

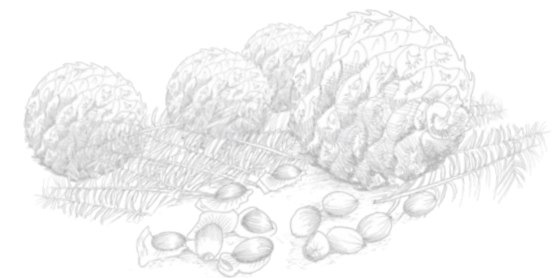
Chapter 4.0

Activity and infrastructure planning

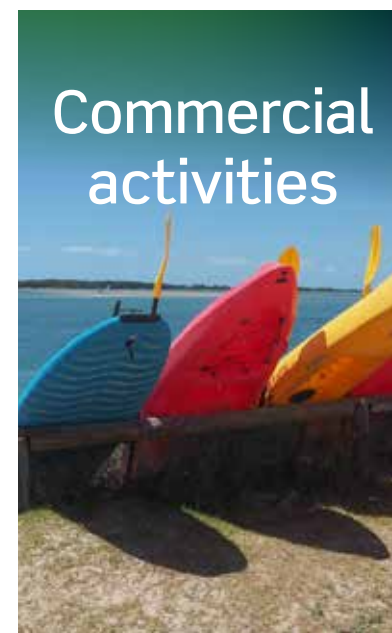
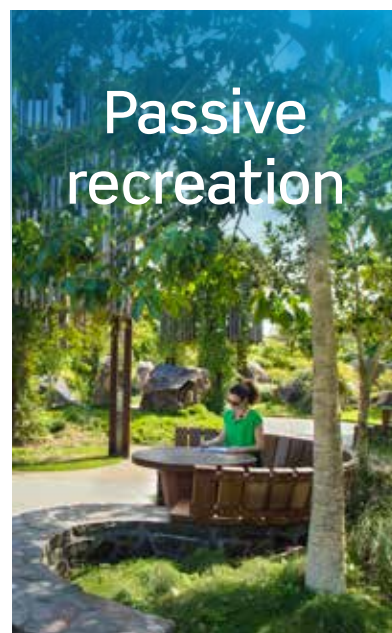
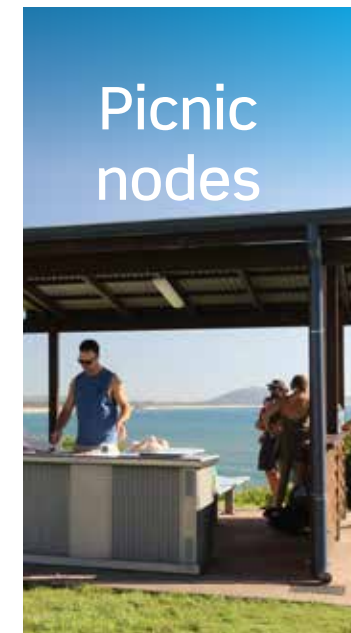
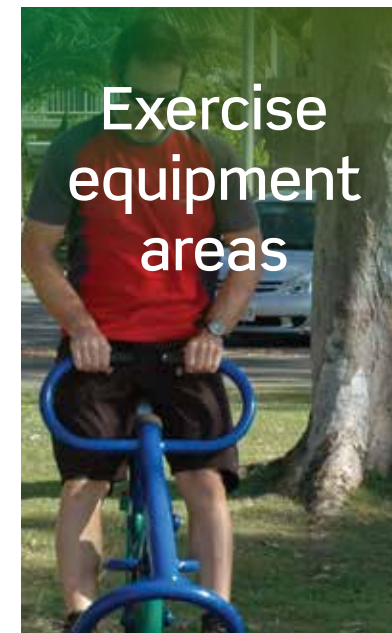
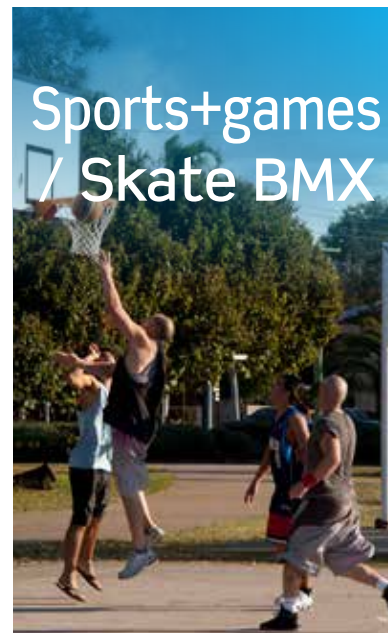
4.1 Activity planning

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





Dick Caplick Park, Eumundi

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

As part of an investigation to offer new park activities, or following a community or councillor request, 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.
 - 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.

