



Active Recreation Strategy

2026 – 2031

DRAFT



Executive summary

The **City of Belmont Active Recreation Strategy 2026–2031** provides a strategic framework to support a healthier, more active and connected community over the next five years. Building on the achievements and learnings of the **Recreation Strategy 2022–2025**, this Strategy responds to changing community needs, participation trends and emerging challenges in sport and active recreation.

The Strategy recognises the critical role that physical activity plays in improving physical health, mental wellbeing, social connection, and quality of life across all stages of life. Despite strong participation in some activities, data indicates that significant proportions of the community remain insufficiently active, with higher risks of inactivity evident in some suburbs and demographic groups. Barriers such as time pressures, cost of living, access to facilities, and declining volunteer capacity within sporting clubs continue to affect participation.

Extensive community engagement, analysis of participation data, health statistics and industry trends have informed the development of this Strategy. Feedback highlighted strong satisfaction with the City's recreation facilities and services, alongside a clear desire for more free or low-cost programs, flexible participation opportunities, improved lighting and connectivity, and increased access to informal and social recreation spaces.

The Strategy aligns closely with the City's **Strategic Community Plan 2024–2034**, supporting objectives related to health and wellbeing, participation, inclusion, and quality of life. It also complements the City's Public Open Space Strategy, Community Infrastructure Plan, and forthcoming Public Health Plan.

To achieve the City's vision of "*a community that embraces active living, supported by diverse programs, welcoming environments and infrastructure that inspires people to move more, every day,*" the Strategy is structured around three key focus areas:

- **Active People** – increasing participation across all life stages, reducing barriers, targeting the least active, and supporting inclusive and accessible opportunities.
- **Active Places and Spaces** – optimising existing facilities and public open spaces through evidence-based planning, multi-use design, improved connectivity, and future-focused upgrades.
- **Active Partnerships** – strengthening collaboration with sporting clubs, volunteers, schools, health providers, neighbouring local governments and State and Federal partners.

Implementation will be supported through annual action plans, ongoing monitoring, and regular review to ensure the Strategy remains responsive to community needs, population growth, and emerging trends. Through this approach, the City of Belmont will continue to invest in environments, programs and partnerships that enable residents to be active more often, throughout their lives.

Contents

Executive summary	2
Contents	3
Introduction	4
Strategy purpose.....	4
Strategic context.....	5
Our community at a glance.....	7
Why is active recreation so important?	9
Movement for life.....	10
Role of Government	11
Key achievements to date.....	12
Recreation Strategy 2022 – 2025.....	12
2025 Community and Wellbeing Scorecard Results.....	13
What else do we know?	14
Our Health Statistics	14
Health Risks by Suburb	15
Sport and Active Recreation Trends in Australia	15
Participation Trends	19
Local Sporting Clubs and Participation	20
Our Facilities	22
What did our community tell us?.....	24
Challenges and Opportunities	25
Vision and Approach	27
1. Active People	27
2. Active Places and Spaces.....	28
3. Active Partnerships.....	29
Delivery	30
Monitor and Review	30
References and endnotes.....	31

Alternative formats

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For language assistance please contact TIS (Translating and Interpreting Service) on 131 450.

Introduction

This Strategy presents the results of the review of the City’s Recreation Strategy 2022-2025 to understand its impact on community, reflect on key achievements and learnings to guide the development of this updated, Active Recreation Strategy 2026 – 2031.

As a Local Government, we have a central role to play in the provision of community sport and recreation opportunities which has a direct influence on the health, wellbeing and quality of life at a local level in which we live, work and play.

Strategy purpose

This Active Recreation Strategy aims to enhance the range and effectiveness of the City of Belmont’s recreation programs, services and facilities to continue building a healthy, active and connected community.

The key priority areas will drive key actions to achieve the strategies vision, goals and aspirations.

Vision:

The City of Belmont is a community that embraces active living, supported by diverse programs, welcoming environments and infrastructure that inspires people to move more, every day.



Strategic context

The Strategic Community Plan, prepared in collaboration with our community, sets the actions on how we will deliver our shared vision for the future.

With input from over 1,500 community members and key partners, the City's 'Our Plan for the Future. Strategic Community Plan 2024-2034' outlines our 10-year plan for the future including immediate community needs and long-term goals.

Key performance areas include:



People

We have a diverse, harmonious, healthy and active community, where everyone feels safe and there is a strong sense of connection, belonging and pride in the area.



Planet

Our natural heritage, including the Derbarl Yerrigan (Swan River) and nature reserves, is being cared for, enhanced and enjoyed responsibly. We are working together to grow our tree canopy and reduce waste, emissions and water use for improved sustainability.



Place

Responsible urban planning is helping to create green, healthy and well-connected neighbourhoods with good public facilities, attractive streetscapes and parks, and housing opportunities for everyone.



Performance

Local leaders seek, listen and value community input into local decisions, and keep the community well informed about what's happening. There is a clear vision and plan for the future, with a strong focus on balancing service delivery and financial sustainability to deliver excellent value for money from rates.



