



Consultation Activities Report

Sunshine Coast Recreation Parks Plan 2021-2031
July 2021

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Acknowledgements

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Disclaimer

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1: Introduction and purpose

The draft Sunshine Coast Recreation Parks Plan 2021-2031 (RPP) was reviewed and considered by Council during a Councillor workshop on 24 September 2020, where council advised that the draft plan was ready for public review and community consultation. The community consultation program was undertaken from Tuesday 23 February 2021 and closed on Friday 16 April 2021 at 5pm.

The draft RPP was well received by the community, who expressed strong support for the vision and goals detailed in the draft document. Strong support was received for the provision of planning tools which endeavour to produce fair and equitable provision of recreation park activities across the region. The draft plan's commitment to providing spaces to enjoy nature and the company of others was also strongly supported through the consultation process.

This report provides an overview of each activity conducted during the public and internal consultation periods and contains a summary of the collective key issues identified as important, which have subsequently informed the drafting of the final Sunshine Coast Recreation Parks Plan 2021-2031.



2: Community consultation and engagement activities

The following section details the purpose and objectives of the community consultation activities for the draft RPP. Summary details on the individual consultation activities are also provided.

Results of the community consultation and engagement activities are detailed in section 4 of this report.

2.1 Consultation purpose and objectives

The purpose of the community engagement activities for the Recreation Park Plan (RPP) was to communicate the purpose and vision of the plan to the broader Sunshine Coast community and provide an opportunity to review and make comment on the plan and their values relating to recreation parks.

The objectives of the community engagement activities were to:

- Generate awareness of the plan, its purpose, and its outcomes.
- Collect relevant data to ensure the community's values are represented and reflected in the plan.
- Promote Council as Australia's most sustainable region – healthy, smart, creative.

2.2 Key messages

The following key messages were delivered during community engagement exercises:

- Council has created the draft Sunshine Coast Recreation Parks Plan to outline the strategic direction for recreation parks across the region.
- The Sunshine Coast Recreation Parks Plan will be a planning tool that supports Council's commitment to preserving spaces and parks that enhance the natural character of the Sunshine Coast's environment.
- Recreation parks are at the heart of the Sunshine Coast's diverse landscape, lifestyle offering and community. They provide spaces for social, recreational, and cultural activities, which connect people to nature while providing relief from the built environment. If recreation is an experience, recreation parks are the venues or settings in which this experience occurs.
- The Sunshine Coast Recreation Parks Plan will assist the local community in understanding how, why, and where Council locates park activities and the infrastructure that supports them. It will also assist policy makers and park planners within Council and the development industry to design and deliver recreation parks that achieve Council's strategic goals.
- This is one of many ways Council is delivering on its Environment and Liveability Strategy (ELS), providing long-term direction to guide growth and shape the future of our region.
- This plan will inform functional planning and design, guide decision making and initiate actions for future delivery of high-quality, multi-generational recreation parks. It expands on the desired standards of service found in the ELS to ensure that the activities and infrastructure provided for a particular park are consistent with the park's hierarchy designation and intended function.
- The plan demonstrates Council's intention to enhance the variety of services that recreation parks provide for Sunshine Coast communities to complement the character of the region.
- Council is committed to working in partnership with the community to ensure the plan is representative of community needs and aspirations.

2.3 Media launch

An official media launch of the draft plan consultation period occurred on Tuesday 23 February 2021 from 11am-12pm at Buderim Village Park. Mayor Cr Mark Jamieson, and Cr Maria Suarez (Environment and Liveability Portfolio) presented the draft plan to the media and launched the six-week consultation period.

A media statement was issued and provided on Council's website in Council News. Subsequent features on the draft plan also occurred on Council's website during the consultation period.

Following the media launch, the draft plan received coverage in the following media:

- Seven News
- ABC Radio
- Sunshine Coast News
- My Weekly Preview
- Coolum Advertiser
- Mary Valley Voice.

2.4 Have Your Say webpage and community survey

Council developed a Have Your Say webpage on Council's website detailing the key messaging for the draft plan and providing a link to the draft document for public review and comment. A community survey was also developed, with a link to this survey provided on the webpage. The survey questions were developed to gather relevant data on the following:

- Level of support for the vision and goals outlined in the draft plan
- General comments on the draft plan
- Park user (both current and future) data including:
 - Why do people visit recreation parks?
 - What do they currently like to do while at a recreation park?
 - Travel behaviours
 - Park visitation rates
 - Considerations for future parks planning
 - Demographic information.

2.5 Correspondence with key stakeholders

Email correspondence was sent to over 200 stakeholder groups advising of the consultation period and providing them with a link to the have Your Say website. Stakeholders included community and resident associations, peak industry bodies, environment groups, youth groups and other groups identified as interested parties through prior consultation on Council's Environment and Liveability Strategy.

2.6 Pop-up consultation stalls and unstaffed displays

Pop-up consultation stalls for face-to-face engagement were held at the following locations:

- Beerwah Library
- Caloundra Library
- Coolum Library
- Maroochydore Library
- Nambour – Quota Park
- Witta Markets.

Unstaffed displays with copies of the draft plan and QR codes linking the Have Your Say webpage were placed at the following locations:

- Beerwah Library
- Caloundra Administration Building
- Caloundra Library
- Coolum Library
- Kawana Library
- Kenilworth Library
- Maleny Library
- Maroochydore Administration Building
- Maroochydore Library
- Nambour Administration Building
- Nambour Library.

2.7 Social media campaign

Facebook and Instagram posts were created on Council's accounts inviting the community to review the draft plan and complete the community survey. A total of six Facebook posts and three Instagram posts were created and displayed during the consultation period.

3: Internal consultation and engagement activities

The purpose of the internal engagement activities for the Recreation Park Plan (RPP) was to identify opportunities within Council's parks network to generate alternatives and further propositions that may be addressed in the plan. Key Council stakeholders were identified and queried as to how recreation parks relate to their core business function and how this relationship could be improved.

Recommendations from internal consultation exercises were utilised in the development of the draft RPP. These recommendations, along with an analysis of existing council policy and a review of community-identified park values from prior consultations, formed the basis of the draft plan.

Results from these internal engagement activities can be found in section 5 of this report.

