

INDOOR SPORTS FACILITY FEASIBILITY STUDY

CITY OF WHITEHORSE

DRAFT – JANUARY 2020





About this document

This document is the Whitehorse Indoor Sports Facility Feasibility Study DRAFT.

Acknowledgement

@leisure would like to acknowledge the support and assistance provided by:

- Leonie Gibson, Recreation and Open Space Senior Project Officer
- Kendall Sinclair, Manager Leisure and Recreation Services

We would also like to thank staff, schools, community groups and clubs who allowed us to view their facilities and the community and clubs that participated in the consultation process.



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1. Introduction

1.1. The project

The Indoor Sports Facility Feasibility Study was a project identified from Council's Recreation Strategy (2015-2024). Previously Council undertook an Indoor Sports Facility Feasibility Study (2005) reviewing the provision of indoor sports facilities in Whitehorse. A key recommendation from the study was the construction of Sportlink, in Vermont South.

Council sought an updated analysis of the demand for indoor sports and strategic direction to address the requirements of indoor sports and facilities across the municipality.

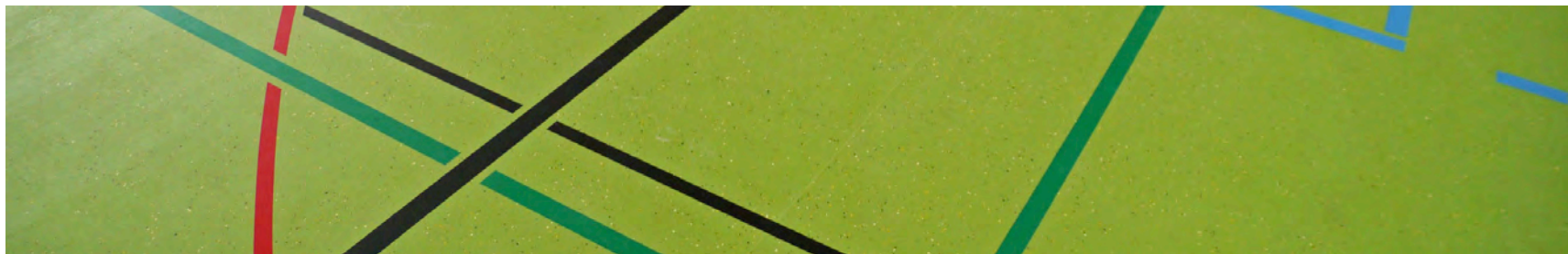
The project brief required @leisure to:

- Analyse the existing nature and distribution and capacity of facilities in a regional and local context.
- Assess Whitehorse City Council managed and leased indoor sports facilities and identify where they may be improved to cater for existing and future indoor sport demands.
- Identify gaps and un-met needs in the current provision of indoor sports facilities.
- Identify future options related to the provision of indoor facilities.

1.2. What Council seeks to achieve

The vision is to provide for a diversity of sports that encourage participation in social and physical activity by the broadest range of the population, through a suite of indoor sports facilities in Whitehorse. These facilities will support volunteer sports, meet contemporary sports and building code requirements and provide a balance between equitable distribution, convenience that drives participation, and affordability.

Council acknowledges the key role that clubs, community groups, schools and private business play in providing for sports and will continue to work with them to meet community needs.



2. Demand for sports in Whitehorse

In analysing demand, the demographic characteristics and the influences of the size of the Whitehorse population were assessed.

Future participation based on current membership and average state organised participation rates were projected out to 2036.

An extensive consultation with community, schools, clubs, adjacent Councils, peak-bodies and stakeholders provided over 600 inputs through surveys, interviews and meetings. A bulletin, updating stakeholders was also sent out to those groups who participated.

2.1. Demographic characteristics

The influences of the size of the population and the demographic characteristics

The Whitehorse population is forecast to grow to 207,424 by 2036. This is likely to mean an additional 4,000 people¹ may seek facilities to play an indoor sport in Whitehorse.

In recent years, the major growth in older adults has slowed across the municipality by an increase in school aged children and people born between 18-24 years, many of whom are international students with low incomes living in Box Hill. In conjunction with an increasing proportion of residents from non- English born residents, there is likely to be an increasing demand for some sports, especially basketball and racquet sports.

Schools have also identified that additional public (and school) indoor sport courts are important to serve schools.

Indoor sports are important to serve the increase in school-aged children, a growing number of older adults and the increase in young people (18-24 years) for whom outdoor sports may be less practical or appealing than indoor group exercise or social sports.

As the Whitehorse population will continue to include a high number of older adults, consideration of their needs is essential. There is a growing demand for indoor sports by older adults for whom outdoor team sports may be less practical. Organisations such as U3A are propelling this demand for health and fitness programs and the growth in indoor group exercise and social sports that can be conducted at a low intensity or walking pace.

¹ Based on Victoria state participation rates (AusPlay 2018) for indoor sports activities and applied to the 2016 and 2031 projected population.

Differences by suburb

There are some different patterns of growth and demand for sports by suburb across Whitehorse. These are influenced by age, cultural background and housing.

Having a good distribution of facilities and priorities that reflect the population of suburbs and their growth will be increasingly important for Whitehorse, as densities and demographics change, and convenience continues to be the main driver of participation.

In Box Hill there is a growing number of international students (18-24 years), and hence a relatively high unemployment rate (10.1% in the June quarter compared to 6% for Whitehorse overall), high-density housing (30.7% compared to 5% for Whitehorse overall) and one of the highest rates of rental housing stress in the state (30.5% compared to 10.9% for Whitehorse overall).

There is likely to be a very high demand for social sports in this area, for activities including: badminton, qigong², taiji³, table tennis, basketball, volleyball, soccer-football and free gymnastics. There is likely to be lower willingness to pay here than for residents from elsewhere in Whitehorse due to students experiencing high levels of housing stress and unemployment.

The suburbs of Box Hill, Mitcham, Blackburn and Burwood have the largest populations and Box Hill, Blackburn, Burwood East and Burwood have the largest forecast percentage population growth (over 20%) to 2036.

