



Skate, BMX and Mountain Bike Strategy







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1. Executive summary

As the city of Wodonga continues to grow, so does the need for Wodonga Council to review and plan for the ongoing use of the city's recreational facilities. The development of the Municipal Recreation Plan in 2007 highlighted the need for the council to determine the direction and options specifically for BMX riding, skateboarding and mountain bike riding in Wodonga. In 2008, the council commenced a process for developing the Skate, BMX and Mountain Bike Strategy.

The process involved the completion of:

- Sociodemographic research;
- Consultations with other specific council staff and departments linked to the provision, management and maintenance of facilities;
- Surveys and focus groups with users;
- Request for submissions from residents and interested organisations; and
- Facility assessments.

This process proved valuable in providing a comprehensive assessment of skate, BMX and mountain biking within Wodonga, with six key issues and themes being identified.

These include:

- Developing skate parks in Wodonga;
- Engaging BMX riders;
- Creating mountain bike options in Wodonga;
- Increasing the positive profile of skate and BMX riding;
- Managing existing and future facilities; and
- Catering for emerging recreational activities.

A number of recommendations have been provided under each of the key areas which have been merged into an action plan. This action plan provides clear directions with associated timelines and budgets to support the participation in skateboarding, BMX riding and mountain biking in Wodonga.



2. Introduction

Wodonga Council recognises the importance of providing a range of recreation opportunities for the community. These opportunities must be appropriately managed to ensure the safety and wellbeing of members in the community.

The purpose of the Skate, BMX and Mountain Bike Strategy is to establish direction in the planning, development and management of skateboarding, BMX riding and mountain bike riding to support continued participation and growth.

The 2007 Municipal Recreation Plan identified that the development of a specific strategy was an important action.

3. Background

3.1 Demographic patterns

According to the 2006 Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), the population for the city of Wodonga was 32,789. Wodonga has a larger proportion of younger people (0 to 17) compared to regional Victoria. Overall, 26.8% of the population was aged 0 to 17. Wodonga also has a larger percentage of 18 to 24 year olds (11.4% compared to 8.0%) compared to Regional Victoria. In addition, Wodonga has a smaller proportion of people in the older age groups (60+) compared with regional Victoria.

Upon further investigation of the population analysis for Wodonga, the 2006 census data indicates that the Melrose neighbourhood has the highest proportion of young people 0-17 (1995 young people compared to 513 in central Wodonga). This neighbourhood was followed by Wodonga West (1231) and Wodonga South (1,062). It is important to recognise the key development areas in Wodonga which include White Box Rise Estate and Alpine Views Estate. These new developments will increase the neighbourhood numbers of young people 0-17 in the East Wodonga area, currently on 513, and Wodonga South. This statistical data will provide valuable direction in the event of any new infrastructure being built.

In the 2006 census, there were 8835 families in Wodonga (RC) (LGA): 43.9% were couple families with children, 36.1% were couple families without children, 18.5% were one parent families and 1.4% were other families. Wodonga has a much higher than average concentration of single parent families with 18.5% being families with one parent compared to 15.4% for regional Victoria and 15.8% of the total Australian population living in single parent households.

In addition, the ABS in 2006 recorded 87.7% of households owned at least one car, while 7.4% did not and overall, 94.4% of the labour force was employed (63.1% of the population aged 15+), and 5.6% unemployed (3.7% of the population aged 15+).

While Wodonga does not have a high proportion of households without access to a vehicle, a large proportion of households with children are single parent families and a large proportion of the labour force is employed. Therefore, the availability of parents/adults to drive young people to access the facilities is significantly impaired. This coupled with the lack of public transport available to young people at the times they want to use the facilities means access to facilities needs to be supported by important neighbourhood infrastructure such as pathways which link to broader networks.

The most frequent users of the facilities under consideration in this report are young people. Therefore, it is necessary to take into account their level of mobility and the impact this has on their capacity to access facilities outside of their local neighbourhood. Often, young people are dependant on the availability of a parent/adult to drive them to facilities; parents are reliant on the access to a vehicle and available time outside of other commitments such as work.

Analysis of individual income levels in the city of Wodonga in 2006 compared to regional Victoria shows that there was a larger proportion of persons earning a high income (those earning \$1000 per week or more) but a smaller proportion of low income persons (those earning less than \$400 per week). Overall, 15.8% of the population earned a high income, and 40.8% earned a low income, compared with 12.8% and 45.9% respectively. BMXing, skateboarding and mountain biking are more economical alternatives for young people to become involved in physical activity as they are free.

3.2 Municipal recreation plan

In 2007, Wodonga Council developed and adopted a new municipal recreation plan. During the development of the plan, there were extensive consultation and data collection processes conducted. The consultation identified a high number of young people in Wodonga who have a preference for participating in unstructured recreation activities such as skating.

In 2006, the ABS conducted a survey of children's participation in cultural and leisure activities. This survey was the third on the topic with two conducted in 2000 and 2003. In 2006, 24% or 627,000 children participated in skateboarding over the survey period. Bike riding increased in 2006 to 68% from 62% in 2003. This increase was due to a 9% point increase in participation by girls and a 3% point increase by boys. This data shows that participation in both activities over the six year period has been maintained. Facilities for these activities need to be at a level to cater for the continued level of participation.



The municipal recreation plan identified only a moderate level of satisfaction with the existing facilities and highlights a need for additional mountain bike and BMX jump facilities. The plan recommended the development of a skate/BMX facilities' strategy to properly plan for the development, management, maintenance and use of Wodonga's skate parks and BMX facilities.

4. Existing council policies and strategies

The municipal recreation plan recommended the following actions relating to BMXing, skateboarding and mountain biking.

- In conjunction with young people and the Border BMX Club, plan for the installation of a BMX jumps course in Wodonga.
- Review the current layout and design of the James Scott Memorial Skate Park.
- Investigate opportunities to develop local-standard mountain bike trails on surrounding hills that link to the existing Wodonga cycling network and trails' system.

This strategy addresses the provision and management of BMX jumps and mountain bike trails and investigates in detail the options available for the Wodonga Skate Park.

The council has recently adopted a playground strategy for the city. This strategy has identified an objective to design play spaces that reflect cultural environments and one key action in achieving this objective is to consider the provision of spaces for young people. The council's two skate parks and BMX track are located adjacent to, or in close proximity of, current or planned community playgrounds. It is important that these facilities be included as a space for young people in the planning and design phases for development or upgrade of these play spaces.

