

Policy 1.08 Parks, Aquatics and Recreation

Directorate	Assets and Operations
Responsible Officer	Director Assets and Operations

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Record of Administrative Amendments

<u>Amendment Version No.:</u>	<u>Description of Administrative Amendment</u>	<u>Date Reviewed</u>
<u>3.2</u>	<u>Review of policy in accordance with Section 165 of the Local Government Act 1993</u> <u>Placed on Public Exhibition 23 July 2025</u>	<u>July 2025</u>
<u>3.1</u>	<u>Review of policies in accordance with Section 165 of the Local Government Act 1993</u> <u>Workshopped by Councillors on 14 May 2025</u>	<u>April 2025</u>
<u>3</u>	<u>Adopted by Council (D22/79407)</u>	<u>17/08/2022</u>

1 Introduction

The physical health, mental well-being, social and economic benefits that Parks, Aquatic and Recreational facilities can provide to communities are well known. They include:

- Physical Health: Engaging in regular recreational activities enhances cardiovascular fitness, increases muscle strength, improves flexibility, and improves our physical health.
- Mental Health: Access to parks and green spaces significantly reduces stress, anxiety, and depression. Spending time in nature and engaging in recreational activities can improve mood, increase life satisfaction, and enhance overall mental well-being.
- Community Building: Recreation provides opportunities for social interaction, fostering a sense of community and belonging. This social support is important for mental health and resilience.
- Economic: Recreation activities attract tourists, increase spending in local businesses, and create jobs in sectors such as hospitality, retail, and outdoor services. This economic activity can significantly enhance the financial health of communities.

~~documented.~~ Parks, Aquatics and Recreation assets are facilities and items that provide access and amenity to enable people to enjoy the environment we live in and contribute to individual and community health and well-being.

The broad scope of this policy is to ~~see that -ensure~~ Council managed Parks, Sportsgrounds, Pools, Playgrounds & Skate Parks, Natural Areas and Recreational Marine assets are managed, fit for purpose and deliver the benefits outlined above to the community.

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to Councillors and staff in the development, implementation, monitoring and review of effective procedures and processes for the management of Parks, Aquatic and Recreational assets while balancing community needs, use, service levels and available resources.

1.2 Definitions

Word or Terminology	Description
Public Reserves	Any land set aside for public use and vested in or under the control of the Council.
Parks, Aquatics and Recreational Assets	Those facilities and items that provide access and enable people to enjoy the environment we live in. They are including the BVSC Recreation Asset Management Plan. (RAMP)
Sporting Facilities	<u>Includes sportsgrounds, sports courts, pavilion buildings and supporting assets such as floodlights, irrigation systems and amenities. Sporting facilities are highly valued by the Bega Valley Shire community. An active lifestyle and involvement in sport and recreational activities can provide physical, psychological and social benefits. Individual and team sports promote social cohesion, networking, development of friendships and can improve social interaction.</u>

Playgrounds & Skate Parks	Playgrounds predominantly cater to the younger generation (children) while skate parks are jointly used by children, adolescents and younger adults. Accessibility and enjoyment <u>of these spaces by carers and families</u> by these groups, families and carers is highly considered in the construction and management of these assets.
Parkland Areas	Parkland areas are those reserve spaces with mown turf and gardens and often other assets such as park furniture, paths and shelters. These are vital community assets that enable both individual and group activities to take advantage of the environment we live in, connect with the outdoors and to provide for a cleaner and greener urban environment.
Natural Area Assets	Natural area reserves primary purpose is protection of biodiversity and the environment. Natural area assets both enable and control access to the attractive and sensitive natural areas managed by Council. They include tracks, trails, fencing, viewing areas and other related assets.
Recreational Marine Assets	Council's recreational marine facilities include boating infrastructure, ocean pools, fishing and viewing platforms and other water access steps and ramps. These asset types are combined due to the common issues with operation and maintenance of facilities in a marine environment.
Aquatic Facilities	Aquatic facilities within the Bega Valley Shire range from local facilities servicing small communities to regional facilities servicing multiple communities in the Shire and reaching into surrounding local government areas.

2 Legislation

There is a broad range of legislation related to management of public Parks, Aquatics and Recreational areas, these include:

- *NSW Local Government Act 1993*
- *Crown Land Management Act 2016*
- *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*
- *NSW Public Health Regulation 2012*
- *State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008*
- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*
- *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*
- *Bega Valley Local Environmental Plan 2013*
- *Civil Liability Act 2002*

3 Implementation

3.1 Policy Statement

The Bega Valley Shire Council will support and provide Parks, Aquatics and Recreation assets and facilities throughout the Shire through:

- Acknowledging and understanding the physical health, mental well-being, cultural, social, and economic benefits Parks, Aquatics and Recreational facilities provide to the community.
- Managing assets to enable opportunities for residents and visitors to access a broad range of facilities relating to wide ranging interests, activities, ages and abilities.

- Strategically planning, designing, providing and servicing assets to meet current and future needs of locals and visitors.
- Balancing the allocation of resources across capital projects, maintenance and operational tasks to see assets in 'fit for purpose' condition, well used and delivering 'good value' to the community.

3.2 Responsibilities

3.2.1 Elected Council

Provide input and endorse strategic and asset management plans providing direction on balancing community needs, wants and benefits; and Council's ability to sustainably provide and service facilities and assets.

Provide Councillor representative/s on BVSC committees and Project Control Groups for high profile projects.

3.2.2 Director Assets & Operations (DA&O), Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Leadership Executive Group (LEG)

Provide direction and endorsement of operational procedures to implement this policy.

3.2.3 Assets & Operations – Parks, Aquatics and Recreation

Manager Parks, Aquatics and Recreation oversee the implementation of this Policy

4 Supporting documents

4.1.1 BVSC Procedures that relate to this Policy

Procedure No.:	Procedure Name	External or Internal Procedure
<u>TBA</u>	<u>Memorials in Public Parks and Reserves</u>	<u>To be developed</u>
<u>TBA 4.10.071</u>	<u>Naming of Facilities and Assets Parks, Reserves and Public Places</u>	<u>To be developed</u>
<u>1.08.01</u>	<u>Management of Public Reserves (to be moved to sit under this policy)</u>	
<u>1.08.03</u>	<u>Community Project Proposals (to be moved to sit under this policy)</u>	
	<u>S355 BVSC General Sportsground Committee Guidelines</u>	
	<u>Sportsground Site (Community) Committee Guidelines</u>	
	<u>Sportsground Committee Purchasing Guidelines</u>	
	<u>BVSC Fees and Charges</u>	

4.1.2 BVSC Policies that relate to this Policy

Policy No.:	Policy Name
1.01	Community Wellbeing
3.01	Development Administration
5.01	Asset Management
4.15	Use of Public Land – Local Approvals
4.10	Land Under Council Jurisdiction

Note: Policy details may change from time to time. To ensure you are viewing the most recent version please view Council's adopted Policies and Procedures on Council website: