

Sporting Facility Demand Analysis

Introduction

As part of the Knox Regional Sports Park Masterplan review, officers have undertaken a review of key sporting groups (existing tenants and possible new) for potential inclusion in a revised Masterplan. The initial proposal submitted to Council by Basketball Victoria and Knox Basketball Incorporated, included only a basketball consideration. This has since been expanded to include Gymnastics, Soccer, Hockey, Squash and VARMS.

In considering facility requests and developing a revised Masterplan, it has been necessary to consider the overarching Council strategic framework including the Council and Community Plan 2017 – 2021, the Knox Leisure Plan 2014 – 2019 and the Knox Open Space Plan 2012 – 2022 as well as a number of regional plans which relate to either facilities or sports.

The staging of this project and the infrastructure developments included on the site should also be complimentary and workable from an operational perspective and a consideration of shared spaces but also allowing site flexibility to remain for future additions as required.

Strategic Documents

Council

Council and Community Plan 2017 – 2021

Goal 1 – We value our nature and built environment

Strategy 1.3 - Ensure the Knox local character is protected and enhanced through the design and location of urban development and infrastructure

Goal 6 - We are Healthy, Happy and Well

Strategy 6.2 - Support the community to enable positive physical and mental health

Knox Leisure Plan 2014 – 2019

- Basketball has experienced the largest increase (16%) in local participation in the 12 months leading up to the Leisure Plan's development.
- Cricket and AFL also recorded increased participation levels, whilst participation in Tennis, Netball and Soccer have remained relatively stable.

Regional

Melbourne East Sport and Recreation Strategy 2016

- There are high participation rates in primary sports across the region, including basketball, netball, football, cricket and soccer.
- There is current demand for more indoor courts for basketball and netball, and an immediate need for a gymnastics facility.
- There is an immediate need for additional hockey pitches in the region.
- Formalised sports such as tennis, basketball, soccer, netball, football and cricket are prominent and are the highest structured participation sports in the region.

Sport Specific

Basketball

Strategic Documents:

- Basketball Victoria Strategic Plan 2017 – 2020
- Knox Basketball Plan – November 2017

Regional Perspective:

Basketball is a high participation sport which operates through several associations. The areas of Knox, Maroondah, Whitehorse and Dandenong are the largest associations in the East. Whilst most surrounding Councils have at least a 6 court stadium, basketball continues to grow. The KRSP is now the home of Knox Basketball Inc, Basketball Victoria and Basketball Australia.

Sport Proposal	Demand Analysis	Actual Demand	Recommendation
<p>Domestic Basketball</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knox Basketball recorded larger than anticipated increase in participation (22%) since 2012 • Membership was reported at 10,444 • KBI requested that Council deliver an additional eight (8) courts at KRSP to meet future need 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently there are approximately 10,444 players affiliated with KBI. This figure is anticipated to increase to over 12,500 in the next twenty years resulting in increasing demand for basketball competition infrastructure. In addition to this other additional pressures on basketball infrastructure including junior domestic training, increasing participation from local Chinese communities and a focus on 3-on-3 basketball is anticipated to place further demand for basketball courts • Council, at its meeting of 27 November 2017 adopted plans for an additional ten (10) courts at the State Basketball Stadium to future proof Council's basketball infrastructure. 	<p>Short Term – six (6) courts to replace the courts at Boronia</p> <p>Medium Term – four (4) additional courts – potentially two of these courts could be used for netball (would need to allow for additional run off)</p> <p>With additional courts comes the need for additional office, administration and storage areas as well as additional amenity areas (change rooms and toilets)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As per Basketball Plan adopted in November 2017: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 10 basketball courts ○ Additional office, administration and storage areas ○ Additional amenity areas (change rooms and toilets)

