



# open space and recreation plan 2016



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# 1. Introduction

The Gympie Regional Council Open Space and Recreation Plan (the Plan), is Council's key policy document for the planning, development and management of Council controlled open space. The Plan provides a strategic framework to ensure the ongoing protection and enhancement of the existing open space, and responds to the open space needs of the future population, while supporting the vision for the Gympie Region as the 'natural choice to live, work and play'.

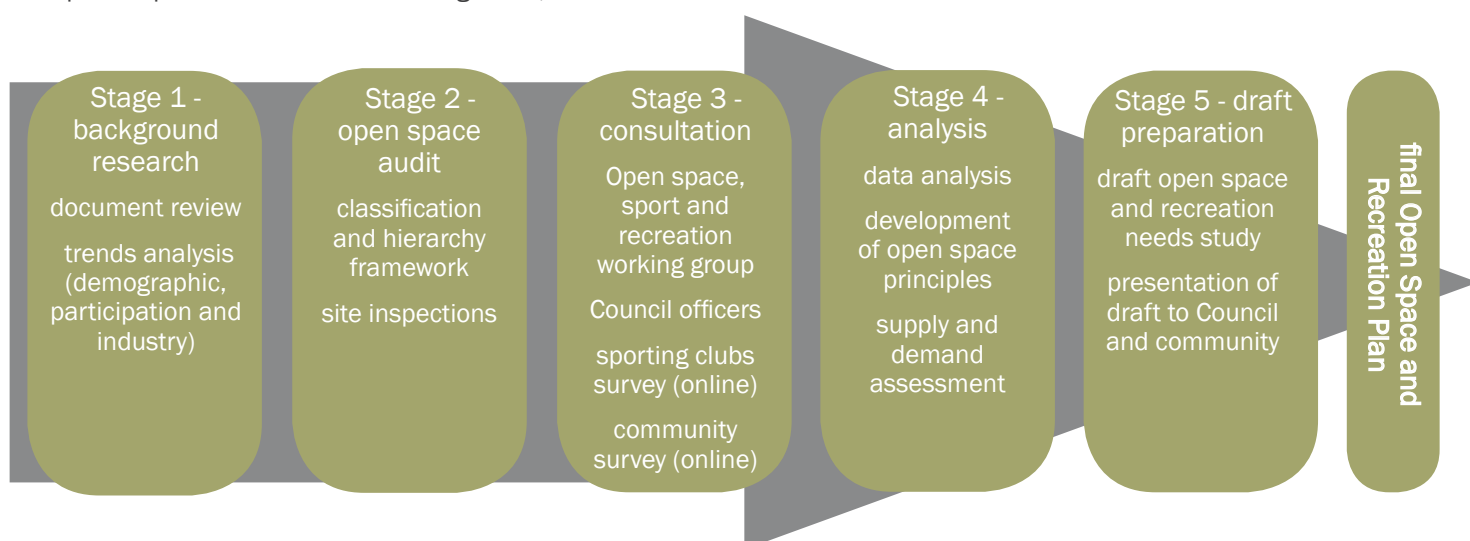
In practical terms the Plan seeks to:

- identify the current and projected sporting and recreation needs of the Gympie Region residents and visitors
- identify the requirements for provision of open space and recreation opportunities throughout the Region
- identify Council's role in the planning and delivery of services through its recreation and sporting facilities
- provide a 'best practice' template for the management of open space parcels
- identify potential opportunities to increase the utilisation of existing open space and recreation facilities
- identify industry standards for the imposition of open space in residential developments as the urban growth continues
- provide a planned and costed approach for the future provision, management and development of recreation and sporting facilities that meet the future needs of residents.

The Gympie Region has many assets that contribute to the liveability and prosperity of the area. Using Council's open space network, this Plan will contribute to, and enhance Council's strategic vision and actions to achieve sustained and desired economic growth, lifestyle and tourist-based activities. These will continue to make the Region a place envied and sought after for its natural beauty and social, economic and community based resources.

