

# HAMPDEN PARK MASTER PLAN REPORT

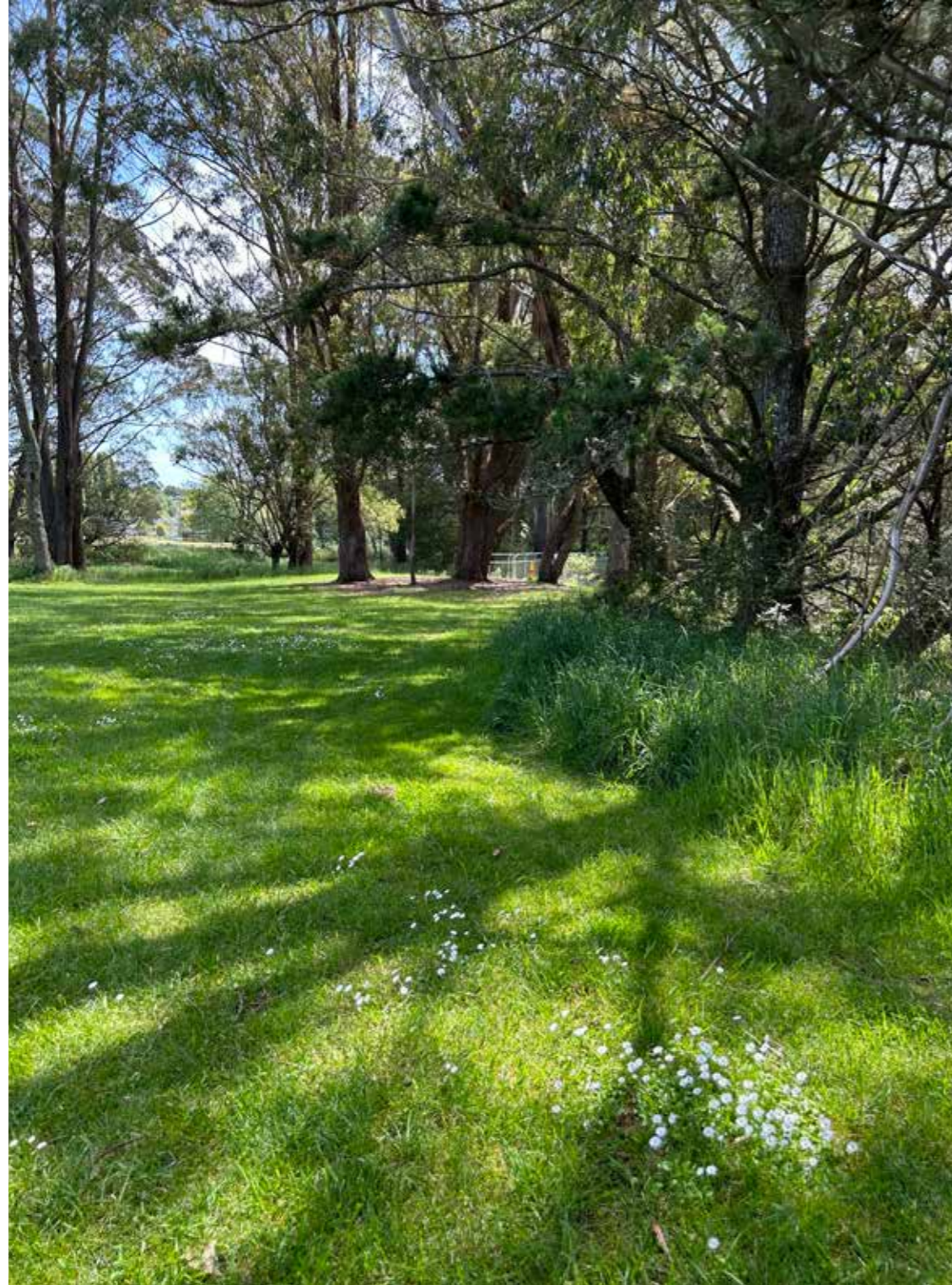
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We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land, and pay our respects to their Elders past present and emerging, recognising their continuing connection to land, waters and culture.