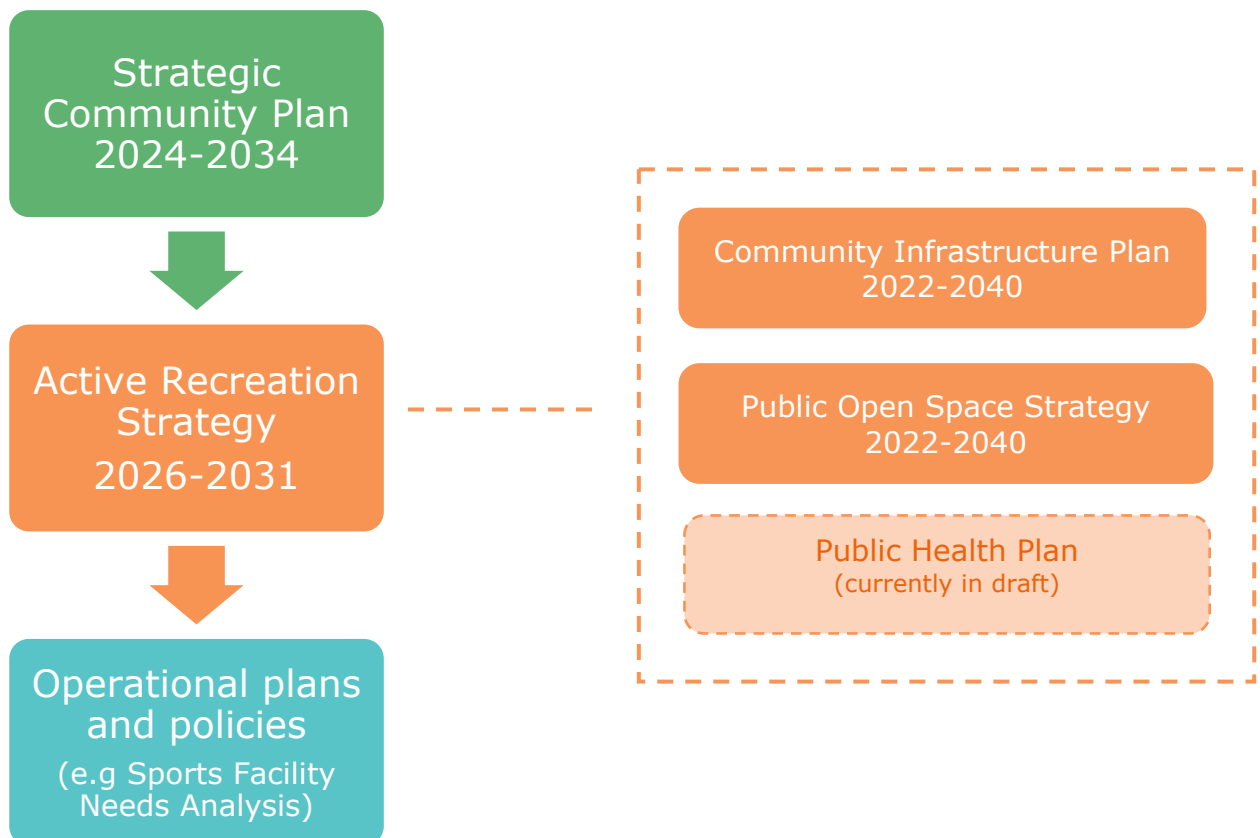
Prosperity

By nurturing creativity and innovation, we have a diverse, dynamic and resilient economy with excellent investment, business development and job opportunities. It is an exciting and vibrant place to visit, with a good range of entertainment, shopping and dining experiences.

The Active Recreation Strategy 2026-2031 closely aligns with the City's 'Our Plan for the Future. Strategic Community Plan 2024-2034' ensuring that efforts contribute towards the City's broader vision and goals, particularly in the following areas:

- Objective 1.2: Facilitate community health and wellbeing.
- Objective 1.3: Grow participation in sport and recreation activities.
- Objective 3.1: Support the health and wellbeing of families and children.
- Objective 3.4: Advance opportunities, community participation and quality of life for people of all abilities.
- Objective 3.5 Grow participation in volunteering.

This Strategy, together with the City's Strategic Community Plan, Public Open Space (POS) Strategy Community Infrastructure Plan and the City's forthcoming Public Health Plan forms a robust framework in the planning, development and management of recreation facilities, programs and services.



Our community at a glance

Since the development of the last recreation strategy in 2022, the City's population has grown by approximately 2300 persons, with an estimated population of 46,133. By 2046, the population is expected to increase by 36% to 62,882.¹

The City's continues to be home to a culturally and linguistically diverse community with over 41% of residents born overseas.

The most significant change to the urban landscape in Belmont over the last five years has been the increased density of residential developments. In 2021, medium and high-density housing made up 37% of residential properties – 13% higher than the wider Perth average. This is reflected in residential demographics, with the largest category of dwellings being sole-person households, and a 42% rental population.

Further population growth will be accommodated through both high-density residential and infill development, increasing the importance of well-provisioned, multi-functional and accessible POS. Several high-density developments have been identified in Rivervale, Belmont and Ascot; with additional supply of medium-to-high density housing in the Redcliffe area.

Population highlights are shown on the following page.



Our community



Population:
46,133



Median age:
36



Youth aged 0-15:
16.0%

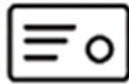


Seniors aged >65:
14.2%

Who we are



Born overseas:
41%



Tertiary qualifications:
28.8%



Average household
size: 2.25 persons



Long-term illness:
28%

What we do



Labour participation:
65.5%



Unemployment rate:
5.6%



Weekly household
income: \$1,641



TAFE or university full-
time attendance: 8.2%

How we move



Commute by car:
67.3%



Commute by walking
or bicycle: 2%



Commute by bus:
7.2%



Work from home:
5.7%

How we live



Separate house living:
62.3%



Medium to high density
living: 37.4%



Households renting:
42%



Lone person
households: 31%

Why is active recreation so important?

Over the past number of years with increasing recognition of the importance of physical activity for mental and physical health, there has been a shift from the term 'recreation' to 'active recreation', highlighting its focus on action-oriented activities.

In line with WA State Government, the following key terms are used throughout this strategy:

'Sport: is defined as a human activity involving physical exertion and skill as the primary focus of the activity, with elements of competition where rules and patterns of behaviour governing the activity exist formally through organisations and is generally recognised as a sport.'

Active recreation: is defined as activities engaged in for the purpose of relaxation, health and wellbeing or enjoyment with the primary activity requiring physical exertion, and the primary focus on human activity.'