## Methodology

The methodology used in the development of this Plan has been broken down into five stages. The figure below shows the sequential development of the strategic framework and detailed analysis of open space across the Gympie Region. The information gathered and generated throughout this process provides the various outputs required for this Plan. The Stages are;



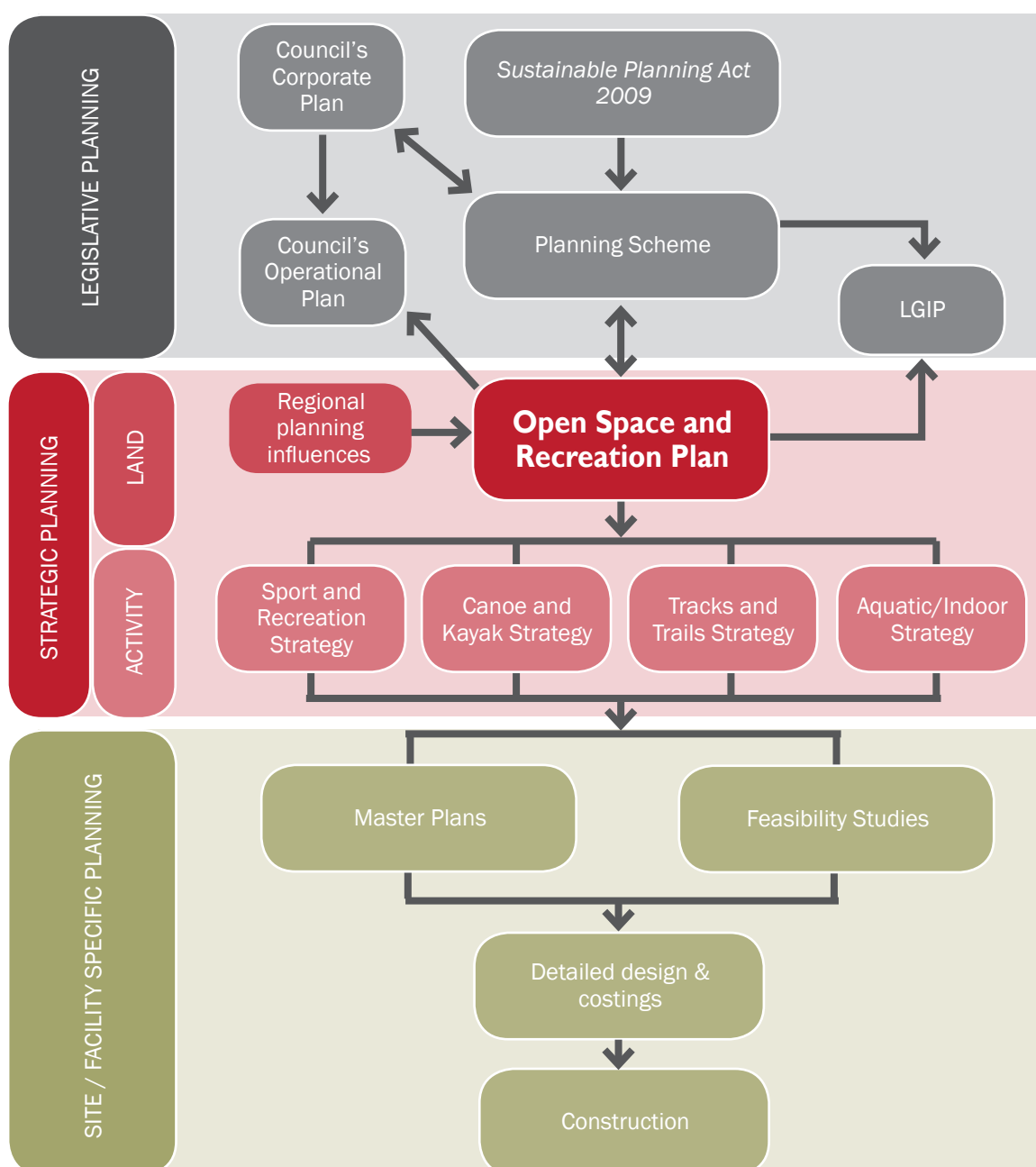


# Planning framework

Under the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009* all councils must develop a Planning Scheme. The Open Space and Recreation Plan provides the strategic outcome and sets the desired standards of service for public parks (trunk infrastructure). The public parks network is then identified and costed in the Local Government Infrastructure Plan (LGIP).

Through community and Council consultation (as identified in the methodology), the Open Space and Recreation Plan can/will recommend further activity specific strategic planning and public park specific recommendations (e.g. park upgrades) to ensure the current and future open space and recreation needs of the Gympie community are met.

When the activity specific plans are adopted by Council, further master planning and/or feasibility studies are required. Once completed, construction of the public park and/or facility may begin.





## What is open space?

The definition and value of open space can be as varied as the communities it serves. At its most basic, Healthy Spaces and Places<sup>1</sup> defines parks and open space as follows:

*“Parks and open space refers to land that has been reserved for the purpose of formal and informal sport and recreation, preservation of natural environments, provision of green space and/or urban stormwater management”*

Open space is a highly valued asset by residents and visitors to the Gympie Region. Consultation conducted in the formulation of this Plan has highlighted the community's overriding satisfaction with the provision of quality open space opportunities. The Plan includes actions designed to reflect community need and further enhance the quality of the network.