The council's youth services' unit targets young people from 12 to 24 years and their families. The unit has provided a range of activities which have a direct impact on young people in Wodonga including the provision of skate competitions at the James Scott Memorial Skate Park and at the council's annual youth festival. The 2008/09 Youth Services' Action Plan identified the need to participate in and support planning for capital developments that affect young people and to develop a recreational activity plan in conjunction with the recreation unit focusing on young people's participation.

The cCouncil is also currently in the process of developing a city-wide transport strategy and a masterplan for Willow Park. Data and findings from this report need to link closely with the development of these documents.

5. Existing provision of facilities

5.1 City of Wodonga facilities

James Scott Memorial Skate Park

The James Scott Memorial Skate Park is located in Willow Park, Wodonga. Willow Park is one of the main community open space areas in Wodonga and includes three soccer pitches, two cricket ovals, wetlands area, major playground, barbecue area and public toilets (see Figure 1). The skate park was built in 1995 and, with only one other skate park in Baranduda, is the main skate park catering for the Wodonga community.





The skate park consists of a large bowl with a snake run which provides a beginners' and competent users' area. In and around the bowl are two fun boxes and a grind rail. Concrete seating has been built into the facility. A water bubbler, barbecue area and public toilets are located in the park but not directly adjacent to the skate park.

When first built, this facility received national recognition by skaters for the design elements and construction; however, over the years, skate facilities have evolved and developed to provide greater options and experiences for skaters and BMXers.

Concrete within the bowl, particularly on the transitions, is deteriorating and cracking making the surface in some sections uneven. In 2005, minor upgrade works were completed to replace four transition sections within the bowl which had major cracks. Since completion of this assessment works have been undertaken to improve the major cracking concrete sections in the bowl. Further upgrades need to be planned for the future.

Amenities such as bins, security lighting, seating, and signage require replacement or are non-existent. To support the continued usage, these items need to be provided or updated.

There are a number of mature trees located around the skate park providing suitable shade; however, this shade is not directly over the main usage areas of the skate park or the limited concrete seating area and is catering more for those who are spectators, or those "having a break" from activity.

Willow Park has a number of shared pathway access points linking cyclists, skaters and walkers to the park from the majority of Wodonga. Bus stops are also located at the park which provides an option for travel from the CDB and Albury.

Baranduda Bowl

The Baranduda Bowl was built by Convic in 2004 and is the second skate park built in the Wodonga Council municipality. The skate park consists of a concrete bowl with an eight foot corner including an over vert and a spine. The skate park also includes two grind rails, a fun box and a number of concrete seats. Baranduda Bowl is situated in the Baranduda Reserve (Figure 2) which also includes two cricket ovals, two tennis courts, a basketball half court, a playground, public toilets and the Baranduda Community Centre.

There are a number of developing trees around the skate park providing some shade. Once these trees grow, there will be substantial shade provided at the venue for users and spectators.

Seating, bins and a water bubbler were installed when the facility was initially built. The condition and provision of these items are sufficient for the current use. No security lighting currently exists at the site but, at the time of this report, security lighting was under construction.



The facility is situated in close proximity to a main road which provides a high level of community surveillance. The skate park is also located close to a bus stop for public transport access and a number of shared pathways linking the facility to the Baranduda community.

At the time of this facility assessment, an extension to the facility was in construction and was completed in February 2009. This extension provides a space for beginners to develop and enhance their skills to allow advancement to the bowl area. The introduction of this area creates a need for additional seating and bins around the skate park facility.

Wodonga BMX Track

The Wodonga BMX Track is located in West Wodonga and caters for community use and club activities. The track is a dirt track with an eight lane concrete start hill. The facility also contains a sporting pavilion which provides amenities for the club participants and spectators. Public toilets are available 100 metres from the track for access when the pavilion is not open, and a water bubbler and bins are provided at the facility. The public toilets have limited lighting and natural surveillance which may create a perception of the area being unsafe.

The Border BMX Club operate local, regional and state competitions at the site. The track surface is maintained by the club. The club, with council support, has recently completed major works to the surface to improve its standard for events.

Shade is provided by trees around the track and the club erects temporary shade during events to provide additional shade for spectators and participants. Pine post fencing and bollards are provided on the eastern side of the facility; however, there is no fencing provided on the western side which is linked to an open reserve. The club has identified an issue of trail bikes and four wheel drive cars gaining access to the track and creating damage.



The facility is situated on an arterial road and is adjacent to two schools and residents providing some community surveillance. The facility provides sufficient car parking, and there is a bus stop located close by. The bike path network links to the facility; however, the distance between some neighbourhoods, including East Wodonga and the CBD, makes it difficult for some residents to access the BMX track via the pathway network.

5.2 Regional facilities

There are a number of facilities for skate, BMX and mountain bike riding located in close proximity to the city of Wodonga. These facilities need to be considered when determining the future of facilities and development of programs in Wodonga.

Skate Parks

There are a number of skate parks in North East Victoria and in the neighbouring city of Albury. These include:

- Albury
- Thurgoona
- West Albury
- Rutherglen
- Yackandandah
- Beechworth
- Wangaratta
- Yarrawonga
- Nathalia
- Tallangatta
- Corryong
- Mount Beauty
- Bright
- Myrtleford

There are also skate parks planned for Numurkah and Strathmerton. Generally each of these skate parks is designed for small community usage. The council's James Scott Memorial Skate Park, the Wangaratta Skate Park and the Albury Skate Park are the largest skate parks which attract community and regional usage. Albury Council is exploring the upgrade of existing skate parks.

BMX tracks/dirt jumps

There are fewer BMX tracks and dirt jumps compared with skate parks in the region. Currently, there are BMX tracks in Wodonga, Mount Beauty, Bright and Lavington. There is also a BMX track in Chiltern under construction and Albury Council is considering developing a new BMX track.

There are no formally constructed and maintained freestyle dirt jump areas established in the region but these are more popular in more populated areas of Victoria like Geelong and in northern NSW and QLD.

Mountain bike tracks

There are a number of informal mountain bike tracks and trails throughout the region. More formal and designated mountain bike facilities are in Mount Beauty, Beechworth, Mount Buller and Albury. The Albury Wodonga Cycling Club Mountain Bikers conduct their competitions and social rides at the Nail Can Hill facility in Albury. Beechworth has a mountain bike track

which is located on crown land. This facility has issues remaining open due to risk matters and has been managed by the Beechworth Chain Gang. Mt Beauty has an established mountain bike park. This park has been used for state and national events. The park is on Snowy Hydro land and is managed and maintained by Team Mt Beauty. The Bright Cycling Club is also in discussions with Alpine Shire Council about establishing mountain bike trails.

These examples highlight the requirement of community organisations' involvement in managing and maintaining mountain bike tracks and trails.