Sport and Active Recreation directly influence the health, well-being, and quality of life experienced by our Community. Participation in sport and active recreation can have a positive impact on:

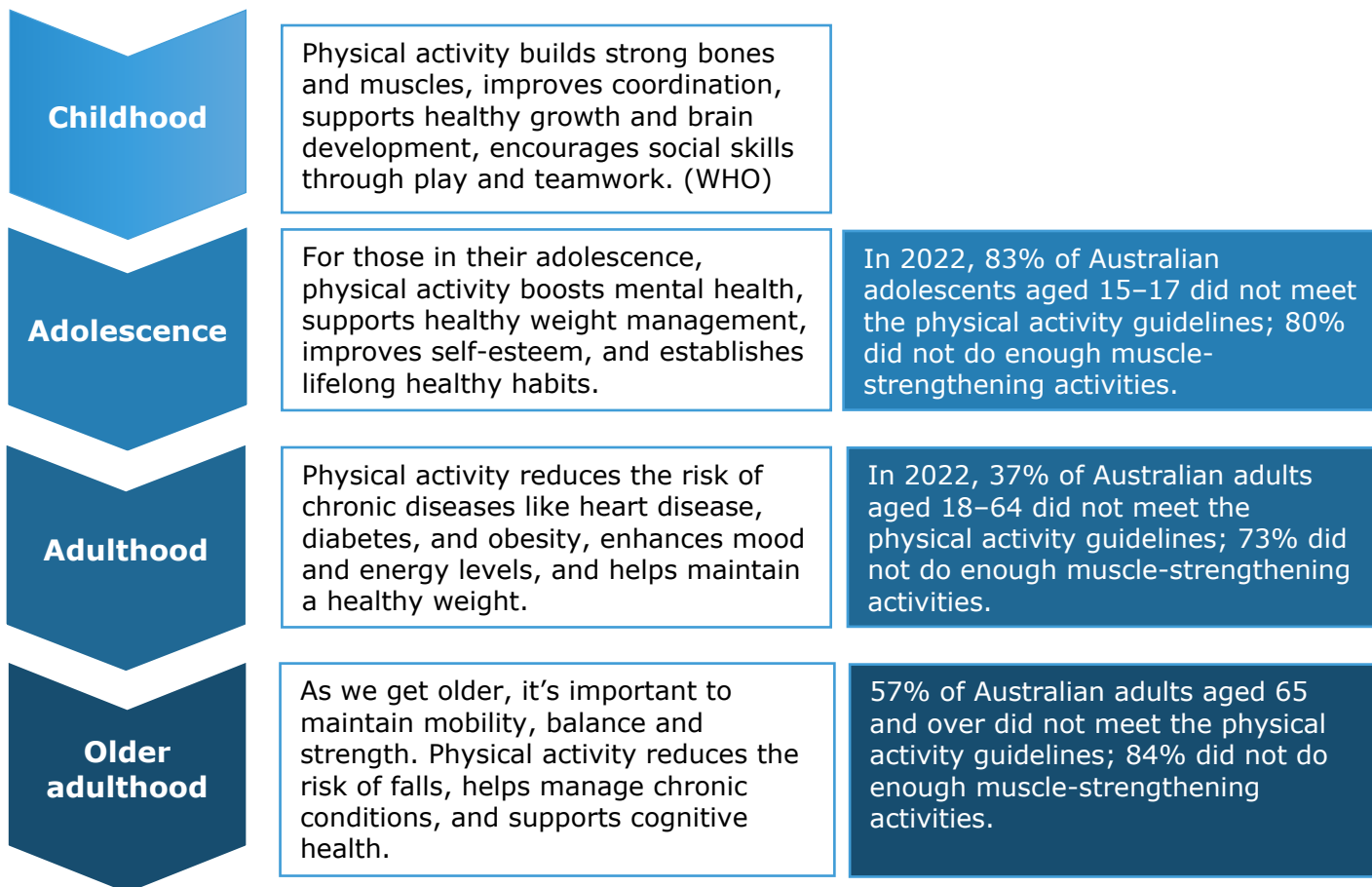
- **Physical health:** engaging in regular physical activity helps prevent and manage improve noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) such as heart disease, hypertension, stroke, diabetes and several cancers. It can also build strength, enhance flexibility, and maintain a healthy weight.²
- **Mental health:** People who exercise regularly have better mental health and emotional wellbeing, and lower rates of mental illness. Physical activity boosts mood, concentration and alertness.³
- **Skills, education, employment:** Participation in sport strengthens a wide range of social, cognitive, and personal skills that transfer directly into education and the workplace. The combined economic, health and dedication benefits of sports alone, returns \$7 for every \$1 invested.⁴
- **Social benefits:** recreational activities are social, allowing community to connect with others. Whether it's playing a team sport, going for a group walk, or participating in a fitness class, active recreation can build a sense of community, help reduce feelings of isolation and curb antisocial behaviours.



Movement for life

Physical activity is essential for healthy ageing, and is beneficial at any stage of life⁵. The physical and mental benefits from being active at all stages in a person’s life are clear, however, both as a nation and as a City, we are still not being active enough.

Physical activity is important at all stages of life because it supports overall health throughout life, improving quality of life and longevity.⁶



Role of Government

All levels of government have a role to play in promoting and supporting physical activity, each distinct but with interconnected responsibilities.

Federal Government provides national leadership and undertakes research, sets national policies, provides funding for infrastructure, programs, and high-performance sport. The Federal Government also supports various national bodies such as National Sporting Organisations, Australian Sports Commission and the Australian Sports Foundation. They also develop and update national physical activity guidelines.

State Government implements national policies, provide funding for WA programs, State Sporting Associations, and infrastructure, and have specific initiatives to encourage physical activity such as the requirement for the development of Public Health Plans, KidSport and Community Sport and Recreation Facilities Fund (CSRFF). In WA, the Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport as well as the Department of Health play key roles in promoting physical activity to support healthy lifestyles.