Open space is fundamental to people being able to participate in recreation and sporting activities. It also creates desirable neighbourhoods that lead to healthy and attractive places to live and visit. Council is not solely responsible for the health status of the Gympie community, however Council does have a responsibility to provide opportunities for residents to recreate and be physically active to improve health and prevent associated health risks.

Quality open space is also integral to environmental protection and can provide notable opportunities for economic development (especially in an area such as the Cooloola Coast and Mary Valley that is so attractive to visitors). Open space plays a major role in improving community health, both physical and mental, reducing crime, stimulating economic growth and even boosting property value. It can also establish a sense of ownership and belonging to local communities, with these attributes being known to improve the wellbeing of individuals and communities alike. This Plan has been developed giving thought to what we know about the Gympie Region's open space, our understanding of the local community's preferences to different open space types and functions and Council's (and the community's) capacity to deliver the required infrastructure to meet community needs and future demand.

## Vision and goals

Open space plays an important role in a community's quality of life. It has the potential to improve one's health, increase social cohesion and promote environmental awareness and appreciation. The following vision sets the desired scene for the provision of open space. It reflects the community's aspirations (reflective of the information in the Gympie Regional Council Community Plan) and Council's corporate vision. The vision for the Region's open space network is to ensure that:

*“The Gympie Region's open space is a network of well planned, safe, attractive, clean and green spaces that are inclusive and diverse for all ages, environmentally sustainable, and promote an active and healthy lifestyle by providing range of sporting and passive recreational pursuits that are connected, well distributed and accessible for all members of the community.”*

The goals fundamental to achieving the vision include:

- provision and increased access to a range of recreation and sporting settings in order to meet the changing recreation needs and aspiration of residents
- fair and equitable access to open space and activities for all members of the community
- enhanced connectivity between open spaces and key destination areas to increase active transport options
- increased appreciation and awareness of the Region's open space network through activation
- maintenance of open space meets community expectations.

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<sup>1</sup> 2010 Healthy Spaces and Places, Design Principles, Parks and Open Space ([www.healthyplaces.org.au](http://www.healthyplaces.org.au))

# 2. Background



## The Gympie Region community



### A snapshot!

<b>Total population</b>	45,749*
Females	23,027
Males	22,722
<b>Age Profile</b>	
0 to 4 years	6.4%
5 to 14 years	14.1%
15 to 19 years	6.3%
20 to 24 years	4.1%
25 to 34 years	9.1%
35 to 44 years	12.2%
45 to 54 years	14.5%
55 to 64 years	14.9%
65 years and over	18.4%
<b>Median age</b>	41
<b>Ethnicity and cultural diversity</b>	
Identifies as Indigenous	2.8%
Born overseas	17.1%
Speaks language other than English at home	7.7%
<b>Median weekly income</b>	
Median total personal income (\$/weekly)	\$413
Median total family income (\$/weekly)	\$947
Median total household income (\$/weekly)	\$806
<b>Household composition</b>	
Family household	71.7%
Lone household	25.4%
<b>Family composition</b>	
Couple family without children	47.7%
Couple with children	35.4%
One parent family	16.1%

\*in 2014, Gympie LGA's population was 48,464 (Lawrence Consulting)

Source: ABS 2011 Basic Community Profile (Release 1) cat no: 2001.0

### Social profile

The way in which a community uses the surrounding open space and participates in recreation and sport activities is largely influenced by age. Understanding the spatial and demographic variations in communities, such as concentrations of older residents or youth, is fundamental to responding to, and planning for, the future provision of recreation and sports facilities and programs.

The Region's picturesque coastal and hinterland communities, combined with a relaxed lifestyle, has attracted many retirees to the area. With a median age of 43 years, significantly higher than the State average of 36 years<sup>1</sup>, the Region is an ageing community.

As a population ages, the demand for passive and informal recreation activities increases. Access to playing fields and formal sport opportunities are not as important, with older people generally seeking walking, cycling and other low impact physical activities.

Despite the ageing population, just over a quarter (26.8%) of the community is aged under 20 years. A younger population is more likely to seek both structured and unstructured recreation and physical activity pursuits, such as competitive and social sporting competitions and quality walking/cycling paths. The significant proportion of people in these age cohorts will place pressure on Council to improve and maintain their sporting facilities, parks and playgrounds and provide affordable physical activity programs.

