

CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS 2024

Report Author: Manager Recreation Parks & Facilities
Responsible Officer: Director Built Environment & Infrastructure
Ward(s) affected: (All Wards);

The author(s) of this report and the Responsible Officer consider that the report complies with the overarching governance principles and supporting principles set out in the Local Government Act 2020.

CONFIDENTIALITY

This item is to be considered at a Council meeting that is open to the public.

SUMMARY

This report outlines the outcome of the 2024-2025 Recreation and Sport Capital Development Grant Program.

Twelve projects are recommended to be funded through this round of the grant program.

Funding agreements will be established with each recipient for the delivery of their initiative following formal approval by Council.

One project is not recommended for approval in this round. Where eligible, the Recreation & Sport team will continue to work with the community group on the development of their grant application for future rounds or to have the project delivered in another way.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse the proposed successful funding applications of the 2024/2025 Capital Development Grant Program to provide the following grant amounts:

- 1. \$30,000.00 to the Monbulk Recreation Reserve Development Group***
- 2. \$30,000.00 to the Lilydale BMX Club Inc***
- 3. \$30,000.00 to the Scout Association of Australia – Montrose Scout Group***
- 4. \$30,000.00 to the Eastern Ranges Football Club***
- 5. \$27,243.00 to the Melbourne Gun Club***
- 6. \$25,000.00 to the Yarra Ranges Athletics***
- 7. \$15,000.00 to the Hoddles Creek Cricket Club***

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">8. \$10,975.00 to the Montrose Football Club9. \$10,164.00 to the Yarra Glen Cricket Club10. \$8,085.00 to the Wandin Football Netball Club11. \$5,500.00 to the Seville Pony Club12. \$4,524.00 to the Steels Creek Tennis and Social Club |
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RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Council Meeting 10 October 2023 – Council resolved to provide \$173,349 as part of the 2023/2024 Recreation and Sport Capital Development Grant Program to 16 successful clubs and associations for improvements to their facilities.

DISCUSSION

Purpose and Background

The purpose of the Capital Development Grants is to support the local community to carry out projects that will improve and benefit, not only sport and recreation organisations, but also the wider community.

The Grant applications proposed to be funded have been assessed as having demonstrated an ability to achieve significant outcomes in the four criteria outlined in the Capital Development Grant Program – Funding Guidelines, as follows:

- Clear evidence of demand for the project and the ongoing benefits to community participation (40%).
- The degree to which the organisation has provided the required project documentation and can demonstrate the ability to deliver the project (30%).
- Demonstrated increased opportunities for female participation and/or disadvantaged groups (25%).
- Sustainability elements incorporated in design, materials or outcomes (5%).

Options considered

In the published 2024/2025 Capital Works Budget, \$364,000 is allocated towards the Capital Development Grants Program.

The 2024/25 program has seen a decrease in the number of applications from previous years. This has allowed the recommended projects to be fully funded and will see the delivery of 12 successful projects to improve sport and recreation outcomes across the municipality.

Recommended option and justification

The 2024-25 Recreation and Sport Capital Development Grant Program will see a total of \$226,491 awarded to 12 successful applications.

Summary of recommended applications and funds awarded:

Club	Project	Grant Recommended	Total Project Cost
Monbulk Recreation Reserve Development Group	Behind goal netting	\$30,000	\$80,000
Lilydale BMX Club	Safety Upgrades	\$30,000	\$65,071
The Scout Association of Australia, Victorian Branch - Montrose Scout Group	Enhancing Safety, Accessibility, and Sustainability at the Montrose Scout Hall	\$30,000	\$69,387
Eastern Ranges Football Club	Behind the Goals Netting	\$30,000	\$79,930
Melbourne Gun Club	Flood Mitigation Works	\$27,243	\$54,486
Yarra Ranges Athletics	Morrison Reserve Change Rooms and Gym Redevelopment for Female Athletes	\$25,000	\$50,000
Hoddles Creek Cricket Club	Storage and Change Rooms Facility Upgrade	\$15,000	\$30,000
Montrose Football and Netball Club	Elizabeth Bridge Scoreboard	\$10,975	\$21,945
Yarra Glen Cricket Club	Pitch Repairs (Main Oval) and Pitch Upgrade (2nd Oval)	\$10,164	\$20,328
Wandin Football Netball Club	Scoreboard Project	\$8,085	\$16,170
Seville Pony Club	Resurface of Arena	\$5,500	\$11,000
Steels Creek Tennis and Social Club	Steels Creek Tennis Club Outdoor Area Renovation	\$4,524	\$9,048

The 12 successful applications equate to a total grant request of \$226,491 from the 2024-25 Program for projects that amount to a combined value of \$507,366. One application was not supported by the panel due to not meeting the application criteria and funding ratios as per the program guidelines (Attachment 1) and the risk of delivery of the project.