Table 4. shows suburbs in growth and with the highest population, compared to where facilities are located.

² Qigong is an integral component of Chinese health systems that combines integrated physical movement, mental cultivation and regulated breathing. Tai Chi Australia

³ Martial art Taijiquan (or Tai Chi Chuan) as Taiji (or Tai Chi)

2.2. Projected participation

Organised indoor sports participation has been projected for the City of Whitehorse (based on demographic influences, current membership and state average participation rates applied to the current and the forecast population in 2036 – See table 1).

Although not all participation data for all sports and private venues in Whitehorse could be sourced, it appears sports such as badminton, squash, fencing, table tennis and volleyball have lower than state average participation in Whitehorse. Basketball, indoor cricket and gymnastics have higher than the state average participation.

Provision of facilities need to reflect where demand is very strong and likely to continue to grow. In some cases, where participation is less than the state average, the current participation rates may reflect where facilities are not present, are at capacity or poor quality and these factors may be limiting opportunities for sports to grow.

Projected participation in indoor sports is likely to be in the following rank order based on local membership and average participation rates:

- Basketball
- Dance
- Gymnastics
- Martial arts
- Futsal
- Netball (indoor only)
- Badminton
- Table tennis
- Volleyball
- Indoor cricket

Some additional 4000 players may be generated by provision of additional facilities by 2036.

In table 1., the likely numbers of people who may play an indoor sport as part of a club / organisation have been projected and compared to the number projected from known membership in Whitehorse.

Table 1. Likely numbers of Whitehorse residents participating in organised indoor sport (2018-2036)

| Indoor Sport | Participation 2018 | | Projected Participation 2036 | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Current Membership (Club/Org) | From State Organised Participation | From Club/Org Membership | From State Organised participation |
| Badminton | 802* | 1,046 | 978 | 1,291 |
| Basketball | 8,532 | 5,739 | 10,405 | 6,671 |
| Boxing | 656 | 603 | 800 | 744 |
| Cricket (indoor) | 400 | 180 | 488 | 216 |
| Dancing | Not known | 4,601 | Not known | 5,389 |
| Gymnastics | 3,175 | 1,906 | 3,872 | 2,076 |
| Martial arts | 625* | 3,052 | 762 | 3,568 |
| Netball | 4,738** | 3,528 | 5,778 | 4,124 |
| Soccer (indoor) | 1,000* | 1,599 | 1,219 | 1,928 |
| Squash / racquetball | 68 | 623 | 83 | 764 |
| Table tennis | 136* | 847 | 166 | 1,054 |
| Tenpin bowling | 100 | 302 | 121 | 372 |
| Volleyball | 87 | 822 | 106 | 1,001 |
| Fencing | 81 | 141 | 99 | 176 |

** includes outdoor. * does not include private centre(s)

Legend

- Participation – potential capacity constraints in existing facilities
- Participation – may require additional provision for growth

Participation rates have been derived from existing club membership in Whitehorse and AusPlay state participation rates 2018 and these have been applied to the Whitehorse population projections for 2018, 2026 and 2036.

2.3. Consultation findings

Household survey

More than 630 people were interviewed, made submissions or comments or completed surveys during this project. This included all the peak bodies for indoor sports, facility providers, schools and clubs.

The survey identified strong demand for additional basketball, table tennis, netball, badminton, indoor tennis, indoor cricket, volleyball, individual fitness (swimming, weight/strength training) and futsal opportunities.

An overwhelming preference in comments was for existing facilities to be upgraded and extended and for indoor courts to be improved to meet sport facility requirements.

Nunawading Basketball Centre was the main stadium attracting comments related to more courts for training and competition.

The need to upgrade the Nunawading Gymnastics and Sports Club, additional indoor and outdoor courts and updating of Sportlink were identified in the survey.

The survey illustrated the considerable demand for inclusive competition and better-designed facilities for older adults, as well as more opportunities for people using wheelchairs.

Additional space for competition basketball, netball, table tennis, futsal and badminton

There is a need for a dedicated table tennis facility, and additional indoor sports courts at Nunawading Basketball Centre, Slater Reserve Stadium and Aqualink Box Hill.

There is increased demand for weeknight social sports, venue-based community sports run by community organisations, as well as club sports. Some clubs have capped competition season numbers, games and training sessions to accommodate more players.

School courts

The survey and other interviews indicated a strong feeling that more and better indoor sports facilities are needed at schools.

Where schools are able to provide indoor sports courts, Council could consider an advocacy role when a partnership is identified with schools when indoor courts are upgraded to enable community use.



2.4. Priorities of State Sporting Associations

The information below provides a snapshot of what is contained within relevant State Sporting Association (SSA) Facility Strategies or recent submissions/interviews for the study. It is important to note that the provision of additional facilities is not the sole responsibility of local government and a partnership approach is required. It is advisable to mention that due to factors such as limited land and sites, not all SSA's aspirations for additional facilities are achievable.

Basketball Victoria

Priority regional projects identified by Basketball Victoria for Whitehorse include Nunawading Basketball Centre – for three additional courts. The State Basketball Facility Strategy 2017 identifies that the regional facility in Whitehorse (Nunawading Basketball Centre) has traditionally been one of Australia's major regional stadiums. It also identified that improvements are needed to maintain a regional status.

The plan indicates a minimum of two courts are also required in Box Hill by 2024.

The submission from Basketball Victoria indicates that in addition to the three courts required at the Nunawading Basketball Centre, an additional 3-5 courts are required in Blackburn.

Netball Victoria

Facility development priorities identified for the region are "compliant and lit /indoor courts, more change rooms and more male and female umpire rooms". Sportlink is identified as a regional facility requiring a minimum of two additional indoor courts at present. Netball's State Facility Strategy 2016 recommends 21 multiline indoor courts be provided in Whitehorse by 2031, and 16 now. See explanation provided by Netball Victoria ⁴ A submission from Netball Victoria for this project also indicates the need to upgrade and maintain the number of outdoor courts at Sportlink. This number of indoor courts is not achievable at Council owned facilities.

