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# 1. Executive summary

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**The *Ocean Grove Sporting Infrastructure Plan 2010* (the ‘OGSIP 2010’) has guided a range of new and upgraded sports facility projects throughout Ocean Grove during the past 12 years, including the development of Shell Road Reserve into Ocean Grove’s premier sports venue.**

Since 2010, when the plan was adopted, the town’s population has increased by more than 5,000 people, and there has also been an exponential increase in female sports participation. As a result, the City of Greater Geelong commissioned a review and update of the plan in 2019.

This revised plan is intended to respond to changes and increases in sports participation, as well as emerging constraints related to current supply of sporting facilities and increased demand for facilities. While the new plan has a focus on the future provision of sporting facilities, it also considers other active and passive recreational uses of reserves.

The *Ocean Grove Sporting Infrastructure Plan 2022* (the ‘OGSIP 2022’) is informed by a number of background and planning considerations, including the OGSIP 2010, the *Ocean Grove Structure Plan* (2016) and the *Greater Geelong Social Infrastructure Plan – Generation One 2020–2023*.

In 2021, Ocean Grove and Wallington had a combined estimated population of 17,500 people, a 40 per cent increase since 2010, and the projected population to 2041 is 23,650, or an additional 6,150 people (a 35 per cent increase).

Sport is an important part of the lifestyle of Ocean Grove and Wallington residents. Of the six sports included in this plan, the local participation rate in netball is the only example that doesn’t exceed the corresponding statewide participation rate.

Since 2010, there are 40 additional teams now fielded by Ocean Grove and Wallington sporting clubs, including 10 new girls and womens teams. This increase in female participation in sport has highlighted shortcomings in existing sporting facilities, particularly in relation to change rooms and associated amenities.

## STUDY SCOPE

The primary scope and key consideration of the OGSIP 2022 study was the following sporting reserves, and the sporting and recreation activities conducted at them:

- Shell Road Reserve
- Collendina Reserve
- Memorial Reserve
- Arthur Powell Reserve
- Devlins Road Reserve
- Wallington Recreation Reserve.

## SPORTS FACILITY ANALYSIS

When applying sports facility provision ratios adopted by the City of Greater Geelong as part of its *Social Infrastructure Plan – Generation One 2020–2023*, the adequacy of current facilities against future projected demand can be assessed.

**Table 1: Current and predicted need for sports facilities**

<b>Sport</b>	<b>Existing Provision</b>	<b>Facilities Required in 2021</b> (Population: 17,500)	<b>Difference</b> + = surplus - = shortfall	<b>Facilities Required in 2041</b> (Population: 23,650)	<b>Difference</b> + = surplus - = shortfall
<b>Baseball Diamonds</b> (Ratio: 40,000)	1 diamond	1 diamond	0 diamonds	1 diamond	0 diamonds
<b>Cricket Ovals *</b> (Ratio: 4,000)	6 ovals	4 ovals	+2 ovals	6 ovals	0 ovals
<b>Football Ovals</b> (Ratio: 5,000)	4 ovals	4 ovals	0 ovals	5 ovals	-1 oval
<b>Netball Courts (outdoor)</b> (Ratio: 7,070)	5 courts	3 courts	+2 courts	4 courts	+1 court
<b>Soccer Pitches</b> (Ratio: 5,000)	2 pitches	3 pitches	-1 pitch	5 pitches	-3 pitches
<b>Tennis Courts</b> (Ratio: 3,000)	17 courts	6 courts	+11 courts	8 courts	+9 courts

\* Bellarine Secondary College oval has been counted as cricket only

Table 1 (above) shows that:

- The current supply of sporting facilities for baseball, cricket, netball and tennis is sufficient to meet the projected demand to 2041.
- The current supply of sporting facilities for football and soccer is insufficient to meet the projected demand to 2041.

As well as the above benchmarking data, site reviews, facility compliance assessments and meetings with sports clubs contributed to the sports facility demand analysis. Key findings included:

- The current baseball diamond at Wallington Recreation Reserve is non-compliant and the player/umpire change rooms and amenities are not compliant, or female-friendly.
- The Ocean Grove Football Netball Club and the Ocean Grove Cricket Club currently use the single ovals at Shell Road Reserve and Memorial Reserve. However, sustainable sports planning principles support two ovals at the same location to enable optimal management of the playing surfaces, to minimise volunteer workloads, and to maximise the social benefits and sport pathways for players.
- The off-court facilities for netball at Shell Road Reserve do not comply with standards adopted by Netball Victoria.
- The Ocean Grove Cobras Junior Football Club currently uses the single ovals at Collendina Reserve and Memorial Reserve, however the player/umpire change rooms and amenities at both reserves are not compliant, nor are they female-friendly.
- The Surfside Waves Soccer Club has grown so much that the two soccer pitches at Shell Road Reserve are getting close to capacity. Additionally, the long-term co-location of the Ocean Grove Football Netball Club and the Surfside Waves Soccer Club at Shell Road Reserve is not sustainable under the current usage and management arrangements.
- The Ocean Grove Tennis Club currently uses the five club courts and the 2 publicly accessible courts at Arthur Powell Reserve. However, the 2 public courts have non-compliant run-offs, a poor surface, and are not floodlit.