As a Local Government being intricately connected to our community, we are responsible for managing local parks, recreation facilities, and infrastructure like bike /foot paths which directly impact people's opportunities for physical activity. We can shape and implement policies and programs that respond to our community's needs.⁷



Key achievements to date

Recreation Strategy 2022 – 2025


The Recreation Strategy 2022- 2025 was formally endorsed by Council in May 2023 and focused on delivering initiatives across four key areas:

- Increase participation
- Well-planned places and spaces
- Collaboration and partnerships
- Build Community Capacity

Some key outcomes achieved during the life of the strategy include the completion of the Sports Facilities Needs Analysis that assists in long term planning of sport and recreation facilities in the City, along with:

Leisure Programs

Run over **30** programs across various age groups



with **3000** registrations

KidSport

Administered over **1,000** applications, assisting the WA State Government in granting over **\$202,000** to local residents



Workshops

Run **14** workshops supporting local sporting clubs



Grants

Given **\$49,000** to nearly 100 local residents supporting them in achieving sporting excellence



Grants

Provided over **\$58,500** in grant funding to local sporting clubs.




Seasonal Sport

Increased seasonal sport participation by:


6% for juniors

16% for seniors!



Facilities

Upgraded **17** sporting and active recreation facilities across the City to the value of **\$4.44** million (includes funding contributions from State, Federal Governments and sporting clubs)



2025 Community and Wellbeing Scorecard Results

The City of Belmont uses the **MARKYT® Community & Wellbeing Scorecard** to gauge resident satisfaction and priorities.

In August 2025, the City invited the community to complete our annual Community and Wellbeing Scorecards.

In total, 1,454 participated in the 2025 Community Scorecard and 833 participated in the 2025 Wellbeing Scorecard.

The scorecard results are used to:

- Review performance against outcomes in the Strategic Community Plan, Corporate Business Plan and strategies such as the Recreation Strategy 2022-2025.
- Assess community needs, priorities and aspirations
- Assess community wellbeing
- Evaluate perceived performance across 40+ services
- Monitor changes in community sentiment over time
- Participate in national benchmarking to compare performance to other local councils

The 2025 scorecards results have provided insight in community sentiment in relation to the City's performance in recreation provision and services as follows:

Places and Spaces

- Sport and Recreation Facilities and services: 90% positive rating, maintaining the same level of satisfaction and performing higher than the industry average.
- Belmont Oasis Leisure Centre: 84% positive rating, however trending down by 3 points since last year and 8 points since 2022.
- Public buildings, halls and toilets: 84% positive rating, slightly lower rating since 2023, however still performing above industry average.
- Playgrounds, parks and reserves: 89% positive rating, slightly lower rating since 2023, however still performing above industry average.
- Footpaths, trails and cycleways: 83% positive rating, similar over the past 5 years and performing above the WA average.

Participation, Capacity Building

- Self-reported health status: 48% rate themselves being excellent or very good, maintaining the same level of satisfaction.
- Self-reported physical activity levels: 84% reporting that they are active to very active, with a positive trend since 2021. Noting that the communities in Redcliffe and Kewdale report being least active.
- Self-reported hours per week of moderate to high intensity physical activity levels: 74% reporting that they meet Australia recommended physical activity guidelines, trending positively since 2023. Noting that the communities in Redcliffe and Kewdale report being least active averaging less than one hour a week.
- Involvement with clubs, groups and associations: 57% of respondents belong to a club or community group, reporting a similar trend over the past 5 years, on par with WA average. Rivervale reported to have the least number of respondents involved in a club or community group.

What else do we know?

Understanding the City's recreation profile and industry trends provides insight on the implications and opportunities for the provision of sport and recreation in the City of Belmont, to meet the diverse and changing needs of the community.

Our Health Statistics

The City of Belmont Health and Wellbeing Profile 2011-2020 prepared by the Epidemiology Directorate, Department of Health Western Australia (DOH WA)⁸ in collaboration with the Public Health Advisory Group demonstrates the need for a recreation strategy to address the City's low physical activity levels and highly sedentary lifestyles, and their associated health impacts.

In 2020, it was reported that City of Belmont residents had a lower prevalence of both overweight and obesity compared to the State, however the community participates in a higher level of sedentary activity compared to the State. The community's mental health has a similar prevalence of anxiety, depression, and mental health conditions when compared to the WA State prevalence.

38.1%

male residents (aged 5 years and above) meet the recommended weekly
Physical Activity Guidelines

44.5%

female residents (aged 5 years and above) meet the recommended weekly
Physical Activity Guidelines

Nearly 50%

of our community (aged 5 years and above) spend more time than recommended in
screen based sedentary activities

57.5%

residents (aged 5 years and above) are considered overweight or obese.

15.3%

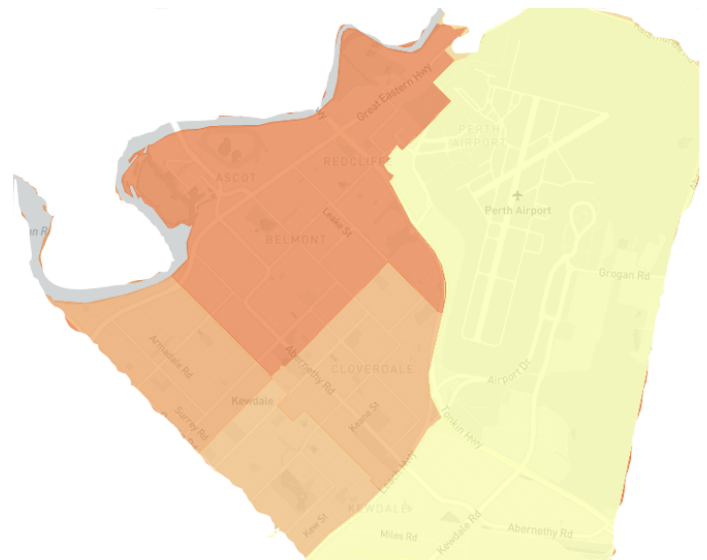
residents (aged 16 years and above) have been formally diagnosed (GP) with a
mental health condition.