⁴ If the courts are multi-lined, then the number of courts required increases. Indoor numbers were not provided in the Strategy, but calculations on indoor presume a multi-line or average number of court users and that number for Whitehorse is 16.4 additional courts in 2015 and 21.2 by 2031.

Gymnastics Victoria

Gymnastics Victoria Facility Guide and Strategy Plan identifies there are two existing gymnastics facilities in Whitehorse which accommodate Nunawading Gymnastics and Sports Club and Eastern Gymnastics Club (located in a commercial centre).

The Facility Guide and Strategy Plan identifies that the Nunawading facility requires a redevelopment and Council should consider additional or expanded facilities in its planning.

Table Tennis Victoria

Table Tennis Victoria's Strategic Plan 2016 has a strategy to "Develop a plan to address venue capacity constraints". The sport lacks a dedicated facility in the region and players have to travel long distances. A dedicated venue that can provide for social and pennant competition and large enough to host a regional or state tournament (18-22 tables) is desirable.

Badminton

There is a high demand for casual and permanent court space. A number of private facilities exist. Badminton Victoria does not have a current strategic plan or specific requirements identified for new facilities.

2.5. Other key sports

There are other key sports that should be supported to grow participation, including futsal, indoor cricket, volleyball and a suite of other sports.

All facilities where futsal is played are at capacity in the municipality. If additional courts are provided for netball and basketball, this will increase the capacity for futsal and volleyball, as long as facilities are designed appropriately.

There is no capacity for large footprint sports such as handball, futsal, roller derby, lacrosse, floorball or indoor hockey in existing facilities in Whitehorse except the compliant futsal court in Box Hill Action Indoor Sport Centre. If a larger number of courts can be provided in the one centre, these sports could be accommodated.

2.6. Recommended level of provision by sport

The following table illustrates the preferred directions about facilities, by sport.

Table 2. Recommended provision by sport

| Main Indoor Sports | Recommended provision |
|-----------------------|--|
| Basketball | Four new courts and provision for improved facilities in the suburbs of Box Hill, East Burwood and Blackburn plus training courts at non-Council venues. |
| Netball | Two additional indoor courts at Sportlink. Retain and upgrade the outdoor courts. Training courts at non-Council venues. Additional use of venues in facility redevelopments shared with basketball. |
| Gymnastics | Upgrade Nunawading Gymnastics and Sports Club at Walker Park. |
| Table tennis | Explore opportunities for a multi-use community facility to include table tennis in central Box Hill. |
| Badminton | Consider additional shared use opportunities. |
| Fencing | Retain two existing centres. |
| Calisthenics | Maintain shared use of private/education facilities. |
| Indoor soccer/ futsal | Explore opportunities for shared use. |
| Volleyball | Explore opportunities for shared use. |
| Indoor cricket | Retain private facility in Whitehorse. |

3. Existing Indoor sports facilities

3.1. Indoor sports facilities in Whitehorse

There is a good range of indoor sports facilities in Whitehorse including those in schools and private centres (trampolining, badminton, climbing, futsal, indoor cricket, social netball, ten pin bowls, etc.)

Council has 9 indoor sports facilities, both single and multiple court facilities. Council centres where indoor sport is played include:

- Community centres and some halls which accommodate small club activities, programs, and social sport and physical activities for target groups (Nunawading Community Centre and Eley Park Community Centre)
- Club managed sports facilities providing a pathway to higher level competitions (Nunawading Basketball Centre and Slater Reserve Stadium)
- Council managed centres that accommodate a range of social and club competitions, hire and casual use (Sportlink and Aqualink Box Hill).

There is inadequate capacity in existing facilities to allow any sports to grow at peak times or accommodate additional indoor sports such as hockey, pennant table tennis, volleyball or handball. There is no capacity for full sized large footprint sports such as handball, futsal, roller derby or hockey in existing facilities in Whitehorse (except the compliant private futsal court in Box Hill Indoor Action Sport Centre). If a larger number of courts were available in the one Council centre, these sports could be accommodated across existing courts.

The following table illustrates the known number of courts / playing areas by sport and venue ownership in Whitehorse as at 2018.

Table 3. The known number of courts / playing areas by sport and venue ownership in Whitehorse, 2018

| Indoor Sport Activity | Venues | Playing spaces/ courts by owner | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|--------|----------------|--------|----------------|
| | Total Venues | Total No. of Courts/ spaces | School | Council Centre | Church | Private centre |
| Basketball | 22 | 37 | 22 | 15 | | |
| Netball | 9 | 17 | 6 | 8 | | 3 |
| Soccer | 9 | 17 | 10 | 4 | | 3 |
| Fencing | 4 | 4 | 1 | 2 | | 1 |
| Karate | 12 | 12 | 10 | | 2 | |
| Calisthenics | 3 | 3 | 3 | | | |
| Gymnastics / Trampoline | 4 | 4 | | 1 | | 3 |
| Table tennis | 6 | 12 | 10 | 6 | | 3 |
| Badminton | 5 | 25 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 21 |
| Yoga/ Fitness/ Dance | 9 | 9 | 4 | 4 | 1 | |
| Other martial arts | 5 | 4 | 4 | | | |
| Handball | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | |
| Bocce | 1 | 1 | | | | 2 |
| Tenpin bowls | 2 | 34 | | | | 34 |
| Indoor climbing | 1 | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Parkour | 1 | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Volleyball | 3 | 8 | 2 | 3 | | 8 |
| Indoor cricket | 1 | 3 | | | | 3 |
| Dodgeball | 3 | 3 | | 1 | | 2 |
| Total playing spaces | | 187 | 69 | 44 | 4 | 81 |
| Total no. community use venues | 51 | | 31 | 8 | 4 | 10 |

The following table outlines the indoor sports facilities by sport, suburb, population and population growth. The colour green illustrates the highest growth suburbs and red, the least growth. The green dark cells highlight suburbs with high growth projected, yellow indicates medium growth and red highlights low or no growth.

