

ARTIE SMITH OVAL MASTER PLAN



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INTRODUCTION

Background

In January 2009, Shoalhaven City Council adopted the Sportsground Strategic Plan 2008 – 2036 as a high level strategic plan to guide the future provision of sporting facilities to meet the needs of the Shoalhaven community up to 2036.

The Sportsground Strategic Plan methodology involved the review of plans, studies and policies relevant to sportsground delivery; an analysis of data collected and consultation with user groups; review of existing and proposed sporting facilities; review of Shoalhaven City Council's planning context; development of principles for provision of future sporting facilities; site analysis and recommended actions for existing sporting facilities; and presentation of key principles and strategies.

The Sportsground Strategic Plan 2008 – 2036 identified Artie Smith Oval as a future District Facility, with the inclusion of a Regional Indoor Sports Hall. The sportsground strategic plan identified that the sports hall had the capacity to accommodate an additional 3 indoor multipurpose courts and 60 additional car parks.

The Master Plan for Artie Smith Oval was undertaken during the concept planning of the Northern Shoalhaven Indoor Sports Centre. To assist in the preliminary functionality of the sports stadium concept plan, a Master Plan of the whole Artie Smith Precinct was essential.

The architectural company, Facility Design Group, engaged to design the Northern Shoalhaven Indoor Sports Centre, in partnership with Council's Recreation and Community Facilities Planning Unit, were responsible for the delivery of the Master Plan.

Developing the Master Plan involved extensive consultation with key stakeholders including sporting user groups, indoor stadium user groups, council officers, councillors and Sporting Associations.

Local residents, schools and other non sporting community groups were invited to make comment during the Public Exhibition period of the draft Master Plan. The public exhibition period was held during the month of August 2012. The draft Master Plan acknowledged the approximate Sports Stadium footprint. The Indoor Sports Centre had its own exhibition period during the Regional Development Application process. The application to demolish the existing sports centre and build a new four court multipurpose stadium was approved May 2012.

Council received a final report on the draft Artie Smith Master Plan to seek adoption, which included this backing document in support of future capital project delivery.

Purpose

A 'Master Plan' is an indicative plan that provides a *"visionary framework"* for how a selected area or asset is to be developed, to better meet the passive recreational needs of the local area, the continued support of sporting communities and the application of best management practices in community asset delivery.

The Artie Smith Master Plan identifies and assists in the vision to deliver a *'District'* sporting oval to the community of Northern Shoalhaven, on land that is owned by Council.

For the purpose of this document, the Master Plan will consider in part the Northern Shoalhaven Indoor Sports Centre, including the footprint, indoor usage and connections. However, the Northern Shoalhaven Indoor Sports Centre (and associated car parking) is subject to a separate planning process, development approvals and project delivery model.

Objective

The 'Artie Smith Master Plan' meets the objectives and strategies in Council's Community Strategic Plan

A city of diverse, united and connected communities:

- 1. Maintain and improve road, cycling and pedestrian networks and associated infrastructure*
- 2. Investigate opportunities to increase usage of sportsground facilities*
- 3. Undertake strategic planning for community infrastructure*
- 4. Develop policies and plans that provide a framework for community infrastructure delivery*

Key outcomes for the Artie Smith Master Plan are:

- 1. Improve transport access, pathway linkages and parking issues*
- 2. Encourage social activity, well being and healthy lifestyle*
- 3. Improve spectator participation and local visual amenity*
- 4. Identify asset delivery programs and funding priorities*
- 5. Create opportunities for the delivery of sporting events and development programs*
- 6. Provide safe, quality and valued community assets*
- 7. Apply benchmark standards and practices in asset delivery, operation and management*
- 8. Provide an opportunity for joint ventures in asset and sport development programs*
- 9. Minimise anti-social activity and opportunity*
- 10. Protect natural environment and landscaping*

Site Analysis

Context

Artie Smith Oval is located on Cambewarra Road accessed from the main spinal road, Princes Highway, that traverses through the Shoalhaven. Cambewarra Road provides the major frontage along the sites entire northern edge. The remainder of the site is predominately bordered by the local road network that access residential properties.

The Bomaderry train station is approximately 1 kilometre away, and apart from Berry train station, it is the only other train station to service the community of Shoalhaven. The close proximity to public transport supports the preferred location of a District/Regional public/community facility.