3.1 Consultation objectives

The objectives of internal engagement were:

- Organisational Understanding: Initial engagement introduced the plan, explained its purpose, content and importance, and sought to gain awareness and support amongst key targeted stakeholders.
- Seek Collaboration
 - Internal Alignment: Alignment of the plan with existing council strategies, plans and activities as well as those currently being developed.
 - Enhanced Knowledge: Gathering the perspectives and knowledge of a range of internal disciplines creates a more robust, considered document.
 - Identify Issues and Opportunities: It was crucial to understand the current operating landscape performance so issues could be addressed, or opportunities developed through the plan.
- Identify Champions for Implementation: Identifying, encouraging and collaborating with the internal stakeholders who will ultimately be responsible for the successful implementation of the plan.

3.2 Key messages

The following key messages were delivered during internal consultation exercises:

- The Recreation Parks Plan (RPP) will be a core decision-making tool for Council and the recreation parks network. The RPP will outline Council's policy positions relating to recreation parks, provide activity and function specific guidance for park embellishments, and will serve as an educational resource for Council and community by detailing how we plan, design and maintain our parks network.
- The plan will identify the key challenges that confront the region's parks and will set a course for appropriate collective action.
- The plan will outline the current and future roles and functions of the region's recreation parks and the benefits to the community.
- The plan will provide increased opportunities for residents to connect with nature and enjoy spaces that encourage healthy lifestyles and community well-being.
- The plan will demonstrate Council's commitment to managing our natural and built environments in an integrated way.

3.3 Council stakeholder workshops and interviews

The following internal engagement activities were conducted between August 2018 and March 2021:

- 4 workshops– total of 71 participants
 - Parks and Gardens - Operations
 - Landscape Planning and Design
 - Placemaking
 - Broader organisational group - SCC Managers and Coordinators
- 21 additional interviews/meetings with key internal stakeholders conducted:
 - Integrated Open Space Team
 - Open Space and Social Policy
 - Parks and Gardens - Operations – Infrastructure
 - Parks and Gardens - Operations – Arboriculture
 - Parks and Gardens - Contracts
 - Landscape Planning and Design
 - Placemaking
 - Project Delivery
 - Stormwater
 - Environmental Operations - Recreation trails
 - Sports venues and development
 - Cultural Heritage – RAP
 - Development Services – BLT
 - Development Services – Engineering and Environment

In addition to the 2018-2021 activities, data from 2015 consultation activities was also analysed to determine duration of certain issues and progress made on these issues over time. The 2015 data was taken from two workshops with Parks and Gardens operational staff that were to form the basis of the Recreation Parks Plan.

3.4 Executive Leadership Team

The draft Sunshine Coast Recreation Park Plan 2020-2030 was presented during an information session held with the Executive Leadership Team (August 2020) to inform group members on the plan and receive feedback for consideration.

3.5 Councillor workshop

Consultation with the following Councillors occurred during a workshop in September 2020:

- Councillor R Baberowski
- Councillor T Landsberg
- Councillor J Natoli
- Councillor W Johnston
- Councillor T Hungerford
- Councillor M Suarez (portfolio)
- Councillor D Law.

4: Survey and pop-up consultation results

This section provides a summary of key recreation park issues and opportunities identified by Sunshine Coast residents during community consultation exercises undertaken in early 2021. The information that was received during community consultation has been analysed against the content of the draft RPP to ensure that community values have been accurately reflected in the plan. Certain information, such as the types of activities the community would like to see in the future, will be used to inform future recreation park planning across the region.

4.1 Summary of key issues - community consultation

Key issues that were raised during consultation with Sunshine Coast community members were:

- **Protecting our natural assets** - Protecting the character of the Sunshine Coast against potential impacts of future development and growth, loss of trees a concern.
- **Dogs in parks** - Responses were evenly split between a desire for additional dog exercise areas and a desire to ban dogs from parks altogether.
- **Shade in parks** - The provision of shade, both natural and artificial, was mentioned by many respondents.
- **Requests for additional parkland and infrastructure** - Respondents expressed the desire for more green spaces and additional supporting infrastructure in their communities.
- **Equitable distribution of park activities and infrastructure** - The need and desire for more recreational activities in hinterland and smaller Sunshine Coast communities.
- **Community desires for the future Sunshine Coast recreation parks network** -
 - Expanded play offerings (water play the most requested play type)
 - Free events (particularly free concerts and outdoor movies)
 - Increased passive recreation opportunities (more shade provision and pathways)
 - Emerging activities (disc golf, pump tracks, bouldering/climbing, parkour/ninja warrior).

4.2 Survey results

Council received 951 completed surveys from residents (95% of total respondents) and visitors to the Sunshine Coast Council local government area. The reported results have a margin of error of $\pm 3.1\%$ at the 95% confidence level. This means that if the survey was repeated 100 times, in 95 times the results will be within 3.1 percent of the true population value. The data collected through the survey is a robust and representative sample, making it reliable for Council's planning and reporting activities.

4.2.1 Draft RPP vision and goals

Over 75% of survey respondents felt that that Council's vision for the recreation parks network accurately reflects the values of the Sunshine Coast.

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

The Sunshine Coast Recreation Parks Plan is based on the attainment of six goals for our recreation parks network. The community was asked to rate the importance of each of these goals in delivering parks into the future. The majority of respondents felt that all six goals were important, with the Scenic Amenity and Ecological goals receiving the most support (79%). The Education (68%) and Economic (60%) goals received the least support. These results demonstrate majority support for incorporation into future planning of our recreation parks network.

Recreation Parks Plan Goal	Support for inclusion in future recreation parks planning
Scenic Amenity	79%
Ecological	79%
Social	78%
Active Recreation	76%
Education	68%
Economic	60%

4.2.2 General comments on the draft RPP

The community was provided with an opportunity to provide general comments on the draft RPP through a question that allowed for a free text response (the respondent could provide any response they chose, using as many words as preferred). As expected with free text question, there was a large variation in responses ranging from concerns regarding population growth and future transport networks to issues regarding specific recreation parks. While this plan does not address specific issues in specific parks, the responses provided for this question were grouped into themes to further identify community values relating to recreation parks. It is Council's goal to reflect these themes in the planning principles and standards presented in the Recreation Parks Plan.

The top 5 recurring themes (excluding light rail/mass transit responses) included:

Protecting our natural assets: The most common response to this question related to the preservation and enhancement of the natural environment of the Sunshine Coast. This includes both the “blue” and the “green”.

- The importance of providing more trees and green spaces to enjoy being outside in nature was emphasised by the community. The COVID pandemic has highlighted the importance of these spaces within our communities.
- Protecting the character of the Sunshine Coast against potential impacts of future development and growth, loss of trees being identified as a concern.
- A focus on the protection of the natural assets in our coastal areas (beaches, dunal areas, waterways).
- Keep the balance between people and nature, more green open spaces, and less hard infrastructure.