Table 4. Indoor sports facilities by suburb with highlights indicating population growth

| Suburb | Population 2016 | % growth | Indoor sports facilities | Schools with indoor sport courts | Facilities with multipurpose indoor facilities used by the community for martial arts/ dance etc. | Schools with no indoor facilities |
|--------------|-----------------|----------|--|---|---|------------------------------------|
| Box Hill | 12,047 | 94% | Aqualink Box Hill (4) (3 netball, and martial arts/yoga) | Our Lady of Sion College (1) Box Hill High School (2) | St Francis Xavier Primary School* | |
| Burwood East | 10,807 | 44% | Nunawading Basketball Centre, (5 basketball, taekwondo) Whitehorse Club (fencing /2 bocce) | Forest Hill College (2) | Burwood East Primary School (martial arts/ dance) Burwood Heights Primary School (Taekwondo) | |
| Blackburn | 14,647 | 31% | | Blackburn Lake Primary School (1), Blackburn High School (1) Blackburn Primary School (1), Laburnum Primary School (1) | St. Thomas the Apostle Primary School, St Philips Primary School | |
| Burwood | 12,937 | 25% | | Deakin University (2) Mount Scopus Memorial College Volleyball (2) Wattle Park Primary School (1) Presbyterian Ladies College (Only aquatic community use) | Mount Scopus Memorial College Theatre (calisthenics), St Scholastica's Primary School | St Benedicts Primary School |
| Nunawading | 12,159 | 24% | Nunawading Community Centre (Silver Grove) (3/4) Future Community Hub (1) Nunawading Gymnastics and Sports Club, Hardrock Climbing Company | | Nunawading Christian College (1/2 court) | Mount Pleasant Road Primary School |
| Mitcham | 16,867 | 17% | Mitcham Badminton Centre | Rangeview Primary School (1) Mitcham Primary School (1) Mullauna College (2) + table tennis | Antonio Park Primary School Parkmore Primary School (no community use), St Johns Parish School – Hall used by fencing | |

| Suburb | Population 2016 | % growth | Indoor sports facilities | Schools with indoor sport courts | Facilities with multipurpose indoor facilities used by the community for martial arts/ dance etc. | Schools with no indoor facilities |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------|---|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| Mont Albert | 4,938 | 17% | | Mont Albert Primary School (1) | | |
| Forest Hill | 11,101 | 14% | Aqualink Nunawading (swimming only) Mahoneys Reserve Sports Pavilion (Table Tennis Hall) Zone Bowling Forest Hill | | Forest Hill Uniting Church | |
| Blackburn South | 11,274 | 11% | Eley Park Community Centre (Table Tennis Hall) | Orchard Grove Primary (1) | St Edwards Anglican Church, St Luke the Evangelist Blackburn South, Eley Park Community Centre | |
| Vermont South | 12,233 | 11% | Sportslink (4) | Emmaus College (Not for community use) | Livingstone Primary School, Weeden Heights Primary School, Holy Saviour Primary School | |
| Box Hill North | 12,417 | 9% | | | Box Hill North Primary, Kerrimuir Primary School | |
| Vermont | 10,477 | 6% | | Vermont Secondary College (1), Vermont Primary School (1) | St James Primary School, St Timothy's Primary School | |
| Mont Albert North | 5,910 | 6% | Healthways Recreation Centre (Ten pin bowls) | Koonung Secondary College (1) Mont Albert North School (1) Box Hill Senior Secondary (1) | | |
| Blackburn North | 7,833 | 5% | Slater Reserve Stadium (2) Bounce Indoor Trampoline Park, Melbourne Badminton Centre | Old Orchard Primary School (1), Whitehorse Primary School (1) | | |
| Box Hill South | 8,926 | 3% | Eastern Gymnastics Club, Box Hill Action Indoor Sports Centre (6) | Kingswood College (1), Roberts McCubbin Primary School (1) | | |
| Surrey Hills | 5,520 | -1% | | Surrey Hills Primary School (1) | | Our Lady Primary School |

Note: Slater Reserve Stadium is not in a high growth location, however it serves adjacent suburbs with high populations and no facilities.

3.2. Distribution of existing facilities by suburb

The distribution of facilities by sport is important in order to provide the community with equitable access to the main sports, to enhance sustainability of facilities and clubs that provide the fixtures, as well as to respond to differences in population size and profile that vary across the City.

The distribution of facilities also needs to respond to the hierarchy of facilities and competition formats that are unique to each sport.

The following maps illustrate the distribution of all indoor sports facilities in Whitehorse and key facilities in the immediate neighbouring Councils.

Facilities include those provided by Council and other not-for-profit and private entities. Note, these are more subject to change than public facilities.





3.3. Capacity of existing facilities

Throughout the consultation process, including discussions with users, management and peak bodies found most indoor sports facilities had constraints in meeting current sporting requirements, largely due to the age of assets and changing sporting codes. Court size and roof height is a major issue in most of the older facilities, especially schools.

No facilities investigated as part of this project had spare capability except in off-peak times (mid-afternoons, mid-week) when competitions are not fixtured. Those facilities managed by Council were in the best position to encourage casual use and programs in this off peak time.

Some sports, such as futsal and netball, are constrained mostly by facility design issues, whereas growth in table tennis, gymnastics and indoor cricket are constrained by lack of dedicated public facilities.

Large footprint indoor sports, such as handball, hockey, floorball, lacrosse and representative futsal, are constrained by the number of courts together in the same venue and capacity generally.

Council has 9 indoor sports facilities servicing a range of single and multiple sports and courts. These facilities are outlined in Appendix 2. There are additional small community spaces that provide exercise and social fitness activities.

In most instances Council and school facilities are located on sites constrained by their location, other uses of the site and size of the land generally.

Appendix 1. shows existing indoor sports facilities by suburb, with a summary of who uses them.



4. The main findings and considerations

Additional indoor sports facilities are desirable in Whitehorse to:

- Meet existing demand and future participation for an increasingly diverse population, and
- Provide for an increasing number of sports that are played indoors.

There is a good diversity of indoor sports available within the City of Whitehorse that are provided in a range of different types of facilities. However, demand suggests that an increasing number of smaller indoor sports will need to be catered for in the future.

There are a number of small businesses delivering sports facilities and programs in Whitehorse.

