Sunshine Coast
Recreation Parks Plan
2021-2031   December 2021

Sunshine Coast COUNCIL™

Our region.
Healthy. Smart. Creative.

Also see
Sunshine Coast Recreational Parks Plan 2021-2031 – Strategic Directions
Sunshine Coast Recreational Parks Plan 2021-2031 – Locality of Interest.

Acknowledgment of Country

Sunshine Coast Regional Council acknowledges the traditional Country of the Kabi Kabi Peoples and the Jinibara Peoples of the coastal plains and hinterlands of the Sunshine Coast and recognise that these have always been places of cultural, spiritual, social and economic significance. We wish to pay respect to their Elders – past, present and emerging – and acknowledge the important role Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to play within the Sunshine Coast community.

Council is committed to ongoing communications and consultation with the Traditional Owners and the broader Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community of the Sunshine Coast in the implementation of the plan.

How to use the Sunshine Coast Recreation Parks Plan

The Sunshine Coast Recreation Parks Plan outlines the strategic direction for recreation parks across the region. The plan is supported by two technical documents that provide additional planning tools to ensure consistent and sustainable development of these public spaces. The first supporting document contains technical guidelines and additional locational criteria for park infrastructure. A second technical document provides geographic and demographic information on each of the 31 localities of interest in the Sunshine Coast Council region as well as the mapping which shows the current provision of key park infrastructure.

Strategic Directions

- Why parks are important
- How we plan
- Functional planning by park type
- Activity Planning
- Park management
- Strategic actions

Localities of Interest

(For internal use)

- Mapping
- Demographics
- Activity shortfalls

Technical Guidelines

(For internal use)

- Functions and benefits of parks
- Activity planning
- Supporting embellishments
- Additional implementation actions

you are HERE

Table of contents for RPP – Technical Guidelines

Chapter 1.0
Strategic intent

OUR vision

A resilient network of recreation parks that provide equitable open spaces, connect people and nature, and promote healthy and creative lifestyles

Refer to RPP – Strategic directions (Chapter 1.0) and Appendix A of this document for background information on the following chapter

OUR goals

Through the implementation of the RPP's planning principles, the SCC aims to provide a recreation parks network that incorporates six park functions:

Active recreation – providing equitable access to healthy recreation opportunities in a functional and affordable manner.

Scenic amenity – promoting the attractiveness of our region by preserving social and culturally significant park settings and by providing parks that bring people, place, and nature together.

Social – providing safe community gathering places that connect people and place, foster community cohesiveness, encourage creative lifestyles and improve mental health.

Ecological – increasing opportunities for residents and visitors to connect with nature in cooler, vegetated spaces.

Education – encouraging opportunities for educational programs that contribute to cultural heritage, the arts and living ecosystem knowledge.

Economic – contributing to the economic development of the region by supporting tourism with functional settings for a variety of uses and attracting workers looking for healthy lifestyles.

1.1   Key planning principles

The planning principles outlined in this chapter have been developed to guide fair and equitable provision of recreation park activities and infrastructure across the Sunshine Coast region. They are used to achieve design outcomes that result in safe, responsive and sustainable recreation parks, enhancing park experience for residents and visitors.

These principles have been developed to deliver the strategic outcomes related to parks found in council's regional strategies (the ELS, CS and REDS) and respond directly to the feedback we have received from the community and our stakeholders. Consistent application of these principles assists in the attainment of the goals outlined in section 1.1 of the RPP.

The planning principles are referenced and applied through all phases of planning and delivery of Sunshine Coast recreation parks. They inform decisions made and how decisions are implemented.

Refer to Appendices C and D for additional information, planning principles and supporting council documents. These principles apply to new recreation parks and any works in existing parks.

Buderim Village Park

1   Fair and equitable provision

Opportunities to engage in recreational activities that contribute to healthy and creative lifestyles are available in all Sunshine Coast communities.

Principle 1.1 – Recreation park activity and services are distributed equitably across the network, in our coastal and hinterland communities.

- Each locality of interest (LOI) in the region contains an equitable amount of active and passive recreational opportunities.
- Current provision of existing activities and recreational infrastructure is considered during all park planning activities.
- Opportunities to enjoy high-quality recreation experiences are provided at inland locations to relieve pressure on highly utilised coastal parks.

Principle 1.2 – Recreation parks are designed to accommodate a range of users

- A wide range of user experiences are considered during all parks planning activities.
- Built recreation infrastructure in local parks is relevant to current and future demographics of the community and is balanced with natural amenity.
- Council-wide and district recreation parks provide clustered activities that provide multi-generational recreational opportunities.

Principle 1.3 – Monopolisation of space in recreation parks is avoided

- Individual functions or activities do not prohibit multiple users enjoying a recreation park.
- Permitted commercial activities and re-occurring social events in parks must demonstrate a benefit to the entire community.

2   Community need

Council's recreation parks are designed to be responsive to the evolving social, environmental, cultural and economic needs of the community.

Principle 2.1 – Recreation parks provide activities and infrastructure that is relevant to a particular community.

- Measurable community need is the basis of park activity and infrastructure provision.
- Park activities and infrastructure support a sense of community ownership.
- Infrastructure used to support recreational activities reflects the character of the community.

Principle 2.2 – Regular and relevant engagement with the community will inform recreation park planning

- Council's 'Excellence through Engagement Framework' is utilised to better understand the needs of each Sunshine Coast community .
- Technological platforms are used to engage with residents and visitors and to provide educational resources related to the recreation parks network and the parks planning process.
- Emerging recreational trends are identified through a variety of sources.

3   Connectivity

The Sunshine Coast's recreation parks are green hubs connected to the natural environment, providing essential green infrastructure that allows ecological engagement and safe movement of people and wildlife across the landscape.

Principle 3.1 – Connection to the natural environment is provided in recreation parks

- Opportunities to connect with biodiversity in recreation parks is increased and promoted through park activities and embellishments.
- Remnant and established urban bushland and other open spaces are linked to enhance the urban forest where possible.
- Appropriate built and living infrastructure is used to support ecosystem services and avoid disruption of natural ecosystems.

Principle 3.2 – Provide safe connections between parks and other activity hubs

- Recreation parks are planned, designed and maintained so they continue to function as the green hubs that serve our community.
- Recreation parks are connected to activity hubs like schools, community facilities, and shopping precincts through safe, green corridors.
- Where appropriate, recreation parks will contain safe and interesting path and trail linkages that encourage active transport.

Principle 3.3 – Connection to other council networks and public facilities is encouraged

- Recreation park planning and design includes the identification of adjoining, overlapping and nearby public facilities and includes mechanisms to ensure these are connected.
- All relevant stakeholders in the park planning process.
- Recreation parks integrate smart technology.

4   Functionality

Sunshine Coast recreation parks are functional, fit for purpose and contribute to the social, environmental and economic health of the region.

Principle 4.1 – Activities and associated infrastructure in parks are consistent with park category, location and setting

- Identification of a park's primary function, including its role in the recreation park network hierarchy, is undertaken during all park planning exercises.
- New park designs and proposals for additional activities in existing parks are consistent with a park's location and setting.
- Park infrastructure contributes to a specific function and is located to be utilised at full potential.

Principle 4.2 – Park planning processes consider existing internal park functions and functions external to the site

- Existing internal park functions are identified in the park planning process to ensure compatibility of any new or proposed infrastructure.
- Identification of functions external to a park ensures that proposed park activities are compatible with existing community conditions.
- Recreation parks are designed in a manner that does not create adverse impacts on natural, cultural and social values in the community in which they are located.

Principle 4.3 – Co-location of compatible functions and activities is considered

- Opportunities to co-locate compatible uses, such as recreation parks and environmental reserves, are investigated to identify potential for shared facilities.
- Compatible functions and activities within parks are co-located and clustered, allowing for increased openness and enhanced scenic amenity in the park
- Utility functions are not compatible in recreation parks unless they also perform a recreational function.

5 Landscape and character

Recreation parks incorporate local landscape and character values and enhance community cohesiveness by bringing people and place together.

Principle 5.1 – Recreation parks reflect local character and identity

- Proposed park activities and supporting infrastructure reflect and reinforce the character of the surrounding community.
- The setting in which a recreation park is located is considered during all parks planning activities.
- The design of recreation parks is responsive to existing environmental conditions and community identity.

Principle 5.2 – Opportunities to learn about cultural heritage and the natural environment are investigated and integrated into recreation parks in appropriate locations

- Areas of significance to Aboriginal Traditional Owners are identified and recognised.
- Interpretive signage explaining unique ecological features and processes is provided in recreation parks.
- Culturally relevant arts infrastructure is provided in appropriate park locations.

Principle 5.3 – Local landscape values and scenic amenity are preserved

- Social and culturally significant views and landscape features are identified and incorporated into park design
- Parks are designed to ensure that detrimental impacts to locally significant vegetation and landforms are avoided
- New built and natural infrastructure in parks will be located in areas that do not compromise scenic amenity.

6 Financial sustainability

Long-term financial sustainability will be delivered though consistent application of key planning principles ensuring a functional and affordable recreation parks network.

Principle 6.1 – Appropriate levels of infrastructure embellishment supports park functions

The amount of infrastructure in a recreation park is provided at a consistent level with the intended function, category, location and setting of the park.

The level of built infrastructure in recreation parks does not compromise other park activities, particularly kick and throw and passive recreation.

The design, location and extent of built infrastructure does not interfere with scenic and scenic amenity.

Principle 6.2 – Sustainable material choices are essential to long-term financial sustainability

- Recreation park embellishments are suitable for their intended use and location, durable, fit for purpose and made of materials that match the setting in which the park exists.
- Adaptive use of landform, vegetation and other 'natural' or 'soft' elements are used to reduce constructed embellishment requirements and cost.
- The council's Open Space Landscape Infrastructure Manual (LIM) must be consulted to determine appropriate park infrastructure and materials.

Principle 6.3 – Whole of life maintenance costs are considered for all park infrastructure

- Recreation parks are easy to maintain for financial, social and environmental sustainability.
- Council staff are involved in the design and planning stages to ensure appropriate function, design and materials are incorporated into the network.

7 Openness

The Sunshine Coast's recreation parks are open and inviting and provide ample space for exercise, social gatherings and enjoyment of the region's natural beauty.

Principle 7.1 – Openness is a key function of recreation parks, preserved and promoted in efficient design

- Open spaces in parks are flexible and multi-functional.
- The aesthetic function of open areas in parks is preserved and promoted.
- Recreation parks provide open spaces that are flat and accessible.

Principle 7.2 – Park activity nodes and facilities are located on the perimeter of open areas

- Built and natural infrastructure is not located within designated open areas.
- Park infrastructure is located adjacent to open areas to provide complementary functions.
- The amount of built infrastructure in a recreation park does not detract from the overall openness of the park.

Principle 7.3 – Openness allows for casual surveillance and increased user comfort

- The edges of recreation parks are open to allow visibility from the outside to the inside of the park.
- Clear sight lines are maintained across passive and active recreation areas.
- Open areas and shaded areas are balanced to allow for user comfort in summer and winter.

8 Accessibility

Council's recreation parks provide safe and equitable access to recreational opportunities for residents and visitors.

Principle 8.1 – Recreation parks are designed for equal access and enjoyment.

- Equitable access to recreation park services and activities is provided regardless of individual circumstance including level of ability or background.
- Barriers to access and enjoyment are identified early in the parks planning process.
- The LIM is consulted for up-to-date guidance on applicable accessibility requirements.

Principle 8.2 – Activities and facilities in parks are accessible to all users

- Activity nodes are linked by hard-surfaced pathways to allow for equitable access.
- The location of park facilities and activity nodes considers all ages and abilities, including parents with prams, individuals with medical conditions or disabilities and the elderly.
- Uniform treatments are incorporated into park design to assist users with a disability.

Principle 8.3 – Access/egress points in parks are easily identifiable

- Where possible, multiple access points are located along the perimeter of the park with a designated and easily identifiable main access.
- Signage is located at the front of the park to clearly identify the park name and any restrictions.
- Access points are open and welcoming, not constrained by excessive built and natural infrastructure.

9   Safety

Recreation parks provide safe environments for the community to enjoy.

Principle 9.1 – Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles are incorporated into the design of recreation parks [1]

- Clear sight lines are maintained across passive and active recreation areas.
- Park design avoids hidden or isolated areas.
- Casual surveillance from outside the recreation park is considered and promoted through park design.

Principle 9.2 – Adequate shade is provided in recreation parks to provide relief from sun exposure and increase user comfort levels

- Existing and new trees are used to create shade over active and passive recreation areas.
- Appropriate tree selection ensures maximum shade provision and incorporates CPTED.
- Artificial shade structures are used in play areas and are replaced by natural shade as adjacent tree canopies develop.

Principle 9.3 – Recreation parks are designed to avoid user conflicts

- Incompatible activities are identified and avoided during the parks planning process.
- The location of proposed park activities and facilities does not compromise the function of existing park activities.
- Vehicle access to recreation parks is limited by controls.

10   Flexibility / adaptation

The Sunshine Coast's recreation parks are flexible and adaptive to accommodate future changes in user needs and to mitigate potential impacts of climate change.

Principle 10.1 – Recreation parks are designed to accommodate changing community needs

- Multi-functional spaces are provided in parks that allow for changes in use.
- Recreation park layout and design accommodates changes without a complete redesign of the park or activity area.
- Open areas in parks can be used to accommodate temporary uses.

Principle 10.2 – Green infrastructure is utilised to mitigate impacts of the urban heat island (UHI) effect

- Tree canopy coverage is increased in parks in locations consistent with park functions.
- Resilient species of vegetation are used in parks to accommodate changes in rainfall and temperature.

Principle 10.3 – Climate resilience is built into recreation parks

- Accurate and up-to-date hazard mapping is used in park planning and design.
- Renewable energy and resources are used to build park infrastructure.
- Smart technology is used in park design and function to adapt to variable climatic conditions.

Chapter 2.0
Parks hierarchy

Refer to RPP – Strategic directions (Chapter 2.0) for background information on the following chapter

2.1 Parks hierarchy

Council-wide recreation parks – the showcase

Functional space guidelines for council-wide parks

- Minimum park area, 10-20 hectares.
- Minimum park area must remain free from all encumbrances including easements, environmental buffers, stormwater management devices and overland flow paths.
- Park must be designed to host large organised events.
  - concessionary hardstand area(s) (5m x 8m) for food and coffee vans and events with access to water and power.
- Area must provide a range of varying scale, form and function that cater to users of all ages and abilities from across the region.
- Area should represent proportional targets for spaces:
  - Active open space, 30% – 50%
    - 1 large kick and throw area (50m x 70m)
    - 2 small kick and throw areas (30m x 40m) which may be used for alternative active recreation elements if required
    - active recreation elements, for example hardcourts, fitness areas and dog exercise areas
  - Social spaces, 10% – 30%
    - for example, shelters, barbecues, community gardens and play spaces, to be provided in designated nodes
  - Vegetated areas, 10% – 20%
    - includes tree coverage and landscaping
    - planting style to suit setting, local landscape and character
  - Car park and internal trails, 5%
  - Stormwater management, maximum 5% (including vegetation)
    - must not impact park function
    - where possible, stormwater treatment facilities should be integrated with planted areas.
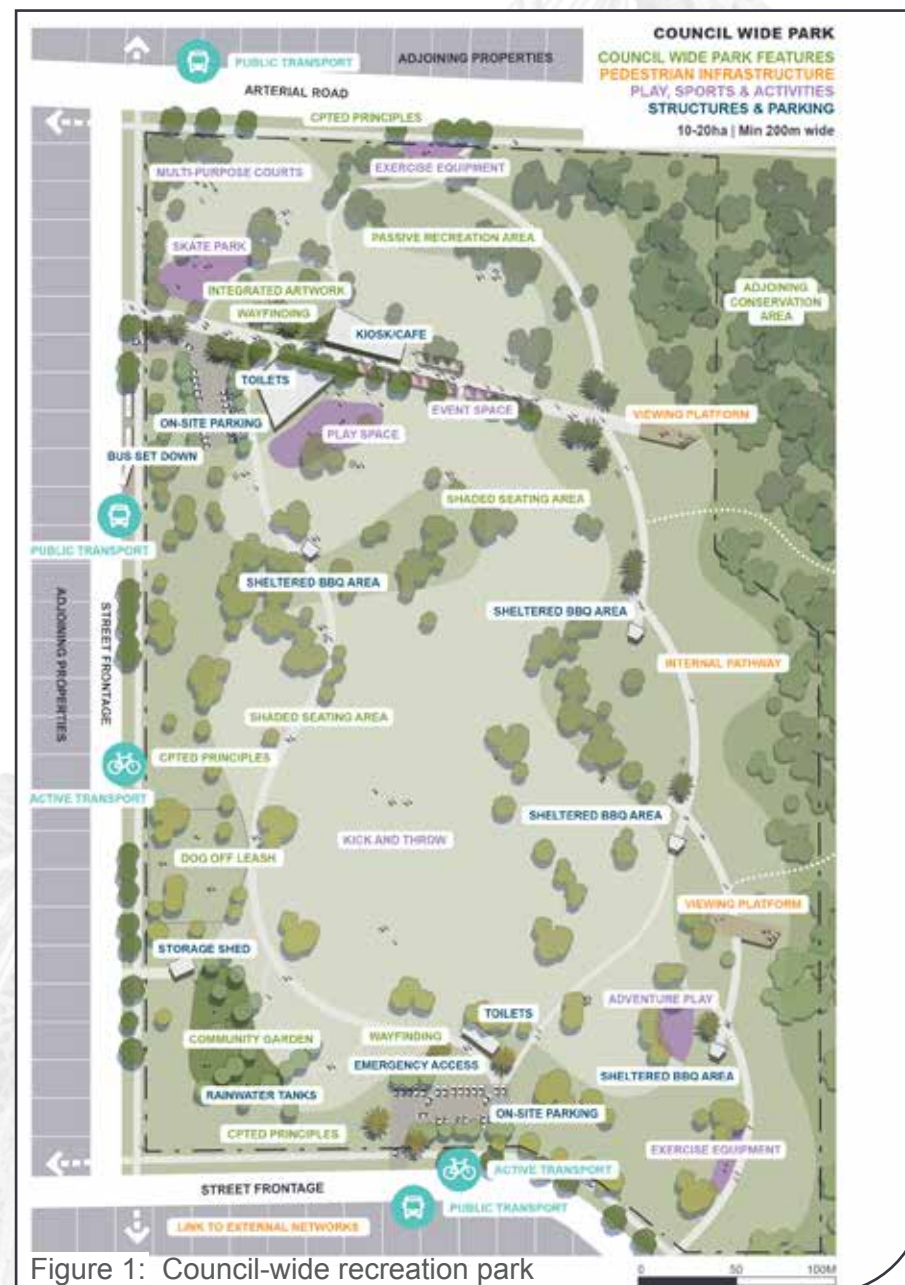

Figure 1: Council-wide recreation park

Source: SC Environment and Liveability Strategy 2017

Table 1: Council-wide recreation parks embellishment requirements

Type of embellishment	Council-wide park requirement / number
Animals	
Dog off leash parks	Optional – where need is demonstrated and where provision does not compromise park function
Furniture	
Barbecues	Yes – 1 double plate barbecue / 2 shelters
Bicycle rails	Yes – 4 bike parking spaces / ha
Bins (waste)	Yes – 1 waste bin / 2 shelters
Bins (recycle)	Yes – 1 recycling bin / 2 shelters (where serviceable)
Drinking fountains	Yes – 1 / playground (max 3)
Taps – public access	Yes – 1 / barbecue area (servicing multiple)
Taps – maintenance	Yes – 1 min
Stand-alone seat / picnic table and bench	Yes – 2 seats / ha, min 2 / playground
Showers	Optional – where adjoining beach/water access
Barriers	
Bollards	Yes – along non-fenced perimeter boundaries. Trees and vegetation preferred
Fences and gates (vehicle access / pedestrian access)	Optional – where required
Pedestrian infrastructure	
Internal path	Yes – sealed paths, dual use (pedestrian and bicycle)
Connection path	Yes – sealed path (link to external networks)
Planting	
Trees	Yes – native and non-native shade trees
Natural shade coverage	40% coverage of pathways at tree maturity; 50% coverage of activity areas (playgrounds, exercise etc)
Landscape planting (garden beds, turf, re-vegetation)	Yes - planting style to suit local landscape and character
Community gardens	Optional – where need is demonstrated and where provision does not compromise park function

Type of embellishment	Council-wide park requirement / number
Play, sport and activities	
Exercise equipment	Optional – multi – generational exercise activities
Play spaces (playgrounds, natural activity areas)	Yes – 1000m2 with equipment and landform. Must be shaded by trees and / temporary shade sails
Skate park	Optional – refer SCC Skate and BMX plan
Informal sports and games (fields and courts, outdoor games, children's bicycle track)	Yes – range of multi-generational sports and games, multi-purpose courts allowed
Kick and throw area	Yes – 1 large area (50m x 70m) and 2 small areas (30m x 40m). Flat and well drained
Event spaces	Yes – min 1
Signs, art and memorials	
Signage	Yes – naming, directional, interpretive, regulatory
Public art	Optional – durable pieces that provide opportunity for interaction
Primary public access points	Yes – min 2 highly visible and well-signed entrances
Structures and parking	
Parking (on-site)	Yes – 10 spaces / ha, bus set down required
Shade sails	Yes - temporary measure while trees mature
Public amenities (toilets)	Yes – min 1
Shelters	Yes – 1 shelter / 1.5ha
Utilities and smart technology	
Irrigation	Optional – as required and approved by council, high activity areas only, not entire park
Serviced site	Yes
Lighting	Yes – as required to meet CPTED principles - key pedestrian linkages, shelters, toilet blocks and car parks not serviced by ambient light from adjacent roadways
Other	
see Appendix B – Table: 41 / DSS for open space in the SC Environment and Liveablilty Strategy 2017 (ELS)	

District parks –
the community playground

Functional space guidelines for district parks

- Minimum park area, 3 hectares.
- Minimum park area must remain free from all encumbrances including easements, environmental buffers, stormwater management devices and overland flow paths.
- Park must provide a range of varying scale, form and function that cater to users of diverse ages and abilities from surrounding neighbourhoods.
- Area should represent proportional targets for spaces:
  - Active open space, 40% – 60%
    - 1 large kick and throw area (50m x 70m)
    - active recreation elements including hardcourts, fitness areas and dog exercise areas
  - Social spaces, 10% – 20%
    - for example, shelters, barbecues, community gardens and play spaces, to be provided in designated nodes
  - Vegetated areas, 10% – 20%
    - includes tree coverage and landscaping
    - planting style to suit local landscape and character
  - Car park and internal pathways, 10%
  - Stormwater management, maximum 5% (including vegetation)
    - must not impact park function
    - where possible, stormwater treatment facilities should be integrated with planted areas.

Figure 2: Indicative layout – District recreation park

Source: SC Environment and Liveability Strategy 2017

Table 2: District parks embellishment requirements

Type of embellishment	District park requirement / number
Animals	
Dog off leash parks	Optional – where need is demonstrated and where provision does not compromise park function
Furniture	
Barbecues	Yes – 1 double plate barbecues / 2 shelters
Bicycle rails	Yes – 4 bike parking spaces / ha
Bins (waste)	Yes – 1 waste bin / 2 shelters
Bins (recycle)	Yes – 1 recycling bin / 2 shelters (where serviceable)
Drinking fountains	Yes – 1 / playground (max 2)
Taps – public access	Yes – 1 / barbecue area (servicing multiple)
Taps – maintenance	Yes – 1
Stand-alone seat / picnic table and bench	Yes – 2 seats / ha, min 2 / playground
Showers	Optional – where adjoining beach/water access
Barriers	
Bollards	Yes – along non-fenced perimeter boundaries. Trees and vegetation preferred
Fences and gates (vehicle access / pedestrian access)	Optional – where required
Pedestrian infrastructure	
Internal path	Yes – sealed paths, dual use (pedestrian and bicycle)
Connection path	Yes – sealed path (link to external networks)
Planting	
Trees	Yes – native and non-native shade trees
Natural shade coverage	40% coverage of pathways at tree maturity; 50% coverage of activity areas (playgrounds, exercise etc)
Landscape planting (garden beds, turf, re-vegetation)	Yes - planting style to suit local landscape and character
Community gardens	Optional – where need is demonstrated and where provision does not compromise park function

Type of embellishment	District park requirement / number
Play, sport and activities	
Exercise equipment	Optional – multi – generational exercise activities
Play spaces (playgrounds, natural activity areas)	Yes – 500m2 with equipment and landform. Must be shaded by vegetation and / temporary shade sails
Skate park	Optional – refer SCC Skate and BMX plan
Informal sports and games (fields and courts, outdoor games, children's bicycle track)	Yes – range of multi-generational sports and games
Kick and throw area	Yes – 1 large area (50m x 70m). Flat and well drained
Event spaces	Optional – where space allows
Signs, art and memorials	
Signage	Yes – naming, directional, interpretive, regulatory
Public art	Optional – durable pieces that provide opportunity for interaction
Primary public access points	Yes – min 2 highly visible and well-signed entrances
Structures and parking	
Parking (on-site)	Yes – 5 spaces / ha
Shade sails	Yes - temporary measure while trees mature
Public amenities (toilets)	Yes – 1 (standard design) toilet block
Shelters	Yes – 1 shelter / 1.5ha
Utilities and smart technology	
Irrigation	Optional – as required and approved by council, high activity areas only, not entire park
Serviced site	Yes
Lighting	Yes – as required to meet CPTED principles - key pedestrian linkages, shelters, toilet blocks and car parks not serviced by ambient light from adjacent roadways
Other	
see Appendix B – Table: 41 / DSS for open space in the SC Environment and Liveability Strategy 2017 (ELS)	

Local parks –
the extended backyard

Functional space guidelines for local parks

- Minimum park area, 0.5 hectares.
- Minimum park area must remain free from all encumbrances including easements, environmental buffers, stormwater management devices and overland flow paths.
- Park must provide active and passive recreational spaces that cater to users of diverse ages and abilities from the local area.
- Area should represent proportional targets for spaces:
  - Active open space, 50% – 70%
    - 1 small kick and throw area (30m x 20m)
    - active recreation elements including hardcourts, fitness areas and dog exercise areas may be provided if they do not compromise kick and throw area
  - Social spaces, 10% – 20%
    - including shaded seating and play spaces, to be provided in a designated node
  - Vegetated areas, 10% – 20%
    - includes tree coverage and landscaping
    - planting style to suit local landscape and character
  - Stormwater management, maximum 5% (including vegetation)
    - must not impact park function
    - where possible, stormwater treatment facilities should be integrated with planted areas.

Figure 3: Indicative layout – Local recreation park

Source: SC Environment and Liveability Strategy 2017

Table 3: Local parks embellishment requirements

Type of embellishment	Local park requirement / number
Animals	
Dog off leash parks	Optional – where need is demonstrated and where provision does not compromise park function
Furniture	
Barbecues	No
Bicycle rails	Optional – 4 bike parking spaces / ha
Bins (waste)	Optional – where applicable / required near play space)
Bins (recycle)	Optional – where serviceable
Drinking fountains	Optional – where play spaces are provided
Taps – public access	Optional – where required
Taps – maintenance	Optional – where required
Stand-alone seat / picnic table and bench	Yes – 2 seats / ha, min 2 / playground
Showers	Optional – where adjoining beach/water access
Barriers	
Bollards	Yes – along non-fenced perimeter boundaries. Trees and vegetation preferred
Fences and gates (vehicle access / pedestrian access)	Optional – where required
Pedestrian infrastructure	
Internal path	Yes – sealed paths
Connection path	Optional – sealed path (link to external networks)
Planting	
Trees	Yes – native and non-native shade trees
Natural shade coverage	40% coverage of pathways at tree maturity; 50% coverage of activity areas (playgrounds, exercise etc)
Landscape planting (garden beds, turf, re-vegetation)	Yes – planting style to suit local landscape and character
Community gardens	Optional – where need is demonstrated and where provision does not compromise park function

Type of embellishment	Local park requirement / number
Play, sport and activities	
Exercise equipment	Optional – where need is demonstrated and where provision does not compromise park function
Play spaces (playgrounds, natural activity areas)	Optional – 300m2 with equipment and landform. Must be shaded by vegetation and / temporary shade sails
Skate park	No
Informal sports and games (fields and courts, outdoor games, children's bicycle track)	Optional - where need is demonstrated and where provision does not compromise park function
Kick and throw area	Yes – 30m x 20m. Flat and well drained
Event spaces	No
Signs, art and memorials	
Signage	Optional – directional, regulatory
Public art	No
Primary public access points	Yes – min 1 highly visible entrance
Structures and parking	
Parking (on-site)	No
Shade sails	Optional – temporary measure while trees mature
Public amenities (toilets)	No
Shelters	Yes – max 2 shelters
Utilities and smart technology	
Irrigation	Optional – as required and approved by council, high activity areas only, not entire park
Serviced site	Optional – where required
Lighting	No
Other	
see Appendix B – Table: 41 / DSS for open space in the SC Environment and Liveability Strategy 2017 (ELS)	

Civic parks – the meeting place

Functional space guidelines for civic parks

- In principle or major centres minimum park area, 0.5 hectares.
- In district centres or below minimum park area, 0.1 hectares.
- Area must remain free from all encumbrances including easements, environmental buffers, stormwater management devices and overland flow paths.
- Park must be designed for frequent, high-level use.
- Area includes increased levels of hardstand to cater for community events.
- Area includes adequate natural shade provided to maximise user comfort and safety.
- Park incorporates a planting style that suits local landscape and character.
  - Stormwater management must not impact park function.
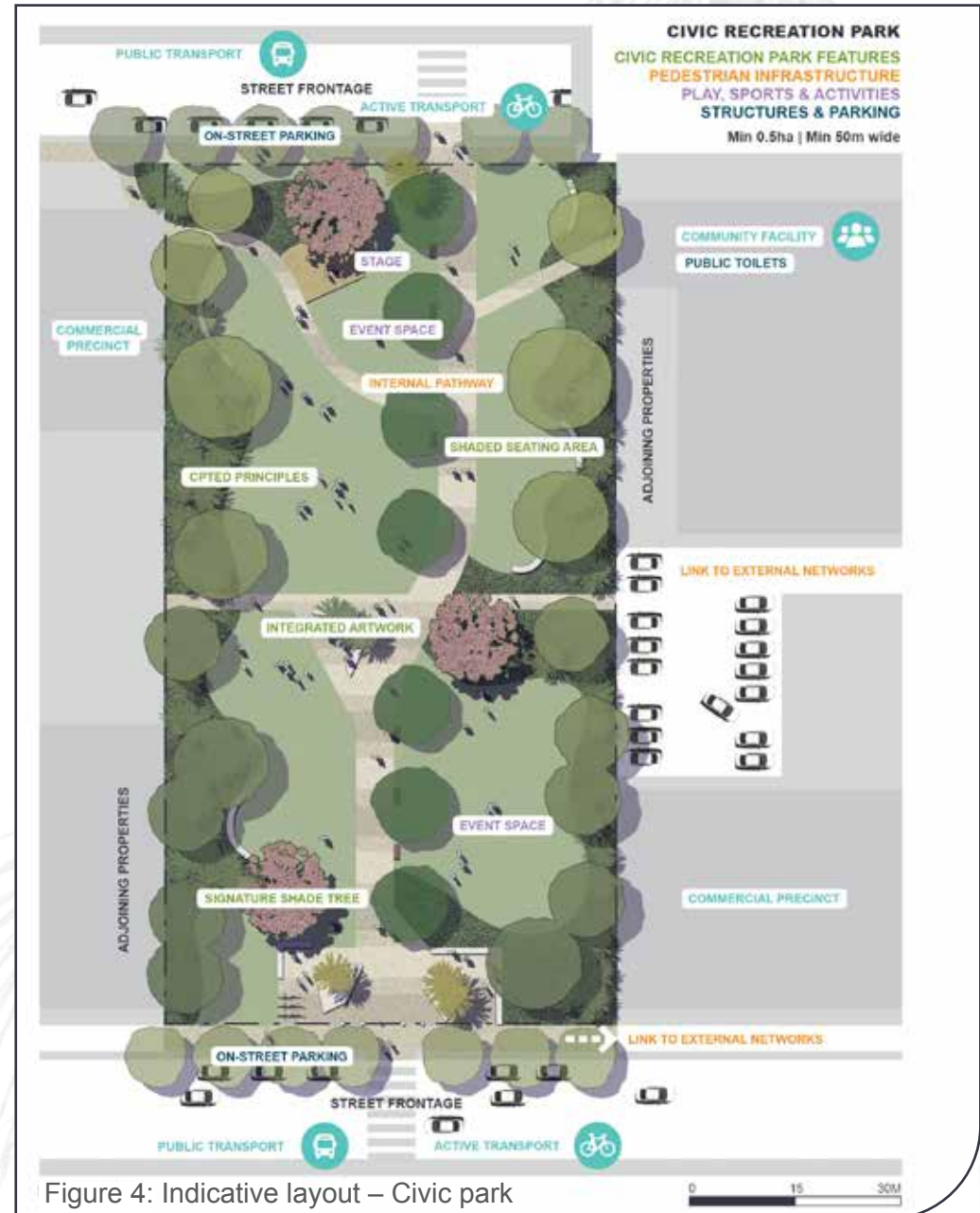   - Where possible, stormwater treatment facilities should be integrated with   planted areas.

Figure 4: Indicative layout – Civic park

Source: SC Environment and Liveability Strategy 2017

Table 4: Civic parks embellishment requirements

Type of embellishment	Civic park requirement / number
Animals	
Dog off leash parks	No
Furniture	
Barbecues	No
Bicycle rails	Yes – min 4 bike parking spaces
Bins (waste)	Yes – 1 waste bin / .25 ha
Bins (recycle)	Yes – 1 recycling bin / .25 ha (where serviceable)
Drinking fountains	Yes – 1
Taps – public access	Optional – where required
Taps – maintenance	Optional – where required
Stand-alone seat / picnic table and bench	Yes – min 4 seats / ha, min 2 / playground
Showers	No
Barriers	
Bollards	Yes – along non-fenced perimeter boundaries. Trees and vegetation preferred
Fences and gates (vehicle access / pedestrian access)	Optional – where required
Pedestrian infrastructure	
Internal path	Yes – sealed paths
Connection path	Optional – sealed path (link to external networks)
Planting	
Trees	Yes – native and non-native shade trees
Natural shade coverage	40% coverage of pathways at tree maturity; 50% coverage of activity areas
Landscape planting (garden beds, turf, re-vegetation)	Yes - planting style to suit local landscape and character
Community gardens	Optional – where need is demonstrated and where provision does not compromise park function
Play, sport and activities	
Exercise equipment	No

Type of embellishment	Civic park requirement / number
Play spaces (playgrounds, natural activity areas)	Optional – where provision does not compromise park function. Must be shaded by vegetation and / temporary shade sails
Skate park	No
Informal sports and games (fields and courts, outdoor games, children's bicycle track)	Optional – multi-use space (games), informal sports not allowed (basketball, cricket etc)
Kick and throw area	No
Event spaces	Optional – where space allows
Signs, art and memorials	
Signage	Yes – naming, directional, interpretive, regulatory
Public art	Optional – durable pieces that provide opportunity for interaction
Primary public access points	Yes – min 2 highly visible and well-signed entrances
Structures and parking	
Parking (on-site)	No
Shade sails	Optional – where natural or built architectural shade is not sufficient
Public amenities (toilets)	Yes – 1 (standard design) toilet block
Shelters	Yes – max 2 shelters
Utilities and smart technology	
Irrigation	Optional – as required and approved by council, high activity areas only, not entire park
Serviced site	Yes
Lighting	Yes – As required to meet CPTED principles - key pedestrian linkages, shelters, toilet blocks and car parks not serviced by ambient light from adjacent roadways
Other	
see Appendix B – Table: 41 / DSS for open space in the SC Environment and Liveability Strategy 2017 (ELS)	

Amenity reserves – the quiet space

Functional space guidelines for amenity reserves

- Minimum park area, 0.2 hectares.
- Minimum park area must remain free from all encumbrances including easements, environmental buffers, stormwater management devices and overland flow paths.
- Park is appropriately sized to sustainably support mature trees while providing adequate buffers to adjoining properties.
- Adequate natural shade is provided to maximises user comfort and safety.
  - Existing trees are retained and new trees are planted at strategic locations to contribute to amenity.
- Park incorporates a planting style that suits local landscape and character.
- Stormwater management must not impact park function.
  - Where possible, stormwater treatment facilities should be integrated with planted areas.