Artie Smith Oval is located in an areas serviced by other sporting and recreational facilities such as the Bomaderry Leisure Centre , Bomaderry croquet courts, Bomaderry Sporting Complex, Bomaderry Tennis Courts (although currently not in use), Bomaderry Rotary Park and a local playground.

Local schools such as Bomaderry High School which is located on Cambewarra Road adjacent Artie Smith Oval and the Nowra Anglican School are walkable distances.

Artie Smith Oval has vistas to Cambewarra Mountain to the north-west, Bomaderry Creek to the north-south and distant views of Shoalhaven to the south. The site has good visual connections.

The site has a curtilage of remnant native trees and shrubs, providing shade to spectators. Larger clumps of trees are found in the north west, south west and south east corners.

Lot Description

As Shown in **Figure 1**, Artie Smith Oval is made up of three lots

Lot	DP	Zone - current	Zone – draft LEP
1	2886 Sec 2	6 (a) Open Space	RE1 – Public Recreation
2	2886 Sec 2	6 (a) Open Space	RE1 – Public Recreation
2	130891	6 (a) Open Space	RE1 – Public Recreation

The three lots are classified as Community Land and categorised as Sports Ground and identified in Council’s Generic Plan of Management for Sportsground. The core objectives for land categorised as sportsground, as prescribed under section 36 of the local government act are:

- (a) *to encourage, promote and facilitate recreational pursuits in the community involving organised and informal sporting activities and games, and*
- (b) *to ensure that such activities are managed having regard to any adverse impact on nearby residences.*

History

Whilst in private ownership, Artie Smith Oval was used as an equine trotting track training facility. The use of this facility is distinguished in the south-eastern corner where the shape of the track is still noticeable. Aerial photos also highlight the physical appearance of track.

The Geographical Names Board gazetted the naming of Artie Smith Oval on 30th September 1992. Previous to this the reserve was known as Hogans Trotting Track. As detailed on the Geographical Names Board website “Artie Smith of Brundee was one of the district’s best known sportsmen who was prominent as a player and administrator in cricket and rugby league. He was authorised by Council in January 1962 to form a committee to form a Recreation Reserve Development Committee. He died in September 1965”. (source: www.gnb.nsw.gov.au/name_search/extract?id=KWckXtUUP)

Figure 1:



Council's records show that lots 1 and 2 Sec 2 DP 2886 was transferred to Council 21 January 1952 by Michael Hogan. Lot 2 DP 130891 had numerous subdivision with the last subdivision being 1968, which indicates Council as the owner.

Past survey's, oval designs and indoor centre drawings in Council ownership, date back to late 1960's. Sporting user groups were provided their first amenities building in 1973. Since then the amenities building has had two additional extensions. A storage extension, being the first modification in 1977 was later followed by a club house extension (purpose meeting room) in 1981.

A memorial in memory of a cricket player, David Evans lost his life whilst playing cricket on the Oval when he was unfortunately struck by lightning on the 24 January 2004.

Current Uses

Public open space provides two types of opportunities of usage, passive or active. Active is predominately organised high impact such as sport, where as passive is predominately incidental or low impact such as walking.