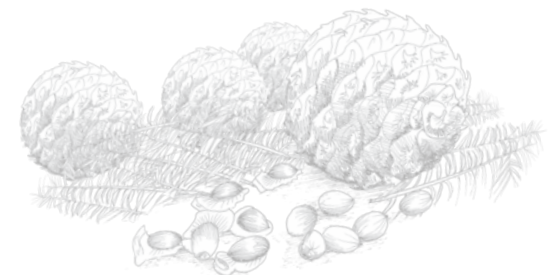
Step 2:

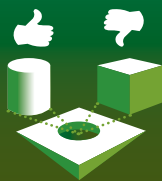
Demonstrated need



- In existing areas, assess network shortfalls current CRM data and other community input sources to determine volume of similar requests.
- For new growth areas, assess network shortfalls and population projections for the locality to determine estimated need.
- If demonstrated need is confirmed, proceed to [step 3](#).

Figure 8: Park activity provision flowchart



Step 3:**Suitability of proposed site**

- Review the proposal against ELS Open Space Policy positions
- Review proposal against RPP planning principles:
 - Provision
 - Community need
 - Function
 - Landscape and character
 - Connectivity
 - Accessibility
 - Openness
 - Safety
 - Flexibility and adaptability
- Other considerations
 - Distance to adjacent residents or sensitive land uses.
 - Land suitability
 - Existing supporting embellishments (including private commercial uses)
 - Amount of available space.
 - Future projects
 - Expansion of an existing activity / use
- If suitability criteria is satisfied, proceed to [step 4](#)
- If certain criteria in [step 3](#) cannot be satisfied within the proposed park, 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.
- Discuss results of consultation with management and councillors.
- Consider satisfactory and unsatisfactory responses.
 - 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 additional evidence of community need/support.

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.

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.

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.



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

- **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** – Ages 18 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 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.

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 – location. Refer RPP – Technical Guidelines for further guidance for what embellishments may be included in play spaces.

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 RPP – Technical Guidelines – Map 1: Play spaces region wide.

Table 8: Play spaces – location

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)	1,000m ²	500m ²	300m ²	m ² TBD		m ² TBD	

Legend

✓ suitable

* suitable dependent on appropriate location

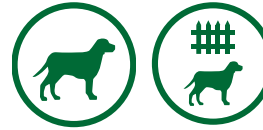
■ not suitable

TBD to be determined according to site

Guidance on appropriate infrastructure for various types of play environments is provided in the RPP Technical Guidelines and the LIM.



Dog exercise areas (DEAs)



Why are dog exercise areas important?

Dog exercise areas (DEAs) are activity spaces provided by local governments 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 7: 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. The benefits to the community include:

- 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 area for dogs and their owners.



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.^{22 23} 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.

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

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.

Where do we currently provide DEAs?

Council provides 38 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. For details on locations of current dog off leash parks refer to RPP – Technical Guidelines – Map 2: Dog exercise area types / registered dog numbers.

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: Dog exercise areas – location. Refer RPP – Technical Guidelines for further guidance for what embellishments may be included in dog exercise areas.

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 1.4 of this document), the LIM must be consulted in the design and delivery processes.

Table 9: Dog exercise areas – location

		Recreation						Landscape
Type of embellishment	Detail	Council-wide	District	Local	Civic	Amenity reserve	Linear	Landscape corridor
Dog off leash park	Fenced (DEA)	✓	✓	*			*	
	Size (min)	1,600m ²	1,600m ²	*			*	
	Unfenced (DEA)	*	*	*		*	*	
	Size (min)	1,600m ²	1,600m ²	m ² TBD		m ² TBD	m ² TBD	

Legend

✓ suitable

* suitable dependent on appropriate location

not suitable

to be determined according to site

TBD

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.



DesScanlon Park, Maroochydore

Sports and games – basketball, netball, cricket



Why are sports and games 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.

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

Council provides the following types of sports and game 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.

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.



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 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 these 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 10: Sports and games facilities – location. Refer RPP – Technical Guidelines for further guidance for what embellishments may be included in sports and games facilities.

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. Please refer to the hard court network Map 3: Sports and games facilities and skate and BMX parks in RPP – Technical Guidelines for the locations of existing sports and games facilities.

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 10: Sports and games – location

			Recreation						Landscape
Type of embellishment (informal)	Detail		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)	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

not suitable

to be determined according to site

TBD

Guidance on appropriate infrastructure for various types of sports and games environments is provided in the RPP Technical Guidelines and the LIM.