AMENITY RESERVE
AMENITY RESERVE FEATURES
PEDESTRIAN INFRASTRUCTURE
PLAY, SPORTS & ACTIVITIES
STRUCTURES & PARKING
<0.5ha

LINK TO BEACH ACCESS

LINK TO EXTERNAL NETWORKS

STREET FRONTAGE

ADJOINING PROPERTIES

CPTED PRINCIPLES

SHADED SEATING AREA

SHADED SEATING AREA

PASSIVE RECREATION AREA

STREET FRONTAGE

LINK TO EXTERNAL NETWORKS

BUFFER PLANTING

ADJOINING PROPERTIES

LINK TO EXTERNAL NETWORKS

0   15   30M

Figure 5: Indicative layout – Amenity reserve

Source: SC Environment and Liveability Strategy 2017

Table 5: Amenity reserves embellishment requirements

Type of embellishment	Amenity reserve requirement / number
Animals	
Dog off leash parks	Optional – unfenced only, where need is demonstrated and where provision does not compromise park function
Furniture	
Barbecues	No
Bicycle rails	No
Bins (waste)	Optional
Bins (recycle)	Optional – where serviceable
Drinking fountains	No
Taps – public access	Optional – where required
Taps – maintenance	Optional – where required
Stand-alone seat / picnic table and bench	Yes – min 2
Showers	No
Barriers	
Bollards	Yes – along non-fenced perimeter boundaries. Trees and vegetation preferred
Fences and gates (vehicle access / pedestrian access)	No – fences Optional – vehicle access gate where required
Pedestrian infrastructure	
Internal path	Optional – sealed paths
Connection path	Optional – sealed path (link to external networks)
Unsealed trail	Optional
Planting	
Trees	Yes – native and non-native shade trees
Natural shade coverage	40% coverage of pathways at tree maturity
Landscape planting (garden beds, turf, re-vegetation)	Yes – planting style to suit local landscape and character
Community gardens	Optional – where need is demonstrated and where provision does not compromise park function

Type of embellishment	Amenity reserve requirement / number
Play, sport and activities	
Exercise equipment	No
Play spaces (playgrounds, natural activity areas)	No
Skate park	No
Informal sports and games (fields and courts, outdoor games, children's bicycle track)	No
Kick and throw area	No
Event spaces	No
Signs, art and memorials	
Signage	Optional – regulatory where required
Public art	No
Primary public access points	Yes – min 1 highly visible entrance
Structures and parking	
Parking (on-site)	No
Shade sails	No
Public amenities (toilets)	No
Shelters	No
Utilities and smart technology	
Irrigation	Optional – as required and approved by council, high activity areas only, not entire park
Serviced site	No
Lighting	No
Other	
see Appendix B – Table: 41 / DSS for open space in the SC Environment and Liveability Strategy 2017 (ELS)	

Linear parks –
the connecting space

Functional space guidelines for linear parks

- Distinctive qualities of the landscape character, formal and natural, are strengthened through material selection, built form and planting design.
- Park incorporates a planting style that suits local landscape and character.
- Area has adequate natural shade to maximise user comfort and safety.
- Existing trees are retained and new trees are planted at strategic locations to contribute to amenity.
- Play spaces and fitness nodes may be included close to pathways.
- Key viewpoints are identified and protected.
- Interpretive signage elements are provided as cultural and environmental features.
- Stormwater management must not impact park function.
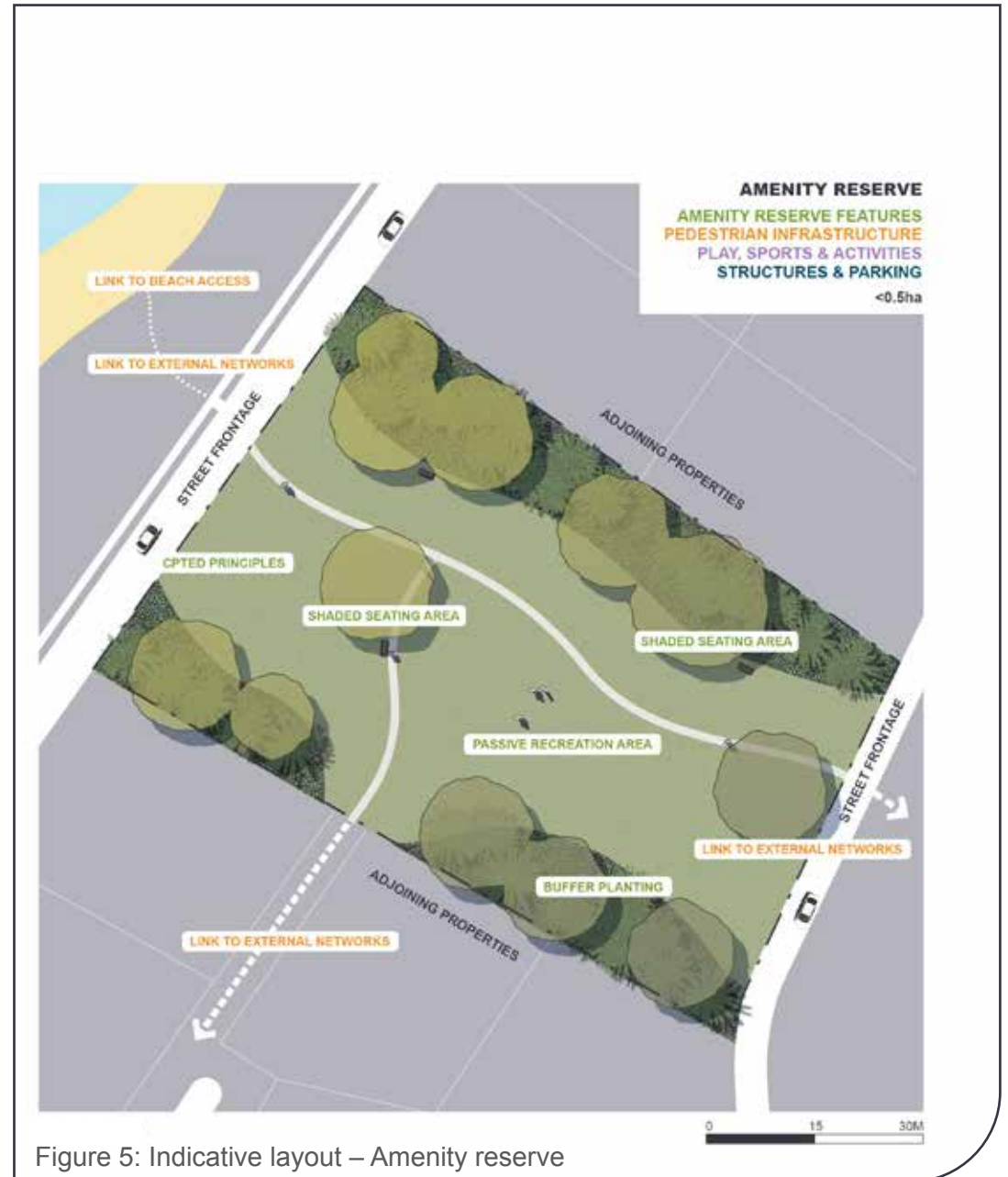 - Where possible, stormwater treatment facilities should be integrated with planted areas.

LINEAR PARK
LINEAR PARK FEATURES
PEDESTRIAN INFRASTRUCTURE
PLAY, SPORTS & ACTIVITIES
STRUCTURES & PARKING
Min 15-30m wide

LINK TO EXTERNAL NETWORKS
SHADED SEATING AREA
ACTIVE TRANSPORT
LINK TO EXTERNAL NETWORKS
VIEWING PLATFORM
ADJOINING PROPERTIES
CPTED PRINCIPLES
WATERWAY
STREET FRONTAGE
ACTIVE TRANSPORT
ADJOINING PROPERTIES
CPTED PRINCIPLES
PASSIVE RECREATION AREA
EXERCISE EQUIPMENT
INTERNAL PATHWAY
LINK TO EXTERNAL NETWORKS

Figure 6: Indicative layout – Linear park

0   15   30M

Source: SC Environment and Liveability Strategy 2017

Table 6: Linear parks embellishment requirements

Type of embellishment	Linear park requirement / number
Animals	
Dog off leash parks	Optional – where need is demonstrated and where provision does not compromise park function
Furniture	
Barbecues	Optional – where need is demonstrated and where provision does not compromise park function
Bicycle rails	No
Bins (waste)	Optional – where play spaces are provided
Bins (recycle)	Optional – where play spaces are provided (where serviceable)
Drinking fountains	Optional – where play spaces are provided
Taps – public access	Optional – where required
Taps – maintenance	Optional – where required
Stand-alone seat / picnic table and bench	Yes – 2 seats / ha
Showers	Optional – where adjoining beach/water access
Barriers	
Bollards	Yes – along non-fenced perimeter boundaries. Trees and vegetation preferred
Fences and gates (vehicle access / pedestrian access)	Optional – where required
Pedestrian infrastructure	
Internal path	Yes – sealed paths, dual use (pedestrian and bicycle)
Connection path	Yes – connection to external trails and tracks provided
Planting	
Trees	Yes – native and non-native shade trees
Natural shade coverage	40% coverage of pathways at tree maturity; 50% coverage of activity areas (playgrounds, exercise etc)
Landscape planting (garden beds, turf, re-vegetation)	Yes - planting style to suit local landscape and character
Community gardens	Optional – where need is demonstrated and where provision does not compromise park function

Type of embellishment	Linear park requirement / number
Play, sport and activities	
Exercise equipment	Optional – where need is demonstrated and where provision does not compromise park function
Play spaces (playgrounds, natural activity areas)	Optional – where need is demonstrated and where provision does not compromise park function. Must be shaded by vegetation and / temporary shade sails
Skate park	No
Informal sports and games (fields and courts, outdoor games, children's bicycle track)	Yes – where provision does not compromise park function
Kick and throw area	Yes – 30m x 10m or similar size. Flat and well drained
Event spaces	No
Signs, art and memorials	
Signage	Yes – directional, interpretive, regulatory
Public art	Optional – incorporated with appropriate infrastructure
Primary public access points	Yes – multiple public access points as required
Structures and parking	
Parking (on-site)	No
Shade sails	Optional – temporary over playspaces as trees mature
Public amenities (toilets)	No
Shelters	No
Utilities and smart technology	
Irrigation	Optional – as required and approved by council, high activity areas only, not entire park
Serviced site	Optional – where required
Lighting	Optional – as required to meet CPTED principles - key pedestrian linkages, shelters, toilet blocks and car parks not serviced by ambient light from adjacent roadways
Other	
see Appendix B – Table: 41 / DSS for open space in the SC Environment and Liveability Strategy 2017 (ELS)	

Landscape corridors – the buffer

Functional space guidelines for landscape corridors

- Park is appropriately sized to sustainably support mature trees while providing adequate buffers to adjoining properties.
- Park incorporates a planting style setting, that suits local landscape and character.
  - Natural vegetation is to be retained where appropriate.
- Stormwater management must not impact park function.
  - Where possible, stormwater treatment facilities should be integrated with planted areas.
- Must provide suitable maintenance access and fire break.

Figure 7: Indicative layout – Landscape corridors

Source: SC Environment and Liveability Strategy 2017

Table 7: Landscape corridors embellishment requirements

Type of embellishment	Landscape corridor requirement / number
Animals	
Dog off leash parks	No
Furniture	
Barbecues	No
Bicycle rails	No
Bins (waste)	No
Bins (recycle)	No
Drinking fountains	No
Taps – public access	No
Taps – maintenance	Optional – where required
Stand-alone seat / picnic table and bench	No
Showers	No
Barriers	
Bollards	Yes – along non-fenced perimeter boundaries. Trees and vegetation preferred
Fences and gates (vehicle access / pedestrian access)	No – fences Optional – vehicle access gate where required
Pedestrian infrastructure	
Internal path	No – sealed paths
Connection path	No – sealed path (link to external networks)
Planting	
Trees	Yes – native shade trees only
Natural shade coverage	N/A – no recreational activities provided
Landscape planting (garden beds, turf, re-vegetation)	Yes – planting style to suit local landscape and character
Community gardens	No

Type of embellishment	Landscape corridor requirement / number
Play, sport and activities	
Exercise equipment	No
Play spaces (playgrounds, natural activity areas)	No
Skate park	No
Informal sports and games (fields and courts, outdoor games, children's bicycle track)	No
Kick and throw area	No
Event spaces	No
Signs, art and memorials	
Signage	Optional – regulatory where required
Public art	No
Primary public access points	No
Structures and parking	
Parking (on-site)	No
Shade sails	No
Public amenities (toilets)	No
Shelters	No
Utilities and smart technology	
Irrigation	No
Serviced site	No
Lighting	No
Other	
see Appendix B – Table: 41 / DSS for open space in the SC Environment and Liveability Strategy 2017 (ELS)	

2.2 Catchments

Planning catchments

Due to the size and complexity of the Sunshine Coast's open space network, council has established a Network Blueprint, based on smaller geographic areas, which provides guidance for future planning and includes broad recommendations based on detailed assessments.

The RPP has been developed using the planning catchments from council's Network Blueprint, as described in the ELS. The Network Blueprint has been prepared based on three planning catchments:

- Council-wide – recreation parks, sports grounds, specific purpose sports, recreation trails and the inter and intra urban separation areas ('green spaces') that provide a range of diverse experiences for users from across the region.

- District – recreation parks, sports grounds and recreation trails that provide recreational opportunities at a district level. There are six districts that currently service 30,000 to 80,000 people each:

  – Urban A   – Urban D

  – Urban B   – Rural 1

  – Urban C   – Rural 2

- Local – recreation parks, recreation trails, linear parks and other open spaces that provide recreation opportunities and visual relief from the built form are planned for based on the 31 'Localities of Interest' (LOI) within the Sunshine Coast.

Additional information regarding planning catchments and an analysis on recreation activity shortfalls for each LOI, can be found in the RPP – Locality of Interest.

Mount Coolum

Planning districts

There are six planning districts that currently service 30,000 to 80,000 people each, with each district comprised of a number of 'Localities of Interest' (LOIs):

Urban A

- LOI 1 – Caloundra, Kings Beach, Moffat Beach, Shelley Beach
- LOI 2 – Currimundi, Aroona, Battery Hill, Dickey Beach
- LOI 3 – Little Mountain, Caloundra West, Meridan Plains, Bells Creek
- LOI 4 – Golden Beach
- LOI 5 – Pelican Waters.

Urban B

- LOI 6 – Wurtulla, Buddina and district
- LOI 7 – Mountain Creek.

Urban C

- LOI 8 – Maroochydore
- LOI 9 – Mooloolaba, Alexandra Headland
- LOI 10 – Buderim, Kuluin, Mons, Kunda Park
- LOI 11 – Sippy Downs, Palmview.

Urban D

- LOI 12 – Coolum Beach, Mount Coolum, Yaroomba, Point Arkwright
- LOI 13 – Marcoola, Twin Waters, Pacific Paradise, Mudjimba
- LOI 14 – Peregian Springs.

Rural 1

- LOI 15 – Beerwah
- LOI 16 – Glass House Mountains, Beerburrum, Coochin Creek, Bribie Island North
- LOI 17 – Landsborough, Mount Mellum
- LOI 18 – Peachester, Crohamhurst, Booroobin, Wootha
- LOI 19 – Mooloolah Valley, Diamond Valley, Balmoral, Ridge, Bald Knob
- LOI 20 – Maleny, Witta, North Maleny
- LOI 21 – Reesville, Curramore and district.

Rural 2

- LOI 22 - Nambour, Burnside and district
- LOI 23 – Woombye
- LOI 24 – Palmwoods, Chevallum, Montville, Hunchy
- LOI 25 – Ilkley, Eudlo and district
- LOI 26 – Mapleton, Flaxton, Obi Obi
- LOI 27 – Belli Park, Cooloolabin, Gheerulla, Coolabine, Kureelpa, Kiamba
- LOI 28 – Bli Bli, Rosemount and district
- LOI 29 – Yandina, Yandina Creek and district
- LOI 30 – Eumundi, Eerwah Vale, North Arm, Bridges
- LOI 31 – Doonan, Weyba Downs, Verrierdale.

It is anticipated that the number of district catchments will expand as emerging areas of the Sunshine Coast are developed, such as Caloundra South and Palmview.

Details of each LOI catchment, including function and activity provision, are in RPP – Locality of Interest.
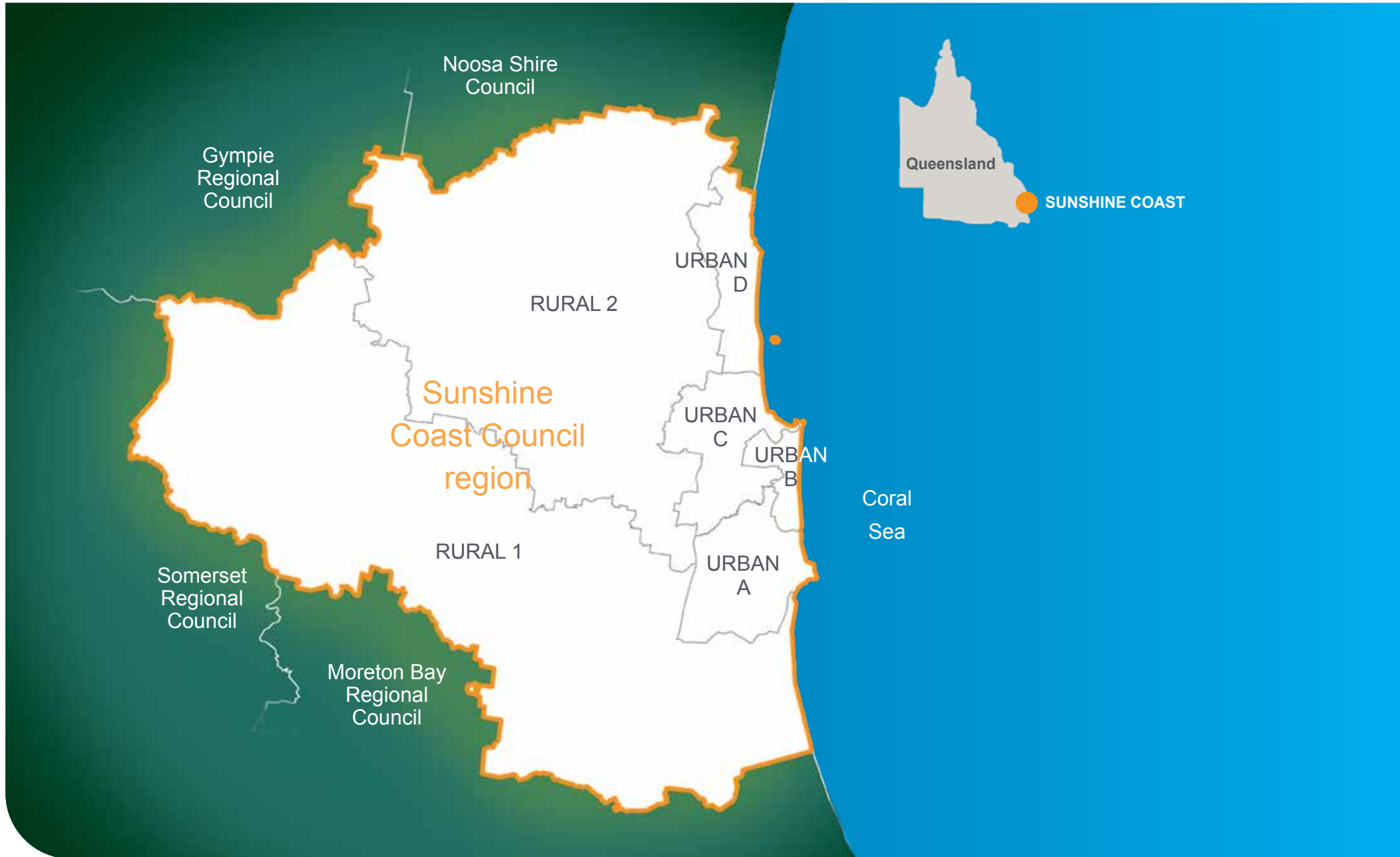
URBAN A – (1) Caloundra, (2) Currimundi, (3) Little Mountain, (4) Pelican Waters, (5) Golden Beach

URBAN B – (6) Wurtulla Buddina and district (7) Mountain Creek
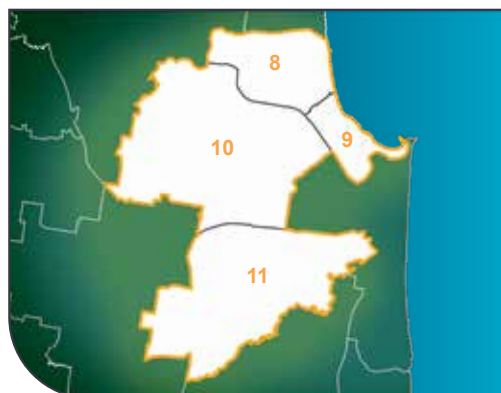
URBAN C – (8) Maroochydore, (9) Mooloolaba, (10) Buderim, (11 Sippy Downs
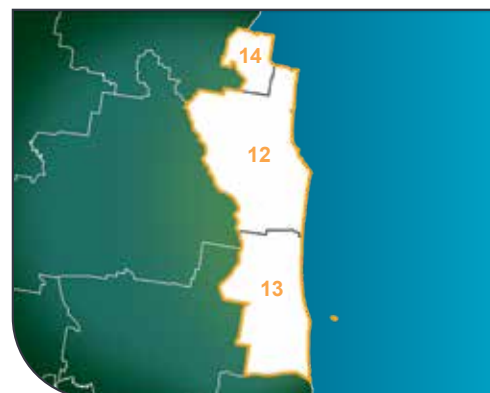
URBAN D – (12) Coolum Beach, (13) Marcoola, (14) Peregian
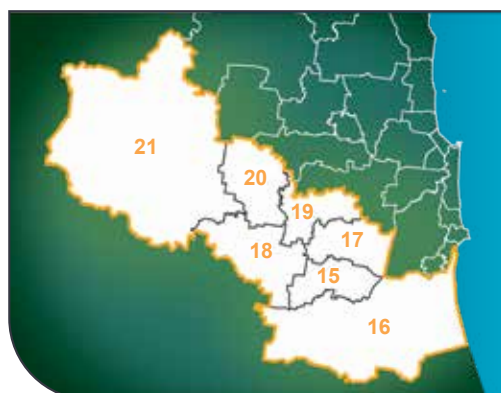
RURAL 1 – (15) Beerwah, (16) Glass House Mountains, (17) Landsborough, (18) Peachester, (19) Mooloolah Valley, (20) Maleny, (21) Reesville
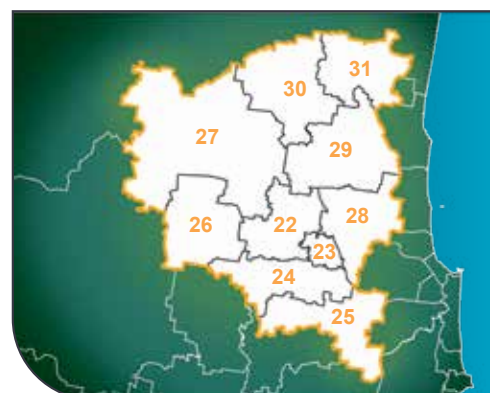
RURAL 2 – (22) Nambour, (23) Woombye, (24) Palmwoods, (25) Ilkley, (26) Mapleton, (27) Belli Park, (28) Bli Bli, (29) Yandina, (30) Eumundi, (31) Doonan

Chapter 3.0
Network feedback

3.1 What has the community told us?

Council is committed to understanding the recreational needs of our communities, as well as the types of experiences that our residents expect to enjoy across the Sunshine Coast recreation parks network. To better understand these needs and expectations, public feedback has been reviewed from several sources, from comments on region-wide strategic documents to detailed requests for additional council services. This feedback has provided insight into the performance of our parks network and assisted council to identify trends and future opportunities for parks activities.

Environment and Liveability Strategy (ELS) 2017

The community was invited to comment on the draft ELS and its proposed strategic directions in May and June 2017. The majority of respondents strongly supported the overall aims of the draft strategy. Comments identified specific issues relating to the management of population growth, keeping the positive aspects of the Sunshine Coast lifestyle and ensuring infrastructure keeps pace with growth and change.

Comments also related to the challenge of implementing and achieving the desired aspirations expressed in the strategy when confronted with the reality of balancing the pressures of development and retaining the Sunshine Coast lifestyle.

Bli Bli

The top five themes were:

- retaining the distinct character
- protecting natural assets
- finding the balance
- being sustainable
- community involvement.

2017 Yardstick park user surveys

In 2017 council participated in the Yardstick park user survey, a tool that shows how recreation parks meet user expectations. These surveys also measure the delivered level of service and identifies gaps in the service. The intercept-style surveys were undertaken in 13 council--wide and district recreation parks.

Overall, the reported satisfaction of users was very high. Over half of the locations scored a 100% rating, meaning respondents gave a "satisfied" or "very satisfied" response to the overall satisfaction question.

User behaviour

- About two thirds of the survey respondents reported staying in the park for a relatively long period of time, between 30 minutes and 2 hours. This response indicates that people invest in their destination park visits; that for destination park users it is an important part of their recreation.
- More than half of respondents had travelled to the park in their private vehicle and of the rest had walked, a few had cycled and one respondent used public transport.

User activities

General responses

- More than 50% of the survey respondents reported they were participating in passive recreation activities such as relaxing or supervising children in the park, with a roughly even distribution between these activities.
- The second most common activities were walking the dog and play activity, about 10% each.
- Picnic or barbecuing, passing through and sporting activity recorded around 5% each.
- Cycling was recorded as 1% of the activities.

People under 15

- The survey did not include anyone younger than 15, however participants were asked to report what they could observe of children's activities.
- The most common observation was play activity using facilities and/or playing with other children at just over 40%.
- Walking was 14%, the second most common activity.
- Sporting activity, cycling, beach activity and passing through were roughly equal at around 42%.
- Walking the dog and watching sports were the least common activities reported at just under 4% each.

User profile

- Age – Almost half of the respondents were between 30 and 44 years of age. People over 65 represented 10% of respondents and a small portion were under 24.
- Gender – More than half of respondents were women.
- Ethnicity – Almost 80% of people identified as Australian European, around 10% identified as Asian and 10% as "other".

- Catchment – Almost all respondents were from the local area or the region, only 10% said they were tourists and almost all tourists were Australian.
- Proximity – Local area respondents were evenly distributed in terms of travel time, between less than 5 minutes and up to 30 minutes.

Level of service

Survey respondents were asked to rate the importance of various features of the park and how satisfied they were with these, including:

- trees
- cleanliness
- playgrounds
- toilets (public amenities)
- seats and tables
- paths and tracks
- shade
- grass maintenance
- security
- car parking.

In terms of importance, trees scored highest, followed by cleanliness, playgrounds and toilets. The lowest scored by importance were grass maintenance, security and car parking.

Ranking satisfaction resulted in cleanliness, playgrounds and trees scoring highest. The lowest scores for satisfaction were car parking and toilets.

The largest gaps between high importance and lower satisfaction were reported for car parking, trees and toilets. The gap was very large for car parking in popular areas with surrounding attractions like beaches, shops and food outlets.

2018 Customer relationship management

Our customer relationship management (CRM) tool, also known as a 'request', is a way for the community or a visitor to contact council and ask a question, make a comment or provide feedback. This information is forwarded to relevant council staff for action or information. In the Parks and Gardens (P&G) branch of council, this allows staff to understand where action needs to be taken, for example, if there are fallen trees that need to be cleared, undesirable activities that need to be managed or where different levels of infrastructure are required.

Compliments of great service and presentation are often received and the P&G team have a record of receiving more compliments than complaints.

CRMs are an effective way for P&G to monitor customer satisfaction and emerging trends across the recreation parks network.

In 2018, 206 requests related to the provision of new parks infrastructure were lodged with council. The top ten most requested infrastructure or activity types are shown in Figure 8: Top ten most requested infrastructure or activity types.

Figure 8: Top ten most requested infrastructure or activity types

17% % of total requests
Dog related requests, including off-leash exercise areas

13% % of total requests
Bollards to prevent unauthorised vehicle access in parks

10% % of total requests
New playground equipment

10% % of total requests
Additional seating

10% % of total requests
Wayfinding and regulatory signage

7%
Additional pathways

7%
New shelters

5%
Shade related requests

5%
New exercise (fitness) equipment

3%
Additional drinking fountains

3.2 What have our internal stakeholders told us?

During August to October 2018, a series of internal engagement activities were conducted to identify issues or opportunities within council's parks network and to generate alternatives and further propositions that may be addressed in the RPP. Four workshops and 17 additional interviews were conducted to gather the perspectives and knowledge of a range of internal disciplines and to ensure alignment of the RPP with existing council strategies, plans and activities as well as those in development.

Five common themes emerged from the internal engagement activities.

Design

Internal stakeholders identified multiple design-related issues and opportunities across the network. Numerous comments were made regarding clutter and over-embellishment of infrastructure in certain parks.

Function

Park function was another key matter addressed by internal stakeholders. The need to plan for specific functions catering to under-served groups was a common response.

Education and engagement

The need to educate and involve members of the community in parks planning was identified by a number of internal stakeholders.

Events

While it was generally recognised that events are an important part of our community identity that need to be supported, it was stated that the frequency and intensity of certain events is causing significant maintenance issues in some recreation parks. The need to evenly distribute location and timing of events was a common response.

Visitation

Multiple internal stakeholders identified that some of our parks are being 'loved to death', particularly our coastal parks. The need to drive visitation towards our inland parks was a common response.
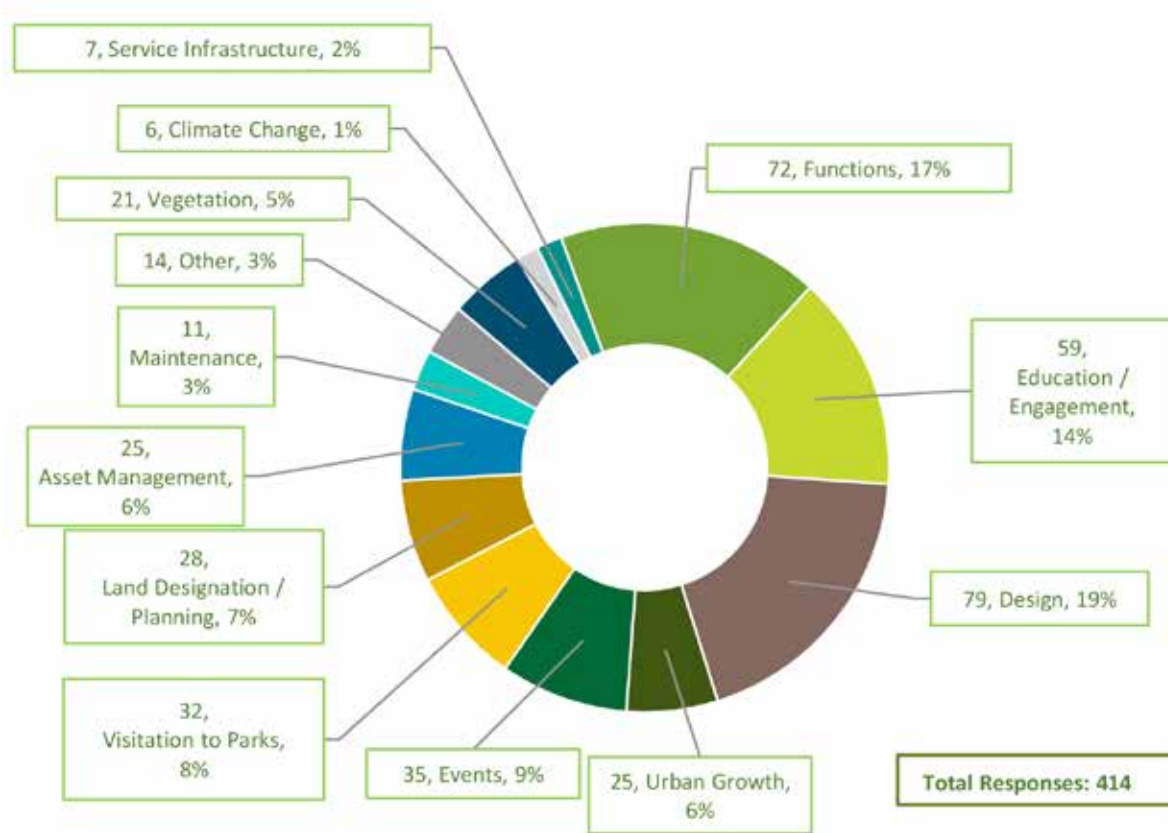
Figure 9: Common themes from internal consultation

3.3 Future engagement with the community

The feedback received from the community on the current performance of our recreation parks and the broader region has informed the goals, principles, activity plans and recommendations found in this plan.

Community input helps council:

* assess existing conditions
* consider current and future recreation needs
* understand the perspectives of people using our parks.

Council is committed to ensuring that park functions and activities are responsive to the evolving social, environmental, cultural and economic needs of the community. Community need is the basis for park activity and infrastructure, so it is vital that we engage in regular dialogue with the communities we serve.

Park activities and the infrastructure that supports these activities should enhance the sense of community ownership of a recreation park. Park infrastructure should reflect the character of the community and help to tell the story of place. To deliver infrastructure that genuinely achieves this we must ask people what makes their community unique.

Community consultation

In addition to recurring park user surveys, council will utilise emerging technological platforms to engage with community. These platforms will serve as a portal for two-way education and engagement between council and park users, allowing communities to educate us about what services they need and how to incorporate local character into the delivery of park infrastructure, while giving council the opportunity to give people updated park information.

Council is also exploring new citizen driven models for project delivery to allow residents to "get their hands dirty" and enjoy the planting and maintenance of park trees and plants. This will increase community pride and deliver enjoyment as people see community efforts blossom into something that adds value to their park.

Community consultation

Chapter 4.0
Activity and infrastructure planning

4.1 Park standards

Recreation park desired standards of service

Council's recreation park desired standards of service (DSS) have been developed to ensure recreation parks are delivered equitably across the region to meet community needs. The DSS incorporates the key planning principles and applies them to ensure the desired role and function of each park category can be achieved. Each category has its own unique characteristics, local character and topography which should be considered in every application of the DSS.

For further details refer to Appendix B:

- Table 40: Open space desired standards of service summary (ELS)
- Table 41: Recreation park, landscape areas, sports grounds and trail embellishments (ELS).

4.2 Activity planning

People visit parks for many reasons. Some people go to parks to exercise, others visit parks to relax and breathe the fresh air. Council is committed to ensuring that there are a range of activities available for all park visitors to enjoy in each Sunshine Coast locality.

The following section describes the most common park activities, why they are important, who we provide the activity spaces for and how we plan for the fair and equitable distribution of these activities across the recreation parks network. The activity plans incorporate the planning principles and assist in fulfilling network goals.

Eleanor Shipley Park, Moffat Beach

Play spaces

Dog exercise areas

Sports+games / Skate BMX

Exercise equipment areas

Picnic nodes

Kick and throw areas

Passive recreation

Community event spaces

Commercial activities

Public art
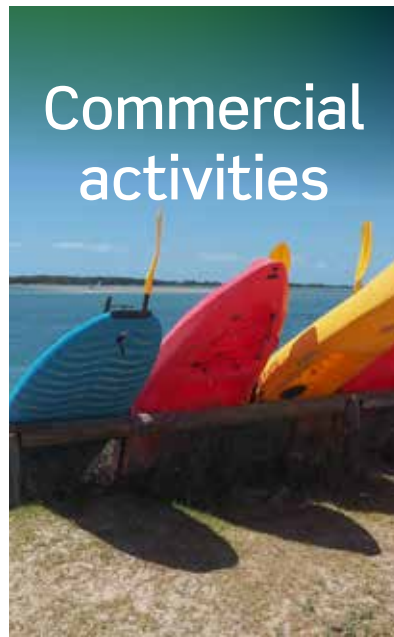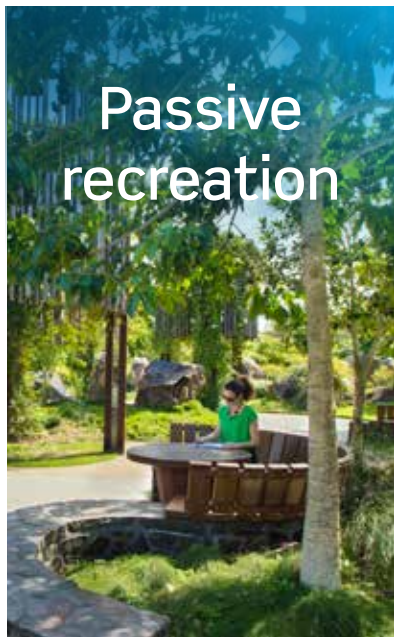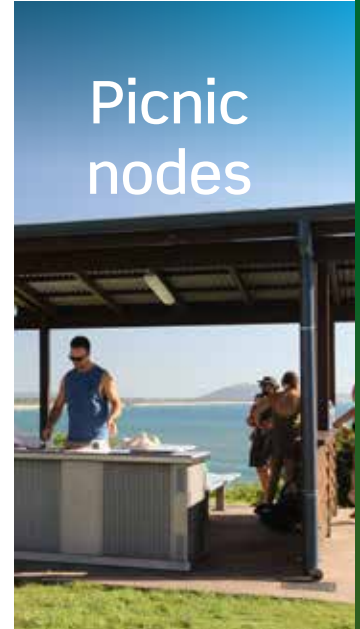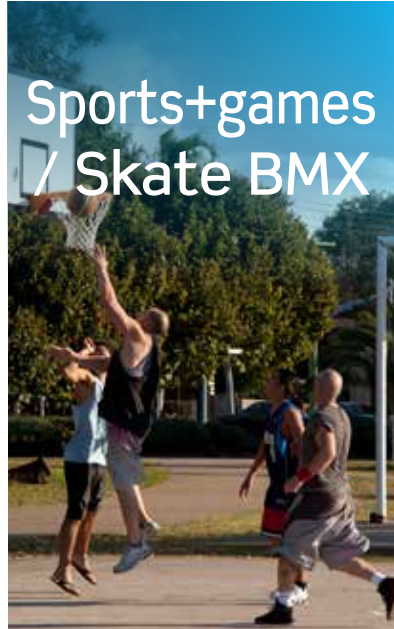
Dick Caplick Park, Eumundi

How does council determine community need and appropriate locations for park activities?