6. Consultation

6.1 Overview and process

Wodonga Council's youth services collaborated with recreation services to coordinate and facilitate a range of consultation activities with Wodonga residents, facility users, relevant council staff and other key stakeholders from March to May, 2008.

A summary of the key outcomes from the different consultation processes is detailed below.

6.2 Public meeting

A public meeting was held at the James Scott Memorial Skate Park on April 1, 2008. There were 23 participants involved in the public meeting (see Appendix 1. Public Meeting Summary).

6.3 School meetings

Two school meetings were held. Twenty-eight students from years seven to twelve participated in the session at Catholic College. Fifteen students from years seven to nine participated in the session at Wodonga Middle Years College (see Appendix 2. School Meetings Summary).

6.4 Survey

A survey was developed as part of the consultation process to collect information from community members who were interested in the provision of skate, BMX and mountain bike facilities. It gathered general demographic data from participants and sought responses to 10 key questions (see Appendix 3. Survey Summary and Results).



6.5 Interviews with council staff

Meetings were coordinated with specific staff and departments who were linked to the provision, management and maintenance of skate, BMX and mountain bike facilities. The key topics of risk management, parks and gardens, landscape design, the early years, assets, youth services and recreation were discussed during the interviews (see Appendix 4. Council Staff Interviews Summary and Findings).

6.6 Submissions

There were five submissions received during the consultation process; three from Wodonga residents, one from Parklands Albury Wodonga and one from Albury Wodonga Cycling Club Mountain Bikers (see Appendix 5. Submissions' Summary).

7. Discussion of findings

This section provides analysis of the key issues and themes identified throughout the consultation process. It provides discussion on each area and the direction/ recommendations for Council to consider.

The key issues and themes which have been identified are:

- 7.1 Developing skate parks in Wodonga;
- 7.2 Engaging BMX riders;
- 7.3 Creating mountain bike options in Wodonga;
- 7.4 Increasing the positive profile of skate, mountain bike and BMX ;
- 7.5 Managing existing and future facilities; and
- 7.6 Catering for emerging recreational activities.

7.1 Developing skate parks in Wodonga

Wodonga has two existing skate parks to cater for skaters, BMX riders, mountain bike riders and other roller sports. The facilities are well utilised by residents and visitors. The participation data identifies that usage of skate parks will continue to be at the current levels.

Throughout the consultation process, there was minimal discussion or feedback around providing new facilities in the municipality. The expansion or redevelopment of the two existing facilities was highlighted throughout the surveys and discussion groups to provide an increase in the range of options and experiences.

The recent work to extend the Baranduda Bowl has been welcomed by most users. Minor feedback was provided about associated amenities including bins, seating and shade.

The James Scott Memorial Skate Park was the main focus of discussion which is understandable given that the facility is older and caters for a large percentage of users. The inspection and user feedback highlighted the current state of the concrete surface, particularly on the transitions, as a major issue. The inspection identified cracking, movement and decaying of the concrete in key sections of the facility. This is due to the ageing of the facility and graffiti cleaning processes. This deterioration creates a safety issue for the users and, if not repaired, will see a reduction of usage by the community of the facility. Replacement and upgrade of the transitions within the skate park will ensure the continued safe use of the skate park.

Users expressed through the survey and discussions that the James Scott Memorial Skate Park needs to be redeveloped to include new equipment components to provide a greater experience for all. The development of a street style section to the park was strongly desired amongst the users.

Amenities at the James Scott Memorial Skate Park including seating, bins, lighting and shade were all identified through consultation and inspection as requiring improvement or replacement. Rubbish bins should be replaced and seating installed ensuring that their location considers any extensions or additions planned for the equipment at the skate park. A shade audit should be conducted at the site to determine the current level of shade provided and options for increasing shade through either natural or man made structures.

Security lighting is currently provided at the facility. This lighting is often out of order due to vandals, and maintenance is an ongoing issue for the council. The option of vandal proof lighting fixtures should be considered. Some users have expressed a wish to light the facility for use particularly during the winter period. By providing lighting for night use, there may be a reduction in non users at the park after dark which may reduce some of the vandalism and graffiti that occurs at the park. Night lighting, however, may encourage young people to visit the park during times which are unsafe or inappropriate. This is due to reduced natural surveillance and lack of other lighting in Willow Park. Light timers are one way other councils have managed night time usage.

Wodonga Council is currently completing a master plan for Willow Park. This will address the provision of facilities and amenities such as toilets, water and lighting within the park. The design and provision of lighting for the skate facility should link to the overall Master Plan that is developed. The council is also planning to design and upgrade the playground at Willow Park. This document and any developments or upgrades of the skate park need to inform the master planning process and link to the playground development.



Proposed direction/recommendation – Skate parks

To maintain the current participation and usage of the existing skate park facilities, it is recommended the council considers the appropriateness of:

1. Undertaking works to replace transitions in the James Scott Memorial Skate Park which are cracked or deteriorated;
2. Developing a staged approach to upgrade the existing James Scott Memorial Skate Park;
3. Developing a design to extend the James Scott Memorial Skate Park to include a street style section. Within this plan include seating, shade, lighting, and connections to toilets, water and other amenities;
4. Linking development plans for the James Scott Memorial Skate Park to the Willow Park master planning process and to the playground upgrade;
5. Co-ordinating lighting works for the skate park to coincide with any lighting works identified in the Willow Park Master Plan; and
6. Developing a management plan to support the installation of night lighting at the venue and conduct trials on appropriate hours for night usage.

7.2 Engaging BMX riders

It has been established that there are two types of BMX opportunities for riders: competitive and freestyle. Competitive BMX riders use formal BMX tracks for racing and access the Wodonga BMX track. The Border BMX Club operates club training and competitions at the venue and most competitive BMX riders are members. Freestyle BMX riders are focused more on development of skills and tricks rather than competitive racing. In Wodonga, these BMX riders access the two skate parks and the BMX track as the track is open to the general public for use. BMX riders may be involved in either or both disciplines.

A number of riders raised the accessibility to the Wodonga BMX Track as an issue. At the time of consultation, the club was undertaking major upgrade works which did not allow riders to have access to the track for a couple of months. Works are now completed and riders again have access to the facility. BMX participants residing in East Wodonga find it difficult to access the Wodonga BMX track as it is located in West Wodonga. This is a particular problem for those who ride to the park. Any future BMX developments should consider access for all neighbourhood areas including East Wodonga.