“Please leave the coast as natural as possible. This is what people love about coming here. While we need to create accessible areas for all to have access to, please retain as natural area as possible.”

“The Draft plan has been well considered. My strong views are that vegetated parklands should supplement native vegetation, not replace it. As such, buffers between different types of developed areas should be increased to be SUSTAINABLE, adequate habitat for wildlife. Especially with regards to waterway riparian vegetation and the anticipated impacts of a changing climate.”

Dogs in parks: As expected, there were numerous responses regarding the presence of dogs in recreation parks. Responses were evenly split between a desire for additional dog exercise areas and a desire to ban dogs from parks altogether.

- Need for additional dog off-leash areas in existing communities, not just new developments.
- Concerns regarding poor dog ownership ruining the recreational experience in existing parks.
- Many respondents consider their dog to be a part of their extended family and expectations for provisions within recreation parks.
- Numerous concerns for the potential negative impacts of dogs on native flora and fauna, particularly along our foreshores and waterways.

“We are a dog-friendly society. Please include more dog parks and access.”

“Ban dogs from parks.”

Shade in parks: The provision of shade, both natural and artificial, was mentioned by many respondents.

- Requests for shade sails over existing playgrounds was the top shade-related comment. concerns around the usability and safety of our playgrounds during the summer months was also raised.
- The provision of shade trees is important for activation and enjoyment of parks.
- Numerous examples of recreation equipment going un-used due to lack of shade (reading/literacy seats, exercise equipment, bench seating etc).
- Natural shade is better where possible.

“There are many fabulous parks at the Sunshine Coast that are underutilised simply because there is no shade and the equipment is too hot for children to use. Please provide shade cover for existing parks and consider shade in future parks.”

“It would be good to see more natural shade, bbq facilities are available at a great number of parks but it’s always nice to have trees to sit down under and have picnics at too.”

Requests for additional parkland and infrastructure: Respondents expressed the desire for more green spaces and additional supporting infrastructure in their communities.

- Numerous requests for additional barbecues and toilet blocks.
- Large number of requests for additional parks with shade trees and open spaces free from infrastructure.
- Pathways and bike paths were also mentioned by numerous respondents, connectivity being a key issue for residents. The need for additional car parking was also identified.
- There is a desire for improved promotion and marketing of existing parks infrastructure so that users can easily find their nearest facility of choice.

“More parks and walking spaces connect people with nature and each other, makes happier, healthier people.”

“Would like to see more useable spaces. Practical exercise equipment not just pretty equipment. Space to kick a footy and more things like disc golf.”

Equitable distribution of park activities and infrastructure: The need and desire for more recreational activities in hinterland and smaller Sunshine Coast communities.

- Many hinterland residents feel neglected in terms of recreational infrastructure provision.
- Need and desire for more district-level activities and infrastructure (bbqs, toilets, basketball/netball etc.) in smaller communities that do not currently have a district or council-wide recreation park.
- Numerous requests for recreation parks in smaller communities that provide places to gather and learn about local flora/fauna and history. Connection to traditional custodians of the land is lacking and could be provided in recreation parks.
- More recreational infrastructure required in smaller communities but provided in a manner that is respectful of the surrounding natural setting.

“A lot of the older parks in hinterland region need to be addressed to encourage more interaction and outdoor activities.”

“The principles in the plan are excellent if spread across the whole region”

4.2.3 Questions regarding current recreation park usage

The community was asked several questions about their current or previous recreation park usage. This information will assist Council in understanding which park activities and infrastructure are most important to the community, allowing to prioritise incorporation of these elements into the design and layout of existing and future recreation parks where appropriate.

Why do you enjoy visiting parks?

Survey respondents were asked to rank the reasons they enjoy visiting Sunshine Coast parks on a scale from 1 (not very important) to 5 (very important). The top three reasons respondents gave for visiting our parks were:

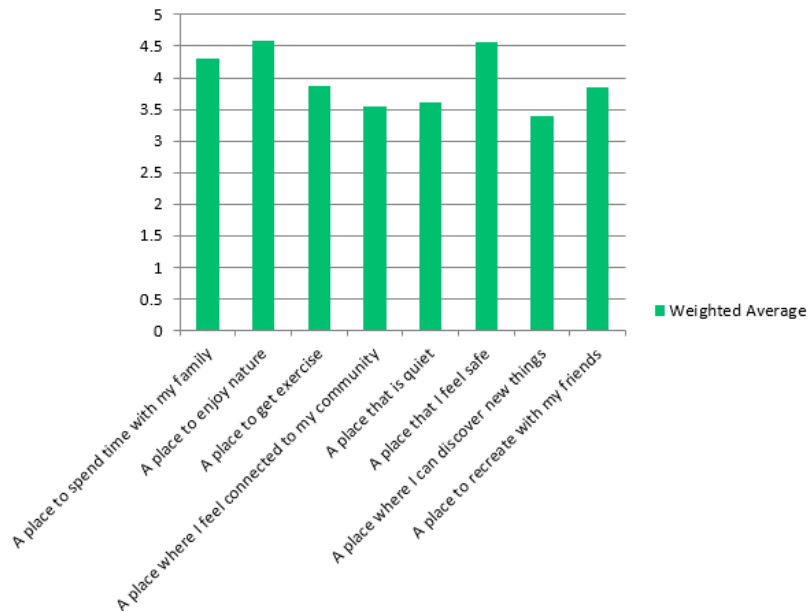
- A place to enjoy nature (4.59 out of 5)
- A place that I feel safe (4.57)
- A place to spend time with my family (4.31)

The bottom three reasons were:

- A place that is quiet (3.61)
- A place I feel connected to my community (3.54)
- A place where I can discover new things (3.40).

It should be noted that while these were the lowest ranked responses, their scores still indicate that these elements were still somewhere between “important” (3) and “fairly important” (4).

Please tell us why you enjoy visiting parks (Rank from not at all important -1 to very important - 5)



What do you like to do at the park?