Following a community or councillor request, or as part of an investigation to offer new park activities, council goes through a series of steps to determine appropriate locations for park activities.

Step 1: Review park activity network mapping

- Identify proposed site in relation to existing park activities on the applicable park activity network map. Refer Chapter 4.0 maps and RPP – Technical Guidelines – District level Activity Provision maps.
  - If the proposed site is not currently serviced by a similar existing or future park activity, continue to step 2.
  - If the proposed site is within reasonable walking or driving distance of existing or future park activity, then the proposed site is not suitable.
    - Exception: If existing park activities nearby are at demonstrated capacity then an additional park activity in this locality may be considered.

Step 2: Demonstrated need

- In existing areas, assess current CRM data and other community input sources to determine volume of similar requests.
- For new growth areas, assess population projections for the locality to determine estimated need. Refer RPP – Locality of Interest.
  - The type of park activity provided should respond to the projected demographics of the area.

Step 3: Suitability of proposed site

- Review the proposal against ELS Open Space Policy positions and applicable recreation park category (refer RPP – Technical Guidelines – section 2.1).
- Review proposal against RPP planning principles:
  - Provision
    - Refer to step 1.
  - Community need
    - Refer to step 2.
  - Function
    - What is the current primary function of the park?
    - Is the open space already designated for an exclusive activity or shared uses?
    - Would the proposed park activity enhance or detract from existing park function?
    - Consider co-location opportunities and issues.
  - Landscape and character
    - Would the park activity fit with the landscape, local flora and fauna, and character of the community? For example, is it a rural or urban environment?
  - Connectivity
    - Is the site connected by any paths, trails or roads?
  - Accessibility
    - Is there suitable car parking?
    - Can users of diverse ages and abilities access the site?
    - Is the proposed activity non-exclusive in nature?
  - Openness
    - Would the park activity significantly impact the amount of open space?
    - Does it still leave room for kick and throw or are there existing kick and throw areas nearby?

- Does the activity affect the sense of openness in the park?

– Safety
- What are the potential visibility and CPTED issues?
- Is there sufficient tree and shade cover?

– Flexibility and adaptability
- If conditions or needs of the space change how easy is it to expand, reduce or remove the park activity from the site?
- Would an area with soft infrastructure or usable natural features satisfy the community need first?

• Other considerations
- Distance to adjacent residents or sensitive land uses.
- Land suitability including surfacing and drainage.
- Are there already suitable, supporting embellishments on site? Are there private commercial uses near by? Can this existing infrastructure e utilised for the proposed activity?
- Land tenure – is the land owned outright or is it held in trust? For community groups, temporary use of council land is preferred over permanent or exclusive use.
- Amount of available space.
- Future projects – are there future projects planned nearby or within the proposed site that would impact suitability?
- Expansion of an existing activity / use – why is the expansion required? Is the current space being utilised to its full extent?

• If certain criteria cannot be satisfied within step 3, continue to investigate alternative sites within locality.

- If no sites are suitable within locality, then consider upgrading next closest similar park activity.
- If multiple sites are suitable then select the most suitable based on future growth and other projects planned for the locality.

Step 4: Community consultation

• Consult community on likelihood of style of use.
• Questions may include, but are not limited to:
– Do you have children? How many and what ages?
– Are you currently visiting a similar, existing park activity? If so, where?
– Would you use this proposed site? And how often?
– Would you be going with or meeting family or friends there? And how often?
• Discuss results of consultation with management and councillors.
• Consider satisfactory and unsatisfactory responses.[27]
– If result is satisfactory to justify council action progress to step 5.
– If result is unsatisfactory consider putting the project on hold and waiting for further CRMs and evidence of community need/support to be received.

Step 5: Funding opportunity

• Confirm funding opportunities, based on generic figures, with councillors and management. Demonstrate evidence that steps 1 to 4 have been wholly or partially satisfied.
• A councillor may wish to partially fund the request through discretionary funding. The remaining amount may be included in the capital works budget.
– If some funding is committed, proceed to step 6.
– If no funding is committed:

- consider adding the request to the capital works program.
- flag the site as having the potential for a new park activity and advise relevant stakeholders that funding has not been committed at this time.

Step 6: Design and delivery

• If community consultation and funding are satisfied, the project can be designed by a landscape architect, referring to LIM standards and specification.

How do we ensure and measure success?

To ensure long-term sustainability of the park activities network, council undertakes the following actions:

Promotion

• Update council's website to make information on park activities clear and accessible, including improved online mapping.
• Work with stakeholders to ensure a whole-of-council approach to promotion.
• Use of council's media, including Facebook, Twitter and other digital media, to promote parks.

Measurement

• Counting users with a range of technologies.
• Conducting user satisfaction surveys as part of broader annual consultation.
• Monitor annual CRMs for new park activity, aiming for a reduction in requests.

Review

• Update park activity mapping on an annual basis.

Pioneer Park, Landsborough

Play spaces

Why are play spaces important?

Play spaces are areas in recreation parks where children, friends, families and carers can use built and natural infrastructure for play. Play allows children to learn, develop as individuals and become members of the community. Children are dependent on play to cultivate personal identity, self-respect, confidence and self-worth. Play also helps children to acquire important behavioural skills that are needed in social contexts later in life.

Play spaces also give users the opportunity for exploration and adventure which leads to a sense of excitement. This sense of excitement and adventure helps to strengthen the bond between people and place.

Who do we provide play spaces for?

Council provides play spaces for a range of user ages and abilities. Where possible, play spaces should be multi-generational to allow children of different ages and their carers to engage in physical activity in the same space. Provision of play spaces and their various elements should account for intended catchment demographics.

Council is committed to providing universal access to play spaces that can be enjoyed by people with diverse ability levels. Council currently provides a fully compliant all ability play space at Pioneer Park in Landsborough and several other recreation parks across the region.

The design of play spaces should encourage active participation and supervision by parents and carers. Seating, pathways and play equipment should be convenient, comfortable and accessible. The LIM provides detailed information on how to achieve this goal.

500 m

Local area activity

500 metres from most residences in urban areas, within rural township in rural areas (5 to 10 minute walk)

There should be one play space for every 2,500 to 5,000 people

What are the different types of play spaces that council provides?

The following play spaces categories are used by council:

- Toddlers to pre-schoolers – Ages 2 to 5 years.
  - Play focuses on the development of balance, creativity and social role play.
  - Equipment encourages verbal interaction and supports fine motor skills.

- School aged – Ages 6 to 12 years.
  - Children are testing the limits of their coordination and abilities and have developed most of their basic motor skills.
  - Equipment provides measurable challenges.
  - Spaces are provided for small group gatherings.

- Teenage – Ages 13+ years.
  - Have developed most of their basic motor skills and are confident with movement and creativity.
  - Equipment supports speed, endurance, strength and agility.
  - Spaces are provided for social interaction.

- All-abilities – Appeals to children of all ages.
  - Provides equal access elements, under-surfacing and facilities.

- Adults / seniors – Ages18 years +
  - Equipment is designed to increase senior fitness, which can also be used by young children and adults, encouraging multi-generational use.
  - Play experience is enhanced by providing equipment that can also be used by young children.

- Natural activity areas – All ages.
  - These areas incorporate natural play elements (not equipment) such as timber logs into a play space, either in a natural state or embellished with artistic carving, designs or unique works of art.

The LIM provides additional information these types of play spaces and how to deliver them.

How do we determine what the type of play spaces to provide?

The types of play spaces in a recreation park should reflect intended user demographics and needs. A range of play space elements should be provided in nodes to cover a diverse range of user needs. Community consultation is recommended to engage users and ensure the most suitable outcome. The number of play space elements should be consistent with park type, setting and intended user catchment.

What are the typical embellishments associated with play spaces?

The level of embellishment provision for each play space will be determined on a case by case basis. Site assessment will be required to assess local site conditions and each facility's requirement. Refer to Table 8: Play spaces, which provides core associated embellishments only. For a more comprehensive list, refer tables in Chapter 2.

Where do we currently provide play spaces?

Council provides 361 play spaces across the Sunshine Coast Council region. These activity areas are located in a range of settings, from urban areas to our rural hinterland. For details on locations of current play spaces refer to Map 1: Play spaces region wide and RPP – Locality of Interest – Activity Provisions.

Play spaces are considered a local level activity, meaning they serve a catchment area similar to our local parks, around 500 metres from most residences in urban areas and within a rural township in rural areas.

When do we provide new play spaces?

New play spaces can be created in two ways:

- as a developer contributed asset in a new growth area
- through the community and councillor request process, supported by a demonstrated need.

Table 8: Play spaces – location and associated embellishments

Type of activity	Detail	Recreation						Landscape
		Council-wide	District	Local	Civic	Amenity reserve	Linear	Landscape corridor
Play spaces	play equipment and surrounds	✓	✓	✓	*		*	
	size of a play space (minimum)	1,000m²	500m²	300m²	m² TBD		m² TBD	
Barriers	Fencing and pedestrian gates	*	*	*	*		*	
	Vehicle access gates	*	*	*	*		*	
Furniture	Barbecues	✓	✓				*	
	Bike racks and rails	✓	✓	*	✓		*	
	Bins (waste and recycle*)	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
	Drinking fountains	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
	Picnic tables and benches	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
	Stand-alone seats	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
	Taps – public access / Taps – maintenance	✓	✓	*	*		*	
Pedestrian infrastructure	Sealed paths and trails (internal)	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
	Sealed path / bikeway (link to external network)	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Planting	Garden edging	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
	Landscape planting (garden beds, turf)	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
	Shade trees	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Play, sport and activities	Play equipment / elements	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
	Surfacing (eg. rubber)	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
	Kick and throw	see Kick and Throw						
Signs	Naming, regulatory, instructional, wayfinding	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Structures and parking	On-site vehicle parking	✓	✓					
	Public amenities (toilets)	✓	✓		*			
	Shade sails	✓	✓	✓	*		*	
	Shelters	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	

Legend

✓ suitable

* suitable dependent on appropriate location

(hatched) not suitable

TBD to be determined according to site

* where serviceable

Additional guidance on appropriate infrastructure for various types of play environments (including natural activity areas and all-abilities play spaces) is provided in the LIM.

Provide adequate drainage.

CPTED principles must be applied.

Map 1

Play spaces region wide
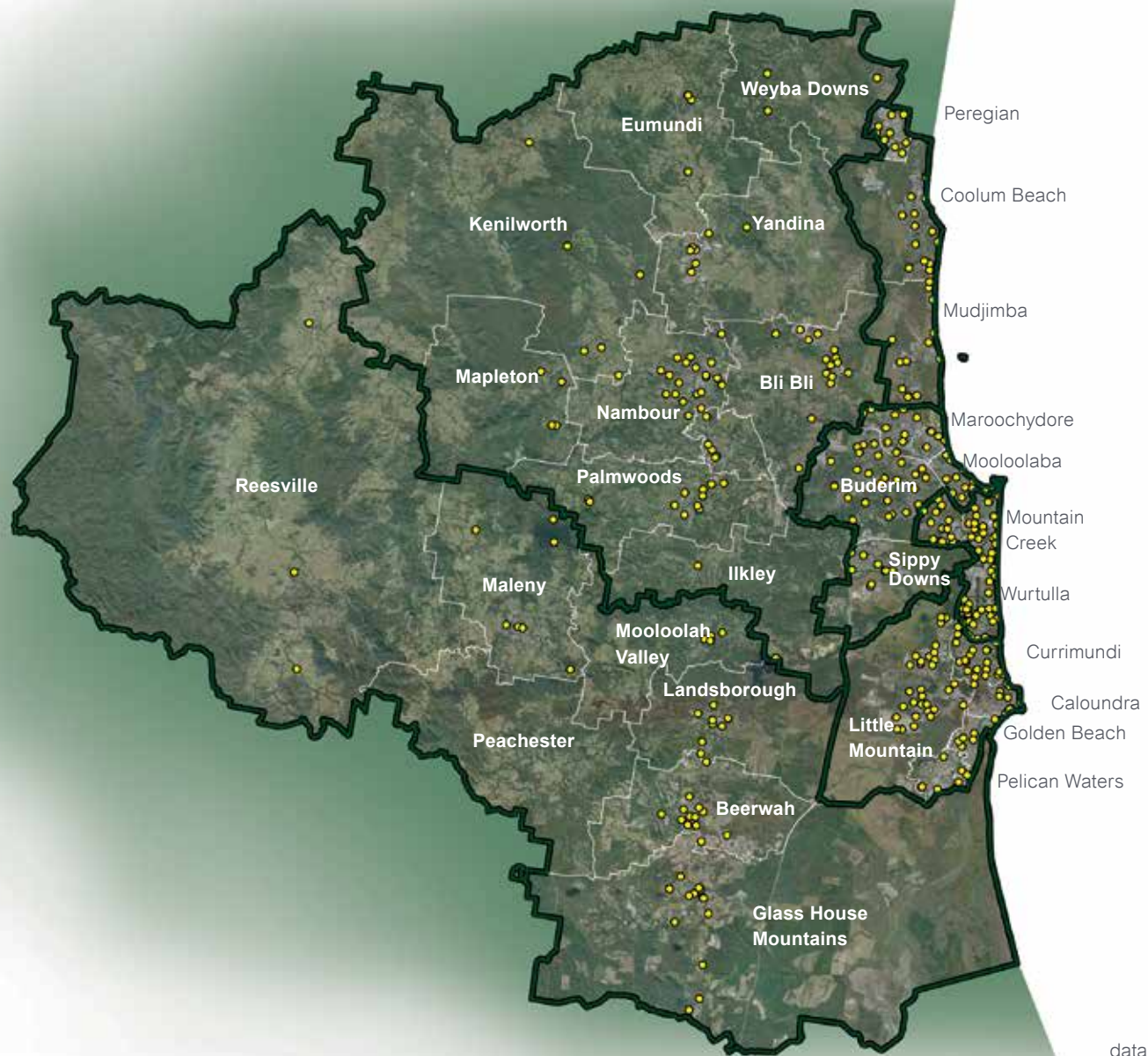
Legend

361 ⬤ Play spaces

◢ District locator

◢ Locality of interest locator

Peregian

Coolum Beach

Mudjimba

Maroochydore

Mooloolaba

Mountain Creek

Wurtulla

Currimundi

Caloundra

Golden Beach

Pelican Waters

Weyba Downs

Eumundi

Yandina

Kenilworth

Bli Bli

Mapleton

Nambour

Buderim

Palmwoods

Reesville

Sippy Downs

Ilkley

Maleny

Mooloolah Valley

Landsborough

Little Mountain

Peachester

Beerwah

Glass House Mountains

N

0 2 4 8 12 16
Kilometers

data current as at 2016

Dog exercise areas (DEAs)
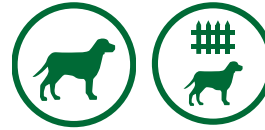
Why are dog exercise areas important?

Dog exercise areas (DEAs) are activity spaces provided by councils that promote social and physical health for dogs and their owners. New DEAs were the most commonly requested park activity by Sunshine Coast residents in 2018 (Figure 8: Top ten most requested infrastructure or activity types). As the population of the SCC region grows and the movement towards smaller lot sizes with reduced private open space continues, the demand for public DEAs is likely to increase.

DEAs provide a number of benefits to the community, including:

- opportunities to practice responsible pet ownership
- promotion of increased physical activity and social interaction of dogs and their owners
- enjoyment to onlookers
- provision of safe and responsible areas for dogs and their owners.
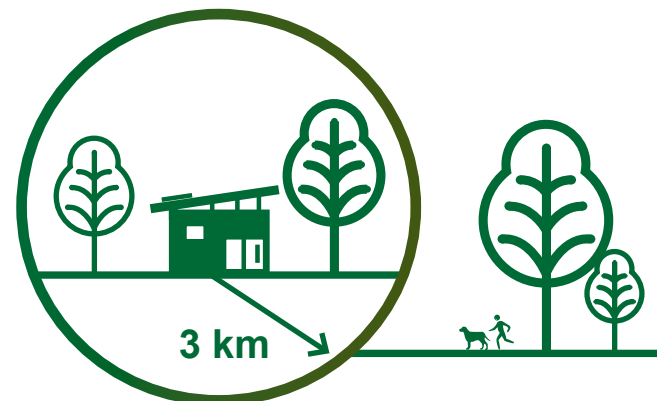
Who do we provide dog exercise areas for?

Council provides DEAs for current and future Sunshine Coast dog owners and visitors to the region who want a safe and responsible place to exercise their dog.

DEAs also provide an important community service to non-owners by allocating designated areas, away from non-compatible uses, for dog exercise. This allows enjoyment of other park functions and activities free from potential negative impacts associated with off-leash dogs. Unfenced DEAs also allow for multi-functionality of a space by avoiding the use of infrastructure that would otherwise limit the uses in a particular space.

3 km

District level activity

3 kilometres from most residences in urban areas, within a rural township in rural areas (average a 30 minute walk, 20 minute cycle or 10 minute drive)

There should be one dog park for every 5,000 to 10,000 people

What are the different types of dog exercise areas that council provides?

Council is committed to the promotion of proactive animal management and responsible pet ownership through the Management Plan for Domestic Animals (Cats and Dogs) 2021 - 2030 and the Sunshine Coast Regional Council Subordinate Local Law No. 2 (Animal Management) 2011. [2] [3] These rules designate six different types of areas specific to dogs in parks, reserves, beaches and foreshores. They are:

- dog on-leash areas
- dog off-leash at all times (fenced and unfenced)
- dog off-leash at designated times
- specific prohibited areas
- prohibited areas.

Dog owners may take their dog on a leash to most park areas unless it is signed as a prohibited dog area.** Council also provides a number of designated and signed dog off-leash areas in recreation parks, reserves and on beaches and foreshores. These areas are sometimes restricted to specific hours of the day.

Regardless of the type of DEA, owners must comply with the relevant local law and ensure that their dogs are under effective control at all times and do not impact on other park or beach users and activities. All dogs must be registered with council.

Sports fields are not dog off-leash areas. Outside of training and competition times dogs are generally allowed on sports fields while on a leash, however local clubs have the right to ban dogs from their fields. Local law requirements apply.

What are the typical embellishments associated with dog exercise areas?

The level of embellishment in each dog exercise area will be determined on a case by case basis. Site assessment will be required to understand local site conditions and facility requirements.

Typical embellishments for dog exercise areas are shown in Table 9 and 10: Dog exercise areas, which provides core associated embellishments only. For a more comprehensive list, refer tables in Chapter 2.

Additional details on embellishment standards for DEAs can be found in council's LIM. The LIM provides specific guidance on the types of embellishments used for a particular park activity. Once an appropriate location for a DEA is confirmed using the RPP planning principles (section 1.1 of this document), the LIM must be consulted in the design and delivery processes.

Where do we currently provide DEAs?

Council provides over 50 DEAs across the SCC region. These activity areas are located in a range of settings, from fenced DEAs in urban areas to designated sections of coastal beaches.

DEAs are considered a district level activity, meaning that they serve a catchment area similar to our district parks: 3 kilometres from most residences in urban areas, averaging a 30 minute walk or 10 minute drive. There should be one dog park for every 5,000 to 10,000 people.

For more details on name and location of existing dog exercise areas, refer to RPP – Locality of Interest.

When do we provide new dog exercise areas?

New DEAs can be created in two ways:

- as a developer contributed asset in a new growth area
- through the community and councillor request process, supported by a demonstrated need.

Table 9: Dog exercise areas – location

Type of embellishment	Detail	Recreation						Landscape
		Council-wide	District	Local	Civic	Amenity reserve	Linear	Landscape corridor
Dog off leash park	Fenced (DEA) Size (ideal size)	✓ 2,000m²+	✓ 2,000m²+	*	(not suitable)	(not suitable)	*	(not suitable)
	Unfenced (DEA) Size (ideal size)	* 2,000m²+	* 2,000m²+	* m² TBD	(not suitable)	* m² TBD	* m² TBD	(not suitable)
Dog on leash areas	Transition park to on/off leash beach DEA	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
	All parks unless signed otherwise	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Legend
- ✓ suitable
- * suitable dependent on appropriate location
- (hatched) not suitable
- TBD to be determined according to site

Guidance on appropriate infrastructure for various types of dog exercise areas is provided in the RPP Technical Guidelines and the LIM.
** Subordinate Local Law No.2 (Animal Management) states that all animals are banned from any park or reserve that adjoins a part of the foreshore or seashore, unless a sign permits them.

Table 10: Dog exercise areas – associated embellishments

Associated embellishment	Detail	Fenced	Unfenced	Transition park to on/off leash beach
Animals (dog infrastructure)	Dog bowl and tap (Tap – public use)	✓	✓	✓
	Dog agility equipment	✓	*	(not suitable)
Barriers	Fencing and pedestrian gates	✓	(not suitable)	(not suitable)
	Vehicle access gates	✓	*	(not suitable)
Furniture	Bike racks and rails	✓	✓	(not suitable)
	Bins (waste and recycle*)	✓	✓	✓
	Stand-alone seats	✓	✓	(not suitable)
	Tap – maintenance	*	*	(not suitable)
Pedestrian infrastructure	Sealed paths and trails (internal)	✓	*	(not suitable)
	Sealed path / bikeway (link to external network)	✓	✓	(not suitable)
Planting	Garden edging	✓	✓	(not suitable)
	Landscape planting – garden beds	✓	✓	(not suitable)
	Landscape planting – turf	✓	✓	(not suitable)
	Shade trees	✓	✓	(not suitable)
Signs	Naming, regulatory, instructional	✓	✓	✓
Structures and parking	On-site vehicle parking (CW, District)	✓	✓	✓
	Shelter	✓	*	(not suitable)

* where serviceable

Additional guidance on appropriate infrastructure for various types of dog exercise areas is provided in the LIM.

Provide adequate drainage.

CPTED principles must be applied.
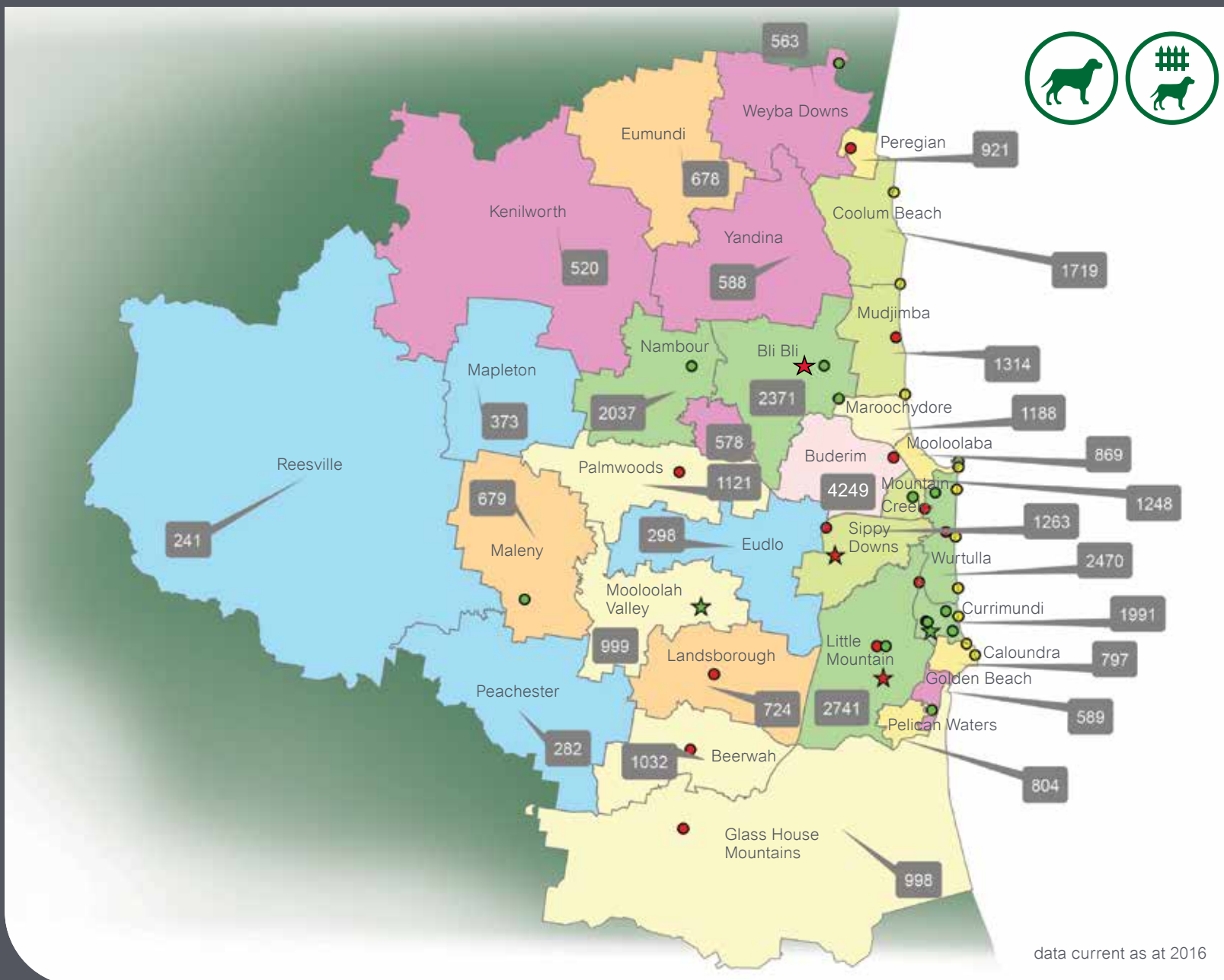
Map 2

Dog exercise area types / registered dog numbers

Legend

Dog exercise areas (type)

10	🟡	Beach
13	🔴	Fenced
2	⭐	Proposed - Fenced
2	⭐	Proposed - unfenced
13	🟢	Unfenced

Registered dogs

241 - 373	(blue)
374 - 589	(pink)
590 - 724	(orange)
725 - 921	(yellow)
922 - 1188	(pale yellow)
1189 - 1719	(light green)
1720 - 2741	(green)
2742 - 4249	(pale pink)

N

0 2 4 8 12 16
Kilometers

Map labels: Weyba Downs 563, Peregian 921, Eumundi 678, Coolum Beach, Kenilworth, Yandina 588, 520, 1719, Mudjimba, Nambour, Bli Bli, Mapleton, 1314, 373, 2037, Maroochydore 1188, Reesville, 578, Mooloolaba 869, 241, Palmwoods, Buderim, 1121, Mountain Creek, 4249, 1248, 679, 298, Eudlo, Sippy Downs, 1263, Maleny, Wurtulla, 2470, Mooloolah Valley, Currimundi 1991, 999, Little Mountain, Caloundra 797, Landsborough, Golden Beach, Peachester, 724, 2741, Pelican Waters, 282, 1032, Beerwah, 589, Glass House Mountains, 804, 998, 1991

data current as at 2016

DesScanlon Park, Maroochydore

Sports and games – basketball, netball, cricket

Why are sports and game facilities important?

Sports and games facilities are designated activity spaces for informal field and court games that require hard surfacing and specialised infrastructure. On the Sunshine Coast these games and sports include basketball, netball, and cricket as well as pavement games such as hopscotch, handball and other sports that utilise a rebound wall.

Sports and games facilities provide opportunities for individuals or small groups to engage in healthy, physical activity in an outdoor setting. They offer social engagement opportunities for a wide range of user ages and abilities. Informal sports and game facilities also allow users to develop skills that may be used in formal sporting activities.

When do we provide new sports and games facilities?

New Sports and games facilities are provided in one of two ways, either as a developer contributed asset in a new growth area, or through the community / councillor request process supported by a demonstrated need.

Who do we provide sports and games facilities for?

Council provides Sports and games facilities for all ages and abilities. They provide an important community function for children and young adults who may have outgrown traditional playground equipment and are looking for park activities that suit their physical activity needs.

3 km

District level activity

3 kilometres from most residences in urban areas, within a rural township in rural areas (average a 30 minute walk, 20 minute cycle or 10 minute drive)

There should be one hard court for every 5,000 to 10,000 people

What are the different types of sports and games facilities that council provides?

Council provides the following types of sports and games facilities:

- Court – basketball and netball (full and half-court)
- Multi-purpose courts (basketball, soccer, tennis in one court)
- Field – cricket
- Pavement – hopscotch, handball, rebound walls.

How do we determine the appropriate type and number of sports and game facilities to provide?

The types of sports and games facilities used in a park should reflect intended user demographics and needs. Multi-purpose courts should be utilised in council-wide parks to efficiently cover a diverse range of user needs in a single space when feasible. Community consultation is recommended to engage users and ensure the most suitable outcomes.

The number of sports and games facility elements in a single park should be consistent with park type, setting, and intended user catchment.

What are the typical embellishments associated with sports and games facilities?

The level of embellishment for sports and games facilities are determined on a case by case basis. Site assessment will be required to understand local site conditions and facility requirements.

To ensure optimal utilisation of sports and games facilities, shade (preferably natural) should be provided with particular attention paid to northern and western sun exposure. A qualified arborist should be consulted to ensure the appropriate type of shade trees are utilised to avoid safety and maintenance concerns.

The LIM provides detailed guidance on the design and construction of sports and game facilities and is to be used with Table 11 and 12: Sports and games, which provides core associated embellishments only. For a more comprehensive list, refer tables in Chapter 2.

Where do we currently provide sports and games facilities?

Sports and games facilities may be provided in council-wide, district, local, civic and linear recreation parks. Council currently provides 69 basketball / netball courts, 21 cricket pitches and 3 rebound walls across the Sunshine Coast Council region. These activity areas are located in a range of settings. Refer to the Sports and games network Map 3: Sports and games and skate and BMX parks.

For more details on name and location of existing sports and game facilities, refer to RPP – Locality of Interest.

Sports and games facilities are considered a district level activity, meaning that they serve a catchment area similar to our district parks (3 km from most residences in urban areas, 30 minute walk or 10 minute drive).

Table 11: Sports and games – location and associated embellishments

Type of embellishment (informal)		Detail	Recreation						Landscape
			Council-wide	District	Local	Civic	Amenity reserve	Linear	Landscape corridor
Fields	Multi-goalpost (rugby, soccer, AFL, etc)	Mod field + multi-goalpost	✓	✓					
	Cricket	Mod field + cricket pitch	✓	✓					
Hard courts	Basketball / netball	Half court	✓	✓	✓			*	
		Full court (mod)	✓						
	Multi-goal system (soccer, basketball, netball. etc)	Half / full court (mod)	✓	✓	*			*	
	Multi-sport courts	Multiple courts	✓						
Games	Rebound wall	–	✓	✓	*			*	
	Table tennis, board games, pavement games	–	✓	✓	*	*		*	
	Bicycle education track	–	✓	✓					

Legend

✓ suitable

* suitable dependent on appropriate location

(hatched) not suitable

TBD to be determined according to site

Additional guidance on appropriate infrastructure for various types of sports and games environments is provided in the LIM.

Table 12: Sports and games – associated embellishments

Provide adequate drainage. CPTED principles must be applied.

Associated embellishment	Detail	Multi-goalpost	Cricket	Basketball / netball	Multi-goal system	Multi-sport courts	Rebound wall	Table tennis, pavmt game	Bike ed track
Furniture	Bike racks and rails (CW, District, Civic) (* Local, Linear)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Bins (waste and recycling*)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Drinking fountains			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Stand-alone seats			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Planting	Landscape planting – garden beds	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Landscape planting – turf areas	✓	✓						
	Shade trees	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Sports and games	Surfacing – concrete		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Line marking			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
	Goalposts (football, netball/basketball, multi)	✓	*	✓	✓	✓	*	*	*
Signs	Regulatory, instructional, wayfinding	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Structures and parking	On-site vehicle parking (CW, District)	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

DesScanlon Park, Maroochydore

Skate and BMX parks

Why are skate and BMX important?

Skate and BMX (bicycle motocross) facilities are particularly important as places for residents and visitors to increase physical activity, enhance coordination and interact with peers in a positive way.

Like hard courts, skate and BMX facilities within recreation parks provide healthy recreation and social interaction opportunities for users who may have outgrown traditional playground equipment and are looking for park activities that suit their physical activity needs. These types of activities are an essential part of multi-generational park design.

When do we provide new skate and BMX parks?

New skate and BMX facilities are provided in accordance with the recommendations set out in the council's Skate and BMX Plan 2011 – 2021 August 2017. [4]

Who do we provide skate and BMX parks for?

According to the Skate and BMX Plan the main age range of people who use skate and BMX facilities is designed for users over the age of 8 years. The rate of use slowly declines between the ages of 16 to 24 years. However, consultation and background research also indicated a broad range of users up to 50 years of age, resulting in a multi-generational use of these facilities. Council has recognised that facilities must be designed to accommodate and integrate a number of styles and user groups.

What are the different types of skate and BMX facilities that council provides?

The Skate and BMX Plan has divided facilities into five categories, four of which may be located in district and council-wide recreation parks. Refer to Table 13: Skate and BMX facilities – Function and benefits for facility type and Table 14: Skate and BMX facility breakdown for details.

varies

Catchment varies by facility type (see Skate and BMX for more details)

Refer SC Skate and BMX Plan

Quota Park, Nambour

How do we determine what the type and number of skate / BMX parks to provide?

The Skate and BMX Plan sets out catchment and provision standards that have been developed to reflect demands, industry trends and levels of accessibility / service expected by the community. This approach is recommended as a guide for measuring the adequacy of the provision of skate and BMX facilities across the Sunshine Coast region.

What are the typical embellishments associated with skate and BMX parks?

The level of embellishment in each skate and BMX facility will be determined on a case by case basis. Site assessment will be required to understand local site conditions and facility requirements. Refer to Table 15: Skate and BMX facility, which provides core associated embellishments only. For a more comprehensive list, refer tables in Chapter 2.

Where do we currently provide skate and BMX?

Council provides 28 concrete skate and BMX facilities in SCC district and council-wide recreation parks. Refer to Map 3: Hard courts and skate and BMX parks. The Skate and BMX Plan also provides details on the location, size, style, features and other useful information for each facility.

For more details on name and location of existing skate and BMX facilities, refer to RPP – Locality of Interest.

Table 13: Skate and BMX facilities – Function and benefits for facility type

Facility type	Sub-type	Function / user benefit
Council-wide	Iconic skate and BMX facility	A precinct of a very high standard accommodating skate, BMX and scooters, using the latest design trends and has potential to attract participants from outside the region to host national and international events
Major	Major skate and BMX facility	A facility capable of attracting a diverse range of user groups catering for all skill levels. Would also feature ancillary elements for other community groups. Major facilities will draw a large number of users from a wide radius and will be required to be of high standard
District	District skate and BMX facility	A size and location which services a whole district and caters for beginner to intermediate skill levels
Local	Local skate and BMX facility	Servicing the immediate and surrounding local catchment population, this facility caters for beginner to intermediate users providing a moderate level of challenge

(Source: Sunshine Coast Skate and BMX Plan 2011 – 2021 August 2017.)

Table 14: Skate and BMX facility breakdown for details

Facility type	Facility style / elements	Facility examples		Population catchment	Activity floor area
Council-wide	Providing for and meeting council-wide demands. This facility can provide for a combination of styles and skill levels and should incorporate other community opportunities	**One facility is recommended council-wide**		**N/A**	**Approx. 2500 - 5000m²**
Major	Providing for a higher number of users than a district or local facility. This facility provides a combination of various styles including bowl/ pool, half pipes, street/ skate plaza, etc	**Current coastal examples include:** • Alexandra Headland • Caloundra	**Hinterland is located in:** • Beerwah • Nambour	**Approx. 1:7500 people**	**Approx. 1000 - 2500m²**
District	Providing for a higher number of users than a local level facility. These facilities cater for between two to four skate and BMX facility styles: bowl/pool, half pipe, street, etc	**Current urban coastal examples include:** • Coolum Beach • Dicky Beach	• Kawana	**Approx. 1:5000 people**	**Approx. 500 - 1000m²**
Local	Primarily catering for one to two style or street transitions. However, if space and budget permits, can include a combination of styles, including hip, spine, wall-ride, ski-jump and quarter pipe.	**Current examples include:** • Bli Bli • Eumundi • Little Mountain	• Mudjimba • Palmwoods	**Approx. 1:2500 people**	**Up to 500m2 min**

(Source: Sunshine Coast Skate and BMX Plan 2011 – 2021 August 2017.)