Quota Park, Nambour

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.

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 RPP – Technical Guidelines for further guidance for the function, benefits and facility breakdown.

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.



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

Refer SC Skate and BMX Plan

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 11: Skate and BMX parks – location. Refer RPP – Technical Guidelines for further guidance for what embellishments may be included in skate and BMX parks.

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 in RPP – Technical Guidelines, for details on location of current skate and BMX facilities. The Skate and BMX Plan also provides details on the location, size, style, features and other useful information for each facility.

Table 11: Skate and BMX parks – location

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	*	*					
	Size (minimum)	1,000 - 5,000m ²	500m ² - 1,000m ²					

Legend

✓ suitable

suitable dependent on appropriate location

* not suitable

not suitable

^{**} SC Skate and BMX plan reference

Guidance on appropriate infrastructure for various types of skate and BMX parks is provided in the RPP Technical Guidelines and the LIM.

Note: ^{**} Major facilities are to be located in Council-wide parks. ^{***} District/Local facilities are to be located in District parks.



Exercise equipment areas



Why are exercise equipment areas important?

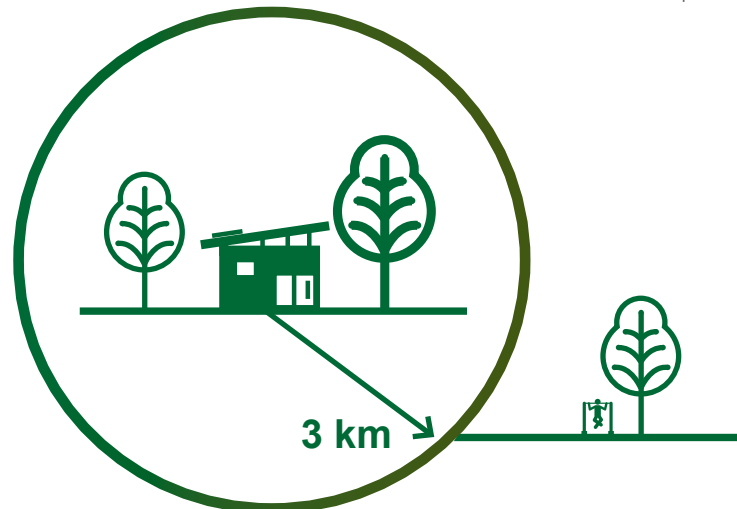
Exercise equipment areas provide active recreation opportunities in a comfortable outdoor setting. These spaces are designed for regular exercise and provide a free alternative to commercial fitness gymnasiums.

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.

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

Where appropriate and feasible, council should provide exercise equipment adjacent to play spaces to allow for efficient multi-generational enjoyment of a park activity node.



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

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 12: Exercise equipment areas – location. Refer RPP – Technical Guidelines for further guidance for what embellishments may be included in exercise equipment areas.

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 RPP – Technical Guidelines – Map 4: Exercise equipment areas.

Table 12: Exercise equipment areas – location

Type of embellishment	Detail	Recreation						Landscape
		Council-wide	District	Local	Civic	Amenity reserve	Linear	Landscape corridor
Exercise equipment	nodes / areas	✓	✓	*			*	

Legend

✓ suitable

suitable dependent on appropriate location

* not suitable

Guidance on appropriate infrastructure for various types of exercise equipment is provided in the RPP Technical Guidelines and the LIM.



Alexandar Headlands

Picnic nodes



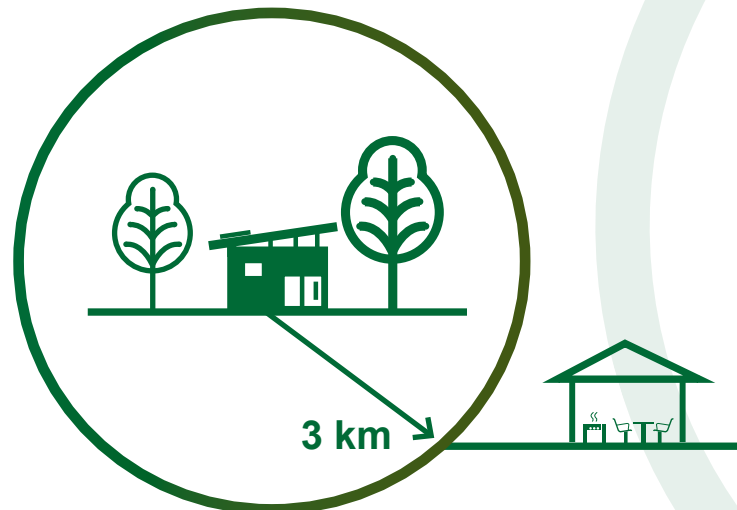
Why are picnic nodes important?