Community centres, schools, Council owned facilities leased to sports as well as Council owned and operated facilities for club competition, social and casual use make up the bulk of facilities.

Some large footprint sports such as indoor hockey and handball are not played in Whitehorse.

There is little or no capacity in the current facilities during peak times to provide for either additional sports or an expansion of the competitions played.

Some Council and school facilities are nearing the end of their useful life and require renewal to meet current building or sports requirements.

A strong focus on sharing of indoor sports facilities needs to continue, however at a club competition level some sports (such as table tennis, badminton and indoor cricket) need dedicated facilities, potentially in partnership with the private sector.

4.1. The key considerations

In determining Council's priorities for investment, the following matters were considered:

Demand considerations

- Population trends (total and growth, age, income, ethnicity, etc. dwelling type, growth and diversity by suburb).
- Existing and projected participation numbers: relative to existing facilities and potential growth rates
- Opportunities to encourage a wide range of sports and hence meet a broad range of the population needs.
- Demand identified in other previous studies, such as the Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Strategy.
- The nature of the sport and how it is played, whether it can share with others, whether there is a gap in the pathway from social, to local club, district and regional competition.

- Whether the sport can service groups where there is potential to increase participation rates such as older adults, people with a disability, female participation, as well as schools and clubs.
- The nature of the demand, compared to how the sport is played i.e. social, or club, representative competition or training.
- The demographic influences affecting participation such as the demand from emerging communities not currently being met.
- What clubs and State Sporting Associations (SSA's) said and what are their facility development priorities.
- Community feedback on activities they would like to do but options are limited and the facilities they use.

Supply considerations

In determining the priorities the following information about existing facilities was considered:

- The way the sport is played at a venue, i.e. in one centralised district competition facility or multiple competition venues.
- Capacity of existing facilities, whether they are dedicated or shared uses, type of use and whether they can be easily expanded.
- Distribution of existing facilities (including those in adjacent Councils, and private facilities) compared to the population and demand for activities in those locations, and whether a facility fills a gap in the distribution of public indoor facilities.
- Complexities of the existing sites: e.g. size, traffic, drainage, car parking, etc. Ability to minimize impact on open space, etc.
- Age and condition of existing facilities and the likely capital costs per court and player.

Whether the demand could be met in existing facilities and opportunities to reduce management costs by expanding on the same site and allowing casual competition.

- Ability for additional courts to accommodate multiple sports, and multiple courts per sport.
- Potential of a development to replace a facility that does not have 10 years life left.
- Can a potential development cater to one or more schools, and hence meets the increased needs of a school's population?

5. Investment priorities

Three investment priorities are recommended.

Upgrade existing Council facilities

- Some of the key current assets need renewal to enable them to better meet existing needs.
- More courts will increase the existing facility's capacity to meet population demand.
- The distribution of existing facilities complemented by school and private facilities is relatively good.
- The cost of provision and management per court is reduced by expanding the number of courts in the same location.
- More courts (especially 3+ courts) in the same location provide greater flexibility in use, allow strong clubs to cater for more players and ensure additional bigger footprint sports can also be played.
- Investing in assets located on Council land safeguards Council's investment in facility upgrades/improvements.

Explore opportunities for a multi-use community facility to include table tennis, in central Box Hill

Such a facility may be able to be negotiated with developers, utilise vacant retail space and/or be provided in conjunction with an educational institution.

Such a facility would have access to peak body as well as social competitions and could be provided in conjunction with other partners such as private enterprise.



Advocate to encourage community use, when partnerships with schools propose upgrades to indoor sports courts

Indoor sports facilities are essential in schools and to support public competition venues because:

- Facilities are essential for the development of sports skills in children, creating pathways to club competition.
- To provide affordable training and social sports venues that larger competition facilities cannot accommodate.
- Children need to learn a variety of sports activities when they are young, for their own health and well-being.
- Many children from non-English speaking ancestries may not learn to play sports unless they learn at school.
- Participation in a variety of sports is essential for the development of healthy movement patterns in order for children to take sport and physical activity into later life.
- Many of the school facilities used for training in Whitehorse are not meeting current sports code requirements e.g. insufficient run-off.
- Single court venues are not adequate for many increasing school populations or to undertake club training or competitions.



5.1. What are the priority sports and venues?

In order to determine priorities an assessment of the priority sports, locations and opportunities to extend existing facilities were assessed.

Priority sports

From the research and consultation process undertaken the highest priority sports needing additional facilities in Whitehorse are table tennis, basketball, badminton, futsal gymnastics, volleyball, indoor cricket, netball, and fencing.

Basketball, table tennis and netball have the greatest needs in the short term.

These sports have very different needs. By meeting some of the larger sport's needs, the smaller ones may also be served.

Additional courts at existing venues will not however meet the need for a new table tennis facility and the priority to provide additional social sports in Box Hill.

The priority sports were determined based on the sport meeting multiple criteria:

- Very high participation and facilities not being able to meet current needs (or sports a propensity for high participation, but lower than average participation rates currently- as few facilities are available).
- High potential growth rates.
- A gap in the pathway from social to local club, district or regional competition.
- High demand from emerging population groups whose needs are not being met.
- Links with school or university sports.
- High demand for social and casual use.
- May serve a diversity of target groups, i.e. older adults, people with a disability, pre-schoolers, emerging cultural groups and females -where there is demand.
- The ability to add to the diversity of sports played in Whitehorse.
- Additional benefits of being able to share facilities.

The priority venues for development

It is desirable that existing Council facilities be a priority for renewal and cater better for existing and future users (*Investment Priority Upgrades to existing Council Facilities*) due to the poor condition of existing facilities, their current location, and the benefits of having larger multi-court facilities with a management presence.

All Council existing indoor facilities were considered. Aqualink Nunawading was not identified for future development as a business case specific to the site is planned and will determine a potential redevelopment option.

Five existing Council owned facilities were assessed for redevelopment.

- Aqualink, Box Hill
- Sportlink, Vermont South
- Slater Reserve Stadium, Blackburn North
- Nunawading Basketball Centre, East Burwood, and
- Nunawading Gymnastic and Sports Club, Walker Park, Nunawading.