Table 14: Skate and BMX parks – location and associated embellishments

Type of embellishment	Detail	Recreation						Landscape
		Council-wide (incl Major**)	District (incl Local***)	Local	Civic	Amenity reserve	Linear	Landscape corridor
Skate parks	Skate and BMX park	*	*					
Skate parks	Size (minimum)	1,000 - 5,000m²	500m² - 1,000m²					
Barriers	Vehicle access gates	✓	✓					
Furniture	Bike racks and rails	✓	✓					
Furniture	Bins (waste and recycled*)	✓	✓					
Furniture	Drinking fountains	✓	✓					
Furniture	Stand-alone seats	✓	✓					
Pedestrian infrastructure	Sealed path / bikeway (link to external network)	✓	✓					
Planting	Garden edging	✓	✓					
Planting	Landscape planting (garden beds, turf)	✓	✓					
Planting	Shade trees	✓	✓					
Play, sport and activities	Skate park elements	✓	✓					
Play, sport and activities	Surfacing (concrete)	✓	✓					
Signs and art	Signage – naming, regulatory, wayfinding	✓	✓					
Signs and art	Public art – placement consideration	*	*					
Structures and parking	On-site vehicle parking	*	*					
Structures and parking	Public amenities	✓	✓					
Structures and parking	Shade sails	✓	✓					
Structures and parking	Shelters	✓	✓					
Utilities and smart technology	General lighting	✓						
Utilities and smart technology	Security lighting	✓	✓					
Utilities and smart technology	3-phase power	✓						

Legend

✓ suitable

* suitable dependent on appropriate location

(hatched) not suitable

** SC Skate and BMX plan reference

* where serviceable

Additional guidance on appropriate infrastructure for various types of skate and BMX parks is provided in the LIM.

Note:
** Major facilities are to be located in Council-wide parks.

***District/Local facilities are to be located in District parks.

Provide adequate drainage.

CPTED principles must be applied.
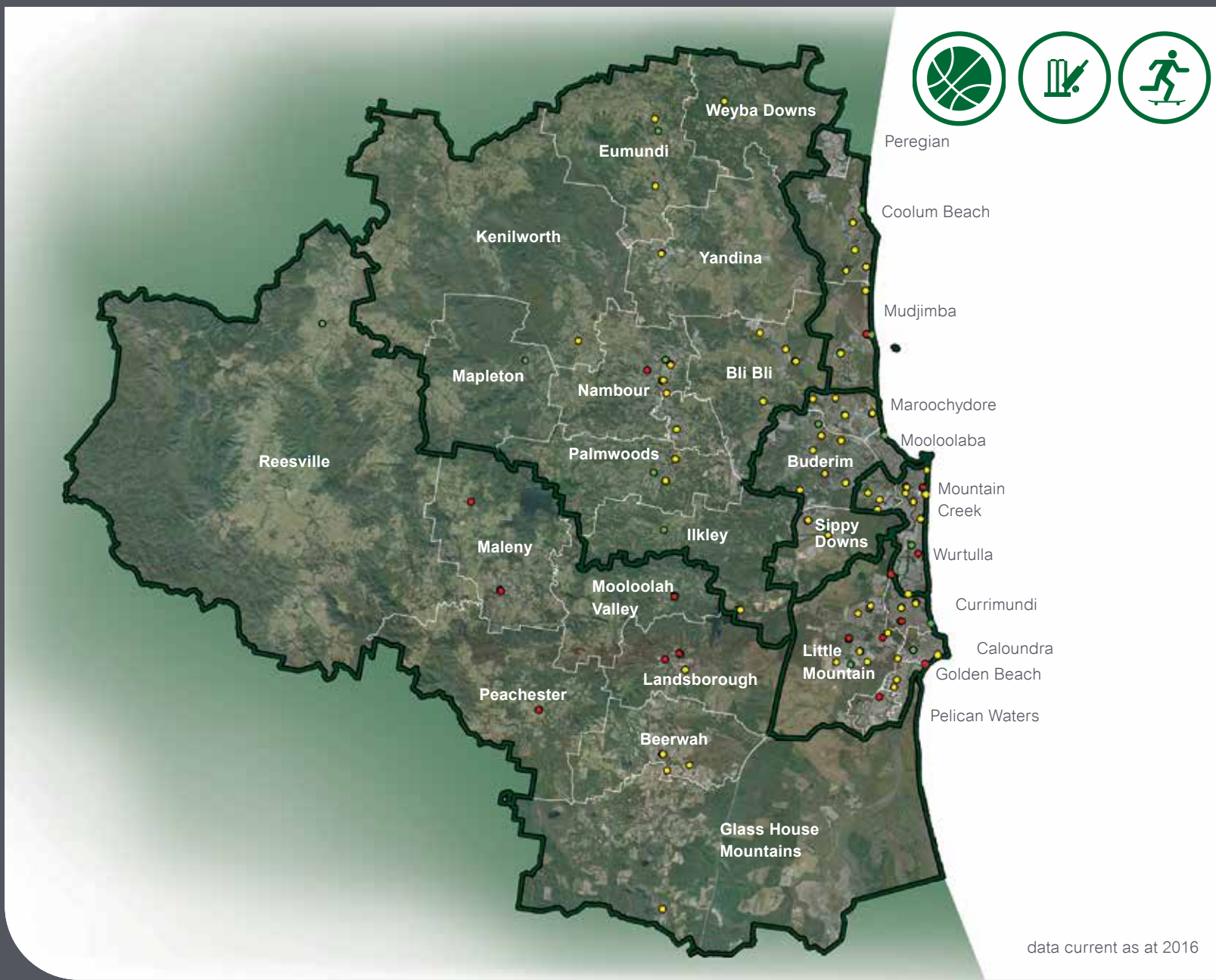
Map 3

Sports and games / skate / BMX park

Legend

69 ⬤ Basketball court
21 ⬤ Cricket pitch
28 ⬤ Skate / BMX park
    District locator
    Locality of interest locator

data current as at 2016

N

0 2 4 8 12 16
Kilometers
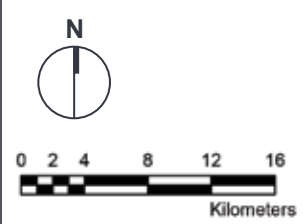
Exercise equipment areas

Why are exercise equipment areas important?

Exercise equipment areas provide active recreation opportunities in a comfortable outdoor setting. These spaces are designed for regular exercise and provide a free alternative to commercial fitness gymnasiums.

Who do we provide exercise equipment areas for?

Council provides exercise equipment areas for a range of user ages and abilities. Provision of exercise equipment should take into account intended catchment demographics and equipment should be multi-generational where possible. Universal access should be provided to all exercise equipment.

What are the different types of exercise equipment that council provides?

Council provides two different categories of exercise equipment. Static equipment has no moving parts and includes elements such as pull-up bars and sit-up benches. Kinetic equipment includes moving parts and elements like stationary bicycles and resistance training machines.

How do we determine what the type and number of exercise equipment to provide?

The types of exercise equipment used in a park should reflect intended user demographics and needs. When possible, a combination of static and kinetic exercise equipment should be provided to offer people varied experiences. Community consultation is recommended to engage users and ensure the most suitable outcomes.

The number of exercise equipment elements should be consistent with park type, setting and the size of the intended user catchment.

District level activity

3 kilometres from most residences in urban areas, within a rural township in rural areas (average a 30 minute walk, 20 minute cycle or 10 minute drive)

There should be one exercise equipment area for every 5,000 to 10,000 people

3 km

What are the typical embellishments associated with exercise equipment areas?

The level of embellishment for each exercise equipment area will be determined on a case by case basis. Site assessment will be required to understand local site conditions and facility requirements.

To ensure optimal utilisation of exercise equipment, shade (preferably natural) should be provided, with particular attention paid to northern and western sun exposure.

The LIM provides detailed guidance on the design and construction of exercise equipment and associated embellishments listed below.

Refer to Table 16: Exercise equipment areas, which provides core associated embellishments only. For a more comprehensive list, refer tables in Chapter 2.

Where do we currently provide exercise equipment areas?

Exercise equipment areas are provided in council-wide, district, local and linear recreation parks. Council provides 50 exercise equipment areas across the SCC region. These activity areas are located in a range of settings, shown in Map 4: Exercise equipment areas.

For more details on name and location of existing exercise equipment areas, refer to RPP – Locality of Interest.

Exercise equipment areas are considered a district level activity, meaning that they serve a catchment area similar to our district parks, 3 kilometres from most residences in urban areas, averaging a 30 minute walk or 10 minute drive.

When do we provide new exercise equipment areas?

New exercise equipment can be provided in two ways:

- as a developer contributed asset in a new growth area
- through the community and councillor request process, supported by a demonstrated need.

Table 16: Exercise equipment areas – location and associated embellishments

Type of embellishment	Detail	Recreation						Landscape
		Council-wide	District	Local	Civic	Amenity reserve	Linear	Landscape corridor
Exercise equipment	Nodes / areas	✓	✓	*			*	
Furniture	Drinking fountain	*	*	*			*	
Furniture	Stand-alone seats	✓	✓	*			*	
Pedestrian infrastructure	Sealed path / bikeway (link to external network)	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Planting	Garden edging	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Planting	Landscape planting (garden beds, turf)	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Planting	Shade trees	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Play, sports and activities	Exercise equipment / elements	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Play, sports and activities	Surface (concrete, rubber)	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Signs	Naming, regulatory, instructional, wayfinding	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Structures and parking	On-site vehicle parking	✓	✓				✓	
Structures and parking	Shade sails	*	*	*			*	
Structures and parking	Shelters	*	*	*			*	

Legend
✓ suitable
* suitable dependent on appropriate location
(hatched) not suitable

Additional guidance on appropriate infrastructure for various types of exercise equipment is provided in the LIM.

Provide adequate drainage.

CPTED principles must be applied.

Map 4

Exercise equipment areas

Weyba Downs
Peregian
Eumundi
Coolum Beach
Kenilworth
Yandina
Mudjimba
Mapleton
Bli Bli
Nambour
Maroochydore
Mooloolaba
Reesville
Buderim
Mountain Creek
Palmwoods
Ilkley
Sippy Downs
Wurtulla
Maleny
Mooloolah Valley
Currimundi
Landsborough
Little Mountain
Caloundra
Peachester
Golden Beach
Pelican Waters
Beerwah
Glass House Mountains

Legend

50 ⬤ Exercise equipment areas

District locator

Locality of interest locator

N

0 2 4 8 12 16
Kilometers
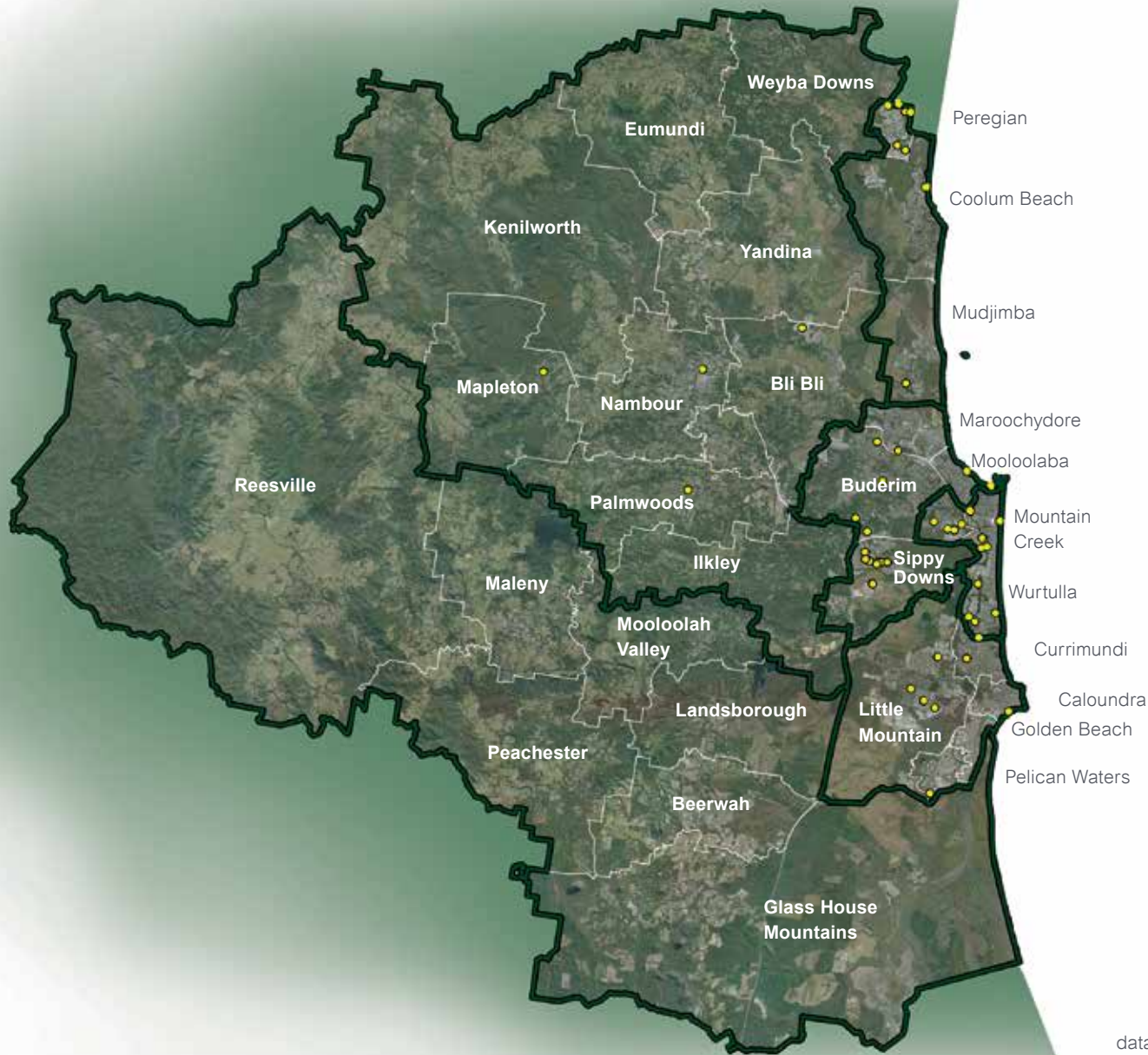
data current as at 2016

Picnic nodes

Why are picnic nodes important?

Picnic nodes are designated areas within parks that include barbecues, picnic tables and benches and shelters. These facilities support an important social function for the community as they allow friends, neighbours and families to gather and enjoy a meal or celebration together in a safe and comfortable outdoor setting.

Who do we provide picnic nodes for?

Council provides picnic nodes for residents and visitors of all ages and abilities. These areas are intended to serve users from the local community and surrounding suburbs as well as visitors from across the region and beyond.
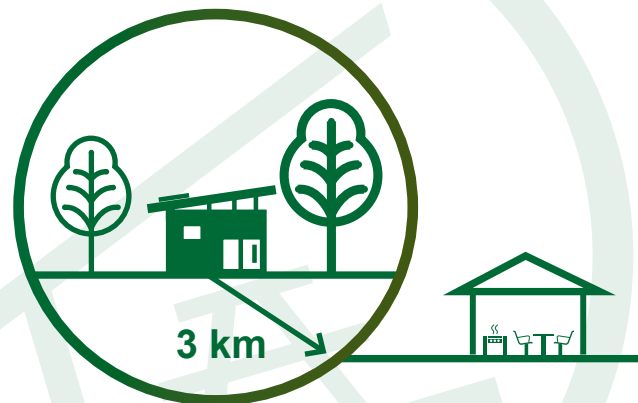
What are the different types of picnic nodes that council provides?

A basic picnic node contains a single barbecues, picnic tables and benches and shelters. In popular recreation parks where demand for picnic nodes is anticipated to be high, such as our larger district parks and council-wide parks, clusters of multiple barbecue units and shelters of varying size may be provided.

Opportunities to have a picnic are available in other park and open space types, however, supporting infrastructure such as barbecues, should be limited to council-wide and district parks.

District level activity

3 kilometres from most residences in urban areas, within a rural township in rural areas (average a 30 minute walk, 20 minute cycle or 10 minute drive)

There should be one picnic node for every 5,000 to 10,000 people

3 km

Alexandar Headlands

How do we determine what the type and number of picnic nodes to provide?

The types of picnic nodes utilised in a park should reflect intended user demographics and needs. Community consultation is recommended to engage the user and ensure the best outcome.

The number of picnic nodes in a single park should be consistent with park type, setting, and intended user catchment.

What are the typical embellishments associated with picnic nodes?

The level of embellishment associated with each picnic node will be determined on a case by case basis. Site assessment will be required to understand local site conditions and facility requirements. For more detail refer to Table 17: Picnic nodes, which provides core associated embellishments only. For a more comprehensive list, refer tables in Chapter 2.

The LIM provides detailed guidance on the design and construction of picnic nodes embellishments (picnic tables and benches, shelters).

Where do we currently provide picnic nodes?

Council provides 284 picnic nodes in council-wide and district recreation parks across the SCC region. These activity areas are located in a range of settings, from quiet hinterland parks to dense urban areas adjacent to the coastal beaches.

Picnic nodes are considered a district level activity, meaning that they serve a catchment area similar to our district parks, 3 kilometres from most residences in urban areas, average a 30 minute walk or 10 minute drive.

For the locations of existing picnic nodes refer to Map 5: Picnic nodes region wide. For more details on name, location and type of current picnic nodes, refer to RPP – Localities of Interest.

When do we provide new picnic nodes?

New picnic nodes can be created in two ways:

• as a developer contributed asset in a new growth area

• through the community and councillor request process, supported by a demonstrated need.

Table 17: Picnic nodes – locations and associated embellishments

Type of embellishment	Detail	Reaction						Landscape
		Council-wide	District	Local	Civic	Amenity reserve	Linear	Landscape corridor
Picnic nodes	Barbecue, seating and shelters	✓	✓					
Furniture	Barbecues	✓	✓					
	Bike racks and rails	✓	✓					
	Bins (waste and recycle*)	✓	✓					
	Drinking fountains	✓	✓					
	Picnic tables and benches	✓	✓					
	Stand-alone seats	✓	✓					
	Taps – public access	✓	✓					
	Taps – maintenance	✓	✓					
Pedestrian infrastructure	Sealed paths and trails (internal)	✓	✓					
	Sealed path / bikeway (link to external network)	✓	✓					
Planting	Garden edging	✓	✓					
	Landscape planting (garden beds, turf)	✓	✓					
	Shade trees	✓	✓					
Signs	Regulatory, wayfinding	✓	✓					
Structures and parking	On-site vehicle parking	✓	✓					
	Public amenities	✓	✓					
	Shelters	✓	✓					
Utilities and smart technology	General lighting	*	*					

Legend

✓ suitable

* suitable dependent on appropriate location

(hatched) not suitable

* where serviceable

Additional guidance on appropriate infrastructure for picnic nodes is provided in the LIM.

Provide adequate drainage.

CPTED principles must be applied.

Map 5

**Picnic nodes
region wide**
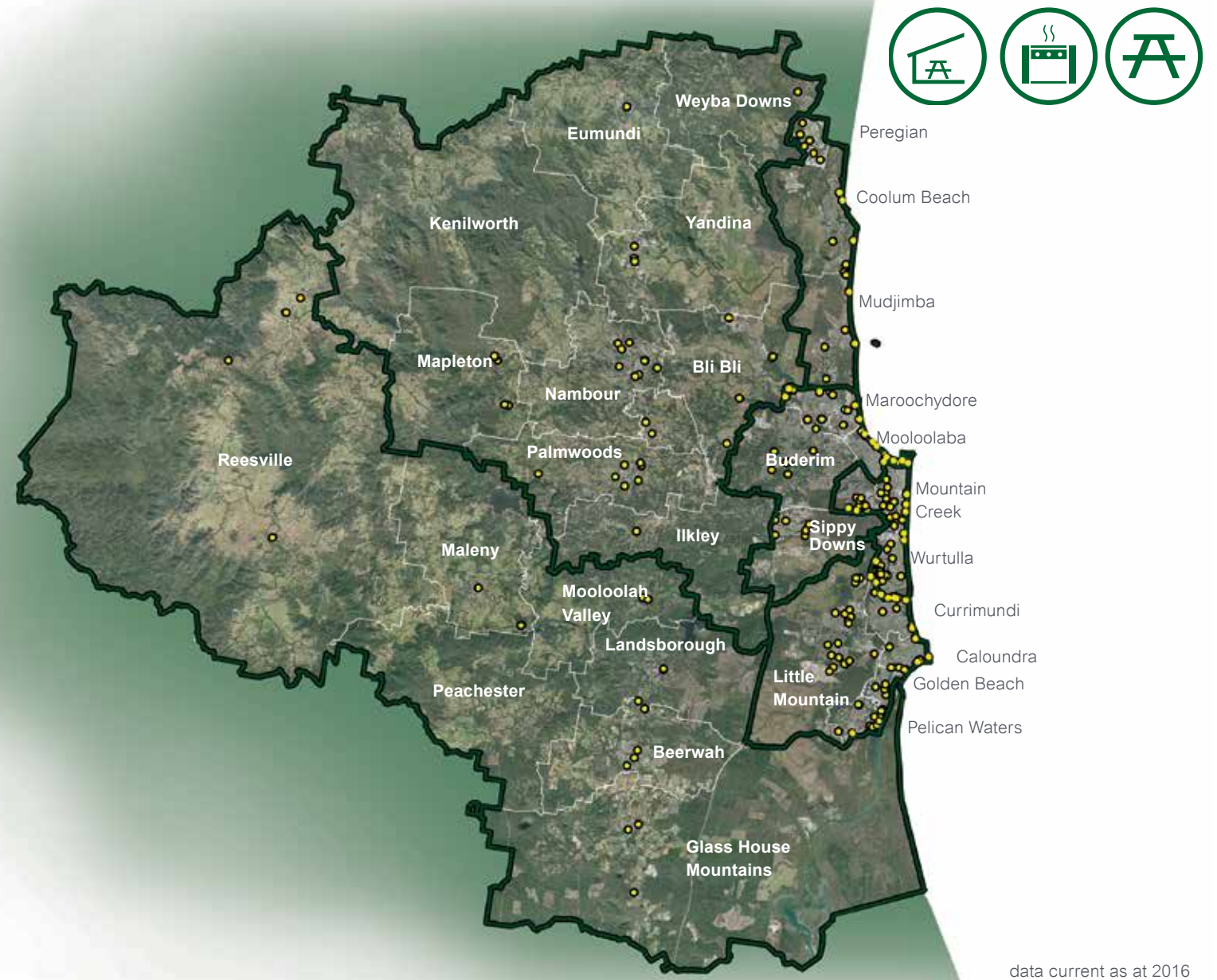
Legend

284 ⬤ Picnic nodes

▱ District locator

▰ Locality of
interest locator

data current as at 2016

N

0 2 4   8   12   16
Kilometers
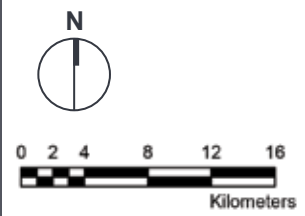
Kick and throw areas

Why are kick and throw areas important?

Kick and throw areas are designated spaces within parks that are open and free from built and natural infrastructure. They function as an extension to the residential backyard, where space for kicking, throwing and other space intensive activities is often insufficient. The increasing density of urban areas due to a growing population make these open and un-encumbered spaces valuable for residents.

One of the most important functions of a kick and throw area is the ability of these spaces to be flexible and accommodate a wide variety of temporary uses.

Who do we provide kick and throw areas for?

Council provides kick and throw areas for park users of all ages and abilities. There should be a kick and throw area within walking distance, around 500 metres or a 5 to 10 minute walk, of all homes in urban areas. In rural areas there should be at least one kick and throw area per township.

These areas provide adequate space for kicking and throwing of balls, flying kites or frisbee and simple enjoyment of a sunny, open area.

What are the different types of kick and throw areas that council provides?

The optimal size for kick and throw areas in local parks is around 30 metres x 20 metres, though kick and throw areas generally come in a range of shapes and sizes. Larger district and council-wide parks may provide kick and throw areas approaching or exceeding 50 metres x 30 metres in size.
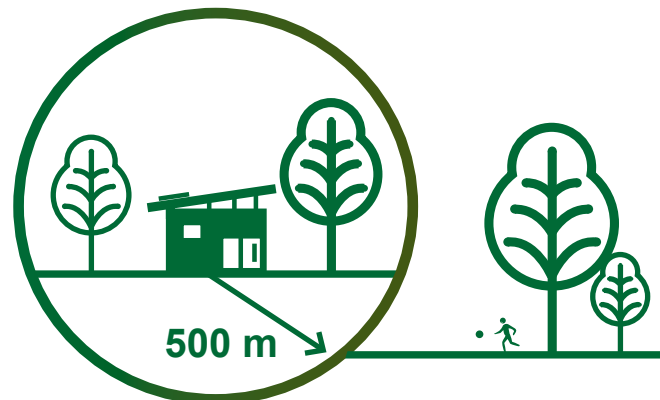
Local level activity

500 metres from most residences in urban areas, within rural township in rural areas (5 to 10 minute walk)

There should be one kick and throw area for every 2,500 people

500 m

Tickle Park, Coolum

Some parks, particularly local parks, are too small or narrow to accommodate this size of kick and throw area. In these parks a smaller sized kick and throw area may be used. Once a kick and throw area drops below 200 square meters in size, or the size of a standard tennis court, it becomes difficult to pass or kick a ball and achieve an exercise benefit. Therefore, kick and throw areas below this size are not recommended.

What are the typical embellishments associated with kick and throw areas?

Kick and throw areas are open and free from other park embellishments to achieve functionality and safety within the space. These areas should be located adjacent to other activity spaces such as picnic nodes, play spaces and passive recreation spaces that also serve the kick and throw area, for example, to allow casual surveillance from a safe, shaded location.

Where do we currently provide kick and throw areas?

For details on name and location of existing kick and throw areas, refer to RPP – Locality of Interest.

Apex Park, Golden Beach
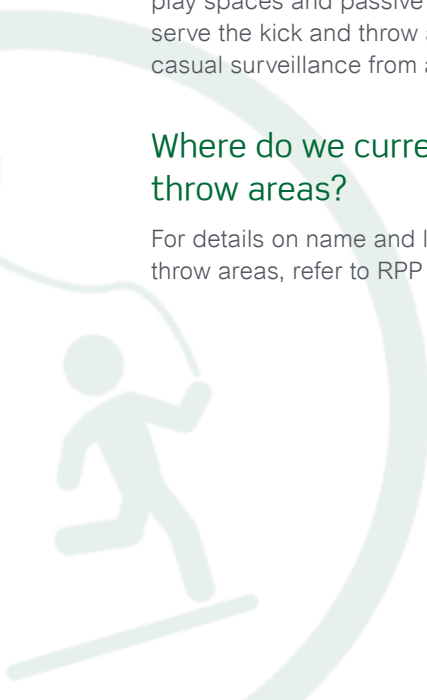
the many uses of kick and throw areas

get creative – bring your own . . .

open space

Coolum Kite Festival

When do we provide new kick and throw areas?

New kick and throw areas are created in one of two ways, either as a developer contributed asset in a new growth area, or through the community / councillor request process supported by a demonstrated need.

It is very difficult to provide a kick and throw area in an existing park that contains other existing park infrastructure, therefore, it is very important to incorporate designated areas for kick and throw into the design of recreation parks and to preserve the function of these areas.

What other functions do kick and throw areas provide?

The flexible and multi-functional nature of kick and throw areas make them valuable to the community, generating health and social benefits associated with the range of physical recreation activities that occur with them.

Kick and throw areas support important social benefits by providing open areas for families or groups of friends to occasionally gather and celebrate special events. These areas provide a space that can be used for a temporary day-time event and be returned to another shared use the next day.

Designated kick and throw areas also play a very important role in preserving the scenic amenity and aesthetics of a recreation park. These areas are the key design element that promotes openness in our parks. This openness allows for enjoyment of the region's climate and natural beauty in an environment that provides green relief from busier built environments.
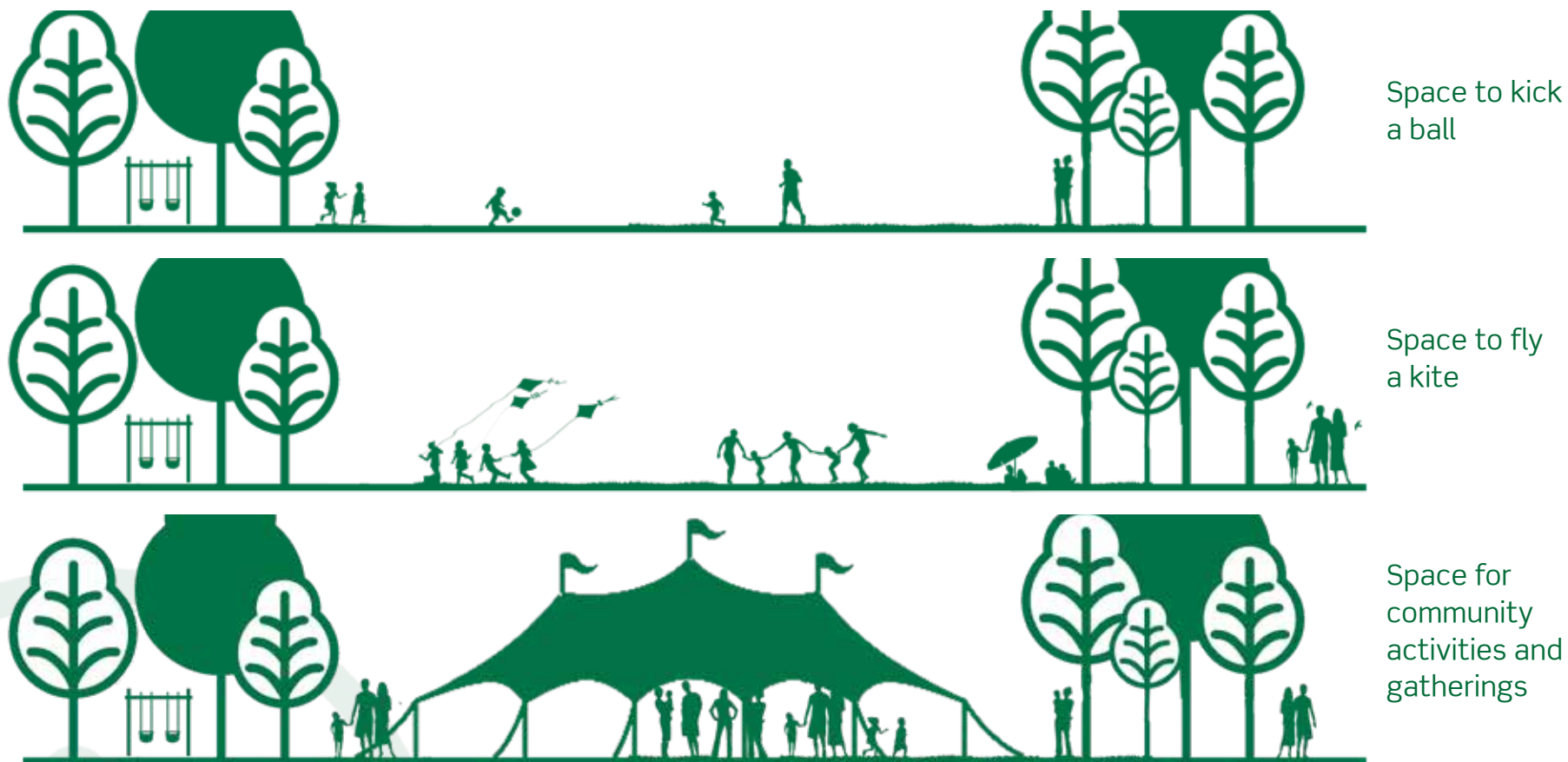
Space to kick a ball

Space to fly a kite

Space for community activities and gatherings

Figure 9: Uses of kick and throw areas

Table 18: Kick and throw – location

| Type of activity | Detail | Recreation | | | | | | Landscape | Legend |
		Council-wide	District	Local	Civic	Amenity reserve	Linear	Landscape corridor	
Kick and throw	Open space for active and passive recreation	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓ suitable
	Size (minimum, metric may vary as long as total area is provided)	1-50x70m 2-30x40m	1-50x70m	1-30x20m			1-30x10m		∗ suitable dependent on appropriate location

Legend:
✓ suitable
∗ suitable dependent on appropriate location
not suitable

Provide flat well drained areas. CPTED principles must be applied

Passive recreation

Why are passive recreation areas important?

Passive recreation areas are spaces dedicated to the community for observing nature and the surrounds. These areas include shaded seating areas, gardens and overlooks. Passive recreation areas allow for quiet contemplation and enjoyment of a community's scenic amenity. They provide opportunities to take a break from the hustle and bustle of daily life and take in the fresh air and local scenery.

These areas are a very important component of community building as they allow users to observe the natural and social process that occur in the neighbourhood on a daily basis. The user forms a connection to place through this observation.

Specially designed gardens, like sensory gardens, provide particular mental and emotional value to people who benefit from stimulation of the senses.

3 km

500 m
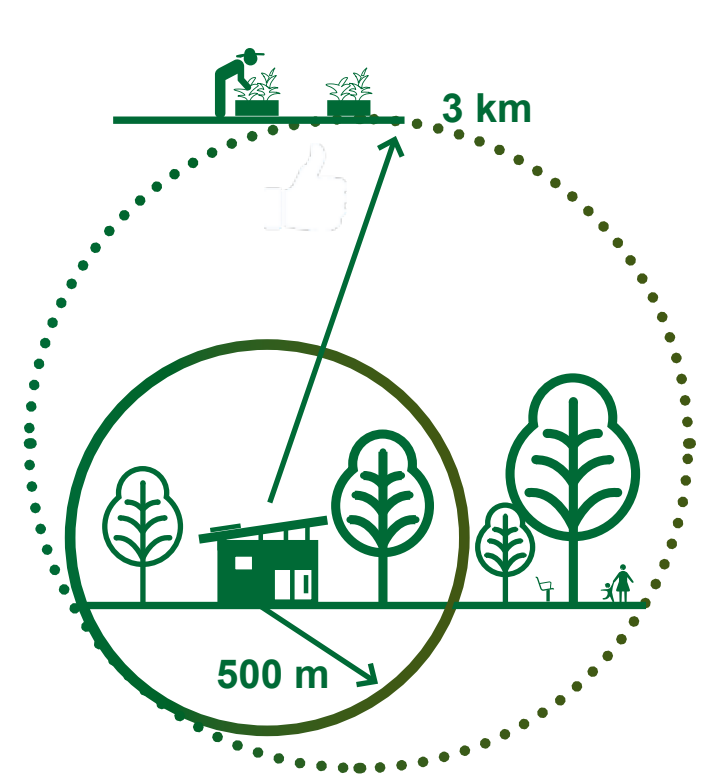
**District level activity
(large community garden)**

3 kilometres from most residences in urban areas, within a rural township in rural areas (average a 30 minute walk, 20 minute cycle or 10 minute drive)

There should be one community garden for every 5,000 to 10,000 people

**Local level activity
(passive recreation, neighbourhood community garden)**

500 metres from most residences in urban areas, within rural township in rural areas (5 to 10 minute walk)

There should be one passive recreation space for every 2,500 people

Who do we provide passive recreation areas for?

Council provides passive recreation areas for people of all ages and abilities. There should be a passive recreation area within walking distance, around 500 metres or a 5 to 10 minute walk, of all homes in urban areas. In rural areas there should be at least one opportunity for passive recreation per township.

What are the different types of passive recreation areas that council provides?

Council provides many passive recreation opportunities from simple, shaded seating areas in local parks to council-wide attractions like the Maroochy Bushland Botanical Gardens. Passive recreation areas generally take the following forms:

- Passive observation areas – shaded seating areas for enjoyment of the local landscape, borrowed landscapes and passive surveillance of the parklands.
- Gardens
  - Ornamental – gardens in recreation parks that provide opportunities to observe plants, particularly including flowering native and exotic flora.
  - Botanical – large scale parklands dedicated to the observation of a wide variety of plants.
  - Community – typically used for growing fruit and vegetables on community land.
  - Sensory – designed for close interaction with plants that stimulate the senses.
- Overlooks and viewing areas – designated areas with a focus on observing a particular landscape or view.

What are the typical embellishments associated with passive recreation areas?

The level of embellishment provision in each passive recreation area will be determined on a case by case basis. Site assessment will be required to understand local site conditions and facility requirements.