The provision of dirt jumps was also identified as a major issue during the development of this report. BMX riders have highlighted their interest and desire for a facility or space with dirt jumps. They have also expressed dissatisfaction with the council's policy for the immediate removal of dirt jumps in open space areas. This is reflected in the negative views some BMX riders expressed about council staff which have the job in removing the jumps. In addition to

this, it was established that BMX riders enjoy building the jumps and being able to change the shape and size of the jumps as skills and needs develop.

The council's parks and gardens and risk units raised the issue of illegal dirt jumps. Risk management protocols dictate that inappropriate and unauthorised dirt jumps are removed immediately from council land. The parks and gardens unit has highlighted that the removal of dirt jumps is becoming an increasing problem which requires more council resources particularly during school holidays. The risk unit has also noted any facility or space developed for dirt jumps would need to meet Australian or industry standards and be appropriately managed by the council.

It is clear that the council needs to address the issue regarding dirt jumps to support BMX riders in their recreational pursuit and to reduce the number of inappropriate jumps being built throughout the city. There are a number of contradicting factors which have made a clear direction or recommendation difficult in determining. The development of a dedicated dirt jump facility is seen as the most appropriate direction providing a space for BMX riders to use, but it may be unsuccessful if issues of variability, accessibility and involvement, as highlighted as important by the users, are not taken into account in the planning stage and ongoing management. The success of this type of development would be unknown until trialled in the community. Given the available open space in Wodonga and the minimal costs required for construction of dirt jumps, a small trial facility would be viable to be constructed. This trial facility can be monitored to ascertain the benefits of further dirt jump developments in other areas.

Proposed direction/recommendation – BMX riders

To improve BMX opportunities in the city of Wodonga, it is recommended that the council considers the appropriateness of:

1. Designing and building a small BMX dirt jump facility which considers links with East Wodonga residents and:
 - A: Includes a group of interested young people in the design and construction of the facility; and
 - B: Ensures the design and construction meets industry and Australian standards;
2. Monitoring the success and usage of the BMX dirt jump facility for future development; and,
3. Engaging suitable corporate and business partners to sponsor the funding of works.

7.3 Creating mountain bike options in Wodonga

Wodonga does not currently have any designated mountain bike facilities or tracks. The Albury Wodonga Cycling Club Mountain Bikers (AWCC MTB) manages and maintains a number of mountain bike tracks at Nail Can Hill in Albury. This area is accessible to Wodonga residents by the bike path network and public transport but is also only a short drive from Wodonga. Nail



Can Hill mountain bike facility is predominately cross country and has limited downhill tracks or the capacity to develop downhill tracks.

An excellent mountain bike facility is located at Mt Beauty. This facility has been used for state and national mountain bike events.

The consultation process clearly indicates that the community would like mountain bike facilities located in Wodonga. The AWCC MTB has identified the interest from members for a Wodonga option and, from a club perspective, a facility offering downhill mountain biking would be best. A downhill option in Wodonga would allow Wodonga to complement rather than duplicate the existing cross country facility in Albury.

Wodonga Council is now responsible for larger areas of parkland in Wodonga and it is clear that a number of management processes and issues, such as risk and grazing, need to be addressed in the short term. The council must spend time developing processes for the parklands to ensure the appropriate practices regarding environmental sustainability are implemented. Given the interest in the community for mountain biking as an activity, it is imperative that the council offers all options and works towards addressing mountain bike facilities across short and long term planning horizons. An option of co-ordinating a bus trips to Mt Buller and Mt Beauty has been welcomed by participants.

Proposed direction/recommendation – Mountain bike options

To support mountain bike participants in Wodonga, it is recommended that the council considers the appropriateness of:

1. Co-ordinating transport options for Wodonga residents to visit Mt Buller and Mt Beauty mountain bike parks in the spring and autumn school holidays;
2. Allowing for management practices and processes to be established for newly council-managed parkland areas as part of planning for mountain biking facilities; and
3. Conducting a feasibility study for the development of mountain bike trails in Wodonga.

7.4 Increasing the positive profile of skate, mountain bike and BMX

By and large, the information received about the facilities and usage was extremely positive. From the surveys collected, the users valued the social aspect of the facilities. However, some user groups highlighted there were barriers to effective participation and engagement, particularly in reference to the James Scott Memorial Skate Park. These included vandalism and perception of conflict between different user groups.

In reference to the issue of vandalism, user groups were quite adamant that this was being perpetuated by non users and is occurring when the facilities are not being used for their primary purposes, skating and riding. Even though the users are not responsible for the vandalism, the

consequences have a negative impact on them, and are often unfairly associated with this antisocial behaviour.

The perception of youth subcultures was expressed as being an issue at both the James Scott Memorial Skate Park and the BMX track. Different users were left feeling unwelcome. Upon further investigation, this was attributed to a misunderstanding and not valuing diversity between different users, as well as there being different expectations for the space.

The consultation clearly identified a gap in the provision of events/activities/programs at the facilities. In the past, there has been some successful stake competitions; however, in recent years, this has not been the case. The users reflected the need for events such as competitions as opposed to skill development workshops.

These events and activities also need to be closely linked to raising the profile of these non traditional sports. The users wanted the community to acknowledge and celebrate the success of the participants. They felt, because skating/BMX and mountain bike riding was not a mainstream sport, they were over looked in the media and also in regards to financial support for representing their sport at a state and national level.

Proposed direction/recommendation – participation and engagement

To increase participation and engagement in skating and BMX riding in Wodonga, it is recommended that the council considers, subject to budget calculations, the appropriateness of:

1. Undertaking work with different user groups to organise a variety of events and activities at facilities to highlight the diversity of groups and address the misunderstandings and misperceptions between groups;
2. Developing a formal process to acknowledge and celebrate the contribution and achievements of the skaters, BMX and mountain bike riders in their chosen pursuit;
3. Developing a shared understanding of what is appropriate behaviour in public spaces; and
4. Establishing a network of users participating in or interested in non-structured sports for the purposes of continued dialogue between them and the council.

7.5 Managing existing and future facilities

The overall management and maintenance of existing facilities was raised by users through the consultation process. Maintenance of the facility falls into two categories of daily maintenance issues and capital upgrade maintenance.

Skate park users felt the daily maintenance and inspection regime did not repair or replace items in satisfactory timeframes. For example, it was identified that a water bubbler had been broken for over four months before being identified and repaired. This issue is also linked to



the lack of understanding for users on how to notify the council to have items repaired. When discussing the water bubbler example with users, they knew when it had broken but had not notified anyone of the issue. Glass and vandalism were also highlighted as major problems on a daily basis. During discussions with users, they highlighted, that if cleaning equipment was available, it would allow them to clean up broken glass when needed.