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Prepared by:





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# INTRODUCTION

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Hampden Park is an important public open space of approximately 6.7 hectares, located in the village of Robertson.

The park contains a range of recreational facilities including sporting and playground facilities. It is also characterised by Caalang Creek, which cuts through the northern end of the park.

The key outcome of the master plan is to put forward a vision and a series of upgrades to the park which meet the needs of the existing and future community.

The park is identified as a district park, serving the community within a 30 minute drive to the open space. It offers significant potential as a key destination for the resident of the Shire, taking advantage of Robertson's unique location along the main strategic corridor between the coast and neighbouring towns.

The master plan has been developed based off the designated categories and core objectives identified by the Plan of Management (PoM) as per Section 36 of the LG Act.

Community Land within Hampden Park is categorised under three settings described in the LG Act:

- General Community Use
- Sportsground
- Natural Area: Watercourse.

# HAMPDEN PARK CONTEXT

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Image: Hampden Park local context map.

Hampden Park, centrally located within Robertson village, is a vital open space asset that anchors the community and enhances the town's rural and natural charm. Known for its distinctive character, Robertson draws a steady flow of visitors from across the region. With Hampden Park being part of the towns centre, it has the potential to serve as a focal point for both locals and tourists. The park provides easy access for visitors and community members, making it a popular destination for recreation and leisure.

The park's amenities include expansive green sports fields and areas of natural bushland, offering diverse opportunities for outdoor activities, relaxation, and community gatherings. Surrounded by low-density housing and scenic bushland to the north, the park is neighboured by Robertson Community Preschool to the west, Robertson Community Information Centre to the east, and Robertson Public School to the south. The Illawarra Highway (Hoddle Street) runs along the southern boundary of the park, providing a key transport link between the Wingecarribee Shire and the coast.