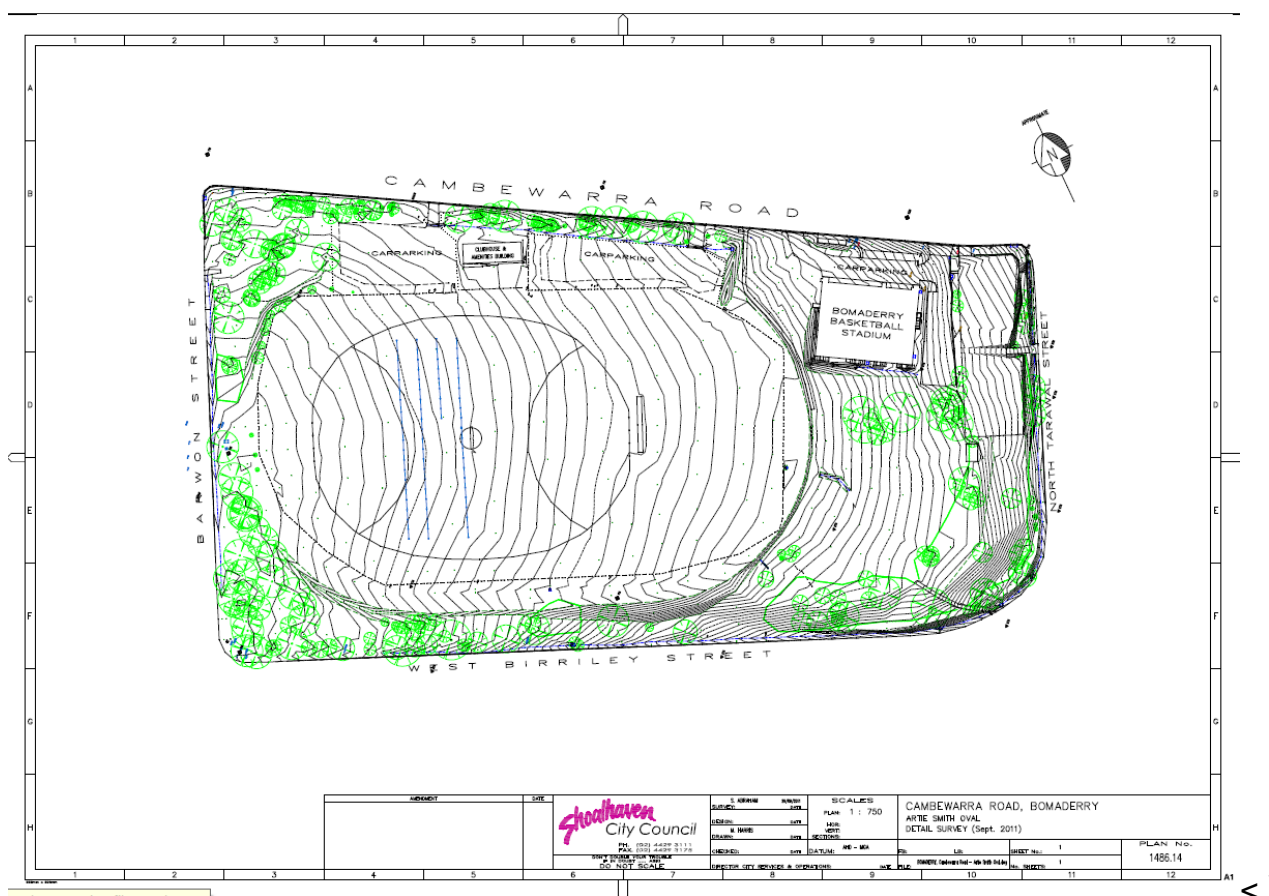
Active:

Artie Smith Oval is flexible in its ability to cater for a variety of sports. Current stakeholders of the sports fields include Bomaderry Cricket Club (juniors) and Bomaderry AFL (juniors and seniors). Artie Smith had been used by Shoalhaven Hockey, prior to their relocation to Bernie Regan Sporting Complex in 2010 and senior/grade cricket was available until the removal of the turf wicket in 2008.

Past field layout allows for a senior AFL field and a junior cricket field to be played side by side with a small overlap, as shown in Figure 2. The AFL oval did cater to grade cricket through the provision of a turf wicket. The turf wicket was removed in 2008 as the local cricket team were being catered for at Bomaderry Oval, Bomaderry Sporting Complex and Bernie Regan Sporting Complex, which all provide local grade turf wickets.

The Indoor Sports Centre is highly utilised but is limited in diversity of sport provision due to its structured design. The asset has reached its limitations to expand due to sporting regulations, building code restrictions and council policies. The existing indoor sports centre can accommodate Basketball, Netball, Futsal and Volleyball local competitions. The centre also provides office space to Basketball NSW.

Figure 2:



Passive:

During school terms the formal parking area is highly utilised for parking by local students and visitors and as a pick up destination for parents. The local bus service collecting and dropping off students use the site for turning and as a stand by area.

As Bomaderry is approximately 2.5 - 3 hours from the centre of Sydney, during peak travelling / holiday periods, travellers passing through the Shoalhaven make use of the area as a rest spot.

Artie Smith Oval is used extensively as an access connector to nearby assets such as schools, bush reserves, fast food shops, dog off leash areas, aquatic centre and bus stops. These pathways are noticeable by the visual worn tracks, demonstrating constant usage.