Health Risks by Suburb

Active Exchange (a sport, leisure, aquatic and fitness data intelligence company) analyse data from the Australian National Health Survey 2022, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), along with participation data across sport, leisure, aquatics and recreation to determine populations at risk of inactivity.

Their analysis shows that the combined suburbs of Belmont/Redcliffe and Ascot have highest risk of inactivity, followed by Rivervale, Cloverdale and Kewdale.

This information provides guidance on potential suburbs to target physical activity initiatives.



Suburb	Population at risk of inactivity
Belmont, Ascot and Redcliffe (combined)	14,350
Rivervale	10,171
Cloverdale	8,706
Kewdale	7,130

Sport and Active Recreation Trends in Australia

General Trends

The sporting landscape in Australia continues to change, and how we live, work, and engage in sport is constantly evolving. These changes present several industry challenges to adapt and provide suitable physical activity opportunities that encourage and allow all Australians to be more active more often throughout their lives.

Previously people planned their weeks around sporting and physical activities; today, many Australians now look for sporting and physical activities that work around their week or have become inactive. As a result, sports participation is becoming more fragmented.

Key national trends include:

- As a nation, we are becoming older, more ethnically diverse, and time-poor
- The exponential growth in digital technology has transformed the way we live, work and play
- Participation in traditional sport-related activities has stagnated over the last 20 years, whilst participation in non-sport physical activities has increased significantly. Organised sports now compete with less organised physical activities such as parkrun, yoga, cycling, bushwalking, and fitness/gyms.⁹
- There has also been a significant move towards social leagues and one-off events instead of organised club sport participation.¹⁰

Findings from the *Future of Australian Sport* report (December 2022 update)¹¹ discussed six megatrends shaping the future of Australian Sport (SPORT 2030: Sport AUS). These include:

- Escalate the exercise – New pathways to Sport. The rise of fitness-based activities (non-organised physical activity) presents new opportunities for sports organisers to bring their sport to participants, increase inclusion, promote the social benefits of playing sport as a group and utilising new technologies to increase convenience,
- New horizons – Science and technology changing the game. New technologies and advancements in technical expertise that support performance enhancements are changing the game in sport. Australia has the opportunity of investing in sport innovation and exporting know how and products to the world.
- The next arena – The rise of entertainment sport. Australians are increasingly consuming sport through online means including online streaming platforms and e-sports. Sports will need to consider how to engage contemporary consumers to take advantage of the increasingly dynamic and diverse global media landscape.
- Mind the gap - Bringing Australia together across generational and societal divides. Sport can positively champion positive change across society and bridge cultural and demographic gaps across Australian society. Sport can provide a sense of common purpose, identity and belonging to Australians from different backgrounds, genders and abilities.
- Our best sporting side - Safe, sustainable and inclusive for all. As Australia’s demographic profile becomes more diverse and social values shift, organised sports are required to transform and reflect these changes. Sports will need to seek well informed practices to encourage diversity, inclusivity, and fair play, offering more choice, advocacy, and individual expression.

The perfect pivot - Adapting in an uncertain world. Sport needs to navigate increasingly uncertain times, climate change, heightened geopolitical tensions and pandemics all can heavily disrupt sport. Australian sporting organisations need to be flexible, innovative and ingenious to navigate and make strategic pivots in the face of unexpected challenges.

Women in Sport

Across Australia, women and girls are exposed to new ways of participating in organised sports. Previous AusPlay research indicates that girls and women participation rates are comparable to boys and men. However, by the age of 14 girls cease their participation in organised sport at twice the rate of boys. Females in this age bracket instead tend to move towards exercise and gym-type activities.

In Australia, the continued development of professional female sports competitions and associated development pathways has seen female participation become the fastest-growing segment in organised sports, with female participation in club sport more than doubling since 2021¹². A shift to focus on understanding the physical and psychological factors which support and promote participation and performance of women in sport, has strengthened professional pathways. This high performance, individualised focus, along with increasing exposure through television coverage, financial investment, sizeable donations, focus of pay equity and the development of suitable female sporting facilities is expected to continue to drive further growth organised and professional sports.

Volunteers

Since the development of the Recreation Strategy 2022-2025, Volunteering Australia estimates that while there has been an increase volunteering, the proportion of volunteers is estimated to still be below pre-COVID levels.

- Pre-COVID formal volunteering rate (across all sectors): **36%**.
- 2022 rate dropped to **26.7%**.
- 2023 saw some recovery to **32.6%**, still below pre-COVID levels.

Source: The National Strategy for Volunteering. Factsheet Data 2023¹³

In sport, AusPlay reports a decline in volunteer numbers in sports, with specific mention of roles like coaches, referees/umpires, and club officials. The report also notes that while parents make up a large portion of volunteers in sports, the decline is impacting these roles as well.

Volunteers contribute to sports' social and economic value at the community level, with an estimated value in terms of labour provided of over \$4 billion a year¹⁴. Many sports and sporting organisations are incredibly reliant on volunteers to operate. They would be unable to survive without volunteers who fill many critical roles, including coach, official, manager, administrator, medical support, fundraising, board and committee member.

The impacts of a constantly changing world has heavily impacted the sporting sector. Environmental factors such as busy lifestyles, desire for flexibility and constant distractions with technology and the ripple effect of COVID 19, where nearly 20% of volunteers stating they were unlikely to return to volunteering are significantly reducing volunteer numbers. Sports are also challenged with the increased level of administrative load required of club committees and a lack of clear roles and responsibilities for volunteers.

Sport Australia report The Future of Sport Volunteering Insights Report (2021)¹⁴ have broken down the current state summary of sports volunteering into three levels:

- **Ecosystem:** Highly fragmented without clear roles and responsibilities or alignment with coordination of volunteers; and an absence of a systematic approach to sport, health and community building.
- **Community Sports Clubs:** Club culture can inhibit participation/volunteering; clubs don't have an understanding of what volunteers need or how to respond; and clubs may not have the systems, tools or processes to effectively manage volunteers.
- **Volunteer experience:** Nature of volunteer roles being time consuming and rigid; and the volunteer experience not meeting the needs of the individual.