Graffiti was raised by council's maintenance staff as an ongoing issue across the city and not just at the skate parks. Users were more concerned with the chemicals the council uses to remove the graffiti rather than the fact the graffiti was being removed. Users identified that a number of anti-graffiti surface paints are quite slippery and can make a skate park unusable. The council's youth services' unit has conducted aerosol art workshops at a range of locations across the city. Given the lack of interest by users, it is not recommended that aerosol art be conducted at the skate parks and that the existing program is continued.

The BMX track provides fast reliable notification of daily maintenance issues because there is an established user group operating at the venue which understands the notification process for maintenance issues on council property.

Capital upgrade maintenance is a planned approach to the replacement or development of facilities. This is often costly and requires the council to include in forward budgets and financial planning.

There is currently no process being followed for the management and inspection of skate parks. This creates unclear direction on what departments in the council are responsible for inspections, daily maintenance and capital maintenance. The council needs to develop a management plan outlining areas of responsibility and processes cCouncil departments need to follow.

The council has an agreement with the Border BMX Club which operates at the BMX track regarding the management and maintenance of the facility.

Proposed direction/recommendation – management and maintenance

To maintain existing and future facilities suitably, it is recommended that the council considers the appropriateness of:

1. Developing a management plan for the council's skate parks which specifically contains maintenance and inspection processes including graffiti being removed within 24 to 48 hours;
2. Contacting neighbouring businesses to existing skate park facilities to investigate the option of housing cleaning equipment for users to access;
3. Communicating to users the process for reporting maintenance issues and cleaning equipment availability;
4. Ensuring any replaced or additional equipment is durable and graffiti proof; and

5. Utilising the skater network to obtain feedback on maintenance issues and establish a mobile phone number system for reporting maintenance issues.

7.6 Catering for emerging recreational activities

During the consultation process, two other recreational activities of trail bikes and scooters were identified and discussed. Scooters are a new and emerging activity which access the council's bike paths and skate parks. The bike paths and skate parks are able to cater for this activity and feedback from scooter users supports the recommendations in item 6.1 'Provision of skate parks in Wodonga'. The council also needs to recognise the emergence of this activity and look to cater for it at future events or programs conducted at the skate parks.

Trail bikes have been documented during the consultation process in a positive and negative light. Although the use of trail bikes has been popular for a number of years, it is only in recent times that they are becoming more available to the community. This is due to cheaper and smaller trail bikes and new electric bikes being available. The Albury Wodonga Motorcycle Club provides a flat track and dirt track for motorcycle activities. This facility is available only to club members and not to the general public. There are no other designated areas for these bikes, particularly unregistered bikes, to use. There have been a number of incidents and reports of trail bikes in neighbourhood parks, sporting facilities and parkland areas. The trail bikes often damage sports' surfaces and parkland vegetation as well as being a risk to the appropriate users of the parks. Due to the increase in participation and reports of inappropriate use of the trail bikes, the council needs to work with the local club to address the management and options of this activity.

Proposed direction/recommendation – emerging activities

To support emerging recreational activities, it is recommended that the council considers the appropriateness of:

1. Ensuring scooter riders are considered in the planning of any events, programs or infrastructure developments; and
2. Working with the Albury Wodonga Motorcycle Club to address the increase in motorised bikes in Wodonga.

8. Action plan

Priority for implementation is based on

- Short-term priority = One to three years
- Medium-term priority = Three to five years
- Long-term priority = Five+ years
- Ongoing



Action	Priority	Key stakeholder	Budget
Developing skate parks in Wodonga			
Undertake repair works to replace transitions in the James Scott Memorial Skate Park which are cracked or deteriorated.	Short Term	Recreation	Completed
Develop a staged approach to upgrade the existing James Scott Memorial Skate Park.	Medium term	Recreation	Within operating budget
Develop a design to extend the James Scott Memorial Skate Park to include a street style section. Within this plan, include seating, shade, lighting and connections to toilets, water and other amenities.	Short Term	Recreation	Design -\$10,000 Construction \$200,000 (funding to be sourced)
Link development plans for the James Scott Memorial Skate Park to the Willow Park master planning process and to the playground upgrade.	Short Term	Recreation Early Years Parks Youth Services	Within operating budget
Coordinate lighting works for the skate park to coincide with any lighting works identified in the Willow Park Master Plan.	Medium Term	Recreation Infrastructure	\$50,000
Develop a management plan to support the installation of night lighting at the venue and conduct trials on appropriate hours for night usage.	Medium Term	Recreation	Within operating budget
Engaging BMX riders			
Design and build a small BMX dirt jump facility to be located in East Wodonga.	Short Term	Recreation Youth Services Infrastructure	\$15,000 (funding to be sourced)

Action	Priority	Key stakeholder	Budget
Monitor the success and usage of the BMX dirt jump facility for future development.	Short Term	Recreation Youth Services	Within operating budget
Engage suitable corporate and business partners to sponsor the funding of works.	Ongoing	Recreation	Within operating budget
Creating mountain bike options in Wodonga			
Co-ordinate transport options for Wodonga residents to visit Mount Buller and Mount Beauty mountain bike parks in the school holidays.	Short Term	Recreation Youth Services	Within operating budget – user pay system
Allow for management practices and processes to be established for newly Council managed parkland areas as part of planning for mountain biking facilities.	Short Term	Parks	Within operating budget
Conduct a feasibility study of developing mountain bike trails in Wodonga	Short Term	Parks Recreation	\$20,000 (funding to be sourced)
Increasing the positive profile of skate, mountain bike and BMX			
Undertake work with different user groups to organise a variety of events and activities at facilities to highlight the diversity of groups and address the misunderstandings and misperceptions between groups.	Short Term	Cultural Services Recreation Youth Services	Within operating budget
Develop a formal process to acknowledge and celebrate the contribution and achievements of the skaters, BMX and mountain bike riders in their chosen pursuit.	Medium Term	Youth Services	Within operating budget
Develop a shared understanding of what is appropriate behaviour in public spaces.	Medium Term	Community Safety Youth Services	Within operating budget