Programs that cater for young children and teenagers will also need to be developed, particularly over the school holidays, to keep young people active and entertained.

Located two hours north of Brisbane and forty minutes from the northern reaches of the Sunshine Coast, Gympie is slowly becoming a favourable destination to live with many affordable lifestyle benefits for families. Approximately 71.7% of the households in the community are 'family household', of which 52.5% have children.

With a growing number of families moving/living in the Region and the desire of younger people to participate in organised sport, recreation and/or physical activity (particularly young children and teenagers), some families may have to pay 2 or 3 membership fees, along with uniform costs. If membership costs continue to increase, sports may start to experience a decline in junior membership numbers as families can not afford to pay the fees.

It is important to note that the average family household (\$947) in the Region has a lower weekly income than the State average (\$1,453). This combined with the high proportion of residents aged over 65 years (18.4%), means that any type of activity needs to be affordable to all to ensure equality and encourage opportunities to improve quality of life.

<sup>1</sup> Source: ABS 2011 Basic Community Profile (Release 1) cat no: 2001.0



# Council's role in open space planning

Council has an in-depth knowledge of their individual communities and can influence open space outcomes through their role as a strategic and land use planning authority; a provider and manager of facilities and services and a community leader.

As the tier of government closest to the local community, council leadership on the provision of open space can complement the role of other government agencies and non-government organisations.

## Council's current status

A number of existing Council documents with an influence and/or impact on open space and recreation planning have been reviewed to gain an understanding of council's existing open space framework, the degree of implementation, and determination of any gaps in policy.

Document	Description
Gympie Regional Council Planning Scheme 2013	<p>Prepared in accordance with the <i>Sustainable Planning Act 2009</i> (the Act), it is the framework for managing development that advances the purpose of the Act. The strategic vision of the Scheme is that the Region will have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> an enviable lifestyle and strong, well-managed population growth</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> investments in infrastructure that match the Region's strong population growth</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> adequate community facilities and services that meet the needs of a growing and diverse population</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> well-managed and protected environmental reserves and natural assets.</li> </ul>
Gympie Region Community Plan 2030	<p>The Community Plan reflects the values and interests of residents in a set of strategies and actions in areas such as community services, maintaining healthy lifestyles, education, youth and seniors. It guides actions by local government, state government, federal government, the private sector and the community itself to maintain the vitality of the area.</p> <p>The Open Space and Recreation Plan can contribute to the vision of the Community Plan by ensuring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> the Region's parks support a vibrant community life and strong economy</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> high quality parks and sports facilities are managed and maintained accordingly to support future growth</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> more facilities in parks to meet the needs of the surrounding community</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> development is sensitive to the primary function of the parkland</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> the appropriate allocation and prioritisation of improvements to sports grounds and facilities and parks.</li> </ul>
Gympie Regional Walk and Cycle Strategy	<p>Focusing on ten localities within the Region, the Gympie Regional Walk and Cycle Strategy identifies a number of key linkages to increase the Region's walking and cycling network. Through the integration of on-road and off-road cycle paths, connections are proposed that connect key destinations.</p> <p>A number of special projects incorporate and link the open space network providing safe connections. These projects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Lake Alford Recreation Area</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Tin Can Bay Foreshore</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Rainbow Beach Foreshore</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Centenary of Federation park</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Imbil Recreation Area.</li> </ul> <p>Any future links that connect parcels of open space should be further embellished (bench seats, trees) to create recreation corridors. It is important that the recreation values are included in the path network design.</p>



Document	Description
Gympie Region Tracks and Trails Plan 2014	<p>The Gympie Region has a substantial amount of natural open space, however, only a small proportion of the areas have a formalised trail network. Many of the networks however lack a diversity in trails, trail distance and trail-based activities.</p> <p>The Tracks and Trails Plan aims to increase and enhance the trails and trail-based activities (namely walking, horse riding and mountain bike riding) within the natural areas of the Region, for the local community and tourists.</p> <p>Consistent with this Plan, the Tracks and Trails Plan focuses on providing “quality” trails as opposed to “quantity” of trails, identifying and prioritising trails that can be accomplished within a 5-10 year period.</p>
Canoe and Kayak Strategy 2015	<p>The Canoe and Kayak Strategy provides a strategic direction on the best way to utilise the Region’s natural resource for water based recreation and what types of infrastructure are required at specific locations.</p> <p>The Strategy identifies a number of paddling experiences based on a person’s kayaking/ canoe ability. It is important that the Open Space and Recreation Plan support these recommendations and where possible recommend supporting embellishments.</p>
Cooloolool Shire Open Space and Recreation Plan 2007 (OSRP)	<p>Developed prior to amalgamation, the OSRP guided the development of sport, recreation and open space initiatives in the Cooloolool Shire between 2008 and 2016.</p> <p>The Open Space and Recreation Plan will supersede the OSRP.</p>