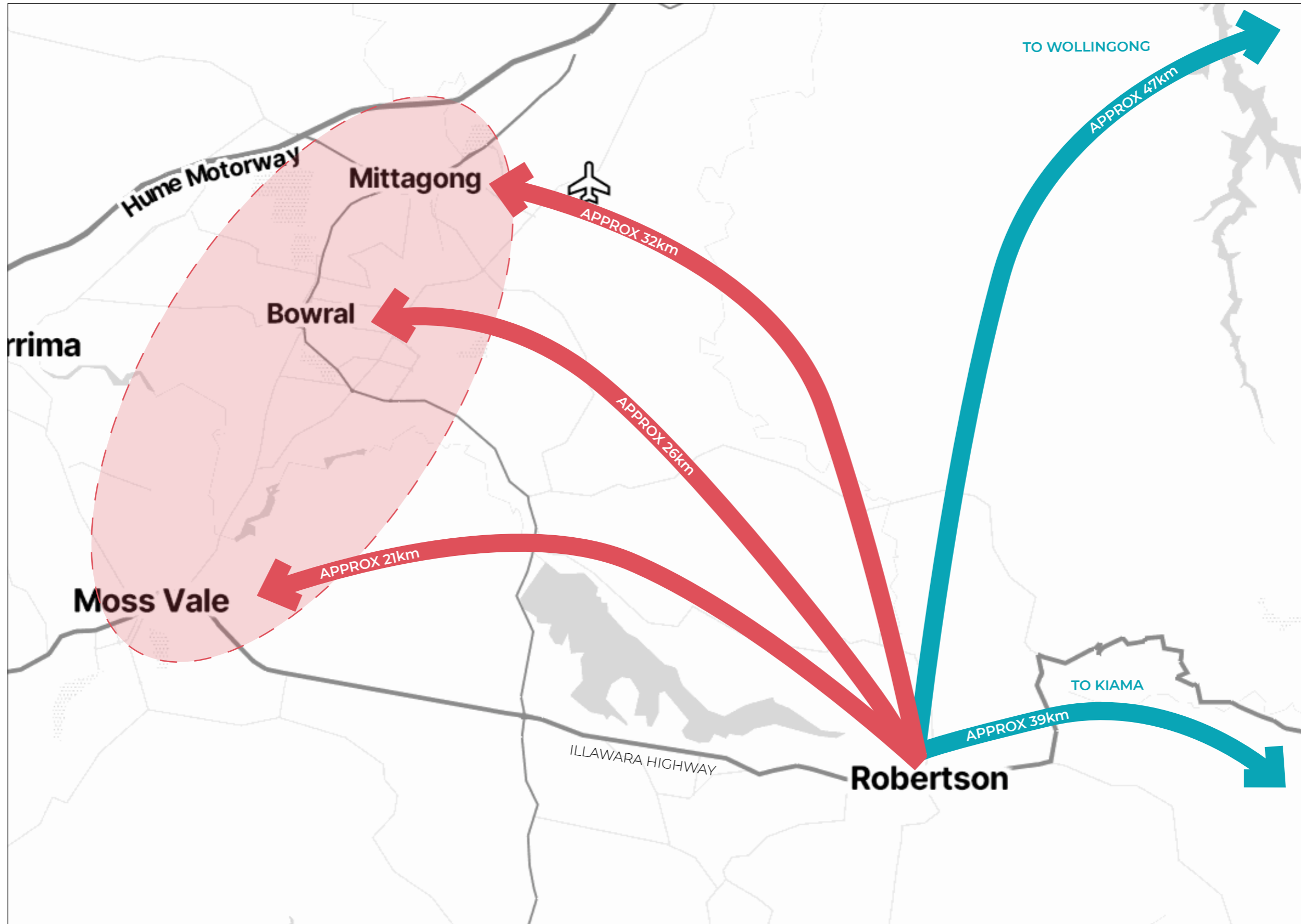


Image: Hampden Park regional context map.

# EXISTING SITE USE & FACILITIES

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Hampden Park is currently a well used community space for organised sport, play and passive recreation activities. The main sport facilities in the park are soccer, cricket and tennis, with a club room inbetween to two large soccer fields.