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.

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

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 13: Picnic nodes – location. Refer RPP – Technical Guidelines for further guidance for what embellishments may be included in picnic nodes.

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.

For the locations of existing picnic nodes refer to RPP – Technical Guidelines – Map 5: Picnic nodes region wide.

Table 13: Picnic nodes – location

Type of embellishment	Detail	Reaction						Landscape
		Council-wide	District	Local	Civic	Amenity reserve	Linear	Landscape corridor
Picnic nodes	Barbecue, seating and shelters	✓	✓					

Legend

✓ suitable

suitable dependent on appropriate location

* not suitable

Guidance on appropriate infrastructure for picnic nodes is provided in the RPP Technical Guidelines and the LIM.



Tickle Park, Coolumb

Kick and throw areas



Why are kick and throw areas important?

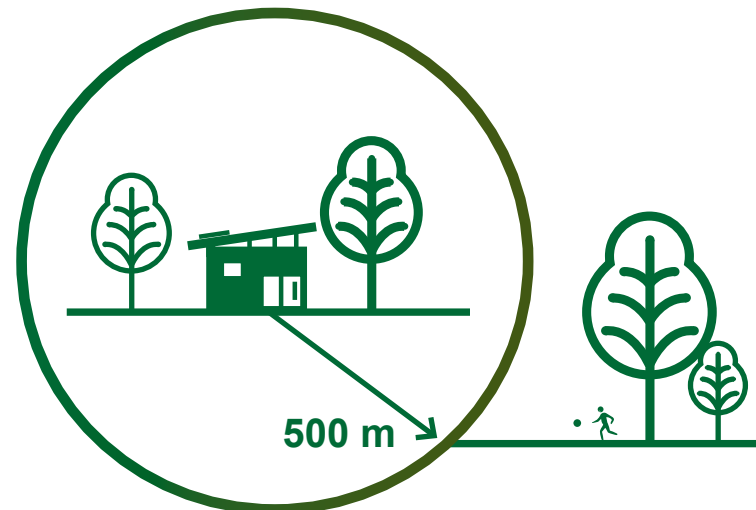
Kick and throw areas are designated spaces within parks that are open and free from built and natural infrastructure. They function as an extension to the residential backyard, where space for kicking, throwing and other space intensive activities is often insufficient. The increasing density of urban 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.

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.

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.



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

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. Table 14: Kick and throw – location. Refer RPP – Technical Guidelines for further guidance for what embellishments may be included in kick and throw areas.

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.