For further information refer to Table 19: Passive recreation areas, which provides core associated embellishments only. For a more comprehensive list, refer tables in Chapter 2.

Where do we currently provide passive recreation areas?

Council aims to provide basic passive recreation opportunities in all recreation parks, including providing seating for people to enjoy their surrounding landscape.

Passive recreation is considered a local level activity, meaning it serves a catchment area similar to our local parks, around 500 metres from most residences in urban areas and within a township in rural areas.

There are eight community gardens located across the SCC region (Refer Map 6: Community gardens).

For more details on name and location of existing passive recreation areas, refer to RPP – Locality of Interest.

Table 19: Passive recreation – location and associated embellishments

Type of embellishment	Detail	Recreation						Landscape
		Council-wide	District	Local	Civic	Amenity reserve	Linear	Landscape corridor
Gardens	Ornamental	*	*	*	*	*	*	
	Botanical	*						
	Community	*	*	*	*	*	*	
	Sensory	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Overlooks / viewing area	Seated viewing area	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Passive observation areas	Shaded seating	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Furniture	Bike racks and rails	✓	✓	*	✓	*	*	
	Picnic tables and benches	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Stand-alone seats	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Pedestrian infrastructure	Sealed paths and trails (internal)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Sealed path / bikeway (link to external network)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Planting	Garden edging	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Landscape planting (garden beds, turf)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Shade trees	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Signs	Regulatory, education, wayfinding	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Structures and parking	On-site vehicle parking	✓	✓					
	Shelters	✓	✓	*	*			

Legend
✓ suitable
* suitable dependent on appropriate location
[shaded] not suitable

Additional guidance on community gardens is provided in SC Community Gardens Guidelines 2012.

Additional guidance on appropriate infrastructure for various types of passive recreation areas is provided in the LIM.
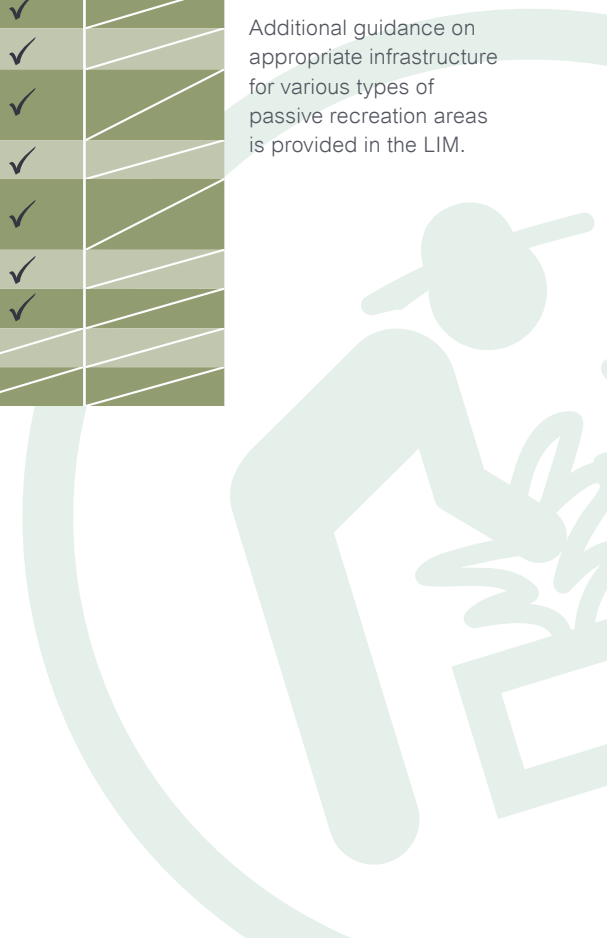
When do we provide new passive recreation areas?

New passive recreation areas can be created in two ways:

- as a developer contributed asset in a new growth area
- through the community and councillor request process, supported by a demonstrated need.

It is very important to incorporate designated areas for passive recreation into the design of recreation parks and to preserve the function of these areas as it is challenging to provide a passive recreation area that contains large amounts of existing infrastructure.

How does council determine community need and appropriate locations for community gardens?

The SCC's Community Gardens Policy 2011 and Community Gardens Guidelines 2012 provide the framework for planning, implementing and maintaining community gardens. Table 20: Criteria for site selections – Community gardens provides criteria from these documents to be used when considering potential sites for the establishment of a community garden on council owned or managed land. [5]

Community gardens have typically been used by the public to produce food, however council is investigating new and innovative opportunities for public gardening in a range of recreation parks.

Table 20: Criteria for site selection   (Source: Sunshine Coast Community Garden Policy 2011)

	Community garden site selection criteria considerations
Preferable	Sites located in higher density areas and near community centres, community organisations and/or schools that might be able to support or partner the community garden, provided these sites are consistent with the management intent of the open space category and desired standards of service and are not in close proximity to another publicly accessible community garden
Location	Sites classified as Community Land under the Local Government Act. These sites are usually established for community use such as park lands, open spaces and community centres that have outside areas as well as shelter and storage options
Safety	Sites should have no major safety or health concerns and have good passive surveillance (for example, can be easily seen from nearby houses or shopping areas)
Accessibility	Sites should be accessible for a range of user groups. Sites should be located close to public transport and toilets, and allow disabled access, appropriate car parking, and accommodate groups wanting to visit the garden. Should also have street frontage wide enough to allow maintenance vehicles and deliveries (e.g. topsoil, mulch etc.)
Sunshine	Sites need to be suitable for growing vegetables and receive full sunlight - ideally for at least 5 -6 hours per day

Table 20: Criteria for site selection continued...

	Community garden site selection criteria considerations
Size	There are no minimum site size stipulations for community gardens. Size limits may need to apply, however this can only be determined on a site specific basis. Community Garden sites will need to ensure they do not compromise public space accessibility and any of the current or planned functional requirements of public land or have a significant detrimental impact on neighbouring land uses. Sites with the ability to accommodate garden beds, composting systems, rainwater tanks, seating areas, shelter for gardeners and for community workshops and demonstrations without compromising other functions of the public space are preferred.
Water	Sites with easy access to water or buildings nearby from which rainwater can be collected
Soil contamination	Sites may need to be checked to ensure there is no soil contamination
Multiple use	Sites where a community garden can be integrated without conflicting adversely with other land uses and where the community garden can still be used by non-gardeners for passive recreation and educational workshops

Council will expand the scope of these documents to include all gardens, including ornamental, in which members of the public can engage in the design delivery and maintenance of these spaces with council assistance.

(Source: Sunshine Coast Community Garden Policy 2011)

Map 6

Community gardens

Weyba Downs

Eumundi

Peregian

Coolum Beach

Kenilworth

Yandina

Mudjimba

Mapleton

Nambour

Bli Bli

Maroochydore

Palmwoods

Mooloolaba

Reesville

Buderim

Mountain Creek

Ilkley

Sippy Downs

Wurtulla

Maleny

Currimundi

Mooloolah Valley

Little Mountain

Caloundra

Landsborough

Golden Beach

Peachester

Pelican Waters

Beerwah

Glass House Mountains

Legend

8 ● Community gardens

   District locator

   Locality of interest locator

N

0 2 4   8   12   16
Kilometers

data current as at 2016

Community event spaces

Why are community event spaces important?

Council recognises the important role events play in building social capital, encouraging community participation and enhancing tourism opportunities. In support of this recognition, council provides community event spaces in recreation parks that offer functional settings for the community to celebrate special occasions and enjoy festivities. These spaces are a focal point for community participation and activation, contributing to a community's vibrancy and sense of place.

Efficiently designed community event spaces also provide flexible areas that can be used for activities such as kick and throw and passive recreation during non-event periods.

Who do we provide community event spaces for?

Council provides community event spaces in recreation parks for the Sunshine Coast community and visitors to our region. As is the case with all other designated park activities these spaces must be accessible and usable by diverse ages and abilities.

Members of the public can book these spaces for exclusive use for events like weddings, birthday parties, memorial services and other occasions. These spaces can also be used without booking, however this does not guarantee exclusive use of the space.

3 km

District level activity

3 kilometres from most residences in urban areas, within a rural township in rural areas (average a 30 minute walk, 20 minute cycle or 10 minute drive)

There should be one community event space for every 5,000 to 10,000 people

Mooloolaba triathlon competition

What are the different types of community event spaces that council provides in recreation parks?

Council provides a wide variety of community event spaces. These spaces range from areas in scenic parks with supporting infrastructure like toilets and shelters to dedicated precincts with large amounts of infrastructure capable of accommodating very large crowds, such as Kings Beach park during the Caloundra Music Festival. Refer to Map 7: Community event spaces for locations of event spaces.

How do we determine what the type and number of community events to support?

Council's Community Events and Celebration Strategy explains the principles that guide council's support of community events. The following principles are essential to deciding which events are supported within fiscal capacity and corporate priorities. Does the event:

- stimulate the local economy through community and business partnerships and involvement
- promote, support and encourage local entrepreneurship and innovation
- demonstrate a commitment and sensitivity to the environment and our local communities
- contribute to placemaking and a sense of community
- promote the vision of council's Corporate Plan.

Council may also consider the following criteria. Does the event:

- encourage community involvement in and the ownership of events
- contribute to the culture of the Sunshine Coast
- nurture local talent, businesses and community groups
- promote the Sunshine Coast to audiences outside the region
- increase visitation and length of stay from audiences outside the region, particularly during low visitation periods
- demonstrate sound business principles and planning
- respect adjacent residents and businesses
- demonstrate sound environmental practices to protect our natural areas
- minimise carbon emissions.

What are the typical embellishments associated with community event spaces?

The level of embellishment provision for each community event space will be determined on a case by case basis. At a minimum, community event spaces should include shelters, and public amenities within walking distance (500m). Site assessment will be required to understand local site conditions and facility requirements. Refer Table 21: Community event spaces, which provides core associated embellishments only. For a more comprehensive list, refer tables in Chapter 2.

Table 21: Community event spaces – location and associated embellishments

Type of embellishment	Detail	Recreation						Landscape
		Council-wide	District	Local	Civic	Amenity reserve	Linear	Landscape corridor
Event space	Public amenities / shelters	✓	✓		✓			
Community events	Fixed or temporary	✓	✓		✓			
	Turf or hardstand	✓	✓		✓			
Furniture	Bike racks and rails	✓	✓		✓			
	Bins (waste and recycling*)	✓	✓		✓			
	Stand-alone seats	✓	✓		✓			
	Picnic tables and benches	✓	✓		✓			
Pedestrian infrastructure	Sealed path / bikeway (link to external network)	✓	✓		✓			
Planting	Garden edging	✓	✓		✓			
	Landscape planting (garden beds, turf)	✓	✓		✓			
	Shade trees	✓	✓		✓			
Signs	Regulatory, instructional, wayfinding	✓	✓		✓			
Structures and parking	On-site vehicle parking	✓	✓					
	Public amenities	✓	✓		✓			
	Shelters	✓	✓		✓			

Legend

✓ suitable

suitable dependent on appropriate location

* dependent on appropriate location

⟍ not suitable

* where serviceable

Additional guidance on appropriate infrastructure for various types of community event spaces is provided in the LIM.
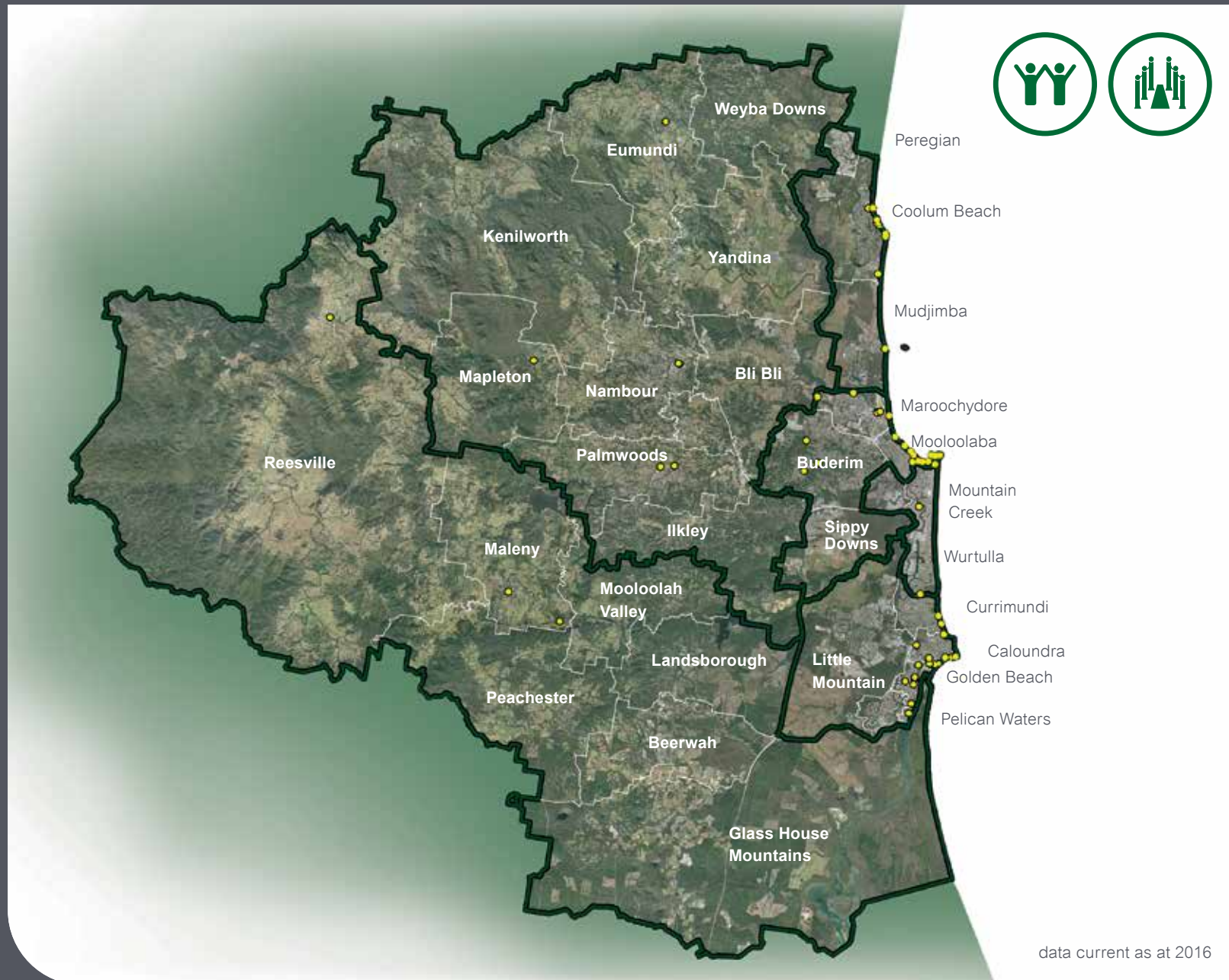
Map 7

Community event spaces

Legend

71 ⬤ Community event spaces

District locator

Locality of interest locator

data current as at 2016

N

0 2 4 8 12 16
Kilometers
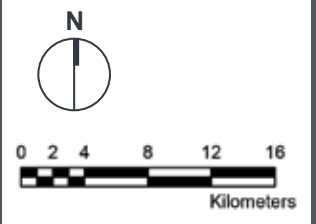
Commercial activities

Why are commercial activities in recreation parks important?

Appropriate commercial activities in recreation parks support the vibrancy of a community by activating a space and providing external services that are not typically provided by council.

Who do we permit commercial activities in recreation parks for?

Council acknowledges that the purpose of community land, including recreation parks, is primarily for community use, however in some circumstances a secondary use, like a commercial activity, may enhance the use of park and provide a benefit to the community. Council receives requests to operate from a range of commercial operators, from market organisers to fitness trainers. Each request is considered and determined according to the SC Community Land and Complementary Commercial Activity Policy 2017.

n/a

What are the different types of commercial activities that council permits in recreation parks?

Council permits commercial activities in recreation parks in accordance with the SC Community Land and Complementary Commercial Activity Policy 2017.

There are four types of permits available for commercial use of community land:

- High use/high impact permit – for commercial activities that have a higher intensity of use and/or are located in high profile areas and therefore may have a more significant impact on the use of community land.

- Low use/low impact permit – for commercial activities that are not considered high use/high impact, and where activities will have a lesser intensity of use, including fitness classes, itinerant vendors and activities conducted by not-for-profit organisations. The following criteria are considered when determining if an activity is low use/low impact:

  – further permit applications can easily be accommodated in the area

  – the activity is irregular, occasional or regular minor use

  – there is little to no impact on the space or the community use

  – the activity is considered a trial to ascertain potential for inclusion as a high use/high impact activity.

Leach Park, Golden Beach

- Outdoor dining permit – for commercial activities that require access to community land for the purpose of conducting outdoor dining in conjunction with an adjacent food and drink business, operating on private land. The following criteria are considered when determining if an activity is permitted:
  – supports local business
  – encourages business operators to enhance the use of footpaths
  – improves amenity
  – creates vitality and ambience
  – ensures community safety.

- Goods on footpath permit – for commercial activities that require access to community land for the purpose of displaying goods for sale in conjunction with an adjacent business, operating on private land. The following criteria are considered when determining if an activity is permitted:
  – supports local business
  – encourages business operators to enhance the use of footpaths
  – improves amenity
  – creates vitality and ambience
  – ensures community safety.

What are the typical embellishments associated with commercial activities?

Where commercial activities are anticipated in an existing or future recreation park, fit for purpose spaces should be designed to accommodate these activities. This includes hard stand areas for vehicles and electrical and water connections. Table 22: Commercial activities – location.

Where do we allow commercial activities in parks?

Council permits commercial activities in district and council-wide parks. Commercial activities are generally not supported in local parks due to their small size and primary function.

Permitted commercial activities are provided in accordance with council's Community Land and Commercial Activities Policy 2017.

Table 22: Commercial activities – location

Type of activity	Detail	Recreation						Landscape
		Council-wide	District	Local	Civic	Amenity reserve	Linear	Landscape corridor
Commercial activities	complementary, commercial provision	✓	✓		*			

Legend
✓ suitable
* suitable dependent on appropriate location
▨ not suitable

How does council determine community need and appropriate locations for commercial activities?

The following principles apply to all commercial activities in parks in accordance with the SC Community Land and Complementary Commercial Activity Policy 2017. These principles are consistent with the planning principles in the RPP.

1. Community use takes precedence

When making decisions about commercial use of community land, the primary purpose of the land is the first consideration. The uses and users of community land that take precedence over commercial use include, but are not limited to:

- informal social gatherings and celebrations
- formal events and celebrations
- quiet reflection
- passive recreational activities
- residents and tourists
- community groups
- amenity of the local area
- council maintenance
- street scape projects.

An assessment of whether the land can accommodate and sustain an ongoing commercial use will consider these examples. Where a proposed commercial use conflicts with or cannot be accommodated without detriment to the primary purpose, the proposal will not be approved. Commercial use of community land for individual gain alone is not in accordance with the purpose for which the land has been set aside. If a commercial activity can be operated from private land, it should occur on private land.

2. Alignment with council's vision

Proposals for commercial activities in recreation parks must align with council's vision and strategic direction as set out in the Corporate Plan.

3. Community Benefit

Commercial activities in parks must provide benefits to the community and may include commercial activities that:

- promote the primary purpose of the land
- support or service the needs of the users of that land
- contributes to Sunshine Coast tourism
- will not diminish the purpose of the land or level of service provide, that is, it will not have an unreasonable adverse effect on free and equitable access to the land or its use
- supports and complements local businesses.

4. Limited impact

Commercial activities in parks must not unduly impact on the primary users of the park, the environment or council assets and maintenance. To assess the potential impact on the recreation park, the following criteria are considered:

- noise and other pollution
- visual impacts
- flora and fauna
- access
- safety
- degradation of the space
- the local community's desire and tolerance for the proposed activity
- local area's population and growth
- the ability for the location to support various types of activities.

Exercise class in the park

5. Compliance with other agencies' requirements

Depending on the location applicants may need to satisfy additional requirements, including:

• land management plans

• approval of other authorising agencies, for example, Queensland's Department of Natural Resources and Mines and Department of Transport and Main Roads where an activity requires access to land not under council's control.

Assessment of proposals for commercial activities are subject to native title and community consultation.

6. Permit-based approval – no exclusive use or ongoing rights

Council has a preference for diversity and competition amongst permit-holders.

How do we ensure and measure success?

The council accommodates limited complementary commercial activity that benefits the community and preserves the primary use of community land.

Eumundi Market stall

Public art

Why is public art in recreation parks important?

Public art is important to create vibrant and attractive places across the Sunshine Coast region. Council is committed to incorporating innovative, stimulating and relevant public art that enhances public spaces and enriches the character of local communities.

Supporting public art projects in parks also contributes to individuals being actively engaged in strengthening and shaping their community. It enables us to engage in conversations, provoke questions and hear from diverse voices in our culture. Expressing ideas through creative art is an essential part of being human. It can take many forms, including permanent installations in public spaces, temporary installations and performance.

Who do we provide public art for?

Public art is accessible to all, free and viewable by individuals or groups. Public art contributes to people's sense of place and identity. Locating art in public places, like recreation parks, enables the local community to connect, reflect and be inspired by the place in which they live. Public art also contributes to memorable experiences for visitors.

What are the different types of public art that council supports?

Council manages new public art projects within streetscape and park developments. Public art can exist as standalone works or it can be integrated as a functional element such as bespoke seating or other structures. Artworks such as projections and ephemeral installations are also described as public art.

There are several types of public art projects that council supports in recreation parks. They are:

n/a

Maroochy Botanic Gardens

Partnerships

To deliver a range of public art, council may enter partnerships with external organisations, including:

- state and national funding programs to facilitate public art
- government departments
- arts and cultural organisations
- developers
- private sector partners.

Community-initiated

Council may subsidise community-initiated projects when outcomes are aligned, including:

- community art projects
- proposals received from community groups or individuals.

Gifts, donations, bequests and developer contributions

Public art received from external sources must be approved for installation by council and may be donated by various sources, including:

- visiting delegations
- individuals
- developers.

How do we determine what the type and number of public art installations to support?

The SC Art and Heritage Collections Policy outlines the framework and principles which guide the provision of public art in the Sunshine Coast region.

The following principles underpin council's commitment to the provision of a vibrant, diverse and sustainable public art collection.

- Public art is showcased with optimised access and engagement. Educational, interactive and participatory experiences can be ongoing and include innovative viewing opportunities for residents and visitors.
- Public art contributes to the building of place and regional identity. Continuous development captures and reflects the changing history, lifestyle and culture of the Sunshine Coast.
- Public art develops capacity within the local arts and cultural sector. Inclusive practices and opportunities, skill sharing and learning are valued.
- Public art is an economic asset for the region. Strategic and considered management maintains the value of the collection.
- Public art contributes to community belonging and well-being. Adding value to ways that the region's history, lifestyle, culture, people, places are understood and contributing to an aspirational vision of the Coast's future.

The following types of public art are provided in recreation parks.

Enduring and traditional public art

Council continues to acquire or commission public artworks made with enduring permanent materials, usually sculpture, statues or murals. While there is scope to add to the collection of permanent works, strict adherence to engineering and planning guidelines ensures existing and new works are sustainable, have regional relevance to the Sunshine Coast and represent its history, people and development.

Integrated and functional public art

Council commissions artist-led integrated public art such as seating, balustrades, bollards and paving to creatively shape the built environment.

Temporary and ephemeral public art

Council develops programs to activate and energise public spaces like libraries, markets, parks, reserves and walkways by encouraging and supporting temporary and ephemeral public art events. This may include new media, animation, light projections, film, soundscapes and other non-permanent materials.

What are the typical embellishments associated with public art?

The level of embellishment of each public art installation will be determined on a case by case basis. Site assessment will be required to understand local site conditions and facility requirements. Refer Table 23: Public art, which provides core associated embellishments only. For a more comprehensive list, refer tables in Chapter 2.

Where do we currently provide access to public art in recreation parks?

Council provides 114 art pieces in 56 council-wide, district and civic recreation parks across the SCC region. Refer Map 8: Public art in parks shows the location of public art pieces in recreation parks. Public art will be considered in local and linear parks and amenity reserves if integrated with infrastructure appropriate for those park types. This includes benches/seating, pathways etc.

Oceanside Health, Birtinya – The iconic feature of this park is the 6 metre sculpture titled "iDIDIT!"

Table 23: Public art – locations and associated embellishments

Type of embellishment	Detail	Recreation						Landscape
		Council-wide	District	Local	Civic	Amenity reserve	Linear	Landscape corridor
Public art	Artwork	✓	✓	*	✓	*	*	
Furniture	Bike racks and rails	✓	✓		✓			
Furniture	Stand-along seating	✓	✓		✓			
Pedestrian infrastructure	Sealed path / bikeway (link to external network)	✓	✓		✓			
Planting	Shade trees	✓	✓		✓			
Signs	Regulatory, wayfinding	✓	✓		✓			
Structures and parking	On-site vehicle parking	✓	✓					

Legend

✓ suitable

suitable

* dependent on appropriate location

⬜ not suitable

Additional guidance on appropriate infrastructure for spaces containing public art is provided in the LIM.

Map 8
Public art in parks

Legend

114 ● Public art

District locator

Locality of
interest locator

Peregian

Coolum Beach

Mudjimba

Maroochydore

Mooloolaba

Mountain
Creek

Wurtulla

Currimundi

Caloundra

Golden Beach

Pelican Waters

Weyba Downs

Eumundi

Kenilworth

Yandina

Mapleton

Nambour

Bli Bli

Reesville

Palmwoods

Buderim

Ilkley

Sippy
Downs

Maleny

Mooloolah
Valley

Landsborough

Little
Mountain

Peachester

Beerwah

Glass House
Mountains

N

data current as at 2016

0 2 4   8   12   16
Kilometers
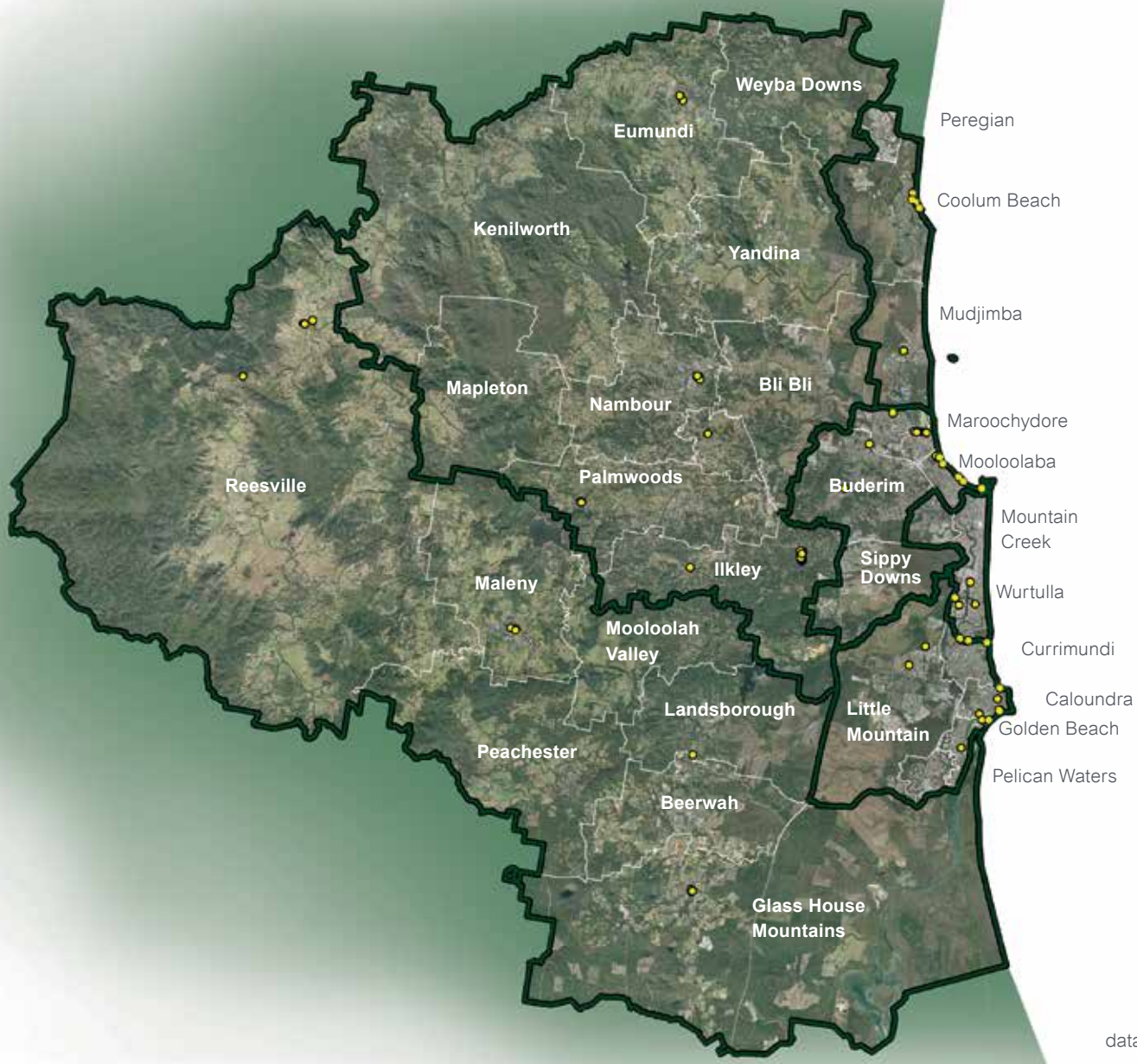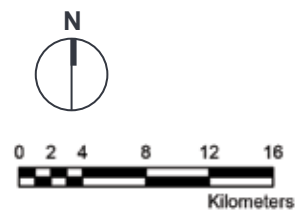
4.3 Embellishment standards

Park embellishment standards outline the fundamental requirements for the provision of landscape elements and facilities in parks. These guidelines are applied in planning of parks to deliver well designed parks that are accessible, safe and enjoyed by the whole community.

The standards of embellishment in a park is influenced by the park type, setting, intended functions and anticipated demand. The ELS sets the desired standards of service for provision and embellishment of parks, while the desired infrastructure standards are described in the LIM.

Providing park embellishments that are appropriate to a park type ensures that park development achieves a balance between what is sustainable, affordable and beneficial to the community.

The following section indicates appropriate locations for particular park embellishments. The actual provision of these embellishments should consider site specific conditions as well as their impact on the function of the park.
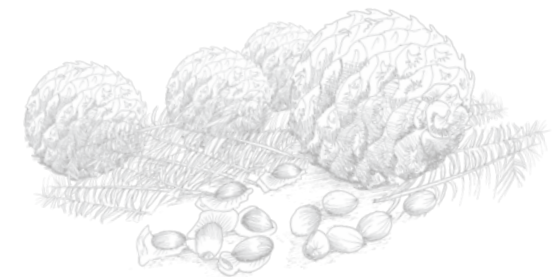
Access (pedestrian/vehicle)

Lighting
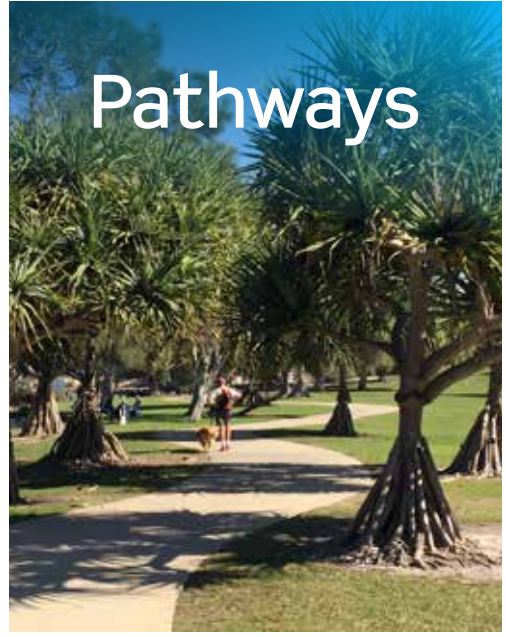
Pathways

Shade (natural/artificial)

Trees

Signage

Utilities and services

Public amenities

Access (pedestrian / vehicle)

Parks are accessible and inviting for all community members regardless of their age or ability, and access is provided that is safe and convenient for all users.

All parks have requirements for site access, boundary treatments and car parking. Park access is facilitated by providing multiple points of entry for pedestrians and cyclists, suitable access for maintenance and emergency vehicles as well as public access to parking.

Access to parks and their facilities should be provided in a way that supports the diverse needs of all demographic groups within the community. The standard requirements for site access and car parking vary for different park types. Site conditions and the anticipated use of individual parks must be considered to determine appropriate access requirements.

Site access, car parking, signage, pathways and infrastructure for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users are all considered through this process.

To plan and design features that facilitate or restrict park access, these guidelines must be followed:

- Create multiple access and egress (entry and exit) points at regular intervals along the park perimeter.
- Provide equitable access to park facilities to allow unassisted access by people of diverse abilities.
- Encourage accessibility, visibility and safety by maximising the length of frontage and providing direct access to the park from adjacent roads.
- Locate bollards and barriers to control and prevent unauthorised access, reducing risk for park users.

- Incorporate elements along the frontage to emphasise entry points, including signage and landscaped nodes.
- Maintain clear sightlines and apply CPTED principles to increase capacity for passive and active surveillance.
- Adopt a range of strategies to provide sufficient car parking to accommodate anticipated levels of park use including periods of peak demand for particular park types, like during major events.
- Provide infrastructure and facilities to encourage use of sustainable active and public transport modes.
  - If in a high use destination park, investigate opportunities to install secure bike parking.
- Comply with council's infrastructure standards as outlined in the LIM.

Refer Table 24: Park access – location and associated embellishments for further details.

Apex Park, Golden Beach

Table 24: Park access – location and associated embellishments

Type of embellishment	Detail	Recreation						Landscape
		Council-wide	District	Local	Civic	Amenity Reserve	Linear	Landscape corridor
Park access	Parks are accessible for people of all ages or ability, This access is safe and convenient for all users	✓	✓	✓	✓	*	✓	*
Public access points	Public access provided through multiple points of entry for pedestrians and cyclists, and suitable access for everyone (including people using wheelchairs/prams)	✓	✓		✓		✓	
Access control and security	Bollards, barriers and landscaping designed to restrict vehicle access to a park perimeter, and protect locations of high activity and community gathering.	✓	✓	✓	✓	*	✓	*
Fencing and barriers	Fencing or barriers installed to restrict unauthorised access, or for safety where there is a danger to park users due to hazards	*	*					
Maintenance and emergency vehicle access	Controlled maintenance and emergency vehicle access, including all weather paths and access to provide clear through site movement and avoid conflict with park activity	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Internal road	Internal sealed road providing public vehicle access to on-site car parking areas, facilities, and key points of visitor interest	*	*					
On-site vehicle parking	On-site vehicle parking areas provided internally within a park, and located close to key facilities	✓	✓					
Over-flow parking	Informal parking areas along internal roads, and designated zones within the park provided for periods of peak demand, and major community events	✓	*					
Bus-set downs	Sealed bus passenger set-down point, or bus parking bays	✓	*					
Boat and trailer parking	Spaces designed to provide suitable parking where access is required to boat ramps, pontoons and canoe launch facilities	✓	*					
End of trip facilities	Secure bike parking, eg. bike racks and rails to encourage sustainable transport use by park users	✓	✓	*	✓			
End of trip facilities	Secure bike end-of trip facilities, eg. bike sheds and lockers, designed to encourage access and sustainable transport use by park users	*	*		*			

Legend

✓ suitable

not suitable

* suitable dependent on appropriate location

▨ Park embellishment - location

Nambour 'Alive' opening (September 2009)

Park lighting

Park lighting systems influence the activity, vitality and appearance of a place at night. They also allow people to be aware of their surroundings, lessen safety risks and discourage crime and vandalism.

Lighting infrastructure can support a broad range of recreation activities in parks and enable appropriate activities to be undertaken outside daylight hours. Providing park lighting supports events and community activities and achieves CPTED, Smart City and community development goals for parks.

The integration of power supply, lighting and Wi-Fi can increase visitation, promote the day to day use of parks for passive recreation and enable the delivery of way-finding, park user information and interpretation.

Park lighting requires significant maintenance to support lifecycle management with high capital and ongoing operating cost. Careful consideration needs to be given to the location, type and level of lighting needed to achieve a park function, to ensure efficient park service levels and operational costs.

Lighting for public parks and paths should be provided where it meets the following requirements:

- Lighting should only be provided to park areas where night-time use is expected and encouraged.
- Park lighting should not extend the use of the park where it results in detrimental impacts because of light and noise disturbance.
- Lighting provided in park activity areas should be appropriate to the parks hierarchy and intended function.
- Lighting levels should improve people's safety and security in parks.
- Comply with council's infrastructure standards as outlined in the LIM.

Refer Table 25: Park lighting – location and associated embellishments for further details.