Criteria used to determine the merit of developments

The following criteria were used to determine the merit of development - from a participation perspective.




Cost and site-specific constraints will further determine the feasibility and timing of potential development.



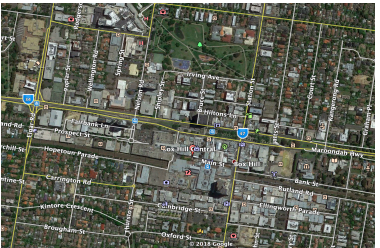
- No other similar competing facility, close by
- Adds to an existing facility (that will reduce management and capital costs per court and player)
- Provides 3+ courts in the one place (supports increased participation and pathways and enhances club logistics)
- Can accommodate multiple sports, and multiple courts per sport
- Replaces a facility that is no longer fit for purpose (aging asset)
- Fills a gap in the distribution of public indoor facilities
- Close by to one or more schools
- Located in a growth suburb (next 10 yrs.)
- The site is Council or crown land
- Close to other community / shopping facilities or train station
- Site is visually prominent - on main road, can be seen for some distance.

The following table outlines the criteria met by the preferred development sites.

Further exploration and feasibility work will need to be undertaken at each of the preferred development sites, to determine suitability.

Table 5. The criteria met by the preferred development sites

| Facility Name | Image | Criteria met | Comments |
|---|---|--|--|
| Nunawading Basketball Centre, Burwood East (5 Indoor courts) |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adds to an existing regionally important facility for basketball and allows for additional groups to be targetted. The scale of facility means reduced management and capital costs per court and player. The site is Council land. Replaces a facility that is no longer fit-for-purpose (aging asset). The site is prominent- on a main road. No other similar competing facility, close by. Provides 3+ courts in the one place. Located in a growth suburb (next 10 yrs.). Redevelopment would allow multiple sports and multiple courts per sport. Close by to one or more schools/education facilities. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs a master plan for the whole site. Potential tree loss. Relatively close to Deakin University where there is significant unmet demand for indoor sport and no space to extend provision. Creates an opportunity to attract events and add large footprint sports that currently cannot be accommodated, and three on three basketball. |
| Sportlink Vermont South (4 Indoor and 4 outdoor courts) |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adds to an existing facility and thereby reduces management and capital costs per court and player. Close to one or more schools. Close to other community / shopping facilities. The site is Council land The site visually prominent – on main road. No other similar competing facility, close by. Located in a growth suburb (next 10 yrs.) Provides 3+ courts in the one place. Can accommodate multiple sports, and multiple courts per sport. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The site is land locked. Redevelopment may impact car parking or open space. Better accommodates existing user group needs. Contributes to a regionally important facility for Netball. |
| Aqualink Box Hill, Box Hill (3 Indoor courts) |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adds to an existing facility – reducing management and capital costs per court and player. Provides 3+ courts in the one place. Ability to accommodate multiple sports and multiple courts per sport. Is located in a growth suburb (next 10 yrs.). Additional courts will provide for significant additional participants. No other similar competing facility, close by. The site is Council land. Close by to one or more schools. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The extension of the building may impact existing infrastructure. Design will need to consider potential flooding events and appropriate drainage considerations. Traffic management issues. |

| Facility Name | Image | Criteria met | Comments |
|--|--|--|--|
| Slater Reserve Stadium, Blackburn North (2 Indoor courts) |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fills a gap in the distribution of public indoor facilities. No other similar competing facility close by. Replaces a facility that is no longer fit for purpose (aging asset). The site is Council land Would serve Blackburn - a growth suburb (next 10 yrs.) By expanding the court size, it would accommodate multiple sports, and multiple courts per sport. Close by to one or more schools. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The site is not highly prominent from the main road. Access to the site is constrained and is through a residential area. Site constraints may limit the ability to provide additional courts. Potential tree loss. Limited car parking. Drainage easement adjacent to the existing building. |
| Nunawading Gymnastics and Sports Club, Nunawading |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replaces a facility that is no longer fit for purpose (aging asset). Fills a gap in the distribution of public indoor gymnastics facilities. No other similar competing facility, close by Relatively cost effective to replace for the high participation return. The site is Council land Located in a growth suburb (next 10 yrs.) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The site limits the size of a redevelopment. A redevelopment will better accommodate user group needs. The site addresses the demand for gymnastics in the eastern half of the LGA. |
| New Facility in central Box Hill |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed location in a metropolitan activity centre (MAC) (next 10 yrs.) Would fill a major gap in the distribution of public indoor facilities. No other similar competing facility close by. Close to other community / shopping facilities or train station. Located in a growth suburb (next 10 yrs.) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore opportunities for a multi-use community facility to include table tennis. Site options to be determined. |

6. Recommendations

1. Adopt the investment priorities proposed below and implement when funding becomes available and appropriate partnerships are identified:
 - Redevelop the preferred Council owned or managed facilities.
 - Explore opportunities for a multi-use community facility to include table tennis, in central Box Hill.
 - Advocate to encourage community use, when partnerships with schools propose upgrades to indoor sports courts.
2. Undertake further exploration and feasibility work at each of the preferred sites.
3. Commence concept design of Sportlink in consultation with Whitehorse Netball Association and Sportlink stakeholders.
4. Undertake a Master Plan for East Burwood Reserve.
5. Actively seek Federal, State and other funding opportunities.
6. Include these preferred development sites in Council's long-term financial plan and relevant Council Capital Works Plans.