### **Future strategic provision of sporting facilities**

The key strategic directions of OGSIP 2022 are:

1. To relocate the Surfside Waves Soccer Club to Devlins Road Reserve.
2. To convert the existing soccer pitches at Shell Road Reserve to a second oval suitable for football and cricket.
3. To upgrade the Memorial Reserve Hall, and enhance the reserve as a more attractive informal open space, while retaining the capacity of the reserve to accommodate junior football and cricket matches.

If the OGSIP 2022 is fully implemented, the following sporting facilities will be available at the six reserves by 2041:

**Table 2: Difference between existing and desired facilities (2021-2041)**

<b>Sport</b>	<b>Existing Provision</b>	<b>Facilities Achieved by 2041</b>	<b>Difference</b>
<b>Baseball</b>	1 diamond	2 diamonds	+1 diamond
<b>Cricket</b>	6 ovals	7 ovals	+1 oval
<b>Football</b>	4 ovals	5 ovals	+1 oval
<b>Netball (outdoor)</b>	5 courts	6 courts	+1 court
<b>Soccer</b>	2 pitches	4 pitches	+2 pitches
<b>Tennis</b>	17 courts	17 courts	0 courts

The following recommendations for new and upgraded sporting facilities can accommodate the constraints and issues identified during the study, as well as capitalising on opportunities for developing sport facilities in a sustainable way.

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| Devlins Road Reserve | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop soccer pitches and a pavilion in the southern section of the reserve, and relocate the Surfside Waves Soccer Club to the reserve.</li> <li>• Seasonally allocate the northern oval to the Surfside Waves Soccer Club for junior soccer as the priority winter sport, and to the Cobras Junior Football Club for overflow junior football, as may be required and can be scheduled around soccer use.</li> <li>• Seasonally allocate the northern oval to the Wallington Cricket Club as its overflow oval.</li> </ul>   |
| Shell Road Reserve   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construct a second oval on the site of the two soccer pitches, and upgrade other infrastructure, as required, including modifications to the pavilion's western change rooms, amenities and canteen, to better service the second oval user groups.</li> <li>• Following the construction of a second oval, integrate some of the Cobras Junior Football Club training and match day needs on the oval, and facilitate increased use of the pavilion social room by the club, particularly for social functions and events that exceed the capacity of the Collendina Reserve pavilion.</li> <li>• Upgrade and expand the cricket practice facilities (one additional lane), and provide an adjacent cricket store.</li> <li>• Construct one additional netball court (as a show court), and provide fit-for-purpose, off-court netball facilities.</li> <li>• Retain and upgrade the public tennis courts and, when demand arises, overlay line marking for pickleball on two courts.</li> </ul> |
| Memorial Reserve     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance the reserve as a more attractive informal open space, whilst retaining the capability of the reserve to accommodate junior football and cricket matches for the Cobras Junior Football Club and Ocean Grove Cricket Club.</li> </ul>  |

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove surplus sporting infrastructure and contain vehicle car parking and access to the southern-end to primarily service the Hall and the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Ocean Grove Scouts.</li> <li>• Provide fit-for-purpose and gender-neutral player and umpire change rooms as part of an integrated upgrade of the Memorial Reserve Hall and social rooms.</li> <li>• Upgrade the Memorial Reserve Hall to better provide for the user groups and create additional storage space.</li> </ul>
Collendina Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to use the reserve for cricket (Collendina Cricket Club) and for junior football (Cobras Junior Football Club).</li> <li>• Upgrade the pavilion to provide compliant and gender-neutral player and umpire change rooms, and improved social and kitchen facilities.</li> <li>• Construct new internal roads and car parking to improve user safety, and introduce a new path network and other landscape embellishments to encourage increased community recreational use.</li> </ul>
Arthur Powell Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reconstruct the two public tennis courts into two new and compliant acrylic courts with floodlights.</li> <li>• Allocate the new courts to the Ocean Grove Tennis Club for a total of seven onsite courts, making sure they remain accessible to the public via a book-a-court system when not required by the club (in accordance with the City of Greater Geelong's <i>Fair Play Strategy 2017</i>).</li> </ul>
Wallington Recreation Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to use the reserve for cricket (Wallington Cricket Club) and for baseball (Bellarine Bears Baseball Club).</li> <li>• Construct a compliant senior baseball diamond, and master plan for a future second diamond.</li> <li>• Upgrade the pavilion to provide fit-for-purpose and gender-neutral player and umpire change rooms, and improved social and kitchen facilities.</li> <li>• Retain the tennis and netball courts as publicly accessible facilities.</li> </ul>