## Council achievements

Council can be proud of its achievements in the area of open space and recreation planning. Since the implementation of the Wide Bay Burnett Regional Recreation and Sports Strategy 2010 and the Cooloolool Shire Open Space and Recreation Plan 2007, Council have undertaken a significant amount of infrastructure development - all within a reasonably short period of time.

Below is a list of actions that Council has completed, or in the process, recommended by previous open space plans. While the list is not the full list of completed works in regards to the open space network, it shows the community that Council is serious about its commitment to enhancing the Region’s open space and the services they supply.

### Upgraded/developed

- Gympie and District Hockey Field
- Netball courts
- Nelson Reserve as a youth space and community precinct
- Wes Mitchell Park and surrounding foreshore area
- Improved access to Yabba Creek for kayaks and canoes by a recreation park.

### Developed a master plan

- One Mile Sports Precinct (currently being developed)
- Gympie Showgrounds
- Albert Park (currently being developed)
- Tozer Park
- Lake Alford Park
- Gympie Aquatic Centre
- Rainbow Beach Foreshore
- Federation Park
- Nelson Reserve.



## Council consultation

Focussed consultation was undertaken with relevant Council officers to understand current and future open space planning considerations and demand.

### Future direction

- quality open space over quantity
- lack of coordination between development assessment and parks maintenance team. Due to environmental constraints, such as creeks, developers are backing properties onto these areas. Many are visible from the road and as such, Council is expected to maintain them for safety and visual reasons. The development of approval of a new subdivision should be discussed with the parks team to ensure best practice open space design is incorporated
- Council is not good at rationalising its under utilised or run down assets. There are lots of facilities, particularly in the rural and hinterland areas that are too run-down to be used
- Council is good at involving the community in its projects
- the Region's regional recreation parks are not designed or have the supporting infrastructure to support large scale events
- lack of direction between Council and sporting clubs, further supported by the fact that clubs don't know the formal processes to lodge maintenance request in regards to buildings and/or fields
- real drive to make Gympie a destination. October is going to become the 'festival' month
- lack of promotion of Gympie's assets, people just drive through, more people are stopping now at Lake Alford Park.

### Land considerations

- it is important to recognise the role that utility open space can play in the open space network. They are maintained for safety reasons, might as well enhance their ability to provide recreation opportunities when developed in a fit-for-purpose manner
- topography and flood prone areas restrict open space development
- Council is often given parcels of land or facilities from developers and the State and expected to maintain them. The community also thinks Council is responsible for them
- often difficult to find land that is suitable to develop due to flooding restrictions
- while environmental open space will be recognised within the Open Space and Recreation Plan, it needs to be highlighted that, depending on the sensitivity of the individual reserves, not all environmental areas will be open for public access

### Embellishment and management considerations

- there is a perception, that the existing network provides limited variety in amenity nor embellishment. To ensure the provision of a diverse, flexible and well-used open space network, Council requires an indicative embellishment list for each open space type. This list will be used by Council to guide development of future new parks and to avoid unnecessary like-for-like infrastructure replacement at the end of asset useful life
- playgrounds in rural areas not welcoming. Because they are attached to halls, often perceived as private property
- there is too much open space to maintain. A lot of open space that Council currently maintains could be reclassified as bushland
- a large proportion of the infrastructure in recreation parks is run down and towards their end of life, an asset management plan is required

# 3. Community and sports club surveys



With approximately 1,143ha of Council managed and/or owned open space spread across the Region, incorporating a stunning coastline, natural areas, manicured sports grounds and parks for play; residents and visitors appear to have access to a wide range of quality open space. However, in order to develop a framework for future decision-making, it is important that the community’s expectations and preferences regarding open space use and provision are understood and considered.

Successful open spaces are those that have relevance to their audience and provide for the needs of the community. This can only be achieved through a comprehensive analysis of the community’s preferences and participation. The following section provides a summary of the key findings from the community (85 responses) and sports club surveys (14 responses).

## Common open spaces or facilities

There is an abundance of natural assets within the Gympie Region. The Region’s bushland, National Parks and beaches are common places for the Gympie Regional Council residents to recreate.