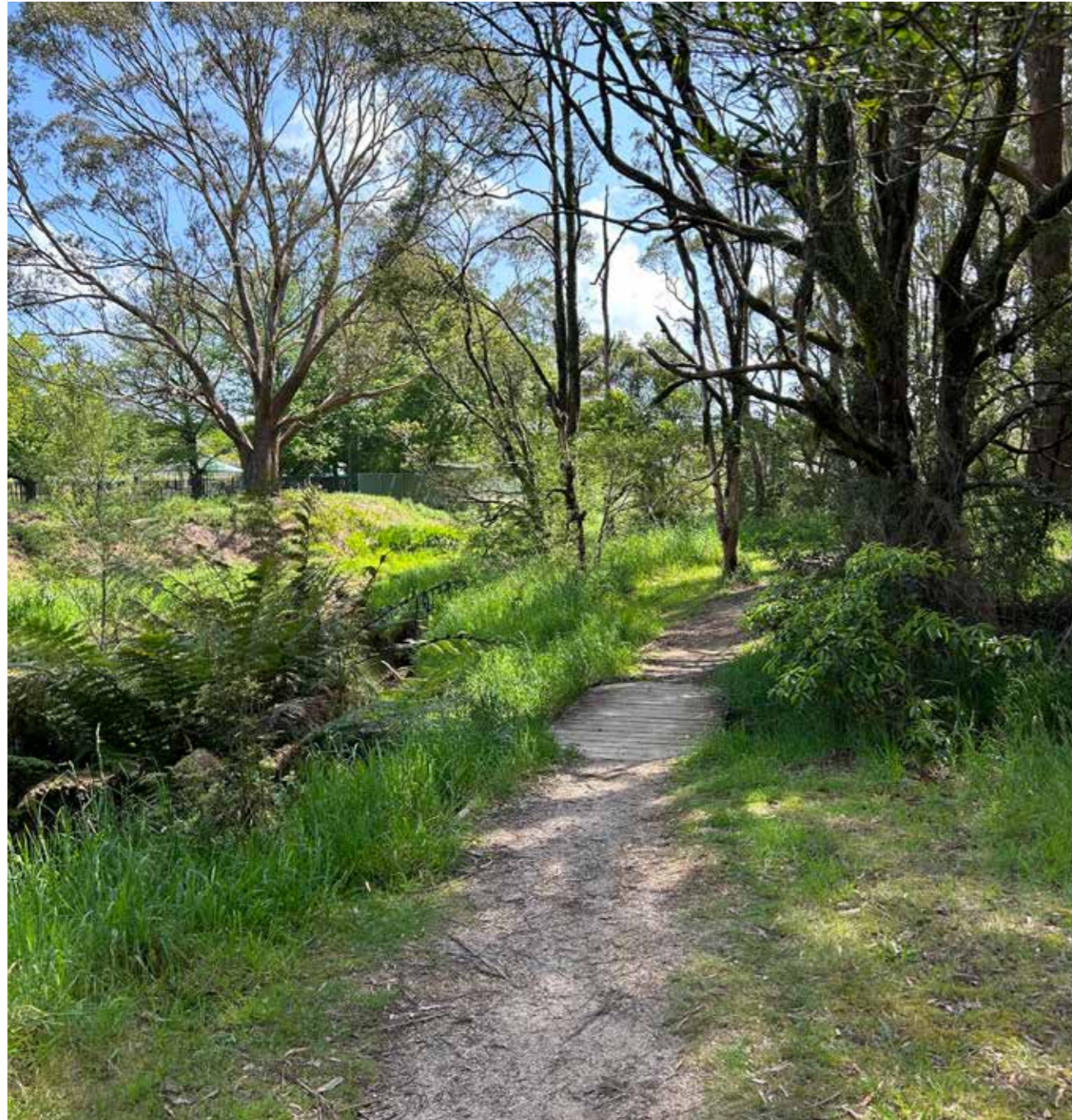
For play facilities there is a level one playground (WSC Playspace Strategy), a skate park and half basketball court currently located on the south-eastern corner. Caalang Creek and the bushland on the northern corner provide a passive recreational walking track which connects to residential areas.