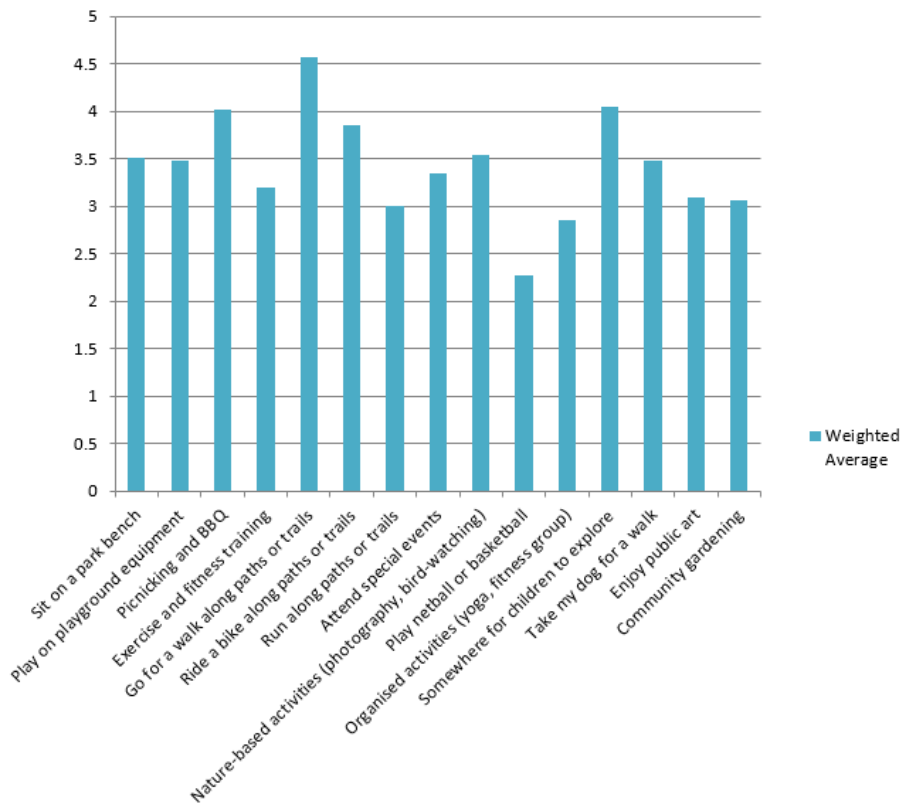
The community was asked to rank their favourite park activities in the recreation park(s) they visit. Respondents were asked to rank the activities they enjoy on a scale from 1 (not very interested) to 5 (very interested). The top three reasons respondents gave for visiting our parks were:

- Go for a walk along paths or trails (4.57 out of 5)
- Somewhere for children to explore (4.05)
- Picnicking and BBQ (4.02)

The bottom three responses were:

- Community gardening (3.07)
- Organised activities (yoga, fitness group) (2.85)
- Play netball or basketball (2.27)

If you or your family were to visit a park, what type of activities would you like to do there?

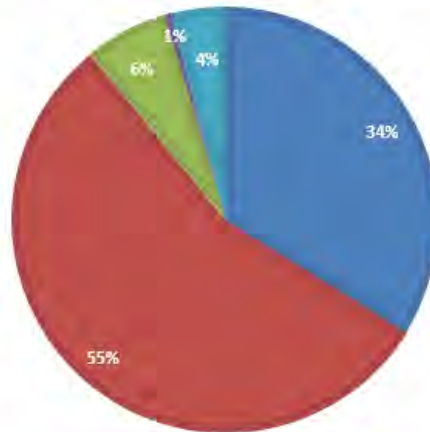


How do you currently access parks?

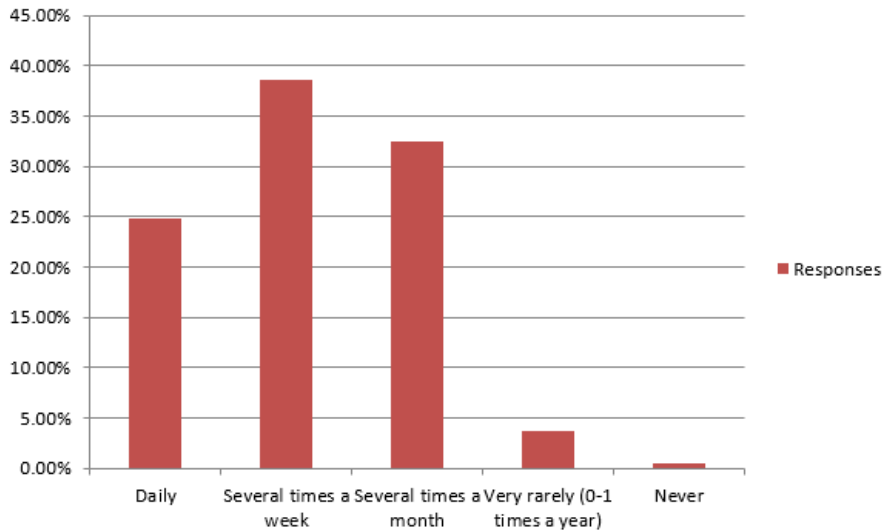
Members of the community were also asked how they typically access recreation parks. While most respondents (55%) still utilise a private vehicle to access parks, the number of park users utilising alternative transport modes is encouraging. 45% of respondents are currently walking, biking, or using other modes such as skateboards, scooters, or public transport.

How do you typically access Sunshine Coast parks?

■ Walk ■ Drive ■ Bicycle ■ Public transit ■ Other (please specify)



How often do you visit a Sunshine Coast Council Park?

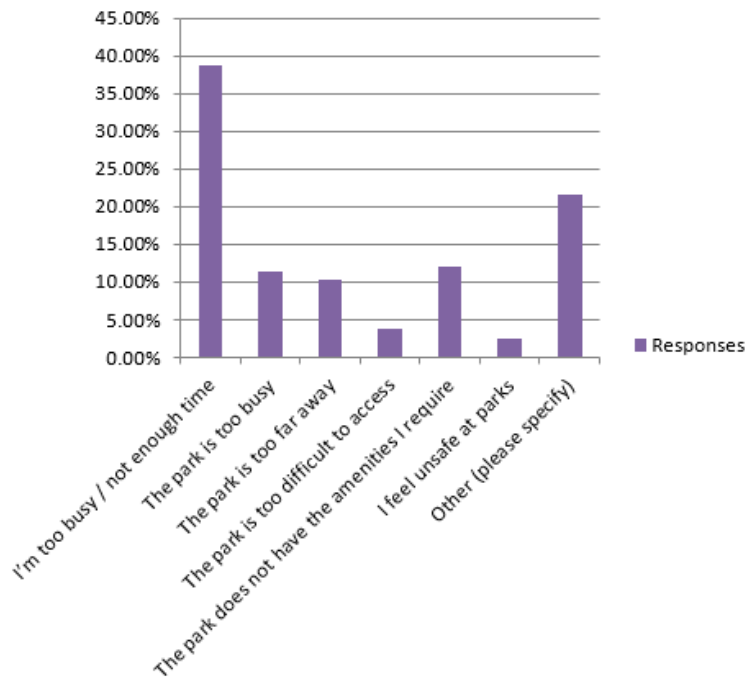


A follow up question regarding visitation asked the community if there was a particular reason they didn't visit parks more often. The vast majority responded that they were too busy or didn't have enough time (the *other* category was mostly related to this constraint as well). The next most common response was a lack of required amenities in certain parks (12%), followed by parks being too busy (11%) and distance as the park is located too far away (10%).

