

Parks

Community Assets – At the Core of Your Neighbourhood

What are the community assets?

The City of Willoughby boasts a large range of services which contribute to our quality of life. Most of these services rely on a pool of assets with a combined replacement value of more than \$760M.

Assets in Willoughby include all buildings, footpaths, roads, stormwater infrastructure, parks, bushland, sportsgrounds and playgrounds. Without these assets Council could not provide its present array of services. These assets are located on Council-owned land as well as land under Council's care and control.

Asset Management has been identified as a federal priority for local government across Australia, as all councils begin to face the issue of aging infrastructure.

Strategic management of these assets, guided by an asset management policy and plans, will ensure the needs of communities are being determined and met, and funding sources for asset renewal are secured for the future.

Managing our assets

Much of the city's infrastructure was built in the first half of the 20th century and an intense period of construction of community buildings took place in the 1970s and again in the 1990s. Many of these assets are already due for replacement, and Council has been undertaking a continual replacement and upgrade program to meet the needs of a growing city. Planning has now begun for the large number of these assets that will be due for replacement around the same time, particularly over the next two decades.

Willoughby City Council has collected the vast majority of data required to produce its Asset Management Plans. They can be accessed from Council's website. These 20 year strategic plans provide scenario-based expenditure projections for nine classes of assets.

The next step for Willoughby is to ascertain the community's priorities and determine the acceptable condition, capacity, functionality, location and quantity of our assets.

Have Your Say

Willoughby Council is seeking feedback from the community to determine the acceptable level of service provision.

We need to know how you use community assets, whether they meet your expectations and how we should prioritise future works so we can develop strategies for their management.

Consultation will seek your opinions about community assets in terms of physical condition and appearance, capacity, fitness for purpose and whether there are enough of them in the right places.

Visit www.haveyoursaywilloughby.com.au to be involved in the online forum and to receive project updates. Council will also hold community workshops, public meetings and information stalls through 2013.



Parks

Replacement value: \$18.3

- 130 hectares of passive recreation areas
- Spread across 78 parks

Parks enable the community to spend time outdoors in attractive spaces for leisure and recreational purposes. Assets provided to enhance the enjoyment of these spaces include picnic tables and shelters, BBQs, footpaths, skate parks, dirt bike tracks, fencing, lighting, memorials, water features and extensive landscaping. A large number of buildings also contribute significantly to the enjoyment of open spaces. These are valued and discussed along with all other buildings.

Partnerships with adjoining local government entities, progress associations and the wider community assist in the provision of some open space areas the assets found therein.

Physical condition

Condition of parks assets has been estimated from a sample set of data and is therefore only an approximation at this stage. Comprehensive data has been collected but is still being analysed.

Average condition of assets within passive recreation areas:



Park assets are rated on a scale of zero to five, where zero means the asset is in brand new or excellent condition and five means the asset is at the end of its life and no longer able to provide service.

Operations and maintenance

A variety of work is undertaken to maintain parks including:

- Lawn mowing
- Weed control and garden care
- Landscape maintenance
- Tree planting and pruning
- BBQ cleaning and repairs
- Fountain repairs and servicing
- Rubbish removal, repair of vandalism and removal of graffiti
- Installation of structures such as benches, tables, gazebos and fences
- Maintenance of bike tracks and skate parks

During the 2011/12 financial year, approximately \$1.31M was spent on maintenance of parks and assets with parks.

Planning for the future

Of the 12 asset groups measured in the 2012 community satisfaction survey, "condition of parks" received the highest score for importance, equal with bushland.

Parks are divided into three hierarchical levels for the purposes of determining levels of service and to assist with programming of future works:

- A. High – 12 parks
- B. Medium – 41 parks
- C. Low – 25 parks

Key factors influencing the needs and demands for open space and recreation in Willoughby include:

- An increasing population and residential density.
- Changing community demographics, particularly an aging and increasingly multi-cultural population.
- Trends towards a wider range of recreational activities such as mountain biking, skate boarding, linked walking and cycling, water play, adventure play and personal fitness activities.
- Increasing concentration on health promotion and education, especially in response to concerns about childhood obesity and a growing awareness of physical fitness and healthy living among all age groups.
- New activities that are constantly emerging as a result of overseas trends and cultural diversity.
- Changes to legislation.
- Strategic recreation and open space planning at regional and state levels.