The project considered unsuccessful by the assessment panel is:

Club	Project	Grant Requested	Total Project Cost
Wesburn Junior Football Club	Installation of around ground fencing	\$38,489	\$83,489

The total project value of each grant project is capped at \$80,000 with a maximum contribution of \$30,000 from Council. Therefore, the above project did not meet the funding ratios in the program guidelines. This project also included \$45,000 of in-kind labour contribution with no confirmation from relevant trades of in-kind contribution which presents a high risk to delivery. The installation of fencing is not a project Council would generally have members of a club deliver. Councils Parks Assets team manage the renewal and upgrade of sports field fencing through experienced trades. Officers in the Sport Team will work with the Parks Assets Team to identify any opportunity for this project to be listed on the current renewal program.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

An annual budget for the program is included in Council's 10 Year Capital Expenditure Program. The 2024-25 budget for this program is \$364,000. Previous funds awarded to sixteen applications in 2023/24 were \$173,349.

It is recommended to award a total of \$226,491 to 12 applications for the 2024/25 funding round.

APPLICABLE PLANS AND POLICIES

This report contributes to the following strategic objective(s) in the Council Plan:

The projects delivered by the proposed successful applicants will significantly contribute to enhancing health outcomes, including decreasing obesity and improving mental health and wellbeing. By engaging and encouraging people to be physically active and creative we can protect, improve and promote public health and wellbeing for all ages.

The Recreation and Open Space Strategy 2013-2023 sets out directions for creating healthy and active environments and services in Yarra Ranges and provides a framework to guide future development and management of Council's recreation reserves, parks and community spaces.

RELEVANT LAW

Not Applicable

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic Implications

This funding program supports volunteer/not for profit organisations, delivering important community infrastructure that ensures sustainability of the organisation delivering the project.

Social Implications

Sport and Recreation clubs across Yarra Ranges provide an opportunity for residents to participate physically in a structured sport or recreation activity however the social value of these clubs is the basis of which they are formed.

The sense of belonging and community that clubs provide to the social fabric of our region contributes significantly to the health and wellbeing outcomes of all participants.

Several of the projects submitted support recreation participation to the wider community, including female and disadvantaged community members.

Research by LaTrobe University's Centre for Sport and Social Impact (CSSI) reported that for every \$1 spent on a community sporting club (in this case Australian Rules), there is at least a \$4.40 return in social value.

The social return on investment in social value was in terms of increased social connectedness, wellbeing, mental health status; employment outcomes; personal development; physical health; civic pride, and support of other community groups.

Environmental Implications

Each project either has a positive or neutral effect on the surrounding environment.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Advertising for submissions occurred via Council's website, the monthly Sport Newsletter and direct email notification to sporting clubs and user groups across the municipality.

It was advised that applications were open from 9am, Monday 27th May 2024 and were to close 11:59pm, Sunday 7th August 2024.

All applications were assessed against the criteria by four Council officers ('assessors') from Council's Recreation and Sport team and one officer from Council's Property and Leasing team, who understood the assessment process and/or has knowledge of infrastructure development and maintenance.

The following process was followed by each of the assessors:

1. Applications assessed independently.
2. Allocated a project score using the criteria provided.
3. Met and discussed each project.
4. Agreed on a final score; and
5. Allocated funds based on the final outcomes of assessment and budget.

This process was overseen and coordinated by the Recreation Development & Liaison Officer.

COLLABORATION, INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The Sport team will collaborate with the relevant internal departments that have an interest in specific projects. The team have well developed relationships with the Parks, Parks Assets, Sports field Management, Major Projects, Facilities and Property and Leasing teams whose input is sort through the delivery of the projects.

RISK ASSESSMENT

All successful applications are required to enter into a formal funding agreement with Council prior to project commencing.

The delivery of all successful projects will be overseen by the Recreation and Sport team.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No officers and/or delegates acting on behalf of the Council through the Instrument of Delegation and involved in the preparation and/or authorisation of this report have any general or material conflict of interest as defined within the *Local Government Act 2020*.

ATTACHMENTS TO THE REPORT

1. Recreation and Sport Capital Development Grant Program Guidelines