Action	Priority	Key stakeholder	Budget
Establish a network of young people participating in or interested in non-structured sports for the purposes of continued dialogue between them and Council.	Short Term	Youth Services Recreation	Within operating budget
Managing existing and future facilities			
Develop a management plan for Council's skate parks which specifically contains maintenance and inspection processes including graffiti being removed within 24 to 48 hours.	Short Term	Recreation Parks Building Maintenance	Within operating budget
Contact neighbouring businesses to existing skate park facilities to investigate the option of housing cleaning equipment for users to access.	Short Term	Youth Services	Within operating budget
Communicate to users the process for reporting maintenance issues and cleaning equipment availability.	Ongoing	Recreation Youth Services	Within operating budget
Ensure any replaced or additional equipment is durable and graffiti proof.	Ongoing	Recreation	Within operating and capital budgets
Utilise the skater network to obtain feedback on maintenance issues and establish a mobile phone number system for reporting maintenance issues.	Ongoing	Recreation Youth Services	Within operating budget
Catering for emerging recreational activities			
Ensure scooter riders are considered in the planning of any events, programs or infrastructure development.	Ongoing	Recreation Youth Services	Within operating budget
Work with the Albury Wodonga Motorcycle Club to address the increase in motorised bikes in Wodonga.	Short Term	Recreation	Within operating budget

9. Acknowledgements

The City of Wodonga would like to recognise a number of people and organisations who have assisted in the production of this strategy. We would like to thank the BMX/skate/mountain bike user groups for providing valuable information on the current facilities and associated activities and the role they have played in informing future actions. To other Council colleagues who have shared their professional wisdom and experience on the management and placing the strategy within the broader context, we express our gratefulness. To the City of Boroondara, we show our appreciation for the material and format you have established within your Municipal Skate and BMX Strategy.

10. Appendices

Appendix 1: Public Meeting Summary

Key themes that emerged from the meeting were:

- A general request for more equipment including ramps, rails and spines;
- Maintenance to the transitions in the existing James Scott Memorial Skate Park to improve safety particularly in the horse shoe component of the facility;
- More shade, bins and seating closer to facilities;
- More events including options for scooters;
- Scooters' use is popular and growing;
- Users noted the popularity of building dirt jumps in reserves and the ability to modify the designs of jumps;
- Modify and change the design of the existing jumps;
- Lack of lighting;
- Vandalism issues specifically broken glass, security lights being damaged and bins being burnt; and
- Lack of drinking water available.

Appendix 2: School Meetings Summary

Key feedback provided from the young people included:

- Willow Park Skate Park requires maintenance of damaged concrete area;
- Willow Park Skate Park needs to be extended to have a street section, have more lights, a fun box, a spine and some stairs;
- There is a lack of publication and media on the successes of local BMX competitions;
- Shade is needed;
- Mountain biking opportunities are lacking;



- Opportunity to refurbish mountain biking area at Hunchback Hill;
- Mount Beauty and Mount Buller have high level mountain bike facilities;
- Nail Can is more of a cross country course. People are interested in downhill tracks;
- Adelaide has a good BMX and mountain bike track with dirt jumps to investigate;
- Dirt jumps are created in reserves on weekends and provide satisfaction to the builders;
- Needs to be a space in Council reserves for jumps to be built;
- Transport shuttles to existing parks in the region would be accessed by riders;
- School trips have been to some parks;
- Beechworth track is another example but has been closed in the past; and
- Some conflict with non-users and users.

Appendix 3: Survey Summary and Results

The surveys were distributed through a number of retail stores in Wodonga and at Council's Impact Festival for young people. Seventy-seven surveys were received throughout the consultation period; 81.8% from males, 13% from females and 5.2% from 'no response'. The 11 to 17 year age group was well represented reflecting 78% of the total number of responses.

Findings from the 10 questions included (see Appendix 2):

1. Where do you generally skate or ride?

The most popular responses were the street (75.3% of respondents), the skate park (64.9% of respondents) and the park (41.6% of respondents). Survey participants also indicated that they skated or rode at the Birallee Shopping Centre, car parks, at home and along bike paths.

2. What facilities have you used in the last 12 months?

Most respondents (79.2%) had used the Wodonga Skate Park during the last 12 months. Other popular locations were the Baranduda Bowl (42.9%) and the Wodonga BMX Track (33.8%).

3. If you have used any other skate/BMX/mountain bike facilities over the last 12 months, please list where.

Nine respondents said they used facilities in both Albury and Melbourne, eight respondents had accessed amenities at Nail Can Hill and five respondents had been to the Albury Skate Park and facilities at Beechworth, Mt Beauty and Wangaratta.

4. How often do you participate in the following activities?

The most popular activity enjoyed by respondents 'more than once a week' was skating (32.5%), followed by BMXing (28.6%) and then by scootering (19.5%). For those respondents participating in activities once a week, the most popular was mountain biking with 15.6%. The least popular activity was roller skating with over 85% of respondents not participating at all.

5. How do you travel to the skate park or BMX track?

Most respondents (55.8%) either skated or rode to the skate park or BMX track. A further 48.1% of respondents were driven there by car by their parents.

6. How far are you prepared to travel to get to facilities in Wodonga?

Interestingly, 48.1% of respondents were prepared to travel over 20 minutes to access facilities in Wodonga. Only 7.8% of respondents indicated they would travel five minutes or less.

7. What are the best aspects of Wodonga's skate and BMX facilities?

Over half of the respondents (55.8%) agreed that being with 'friends' was the best aspect of visiting Wodonga's facilities, with the next most popular response being that it was 'free' (54.5%). Other highly rated aspects were the 'fun' element (45.5%), the 'bowl' (32.5%) and the 'ramps' (24.7%).

8. What are the worst aspects of Wodonga's skate and BMX facilities?

Over 50% of respondents indicated that 'not enough' facilities was the worst aspect. 'Not enough parks' (46.8%) and areas that were 'too small' (44.2%) were also rated negatively.

9. If Council was to develop any new skate/BMX/mountain facilities, what is the best location in Wodonga?

Eleven respondents nominated the Willow Park Extension as the best location for any new facilities planned for the future, closely followed by 10 respondents stating that the current location of sites would be most suitable. The CBD was identified by six survey participants and four each voted for Huon Hill and Birallee Park respectively.



10. What else would you like to see improved in a skate park/BMX track/mountain bike track in Wodonga?

A range of responses were received for this question with the most popular being better concrete (9 respondents), a mountain bike park (9 respondents), new equipment at existing parks (8 respondents) and bigger (6 respondents). Five respondents suggested better lighting.

The following key themes were identified.

- James Scott Memorial Skate Park was the most popular facility.
- A high number of respondents used their parents for transport to facilities or skated or rode to the facilities which highlighted a dependence on Council’s pathway networks.
- 48.1% of respondents would travel over 20 minutes to access a facility.
- Respondents want the James Scott Memorial Skate Park to be improved.
- The best aspects of Council skate facilities were the opportunity to socialise and that facilities were free to access.