7. Appendices

Appendix 1. Indoor sports facilities in Whitehorse and their use, by suburb

| Facility Name | Suburb | Key External User | No. of indoor courts/ spaces used for sport | Sports |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|---|---|---|
| Sportlink | Vermont South | Whitehorse Netball Association (major user) MEBA, VJBL, Play Ball, Mark Smythe Table Tennis, Super5s, Whitehorse Cavaliers Fencing Club | 4 indoor netball courts | Basketball, netball, badminton, table tennis, martial arts, dodgeball, dance, fitness, futsal, fencing, and school sports such as volleyball. |
| Livingstone Primary School | Vermont South | Karate | Multipurpose | Karate |
| Weeden Heights Primary School | Vermont South | Not an inter-school sport facility | Multipurpose space only | Karate, yoga. Sporting schools program includes martial arts, fencing. |
| Holy Saviour Primary School | Vermont South | Not on map | Small multi-purpose hall | - |
| Emmaus College | Vermont South | No community use | | School and interschool sport |
| St James' Primary School | Vermont | Parish use only | Multipurpose space | - |
| St Timothy's Primary School | Vermont | Ellanda Calisthenics Club, Karate | Large hall | Calisthenics, karate |
| Vermont Secondary College | Vermont | GKR Karate, Hat Trick Indoor Soccer | 1 basketball | Karate, netball training, basketball, indoor soccer (school does badminton, table tennis, basketball, netball, volleyball, gymnastics for school sports). |
| Vermont Primary School | Vermont | MEBA, Hi-Lites Netball Club | 1 basketball | Basketball, netball training only |
| Our Lady Primary School | Surrey Hills | No community use | No facilities | - |
| Surrey Hills Primary School | Surrey Hills | No community use | 1 basketball court | - |
| Nunawading Gymnastics and Sports Club | Nunawading | Nunawading Gymnastics and Sports Club | 2 spaces | Kindergym, gymnastics- (6 gym sports). No trampolining as facility not compliant |
| Hardrock Climbing Company | Nunawading | Climbing Victoria | Not known | Indoor climbing |
| Mount Pleasant Road Primary School | Nunawading | No community use | No facilities | |
| Nunawading Christian College | Nunawading | Indoor soccer | 1/2 basketball court | Indoor soccer |
| Nunawading Community Centre | Nunawading | Whitehorse Chevaliers Fencing, JT Ultra Badminton | ¾ basketball court | Fencing, badminton. Nunawading Community |

| Facility Name | Suburb | Key External User | No. of indoor courts/ spaces used for sport | Sports |
|---|-------------------|--|---|---|
| (Silver Grove) | | Association, Thornburn Ladies Badminton Association Inc. | | Hub currently being built in a new location. The $\frac{3}{4}$ sized court will increase to 1 basketball court in the new Hub |
| Koonung Secondary College | Mont Albert North | EDJBA, Koonung Comets, PlayBall, Miss Spartan Fitness | 1 basketball court, 1 gymnasium | Basketball, group fitness |
| Healthways Recreation Centre | Mont Albert North | General public | 10 bowling lanes, 3 lane 25m pool, gym | Ten pin bowling, scuba diving etc. LTS, gym fitness, jazz and dance classes |
| Mont Albert Primary School | Mont Albert | Koonung Comets | 1 basketball court | Basketball |
| Box Hill Senior Secondary College | Mont Albert North | Koonung Comets | 1 basketball court | Basketball, netball training |
| Mitcham Badminton Centre | Mitcham | Only social and casual hire | 12 badminton courts | Badminton |
| Antonio Park Primary School | Mitcham | Not known | 1 (Not full sized) basketball | Karate, dance, aerobics |
| Mitcham Primary School | Mitcham | GKR Karate, Netball | 1 basketball court | Karate, netball training |
| Mullauna College | Mitcham | MEBA, NBL1 Mark Smythe Table Tennis | 2 basketball courts | Basketball, table tennis |
| Rangeview Primary School | Mitcham | EDJBA | 1 (not compliant basketball court) | Basketball |
| St Johns Parish School Hall | Mitcham | Whitehorse Chevaliers Fencing | Hall | Fencing |
| Mahoney Reserve Sports Pavilion Hall | Forest Hill | St Johns Table Tennis Club | 1 small table tennis hall | Table tennis |
| Parkmore Primary School (at Forest Hill Secondary College site) | Forest Hill | No community use | Small multipurpose hall | After school program |
| Forest Hill Uniting Church | Forest Hill | GKR Karate | Small multipurpose hall | Karate |
| Whitehorse Club | Burwood East | Blacklords Fencing Club | Indoor bocce 2 rinks | Bocce, fencing |
| Forest Hill College | Burwood East | MEBA, NBL1 | 2 basketball courts | Basketball, indoor soccer |
| Burwood Heights Primary School | Burwood East | Taekwondo, casual hire | 1 basketball court | Taekwondo |
| Nunawading Basketball Centre | Burwood East | MEBA, NBL1, VJBL, BigV | 5 basketball courts, 1 room used for martial arts | Basketball, taekwondo |
| Burwood East Primary School | Burwood East | Taekwondo, dance | 2 small halls | Taekwondo, dance |

| Facility Name | Suburb | Key External User | No. of indoor courts/ spaces used for sport | Sports |
|--|-----------------|---|---|--|
| Deakin University Stadium | Burwood | No community use (SocialSport, Just Play only for students) | 2 netball courts | Badminton, table tennis, dodgeball, basketball, netball, futsal |
| Mount Scopus Memorial College | Burwood | Besen Theatre used for high level Calisthenic events. | 2 volleyball courts; indoor pool. The Besen Theatre | School plays volleyball, basketball and netball |
| St Benedicts Primary School | Burwood | No community use | No facilities | - |
| Wattle Park Primary School | Burwood | Karate, Tip-off Basketball Program, Play Ball, Melb. Sports Institute, Deakin Handball Club. | 1 basketball court | Basketball, indoor soccer, karate, handball training |
| Eastern Gymnastics Club | Box Hill South | Eastern Gymnastics Club | 2 buildings with range of gymnastics facilities | Gymnastics, move my way, kindergym |
| Box Hill Action Indoor Sports Centre | Box Hill South | Cricket Victoria | 6 (3 netball /3 competition compliant futsal) | Indoor cricket, netball Futsal, table tennis, volleyball, dodgeball |
| Kingswood College | Box Hill South | EDJBA, Futsal5, Social Sport, Playball | 1 basketball court | Basketball, futsal |
| Roberts McCubbin Primary School | Box Hill South | Playball | 1 court + gym | Karate, basketball |
| Kerrimuir Primary School | Box Hill North | Judo, karate | Multipurpose room only | Judo, karate |
| Box Hill North Primary | Box Hill North | No current user | Multipurpose room only | No current user |
| Box Hill High School | Box Hill | EDJBA, Social Sport Box Hill Futsal | 2 basketball courts | Futsal, basketball |
| Aqualink Box Hill | Box Hill | PlayBall, Box Hill District Netball League, Eastern Suburbs Baptist Netball Association, Salvation Army Basketball Association of Victoria, Nightmares Basketball | 3 netball courts, 1 group fitness room used for martial, arts yoga etc, | Basketball, netball, futsal, badminton, volleyball, table tennis |
| Our Lady of Sion College | Box Hill | No community use | 1 basketball court | No community use |
| St Francis Xavier Primary School | Box Hill | Parish use only | Multipurpose space only | No community use |
| Zone Bowling Forest Hill | Forest Hill | Ten Pin Bowling League, Special Olympics | 24 bowling lanes | Tenpin bowls, Laser tag |
| St Edwards Anglican Church | Blackburn South | GKR Karate | Multipurpose space | Karate |
| Orchard Grove Primary | Blackburn South | Mustangs Basketball Club; Blackburn South Netball Club | 1 basketball court | Outdoor netball courts (2) Basketball |
| St Luke the Evangelist Blackburn South | Blackburn South | Blackburn Calisthenic College, Tai Chi | Small hall | Calisthenics, tai chi |