**LEGEND**

- |  |                              |   |   |   |  |   |                           |
|--|------------------------------|---|---|---|--|---|---------------------------|
|  | EXISTING WALKING TRACK       | ① | CRICKET FIELD, SOCCER FIELD AND 2x MINI SOCCER FIELDS | ⑤ | YOUTH FACILITIES (SKATE PARK & BASKETBALL COURT) | ⑨ | CLUB HOUSE & TOILET BLOCK |
|  | PEDESTRIAN ENTRY POINTS      | ② | SOCCER FIELD  | ⑥ | PLAYGROUND                                       | ⑩ | VEHICLE ENTRY & CAR PARK  |
|  | EXISTING PEDESTRIAN CROSSING | ③ | 3x TENNIS COURTS                                      | ⑦ | HISTORY OF ROBERTSON PLAQUES                     | ⑪ | PUBLIC TOILET BLOCK       |
|  | EXISTING TREES               | ④ | 2x CRICKET NETS                                       | ⑧ | COVERED PICNIC FACILITIES                        |   |                           |



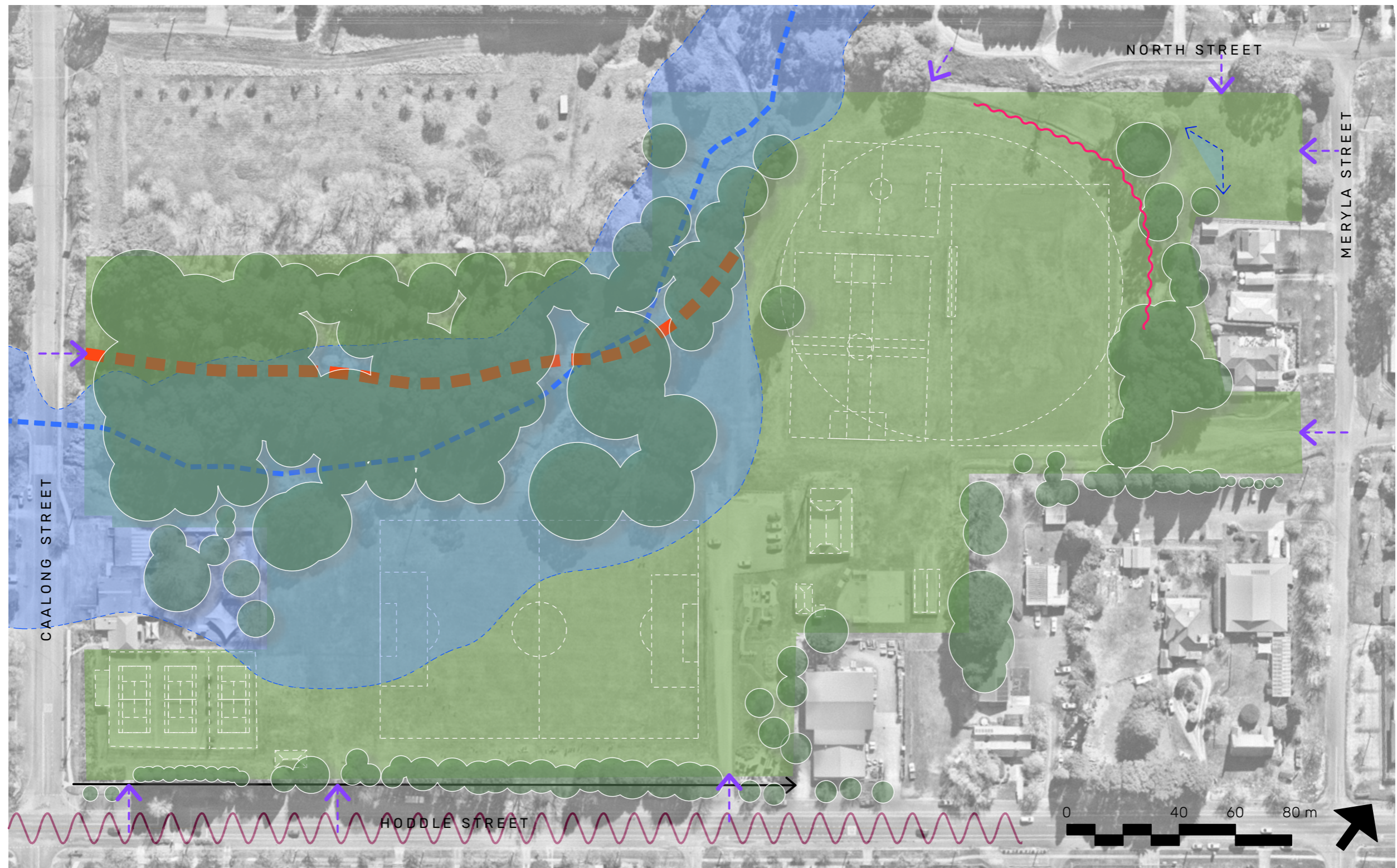
# SITE ANALYSIS

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The park's high natural value contributes to Robertson's scenic character. In the north-western corner of the park there is a natural bushland area composed of Robertson Rainforest, which is characterised by tall mature trees. Within the bushland Caalong Creek dissects the site. Trees, native and exotic, are further scattered throughout the park providing shade for park users.

Topographically, there is a fall that runs across the site from the northern edge down to the southern edge. Accommodating the level change on the eastern corner is a steep cut into the hill to allow for the cricket and soccer fields. To the west, the natural levels have not been changed and the walking track follows the steep incline to Caalong Street.

The main pedestrian entrance to the park are along Hoddle Street with less formal pedestrian entrances along Caalong, North and Meryla Street.



**LEGEND**

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|--|--|---|
|  EXISTING WALKING TRACK   |  Caalang Creek |  VIEWS |
|  KEY PEDESTRIAN ENTRANCES |  FLOOD ZONE    |   |
|  BUSY ROAD CORRIDOR       |  STEEP SLOPE   |   |

# COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

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The development of this draft Master Plan has been informed by extensive community consultation, which includes valuable input gathered through the Community and Recreational Facilities Strategy (CRFS) and Tredwell Study (2023), as well as the Robertson Village Place Plan (RVPP). Additionally, recent community engagement efforts specifically undertaken for this Master Plan in October 2024 have provided further insights. Together, these consultations have ensured that the perspectives and needs of the community are central to the planning process, guiding the creation of a responsive and inclusive draft Master Plan.

## The Master Plan Consultation Summary (October 2024)

The recent community consultation for the Hampden Park Master Plan revealed strong support for extensive upgrades to play and youth facilities, improved amenities, and enhanced access, positioning the park as both a family-friendly space and a tourist destination. A summary is outlined on this page.