The Australian Sports Federation report¹⁵ on sports clubs Australia wide, highlights that 63% of clubs reported not having enough volunteers as their main challenge and 61% of clubs reported administration load as their second biggest challenge in 2024.

Participation of teenagers

The Australian Sports Foundation's clubs under pressure report (2023)¹⁶ highlights a trend that 30% of small clubs (27% overall) reported a decrease in participation amongst 15- to 19-year-olds. This is in a climate where more than a third of community sports clubs reported participation/registration boosts (39%) with younger people under the age of 14 and adults (over 19), particularly women. Some of the factors considered to be contributing to the greatest decline in participation occurring amongst teenagers aged 15-19 are older teens deciding to drop out of sport to concentrate on school, confidence/mental health barriers, time pressures (employment, academic or socialising) and some clubs stating that younger participants have not been inclined to return to competitive sport after COVID.

Australia's recent world-first ban on social media use for under-16s provides both challenges and opportunities for those under 16 years. The media ban is likely to create communication challenges for community sport by disrupting how young people stay connected and how clubs share updates, promote programs, and recruit participants. At the same time, the government has framed the ban to encourage more offline activities, including sport, suggesting there may be opportunities for increased in-person participation if families redirect time away from screens.

Costs of sports participation & clubs

Sport is considered by many to be at least to a degree an expendable extra, so a challenging economic environment and inflation rates are putting pressure on many community sporting clubs and participants. Cost of living pressures have been cited as the primary cause of reduced participant registrations for more than half (52%) of the sports clubs across Australia and 55% of small clubs reported difficulty in attracting new members. These cost-of-living pressures often result in participants being required to work on weekends rather than play community sport¹⁶.

At the same time, sports clubs are also indicating a significant increase in club running costs in recent years, an average increase of \$20,529 in 2022/2023. The largest increases have been seen in insurance, maintenance, utilities and affiliation costs. This increase in costs to operate clubs and decreasing revenue, means that participants have often seen increased registration/membership fees, and in the same period almost one in four (24%) small and regional clubs have considered closing¹⁶.

Participation Trends

Data on recent recreation participation levels and trends helps the City to develop an understanding of contemporary recreation interests in our Community and how the City can respond.

National and state physical activity statistics are captured twice-yearly by Sport Australia. Key participation statistics and trends are taken from the 2023/2024 AusPlay data (AusPlay)¹⁷:

- Participation rates for boys and girls were similar; however, girls are more likely to participate in non-organised sport-related physical activity than boys (such as gyms, fitness clubs or parkrun/walking groups). Boys were more likely to join in sport-related physical activity and club sports overall.
- In WA participation for females is highest among 15- to 17-year-olds (particularly in club-based sport), where overall male participation is between 25 and 34 (highest club sport rate from 18 to 24).
- Australian adults tend to play sports for longer durations than non-sport-related physical activities; however, they participate more frequently in non-sport-related physical activities.
- Common barriers identified for participation in sports included having poor health or injuries, age-related issues, disability, having too many other commitments, being time-poor and not being interested in sports and physical activities. This is a shift from previous data which indicated being time poor and the cost of participation being the most significant barriers.
- The top motivators for participation in physical activity included improving general health/fitness, fun/enjoyment, helping lose/manage body weight, being outdoors/enjoying nature, social reasons and psychological/mental health benefits and sense of achievement.

Table 1 below lists the top ten most participated physical activities at national and state levels, plus locally within the City. The data used to collate the federal and state lists was obtained from AusPlay surveys completed in 2023/2024. The City's data was obtained from the online Recreation Strategy survey (June 2025). The local data closely mirrors the national and state data.

Ranking	National	Western Australia	City of Belmont
1	Walking	Walking	Walking (consistent with 2022)
2	Fitness/Gym	Fitness/Gym	Fitness/Gym (consistent with 2022)
3	Swimming	Swimming	Swimming (consistent with 2022)
4	Bush walking	Bush walking	Running/jogging
5	Running/Jogging	Running/Jogging	Bushwalking/Cycling (joint)
6	Cycling	Cycling	Pilates
7	Football/soccer	Football/Soccer	Yoga
8	Basketball	Basketball	Dancing
9	Tennis	Australian Rules Football	Tennis
10	Pilates	Pilates	Basketball

Table 1: Top Ten - Physical Activities (All Ages)

In comparison to the data gathered in 2022, at a local level, the following is noted:

- There is an increase in cycling participation
- Walking, gym and swimming remains in the top three
- Noticeable interest in Pilates
- Noticeable interest in dance and basketball, making it into the top ten.

Local Sporting Clubs and Participation

The City has several sporting clubs that use City facilities on a seasonal hire or lease basis.

Over the past four years (since the data has been collected as part of the City’s last Recreation Strategy), there has been the following evident changes in participation:

- Biggest increase in netball, rugby and tennis participation
- Cricket, lawn bowls and athletics experiencing the greatest decline in participation

Notwithstanding, overall participation has increased for juniors by 6% and seniors by 16.2%.

Table 2 below shows the highest to the lowest total participation numbers (based on membership data received from seasonal hirers) for the top 11 sports in the City of Belmont. The data demonstrates there is a large discrepancy between junior and organised senior sport participation.

Notably, the data is limited and does not consider all sports or recreation activities that take place in the City such as karate, dance, swimming, running and climbing.