National Basketball League (NBL)			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NBL Stadium (8,000 seating capacity) • Centre of Excellence, elite training centre and change areas • Specialist fitness / training area • NBL office area, media area • Player lounge, corporate viewing areas, retail • Child minding (crèche) facility • Two outdoor (3-on-3) courts • Theatrette 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The addition of two outdoor 3-on-3 courts would take up open space and might also need to allow for a spectator area • Child minding facilities come with their own regulatory requirement and would also need to be supported from a business case perspective. • No Men's NBL team has been confirmed • Theatrette – could be incorporated in the future Arts Centre at Knox Central. • Any commercial element on the site may need to be checked for consistency with the allowable activities on the site under the current lease 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is expected that Melbourne will secure a second NBL side in the next couple of years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A further feasibility and business case is required

Gymnastics

Strategic Documents:

- Gymnastics Victoria Strategic Plan 2017 – 2021
- Gymnastics Victoria – Knox Gymnastics Club Regional Gymnastics Facility Proposal – 2017
- Draft Knox Gymnastics Facility Strategic Review 2013

Regional Perspective:

Gymnastics across the region is provided in both community and private facilities. Monash Council are progressing towards the establishment of a regional facility to be completed in the coming year.

Sport Proposal	Demand Analysis	Actual Demand	Recommendation
<p>Gymnastics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant participation increase with memberships increasing from 726 participants to 929 in 5 years (2012-2017) • Waiting list of over 400 potential new participants • 2,200+ gymnastics facility which would include space for office space, new programs (parkour and ninjutsu) and canteen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The increased participation and significant waiting list at Knox Gymnastics still exists despite the establishment of a second (private) gymnastics facility in the municipality • Trampolining is affiliated with gymnastics and as such can be co-located within a gymnastics facility. Council currently supports the Omega Trampoline Club that has 114 members and operates from Carrington Park Leisure Centre and Rowville Community Centre • Current gymnastics space at Pickett Reserve is 700m² however is undersized for amount of activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demand for a municipal facility to accommodate Knox Gymnastics with possible co-location of Omega Trampoline Club • Gymnastics facility, as recommended by Gymnastics Victoria and supported by Sporting Dimensions Guide (2008) including office space and storage • Trampolining area for four (4) trampolines • Competition viewing area (500 seating capacity). • No evidence provided for new programming e.g. parkour, cheerleading, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gymnastics facility suitable for State level competitions, including trampolining

Soccer

Strategic Documents:

- Football Federation Victoria Strategic Map – 2012 – 2015
- Football Federation Victoria Business Plan for the Knox Regional Football Centre Expansion – February 2018

Regional Perspective:

FFV have identified that they would like to develop the Knox Regional Football Centre, the Darebin facility and a facility in Geelong as their three regional facilities.

Soccer is a high demand sport, particularly through increased female participation. This is confirmed through the Leisure Plan which identified a need for two (2) additional pitches in the southern part of the municipality (Rowville/Lysterfield).

Sport Proposal	Demand Analysis	Actual Demand	Recommendation
Soccer			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A total of four (4) full size pitches one of which would have the capacity for small sided games • Pavilion upgrade • Re-use of the <i>5-a-side</i> pitches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current facility is not at capacity, participation on site is stable • The FFV State Facilities Plan indicates a requirement for three (3) additional community pitches in Knox by 2026 The rationale linking the need for community pitches to the Knox Regional Sports Park is unclear • FFV have indicated that this should be a regional facility however no consultation has been undertaken with the Eastern Region Councils • Two full size community pitches are planned to be provided at Kingston Links development, consistent with the Leisure Plan 2014-19 • Only 1 in 10 annual participation KPIs achieved • Financial assessment: total income falling since 2013, team entry fee income behind forecast and declining. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convert existing <i>5-a-side</i> pitch area to a full size • Two (2) additional full size pitches can be provided at the Kingston Links site in the coming years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two (2) pitches to be provided at Kingston Links • Convert current <i>5-a-side</i> pitches to one full sized pitch with dividing netting • Six (6) new <i>5-a-side</i> pitches • Pavilion upgrade

Squash

Strategic Documents:

- Squash Victoria Strategic Plan 2017 – 2020
- Squash and Racquetball in Knox Issues Briefing Report December 2017

Regional Perspective:

Squash is a declining sport across the region and across the State. In the metropolitan area many squash courts are privately owned and this trend is reflected in Knox also with all the facilities in Knox under private ownership.