### Play Facilities Upgrade

Broad enthusiasm for a pump track, expanded skate park, and revitalised playground, including options for basketball, netball, and natural play areas to engage all age groups.



### Parking and Access

Mixed opinions on adding hard parking areas, with some preferring current street parking while others suggest improved pathways and access points.



### Emergency Resources

A suggestion to include a designated sandbagging station with a sheltered concrete pad, lighting, and vehicle access for community emergency preparedness.



### Enhanced Amenities

Requests for improved seating, weather-protected tables, accessible pathways, a family-friendly café, BBQ area, and upgraded restrooms closer to play areas.



### Dog-Friendly Spaces

Interest in creating more areas suitable for dog-friendly activities.



### Tourism & Community Benefit

Support for positioning the park as an inviting stopover for travellers, enhancing Robertson's appeal with amenities similar to nearby parks like McDonald Park, to support both local and visitor engagement.

## Summary of previous consultation findings

Through the various community consultations, key themes emerged that reflect the values and aspirations of the community. These findings have been directly integrated into the objectives of the Master Plan, as detailed below:

### 1. Environment and Sustainability

#### Consultation Findings:

Community feedback emphasised the importance of environmental sustainability and the unique character of Robertson's natural areas, as reflected in the RVPP and Tredwell Study for the CRFS. Additionally, there was a call to integrate cultural values and traditional land management practices.

#### Master Plan Objectives:

- **Objective 1** focuses on enhancing the riparian corridor along Caalang Creek, supporting long-term environmental sustainability.
- **Objective 2** work with the Robertson Environmental Protection Society (REPS), Young REPs (Robertson Public School students) and council's Environment and Sustainability team to develop a native planting palette for any new native gardens.
- **Objective 3** protect and enhance the threatened ecological community found in the area.

### 2. Movement

#### Consultation Findings:

Community members recognised Caalang Creek as both an asset and a barrier to movement. Feedback highlighted a desire for improved pedestrian and cyclist connectivity, with a focus on active transport loops and enhanced pedestrian crossings.

#### Master Plan Objectives:

- **Objective 4** introduces a pathway for pedestrians and cyclists along Caalang Creek to facilitate an active transport loop identified in the RVPP.
- **Objective 5** aims to create seamless pathways within the park, enhancing movement and accessibility.
- **Objective 6** focuses on implementing traffic calming measures and pedestrian crossings along Hoddle Street.
- **Objective 7** involves exploring the addition of end-of-line infrastructure (e.g., bike parking) to support active transport.
- **Objective 8** create a shared path along Hoddle Street in front of Hampden Park up to Meryla Street.

### 3. Community and Place

#### Consultation Findings:

The community consultations underscored the importance of celebrating Robertson's unique character, creating spaces that reflect local identity, and providing diverse recreational facilities that cater to all age groups. According to the Robertson Village Place Plan (RVPP), community members envision a village that remains vibrant, welcoming, and community-focused, now and in the future. This vision aligns with findings from the CRFS and Tredwell Study, both of which highlighted key recreational needs within the community.

The Tredwell Study indicated that the Hampden Park oval has relatively low usage levels, despite being a popular location for seasonal sports like football, hockey, and cricket. This suggests potential for further activation and multifunctional uses to support a broader range of recreational and community activities.

The CRFS and community feedback highlighted a demand for facilities that support younger generations, such as skate parks, pump tracks, and basketball/multi-purpose courts. Robertson's current skate park has long been in need of an upgrade, and the community has actively advocated for new facilities, with written representations to Council emphasising this need.