How often do you access parks?

Respondents were queried on the frequency of their park visits. 63% of respondents reported that they either visited a park daily (24.7%) or multiple times a week (38.5%). 32% of respondents said they visited a park multiple times a month, with a very small portion of the community that they very rarely visited parks.

What keeps you from visiting a park more often?

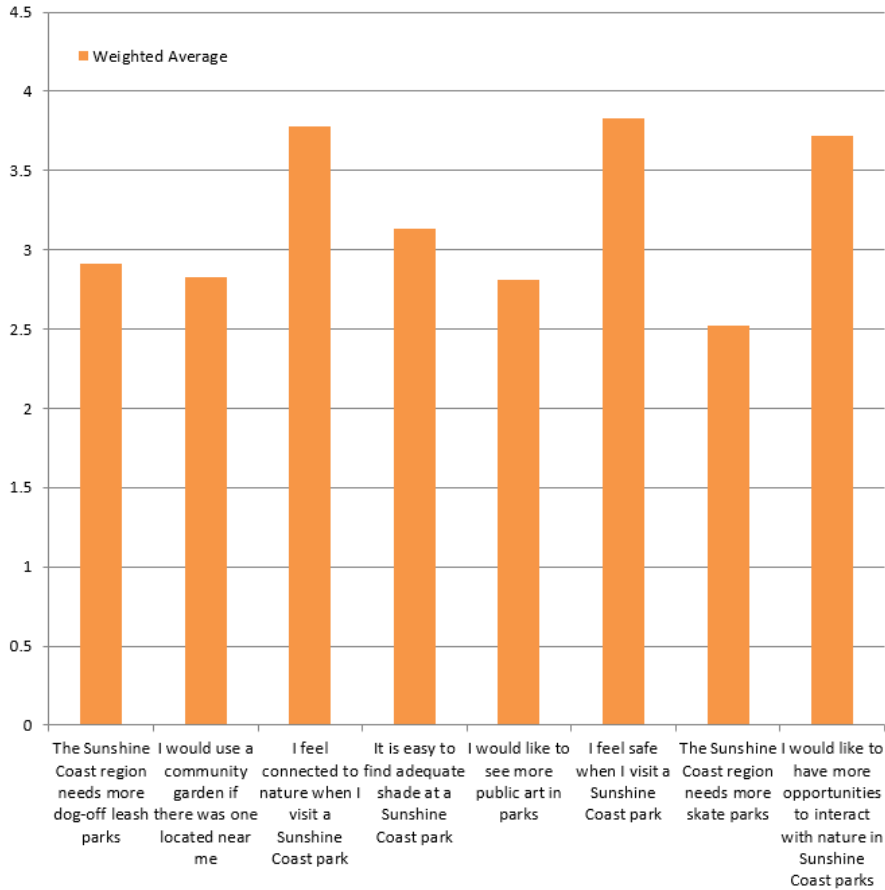


4.2.4 Questions regarding future recreation park activities

The community was also asked a number of questions about the values and activities they would like to see preserved or incorporated into Council's future recreation parks network. This information will assist Council understanding which park activities and infrastructure are most important to the community, allowing to prioritise incorporation of these elements into the design and layout of existing and future recreation parks where appropriate.

Respondents were asked to what extent they agreed with statements relating to current and future climatic and environmental conditions, as well as activities which council desired more data for decision making. The top three responses to this question were *I feel safe when I visit a Sunshine Coast park* (3.83 out of 5), *I feel connected to nature when I visit a Sunshine Coast park* (3.78) and *I would like to have more opportunities to interact with nature in Sunshine Coast parks* (3.72). The bottom three responses were *The Sunshine Coast region needs more skate parks* (2.52), *I would like to see more public art in parks* (2.81), and *I would use a community garden if there was one located near me* (2.83), which are all slightly below a neutral position.

To what extent do you agree with the following statements?
 (Please rank from strongly disagree - 1 to strongly agree - 5)



The community was also provided with an opportunity to further identify activities they would like to see in the recreation parks network in the future. As this was a free-text response type question, the results had to be grouped into themes like the general comments questions found earlier in the survey.

Play

The most common requests for new activities were related to playground and play infrastructure, with 20% of all respondents seeking additional facilities of varying types. The play types requested were:

- Water play (most common response for this question)
- Requests for specific embellishments (toddler swings, seating for carers etc)
- Nature play
- Adult play/exercise (bouldering, parkour, ninja warrior etc).

“More water parks - not all children like the beach so having more splash areas and swimming spaces would be wonderful.”

“Nature play spaces...rocky tree lined creek beds...areas with large rocks and quiet spaces to sit and contemplate...spaces for children to explore nature.”

Free events

The second most common group of requests related to free events in parks (11% of respondents). Numerous requests were made for the following:

- Community events such as free concerts and outdoor movies
- Educational events to learn about local culture, flora and fauna
- Group activities (yoga, tai chi, gardening/tree planting).

“More community events such as outdoor movies, music in the parks etc.”

“Cultural talks/ cultural learning centres. Possibly a garden with bush tucker or educational play areas to teach the kids about the indigenous culture and discovery.”

Passive recreation

Additional passive recreation opportunities were also identified by the community (10% of respondents) for future consideration. The most common requests of this nature included:

- More shade provisions
- Open spaces free from infrastructure
- More trails and pathways for walking and enjoying nature.

“It would be good to see more trees established in parks. Our climate is generally hot even in winter so there needs to be an emphasis on natural (airconditioned) shade which can be 8-10 degrees cooler than under a shade structure.”

“Not interested in having activities in our parks. It’s a place to enjoy the quiet and relax in the natural surroundings”.

Emerging activities

Several emerging trends in park activities were supported by community requests. A significant number of requests were made for the following activities:

- Disc golf
- Pump tracks (skate/scooter and bike)
- Bouldering/climbing
- Parkour/ninja warrior.