Sport Proposal	Demand Analysis	Actual Demand	Recommendation
<p>Squash</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No expressed demand for additional courts • Currently 112 registered squash and racquetball players and 125 non-affiliated players • Total of 23 courts currently operating within Knox 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation data from Squash and Racquetball Victoria and current venue owners indicates a reduced demand for the sport over the past 5 years • Any new spaces provide flexibility for a range of other uses (i.e. pilates, yoga, etc.) • Industry benchmarks indicates there is no demand for additional squash facilities (taking into account future loss of 15 courts across two venues in the next three years) • A more detailed response is provided in Council's Issues Briefing – 4 December 2017 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No current demand and limited future demand 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not to be included in KRSP • Can re-establish squash at Carrington Park Leisure Centre – potentially four (4) courts

Hockey

Strategic Documents:

- Hockey Victoria Strategic Plan 2017 - 2020
- Hockey Victoria Facilities Master Plan 2015 – 2025
- Regional Hockey Plan 2018 – Monash, Maroondah, Knox and Yarra Ranges

Regional Perspective:

The MERSRS identified an immediate need within the region for additional hockey pitches (an additional one pitch was identified at Ashwood Reserve in Monash). With the proposed closure of the Knox School Hockey field this is even more evident.

Sport Proposal	Demand Analysis	Actual Demand	Recommendation
Hockey			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New synthetic pitch• Demand required as a result of the impending expiry of agreement with The Knox School for provision of community pitch• Current membership 300 (impacted upon by uncertainty of permanent future home)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Additional pitches are required in the eastern suburbs where hockey participation is extremely high and current pitches are at capacity• Council has also endorsed a regional feasibility to look at the needs of hockey within the region and the re-establishment of a facility in the area. This might identify additional options for Council's consideration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two (2) hockey pitches• New pavilion with amenities and storage• Car parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Immediate demand for one hockey pitch however preliminary findings indicate that for a regional facility, two pitches would be required• Await outcome of Regional Hockey Plan due June 2018

VARMS

Strategic Documents:

- VARMS Strategic Plan 2018 – 2020

Regional Perspective:

There has generally been an increase in the amount of radio controlled model clubs looking for space in Knox, this includes car and off road groups. There has also been an increase in the amount of flying models such as drones, helicopters, etc. VARMS is one of only three other flying fields in the Eastern Region.

Sport Proposal	Demand Analysis	Actual Demand	Recommendation
<p>VARMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No expressed demand for additional airfields • The current flying field (300m x 150m with an additional 30m buffer) is assessed as the minimum size that will safely accommodate the range of flying activities undertaken at the Club. Preference is 200m x 400m north/south with additional flyer over areas around • Desire to expand club house • The Club has the only MAAA and CASA approved flying field in the eastern region • Long term Strategic Plan seeks to achieve continuing tenancy at current location 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fulfils unique/boutique sporting activity and interest • Located at its current site for the last 30 years • Significant increase in membership – from 80 to 230 between 2010 and 2017. 10% of members currently reside within Knox. This is only one of three facilities in the state • There is a strong social program (including operating as a Men’s Shed) • VARMS is the only site where all radio controlled gliders can be flown in safety within greater Melbourne 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current site appears sufficient for regular competitions (slope and thermal soaring) • The club have flagged a possible extension to their shed on site • Currently licence for 5 years plus 2 years, ending in 2022 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider retaining on site in the interim, if possible

Open Space

Strategic Documents:

- Knox Open Space Plan 2012 – 2022

Regional Perspective:

Whilst the Knox Open Space Plan initially identified that Knox had an adequate provision of open space when considering adjacent land provision by Parks Victoria, there are some major barriers that are currently compromising this provision. Open space in the region needs to be maintained and balanced with the associated private land developments.

The original concept master plan for the KRSP (then ERP) identified a need to balance the active spaces and built up areas with some passive areas and connecting path networks. The adjacent land was also identified as a future site for passive recreation and connections to neighbouring areas and shared trails.