Assessment of Existing Facilities

The Artie Smith precinct is largely improved with most assets either aged or meeting minimum standards or best practice in design.

The sporting field layout is remnant from the shape of the original equine training track. Overtime, the site has been embellished with cricket pitches (turf and synthetic), kikuyu playing surface, amenities buildings, bollards, car parking, partial irrigation, field lighting and an indoor sports facility.

Table 2 is a current list of assets that service the sports fields. The list also recognises the sports hall as one unit.

Table 2:

Asset	Description	Quantity	Age / implemented	Rating
Irrigation	Pop up irrigation system	Half field	Installed 2008	good
Amenities Building	Concrete and brick walls, change rooms, storage rooms, canteen	Extended over the years to provide additional storage space	1973	Poor
Field Lighting	Timber posts up to 100 lux lighting (oval lighting design)	6 x 20 metre timber poles 24 lights	Upgraded lux in 2004 Repairs 2011	good
Fence	Post and Rail around the park – unpainted	224 (sections)	Replaced when required	Poor to fair
Bollards	Timber	143	Replaced when required	Poor to fair
Seating	Flat metal silver seats	6	unknown	poor
Cricket wicket	Synthetic cricket wicket with concrete base	1	unknown	poor
	Turf Wicket		Removed	
Goal Posts	AFL goal posts	1 set (8 posts)	Responsibility of club	good
Car parking	Formal car parking	Bitumen, line marked,		poor
Sports Hall	Asbestos walls, timber floor, change rooms, office, canteen, fixtures	2 courts	1964 & extension 1997	Poor
Bubbler	Stone / metal	1 – south western to toilets	Unknown	Poor
Memorial	Stone – grey in colour	1	2004	good

Strategies and Principles

Sportsground Strategic Plan

Council has an adopted sporting facilities hierarchy. The hierarchy categorisation provides the basis for long term budget considerations as well as certainty for local sporting groups with respect to recognition of infrastructure needs.

Artie Smith Oval has been identified in the sportsground strategic plan as a 'District' sporting facility with the sports hall being identified as a future Regional Sports Complex.

A 'District' sporting facility benefits a larger catchment area as defined in Shoalhaven as 'Nowra / Bomaderry', 'Bay and Basin' and 'Milton / Ulladulla'. District facilities are generally used for local level competitions either by multiple clubs / associations wanting for higher level competition. As 'District' facilities have a higher standard in provision and are able to cater for higher participation numbers these facilities are used as a visiting competition venue for Regional and State competitions and pending on the sport regulations, National competitions.

A 'Regional' sporting facility provides a city wide benefit sportsgrounds / facility that can cater for competitions and events at a Regional, State and/or National level to improve the ability of local communities to foster elite level competitions, as well as be a home base for local clubs.

Australian Standards & Industry Guidelines:

There are many relevant industry guidelines in the delivery of sports fields. However design of infrastructure will need to meet at minimum Australian Standards and Building Codes.

When considering design of asset infrastructure certain principles will be considered, where appropriate. The principles considered in the design of Artie Smith Oval Master Plan include but is not limited to:

- Crime Prevention through Environmental Design principles (CPTED)
- Place making principles
- Ecologically sustainable development principles (ESD)
- Social Justice principles
- Water Sensitive Urban Design principles (WSUB)
- Social Inclusion principles
- Health and wellbeing principles
- Asset Based Community Development principles (ABCD)

When designing sports fields, Council's main objective is to:

- Improve participants and player safety
- Increase player capacity
- Meet service level agreements in field maintenance
- Provide flexible usage
- Meet sporting standards / regulations for identified level of play
- Support community sport in growth
- Provide assets that assist sport management and development
- Promote positive outcomes in health and wellbeing
- Enhance community spirit and pride
- Reduce antisocial behaviour

- Impact positively to the natural and living environment
- Provide clean and well maintained assets
- Provide alternative play and social areas for whole of community participation

Master Planning

Design Directions

Overall, Artie Smith Oval has in place the foundations of a district facility. Based on information received during a range of sport stakeholder discussions and after a review and audit of existing facilities, a series of general observations are evident:

- The sports field shape has developed inside of an existing trotting track. The playing surface needs re-orientation and levelling
- The amenities building is in poor condition and aged. Investigations may indicate that it be more feasible to demolish and rebuild a flexible facility suitable to summer /winter sporting codes and a higher level of play
- Council has a preference for canter lever flood light poles. If replacing poles and improving lighting lux, undertake a design of the light spill and location of poles
- Most outdoor sport facilities lack adequate shade, Artie Smith has good coverage in corners of the facility but no shade around perimeter of field.
- Natural grass field coverage is suitable for current local play, however if trying to cater for higher level of participation , improvement to playing surface is required
- There are no training facilities catered for at the site, such as practice nets
- Car parking is informal and existing sealed areas are a patchwork of repairs. Safety of players and spectators is a concern with car parking access.
- Footpaths and connections to encourage passive participation at the site or to improve spectator movements is required
- Irrigation has only been implemented to half the field. To improve and support playability, sporting groups and council needs to be able to manage environmental conditions, such as irrigation and drainage
- Assets are implemented as funding becomes available. This is an improvised approach demonstrating no design or quality to the facility. Council needs to deliver complete project or projects that have a staged / considered approach
- There are no social spaces in or around Artie Smith for passive / informal play. The local park is across the road and is in need of replacement. Look at relocating the playground to Artie Smith to assist in creating a 'place' for the non-sporting community members
- Signage is inconsistent. Public art work would be appropriate and to create a consistent style for all sportsgrounds.
- A member of the cricket club lost his life playing cricket at Artie Smith. A memorial is erected at the grounds. The memorial needs to be acknowledged. Identified that an avenue of trees could honour past sporting players of Bomaderry.
- Engage State sporting associations on the vision of Artie Smith to assist in the development and perhaps contribution to the precinct

- As an holistic approach develop site in same timeframe as the Northern Shoalhaven Indoor Sports Centre, creating a completed project for the community of Shoalhaven

Implementation and cost

The following 'Action Plan' is an indicative action plan. The costs and proposed products identified are based on industry models and prices sourced from Cordell Solutions September 2012 – Building Cost Guide. Sourcing product types and material in Shoalhaven for construction / asset implementation may have its limitations. Additional costs to source material, deliver and/or construct need to be considered in future planning budgets.

The Master Plan also notes additional embellishments such as playgrounds, barbeques, tree plantings and lighting. The level of play equipment and changes to standards will impact on the indicative price identified below. It is envisaged that the playground identified is relocated from the site opposite, as the new preferred location.

<i>Item / proposed works</i>	<i>Description - indicative</i>	<i>Indicative budget</i>	<i>Stage</i>
Detail design	<i>Develop detail design to include sports field, lighting, drainage, parking, tender specifications and documentation etc</i>	\$50,000	1
Irrigation Upgrade (full)	<i>Upgrade irrigation, 15 metre radius pop up heads and water tanks and controls (subject to detail design)</i>	\$60,000	2
Lighting Upgrade (200 lux)	<i>Upgrade lighting to 200 lux including canter lever poles (subject to detail design)</i>	\$110,000	2
Field Upgrade	<i>Import soil conditioner and level (150mm) with Kikuyu maxi roll planting – oval shape with .5% fall from centre to outfield</i>	\$380,000	2
Turf Wicket	<i>Install a 3.5 turf wicket (couch), slightly off centre in the afl oval layout</i>	\$50,000	1
Field Fencing	<i>White picket , powder coated, anti graffiti paint, recycled material</i>	\$90,000	2
Electrical supply	<i>Upgrade electrical supply and install CT metering and Sub Mount Station</i>	\$90,000	2
Cricket Nets	<i>Install new cricket nets – Black powder coated</i>	\$40,000	2
Seating	<i>Stainless steel bench seats 20</i>	\$30,000	2
Tree planting	<i>40 x 70 litre trees</i>	\$6,000	3
First Stage Maintenance	<i>Topdressing program (50mm)</i>	\$27,000	3
Social Area	<i>Playground, Barbeques, Picnic Tables</i>	\$220,000	3
Shared Pathways	<i>680 metres approximately of 2metre wide</i>	\$150,000	3
Amenities Building	<i>Replace existing amenities building</i>	\$1,134,000	4
Indicative Total		\$2,437,000	