*“Pumping track for skateboards! Easy to build and lots of fun.
There’s none in the region!”*

*“More things for teenagers to do as there are only things for little kids.
Want to try and get our teens outside.”*



4.2.5 Respondent characteristics

Council received 951 completed surveys, with 95% of total respondents being residents of the Sunshine Coast Council local government area. Completed surveys were received from every post code with the SCC LGA. Post codes returning the most surveys were:

- 4551 (Caloundra, Golden beach, Aroona and surrounds) – 16% of respondents
- 4556 (Buderim, Sippy Downs and surrounds) – 14% of respondents
- 4560 (Nambour, Bli Bli, Mapleton and surrounds) – 10% of respondents.

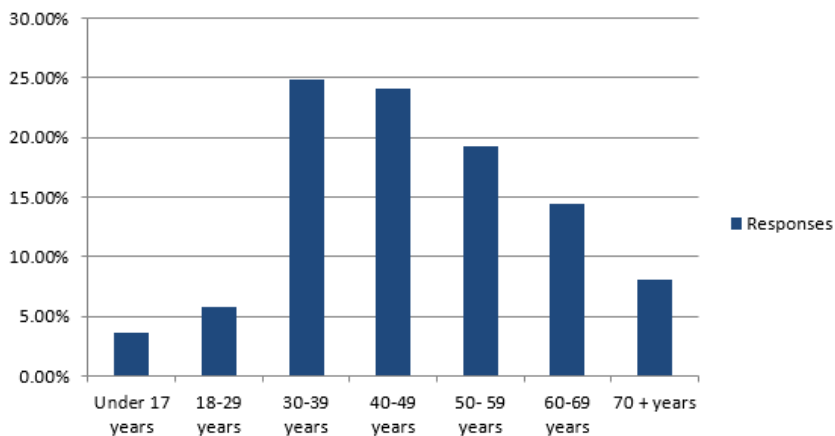
Post code	# of responses	Suburbs
4551	126	Aroona, Banya, Baringa, Battery Hill, Bells Creek, Caloundra, Caloundra West, Corbould Park, Currimundi, Dicky Beach, Gagalba, Golden Beach, Kings Beach, Little Mountain, Meridan Plains, Moffat Beach, Nimimba, Pelican Waters, Shelly Beach
4556	112	Buderim, Forst Glen, Kunda Park, Mons, Sippy Downs, Tanawha
4560	76	Bli Bli, Burnside, Coes Creek, Cooloolabin, Dulong, Flaxton, Highworth, Image Flat, Kiamba, Kulangoor, Kureepla, Mapleton, Montville, Nambour, Parklands, Perwillowen, Rosemount, Sunshine Coast MC
4575	69	Birtinya, Bokarina, Buddina, Minyama, Parrearra, Warana, Wurtulla
4557	65	Mooloolaba, Mountain Creek
4558	55	Cotton Tree, Kuluin, Maroochydore
4573	46	Coolum Beach, Marcus Beach, Mount Coolum, Peregian Beach, Perigian Springs, Point Arkwright, Yaroomba
4552	44	Bald Knob, Balmoral Bridge, Booroobin, Cambroon, Conondale, Crystal Waters, Curramore, Elaman Creek, Harper Creek, Maleny, North Maleny, Reesville, Witta, Wootha
4572	37	Alexandra Headland
4561	17	Bridges, Maroochy River, Ninderry, North Arm, Valdora, Yandina, Yandina Creek
4555	16	Chevallum, Hunchy, Landers Shoot, Palmwoods
4564	16	Marcoola, Mudjimba, Pacific Paradise, Twin Waters
4519	15	Beerwah, Coochin Creek, Crohamhurst, Peachester
4562	15	Belli Park, Doonan, Eerwah Vale, Eumundi, Verrierdale, Weyba Downs
4553	14	Diamond Valley, Glenview, Mooloolah, Mooloolah Valley, Plamview
4559	12	Diddillibah, Kiels Mountain, West Woombye, Woombye
4550	11	Landsborough, Mount Mellum
4518	9	Glass House Mountains
4554	3	Eudolo, Ilkley
4514	2	Bellthorpe, Woodford, D'Aguliar
4517	1	Beerburum
4574	1	Coolabine, Gheerulla, Kenilworth, Kidaman Creek, Moy Pocket, Obi

Survey responses were received from all age cohorts listed. The top three cohorts in terms of survey responses were:

- Ages 30-39 (25% of respondents)
- Ages 40-49 (24% of respondents)
- Ages 50-59 (19% of respondents)

A small number of surveys (80) were returned by respondents under the age of 30, highlighting the ongoing challenge with receiving responses from this group during consultation exercises (multiple social media platforms and email requests sent to youth groups were utilised to reach these users).

What is your age group?



4.3 Pop-up consultation results

Six “pop-up” style information sessions were held throughout the consultation period at the following locations

Location	Date	Time
Beerwah Library	9 March 2021	1-5pm
Caloundra Library	19 March 2021	9am-12pm
Witta Markets	20 March 2021	7am-12pm
Coolum Library	25 March 2021	9am-12pm
Maroochydore Library	6 April 2021	9am-12pm
Nambour – Quota Park	12 April 2021	8am-12pm

Attendees had the opportunity to view the draft plan documents and discuss the plan and general park matters with a qualified Council officer.

Key issues raised at these pop-up sessions were:

- Trees and shade were the most common topics of discussion during these sessions.
- Park activities are inequitably distributed throughout the region, with coastal locations being favoured over hinterland locations.
- Connectivity between residences and recreation parks is lacking in many locations. There is a strong desire for more pathways and trails leading to parks.
- Dogs in parks is a highly contentious topic, with an even representation of “pro” and “anti” dog groups.
- Many community members are interested in the provision of different types of gardens in our parks. Bush tucker and sensory gardens were mentioned numerous times by the community.
- Playgrounds in parks need to accommodate multiple age groups and provide challenges for older children.
- There is a strong desire for more community events in parks, particularly movie nights and free concerts.
- A lot of community members are happy with simple, passive recreation type offerings such as pathways for walking and shaded areas to observe the surrounding landscape and other park users.

4.4 RPP representation of community values

The following table details the response to community identified values in the draft RPP.