Consistent with the Region’s participation trends open spaces and facilities that support non-organised activities are the most frequented.

	Open space and/or sporting facility	%
1	Bushland & park	42.35
2	At home	41.18
3	Beach & bushwalking tracks	40.00
4	On the street/road	36.47
5	Local footpaths	34.12
6	National Park	32.94
7	Swimming pool	29.41
8	Private property	24.71
9	Lake/dam	23.53
10	Playground	22.35
11	Along the river	21.18
12	Cycle paths	18.82
13	Gym or fitness centre	17.65
14	One Mile Sports Precinct & Coastal reserves/foreshore	16.47
15	Albert Park	12.94
16	Golf course	8.24
17	The Pavilion, school grounds & sports grounds	7.06
18	Community garden & skate/BMX park	5.88
19	Jack Stokes Oval & Six Mile Creek Oval	4.71
20	Indoor facility	3.35

Those that visit the Region’s open spaces and facilities usually do so with:

- With their children (43.53%)
- With their partner/spouse (15.29%)
- With friends (12.94%)
- Alone (11.76%)
- Sports club/group (9.41%).

## Travel to open space or facility

Just under three quarters (74.12%) of survey respondents identified the car as the preferred method of transportation to Gympie’s open spaces and/or sports facilities.

- 10.59% walked
- 15.29% cycled.

## Visitation barriers

Identifying why an individual chooses not to utilise the free open space available to them allows council staff and park designers to better design open space to suit the needs of the local community.

Just over a quarter (27.06%) of community survey respondents stated that they have not experienced any barriers. For those that did, the five most common barriers to using open space and recreation facilities within the Gympie Region were identified as:

- There is a lack of variety
- There is a lack of toilets/I cant take my dog
- Lack of public transport/they are poorly maintained
- There is a limited range of sporting fields/courts/facilities provided
- I don’t feel safe there/there is a lack of car parking.

The lack of connecting walking paths was a popular ‘other’ response.





## Value about open space and recreation facilities



“Gympie parks are extremely well maintained. This makes them welcoming and enjoyable whilst there.”

Gympie Regional Council residents see Council’s open space network as a natural, outdoor place where they can interact with friends and family. Survey respondents were asked to identify what they valued about the Region’s open space and recreation facilities.

Over half (51.76%) of respondents valued the natural setting of the Region’s open space. Other values common among respondents include (scored over 25.0%):

- They provide me with a place to exercise
- The interaction with the natural environment
- They allow me to spend quality time with my family
- They provide me with a place to unwind/rest/relax
- A place to spend time with friends
- They are close to my home
- Their appeal to the whole family.

■ sporting reserves and facilities  
■ open space/parks

## Sporting reserves and facilities

Over half (52.94%) of survey respondents believe that there is currently an adequate number/supply of sporting reserves and facilities within the Region. While only 21.18% disagreed, a quarter were unsure.

Respondents are satisfied with the overall quality of sporting reserves and facilities within the Region. Approximately 56% rated the facilities as either very good (20.0%) or good (36.47%).

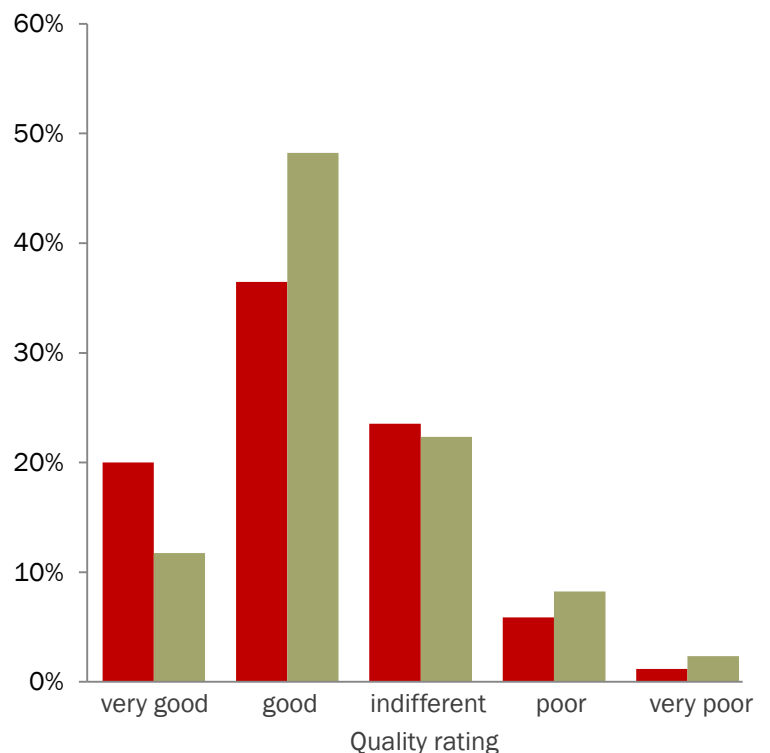
Only 1.18% felt the Region’s sporting reserves and facilities were of very poor quality.

