stone Park
5. Les Stone Park
6. St Monica's/Gerard Moylan Park
7. Carl Fietz Park

Possible enhanced/new fitness equipment

Belvoir & Willow Parks
Draft Master Plans
Wodonga VIC 3690

1:8000 at A3 Draft

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CITY OF WODONGA VIC



Legend

Existing features

1. Playground
2. Celebration Garden
3. Car parking
4. Dog parks
5. Junior sports field
6. Children's maze location
7. Privately owned land (consideration to be given for future acquisition)
8. Picnic/gathering mode

Proposed features

9. Boardwalk
10. Nature play area
11. Additional picnic facilities
12. Path realignment
13. Bollards/logs
14. Playground expansion
15. Car park extension (duplication of existing)
16. Improved secondary entry statement
17. Improved primary entry
18. Rotary Peace Bell
19. Future gravel path

Belvoir Park
Draft Master Plan
Wodonga VIC 3690

1:2500 at A3

Draft

N



Legend

Existing features

1. Sporting fields
2. Sports club pavilion
3. Wetlands
4. Skate park
5. Playground (and swing 5A)
6. Creek line nature walk
7. Car park
8. Picnic node and public toilets

Proposed features

9. Pavilion extension
10. Possible path widened for improved shared use
11. Additional picnic facilities
12. Learn to ride track
13. Rebound/bouldering wall/ public cricket practice net
14. Nature play area (with creek access)
15. Upgraded playground
16. Pedestrian bridge
17. Main entry statement/ avenue
18. Directional/information signage
19. Proposed Martin Park car park extension
20. Alternate cricket practice nets location

Possible enhanced/new fitness equipment

Willow Park

Draft Master Plan

Wodonga VIC 3690

1:2500 at A3

Draft

N

7. Implementation plan

Master planning presents an excellent opportunity to guide the future development of leisure, recreation and sport sites,but it must be noted that they are long-term (generally 10 to 20 years), visionary plans and in reality, few councils have the ability to implement them in the short term..

Suggested staging of the proposed developments within this master plan have therefore been provided as a flexible guide to allow the council to adapt to changes in priorities, or achieve earlier opportunities for external funding, both which may alter the proposed staging..

STAGE	INDICATIVE TIMING	AREA	DESCRIPTION
1	1 to 3 years	Belvoir Park	Undertake proposed car park extension
			Realign pathway and incorporating parking improvements along Reuss Rd at the northern edge of the park
			Install bollards/logs along Dick St section of pathway
			Develop a secondary entry statement at the Bank St/Osburn St entry point
			Enhance the primary entry statement/improved signage on the Huon St entry
		Willow Park	Develop a larger nature play area adjacent to the playground, including safe access to House Creek and meandering gravel walkways that connect to the existing gravel path along the creek
			Extension of the pavilion with an appropriate design to include female change rooms and increased storage (including removal of existing storage shed)
			Develop a primary entry statement/avenue from the Pearce St roundabout
		House Creek Trail	Make aesthetic improvements to underpasses, such as murals and painting of harsh surfaces
			Install lighting to underpasses - designed to not negatively impact on traffic/residences/wildlife (and also consider the use of feature lighting for aesthetic purposes)

STAGE	INDICATIVE TIMING	AREA	DESCRIPTION
2	1 to 3 years	Belvoir Park	Improve directional and information signage (such as historical, cultural and botanical) throughout site and at external connections
		Willow Park	Upgrade the existing playground equipment and provide at least partial shading with sails consistent with those existing within the site
			Install directional/informative signage at the various pathway entrances
			Informative signage to include information on relevant indigenous historical and cultural significance
		House Creek Trail	Install consistent directional signage at all key junctions, including distance to points of interest information
3	4 to 7 years	Belvoir Park	Construct a boardwalk along the north-western edge of the north-western lagoon, connecting to existing pathway
			Install nature play elements between the proposed boardwalk and the existing pathway
		Willow Park	Consider widening most popular existing concrete paths in line with path renewal program
			Construct a pedestrian/cycle bridge over House Creek between Willow and Martin parks
		House Creek Trail	Ensure connection points use consistent surface materials and are free from trip hazards

STAGE	INDICATIVE TIMING	AREA	DESCRIPTION
4	4 to 7 years	Belvoir Park	Install additional picnic furniture and associated shade structures to the immediate north of proposed natural recreation node
		Willow Park	Develop further features between the skate park and proposed nature play area that may include a learn to ride track and a combined rebound/ bouldering wall (that may also include a public cricket practice net in its final design)
			Increase lighting levels in picnic/gathering node and associated pathway along northern edge of car park
			Upgrade/slightly increase number of fitness stations throughout site
5	8+ years	Belvoir Park	Consider the future acquisition of the large parcel of privately owned land in the south-western aspect of the site
		Willow Park	Provide additional picnic/gathering features as a demand is demonstrated
			Investigate increasing field lighting to third field to competition standard, if a demand is demonstrated



CITY OF WODONGA VIC