Issue/opportunity Identified by the community	RPP response
<i>Equitable distribution of park activities and infrastructure</i>	<p>Specific language regarding the fair and equitable distribution of park activities in both hinterland and coastal locations is included in the introduction to the RPP (purpose – pg. 8) and in the planning principles (principle 1.1 – pg. 21).</p> <p>The RPP has been developed to address this issue through the provision of planning catchments for park activities (pgs. 50-75) and analysis and recommendations for activity provision in each LOI (LOI mapping and analysis document). These recommendations include provision of large event spaces away from the coast as well as activation of larger parks in hinterland locations.</p>
<i>Protecting our natural assets</i>	<p>The RPP recognises the importance of a connection to nature for our community by including this connection as one of our 6 network goals (ecological – pg. 9 of policy document). The benefits of this connection are also described on pg. 12 of the policy document.</p> <p>Provision of areas to connect with nature in recreation parks is outlined in planning principles 3, 5, 9 and 10 (pgs. 21-23 of policy document).</p> <p>Provision of natural shade coverage and vegetated landscape is described for each park type on pgs. 30-43 of the policy document. Consideration of appropriate infrastructure levels for parks in natural settings is described on pg. 45 of the policy document.</p> <p>Specific actions relating to the provision of these spaces are outlined in the strategic actions listed on pgs. 84-85 of policy document.</p>
<i>Dogs in parks</i>	<p>Activity plan for Dog Exercise Areas has been included to guide distribution of these facilities (pgs. 56-57 of policy document). Provision of these facilities promotes the use in specific parks while leaving other parks free from off leash dogs.</p>
<i>Trees and shade in parks</i>	<p>The provision of trees and adequate shade is included in the RPP in the goals (ecological – pg. 9 of policy document), benefits (pg. 12 of the policy document), planning principles 3,5,9 and 10 (pgs. 21-23 of policy document).</p> <p>Provision of natural and artificial shade coverage and vegetated landscape is described for each park type on pgs. 30-43 of the policy document.</p> <p>Additional guidance on trees and shade in parks is also provided in the technical guidelines document (pgs. 100-103)</p>

Requests for additional parkland and infrastructure	RPP has been developed to address this issue through the provision of planning catchments for park activities (pgs. 50-75) and analysis and recommendations for activity provision in each LOI (LOI mapping and analysis document). This information will help Council determine the validity of specific requests for park infrastructure.
Free events	Community events are recognised as an important network activity. Provision of these spaces is described in the activity plan section of the RPP (pgs. 70-71 of policy document) and in the description and functional space guidelines of each applicable park type (councilwide, district and civic parks – pgs. 30-37 of policy document).
Passive recreation	<p>Passive recreation is recognised as an important function in our recreation parks network and is included as one of our 6 network goals (scenic amenity – pg. 9 of policy document). Planning principles 5, 7, 9 and 10 all relate to the enjoyment of passive recreation spaces (pgs22-23 of policy document).</p> <p>Provision of these spaces is described in the activity plan section of the RPP (pgs. 68-69 of policy document) and in the description and functional space guidelines of each applicable park type (pgs. 30-43 of policy document).</p>
Play	<p>The importance of play is recognised in the RPP in multiple locations. The benefits of play are described in both the policy (pg11) and technical guideline documents (pgs. 126-127).</p> <p>Guidance on the provision of play spaces is provided in the activity plan section of the policy document (pgs. 54-55) and in the description and functional guidelines for each park type (pgs. 30-43 of the policy document)</p> <p>A specific strategic action (pg. 84 of the policy document) has been recommended to determine the distribution of different types of play such as nature, water and all-abilities play.</p>
Emerging activities	Identified trends (disc golf, pump tracks, bouldering etc.) included in Region-wide recommendations (pg. 10 of LOI mapping and analysis)

5: Internal Council consultation results

This section provides a summary of key recreation park issues and opportunities identified by Council stakeholders during consultation exercises undertaken in 2018- 2021. The information that was received during these exercises demonstrated the need for the RPP and formed the basis of the plan.

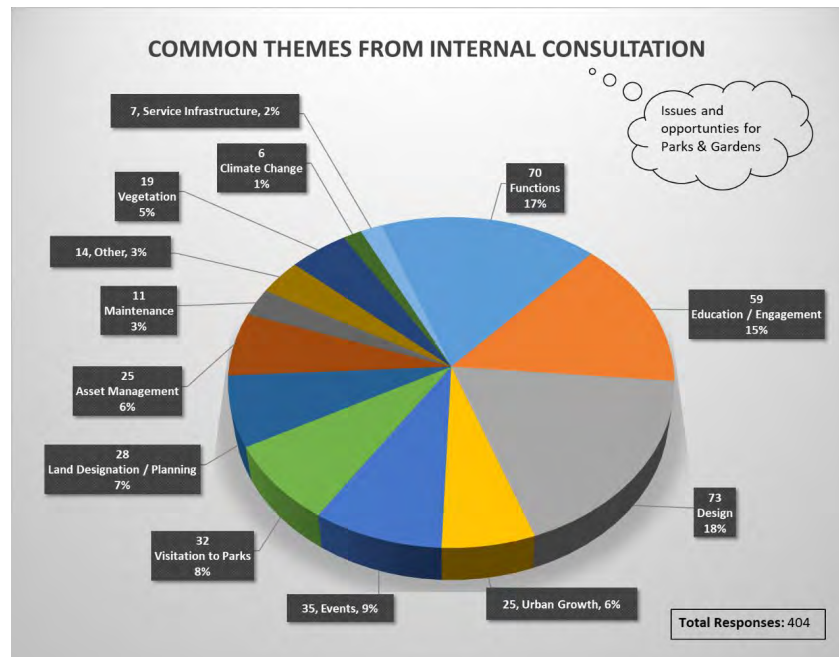
5.1 Summary of key issues - internal consultation

Key issues that were raised during consultation with internal council stakeholders were:

- **Urban growth** - There is an expected rapid increase of the Sunshine Coast population almost doubling within the next 20 years.
- **Events** - Managing demand for sport, cultural, major, and minor events.
- **Design (layout and embellishments)** - Providing the right type and quantity of infrastructure in the appropriate location.
- **Functions** - Creating recreational areas with attractive and diverse functions across the region.
- **Visitation to parks** - Understanding our guests and local visitors and their patterns and desires.
- **Education / engagement** - Providing useful information to the community and internal stakeholders, strengthening relationships, and listening to the needs of the community.
- **Maintenance** - Understanding our current maintenance position and budget, any existing or future gap between realistic and expected maintenance requirements.
- **Vegetation** - Caring for our current and future generations of plants and trees.
- **Land designation / planning** - Achieving a balance of competing land uses and agreements and planning provisions.
- **Asset management** - Knowing the current state of our assets and future opportunities to improve our management and maintenance to extend whole of life.
- **Climate change** - Understanding our impact and footprint upon the environment and how we can reduce and mitigate the impact, while being prepared for change.
- **Service infrastructure** - Protecting parks from becoming de facto civil infrastructure corridors, while not prohibiting these services.