Future Embellishments / Upgrades / Assets	Related Outcome/s
Irrigation	<i>Improve spectator participation and local visual amenity Create opportunities for the delivery of sporting events and development programs Provide safe, quality and valued community assets</i>
Lighting	<i>Minimise anti-social activity and opportunity Improve spectator participation and local visual amenity Create opportunities for the delivery of sporting events and development programs Provide safe, quality and valued community assets</i>
District Playing Field	<i>Encourage social activity, well being and healthy lifestyle Create opportunities for the delivery of sporting events and development programs Provide safe, quality and valued community assets Provide an opportunity for joint ventures in asset and sport development programs</i>
Cricket Nets	<i>Encourage social activity, well being and healthy lifestyle Create opportunities for the delivery of sporting events and development programs Provide safe, quality and valued community assets</i>
Shared Pathway	<i>Encourage social activity, well being and healthy lifestyle Improve transport access, pathway linkages and parking issues Protect natural environment and landscaping</i>
Fencing	<i>Minimise anti-social activity and opportunity Improve spectator participation and local visual amenity</i>
Amenities Building	<i>Improve spectator participation and local visual amenity Create opportunities for the delivery of sporting events and development programs Provide an opportunity for joint ventures in asset and sport development programs</i>
Playground	<i>Encourage social activity, well being and healthy lifestyle Improve spectator participation and local visual amenity Provide safe, quality and valued community assets Protect natural environment and landscaping</i>
Picnic Facilities	<i>Encourage social activity, well being and healthy lifestyle Improve spectator participation and local visual amenity Create opportunities for the delivery of sporting events and development programs</i>
Spectator Seating	<i>Encourage social activity, well being and healthy lifestyle Improve spectator participation and local visual amenity Create opportunities for the delivery of sporting events and development programs</i>
Landscaping	<i>Minimise anti-social activity and opportunity Improve spectator participation and local visual amenity Protect natural environment and landscaping</i>
Car parking	<i>Improve transport access, pathway linkages and parking issues Protect natural environment and landscaping</i>
Service maintenance	<i>Encourage social activity, well being and healthy lifestyle Minimise anti-social activity and opportunity Improve spectator participation and local visual amenity Apply benchmark standards and practices in asset deliver, operation and management</i>

Future Embellishments / Upgrades / Assets	Related Outcome/s
Long Term Financial Plan	<i>Identify asset delivery programs and funding priorities Create opportunities for the delivery of sporting events and development programs Apply benchmark standards and practices in asset deliver, operation and management</i>
Sportsground Strategic Plan	<i>Identify asset delivery programs and funding priorities Create opportunities for the delivery of sporting events and development programs Provide safe, quality and valued community assets Apply benchmark standards and practices in asset deliver, operation and management</i>
Multipurpose Indoor Sports Stadium	<i>Encourage social activity, well being and healthy lifestyle Create opportunities for the delivery of sporting events and development programs Apply benchmark standards and practices in asset deliver, operation and management Provide an opportunity for joint ventures in asset and sport development programs</i>

Funding

Resourcing of items will be staged over 4 key stages. It is anticipated that the first stage, being detailed design, be funded from existing program design budgets identified in 2012/13 budget. This outcome depended on the timeframe for adoption of the draft master plan.

The asset ‘upgrades’ are identified as part of Council’s routine upgrading of infrastructure assets. It is envisaged that the upgrading of assets, such as lighting and irrigation, will occur in a schedule consolidated process. This delivery process is a preferred method in asset delivery as it limits interruptions to user group schedules; allow grant funding applications and possible partnership funding programs.

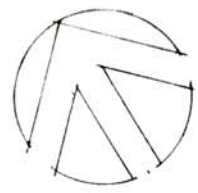
Opportunities for grant funding are available and will continue to be sought to implement community assets.

It is envisaged that some of the embellishment works identified in the master plan may be delivered with scheduled works of the new Northern Shoalhaven Indoor Sports Centre. This includes

CONCLUSION:

The Master Plan delivers both a District and Regional facility as identified in the sportsground strategic plan. The plan considers both the active and passive use. The direction of the plan supports the principles of place-making. It is envisaged that this facility will encourage local communities to participate in a healthier lifestyles.

It is important to acknowledge that the Master Plan is an indicative plan and while council will make every effort to deliver the identified projects to ensure meeting the principles within this plan, constraints identified in the detail design may limit or alter the vision.



ARTIE SMITH SPORTS PRECINCT CONCEPT