

Item 11: Community

11.1 Pump Track

REPORT BY THE MANAGER - RECREATION SERVICES
TO 18 MAY 2022 ORDINARY MEETING
GOV400098, GOV400098, A0100035, GOV400022

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. **receive the report by the Manager - Recreation Services on the Pump Track;**
2. **support in principle the development of an asphalt Pump Track at the Glen Willow Regional Sporting Complex;**
3. **investigate grant opportunities to obtain funding for the Pump Track; and**
4. **endorse an update to the Glen Willow Master Plan to include the future Pump Track.**

Executive summary

This report seeks Council's support for the development of an asphalt pump track at the Glen Willow Regional Sporting Complex with an estimated project budget of \$500,000. An updated Glen Willow Master Plan has been supplied to detail the pump track location and seek endorsement for the amended stage 3 plan.

Disclosure of Interest

Nil

Detailed report

Mid-Western Regional Council supports and encourages healthy and active living through the provisions of sporting, cultural and recreation opportunities and initiatives. The research continues to reveal that increased participation in physical activity enhances cognitive function, memory, concentration, behaviour and academic achievement for young people. It is therefore important that Council continue to provide opportunities for physical activities that will appeal to a wide range of backgrounds at minimal costs to community members.

Cycling activities are becoming a rapid growing area of interest both within the Mid-Western Community and state-wide across a wide range of ages. Activities include track and road cycling (including criterium), mountain bike trails and BMX/pump tracks. Locally, there has been a high level of support from the community for the development of a pump track to which will continue to compliment facilities such as skate parks and outdoor court based facilities.

A number of unauthorised BMX sites have been identified across the Mid-Western Local Government area, these unsupervised facilities pose significant risk to the community and the environment. While Council staff continue to monitor and review the removal of such sites it highlights that there is a strong need for additional recreation facilities in this category. Such facility would attract and provide multiple active living health and well-being benefits.

A pump track is generally defined as a specifically designed track that allows riders to roll and ‘pump’ off the tracks features gathering momentum and speed as you move around the track. Tracks are primarily used by bikes however can also be used by scooters, skateboards and rollerblades. The design of the circuit determines the targeted age/ability level to which is a significant consideration when designing such a facility. Other considerations include:

- Pump tracks are typically located nearby other recreation facilities such as skate parks and sportsgrounds
- Common construction materials offered include modular, dirt, asphalt or concrete material options
- Supporting infrastructure such as toilet facilities, shade, seating, water bubbler, car parking, fencing and bike stands need to be considered with any design and location

The table below depicts a brief summary of each construction material investigated by Council staff for the construction of a pump track.

Material	Comments
Modular	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Made from either composite, pre-cast concrete or fiberglass • Often portable and regarded as a safe design option • Predominately single track only • Low on-going maintenance
Dirt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic and most economical material option • Require regular maintenance and potentially compromise safety as a result of maintenance requirements
Asphalt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently the most popular material option to which supports multiple inter-crossing tracks • Relatively low maintenance (being compacted road base with asphalt top) • Potentially compromised surface in extreme heat
Concrete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More advanced and high costs • Require additional earthworks and often difficult to not compromise design and geometry of track (formwork)

An asphalt pump track has been deemed the most suitable to meet the needs of the community. While more costly to construct, it would have several long term advantages. As the track is formed and compacted and covered in asphalt, it would not be subjected to the same degree of wear and tear as a dirt pump track making maintenance minimal. The track would be accessible in wet weather and available all year-around. Whilst possibly still requiring maintenance overtime, this would be deemed minor only as an asphalt track would not be needed to be repaired after major rain events (and possibly flood events) and is expected to last more than 20 years without major renovation/upgrades. An asphalt track also easily supports multiple interconnecting circuits.

Several locations were considered when determining a suitable site for a pump track within the region. A summary of the preferred locations and comments have been captured in the table below.

Site	Comments
Glen Willow Regional Sporting Complex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliments current and future infrastructure such as car parking and toilet facilities • Already boast healthy pathway/linkage network that continues to promote active living • Abundant carpark facilities available
West End Sporting Complex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toilet facilities currently available • Currently underutilized site • Limited pathway linkages
Victoria Park, Mudgee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close proximity to existing skate park • Central location • Limited to no space for expanded track network catering for varying ages

Based on the pump track investigations, it is recommended that Council support the development of a pump track and actively pursue grant opportunities to fund the project. Given the active recreation ‘hub’ facilities that are proposed at the Glen Willow Regional Sporting Complex in Stage 3, it is recommended that the pump track facility be developed at the location identified in the amended masterplan attached to this report. The site location is further supported through directional signage from a visitor/tourist perspective to such a facility already being available.

Other recommendations include:

- Actively pursue grant funding to enable the project to be undertaken
- Endorse asphalt as the preferred material option
- Provide an inter-linked course that caters for varying difficulty- aiming to provide a minimum of 3 circuits and acknowledge that 4 circuits to be an ideal outcome
- Recognize supporting infrastructure that would be required such as shading, fencing, seating and water bubbler
- Continue to undertake ongoing engagement with potential users of the facility and broader community on course design and track feature inclusions
- Investigation into additional cycling facilities across other region centres be considered as part of the new Recreation Stagey

Community Plan implications

Theme	Looking After Our Community
Goal	Effective and efficient delivery of infrastructure
Strategy	Provide infrastructure and services to cater for the current and future needs of our community

Strategic implications

Council Strategies

Recreation Strategy

Council Policies

Not applicable

Legislation

Not applicable

Financial implications

Funding for an asphalt pump track is not available in the current budget. It is recommended that Council endorse the project in principle to enable staff to seek relevant grant funding opportunities. It is proposed that an estimated budget of \$500,000 be used for planning purposes. A request for a commitment of Council funds to include with grant funding may come to Council at a later date.

Associated Risks

Physical injury to facility users would be moderate however users would be required to utilise the facility at their own risk. Council would assist with risk mitigation through regular track inspections and maintenance as required.

PETER RAINES
MANAGER - RECREATION SERVICES

SIMON JONES
DIRECTOR COMMUNITY

8 April 2022

Attachments: 1. Amended Stage 3 Glen Willow Masterplan (with Pump Track location).

APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION:

BRAD CAM
GENERAL MANAGER

GLEN WILLOW REGIONAL SPORTS COMPLEX

STAGE 3 PLAN

- STAGE 3
- BUILDINGS
- SHEDS / SERVICES INFRASTRUCTURE
- PROPOSED FUTURE WALKING PATHS/CYCLEWAY
- WALKING PATH
- NEW ACCESS ROAD
- DRAINAGE CORRIDOR
- PROPOSED TREE PLANTINGS



GLEN WILLOW REGIONAL SPORTS COMPLEX

ACTIVE RECREATION ZONE DEVELOPMENT

-  BUILDINGS
-  SHEDS / SERVICES INFRASTRUCTURE
-  PROPOSED FUTURE WALKING PATHS/CYCLEWAY
-  WALKING PATH
-  NEW ACCESS ROAD
-  DRAINAGE CORRIDOR
-  PROPOSED TREE PLANTINGS

