The Growing Suburbs Fund is a contribution towards meeting critical local infrastructure needs for communities in Melbourne’s diverse and fast-growing outer suburbs. It is positioned to quickly respond to the pressures being experienced by interface and peri-urban communities by bringing forward local infrastructure projects that will make a big difference in the day-to-day lives of outer suburban families.

Bass Coast Shire Council

Bass Coast Shire, located approximately 140km from Melbourne CBD, is a rural, residential and holiday area. The Shire encompasses a total land area of about 860 square kilometres, including substantial coastal areas. The major towns are Wonthaggi, Cowes, Inverloch, San Remo and Grantville, with numerous smaller townships. Known as one of Victoria’s peri-urban councils, the current population of 36,320 is expected to grow to 48,145 by 2036¹.

GUIDE PARK REGIONAL PLAYSPACE

South Dudley Road and Graham Road, Wonthaggi, 3995

The Growing Suburbs Fund will assist Bass Coast Shire Council to develop a major recreation open space that will create the largest playspace in Bass Coast Shire.

The park is easily accessible by foot or bicycle along Wonthaggi’s pathway networks and directly opposite the Shire’s sub-regional hospital and major aged care facility.

The redevelopment of Guide Park will transform Wonthaggi’s social and recreational infrastructure offering, providing an accessible, safe and welcoming space for all community members to use and enjoy.

The project will enhance physical and mental wellbeing outcomes, as well as increase liveability and inclusion. The introduction of a mobility garden and gentle exercise area will support people living with a disability.

The project will deliver the following key elements:

- A hero space including a slide tower, sand and water play
- A teenager breakout space including parkour, a flying fox and challenging climbing equipment
- A treehouse and nature play area for younger children, located near the older adult gentle exercise area to foster intergenerational, social exchange
- A mobility garden and gentle exercise area for older adults and people undertaking rehabilitation.
- A well-positioned fenced area to assist the Bass Coast Specialist School and local families with children who have special needs.
- Carpark

Expected date of commencement: October 2021
Expected date of completion: July 2022

Total Project Cost: $1,400,000
Growing Suburbs Fund: $350,000
Other contributions:

- Bass Coast Shire Council: $350,000
- Victorian Government - 2020-21 Local Sports Infrastructure Fund: $700,000

¹ Victoria in Future, 2019
The other project in Bass Coast Shire to receive funding from the Growing Suburbs Fund 2020-21 Round 2 is:

- Guy Road Shared Pathway Project
  ($1,400,000)

Figure 1: Concept design


For more information regarding these projects contact the GSF team at gsf@ecodev.vic.gov.au

Authorised by the Hon Shaun Leane MP, Minister for Local Government and Suburban Development

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