Table 25: Park lighting – location and associated embellishments

Type of embellishment	Detail	Recreation						Landscape
		Council-wide	District	Local	Civic	Amenity Reserve	Linear	Landscape corridor
Park lighting		*	*		*		*	
Pathway lighting	Lighting of pedestrian paths through parks should meet councils requirements to: • Facilitate connection between local centres, public transport and residential neighbourhoods • Promote the use of paths within the parks network • Light entrance points to develop legibility • Light obstructions or hazards, eg. bridge, stairway. • Respond to park user needs and anticipated demand.	*	*		*		*	
Car park lighting	Lighting provided to on-street and off-street car parking areas in parks	✓	✓					
Internal road lighting	Street lighting to internal road, crossover points, and driveways in parks	✓	✓					
Decorative lighting	Decorative and ornamental lighting used to highlight landscape elements and features, such as trees	*	*		*			
Recreation area lighting	Park lighting provided to park activity areas where night time recreation and games is to be promoted	*	*		*			
Shelter lighting	Night lighting of covered barbecue facilities and/or picnic shelters	*	*		*			
Safety and security lighting	Security lighting provided where required to support the safety and security of park users	✓	✓		✓		*	
Toilet and facilities lighting	Lighting to park amenities and facilities buildings Where possible integrate lighting with architecture	✓	✓		✓		*	

Legend

✓ suitable

  not suitable

* suitable dependent on appropriate location

◪ Park embellishment - location

Apex Park, Golden Beach

Pathways in parks

Pedestrian paths and cycleways are integral to park access. They provide circuits for walking and cycling, access to points of interest and connection to the wider pedestrian and active transport networks.

Providing path connections through the parks network creates activity and integrates communities physically and socially.

Park pathways provide the community with opportunities for passive recreation, including walking, running, cycling and roller sports. Linking neighbourhoods, parks and community hubs with pedestrian and cycle paths promotes walking and use of active transport modes.

Clear planning of path and trail networks within parks enables links and circuits to be established with appropriate infrastructure for the benefit of the community. Pathways in parks vary depending on park type, intended function and relationship to the wider pedestrian and active transport network.

Note: All pathways in Queensland are shared unless otherwise signed. Cyclists must keep left and give way to pedestrians.

Planning for paths and connectivity within parks should meet the following requirements:

- be appropriate to the hierarchy and intended function of the park
- establish strong connections to link parks with surrounding pedestrian networks and urban areas
- facilitate access to park activity areas, facilities and points of interest
- pathway widths must meet the requirements of the end users. ie. pedestrian and cyclist shared use.
- balance provision of paths and hard infrastructure with the need to preserve open space and accommodate other park activities
- promote equitable access for people with mobility constraints and allow for optimal grade access for pedestrians and wheelchair users
- provide separation in areas of high path use, where width allows
- provide shade for users along paths and at rest points
- maximise passive surveillance opportunities
- be elevated for resilience to flooding during and after rainfall
- comply with council's infrastructure standards as outlined in the LIM.

Refer Table 26: Pathways – location and associated embellishments for further details.

Table 26: Pathways – location and associated embellishments

Type of embellishment	Detail	Recreation						Landscape
		Council-wide	District	Local	Civic	Amenity Reserve	Linear	Landscape corridor
Pathways	Shared pedestrians and cycle paths accommodating users at different speeds	✓	✓	*	✓	*	*	
Internal path	Internal pedestrian paths providing local access to park activity areas and facilities, including a circuit path	✓	✓	*	✓		*	
Connection path	Path linking through the park to the external pathway networks, including commuter paths	✓	✓	*	✓		*	
Boardwalks and bridges	Boardwalks and bridges providing pedestrian and cyclist access to park activity areas	✓	✓					
Unsealed trails	Trail path for nature walking located in natural or semi-natural park areas					✓		

Legend

✓ suitable

  not suitable

* suitable dependent on appropriate location

◪ Park embellishment - location

Mooloolaba

Shade in parks

Parks provide amenity to support community use by offering shade and opportunities for people to recreate and gather in a comfortable and safe environment.

The provision of shade and shelter in parks determines the range of activities that can occur, influencing the duration and frequency of park use. Providing well-planned shaded activity areas allows a diverse range of people and community programs to be accommodated within a park.

Natural shade, structures and shelters are provided in parks to:

- create enjoyable and safe activity areas
- lessen exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation
- reduce heat
- provide shelter from weather.

The park type, setting and available facilities influence the amount of time people spend at parks undertaking recreation activities. Different types of shade and shelter should respond to the anticipated duration of activities within a park setting. Higher levels of shade and shelter should be provided to areas with longer duration and sustained activity.

When planning to provide shade, these guidelines must be considered:

- Shade for park users should be concentrated around activity areas to encourage higher levels of use.

- Protective shade can be incorporated in areas with higher frequency and duration of use including:
  - along pedestrian and cycle paths
  - playgrounds and seating areas
  - picnic and barbecue areas
  - pedestrian refuges and points of interest
  - gathering spaces
  - active recreation areas and skate facilities
  - on-site parking
  - along driveways and internal roadways.

- Shade elements should be positioned to the north and west of activity areas to reduce UV radiation and heat, providing a comfortable environment during the warmest part of the day. Consideration should be made to mitigate heat build-up on surfaces.

- Providing artificial shade is not cost effective or sustainable. Where possible natural shade should be provided by suitable trees, not shade structures.

- Natural shade from existing mature trees should be maximised and existing trees retained.

- Where possible install shade structures as a temporary measure during establishment of natural shade and position trees so that they can replace the structure at the end of asset life.

- Achieve council's infrastructure standards for park shade outlined in the LIM.

- Comply with council's infrastructure standards as outlined in the LIM.

Refer Table 27: Shade in parks – location and associated embellishments for further details.

Mooloolaba

Table 27: Shade in parks – location and associated embellishments

Type of embellishment	Detail	Recreation						Landscape
		Council-wide	District	Local	Civic	Amenity Reserve	Linear	Landscape corridor
Shade in parks		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Natural shade	Shade provided by mature trees	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Shade structure	Artificial shade (shade sail) provided until shade trees mature	✓	✓	*	*		*	
Shelter	Covered structure for picnic area, seating etc.	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Temporary shade	Artificial shade (eg. tents) provided for temporary events	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Parking shade	Shade provided by mature trees	✓	✓					

Legend

✓ suitable

not suitable

* suitable dependent on appropriate location

◩ Park embellishment - location

Bradman Avenue Foreshore

Dick Caplick Park, Eumundi

Park trees

Park trees shade, cool and balance the built environment, contributing to the character and prosperity of our communities.

Park trees are living infrastructure that support a broad range of recreation activities in parks and enable appropriate activities to be undertaken during periods of direct sunlight.

These trees make up an essential part of the urban forest which:

- feeds and shelters wildlife
- provides ecosystem services like sequestration of carbon and reduction of stormwater runoff
- contributes to the green frame around our urban areas
- enhances our region's sub-tropical character

Trees in parks contribute to achieving the goals described in Chapter 1 of the RPP. By ensuring that trees are recognised as essential living infrastructure that contribute to park function, the public will be able to recreate in a safe and healthy environment. The integration of a variety of shade-bearing tress can increase park visitation, promote the day to day use of parks for passive recreation and support active transport modes by providing cooler, shaded pathways for travel.

Protecting existing vegetation on the perimeter of parks ensures the continuity of habitat linkages and allows for opportunities for residents and visitors to learn about the natural world that surrounds them. This can foster greater connection between people and the places they live and visit.

Park trees require significant maintenance to support lifecycle management. Careful consideration must be given to the type and location of park trees, as well as their role in supporting a particular park function. It is vital that park planning accounts for the relationship between trees and built infrastructure in parks to avoid inefficient park service levels and operational costs.

Trees in recreation parks should be provided or protected where they meet the following requirements:

- Trees should contribute to enjoyment of recreation parks by providing shade to activity nodes and passive recreation areas.
- Park trees should enhance public safety by providing shade but should not detract from public safety by creating isolated areas with no surveillance opportunities.
- Remnant and established urban bushland should be preserved on the margins of recreation parks to protect biodiversity and create opportunities for the public to learn about ecosystem processes.
- A project arborist must be consulted to ensure that appropriate distances between living and built infrastructure are met.
- Comply with council's infrastructure standards as outlined in the LIM.

Refer Table 28: Park trees – location and associated embellishments for further details.

Table 28: Park trees – location and associated embellishments

Type of embellishment	Detail	Recreation						Landscape
		Council-wide	District	Local	Civic	Amenity Reserve	Linear	Landscape corridor
Park trees	Native species	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Non-native species	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Legend

✓ suitable

   not suitable

* suitable dependent on appropriate location

◩ Park embellishment - location

Species selection

Appropriateness of species to site including:

- Local character, maintenance requirements, tree form in relation to CPTED principles.
- Potential for use of tree species that cannot be used in standard street situations.
- Use of larger growing trees wherever possible.

Location

- Consider potential for trees to provide shade to activity nodes and pathways.
- Consider appropriate setbacks to pathways, buildings, and other park infrastructure elements.
- Retain space between trees for kick and throw and picnic nodes.
- Consider potential for trees to provide screening from adjacent uses

Properly protect existing tree assets

- Consider the value of the tree structure and ensure park and playground design is sensitive to the needs of all existing assets.
- Establish appropriate tree root and canopy protection zones and design in accordance with.
- Consider how park upgrades are to be delivered including access of equipment into the park and potential damage to trees that may occur during project delivery.
- Consider potential tree maintenance requirements as an outcome of new design elements.
  - Appropriate after planting maintenance duration (12 month minimum for all new trees).

Design considerations

- Consider risk with regard to placement of new infrastructure in proximity to existing trees and the outcomes of increasing target time beneath (for example placing seats beneath eucalypts) and correspondingly, increasing tree hazard potential.
- Consider the impacts of new infrastructure elements on the existing tree assets including edging, retaining walls, playground surfacing and any other elements requiring deep excavations, as well as the installation of new service connections including lighting conduits in tree root zones.
- Provide adequate setbacks to all trees both above and below ground from new infrastructure especially where looking to use the shade provided (a significantly damaged tree won't provide tree shade in the future).
- Consider impacts of the loss of undisturbed space i.e. hard standing existing permeable spaces and provision of ongoing access of trees to water and other changes to soil hydrology that will be an outcome of built and drainage elements.

Beerwah Town Square

Sample 'Park activity entry sign'

Park signage

Signage and wayfinding systems provide information about location and geographic context, enabling park users to orient themselves in relation to key landmarks and pathways to move about with ease.

Signage is provided to facilitate public access, offer location identification and promote safe use of parks. A clear and considered signage system enables people to locate themselves within parks, access points of interest and find facilities. Refer Table 29: Signage – Location and associated embellishment for further details.

To ensure that visual clutter is avoided, community notice boards and other types of general information signs should only be located in particular locations, as determined by the SCC's Manager of Parks and Gardens.

Commercial advertising signs are not allowed in recreation parks.

Planning and design of park signage and way-finding systems should meet the following guidelines:

- establish a coordinated suite of signage appropriate to a park type or setting
- utilise signage and landscape elements to develop legibility
- provide directional information to assist people's navigation and movement between important destinations
- enhance user experience and awareness by providing interpretive signs to inform and educate
- be practical, easy to maintain and communicate effectively while minimising visual clutter

- where appropriate use digital technology to interact and communicate with park users, including smart phone applications, park Wi-Fi networks and touch screen signage.
- comply with council's infrastructure standards as outlined in the LIM.

Table 29: Signage – location and associated embellishments

Type of embellishment	Detail	Recreation						Landscape
		Council-wide	District	Local	Civic	Amenity Reserve	Linear	Landscape corridor
Signage		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Vehicle park entry sign	Sign visible from road frontage / front of the park, clearly identifying the park name	✓	✓	*	*		*	
Park entry sign	In Council-wide and Civic Parks major entry statements and landscaping can be utilised to develop legibility, and to define a major arrival or entry points	✓			✓			
Wayfinding sign (directional)	Directional signs provided at primary access points, and other strategic locations to guide visitors to specific destinations, park attractions, amenities and facilities	*	*	*	*		*	
Park activity entry signs	Signs provided at strategic locations throughout the park to inform visitors of potential risks and hazards, to control activity, and provide advisory instructions	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Interpretive / educational signs	Interpretative and educational signs highlighting significant cultural or natural features of the park to enhance visitor experience and awareness by providing information about their surroundings	*	*	*	*		*	
Regulatory (safety warning) signs	Regulatory signs advise park users of legal obligations, speed limits, or restrictions on use	✓	✓	✓	✓	*	✓	*

Legend

✓ suitable

   not suitable

* suitable dependent on appropriate location

▨ Park embellishment - location

Sugar Bag Road Town Reserve, Caloundra West

Park utilities and services – irrigation

Council provides and maintains irrigation systems in high profile recreation parks to support community recreation and landscape function. The extent of these systems and the frequency of their use reflects council's commitment to conserving the region's supply of potable drinking water.

Local governments across Australia are facing uncertainty about the frequency and magnitude of extreme weather events like droughts, heat waves, flooding and cyclones. These events have the potential to create significant impacts on the amenity and function of council's recreation parks network. In addition to these natural occurrences Australians have the highest per capita rate of water consumption globally. Australians use an average of 100,000 litres of freshwater per person each year, of which around 40% is used outdoors. [16]

The need and ability to irrigate recreation park areas should be carefully considered. This includes the need to provide irrigation systems to maintain desired community and landscape function and meet required service levels within specific recreation park areas.

These areas include:

- high profile and high use landscape areas deemed appropriate by council
- high use activity areas only (barbecues, shelters, playgrounds, kick and throw), not entire parks
- shopping precincts, incorporated in gardens and turf areas where appropriate
- high use foreshore and event spaces, only those with high levels of pedestrian traffic
- places where landscape and tree establishment is required, including new developments.

The installation of irrigation systems in parks and gardens should be carefully considered to ensure:

- sustainable water sources are utilised and the extraction of water for irrigation does not have a negative impact on the water source and the environment
- value for money
- any landscape design, including selection of vegetation, minimises the demand of supplementary irrigation water
- hydrology of the site is assessed and managed to optimise the use of rainfall
- uniformity in relation to other council irrigation systems is achieved
- type of system used satisfies the irrigation requirements for specific soil types, plant types, layout and species
- efficient irrigation systems use smart irrigation controls and monitoring is utilised. Where appropriate and approved by council, these systems should use non-potable water sources
- irrigation systems do not interfere with the overall amenity and functionality of the intended usage and open space type
- connection points for external water sources (for example, water trucks) are provided to irrigation systems for use during prolonged dry periods.
- annual irrigation water requirements and water budgets are prepared for each site and utilised for ongoing monitoring and evaluation.

Smart irrigation

Smart Irrigation Control System (SICS) is a cloud-based technology that allows the scheduling and management of irrigation systems by monitoring and controlling operations through a smart device application. These systems track the SCC's watering, monitor weather conditions and automatically irrigate each of our sites, only when needed. Smart systems operate in real-time and track faults, like leaks, as they occur within irrigation systems. These features reduce the amount of wasted water used for irrigation, which will contribute to council's water conservation goals.

Water supply

Parks and landscape areas for council management should be designed to survive without formal ongoing irrigation where possible. Where circumstances require permanent irrigation to maintain park function and amenity, various water sources may be used.

Council is committed to the preservation of potable water supplies. Potable water should only be used in priority, high use areas in parks as approved by council.

Council encourages the use of non-drinking water for landscape irrigation and establishment where appropriate and feasible. Only collected and recycled water graded as suitable for human contact should be used in public spaces.

Table 30: Irrigation – location and associated embellishments

Type of embellishment	Detail	Recreation						Landscape
		Council-wide	District	Local	Civic	Amenity Reserve	Linear	Landscape corridor
Irrigation	Garden beds and turf	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Utilities and services	Water	✓	✓	✓	✓	*	✓	
Potable	The connection made into the mains town water supply to provide water for irrigation purposes	○	○	○	○	○		
Bore	Groundwater extraction for irrigation purposes	○	○	○	○	○		
Rain harvesting	Capturing rainwater from adjacent buildings or infrastructure, and storage in water tanks or dams	○	○	○	○	○	○	
Treated effluent	Effluent supply point to supply water for irrigation purposes	○	○					
Passive irrigation	Passive irrigation is the watering of landscapes without the use of energy (e.g. no pumps)	○	○	○	○	○	○	

Legend

✓ suitable

not suitable

* allowed in high profile and high use landscape areas deemed appropriate by council

▧ Park embellishment - location

○ as deemed appropriate by Parks and Gardens Branch Manager

Main (potable water)

The connection made into the mains town water supply to provide water for irrigation purposes. Mains connection must be metered and registered with Unity Water, and a registered backflow prevention device must be installed.

Bores

To provide stored water for irrigation purposes and can be topped up through potable water if necessary

Rain harvesting

- Capturing rainwater from adjacent buildings or infrastructure, and storage in water tanks or dams for the purpose of irrigation.
- Rain harvesting systems require a mains or bore connection to act as a backup in low rainfall periods.

Treated effluent

Effluent supply point to supply water for irrigation purposes. Where the use of treated effluent is provided the need to manage quality and distribution through meeting regulation requirements is critical.

Passive irrigation

The watering of landscapes without the use of energy (e.g. no pumps). This typically involves using gravity to direct rainfall runoff from adjacent surfaces onto vegetation. Examples of passive irrigation include:

- Water sensitive urban design treatments (WSUDs) – these include rain gardens and other similar bio-retention systems. These facilities should be integrated with trees and other vegetation to deliver both stormwater management and spaces for healthy vegetative growth.
- Passively watered tree pits - typically incorporate an inlet (e.g. kerb cut-out), a soil in which the tree roots grow and allow water to infiltrate, and a drainage layer to enable excess water to discharge from the base. Tree pits may also incorporate a saturated wicking zone which holds water in the base to provide soil moisture during dry periods.
- Wicking Bed - a landscape area (turf open space or vegetated garden bed) that has a reservoir of water below the topsoil layer from which water is drawn upwards like a wick to the soil layer above.

Park utilities and services – electricity and sewerage

Providing utilities and services improves the amenity and function of parks to achieve high levels of park presentation.

Incorporating services and utilities into parks supports use of parks and facilities for a range of park programs and community activities. Site services and utilities should be appropriate to the park type and its intended function.

Utilities and services in parks should be designed so that they are:

- appropriately located
- fit for purpose
- durable
- safe
- easy to maintain
- comply with relevant standards.

The following rules should be used to plan for park utilities so that services and utilities contribute positively to a park and the local community. Services and utilities:

- should not impact on the desired character and amenity of the park
- should be integrated to avoid encroachment on the park or its intended functions
- should be located so that they will not be visually intrusive on the surrounding environment
  - where possible, services and utilities should be screened with landscaping
- should incorporate environmentally sustainable design and materials to reduce energy, water and lifecycle costs
- should be provided in high profile and high use parks only

- should locate supply points and services to allow easy access by maintenance vehicles
- comply with council's infrastructure standards as outlined in the LIM.
- should comply with relevant legislation, policies, codes, standards and industry guidelines.

Refer Table 31: Electricity and sewage – location and associated embellishments for more information.

Table 31: Electricity and sewage – location and associated embellishments

| Type of embellishment | Detail | Recreation | | | | | | Landscape |
		Council-wide	District	Local	Civic	Amenity Reserve	Linear	Landscape corridor
Utilities and services	Electricity and sewerage	✓	✓	*	✓		*	
Sewerage	Sewerage service to mains at the park boundary and connection to park toilets, facilities, and public buildings	✓	✓	*	✓		*	
Electrical supply	Electrical supply and connections with adequate capacity to meet intended park functions and future power requirements	✓	✓	*	✓		*	
Wi-Fi facilities	Park Wi-Fi	✓	*		✓			

Legend
✓ suitable
  not suitable
* suitable dependent on appropriate location
▨ Park embellishment - location

Park public amenities (toilets)

Clean, well-designed public amenities create a sense of safety and encourage community use of parks.

Providing public toilets in parks is an important community service. Park toilets and amenities should provide a safe environment and be accessible to people of varied ages and abilities. Refer to Map 9: Public amenities for more details on the location of public amenities locations in recreation parks.

Public toilets that are designed, located and managed well are shown to improve perceptions of safety, increase levels of use and reduce unwanted activity, including costs of vandalism.

Park toilets should:

- promote safety and appropriate surveillance
- be planned and managed based on CPTED principles.

Careful consideration needs to be given to the need, location, type and design of park toilets to achieve their intended function and avoid inefficient park service levels or operational costs.

During asset renewal it is necessary to review the need and function of facilities to establish if there is a need to refurbish, rebuild, relocate or remove an existing park toilet.

The following considerations are used in the planning and management of public toilets to ensure the facility contributes positively to park-based recreation and the local community:

- The need and requirements for a toilet facility should be appropriate to the park type and anticipated demand.
- Public toilets should only be provided in parks after an objective assessment of potential demand, and where applicable, consideration of the availability of conveniently located alternative non-Council facilities.
- Amenities should be positioned in a visible location, oriented to optimise casual surveillance.
- CPTED principles should be used to reduce the likelihood of crime, vandalism and anti-social behaviour, improving safety.
- Public toilets should be located in close proximity to roads, car parks, pathways, playgrounds and areas of activity to be easily accessible by all park users and maintenance vehicles.
- Amenities should provide equitable all abilities access, pathway connections and PWD car parking for people with disabilities (PWDs) to recreation park toilets and facilities.
- Amenities should be secure with appropriate lighting.
- Design of amenity structures should consider sub-tropical designs such as incorporating natural cross-ventilation.
- Amenities should not obscure site lines, use concealing entries or create opportunities for entrapment.

Table 32: Public amenities – location and associated embellishments

Type of embellishment	Detail	Recreation						Landscape
		Council-wide	District	Local	Civic	Amenity Reserve	Linear	Landscape corridor
Public amenities		✓	✓		✓			
Toilets ('Iconic design)	Where there are locations that have special requirements or significance, an 'iconic design' may be requested. It may be installed to provide a focal point for the community and tourists	✓						
Toilets ('Standard design')	Standard design installed to provide the park with typical facilities suitable for the use of the park	✓	✓		✓			
Group use toilet	Toilets and facilities located in a park intended to support activities of a club, group, or lessee, characterised by low levels of everyday use, and infrequent periods of peak demand	✓	✓		✓			
Clubhouse toilets	Toilets and facilities located within a park clubhouse or other community building intended for; club, group, or lessee's use, characterised by infrequent periods of peak demand	✓						
'Changing places'	Toilets and change facilities provided at appropriate locations with change facilities, or specialised features to support use by park users with disabilities	✓	✓		✓			
Service area/ storage	Dedicated service areas and storage facilities incorporated into the building to support cleaning and maintenance operations, and/or local lifeguard services	✓	✓		✓			

Legend

✓ suitable

not suitable

* suitable dependent on appropriate location

◪ Park embellishment - location

Happy Valley, Golden Beach

Map 9
Public amenities

Legend

184 ◯ Public amenities

▱ District locator

▰ Locality of
interest locator

N

0 2 4 8 12 16
Kilometers

Weyba Downs
Peregian
Eumundi
Coolum Beach
Kenilworth
Yandina
Mudjimba
Mapleton
Bli Bli
Nambour
Maroochydore
Mooloolaba
Palmwoods
Buderim
Mountain
Creek
Reesville
Ilkley
Sippy
Downs
Wurtulla
Maleny
Currimundi
Mooloolah
Valley
Little
Mountain
Caloundra
Landsborough
Golden Beach
Peachester
Pelican Waters
Beerwah
Glass House
Mountains
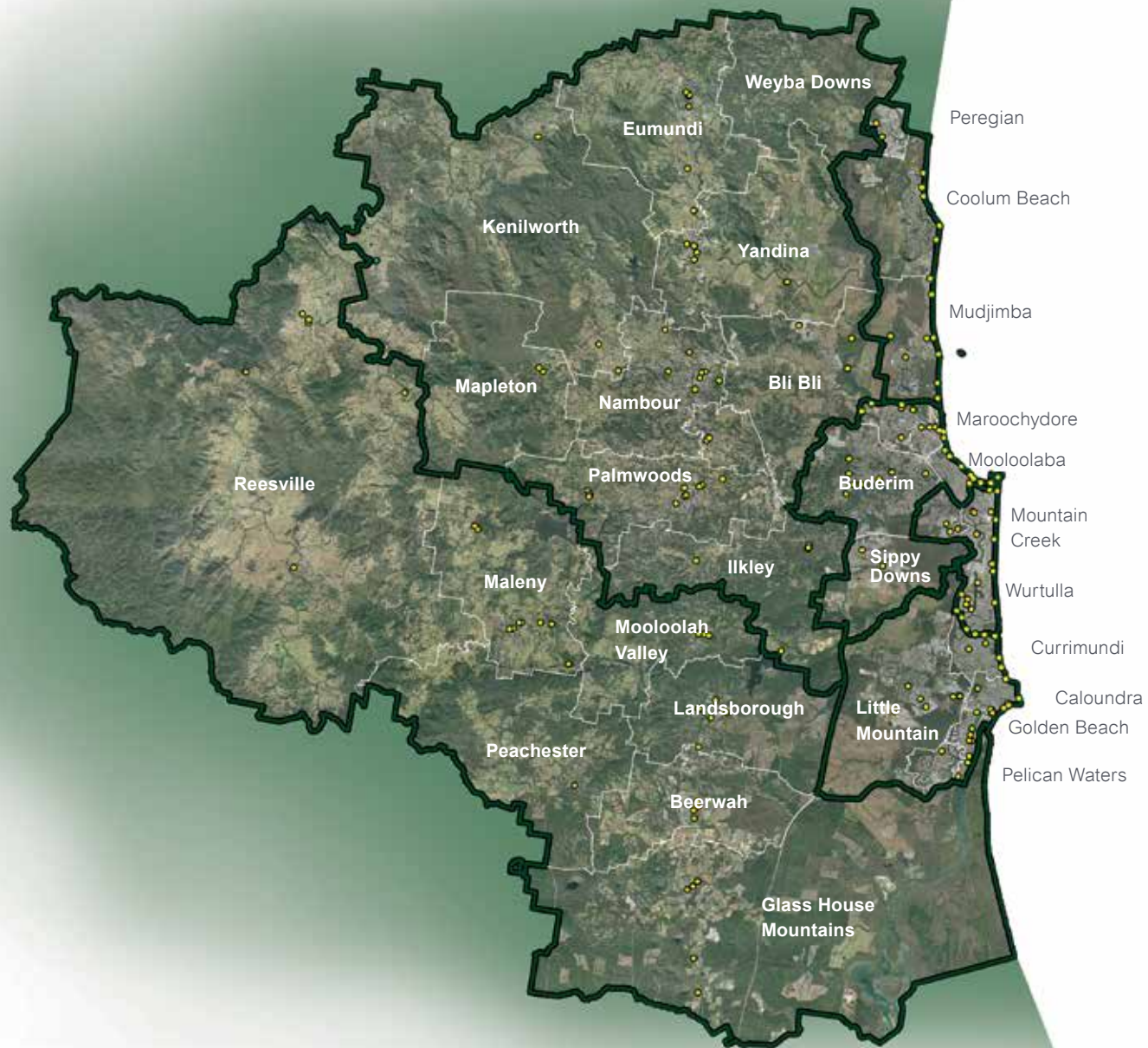
- Amenity interiors and exteriors should be durable, easy to clean and vandal resistant to minimise maintenance.
- Public toilet design should incorporate environmentally sustainability, including materials to reduce energy, water and lifecycle costs.
- Comply with council's infrastructure standards as outlined in the LIM.

Refer to Table 32: Public amenities – location and associated embellishments for further details.

Oceanside Health, Birtinya

Chapter 5.0
Parks management

5.1 Management

The RPP is designed to assist with future park management, noting the links between recreation parks planning, operational management and maintenance which are vital to the long-term sustainability of the recreation parks network. Through a review of current levels of provision and service, including identified over-service and shortfalls, the RPP is essential to manage council's recreation park assets. Council's existing management framework consists of capital works programs, asset management plans, local laws and maintenance service levels.

Capital works programs

Council's capital works programs deliver funding for strategic land acquisition and development of recreation parks on an annual basis. They also include plans for the renewal or replacement of existing parks infrastructure. To achieve the outcomes outlined in council's strategic policies the funding and scheduling of these programs should align with the priorities outlined in this plan and other endorsed policy documents.

Male blue-faced honey eater

Asset management

Asset management planning is a comprehensive process that ensures services and infrastructure are delivered in a financially sustainable manner. Asset management plans provide information about infrastructure assets and the actions required to provide an agreed level of service in the most cost-effective manner. These plans define the services to be provided, how the services are delivered and what funds are needed to deliver the services.

Council has developed a Parks and Gardens Asset Management Plan 2017/18 - 2022/23 that covers the SCC's recreation park infrastructure assets. These assets include recreation parks throughout the Sunshine Coast that enable people to use the region's open space network. The Parks and Gardens Asset Management Plan 2017/18 - 2022/23 is used to guide and demonstrate responsive and sustainable management of park assets, including:

- the services provided by park assets
- compliance with regulatory requirements
- strategies and funding required to provide the required levels of service.

Modelling within this plan is completed to represent a 10 year planning period. A full revision of the RPP is required every five years (minimum) with financial information updated annually.

This plan will also assist Council during asset renewals by providing a framework to determine whether the asset is still required to support park function. Demographic information found in the documents that support this plan will also help to determine whether the asset is still appropriate for the intended user catchment, and if not, will help guide provision of a new, more appropriate asset.

Local laws

Local laws have a significant role in the management and regulation of open space from animal management to environmental health and safety. Enacted under the Local Government Act 2009 (Qld), local laws reflect community needs and ensure good governance.

Local laws assist Council with the management of our parks by providing additional regulation for particular park uses (ie. dog exercise). This ensures enjoyment of our recreation parks by the entire community.

Service levels

Recreation park service levels and specifications guide the maintenance of parks assets. These service levels are based on the categories of parks established in the ELS, including:

- amount and frequency of maintenance
- maintenance standards and outcomes achieved
- specification of operational and maintenance tasks for contractors and internal crews
- monitoring of maintenance performance and quality evaluation
- CRM response times and targets.

The key to managing future demand and accommodating growth is delivering operational maintenance services more efficiently. Council conducts reviews of service levels to achieve efficiency, balance maintenance performance, manage service costs and mitigate risks. Modelling of service costs and reviewing service levels, schedules and quality standards, enables the best use of resources within financial constraints. Service level reviews include analysis of the following:

- unit rates for delivery of maintenance services
- resources for management areas
- costs for current levels of service
- historic growth in assets and service costs
- forecast growth and future demand.
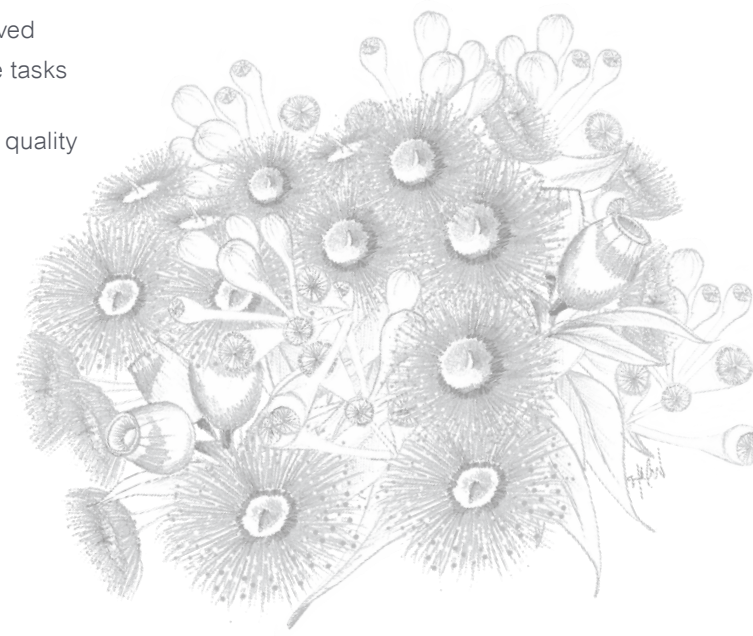
Service standards

P&G service standards define the frequency of maintenance and are an assessable guide for the operation and management of park assets.

P&G service levels, standards and specifications influence:

- service level and frequency of maintenance
- maintenance standards and outcomes achieved
- specification of operational and maintenance tasks for contractors and internal crews
- monitoring of maintenance performance and quality
- CRM response times and targets.

Service planning

Delivery of operational services by P&G is informed by modelling and analysis of service outcomes, resource requirements and costs.

P&G service planning enables:

- development of schedules and programming of operational activities
- integration with council's geographical information system (GIS) and asset information systems
- modelling of service outcomes and labour, plant and resource requirements
- analysis of costs and budget forecasting.