## Open space/parks

Just under 40.0% of survey respondents feel that there is not an adequate number/supply of open space/parks within the Region. Less than half (42.35%) are satisfied with the supply.

Despite the lack of supply, 60.0% are satisfied with the overall quality of the Region’s open spaces and parks.

10.59% of respondents rate the quality as either poor or very poor.





## Future priorities/projects

Respondents were asked their top three sport, recreation and/or parks projects/priorities that they would fund over the next ten years to provide a general idea of what the community values/desires. Interestingly, the top three responses are consistent with the most common non-organised recreation and physical activity, walking.

The most popular responses were:

- New/upgraded cycle and walking paths
- Improved access to the river or creek
- Improved pedestrian/cyclist connections between open spaces

A summary of the top ten responses are presented in the table below.

	Priority / project	% of respondents
1	New/upgraded cycle and walking paths	58.3
2	Improved access to the river or creek	39.3
3	Improved pedestrian/cyclist connections between open spaces	38.1
4	Improved facilities along the river or creek	36.9
5	Improved bushland maintenance/management/conservation	26.2
6	Development of green belts/green corridors	20.2
7	Provision of places/facilities for young people	19.0
8	New/upgraded playgrounds	17.9
9	Improved picnicking facilities & improved parks maintenance	14.3
10	Provision of places/facilities for seniors	8.3





## Local sporting clubs

Councils all over Australia are regularly told by their community sporting clubs that there is a need for more sports parks due to a range of factors, with the most common being:

- the growth of their particular sport
- increased overlap of seasons
- wear and tear of fields as a result of over-use
- the increasing need for higher quality 'competition' fields.

In reality, most local councils own/control an adequate number/total area of sports parks to cater for the needs of the local clubs. However, the issue is that they are often not managed in the most effective or efficient manner.

Residents of the Gympie Region are well supplied with sporting facilities, ranging from local and neighbourhood sports parks and equestrian facilities, to indoor and aquatic facilities and private sports parks.

Council has done well to develop Gympie City as a regional sporting precinct by adopting a multiuse approach, supporting more than one sporting code, while offering a mix of formal and informal recreation activities.

Local sporting clubs within the Region were invited to provide their issues, opportunities and suggestions regarding the future of their club and current facility via an online survey. Below is a summary of the key themes identified through the responses.

### Key themes

#### Issues affecting clubs

The clubs within the Gympie Region are doing relatively well compared to other sporting clubs within the State. Normally falling membership numbers is a high concern for clubs, however, survey results indicate that only 8.3% of clubs are concerned about falling memberships.

The only issues that are of a high concern for clubs with the Gympie Region are:

- cost of maintaining the venue
- declining number of volunteers.

Issue	High	Medium	Low
Falling membership	8.3%	25.0%	66.7%
Lack of youth participation	16.7%	50.0%	33.3%
Lack of access to training opportunities for volunteers and committee members	16.7%	33.3%	50.0%
Cost of maintaining the venue for your activity	58.3%	25.0%	16.7%
Difficulty in accessing school facilities	25.0%	8.3%	66.7%
Lack of qualified coaches or officials	25.0%	25.0%	50.0%
Lack of training and development opportunities for coaches/officials	16.7%	25.0%	58.3%
Insurance costs	25.0%	50.0%	25.0%
Lack of risk management knowledge/processes	0.0%	33.3%	58.3%
Cost of playing or participating is increasing	25.0%	33.3%	41.7%
Declining number of volunteers	41.7%	41.7%	16.7%
Governing body changes in requirements are making facilities noncompliant	8.3%	8.3%	83.3%
Poor parent support of club and/or competition	41.7%	8.3%	50.0%
Disability access to facilities	8.3%	16.7%	75.0%
Difficulty in accessing grant funding	16.7%	58.3%	25.0%
No knowledge of/access to technological advancements for club administration (e.g. developing internet sites)	0.0%	41.7%	58.3%
Constant changes in committee	8.3%	16.7%	75.0%



## Membership

As indicated on the previous page, declining membership is not a concern for the clubs within the Gympie Region. Clubs were asked to identify membership trends over the next three years. All the clubs, except two, indicated that they expected their membership numbers to increase. The remaining clubs stated that their membership numbers were expected to remain the same. It was further explained that stagnate membership is due to the sport being at capacity at their current facility and not a declining interest.