#### Master Plan Objectives:

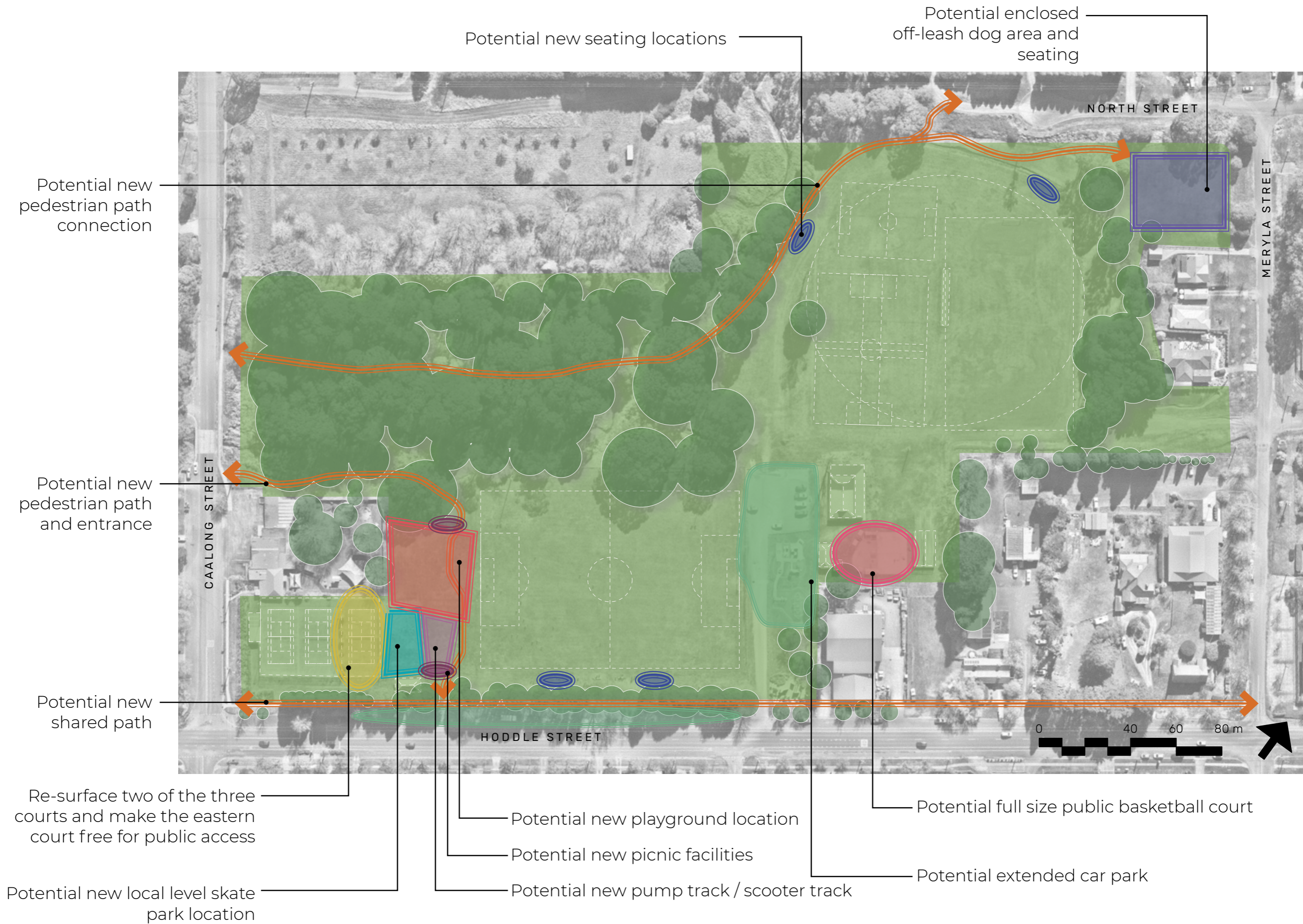
- **Objective 9** seeks to integrate public art that reflects Robertson's First Nations and agricultural heritage, fostering a sense of place and community identity.
- **Objective 10** involves selecting furniture and amenities that complement Robertson's character and serve functional purposes.
- **Objective 11** encourages the activation of the park with flexible, accessible spaces for community events.
- **Objective 12** proposes including a small-scale pump track, skate facility, and multi-purpose court to meet recreational demands.
- **Objective 13** aims to upgrade the playground to be inclusive for children and families of all abilities.
- **Objective 14** focuses on identifying ways to expedite implementation and secure funding, with potential contributions from local contractors.





