

PROVISION OF LOCAL AREA BMX CIRCUITS

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1. PURPOSE

To define Council's requirements for the provision of a Local Area BMX Circuit.

2. STATEMENT

The need for a BMX circuit can be identified through a number of ways, this may include requests from Community Groups, Council provision of public facilities to meet current and future needs, or most regularly, when unauthorised bumps or mounds with well-worn trails start appearing on public or private land. Usually behind these unauthorised initiatives is a group of local young people who have worked together to build a circuit. Unfortunately such a development does not meet the processes for approval and could cause conflict with established users of the public reserve.

2.1. Planning of Local BMX Circuits

Planning of local BMX Circuits on Community Land is the responsibility of Council. BMX Circuits provide young people with an affordable, healthy, creative and popular pastime. The activity provides significant benefits to the participant of which include:

- Health benefits through participation in physical activity; and
- Social benefits through interaction with friends and peers.

The process begins with a needs analysis and is followed by site identification within the local catchment area. This process involves consultation with local BMX riders, property owners immediately surrounding a proposed BMX Circuit site, general community, relevant CCB's and community groups..

2.2. Developing a Local BMX Circuit

As the term suggests, a local BMX Circuit is located in a local/neighbourhood reserve to facilitate the needs of local riders.

Circuit design will involve consultation with potential circuit users and other users of the reserve to encourage maximum community use. The final design (meeting the local BMX Circuit construction guidelines) is not intended to compromise the aesthetic attraction of the reserve; rather attempts are made to integrate the circuit into the reserve. Signage will encourage appropriate use and safety gear to be worn by BMX Circuit users.

3. PROVISIONS

3.1. Eligibility

For a community to be eligible for a proposed local area circuit, it must first meet the following criteria:

- Demonstration of significant need by local BMX riders;
- The proposed circuit location meets the site selection criteria;
- All applications are to be considered and approved through the statutory legislative process prior to construction.
- Interested community to create and evaluation criteria to weigh upon in successive years
- Interested community to create a five year activation strategy

3.2. Site Selection Criteria

Sites proposed for the development of BMX circuits must first meet the following selection criteria:

- Council owned/managed reserve;
- Consistent with the relevant Plan of Management for the reserve;
- Relatively flat terrain;
- Circuit size does not encroach on more than 1/3 of the reserve area;
- Visual prominence affording casual supervision;
- Suitable bike access to the reserve;
- If circuit to be located within 40m from a watercourse the proposal is to be discussed with the department that administers the Water Management Act; and
- Wherever possible, to be located within the area of other recreation facilities and amenities.
- Close to transport route and local shops.

3.3. Local BMX Circuit Construction Guidelines

Local BMX circuit design will be guided by the following specifications:

- Circuit width (minimum of 1.5m) will be designed to accommodate only one rider, however with sufficient distance between riders multiple users can use the facility;
- The start mound and jump heights will vary and be not higher than 1 metre. The approach gradient will be not greater than 1:2:5;
- Where practical, berms (corners) will be constructed with a width of 2 metres and a gradient not greater than 1:3;
- Where possible a minimum distance from the centre of the circuit surface and surrounding trees will be 2 metres;
- Maximum Council contribution of up to \$7,000.

4. IMPLEMENTATION

The Finance Corporate & Community Services Group has responsibility for implementing this policy.

Upon Council receiving a request from the community to build a Local BMX Circuit an assessment will be undertaken in accordance with the above provisions.

Implementation of the Local BMX Circuit will be dependent on meeting statutory legislative requirements and available Council funding.

5. REVIEW

To be reviewed within one year of the election of a new Council.

6. APPLICATION OF ESD PRINCIPLES

Natural Capital – Encourage the use of recycled materials around BMX Circuit (e.g. use of recyclable plastics in park furniture).

Ecological Integrity – Encourage the selection of vegetation around BMX Circuits that will require low application of fertilisers, herbicides, pesticides, need for watering and to minimise erosion.

Social Integrity – Encourage community involvement through the development of each BMX Circuit.