Survey results

Gender	
Male	81.8%
Female	13%
No Response	5.2%

Age	
0 – 10 years	2.6%
11 – 13 years	23.4%
14 – 17 years	54.6%
18 – 20 years	6.5%
21 – 30 years	6.5%
31+ years	3.9%
No response	2.6%

Where do you generally skate or ride?			
Item	No. of respondents	Item	No. of respondents
Street	75.3%	BMX Track	28.6%
Skate Park	64.9%	Road	28.6%
Park	41.6%	Footpaths	28.6%

Where do you generally skate or ride?			
Birallee Shopping area	37.7%	Backyard	27.3%
Car parks	35.1%	High Street	26%
Home	33.8%	Civic Centre area	18.2%
Bike Path	32.5%		

Where do you generally skate or ride?			
Item	No. of respondents	Item	No. of respondents
Street	75.3%	BMX Track	28.6%
Skate Park	64.9%	Road	28.6%
Park	41.6%	Footpaths	28.6%
Birallee Shopping area	37.7%	Backyard	27.3%
Car parks	35.1%	High Street	26%
Home	33.8%	Civic Centre area	18.2%
Bike path	32.5%		

What facilities have you used in the last 12 months?	
Location	No. of respondents
Wodonga Skate Park	79.2%
Baranduda Bowl	42.9%
Wodonga BMX Track	33.8%

If you have used any other skate/BMX/mountain bike facilities over the last 12 months, please list where.			
Location	No. of respondents	Location	No. of respondents
Albury	9	Wangaratta	5
Melbourne	9	Canberra	4
Nail Can Hill	8	Shepparton	3
Albury Skate park	5	Falls Creek	3
Beechworth	5	Bright	3
Mt Beauty	5		



How often do you participate in the following activities?						
Activity	More than once a week	Once a week	Once a month	Once a year	Not sure	None
Skate	32.5%	5.2%	5.2%	2.6%	6.5%	48.1%
Blade	6.5%	1.3%	0%	1.3%	10.4%	80.5%
Roller skate	5.2%	0%	0%	2.6%	6.5%	85.7%
BMX	28.6%	3.9%	7.8%	1.3%	1.3%	57.1%
Scooter	19.5%	5.2%	1.3%	1.3%	2.6%	70.1%
Mountain biking	15.6%	15.6%	2.6%	1.3%	2.6%	62.3%
Other	6.5%	1.3%	1.3%	0	5.2%	85.7%

How do you travel to the skate park or BMX track?	
Item	No. of respondents
Skated or rode	55.8%
Car – parents	48.1%
In a friends car	18.2%
Drove	18.2%
Walked	13%
Bus	7.8%

How far are you prepared to travel to get to facilities in Wodonga?	
Distance	% response
1 to 2 mins	3.9%
3 to 5 mins	3.9%
6 to 10 mins	7.8%
11 to 15 mins	15.6%
16 to 20 mins	9.1%
Over 20 mins	48.1%

What are the best aspects of Wodonga’s skate and BMX facilities?			
Item	No. of respondents	Item	No. of respondents
Friends	55.8%	Jumps	23.4%
Free	54.5%	Cool	23.4%
Fun	45.5%	Close	18.2%
Bowl	32.5%	Clean	15.6%
Ramps	24.7%	Safety	14.3%
Location	24.7%		

What are the worst aspects of Wodonga's skate and BMX facilities?			
Item	No. of respondents	Item	No. of respondents
Not enough	50.6%	Gangs	18.2%
Not enough parks	46.8%	Concrete	15.6%
Too small	44.2%	Too far away	15.6%
Surface	36.4%	Dangerous	13%
No toilets	35.1%	Safety	10.4%
Crowded	29.9%	Too hard	3.9%
Graffiti	20.8%		

If Council was to develop any new skate/BMX/mountain facilities, what is the best location in Wodonga?			
Location	No. of respondents	Location	No. of respondents
Willow Park Extension	11	Current location	10
CBD	6	Anywhere	5
Huon Hill	4	Birallee Park – near BMX track	4
West Wodonga	3	Baranduda	3
Close to town	3	Coles Drop off	3
East Wodonga	3	Hunchback Hill	3
Killara	1	Huon Creek Road	1
Watsons Hill	1	McPhersons Hill	1
Les Stone Park	1	Wodonga Show Grounds	1



What else would you like to see improved in a skate park/BMX track/ mountain bike track in Wodonga?

Item	No. of respondents	Item	No. of respondents
Better concrete	9	Scooter Skate Park	2
mountain bike park	9	Quarter pipe	1
New equipment at existing parks	8	Bubblers	1
Bigger	6	Flat racing track	1
Better and more lights	5	More races	1
Better maintenance - cleaner	4	BMX track	1
More variety	4	Spine	1
Indoor facility	4	Mountain bike events and promotion	1
More jumps	4	New transitions	1
More seating	4	Criterion circuit	1
More rails	4	Bike tracks in east Wodonga	1
Bigger jumps	3	Children's course for safety cycling	1
4x track	3	More extreme	1
Foam pit	3	Less glass	1
Shade	2	New Park	1
Things for younger kids	2	Berms	1
Street Section	2	More camps	1
Fenced off	2	Box jump	1

Appendix 4: Council Staff Interviews Summary and Findings

Conversations with Council staff working in Parks and Gardens highlighted a number of issues surrounding the management of facilities. These included:

- Construction by young people, and consequent removal by Council, of inappropriate and often hazardous BMX dirt jumps in reserves particularly around West Wodonga and Baranduda;
- A lack of information around what currently exists in parkland areas;
- Shared use of hill areas between bikes and stock, which graze from March to September, creating risk issues;
- Vandalism in bushlands associated with four wheel driving and trail bikes; and,
- Parkland zoning to consider the inclusion of recreational activities such as mountain biking.

Council's landscape designer further added that a requirement of well designed mountain bike tracks included downhill, cross country and jump park aspects. He identified suitable signage as critical to the development of jumps and tracks. To reduce risk, the risk management officer stated that all facilities must be firstly designed by an accredited firm. Inspection of these facilities then must be regular and well documented, and signage must follow industry and insurance recommendations.

Council staff working in assets commented on the ongoing challenge of managing graffiti and vandalism at particularly James Scott Memorial Skate Park. They acknowledged that lighting was a problem at Willow Park and recommended that any amenities added to facilities should be made from steel material.

Youth services' staff discussed their involvement in a variety of skate and BMX competitions held throughout the city and the contact they had with youth accessing the facilities. While they supported the integration of different user groups, they also recognised that BMX riders were looking for their own space and didn't like having to share the skate park facilities with skateboarders. They felt that mountain bike riders, while not requiring a new facility, would benefit from a number of accessible mountain bike tracks throughout the area. Youth services' staff felt that the provision of appropriate facilities for all three disciplines would result in a decrease in the number of young people practising their skills in public places.