Ranking	Sport	Senior	Junior	Total
1	Netball	123	517	640
2	Australian Rules Football	71	496	567
3	Soccer	186	257	443
4	Athletics	8	374	382
5	Baseball	93	67	160
6	Cricket	60	96	156
7	Rugby Union	76	36	112
8	Tennis	79	33	112
9	Tee-Ball	0	101	101
10	Softball	56	22	78
11	Lawn Bowls	42	0	42
Total		794	1999	2793

Table 2: 2024/2025 City of Belmont Organised Seasonal Sport Participation by Age Grouping and Sport

It is acknowledged that not all sports can be accommodated in any one local government (LG) and therefore residents travel to other LGs to participate in their chosen sport.

The table below indicates which LG they are travelling to (majority) to participate in their chosen sport.

Ranking	Sport	Number	LG Location
1	Basketball	340	Victoria Park
2	Golf	249	Kalamunda
3	Hockey	234	Victoria Park
4	Gymnastics	166	Victoria Park
5	Sailing	153	Melville
6	Volleyball	116	South Perth
7	Rugby League	37	South Perth
8	Rowing	22	Bayswater
9	Judo	19	Canning
10	Triathlon	15	Cambridge, Fremantle, Nedlands

Table 3: 2024/2025 City of Belmont Organised Seasonal Sport Participation by Age Grouping and Sport Source: Active Xchange





Our Facilities

Residents are well serviced by a diverse range of leisure facilities, assets and locations that support opportunities to participate in organised sports and active recreation.

The implementation of the Recreation Strategy 2022-2025, saw:

- The City deliver over 30 diverse low cost recreation programs at local facilities.
- The development and initial roll out of the 'Sporting Facilities Needs Analysis' driving various facility improvements.
- Update clubrooms with formal signage acknowledging the users of facilities with 'Home of the...' signs
- Designed cohesive branded external signs to acknowledge sporting clubs.
- Commenced concept design for an upgraded Belmont Oasis Leisure Centre.

Being an inner-City local government, there is minimal land for further active recreation facilities. The primary focus has, and will continue to be, maintaining, renewing and upgrading existing facilities to meet community need with a focus on 'future proofing' where foreseeable.

Opportunities for formalised shared-use arrangements with schools will also need to be considered. Shared-use agreements between local governments and schools can benefit both parties to make better use of existing facilities, reduce costs by avoiding duplication, and give the wider community more access to quality recreation spaces. They provide students with improved sporting opportunities, support local clubs and programs and strengthen partnerships between schools and LGs.

54

Playgrounds

2

Skate Parks

2

Pump Tracks

10

Free basketball
/half courts

1

Leisure Aquatic
Facility

8

Multiuse Club
facilities

87

Public parks

9km

River foreshore

Specific Sporting Infrastructure

- 9 Sporting ovals
- 14 Tennis Courts
- 6 Outdoor Pickleball Courts / 8 Indoor
- 2 Croquet
- 12 Outdoor Netball Courts
- 3 Indoor netball/basketball courts
- 4 Indoor volleyball courts
- 4 Indoor badminton courts
- 1 Rugby ground
- 1 Athletics Centre
- 2 Bowling Greens
- 6 Cricket pitches
- 8 Cricket practice nets
- 3 Baseball diamonds
- 7 Soccer fields (junior to senior with fixed goal footings)
- 4 AFL Fields (junior to senior with fixed post footings)
- 1 kayak/paddle facility



What did our community tell us?

Our Local Sporting Clubs' Challenges and Priorities

Local sporting clubs play a pivotal role in providing physical activity opportunities accessible to our Community. The City has over 40 recreation clubs with nearly 3,000 residents participating in seasonal organised sport alone. Ongoing meetings with sporting clubs throughout the year highlighted their challenges being:

- The ability for facilities to meet demand and requiring upgrades such as:
 - Sports lighting improvements, to accommodate more flexible training and competition
 - Storage improvements
 - Inclusive changerooms
 - Creating a 'club home' feel
 - Parking
- Opportunities to engage with the wider community
- The high cost of participating in sport and making it affordable
- The need for one-on-one support for operational matters as each club requires different support requirements
- Funding, grants, and sponsorship.

Community survey

The wider community were invited to provide feedback via an online survey and in person at the 2025 Avon Descent. Survey results expressed the community's aspirations to help inform this updated Strategy and its implementation plan over the next five years.

The following points represent common themes from the feedback received.

Our Community:

- Provided positive feedback on how the City has delivered recreation services and programs.
- Want to be more active
- Want more free/low-cost local programs that are also offered outside of typical work hours
- Want improved lighting, connected footpaths and cycling infrastructure
- Want more free outdoor facilities, particularly tennis courts and outdoor exercise equipment
- Experience barriers in participation due to (in order of highest to lowest response):
 - Time poor and other commitments
 - Costs
 - The desire to have someone to recreate with
 - Motivation
 - Childcare responsibilities

The survey did not receive responses from members of our First Nations community and gathered only limited feedback from participants within our Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities. As this Strategy progresses, ongoing and targeted engagement with these and other community groups will be essential.

Challenges and Opportunities

The City of Belmont faces a range of interrelated challenges and opportunities that will shape the provision of sport and active recreation over the life of this Strategy.

Economic pressures continue to affect households and community organisations. The City has a higher proportion of low-income households and a smaller proportion of high-income households compared to the broader metropolitan area, which can limit discretionary spending on recreation activities. Cost-of-living pressures are also impacting community sporting clubs through rising operational and compliance costs. These factors reinforce the importance of accessible, affordable, and low-cost opportunities that support participation across the community.

Participation trends indicate growing demand for flexible, informal, and social forms of physical activity. While participation in some organised sports remains strong, many residents are seeking activities that better align with changing lifestyles, work patterns, and time availability. This presents opportunities to diversify programming, activate parks and public open spaces, and support participation models that encourage physical activity among those who are currently less active.

The City's culturally and linguistically diverse population continues to influence recreation demand and participation patterns. Growth in certain sporting codes and activities reflects this diversity, while participation gaps remain for some demographic groups. There is an ongoing opportunity to strengthen inclusion through culturally responsive programming, inclusive club environments and partnerships that reduce barriers to participation and encourage social connection.