# MASTER PLAN CONCEPT

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# MASTER PLAN

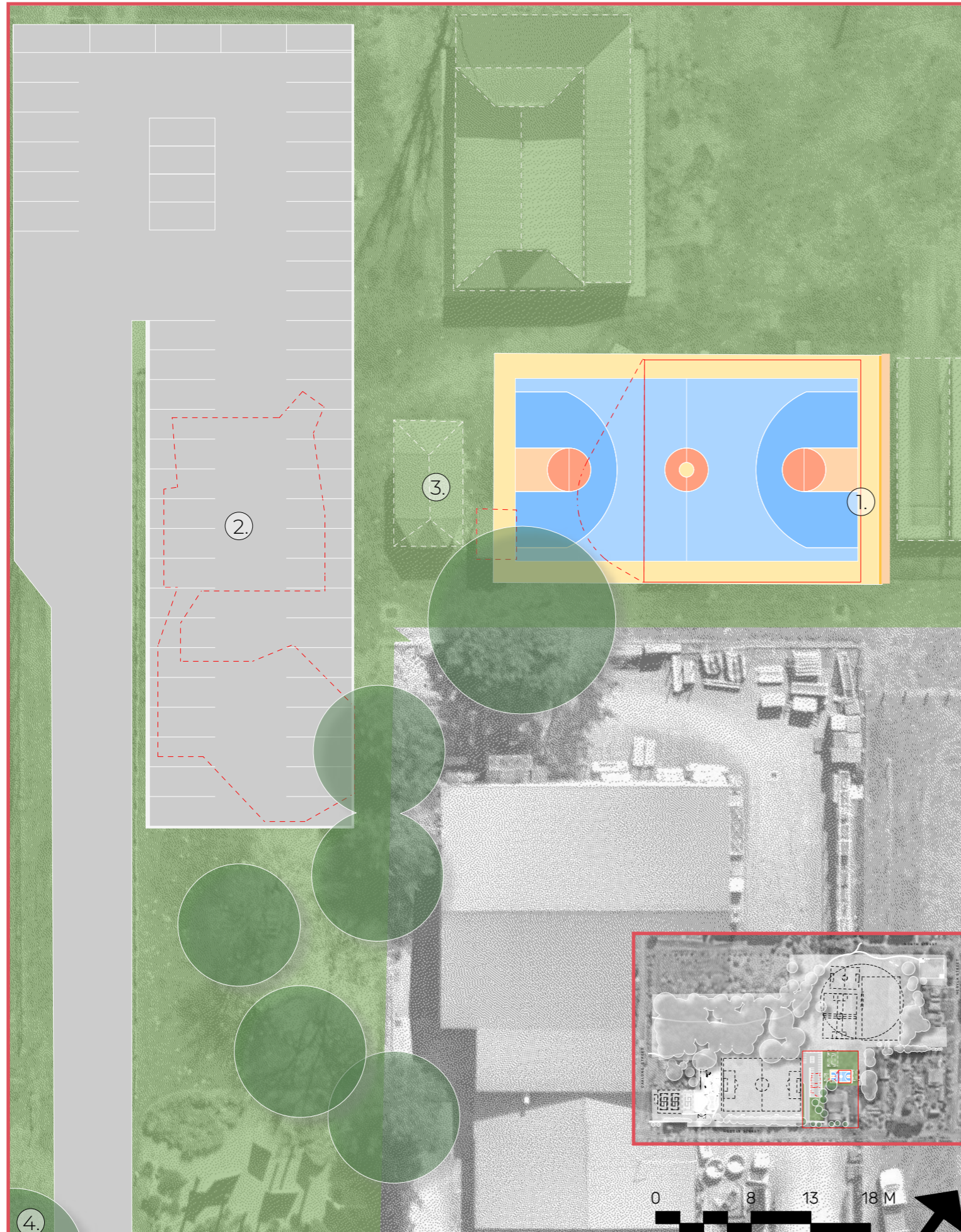


# NEW PLAY & SKATE AREA



\*Skate park and pump track concept only. Final details subject to detail design.

# NEW CAR PARK & MULTI-PURPOSE COURT AREA



- ① Full size multi-purpose hard court with a play wall which can be used as a sandbagging station as well.
- ② Extended formalised car park and existing playground removed
- ③ BBQ facilities removed, but shelter and tables remain. Potential for sandbagging station location.
- ④ Park signage