Early years' staff discussed the prospect of linking existing and proposed facilities to major playground projects as identified in the Playground Strategy.

Council staff working in recreation acknowledged the need for Council to explore the appropriate provision of skate and BMX facilities as initially identified in the Municipal Recreation Plan.

Findings



Risk Management

- Any facility must be designed by qualified companies within the industry.
- Inspections of facilities must be documented and completed on a regular basis.
- Signage must follow industry and insurers' recommendations.
- New Council managed parklands are focused on addressing risk issues in tree and general maintenance.

Parks and Gardens

- Inappropriate BMX dirt jumps in reserves are a major issue across the community with specific hot spots of West Wodonga and Baranduda identified.
- Inappropriate BMX dirt jumps in reserves greatly increase during school holidays.
- Inappropriate jumps in reserves are often near footpaths and the sizes of some jumps are very hazardous.
- Issue is increasing and costs for removal are beginning to rise. Currently costs are manageable.
- A new officer focused on parklands' management provides an opportunity to develop mountain bike trails.
- Audit required of what currently exists in new parklands' areas.
- Hill areas are currently on grazing leases which creates risk issues in increasing access for bikes.
- Grazing times are approximately from March to September annually.
- Complaints often received regarding vandalism in bushlands associated with four wheel driving and trail bikes.
- Zoning of parklands needs to be considered before considering the inclusion of recreational activities such as mountain biking.

Landscape Design

- Mountain bike tracks require three areas which are downhill, cross country and jump park.
- Suitable signage is the key to any development of dirt jumps or mountain bike tracks.

Early Years

- Playground Strategy is underway and scheduled to be presented at June Council meeting.
- Strategy highlights key elements for young people at neighbourhood and regional level playgrounds.
- Assessment of sites completed through strategy.
- Great opportunity to link existing and proposed developments to major playground projects.

Assets

- Ongoing issue of graffiti at James Scott Memorial Skate Park.
- Graffiti decreased for 12 months after apprehension of two individuals. The level of graffiti has increased to previous levels in the past six months.
- Graffiti is varied at the facility.
- Vandalism is ongoing at the James Scott Memorial Skate Park specifically to lights and power supply point.
- Baranduda Skate Park does not have the same issues of vandalism and graffiti due to more distant location and smaller population.
- Lighting at Willow Park needs to be addressed.
- BMX track attracts pavilion damage. Surface is rarely damaged.
- Any amenities around facility should be of steel material.

Youth Services

- The last Youth Services' Skate and BMX competition at the James Scott Memorial Skate Park was held in October 2005.
- A skate and BMX competition was held at the Baranduda Skate Park in July 2006.
- Youth Services' staff are aware of other competitions run through the 'Onga' committee and Faith City.
- Smaller skate competitions have been held for the last three years at the Impact Festival using mobile ramps.
- Albury Council's Youth Services' team have conducted a couple of successful competitions at the Albury Skate Bowl.
- Currently there appears to be a lack of organised competitions in the area.
- Two skate parks in Wodonga are excellent. Lights, taps and seats would be the only additions to the main park - obviously designed in a way so as to prevent graffiti and vandalism.
- BMX riders are always looking for their 'own' space and don't like having to share the skate park, which really is designed for 'skateboards'. Youth Services recognises and supports the values of integrating different user groups.
- Youth Services' experience with mountain bike participants indicates no need for a 'facility' as such, but a number of tracks or routes throughout the area that are specifically for mountain biking.
- The provision of appropriate facilities for all three disciplines may result in a reduction in the number of young people practicing their skills (particularly skating and BMX) in public places like the Wodonga library driveway (near the Youth Services' building) and car parks and other areas which result in increasing scrutiny and surveillance.



Recreation

- Focused on encouraging and supporting all forms of recreational activities in the municipality.
- Skate and BMX facilities need to be addressed.
- The issues of skate and BMX facilities have been initially identified in the Municipal Recreation Plan.

Appendix 5: Submissions summary

Wodonga residents considered the current locations of skate parks as good. They commented on the lack of mountain bike tracks in the Wodonga region; despite the accessibility of suitable hills for biking close by. They also highlighted the need for safe and accessible 'jumps' in the area.

Parklands Albury Wodonga members recommended Federation Hill and Houn Hill as local places offering great opportunities for mountain biking. They identified other potential opportunities for mountain bike tracks at WRENS land, MacDonalds Hill, Mahers Hill and Flagstaff Hill. Members also commented on the need for the existing Albury Wodonga Corporation recreational map to be updated to promote trails. Albury Wodonga Cycling Club Mountain Riders recognised a great opportunity to work with Council to develop a downhill trail at Huon Hill to compliment facilities at Nail Can Hill.

Wodonga Resident

- Current BMX track is too far away for some.
- Good to have some jumps at Castle Heights Estate area.
- The skate park surface is too rough for use.

Wodonga Resident

- The current skate park is good for BMX, mountain bikes and skates.
- Provision of a jumps' track is important.
- A specific mountain bike park should be provided.

Wodonga Resident

- Willow Park Skate Park is in an excellent location.
- Baranduda Skate Park is designed for more advanced and skilled riders and reduces the access for most children in Baranduda. Location is good.
- There are no mountain bike facilities; however, mountain biking is very popular in Wodonga.
- Wodonga has suitable hills for mountain biking.
- Any mountain bike track design is important. The potential to develop world class mountain bike facilities in Wodonga is enormous.
- Training programs to develop skills would be good.

Parklands Albury Wodonga

- Suggests that Federation Hill and Huon Hill provide a great opportunity for a diverse mountain biking experience.
- Identifies WRENS land, MacDonalds Hill, Mahers Hill and Flagstaff Hill as providing potential for mountain biking.
- Recommends that Council work together with agencies in updating the existing Albury Wodonga Corporation recreational map to promote trails instead of creating new maps.
- Provided feedback on providing access to mountain bikers on existing tracks on Federation Hill and Huon Hill.

Albury Wodonga Cycling Club Mountain Bikers

- Club has been established for three years and has over 100 members.
- Operating most of the year the club conducts two major events each year, a monthly competitive race and a monthly social ride.
- Club currently operates from Nail Can Hill in Albury and is focused on developing signage, maps and shelter at their current facility.
- The club would be interested in working with Council on facility development after their current projects at the Albury facility are completed.
- Nail Can Hill is predominately made up of cross country trails.
- Club has had discussions with Council regarding Huon Hill and Federation Hill in the past.
- Club sees the potential in developing a downhill trail at Huon Hill so as to compliment Albury facility rather than duplicate it.
- There are currently only five downhill venues in Victoria.