As an inner-city local government, the City has limited capacity to expand public open space or develop new large-scale recreation facilities. Population growth and increasing residential density will place additional pressure on existing assets. This creates a strong imperative to optimise existing facilities and public open spaces through improved utilisation, multi-functional design, accessibility, and shared-use opportunities.

Community sporting clubs continue to experience challenges related to volunteer availability, governance capacity, and administrative burden. Declining volunteer participation and increasing compliance requirements can affect clubs' ability to deliver programs and sustain participation. At the same time, clubs remain vital community assets that provide leadership pathways, social connection, and opportunities for active participation. Continued support for club capability and volunteer development presents an opportunity to strengthen the long-term sustainability of the local sport and recreation sector.

Climate change and environmental factors are increasingly influencing the management and use of recreation facilities. Hotter summers, wetter winters, and extreme weather events are placing pressure on natural turf surfaces, increasing maintenance costs, and affecting facility availability. These conditions highlight the need for resilient infrastructure, adaptable design, and sustainable asset management practices to ensure facilities remain safe, functional, and fit for purpose into the future.

Population growth, aging infrastructure, rising costs, and increasing community expectations are putting pressure on the City to balance shifting priorities with financial constraints.

Collectively, these challenges and opportunities reinforce the importance of a strategic, evidence-based and partnership-driven approach to sport and active recreation that balances demand, capacity, and long-term sustainability.



Vision and Approach

The City of Belmont is a community that embraces active living, supported by diverse programs, welcoming environments and infrastructure that inspires people to move more, every day. To achieve this vision, the City will adopt a strategic, inclusive, and evidence-based approach to sport and active recreation that responds to community need, participation trends, and the City’s urban context.

The Strategy is guided by three interrelated focus areas that collectively support increased participation, improved access, optimised use of existing assets and stronger community outcomes.

1. Active People

Participation in physical activity, whether organised or informal, across all stages of life is central to building a healthy, connected, and resilient community. The City will seek to reduce barriers to participation and support opportunities that encourage people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds to be active more often.

Focus area	Strategies	Responsible
1. Active People	1.1 Support increase participation in organised sport and active recreation.	Manager Parks, Leisure and Environment
	1.2 Reduce barriers to participation by promoting inclusive, accessible, and affordable opportunities.	Manager Parks, Leisure and Environment
	1.3 Target initiatives toward population groups and suburbs with lower participation levels.	Manager Parks, Leisure and Environment
	1.4 Strengthen neighbourhood connection and social cohesion through place-based recreation programs.	Manager Parks, Leisure and Environment
	1.5 Support physical activity opportunities across all life stages, from childhood through to older adulthood.	Manager Parks, Leisure and Environment
	1.6 Build community knowledge, skills, and confidence to support active lifestyles.	Manager Parks, Leisure and Environment
	1.7 Strengthen promotion and awareness of local sport and active recreation opportunities.	Manager Parks, Leisure and Environment

2. Active Places and Spaces

Well-planned and well-designed places and spaces play a critical role in enabling participation in sport and active recreation. Given the City’s limited capacity to expand public open space, the focus will be on optimising existing facilities and environments to meet current and future community needs.

Focus area	Key actions	Responsible
2. Active Places & Spaces	2.1 Apply evidence-based planning to guide facility renewal, redevelopment, and prioritisation.	Director Infrastructure Services
	2.2 Optimise existing facilities and public open spaces through multi-functional, adaptable, and inclusive design.	Director Infrastructure Services
	2.3 Support infrastructure that enables both structured and unstructured physical activity.	Manager Parks, Leisure and Environment
	2.4 Incorporate technology where appropriate to enhance safety, access, and participation.	Manager Parks, Leisure and Environment
	2.5 Continue to implement the recommendations of the Sports Facilities Needs Analysis.	Manager City Facilities and Property Manager Parks, Leisure and Environment

3. Active Partnerships

Strong partnerships are essential to achieving sustainable sport and active recreation outcomes. Collaboration with community organisations, sporting clubs, volunteers, schools, neighbouring local governments and State and Federal agencies will enable shared solutions, increased participation, and more effective use of resources.

Focus area	Key actions	Responsible
3. Active Partnerships	3.1 Work collaboratively with local sporting clubs and active recreation groups to support participation.	Manager Parks, Leisure and Environment
	3.2 Support sport and recreation clubs to strengthen governance, volunteer capacity and long-term sustainability.	Manager Parks, Leisure and Environment
	3.3 Recognise and support the contribution of volunteers and club committees.	Manager Parks, Leisure and Environment
	3.4 Partner with internal departments and external organisations to engage priority population groups.	Manager Parks, Leisure and Environment
	3.5 Collaborate with State Sporting Associations on facility planning development pathways and funding opportunities.	Manager Parks, Leisure and Environment
	3.6 Explore shared-use arrangements with local schools where appropriate.	Manager Parks, Leisure and Environment
	3.7 Strengthen relationships with neighbouring local governments and regional networks.	Manager Parks, Leisure and Environment
	3.8 Leverage State and Federal funding and program opportunities aligned with strategic priorities.	Manager Parks, Leisure and Environment Manager City Facilities and Property Manager City Projects

Delivery

To ensure the effective implementation of this Strategy, City Officers will prepare annual implementation plans detailing key actions required to achieve identified outcomes.

This approach allows the City to remain flexible and responsive to emerging community priorities while ensuring consistency with the strategic goals outlined in this active recreation strategy.

Monitor and Review

The City will monitor the implementation of the Active Recreation Strategy over its lifecycle to ensure alignment with strategic priorities, community need, and available resources.

Progress against the Strategy will be reported through the City's Corporate Business Plan and annual reporting processes, with performance reviewed annually to inform future planning, budgeting, and service delivery.

This approach ensures the Strategy remains responsive, accountable, and aligned with the City's integrated planning and reporting framework.



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