

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Draft Shellharbour Masterplan Priority List for Active Open Spaces

What is a masterplan for active open spaces?

Active open spaces support team sports, training and competition and typically feature sports facilities such as playing fields and grounds, change rooms, grandstands and car parks. When not required for its primary purpose, active open spaces may accommodate unstructured sport, community or individual use. Spaces could also incorporate informal lawns, play, and picnic and other facilities.

A masterplan for active open spaces is a blueprint for the future. It is intended to guide development of Council facilities and sports fields for the next 10 years in a strategic and sustainable manner.

Why do we masterplan?

Masterplanning active open spaces is beneficial for open spaces users, the wider community and council. The masterplanning process sets expectations on the level of service that can be provided at these open spaces, this can help us understand operational needs.

Shellharbour City Council, together with the key stakeholders develop a masterplan that will:

- Encourage the use of land in accordance with character and adaptability
- Conserve natural resources and energy
- Meet the needs for recreational and community events, and other uses of land
- Ensure that uses of the land and the facilities be situated in appropriate locations
- Avoid duplication of facilities

An open space masterplan will also be useful when applying for grant funding.

Why do we need a masterplan priority list?

Shellharbour has 27 existing active open spaces used for a range of sporting and community uses. The masterplanning priority list will inform the community of Council's approach to developing masterplans for active open spaces. The priority list will help with community expectations, capital works programs and assist to determine the level of service that can be provided for each space and facility. The masterplanning process also allows the community to be part of the discussion and decision making on active open spaces and will assist with seeking grant funding.

The revised list revealed that generally the top high scoring priority sites had multiple user groups, a number of poor asset condition items and a higher level of risk both to the community and environment than other sites.

Implementing the 2021 Masterplan Priorities - Active Open Spaces

Following public exhibition and adoption, implementation of the masterplan priority list will inform the preparation of masterplans.

Masterplanning will involve detailed discussions and workshops with user groups, for example, sporting associations, the Active Recreation Working Party and the wider community. Once masterplans are drafted, they will be reported to Council for endorsement to be placed on

public exhibition before being finalised and adopted. The number of masterplans to be developed each year will depend on resourcing and the complexity of each site.

Once completed and adopted, masterplans will assist sporting clubs and Council with applying and gaining grant funding for works.