Table 19: Service standards and planning

Service levels and CRM response	**Levels of service matrix** Site assessment framework, service frequencies and response times for asset maintenance in Parks and Gardens management areas
Service standards and specifications	**Assessable quality standards** Defined maintenance outcomes, service specifications, quality standards and operating procedures
Performance and quality evaluation	**Service evaluation criteria and checklists** Service quality evaluation tools, performance auditing and reporting mechanisms
Service schedules	**Schedules and programming** Parks operations, asset maintenance and condition auditing schedules and programs
Mapping and asset information	**Mapping and asset information** Service delivery mapping and asset information integrated into GIS and strategic asset management systems
Cost analysis and financial forecasts	**Cost analysis and budget forecasting** Service cost and growth modelling, budget analysis and long term financial forecasting

Figure 9: Service level planning flow chart

Chapter 6.0
Strategic actions
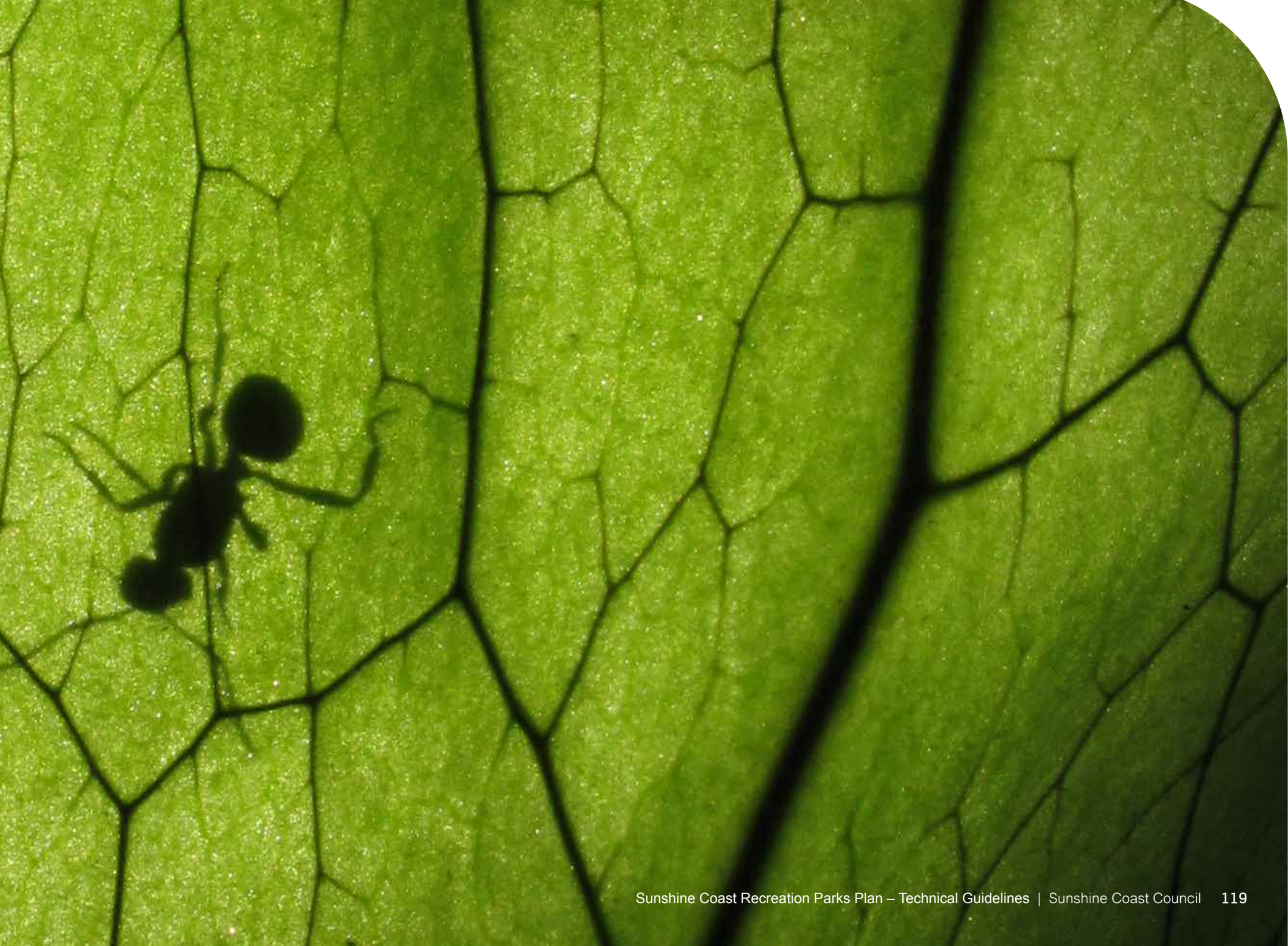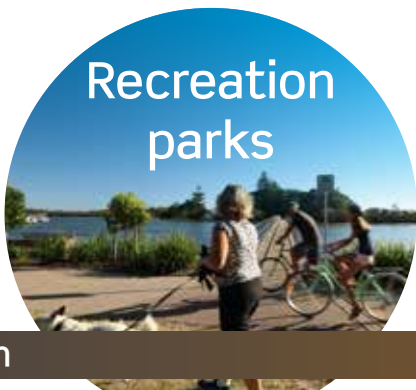
Recreation parks

Table 33: Strategic actions – recreation parks

Action	Process	Measure	Priority	Resource
Goal 1 – Recreation A recreation parks network that provides equitable access to healthy recreation opportunities in a functional and affordable manner				
Develop a play strategy to analyse current play space provision, including the specific elements provided in each space, and to provide detailed guidance on the types of play spaces to be utilised in specific areas across the Sunshine Coast region	Asset Management	Strategy completed	Primary	Parks and Gardens
Identify and re-categorise recreation parks that are performing a higher/lower park hierarchy function to ensure proper levels of service are provided	Audit	Audit and re-categorisation completed	Primary	Parks and Gardens
Work with Development Services to ensure that whole of life infrastructure costs are considered for contributed park assets	Alliances	Methodology for assessing infrastructure costs implemented	Primary	Parks and Gardens / Development Services
Work with Strategic Planning to ensure park planning principles are incorporated in future versions of the Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme	Alliances	Amendments included in Planning Scheme	Primary	Parks and Gardens / Strategic Planning
Designate a primary function for each recreation park in the Sunshine Coast recreation park network to ensure new activity provision is consistent with this designation	Audit	Designation completed	Secondary	Parks and Gardens
Undertake benchmarking analysis to determine appropriate percentages of open, unencumbered space to be provide in each park type	Audit	Incorporation into DSS	Secondary	Parks and Gardens / Environment and Sustainability Policy

Scenic amenity

Table 34: Strategic actions – scenic amenity

Action	Process	Measure	Priority	Resource
Goal 2 – Scenic Amenity A recreation parks network that promotes the attractiveness of our region by preserving social and culturally significant views and by providing parks that bring people, place, and nature together				
Develop water management plan for parks to guide future irrigation needs	Asset Management	Plan developed	Primary	Parks and Gardens
Investigate opportunities to provide additional passive recreation infrastructure, such as seating, in locations identified in RPP – Locality of Interest of this plan	Activate	Opportunities incorporated into asset management systems	Secondary	Parks and Gardens
Undertake audits of park signage against assessment criteria to identify gaps, and opportunities to remove existing signs that contribute to visual clutter	Asset Management	Audit and asset disposal plan completed	Secondary	Parks and Gardens
Develop guidelines for water sensitive urban design infrastructure in parks that contributes to recreation and amenity	Alliances	Guidelines developed	Secondary	Parks and Gardens / Transport and Infrastructure Policy

Social

Table 35: Strategic actions – social

Action	Process	Measure	Priority	Resource
Goal 3 – Social A recreation parks network that provides safe community gathering places that connect people and place and encourage community cohesiveness, creative lifestyles and improved mental health benefits				
Engage with the community to identify new recreational activities that respond to community needs	Advocate	**New activities identified**	**Primary**	**Parks and Gardens**
Provide opportunities for community tree planting in recreation parks	Advocate	**New trees planted by community**	**Primary**	**Parks and Gardens**
Develop a comprehensive Parks and Gardens community engagement strategy based on council's Excellence through Engagement Framework that identifies opportunities to work collaboratively with volunteer groups in parks	Advocate	**Strategy developed**	**Secondary**	**Parks and Gardens**
Develop a garden strategy to expand the network of gardens across the Sunshine Coast region to ensure that user groups, especially those in direct need, are able to visit gardens near their place of residence, and where appropriate and feasible, engage in the development and maintenance of these spaces	Activation	**Strategy developed**	**Secondary**	**Parks and Gardens**
Undertake audits of park pathway infrastructure against assessment criteria to identify gaps, and establish a plan for future pathway development in parks	Audit	**Audit completed**	**Secondary**	**Parks and Gardens / Transport and Infrastructure Policy**

Ecological

Table 36: Strategic actions – ecological

Action	Process	Measure	Priority	Resource
Goal 4 – Ecological A recreation parks network that increases opportunities for residents and visitors to connect with nature in cooler, vegetated recreation parks				
Assist with the development of an Urban Forest Strategy for the region that includes park trees	Alliances	Strategy completed	Primary	**Environment and Sustainability Policy / Parks and Gardens**
Develop guidelines for park trees that meet urban forest objectives	Asset Management	Guidelines completed	Primary	**Parks and Gardens**
Analyse current shade provision in parks to identify gaps and opportunities to extend the provision of shade	Audit	Analysis completed	Primary	**Parks and Gardens**
Identify recreation parks, sports grounds and amenity reserves that have suitable attributes or capacity to support biodiversity outcomes and link core habitat areas	Alliances	Study completed	Secondary	**Parks and Gardens / Environment and Sustainability Policy**

Educational

Table 37: Strategic actions – educational

Action	Process	Measure	Priority	Resource
Goal 5 – Educational A recreation parks network that encourages opportunities for educational programs that contribute to cultural heritage, the arts, and living ecosystem knowledge in our recreation parks				
Develop a methodology for ensuring that First Nations and European cultural heritage is identified, protected and preserved in recreation parks	Advocate	**Methodology established**	**Primary**	**Parks and Gardens / Arts, Heritage and Libraries**
Work collaboratively with First Nations Peoples to strengthen linkages and interpretation of indigenous cultural heritage in open space	Advocate	**Community engaged and plan developed**	**Primary**	**Parks and Gardens / Arts, Heritage and Libraries / Community Development**
Provide support for creative and celebratory activities with appropriate landscape forms and infrastructure (mobile or built) in district and Sunshine Coast wide parks	Advocate	**Ongoing support**	**Secondary**	**Parks and Gardens / Arts Heritage and Library**
Utilise council's Smart City framework to provide digital education opportunities in recreation parks	Activate	**Programs implemented**	**Secondary**	**Parks and Gardens / Digital Information Services**

Economic

Table 38: Strategic actions – economic

Action	Process	Measure	Priority	Resource
Goal 6 – Economic — A recreation parks network that contributes to the economic development of the region by supporting tourism, providing functional settings for users, events and programs, and by attracting workers looking for active and healthy lifestyles				
Develop a digital platform that assists parks users with finding specific park activities	Advocate	Platform developed	Primary	Parks and Gardens
Work with Economic Development and Strategic Planning branches to identify the role of recreation parks in supporting economic growth and to ensure that parks are integrated into neighbouring land uses	Alliances	Planning Scheme amended	Primary	Parks and Gardens / Economic Development / Strategic Planning
Develop a comprehensive marketing and promotion plan to encourage the visitation and use of recreation parks across the entire network	Activate	Marketing and promotion activities implemented	Secondary	Parks and Gardens / Communication
Undertake commercial use site assessments in the identified parks in RPP – Locality of Interest to determine potential impacts	Activate	Assessment completed	Secondary	Parks and Gardens / Customer Response

Appendices

Appendix A

Park functions and benefits

"The landscape and character of the Sunshine Coast is the essence of our region and helps define our identity and culture." [8]

Active recreation

Active recreation is a very common park function that relates to activities across a range of physical exertions. These activities may be structured, like informal sporting games, or unstructured, like walking or use of a playground. Active recreation is activity where the goal is to increase physical fitness and overall well-being through exercise – it covers a wide range of behaviour. Preferred types of activity depends on individual physical ability and intention for the activity. Because these factors vary from person to person across the region council considers all ages and abilities when planning for active recreation opportunities. By doing this council assists residents and visitors to engage in physical activity and lead healthy lifestyles.

In some locations council provides activity specific infrastructure like play equipment [7]

and basketball hoops. Council also provides spaces that are intentionally free from built embellishment. These places allow for flexible recreational use like kicking a ball or throwing a Frisbee. Embellished and non-embellished activity spaces have equal importance in terms of providing active recreation opportunities.

In 2016 the top five physical activities undertaken by Queenslanders were:

| TOP 5 physical activities | Walking 55% | Any gym activity 29% |
| Swimming 19% | Running/jogging 15% | bush-walking 11% |

Scenic amenity

The attractiveness of a location's landscape and the extent to which a community values that attractiveness is often referred to as scenic amenity. Landscape is intrinsically linked with a community's character, the way in which the community sees itself within a broader regional, national or global context. On the Sunshine Coast this concept pre-dates European settlement of the region. First Nations people have long believed that identity and landscape are inherently connected.

Recreation parks provide a scenic amenity function in several ways. Parks provide a green frame around our built form that can integrate the built and natural environment. When properly planned, this integration:

• reflects and enhances local landscape and character

• connects residents and visitors with native flora and fauna

• strengthens community identity.

Many recreation parks offer exceptional views of prominent natural landscape features such as the Pumicestone Passage, Glasshouse Mountains and Mount Coolum as well as local community views that contribute to a sense of place. These views are fundamental to the attractiveness of the Sunshine Coast region and it is essential that they are preserved to maintain community character.

Social

Recreation parks are often used as a gathering place for communities. From a picnic overlooking the ocean to a community-wide festival, recreation parks allow many people to interact and engage with each other in an outdoor setting.

Neighbourhood parks encourage social inclusion in a culturally neutral environment. This allows residents from diverse backgrounds and age groups to feel a sense of ownership and belonging to a local community. This sense of inclusion promotes community participation and fosters civic identity. In rural communities where neighbours might live kilometres apart, recreation parks offer a central location for people to come together.

Council supports the social function of parks by providing safe environments. Supporting infrastructure can include picnic shelters, barbecue units and park benches under shady trees.

Ecological

The diverse natural environment of the Sunshine Coast, from the coastal foreshores to the dense rainforests of the hinterland, have long been appreciated by residents and visitors. These unique ecosystems set us apart from other regions and give us a natural advantage to attract new visitors, residents and people generally seeking a different work-life balance.

Biophilia is the innately emotional affiliation of human beings to other living organisms. [9]

Attraction to the living environment can be linked to a concept called biophilia which implies that humans require a direct physical, mental and emotional connection with the natural world in order to maintain personal well-being. Studies have shown that a consistent connection to nature can have measurable positive effects on personal health, productivity and societal relationships.

Engagement with nature takes many forms, from viewing vegetation from an office window to sitting by a mountain stream to mountain biking on a trail in the bush. Council has made it a priority to provide a range of opportunities to enjoy our natural environment and will continue to seek new and unique ways to bring people and nature together. [10]

Green infrastructure is the physical natural environment within and between our cities, towns and villages. It is a network of parks, gardens, native vegetation, green corridors, waterways, street trees and open countryside. There is general consensus that protecting and enhancing green infrastructure across the landscape will build resilience to climate change. [11]

Recreation parks serve a number of ecological functions. Green spaces in parks, streets, environment reserves and waterways make up what is commonly known as green infrastructure. This infrastructure plays a key role in mitigating climate change by cooling surface temperatures and regulating natural hazards like droughts and floods. The services to the community that are provided through this infrastructure are known as ecosystem services.

Ecosystem services are the goods and services provided by ecosystems that benefit, sustain and support the well- being of people. [12]

It is important that we balance ecological function with recreational opportunities in our parks. By incorporating living infrastructure that is appropriate for a particular setting council will support biodiversity and create comfortable spaces that provide a sense of connection to place.

Kabi Kabi Peoples interpretative sign, Muller Park, Bli Bli

Educational – cultural, natural and artistic

Parks provide an opportunity to learn about history, culture and nature in a stimulating setting. The Sunshine Coast's rich history, from First Nations heritage to modern surf culture, has been recognised in council parks through interpretive signs and monuments. These embellishments teach residents and visitors about the places that have shaped who we are as a community. It is important that council continues to engage with historians and Traditional Owner groups to value cultural heritage across the recreation parks network.

Opportunities for educational experiences in parks are not limited to historical topics. Many recreation parks across the network contain educational embellishments about the diverse flora and fauna of our region. Embellishments explaining ecological processes have also been incorporated into a number of play spaces, encouraging children to learn about the natural world around them.

Recreation parks provide an optimal location for the public to engage with public art, generating positive effects on personal health and societal relationships. Council will continue to develop efficient processes to ensure consistent management of public art in recreation parks.

Economic

Recreation parks serve a number of economic functions. Tourism has been a leading sector on the Sunshine Coast for many years and will remain a significant part of the regional economy in the future as predicted in the council's Regional Economic Development Strategy (REDS). Recreation parks support tourism by providing attractive public spaces that are freely available for use by visitors. The vibrancy of public spaces, like the Mooloolaba foreshore parks and Caloundra's Happy Valley and Bulcock Beach parks, is one of the many reasons people visit the Sunshine Coast region.

Recreation parks also deliver an economic function by providing the setting in which large events like festivals and markets occur. These events are socially and economically valuable to the community and it is vital that council continues to provide functional spaces for large groups.

Attracting new workers with unique open space, easy access to recreational opportunities and work-life balance is an important economic consideration for the region. The council will continue to promote the Sunshine Coast's desirable lifestyle, enhanced by the recreation parks network.

Benefits of parks

Social

Topophilia is the affective bond between people and place or setting. It can also be described as strong sense of place, which is often intertwined with a sense of cultural identity. In its simplest form, it is an individual's attachment to certain aspects of a place.[13] Attachment and meaning emerge from a variety of experiences and situations, and are often related to parks, green spaces, and natural areas.

Greener neighbourhoods, especially those with green common areas, encourage social bonding between neighbours and improve the overall social setting. Natural elements encourage people to spend more time outside, creating stronger social ties and friendships with neighbours through spontaneous face-to-face encounters. [14]

Research indicates that there is a significant correlation between the amount of vegetation in a neighbourhood and the strength of the relationships between neighbours. When compared to residents living near barren spaces, those living in close proximity to green spaces are more socially active, enjoy more visitors, have a greater knowledge of their neighbours, and feel a stronger tie to their community. [15]

As the Sunshine Coast continues to rapidly urbanise over the next 25 years, the provision of green common spaces within and adjacent to high density residential uses will become a crucial mechanism for maintaining social interaction between residents. [16] Studies have shown that urban green spaces contribute to higher rates of neighbourhood satisfaction amongst residents. Also, people who live in urban settings containing vegetated common areas have a tendency to congregate more, meet in bigger groups, and socially interact with a wider range of people of different ages than those living near common areas with less or no vegetation. [17]

Childhood development

Childhood development is a holistic process, involving a multitude of inputs, which differs from child to child. Some children learn successfully in a classroom environment, others require more of an interactive, hands-on learning experience. Studies have shown that traditional test-driven education mandates often fail to address the essential emotional, social or creative requirements of a child. This can lead to under-developed problem solving intelligence later in life. [18] Exposure to recreation park environments can supplement traditional education approaches by motivating children to learn about the world around them. The informal learning, non-formal programs, and formal instruction associated with parks can reinforce each other, enhancing academic achievement. [19]

Perhaps the most important benefit that parks bring to children is happiness. Playgrounds and parks are enjoyable spaces to explore, and children develop attachments to these places accordingly. [20] Children form attachment to place, as well as the meanings of things, based on actual and potential activities within a given place or environment. [21] In one study, children who lived primarily in urban areas were asked to draw their favourite places. 96% of these children drew an outdoor scene with trees and playgrounds, and most of them included images of themselves playing with friends and family. [22]

Public health

Physical activity

Regular physical activity has been to shown to improve well-being (both physical and psychological) and reduce the risk of heart disease, type 2 diabetes, some cancers, and depression. [23] In 2008 insufficient physical activity resulted in an estimated $672 million in health sector costs nationally and $1.135 billion in production losses. Queensland's share of this burden, based on population, was a total of approximately $361 million, where 37% ($134 million) was associated with costs to the health sector and 63% ($227 million) allocated for production losses. [24]

Insufficient physical activity is one of the leading causes of obesity in Australia. According to the Queensland Chief Health Officer's report on the health of Queenslanders, about 1 in 14 children was obese in 2016, compared with about 1 in 50 some 30 years ago. For adults, 3 in 10 are obese compared with about 1 in 10 in the early 90s. [25] Obesity increases the risk of chronic disease, particularly diabetes and certain types of cancer. If all State residents maintained a healthy body mass, there could be 2200 fewer cancer cases per year in Queensland. [26]

It has long been recognised that the foundations of good health are established in childhood. While children in Queensland are, on average, more active than children in the rest of Australia, only 43% of children in the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Services area achieved a sufficient level (1 hour per day) of physical activity. [27] [28] Even more concerning is the fact that as children age, the proportion meeting the recommended activity level decreases, with about 20% meeting the standard level by the time they reach 16–17 years. [29] During this same period, the amount of screen time (on portable devices, computers and televisions) increases substantially. During the teenage years, there is a clear pattern emerging of diminishing activity and increasing sedentariness. [30]

Queensland's Chief Health Officer has recommended the following strategies to combat these concerning trends and to promote active lifestyles across the state:

- Establish activity patterns in childhood
- Provide safe environments for walking
- Embed opportunities for regular physical activity into everyday life
- Promote active ageing. [31]

Developing active recreation environments in recreation parks supports life-long participation that will promote physical health and healthy ageing. Public green space that is safe and fit for purpose needs to be accessible to residents and visitors of all ages and abilities. [32]

Mental health

Psychological health is now recognised as an important factor in overall well-being of a person or a community as a whole. Recreation parks can enhance mental health and feelings of happiness by providing places of refuge where individuals can process goals and values, think about personal circumstances and find solitude and inner peace. [33] [34]

As the population of the Sunshine Coast continues to grow in a more dense and urbanised manner, the need to find these places of refuge will become more pronounced. Recreation parks and urban forests provide an opportunity to find privacy and escape from mental-fatigue and associated diseases that often result from urban living. [35] [36] In continental Europe, disease rates, including mental disease, were shown to be less prevalent in areas with higher percentage of green space within a 1km radius than those with lower percentages. [37]

By providing spaces that have incorporated biophilic design, or the use of nature to evoke positive emotional experience, council can foster positive mental health outcomes related to place attachment. Creative biophilic design can lead to feelings of caring, enjoyment, interest, fascination and wonder. [38] [39]

Economic

Recreation parks have a positive effect on property values. The higher price of residential properties close to parks and gardens (relative to more distant properties) indicates the value individual purchasers place on the quality of the surrounding environment.[40] The higher value of these properties allows local governments to increase property taxes and in turn increases opportunities for more public revenue. [41]

The provision of easily accessible and functional open space supports the attraction and retention of high-quality talent looking for work-life balance. Studies have shown that 'knowledge workers', those individuals selling their knowledge as opposed to physical outputs, prefer places with a diverse range of outdoor recreational opportunities. The corresponding quality of life associated with these activities can increase the attractiveness of a job by 33%. [42]

In addition to attracting skilled workers, recreation parks and functional open space can also encourage retirees looking for both active and relaxed lifestyles to move into a community. Retirees bring expendable income into their communities, increase the tax base and are contributing taxpayers, using fewer services than they pay for through taxes. Retirees also transfer significant assets into local investment and banking institutions, expanding the local deposit base that can be used for commercial and industrial financing. [43]

Environmental

Green infrastructure

Green infrastructure is the interconnected network of parks, gardens, native vegetation, green corridors, waterways, street trees and open countryside in a given area. There is general consensus that protecting and enhancing green infrastructure across the landscape will build resilience to climate change as well as provide a number of other ecological, social and economic benefits.

Linking parks, greenways, river corridors, and other natural or restored lands together to create an interconnected green space system provides numerous benefits for people, wildlife, and the economy. It helps connect people and neighbourhoods, provides opportunities for exercise that can counter today's trends in obesity and inactivity, and enhances emotional and psychological well-being by bringing nature closer to home. [44]

Recreation parks can assist in preserving essential ecological functions and protect biodiversity. A network of parks can also provide pathways for wildlife moving from one isolated natural area to another. When connected strategically with riparian areas, wetlands, and other urban green spaces parks can thrive as a wildlife habitat system and help to restore and maintain vital ecological functions and services. [45]

One of the most pronounced benefits of an interconnected green space system is the financial benefit achieved when green infrastructure reduces the need for built infrastructure. Green space systems that have been designed to include stream networks, wetlands, and other low-lying areas can provide numerous stormwater management benefits, including storing, carrying, and filtering storm runoff. It is estimated that the tree canopy in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan region, which is approximately 76,000 hectares in total area, provides 27 million cubic meters in avoided storage of water, valued at $3.3 billion (AUD) annually. [46]

Climate change adaptation

According to scientist across the globe, climate change is predicted to result in more extreme weather patterns. South East Queensland, with its ever-growing population and coastal location, has been identified as a 'hot spot' increasingly vulnerable to climate change. [47] Of relevance to open space is the forecasted extended dry periods and more intense rainfall and storms resulting in additional periods of drought, heat waves and flooding. [48]

Whilst climate change poses immediate threats to open space in terms of habit loss, flooding, damage to infrastructure, erosion and permanent inundation, open space can also play an important role in mitigating and adapting to climate change. [49] Open space can assist with mitigation and adaptation by offering water retention to limit flooding impact, carbon offsets to reduce greenhouse damaging gases, vegetation to help promote cooling during heat waves and even in suitable locations, a space for communities to congregate during emergency situations.

The urban heat island (UHI) effect is described as a weather phenomenon causing urban areas to be hotter than surrounding non-urban areas. The UHI effect is caused by urbanisation and the associated infrastructure needed to support growing populations in urban areas. [50] When natural surfaces are replaced with concrete and asphalt, heat is absorbed and trapped instead of being filtered. Absorbed heat is later released causing local temperatures to increase. [51] Furthermore, impervious surfaces reduce the atmosphere's natural ability to cool via evaporation. Heat is also created and trapped in urban areas as a result of local heat production from cars, factories and waste gases. [52]

Open space can significantly reduce the UHI effect by replacing impervious surfaces and providing vegetation to absorb heat from the sun and in turn reduce opportunities for heat to be absorbed. [53] [54] Research undertaken during the development of council's Street Tree Master Plan has identified the significant role that trees, particularly large mature trees, play in mitigating the effect of UHI.

Street Tree Master Plan – Trees have a significant role to play

Trees help reduce the impact of greenhouse gas emissions. They sequester (capture) and store carbon in their wood and provide oxygen in return. The quantifiable direct benefits of trees on a population level in carbon capture and storage at a regional scale are significant. Yet indirect benefits of tree shaded footpaths and cycleways which support the uptake of active and public transport, reducing single vehicle travel also reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Tree shade can also reduce peak summer energy demands in our warming climate. The Sunshine Coast's mean surface air temperature increased by about 1 °C between 1910 and 2013. [55] Locally relevant climate projections indicate further increases in mean surface temperature of between 0.7 °C to 1.3 °C by 2030, with mean surface temperature expected to increase by 2.7 °C to 4.7 °C by 2090.

Increasing tree canopy coverage is one of the most cost effective strategies for cooling buildings and local neighbourhoods. [56] Carefully positioned shade trees can reduce household energy demand in Sydney's climate change scenarios by 2% to 5%. [57] The City of Melbourne's work suggests that increasing urban canopy cover by 10% could reduce daytime surface temperature by more than 1°C. [58]

Policy, planning and implementation framework
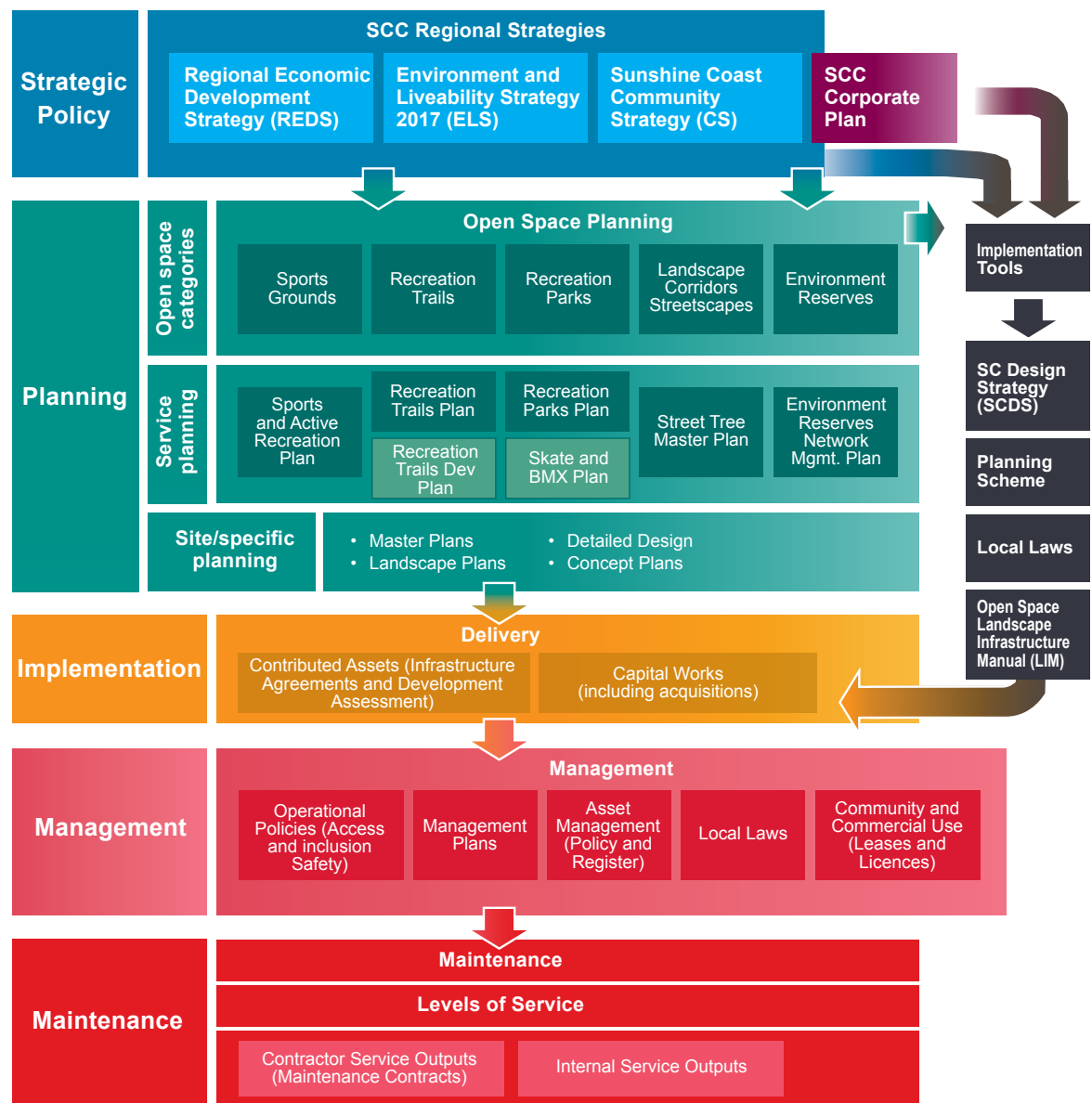
Figure 39: SCC Policy hierarchy flow chart

Appendix B

Appendix B are extracts from
SC Environment and Liveability
Strategy 2017 (ELS)

Open space desired standards of service (DSS) summary

Table 40: Open space desired standards of service summary

Category		Hierarchy	Minimum Size	Minimum Width	Minimum Road Frontage	Accessibility	Provision Rate
Recreation	Recreation parks	Council-wide	10–20ha	100-200m	50%	20km (30min travel)	0.7ha/ 1000 people
		District	3–5ha	50–100m	50% or 2 sides	3km (30min walk, 20min cycle 10min drive)	1.3ha/ 1000 people
		Local (urban)	0.5ha	50m	50% or 2 sides	500m (5-10min walk)	1ha/ 1000 people
		Local (rural)				Located in rural township	1 per rural township
		Local (industrial)				Within 1km from place of work	1 per estate
		Civic	0.5 in principal or major centre 0.1ha in district centres or below	50m	25%	Within activity centre	1 per activity centre
	Amenity reserves	-	0.2-0.5ha	-	Sufficient for passive surveillance	-	-
	Linear parks	-	-	15-30m corridor	-	-	-
Landscape	Landscape corridors	-	-	-	Sufficient for passive surveillance	-	-
Sport	Sports grounds	Council-wide	20ha	400m	50%	20km (30min travel)	0.5ha/ 1000 people
		District	15ha	300m		5km (60min walk, 45min cycle, 10min drive)	1.5ha/ 1000 people
	Specific purpose sports	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trails	Recreation trails	Signature	10km+	15m corridor	-	50km	-
		District	5–10km			15km	
		Local	Less than 5km			500m	

Council-wide recreation park standards

Provision rate

• 0.7ha per 1,000 people.

Size, shape and frontage

• 10–20ha (refer to standard land requirements).
• Minimum width of 100–200m.
• A regular and compact shape that can accommodate the intended role and function.
• Road frontage a minimum of 50% of perimeter.

Topography and gradient

• Activity areas (plazas, playgrounds, kick and throw spaces) have a gradient of no more than 3%.
• Key use areas provide for equitable access.

Location

• Within 20 km from most residences (generally 30min travel time).
• On or close to an arterial road and within walking distance of regular public transport in urban areas.
• Located near activity hubs like schools, community facilities, and shopping precincts.
• Generally located in or adjacent to urban areas however rural and hinterland areas may provide opportunities for diversity of experience.
• Located to take advantage of significant natural, social and culturally significant views and landscape features.

Accessibility

• Multiple access points are located along the perimeter of the park, with a designated and easily identifiable main access.
• On-site car parking provided to meet user needs.
• Signage is located in key locations to clearly identify park name and restrictions (if any) and to assist with way finding within and on-route to the park.
• Emergency and service vehicle access provided.
• Activity nodes are linked by hard-surfaced pathways to allow for equitable access.

Linkages

• Linked to the recreation trails or pedestrian/bicycle network. May provide a trail head for recreation trails.
• Internal pathways connecting to the street provided without conflicting with the primary use.
• Safe and interesting path and trail linkages that encourage active transport are provided.
• Refer 4.3 for details on pathway linkages.

Activities

• Park activities and associated infrastructure are consistent with park category, location and setting
• Activities are provided in clustered nodes that provide multi-generational recreational opportunities
• A range of activities such as recreation and community gathering, play spaces, major events, community gardens, dog off leash, skate parks.
• Commercial activities may be permitted.
• Refer to part 4.2 of this plan for more details on activity provision.

Functionality

- Park infrastructure contributes to a specific function and is located to be utilised at full potential.
- Compatible functions and activities are co-located and clustered.
- Park activity nodes and facilities are located on the perimeter of open areas.
- An area provided which can withstand heavy use for major events.
- Adequate natural shade is provided and balanced with open areas to maximise year-round user comfort and safety.
- Utility functions not servicing the park should be located adjacent and not impact functions.

Landscape and character

- Park design is responsive to existing environmental conditions and community identity.
- Distinctive qualities of the landscape character (formal to natural) strengthened through material selection, built form and planting design.
- Existing trees retained and new trees planted at strategic locations to contribute to amenity.
- Key viewpoints identified and protected.
- Interpretive elements provided for cultural and environmental features.
- Culturally relevant arts infrastructure is encouraged in appropriate park locations (may also be incorporated in play spaces as interactive play).

Natural assets

- Natural assets are identified and enhanced.
- Linkages to existing vegetation in surrounding area is provided.
- A planting style that suits the character of the park and local area.
- Where integrated, water-sensitive urban design (WSUD) elements are provided in addition to minimum land requirements and do not interfere with the function of the park.
- Refer 4.3 for details on tree planting in parks.

Safety and security

- CPTED principles applied.
- Conflicting uses are identified and avoided.
- Artificial and natural shade utilised for play spaces (Refer 4.3 for details on shade provision).
- Play spaces located in visible, safe areas away from roads and private dwellings.
- Landscaping, vegetation or other access control measures used to deter unauthorised vehicle access.
- Flood immunity.
- Land above 5% AEP (1 in 20).
- Key infrastructure and activity areas (ie playgrounds/ exercise equipment, picnic/kick and throw spaces, bins, pathways, fencing, access and car parking etc.) above 2% AEP (1 in 50).

- Buildings/structures above 1% AEP (1 in 100).
- Stormwater flows do not compromise function or safety in the park.

Flood immunity

- Land above 5% AEP (1 in 20).
- Key infrastructure and activity areas (ie playgrounds/ exercise equipment, picnic/kick and throw spaces, bins, pathways, fencing, access and car parking etc.) above 2% AEP (1 in 50).
- Buildings/structures above 1% AEP (1 in 100).
- Stormwater flows do not compromise function or safety in the park.

Embellishments

- Built and natural infrastructure supports a specific, identified function
- Refer 2.1 – Table 1: Council-wide recreation parks embellishment requirements for further details.

District
recreation park standards

Provision rate

- 1.3ha per 1,000 people.

Size, shape and frontage

- 3–5 ha (refer to standard land requirements).
- Minimum width of 50–100 m.
- A regular and compact shape that can accommodate the intended role and function.
- Road frontage a minimum of two sides or 50% of perimeter.

Topography and gradient

- Activity areas (plazas, playgrounds, kick and throw spaces) have a gradient of no more than 3%.
- Key use areas provide for equitable access.

Location

- Within 3.0 km from most residences in urban areas (generally a 30 min walk, 20 min cycle or 10 min drive).
- On or close to a distributor or arterial road and within walking distance of regular public transport.
- Located in urban areas or areas of special interest and may adjoin other community facilities.
- Located to take advantage of significant natural, social and culturally significant views and landscape features.

Accessibility

- Multiple access points are located along the perimeter of the park, with a designated and easily identifiable main access.
- On-site car parking provided to meet user needs.
- Signage is located in key locations to clearly identify park name and restrictions (if any) and to assist with way finding within and on-route to the park.
- Emergency and service vehicle access provided.
- Activity nodes are linked by hard-surfaced pathways to allow for equitable access.

Linkages

- Linked to the recreation trails or pedestrian/ bicycle network. May provide a trail head for recreation trails.
- Internal pathways connecting to the street provided without conflicting with the primary use.
- Safe and interesting path and trail linkages that encourage active transport are provided.
- Refer 4.3 for details on pathway linkages

Activities

- Park activities and associated infrastructure are consistent with park category, location and setting
- Activities are provided in clustered nodes that provide multi-generational recreational opportunities
- A range of activities such as recreation and community gathering, play spaces, community events, community gardens, dog off leash and skate parks.
- Commercial activities may be permitted.
- Refer to part 4.2 of this plan for more details on activity provision.

Functionality

- Park infrastructure contributes to a specific function and is located to be utilised at full potential.
- Compatible functions and activities are co-located and clustered.
- Park activity nodes and facilities are located on the perimeter of open areas.
- Areas provided that can withstand use for community events.
- Adequate natural shade is provided and balanced with open areas to maximise year-round user comfort and safety.
- Utility functions not servicing the park should be located adjacent and not impact functions.

Landscape and character

- Park design is responsive to existing environmental conditions and community identity.
- Distinctive qualities of the landscape character (formal to natural) strengthened through material selection, built form and planting design.
- Existing trees retained and new trees planted at strategic locations to contribute to amenity.
- Key viewpoints identified and protected.
- Interpretive elements provided for cultural and environmental features.
- Culturally relevant arts infrastructure is encouraged in appropriate park locations (may also be incorporated in play spaces as interactive play).

Natural assets

- Natural assets are identified and enhanced.
- Linkages to existing vegetation in surrounding area is provided.
- A planting style that suits the character of the park and local area.
- Where integrated, water-sensitive urban design (WSUD) elements are provided in addition to minimum land requirements and do not interfere with the function of the park.
- Refer 4.3 for details on tree planting in parks.

Safety and security

- CPTED principles applied.
- Conflicting uses are identified and avoided
- Artificial and natural shade utilised for play spaces (Refer 4.3 for details on shade provision)
- Play spaces located in visible, safe areas away from roads and private dwellings.
- Landscaping, vegetation or other access control measures used to deter unauthorised vehicle access.

Flood immunity

- Land above 5% AEP (1 in 20).
- Key infrastructure and activity areas (ie playgrounds/ exercise equipment, picnic/kick and throw spaces, bins, pathways, fencing, access and car parking etc.) above 2% AEP (1 in 50).
- Buildings/structures above 1% AEP (1 in 100).
- Park layout designed so that stormwater flows do not compromise function or safety in the park.

Embellishments

- Built and natural infrastructure supports a specific, identified function
- Refer 2.1 – Table 2: District recreation parks embellishment requirements for further details.