Table 14: Kick and throw – location

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

Legend

✓ suitable

 suitable

* dependent on appropriate location

 not suitable



Passive recreation

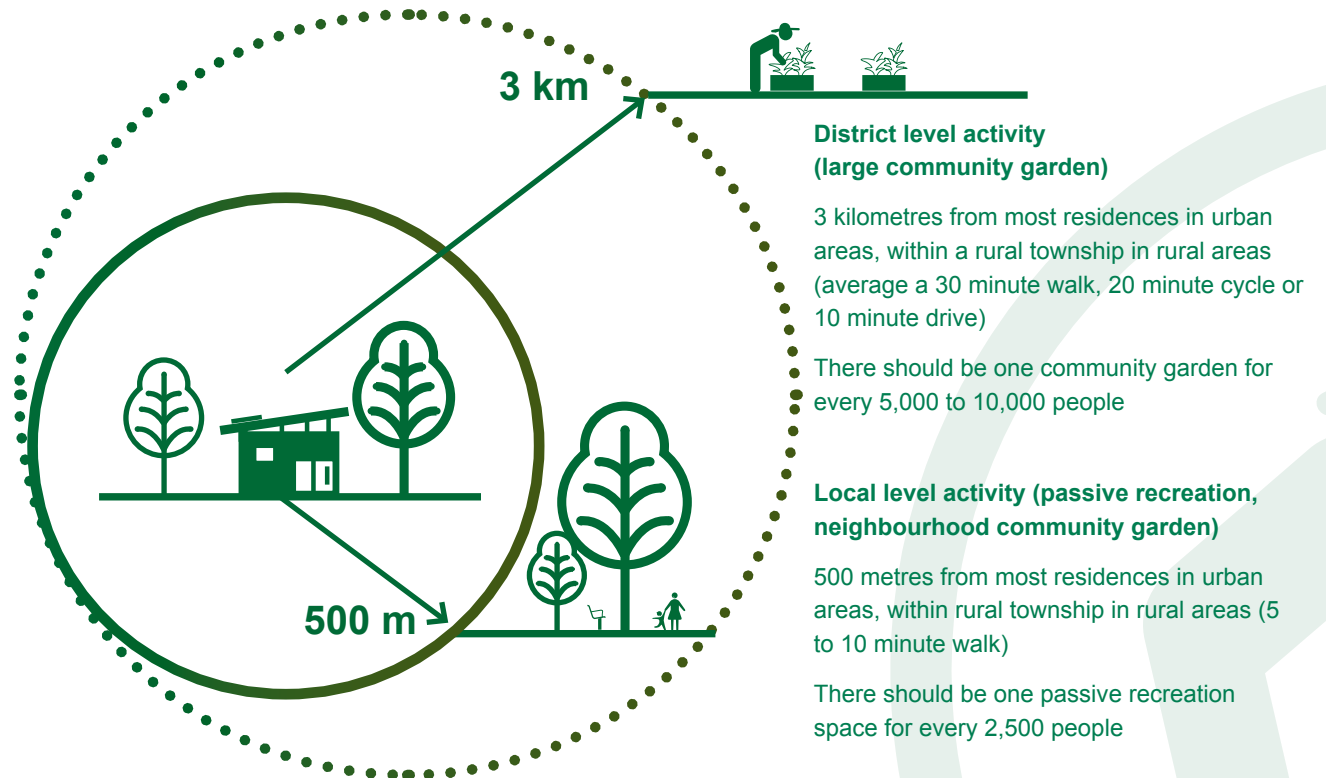


Why are passive recreation areas important?

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.



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 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.

Table 15: Passive recreation areas – location

		Recreation						Landscape
Type of embellishment	Detail	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	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Additional guidance on community gardens is provided in SC Community Gardens Guidelines 2012. Guidance on appropriate infrastructure for various types of passive recreation areas is provided in the RPP Technical Guidelines and the LIM.

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.

The LIM provides detailed guidance on the design and construction of exercise equipment. For further information refer to Table 15: Passive recreation areas – location. Refer RPP – Technical Guidelines for further guidance for what embellishments may be included in passive recreation.

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 (RPP – Technical Guidelines – Map 6: Community gardens).

How does council determine 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. RPP – Technical Guidelines – Table 19: 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.²⁴

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.

Legend

- ✓ suitable
- light green square suitable
- * dependent on appropriate location
- dark green square not suitable



Mooloolaba triathlon competition

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.

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 RPP – Technical Guidelines – Map 7: Community event spaces for locations of event spaces.



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



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

Council's Event Policy 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.

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 16: Community event spaces – location. Refer RPP – Technical Guidelines for further guidance for what embellishments may be included in community event spaces.



Wedding celebration in the natural environment

Table 16: Community event spaces – location

		Recreation						Landscape
Type of embellishment	Detail	Council-wide	District	Local	Civic	Amenity reserve	Linear	Landscape corridor
Event space	Public amenities / shelters	✓	✓		✓			

Legend

✓ suitable

suitable dependent on appropriate location

* not suitable

Guidance on appropriate infrastructure for various types of community event spaces is provided in the RPP Technical Guidelines and the LIM.



Leach Park, Golden Beach

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.

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.
- **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?

No additional embellishments are provided by council to support commercial activities. For further information refer to Table 17: 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.

Table 17: Commercial activities – location

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

Legend

✓ suitable

 suitable dependent on appropriate location

* suitable dependent on appropriate location

■ not suitable



Maroochy Botanic Gardens

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.



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.

Council's Art and Heritage Policy outlines the framework and principles which guide the provision of public art in the Sunshine Coast Region.

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

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.

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. Table 18: Public art – location. Refer RPP – Technical Guidelines for further guidance for what embellishments part of public art installations.

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. RPP – Technical Guidelines – 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.

Table 18: Public art – location

Type of embellishment	Detail	Recreation						Landscape
		Council-wide	District	Local	Civic	Amenity reserve	Linear	Landscape corridor
Public art	Artwork	✓	✓	*	✓	*	*	

Guidance on appropriate infrastructure for spaces containing public art is provided in the RPP Technical Guidelines and the LIM.

Legend

- ✓ suitable
- suitable dependent on appropriate location
- * not suitable



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.

Guidance on the provision of the embellishments listed shown on the following page, is available in RPP – Technical Guidelines of this plan.