| Facility Name | Suburb | Key External User | No. of indoor courts/ spaces used for sport | Sports |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|--|--|--|
| Eley Park Community Centre | Blackburn South | Eley Park Table Tennis Club | Hall | Table tennis |
| Slater Reserve Stadium | Blackburn North | EDJBA , VJBL, Ladies Netball | 2 basketball sized courts (run-offs not compliant) | Basketball, ladies netball |
| Bounce Indoor Trampoline Park | Blackburn North | Freerun Academy | 1 multi-purpose space | Trampolining, dodgeball, kindergym, slam dunk, parkour |
| Melbourne Badminton Centre | Blackburn North | Wantirna Badminton Club, Melbourne Badminton Club, Pro Badminton Academy | 9 courts | Badminton |
| Old Orchard Primary School | Blackburn North | EDJBA, Kelly Sports | 1 basketball sized court | Basketball, dance |
| Whitehorse Primary School | Blackburn North | EDJBA,VJBL, Evolution Futsal | 1 basketball sized court | Basketball, futsal, karate |
| Blackburn High School | Blackburn | EDJBA, Social Sport | 1 basketball sized court | Futsal, social netball, basketball |
| Blackburn Lake Primary School | Blackburn | EDJBA, Playball | 1 basketball sized court | Basketball, Indoor soccer |
| Blackburn Primary School | Blackburn | EDJBA, MEBA, VJBL, Kelly Sports, St Timothy's Netball Club | 1 basketball sized court | Basketball, netball training, taekwondo, indoor soccer |
| Laburnum Primary School | Blackburn | EDJBA, Laburnum Netball Club | 1 basketball sized court | Basketball, karate |
| St. Thomas the Apostle Primary School | Blackburn | No permanent bookings, St Thomas Netball Club | Small Hall (no sport) | 2 outdoor netball courts used by St Thomas Netball Club, 2 tennis courts |
| St Philips Primary School | Blackburn | Parish use only | Small Hall | Not known |
| St Scholastica's Primary School | Bennettswood | Not known | Small Hall | Not known |
| Presbyterian Ladies College | Burwood | No community use other than Aquatic | - | Aquatic activities |

Appendix 2. Council managed and leased indoor sports facilities

| Facility Name | Suburb | Leased/ Occupancy | Key External User | No. of indoor courts/ spaces used for sport ⁵ | Sports |
|--|-----------------|--|--|---|--|
| Sportlink | Vermont South | Council Managed | Whitehorse Netball Association (major user), MEBA, VJBL, Play Ball, Mark Smythe Table Tennis, Super5s, Whitehorse Cavaliers Fencing Club | 4 indoor netball courts | Basketball, netball, badminton, table tennis, martial arts, dodgeball, dance, fitness, futsal, fencing, and school sports such as volleyball. |
| Nunawading Community Centre (Silver Grove) | Nunawading | Council Managed | Whitehorse Chevaliers Fencing, Thornburn Ladies Badminton Association Inc. JT Ultra Badminton Association | ¾ basketball court | Fencing, badminton. Nunawading Community Hub currently being built in a new location. The ¾ sized court will increase to 1 basketball court in the new Hub |
| Nunawading Gymnastics and Sports Club | Nunawading | Leased by Council to the Club | Nunawading Gymnastics and Sports Club | 2 spaces | Kindergym, gymnastics- (6 gym sports). No trampolining as facility not compliant |
| Mahoneys Reserve Sports Pavilion Hall | Forest Hill | Leased by Council to Mahoneys Pavilion Association | St Johns Table Tennis Club | 1 small table tennis hall | Table tennis |
| Whitehorse Club | Burwood East | Leased by Council to Whitehorse Club | Blacklords Fencing Club | 2 Indoor bocce rinks | Fencing, bocce |
| Nunawading Basketball Centre | Burwood East | Leased by Council to NBA | MEBA, NBL1, VJBL, BigV | 5 basketball courts, 1 room for martial arts | Basketball, taekwondo |
| Aqualink Box Hill | Box Hill | Council Managed | PlayBall, Box Hill District Netball League, 'Eastern Suburbs Baptist Netball Assn. Salvation Army Basketball Association of Victoria, Nightmares Basketball. | 3 netball courts, 1 room for martial arts/ yoga | Basketball, netball, futsal, badminton, volleyball, table tennis |
| Eley Park Community Centre | Blackburn South | Council Managed | Eley Park Table Tennis Club | Hall | Table tennis |
| Slater Reserve Stadium | Blackburn North | Leased to a Committee of Management | EDJBA , VJBL | 2 basketball courts(run-offs not compliant) | Basketball, Ladies netball |

⁵ Note: refers to the biggest court marked. This court may be used by multiple sports- see column to the right.