5.2 Common themes identified through internal consultation

Several common themes emerged through the internal consultation process detailed below.



- **Urban growth** - There is an expected rapid increase of the SC population estimated to double within the next 20 years.
 - Overuse of existing parks and infrastructure, with greater demand for new infrastructure.
 - Lack of ample sized backyards placing greater pressure on public open space.
- **Events** - Managing demand and needs for sport, cultural, major and minor events.
 - Managing impact on open space from events. Lack of coordination for turf replenishment with additional small events before and after large events.
 - Need more cultural heritage and nature-based events in parks.
- **Design (layout and embellishments)** - Providing the right type and quantity of infrastructure items in the right location.
 - Clutter and over-embellishment of infrastructure in some areas.
 - Need formulas to assess the need and provision rate and type of embellishments to be provided.

- **Functions** - Creating recreational areas with attractive and diverse functions across the region.
 - Need to undertake an analysis between functions in coastal vs hinterland.
 - Developing organisational philosophy and whole of organisation cohesion on provision of passive recreation activities and park functions.
- **Visitation to parks** - Understanding our users and local visitors and their patterns and desires.
 - Uneven balance of park usage between coastal and hinterland parks. Coastal areas are already busy and getting busier.
 - Need to activate usage of suburban parks, rather than everyone utilising the beachfront parks.
- **Education / engagement** - Providing useful information to the community and internal stakeholders, strengthening relationships and listening to the needs of the community and internal stakeholders.
 - Need to educate the community about the benefit of parks, the experience they can expect, what they can find, where they can find it, and why council can provide what they don't provide.
 - Need to have genuine engagement with Traditional Owners to identify educational opportunities within parks.
- **Maintenance** - Understanding our current maintenance position and budget, any existing or future gap between realistic and expected maintenance requirements and future obstacles and opportunities.
 - Understanding what is affordable and 'reasonable' to maintain.
 - Management plans for beaches / foreshores / parks.
- **Vegetation** - Caring for our current and future generations of plants.
 - Many areas are over-embellished with feature planting and hard surfaces; we are designing away the natural aspect and feel.
 - Need to establish a continuous connection of landscapes, to provide visual and biological links.
- **Land designation / planning** - Achieving a balance of competing land uses, agreements and planning provisions.
 - Address existing shortfalls in network (especially in coastal areas).
 - Understanding conflicting networks - transport and stormwater etc.

- **Asset management** - Knowing the current state of our assets and future opportunities to improve our management.
 - How do we direct funding for parks? Ensure appropriate resource management to maintain current levels of embellishments.
 - Need to improve communication and process for asset handovers to council.
- **Climate change** - Understanding our impact and footprint upon the environment and how we can reduce and mitigate the impact, while being prepared for change.
 - Being prepared for drought.
 - Urban heat island effect.
- **Service infrastructure** - Protecting parks from becoming de facto civil infrastructure corridors, while not prohibiting these services.
 - Need to ensure that effective design and co-location can be achieved when services must be located within parks (including WSUD, electrical, water and sewerage etc.).
 - Need to restrict easements being created over infrastructure in open space. Though legally required, it isolates the land for future use and development.

Data collected during these internal engagement activities was used throughout the development of the plan. The goals, planning principles, design guidelines and activity plans found in the draft plan were developed to respond directly to the issues mentioned above, as well as the community values described in existing Council plans and strategies.

5.3 Executive Leadership Team

The draft Sunshine Coast Recreation Park Plan 2020-2030 was also presented during an information session held with the Executive Leadership Team to inform group members on the plan and receive feedback for consideration.

The Executive Leadership Team recommended that the following issues/opportunities be addressed:

Issue/opportunity identified by ELT	Action
Condense draft document, re-organise into clear policy document and separate technical guidelines.	Two-part document layout re-organised into three parts (Strategic direction/policy, technical guidelines, LOI mapping and analysis) Essential content to be adopted/endorsed by council included in strategic direction/policy portion of RPP (policy document)
Strengthen key messaging, document purpose/need, intended audience and current challenges across parks network.	Document purpose/need clarified (pg. 8 – policy document) Document updated to clarify plan is to be used internally and externally in planning of parks (pg. 8 – policy document) Current challenges highlighted on pgs. 14-15 of policy document
Address document relationship to 5 implementation tools (planning scheme, local laws, capital works, operational budget, advocacy/partnerships).	Relationship between implementation of RPP and five key tools added to pgs. 78-80 of policy document
Clarify flexibility of desired park standards to fit local context and setting.	Included clarification that elements introduced in RPP are “desired” standards of service. Must note that these are not one-size fits all solutions, certain circumstances will require variation from desired standards. Existing language in RPP has been strengthened for clarity (pg. 28 of policy document)
Provide additional guidance on hinterland vs coastal network	Language added to policy document intro chapter under “What is the purpose of the RPP” (pg. 8 of policy document) Key Planning Principle 1.1 amended to include language regarding equitable distribution of park activities (pg. 21 of policy document) Region-wide recommendations regarding hinterland activation added (pg. 10 of LOI mapping and analysis)

Provide additional guidance on commercial activity in parks	Process for assessing commercial use in parks (in accordance with existing council policy) included in draft document. We are not recommending any variation from this policy at current time (pgs. 72-73 of policy document)
Provide additional guidance on utilisation of existing assets in surrounding community	Included in activity provision methodology (pg. 53 of policy document)
Provide additional guidance on identification of emerging trends	Strategic action in plan included to address this P&G to undertake annual community engagement exercises to gather info on park users and identify emerging trends (pg. 84 of policy document) Identified trends (disc golf, bouldering etc.) included in Region-wide recommendations (pg. 10 of LOI mapping and analysis)

All the items above were addressed prior to the presentation of the document to Council during a September 2020 workshop.

5.4 Councillor workshop

The draft document was well-received by Councillors in attendance. Council consented to the draft plan moving to the public consultation phase once the following items were considered and included:

- Amend public art activity plan to allow for public art in linear parks where that art is integrated into landscape furniture and where it contributes to educational and cultural network goals.
- Recreation Park Plan to include community consultation with all age groups including people under 15 years of age.

The public art portion of the plan was amended as requested (pg. 75 of policy document) and the community consultation plan included targeted engagement with youth groups.



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