Local recreation park standards

Provision rate

- 1ha per 1,000 people (urban areas).
- 1 park per rural township (rural areas).

Size, shape and frontage

- Minimum 0.5 ha (refer to standard land requirements).
- Minimum width of 50 m.
- A regular and compact shape that can accommodate the intended role and function.
- Road frontage a minimum of two sides or 50% of perimeter.

Topography and gradient

- Activity areas (playgrounds, kick and throw spaces) have a gradient of no more than 3%.
- Key use areas provide for equitable access.

Location

- Within 500 m from residences in urban areas (generally a 5-10 min walk).
- Within a rural township in rural areas.
- Within 1.0 km from place of work in industrial areas.
- On a collector road or lower.
- Located to take advantage of significant natural, social and culturally significant views and landscape features.

Accessibility

- Multiple access points are located along the perimeter of the park, with a designated and easily identifiable main access.
- Signage is located in key locations to clearly identify park name and restrictions (if any) and to assist with way finding within and on-route to the park.
- Emergency and service vehicle access provided.
- Activity node is linked by hard-surfaced pathway to allow for equitable access.

Linkages

- Linked to the recreation trails or pedestrian/ bicycle network. May provide a trail head for recreation trails.
- Internal pathways connecting to the street provided without conflicting with the primary use.
- Safe and interesting path and trail linkages that encourage active transport may be provided in appropriate locations.
- Refer 4.3 for details on pathway linkages.

Activities

- Park activities and associated infrastructure are consistent with park category, location and setting.
- Activities are provided in a single clustered node.
- Active and passive recreation and social gathering, play spaces.
- Refer to part 4.2 of this plan for more details on activity provision.

Functionality

- Park infrastructure contributes to a specific function and is located to be utilised at full potential.
- Compatible functions and activities are co-located and clustered.
- Park activity node is located on the perimeter of open areas.
- Adequate natural shade is provided and balanced with open areas to maximise year-round user comfort and safety.
- Utility functions not servicing the park should be located adjacent and not impact functions.

Landscape and character

- Park design is responsive to existing environmental conditions and community identity.
- Distinctive qualities of the landscape character (formal to natural) strengthened through material selection, built form and planting design.
- Existing trees retained and new trees planted at strategic locations to contribute to amenity.
- Key viewpoints identified and protected.
- Interpretive elements provided for cultural and environmental features.
- Culturally relevant arts infrastructure is encouraged in appropriate park locations (may also be incorporated in play spaces as interactive play).

Natural assets

- Natural assets are identified and enhanced.
- Linkages to existing vegetation in surrounding area is provided.
- A planting style that suits the character of the park and local area.
- Where integrated, water-sensitive urban design (WSUD) elements are provided in addition to minimum land requirements and do not interfere with the function of the park.
- Refer 4.3 for details on tree planting in parks.

Safety and security

- CPTED principles applied.
- Conflicting uses are identified and avoided.
- Artificial and natural shade utilised for play spaces (Refer 4.3 for details on shade provision).
- Play spaces located in visible, safe areas away from roads and private dwellings.
- Landscaping, vegetation or other access control measures used to deter unauthorised vehicle access.

Flood immunity

- Land above 5% AEP (1 in 20).
- Key infrastructure and activity areas (ie playgrounds/ exercise equipment, picnic/kick and throw spaces, bins, pathways, fencing, etc.) above 2% AEP (1 in 50).
- Structures above 1% AEP (1 in 100).
- Park layout designed so that stormwater flows do not compromise function or safety in the park.

Embellishments

- Built and natural infrastructure supports a specific, identified function
- Refer 2.1 – Table 3: Local recreation parks embellishment requirements for further details.

Civic park standards

Provision rate

- 1 per activity centre.

Size, shape and frontage

- Minimum 0.5 ha in principle or major centres and 0.1 ha in district centre or below.
- Minimum width of 50 m.
- A regular and compact shape that can accommodate the intended role and function.
- Road frontage a minimum of 25% of perimeter.

Topography and gradient

- Activity areas (playgrounds, kick and throw spaces) have a gradient of no more than 3%.
- Key use areas provide for equitable access.

Location

- Located within an activity centre, in a prominent and central location with a high level of pedestrian accessibility.
- Located to take advantage of significant natural, social and culturally significant views and landscape features.

Accessibility

- Multiple access points are located along the perimeter of the park, with a designated and easily identifiable main access.
- Signage is located in key locations to clearly identify park name and restrictions (if any) and to assist with way finding within and on-route to the park.
- Emergency and service vehicle access provided.
- Activity nodes are linked by hard-surfaced pathway to allow for equitable access.

Linkages

- Located on multiple public transport links.
- Linked to the recreation trails or pedestrian/bicycle network.
- Internal pathways connecting to the street provided without conflicting with the primary use.
- Good physical and visual connectivity with active areas and commercial and community facilities.
- Refer 4.3 for details on pathway linkages

Activities

- Park activities and associated infrastructure are consistent with park category, location and setting
- Active and passive recreation, social gathering, play spaces.
- Refer part 4.2 for more details on activity provision.

Functionality

- Park infrastructure contributes to a specific function and is located to be utilised at full potential.
- Sufficient hard stand to cater for larger events and community gatherings.
- Park activity nodes are located on the perimeter of open areas
- Adequate natural shade is provided and balanced with open areas to maximise year-round user comfort and safety.
- Utility functions not servicing the park should be located adjacent and not impact functions.

Landscape and character

- Park design is responsive to existing environmental conditions and community identity
- Distinctive qualities of the landscape character (formal to natural) strengthened through material selection, built form and planting design.
- Existing trees retained and new trees planted at strategic locations to contribute to amenity.
- Key viewpoints identified and protected.
- Interpretive elements provided for cultural and environmental features.
- Culturally relevant arts infrastructure is encouraged in appropriate park locations (may also be incorporated in play spaces as interactive play).

Natural assets

- Natural assets are identified and enhanced
- Linkages to existing vegetation in surrounding area is provided.
- A planting style that suits the character of the park and local area.
- Where integrated, water-sensitive urban design (WSUD) elements are provided in addition to minimum land requirements and do not interfere with the function of the park.
- Refer 4.3 for details on tree planting in parks

Safety and security

- CPTED principles applied.
- Conflicting uses are identified and avoided.
- Artificial and natural shade utilised for play spaces (Refer 4.3 for details on shade provision).
- Play spaces located in visible, safe areas away from roads and private dwellings.
- Landscaping, vegetation or other access control measures used to deter unauthorised vehicle access.

Flood immunity

- Land and infrastructure above 1% AEP (1 in 100).
- Structures.
- Park layout designed so that stormwater flows do not compromise function or safety in the park.

Embellishments

- Built and natural infrastructure supports a specific, identified function.
- Refer 2.1 – Table 4: Civic parks embellishment requirements for further details.

Linear park standards

Provision rate

- N/A.

Size, shape and frontage

- Where located on a waterway of stream order 5* or above, a minimum 30 m width.
- Where on a waterway of stream order 3 or 4*, or not located adjacent to a waterway, a minimum 15 m width.
- Generally linear in shape and of an appropriate length with multiple access points to avoid entrapment.
- Where a riparian conservation buffer is required, the required linear park width is provided in addition to the riparian buffer.

Topography and gradient

- Land should be reasonably flat unless elevation provides a public benefit (eg view).

Location

- Adjacent to foreshore areas or riparian corridors (rivers and creeks) where possible.

Accessibility

- Signage is located in key locations to clearly identify park restrictions (if any) and to assist with way finding within and on-route to the park.
- Emergency and service vehicle access provided at appropriate locations.
- Activity nodes are linked by hard-surfaced pathway to allow for equitable access.

Linkages

- Parks provide a connection between multiple open space areas and community hubs.
- Linked to the recreation trails or pedestrian/bicycle network.
- Safe and interesting path and trail linkages that encourage active transport are provided.
- Refer 4.3 for details on pathway linkages.

Activities

- Active recreation (ie walking, recreational cycling, use of exercise equipment), play spaces, passive recreation.
- Refer 4.2 for more details on activity provision.

Functionality

- Park infrastructure contributes to a specific function and is located to be utilised at full potential
- Pathway connections should be shared use and accommodate varying levels of mobility.
- Play spaces and fitness nodes may be included close to pathways in a manner that does not inhibit continuous access
- Adequate natural shade is provided and balanced with open areas to maximise year-round user comfort and safety.

Landscape and character

- Park design is responsive to existing environmental conditions and community identity.
- Distinctive qualities of the landscape character (formal to natural) strengthened through material selection, built form and planting design.
- Existing trees retained and new trees planted at strategic locations to contribute to amenity.
- Key viewpoints identified and protected.
- Interpretive elements provided for cultural and environmental features.

Natural assets

- Natural assets are identified and enhanced.
- Linkages to existing vegetation in surrounding area is provided.
- A planting style that suits the character of the park and local area.
- Where integrated, water-sensitive urban design (WSUD) elements are provided in addition to minimum land requirements and do not interfere with the function of the park.
- Refer 4.3 for details on tree planting in parks.

Safety and security

- CPTED principles applied.
- Conflicting uses are identified and avoided
- Artificial and natural shade utilised for play spaces (Refer 4.3 for details on shade provision)
- Play spaces located in visible, safe areas away from roads and private dwellings.
- Landscaping, vegetation or other access control measures used to deter unauthorised vehicle access.

Flood immunity

- Key infrastructure (ie exercise equipment, bins, pathways, fencing, etc.) above 5% AEP (1 in 20).
- Park layout designed so that stormwater flows do not compromise function or safety in the park.

Embellishments

- Built and natural infrastructure supports a specific, identified function
- Refer 2.1 – Table 5: Linear parks embellishment requirements for further details.

Amenity reserves standards

Provision rate

- N/A.

Size, shape and frontage

- 0.2– 0.5ha
- Park appropriately sized to sustainably support mature trees while providing adequate buffers to adjoining properties.
- Sufficient road frontage to allow passive surveillance.

Topography and gradient

- N/A.

Location and accessibility

- In urban areas, parks are linked to the recreation trails or pedestrian/bicycle network.
- Service vehicle access provided.

Linkages

- May provide links to wildlife corridors.

Activities and functionality

- Limited passive recreation.

Landscape and character

- Park design is responsive to existing environmental conditions and community identity.
- Distinctive qualities of the landscape character (formal to natural) strengthened through material selection and planting design.
- Natural vegetation to be retained where appropriate.
- May contain special features of interest.

Natural assets

- Natural assets are identified and enhanced
- Linkages to existing vegetation in surrounding area is provided
- A planting style that suits the character of the park and local area
- Where integrated, water-sensitive urban design (WSUD) elements are provided in addition to minimum land requirements and do not interfere with the function of the park.
- Refer 4.3 for details on tree planting in parks.

Safety and security

- CPTED principles applied relevant to nature of setting.
- Landscaping, vegetation or other measures used to deter unauthorised vehicle access.

Flood immunity

- N/A.

Embellishments

- Built and natural infrastructure supports a specific, identified function
- Refer 2.1 – Table 6: Amenity reserves embellishment requirements for further details.

Landscape corridor standards

Provision rate

- N/A.

Size, shape and frontage

- Park appropriately sized to sustainably support mature trees while providing adequate buffers to adjoining properties.
- Sufficient road frontage to allow passive surveillance.

Topography and gradient

- N/A.

Location and accessibility

- Consideration given to service vehicle access requirements for maintenance.

Linkages

- Can provide a corridor for flora and fauna between parks or reserves.

Activities and functionality

- Limited activity.

Landscape and character

- Natural vegetation to be retained where appropriate.

Natural assets

- Natural assets are identified and enhanced.
- Linkages to existing vegetation in surrounding area is provided.
- A planting style that suits the character of the park and local area.

Safety and security

- CPTED principles applied relevant to the level of risk and nature of setting where adjacent to areas with pedestrian access.
- Where integrated, WSUD elements in open space should not interfere with the functionality of the park.

Flood immunity

- N/A.

Embellishments

- Refer 2.1 – Table 7: Landscape corridor embellishment requirements for further details.

Embellishment tables – Open space

Table 41: Recreation park, landscape areas,
sports grounds and trail embellishments

| Embellishments | Recreation | | | | Landscape | | | Sport | | | Trails |
| | Recreation parks | | | | Amenity reserves | Linear parks | Landscape corridors | Sports grounds | | Specific purpose | Recreation trails |
	Council-wide	District	Local	Civic				Council-wide	District		
Animals											
Artificial fauna habitat (eg nest boxes, bat box etc.)			✓		✓	✓	✓				
Dog off leash park	✓	✓									
Dog on leash	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓					✓
Horse infrastructure										✓	✓
Barriers											
Bollards	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fences and gates	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Walls - retaining (hard and soft)	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Walls - freestanding	✓	✓		✓				✓	✓	✓	✓
Furniture											
Barbecues	✓	✓						✓			
Bicycle racks and rails	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	T
Bins	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Drinking fountains	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	T
Picnic tables and benches	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	T
Seats	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Showers (outdoor)	W	W	W			W					
Taps – maintenance	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	T
Taps – public access	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		

Legend
✓ = may be suitable based on site assessment
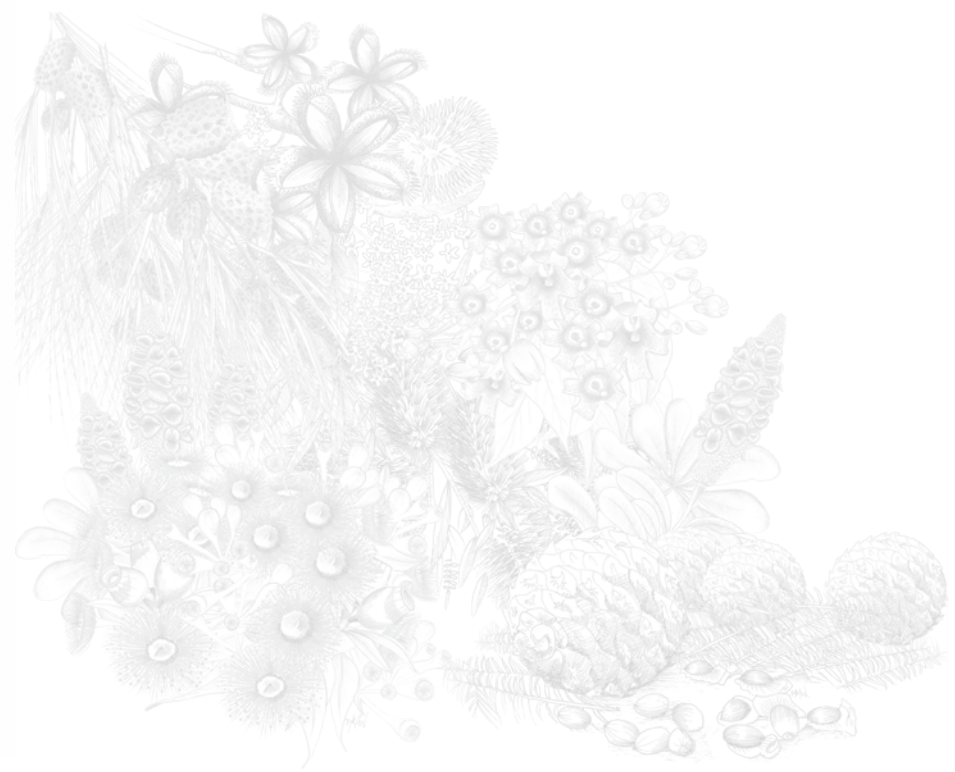T = key locations/trail head only
W = where adjacent to coast or waterway

Table 41: Recreation park, landscape areas, sports grounds and trail embellishments *continued...*

| | Recreation | | | | | | Landscape | Sport | | | Trails |
| | Recreation parks | | | | Amenity reserves | Linear parks | Landscape corridors | Sports grounds | | Specific purpose | Recreation trails |
Embellishments	Council-wide	District	Local	Civic				Council-wide	District		
Pedestrian infrastructure											
Boardwalks and viewing platforms	✓	✓					✓				✓
Handrails and balustrades	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓
Pedestrian bridges	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓		✓
Ramps and stairs	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓
Sealed footpath/bikeway (link to external network)	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sealed paths and trails (internal)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
Tactiles	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Unsealed trails						✓					✓
Planning and design											
Concept plan	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Detailed design	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Master plan	✓	✓				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Planting											
Garden edging	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Planting (community gardens)	✓	✓									
Planting (landscape)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Planting (revegetation)	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Shade trees (native species)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Shade trees (non-native species)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		
Weeding	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

| | Recreation | | | | | | Landscape | Sport | | | Trails |
| | Recreation parks | | | | Amenity reserves | Linear parks | Landscape corridors | Sports grounds | | Specific purpose | Recreation trails |
Embellishments	Council-wide	District	Local	Civic				Council-wide	District		
Play, sports and activities											
Adventure based sports (eg obstacle course events)										✓	✓
Event space	✓	✓		✓							
Exercise equipment	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓			✓
Flat well drained play area for kick and throw	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓		
Multi-purpose courts	✓							✓	✓		
Multi-purpose fields								✓	✓		
Multi-use space (sports and games)	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			
Nature based camping											✓
Play spaces (including play equipment)	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			
Skate parks	✓	✓						✓			
Spectator seating								✓	✓	✓	
Signs, art, displays and memorials											
Artwork	✓	✓		✓				✓			T
Entrance statements	✓										T
Interpretive displays											✓
Memorials and plaques	✓	✓						✓			
Signage – Information (eg wayfinding, trail head)	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Signage – Interpretive/educational (eg cultural heritage, flora, fauna)	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			✓

Table 41: Recreation park, landscape areas, sports grounds and trail embellishments *continued...*

	Recreation						Landscape	Sport			Trails
	Recreation parks				Amenity reserves	Linear parks	Landscape corridors	Sports grounds		Specific purpose	Recreation trails
Embellishments	Council-wide	District	Local	Civic				Council-wide	District		
Site preparation, utilities and smart technology											
Earthworks (eg grading, levelling and grassing)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Smart technology (eg electronic counters, beacons)	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Irrigation (garden beds and turf)	✓	✓		✓				✓			
Irrigation (sports fields)								✓	✓	✓	
Lighting (open areas)	✓							✓	✓	✓	
Lighting (security)	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	
Serviced site – water, sewerage, electricity	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	T
Wi-Fi facilities	✓			✓				✓			
Structures and parking											
Bird hide	✓	✓									✓
Bus set down	✓	✓						✓	✓	✓	
Clubhouses/change rooms/showers								✓	✓	✓	
Interpretive/tourist/ information office	✓		✓					✓			
Kiosk/café	✓							✓	✓		
Parking (on-site)	✓	✓						✓	✓	✓	T
Shade structure for activity area (eg shade sail)	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		
Structures and parking											
Shelters	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	T
Storage sheds	✓							✓	✓	✓	
Toilets	✓	✓		✓				✓	✓	✓	
Vehicle access (emergency/ maintenance)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Water access, facilities and treatment											
Beach access	W	W	W				W				W
Fishing facilities	W						W				
Landscape drainage	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rainwater tanks	✓	✓		✓				✓	✓	✓	
Water access (eg ramp/jetty/pontoon)	W	W	W				W				W

Appendix C

Council documents relating to planning principles

Information for further direction on the implementation of the planning principles found in section 1.1.

For planning principles 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3, consult:

- SC Planning Scheme – 4.4.3 Local Government Infrastructure Plan - Parks and land for community facilities network
- SC Planning Scheme – 9.4.2 Development Codes - Landscape code - Open space (including environmental reserves) and drainage reserves PO18, AO18
- SC Planning Scheme – 3.6.9 Strategic Framework - Element 8 - Open Space Infrastructure
- SC Planning Scheme – SC6.14.7 Open space and landscaping infrastructure
- SC Environment and Liveability Strategy 2017
- SC Sport and Active Recreation Plan 2011 – 2026
- SC Skate and BMX Plan 2011 – 2021
- SC Community Strategy 2019-2041

For planning principles 2.1 and 2.2, consult:

- SC Planning Scheme – 3.6.9 Strategic Framework - Element 8 - Open Space Infrastructure
- SC Planning Scheme – 9.4.2 Development Codes - Landscape code - Local Parks - PO19, AO19
- SC Planning Scheme – 9.4.2 Development Codes - Landscape code - Open space
- SC LIM - All categories
- SC Skate and BMX Plan 2011 - 2021
- SC Sport and Active Recreation Plan 2011 - 2026
- SC Community Strategy 2019-2041 (including environmental reserves) and drainage reserves PO18, AO18

For planning principles 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3, consult:

- SC Planning Scheme – 9.4.2 Development Codes - Landscape code - Open space (including environmental reserves) and drainage reserves PO18, AO18
- SC Planning Scheme – SC6.14.7 Open space and landscaping infrastructure
- SC Planning Scheme – 3.5.4 Strategic Framework - Element 3 - Active transport network
- SC Planning Scheme – 3.6.9 Strategic Framework - Element 8 - Open Space Infrastructure
- SC Planning Scheme – 9.4.4 Development Codes - Reconfiguring a lot code - Pedestrian and Bicycle Path Infrastructure - PO17, AO17

- SC Planning Scheme – SC6.16.4 Guidance for the preparation of a local area structure plan
- SC Environment and Liveability Strategy 2017
- SC Coastal Pathway Linear Open Space Master Plan 2017
- SC Recreation Trail Plan 2012
- SC LIM - Paths, trails and tracks
- SC Active Transport Plan 2011 - 2031
- SC Recreation Trail Plan 2012

For planning principles 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3, consult:

- SC Planning Scheme – 9.4.2 Development Codes - Landscape code - Local Parks - PO19, AO19
- SC Planning Scheme – SC6.14.7 Open space and landscaping infrastructure
- SC Planning Scheme – 3.6.9 Strategic Framework - Element 8 - Open Space Infrastructure
- SC LIM – All categories
- SC Skate and BMX Plan 2011 – 2021

For planning principles 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3, consult:

- SC Planning Scheme – 9.4.2 Development Codes - Landscape code - Local Parks - PO19, AO19
- SC Planning Scheme – 3.6.9 Strategic Framework - Element 8 - Open Space Infrastructure
- SC Planning Scheme – SC6.14.7 Open space and landscaping infrastructure
- SC Art and Heritage Plan 2015 – 2020
- SC Street Tree Master Plan

For planning principles 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3, consult:

- SC Planning Scheme – 9.4.2 Development Codes - Landscape code - Open space (including environmental reserves) and drainage reserves PO18, AO18
- SC Planning Scheme – 9.4.2 Development Codes - Landscape code - Local Parks - PO19, AO19
- SC Planning Scheme – SC6.14.7 Open space and landscaping infrastructure
- SC LIM – All categories
- SC Skate and BMX Plan 2011-2021

For planning principles 7.1, 7.2 and 7.3, consult:

- SC Planning Scheme – 3.6.9 Strategic Framework - Element 8 - Open Space Infrastructure
- SC Planning Scheme – 9.3.11 Multi-unit residential uses code - Relationship of Buildings to Streets, Public Spaces and Private Open Space - PO4, AO4
- SC Planning Scheme – 9.4.2 Landscape code - Safety and Security - PO6, AO6
- SC Planning Scheme – SC6.14.7 Open space and landscaping infrastructure

For planning principles 8.1, 8.2 and 8.3, consult:

- SC Planning Scheme – 3.6.9 Strategic Framework - Element 8 - Open Space Infrastructure
- SC Planning Scheme – 9.4.2 Landscape code - Open space (including environmental reserves) and drainage reserves PO18, AO18
- SC Planning Scheme – SC6.14.7 Open space and landscaping infrastructure
- SC Planning Scheme – 9.4.8 Transport and parking code - Table 9.4.8.3.3 - Minimum on-site parking requirements
- SC Planning Scheme – SC6.14.7 Open space and landscaping infrastructure
- SC LIM – Signage
- SC LIM – Tactiles
- SC LIM – All categories

For planning principles 9.1, 9.2 and 9.3, consult:

- SC Planning Scheme – 3.6.9 Strategic Framework - Element 8 - Open Space Infrastructure
- SC Planning Scheme – 9.3.11 Development Codes - Multi-unit residential uses code - Relationship of Buildings to Streets, Public Spaces and Private Open Space - PO4, AO4
- SC Planning Scheme – 9.4.2 Development Codes
  - Landscape code - Safety and Security - PO6, AO6
  - Landscape code - Provision of Natural and Built Shade - PO28, AO28.1-6
  - Landscape code - Energy Efficiency - PO8, AO8.1-5
- SC Planning Scheme – 9.4.5 Development Codes - Safety and security code - Public Facilities - PO14, AO14.1-2
- SC Planning Scheme – SC6.14.7 Open space and landscaping infrastructure
- SC Urban Lighting Master Plan 2016
- SC LIM – Shade sails
- SC LIM – All categories
- Creating Shade at Public Facilities (Policy & Guidelines for Local Government)

For planning principles 10.1, 10.2 and 10.3, consult:

- SC Planning Scheme – 9.4.2 Development Codes - Landscape code - Local Parks - PO19, AO19
- SC Community Strategy 2019-2041
- SC Environment and Liveability Strategy 2017
- SC Disaster Resilience Plan 2019 – 2022
- SC LIM – Planting (Landscape).

Appendix D

List of supporting policies, plans and legislation

- Creating Places for people: an urban design protocol for Australian Cities, Infrastructure Australia 2011 (Cth)
- Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth)
- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)
- Land Act 1994 (Qld)
- Local Government Act 2009 (Qld)
- Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)
- Our Cities, Our Future: A national urban policy for a productive sustainable and liveable future, Infrastructure Australia 2011 (Cth)
- Planning Act 2016 (Qld)
- Regional Planning Interests Act 2014 (Qld)
- SC Access and Inclusion Policy
- SC Active Transport Plan 2011 – 2031
- SC Art and Heritage Collections Policy
- SC Asset Management Plans 2017/18 – 2022/23
- SC Community Events and Celebrations Strategy
- SC Community Garden Guidelines
- SC Community Gardens Policy
- SC Community Land and Complementary Commercial Activity Policy
- SC Community Safety Policy
- SC Community Strategy 2019 – 2041
- SC Corporate Plan 2020 – 2024
- SC Cultural Development Policy
- SC Disaster Resilience Plan 2019 – 2022
- SC Management Plan for Domestic Animals (Cats and Dogs) 2021 – 2030
- SC Environment and Liveability Strategy 2017
- SC Environmental Reserve Network Management Plan 2017 – 2027
- SC Events Policy
- SC Heritage Plan 2021 – 2031
- SC Integrated Transport Strategy
- SC Local Government Infrastructure Plan
- SC Local Laws
- SC Major Events Strategy 2018 – 2027
- SC Memorials and Plaques Policy
- SC Commemorative Memorial Policy (anticipated date – November 2021 OM)
- SC Open Space Landscape Infrastructure Manual
- SC Planning Scheme 2014
- Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan 2021 – 2022

- SC Recreation Trail Plan 2012
- SC Regional Economic Development Strategy 2013 – 2033
- SC Skate and BMX Plan 2011 – 2021
- SC Sport and Active Recreation Plan 2011 – 2026
- SC Street Tree Master Plan 2018
- SC Urban Lighting Master Plan 2016, Version 2, Revision 3
- Shaping SEQ: Southeast Queensland Regional Plan 2017, Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (Qld)
- State Planning Policy (SPP) 2017, Queensland Government

Appendix E

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5   Sunshine Coast Council's Community Gardens Policy and Community Gardens Guidelines documents for additional information. https://www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/Living-and-Community/Community-Facilities/Community-Gardens.

6   Australian Government. 2020. YourHome. https://www.yourhome.gov.au/water.

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10 Further information included in Appendix A – Park functions and benefits, extended.

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Appendix F

Glossary of terms

Active recreation – Recreational activities which require varying degrees of physical exertion.

Activity centre – Commercial focal points which include a combination of land uses and infrastructure such as offices, retail, higher density housing, entertainment, civic spaces and community facilities. Also known as a community hub.

Adaptation – The process of adjustment to the effects of actual or expected changes in climate.

Annual exceedance probability (AEP) – the likelihood of occurrence of a flood of given size or larger occurring in any one year.

All abilities play space – A place which is designed primarily for equal access children's play regardless of physical or mental development.

Biodiversity – The variety of species and ecosystems and the ecological processes of which they are a part.

Biophilia – The innately emotional connection between human beings and other living organisms.

Built environment – The systems of buildings, facilities and constructed infrastructure services.

Built infrastructure – Constructed park elements that support park functions and activities.

Character – The intrinsic features and innate qualities of an area (including natural, built, cultural and spiritual) that create a sense of connection in people.

Climate change – Natural and human induced changes to the climate attributed to increased levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

Coast – Coastal foreshore and adjacent areas.

Coastal foreshore – Area between high and low mean spring tides.

Community hub – See activity centre.

Community view lines – Accessible public areas that provide a vantage point overlooking significant views and vistas in natural and built environments.

Conservation estate – A collection of state, council and private lands managed for conservation.

Cultural heritage – An expression of the ways of living developed by a community and passed on from generation to generation including customs, practices, places, objects, artistic expressions and values.

Ecological connectivity – Natural vegetation corridors that provide connectivity between habitats to enable species movement and gene exchange.

Ecologically functional – The effective functioning of habitats to support plants and animals.

Ecosystem services – The benefits people obtain from the natural environment such as clean air and drinking water.

Embellishment – The level of built and living infrastructure required to achieve the desired function.

Formal recreation – Recreational activities with formal rules and event organisation and administration structures.

Green infrastructure – The physical natural environment within and between our cities, towns and villages. A network of parks, gardens, native vegetation, green corridors, waterways, street trees and open countryside.

Hard-stand – open area finished with a hard surface such as concrete, pavers or similar.

Informal recreation – Recreational activities that do not require event organisation and administration structures.

Legibility – The quality of being clear enough to comprehend.

Living infrastructure – The multi-functional network of natural landscape elements, integrated with the built environments to provide a range of ecological, social and economic benefits.

Localities of interest (LOI) – Geographical planning areas defined to identify the characteristics and traits of the wide range of communities currently existing on the Sunshine Coast. They are based on a combination of neighbouring gazetted suburbs and where possible represent communities that share a number of traits in addition to their geographical location.

Mitigation – Activities to reduce, eliminate or prevent risk.

Multi-generational – A range of age groups.

Natural environment – Elements that exist without intervention through naturally occurring processes, including water, soil, air, plants and animals, and the ecological and physical processes that affect them.

Node – Gathering point within a park where activities and infrastructure a re grouped together and easily accessed.

Park function – The role of an open space. Each park function delivers benefits for the health and liveability of the region.

Passive recreation – Recreational activities that require minimal physical exertion. This can include walking, socialising and observing nature.

Public realm – Publicly accessible areas including open spaces, buildings and facilities including civic buildings, streets, pathways and parks.

Recreation – The experience that results from freely chosen participation in physical, social, spiritual, intellectual, creative and spiritual pursuits that seek to enhance individual and community well-being.

Riparian – land alongside creeks, streams, gullies, rivers and wetlands.

Scenic amenity – The collective appreciation of scenery and the attractiveness of a place, including natural and built environments.

Self-contained neighbourhood – An urban residential area that facilitates walk and cycle access to local services and facilities including integrated public transport options.

Setting – The characteristics of the surrounding environment in which a recreation park is located.

Abbreviations

Smart technology – A range of integrated information gathering and communication technologies such as sensors, data and real-time monitoring used to connect people, businesses, communities and the environment.

Stream order – used to describe the hierarchy of streams from the top to the bottom of a catchment.

Topophilia – The affective bond between people and place or setting.

Universal access – Also called equal access. Access that enables the inclusion of a range of people including, but not limited to: children, older people, people in wheelchairs and mobility devices, small statured people, people with hearing or vision impairments, people with a psychiatric or intellectual disability and injured people.

Urban biodiversity – The variety of species, ecosystems and ecological processes in an urban environment.

Urban heat island (UHI) effect – A weather phenomenon causing urban areas to be hotter than surrounding non-urban areas.

Values – The positive qualities, benefits and opportunities individuals associate with open space.

Wallum – The low-lying, swampy area slightly inland from the coast.

AEP – Annual exceedance probability

BMX – Bicycle motocross

Corporate Plan – Sunshine Coast Council Corporate Plan 2020 – 2024

CPTED – Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

CRM – Customer response management, also known as customer request management

CS – Sunshine Coast Council Community Strategy 2019 – 2041

DEAs – Dog exercise areas

DSS – Desired standards of service

ELS – Sunshine Coast Council Environment and Liveability Strategy 2017

GIS – Geographical information system

ha – hectares

km – kilometres

LGIP – Sunshine Coast Council Local Government Infrastructure Plan

LIM – Sunshine Coast Council Open Space Landscape Infrastructure Manual

LOI – Localities of interest

m – metres

P&G – Parks and Gardens Branch

Planning Scheme – Sunshine Coast Council Planning Scheme 2014

REDS – Sunshine Coast Council Regional Economic Development Strategy 2013 – 2033

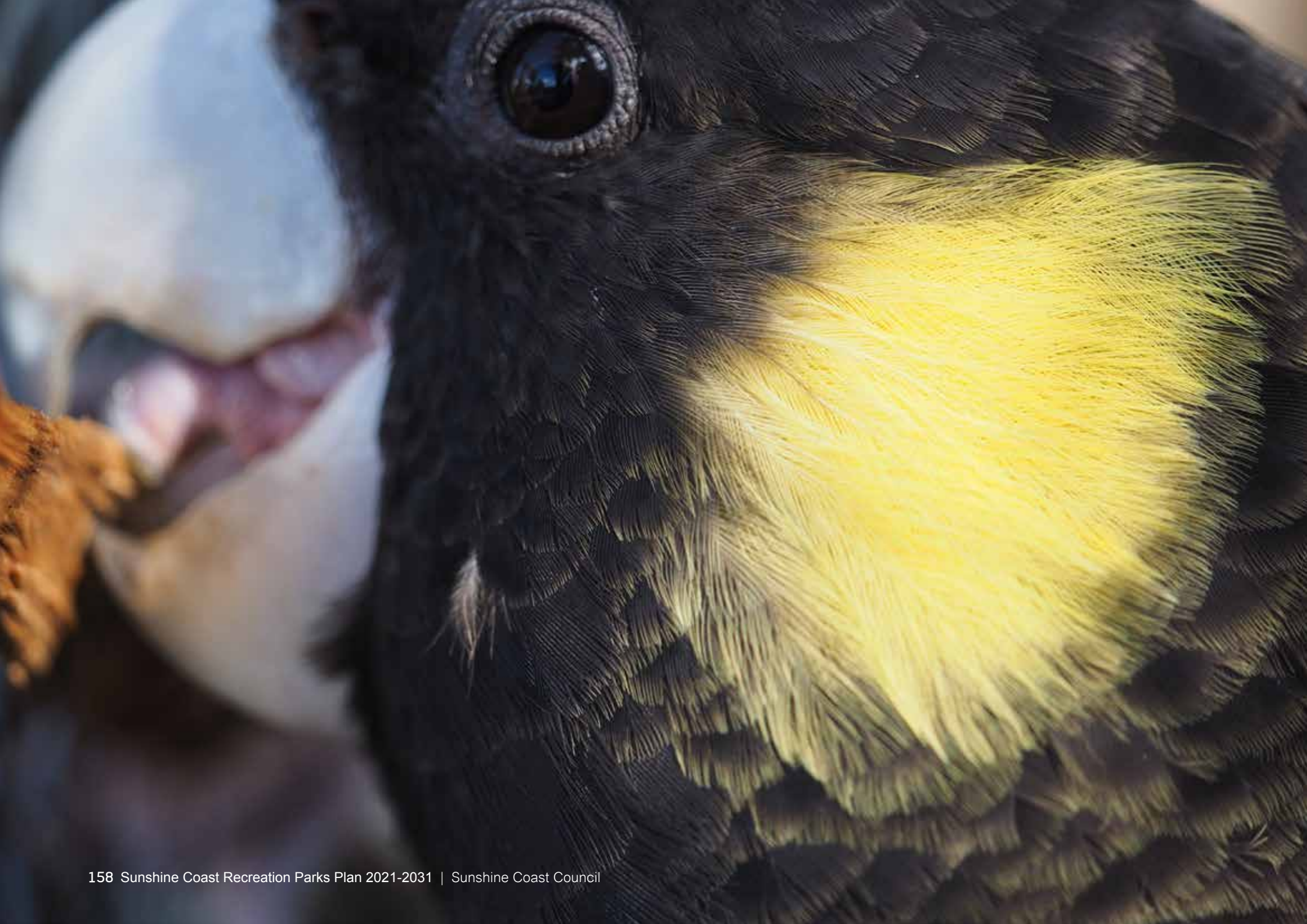**RPP** – Sunshine Coast Recreation Parks Plan

SCC – Sunshine Coast Council

SICS – Smart Irrigation Control System

UHI – Urban heat island

UV – Ultraviolet

WSUD – Water-sensitive urban design

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