## Maintenance and improvements

All of the clubs were happy with the level of maintenance provided by Council. However, some clubs felt that the overlap of seasons and pre-season training was having an effect on the quality of the fields, especially those with turf cricket pitches.

A number of facility improvements were also identified by clubs:

- a number of sports parks are at full capacity for training, with many clubs indicating that the provision of lights could ease this pressure. Many stated that this would create more training opportunities and open up weeknights for competition and or social leagues, which would suit many of the workers in the Region.
- seating areas for spectators
- there is a lack of storage facilities at smaller district sports parks
- upgrade of certain facilities to ensure they meet state standards
- many of the sports parks car parks need to be formalised
- shade (natural and artificial) around sports fields.

Council has one indoor sports facility located within the Pavilion. Currently used by a number of different user groups, the facility is near capacity. The clubs using the facility are unable to grow due to the lack of space available to run more games. While the clubs using the Pavilion believe an extra court would allow them to grow and run a more efficient competition, the addition of an extra court has been dismissed due to surrounding uses. The Wide Bay Burnett Regional Recreation and Sport Strategy recommends that an indoor recreation facility be built within Gympie. Ideally the indoor recreation facility would be:

- located in or adjacent to an activity centres and/or close proximity to schools
- connect to sporting parks where possible
- co-locate with an aquatic centre and/or other community infrastructure to improve shared resources opportunities.







## Club development opportunities

### Strategic planning

Many of the clubs that completed the sports club survey were proactive at developing a club development or business plan with two thirds of clubs indicating that they had one. Just under 10% (8.33%) stated that they intended to develop one in the next twelve months,.

Even more clubs (75.0%) had a risk management plan.

### Training and development

The QLD Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing and State Sporting Organisations, with Council's support, offer numerous training and club development courses.

Majority of the clubs are aware of the training and development courses, with most having already attended some form of training. A couple of clubs identified that they would like to know more about:

- Club governance and committee management
- Volunteer management
- Advertising and marketing.

The table below provides a summary of the clubs awareness and access to the following training and development areas.

	Aware of opportunities but have not accessed them	Aware of opportunities and members have attended training	Not aware of opportunities but would like to know more	Not interested
Funding and grant applications	33.3%	58.3%	8.3%	-
Strategic and business planning for clubs	25.0%	33.3%	25.0%	16.7%
Club governance and committee management	25.0%	41.7%	33.3%	-
Risk management	16.7%	58.3%	25.0%	-
Volunteer management	16.7%	50.0%	33.3%	-
Advertising and marketing	33.3%	33.3%	33.3%	-
Coach and official accreditation courses and clinics	16.7%	66.7%	8.3%	8.3%
Player development clinics or camps	33.3%	41.7%	8.3%	16.7%



# 4. Emerging trends



## Participation considerations

Participation patterns in sport and recreation are changing at a community-level. Factors such as a move away from organised structured sport, increased use of technology, and increased time pressures have all had a significant impact on the industry.

Understanding these trends (and their impacts) is important for Council and clubs looking to develop strategies, programs and facilities to encourage people to engage in recreation and environmental activities.

A snapshot:

- For adults – a move away from traditional organised sport toward physical activity and non-organised (social) sport
- For children – decreases in physical activity (although formal sport participation has not changed), increases in obesity and increases in the amount of leisure time in indoor activities such as computer use.

Participation in recreation and sporting activities identified in the Gympie community survey are also presented in this section.

## Non-organised physical activity

Top ten non-organised physical activities

	Australia	Queensland	Gympie Regional Council*
1	Walking	Walking	Walking
2	Aerobics/fitness	Aerobics/fitness	Playing in the park
3	Swimming	Cycling	Bushwalking, gardening and walking the dog
4	Cycling	Swimming	Mountain biking/BMX
5	Running	Running	Swimming and canoeing/kayaking
6	Bushwalking	Bushwalking	Cycling
7	Golf	Golf	Exercise in the park and kick-about (backyard/park)
8	Tennis	Tennis	Fishing
9	Weight training	Weight training	Cycling (road)
10	Fishing	Fishing	Gym workout/personal training

*\*participation in the Gympie Region is based on the responses from the community survey and may not be an actual representation of the true top ten non-organised physical activities in the Gympie Region*

### National considerations

- Aerobics/fitness had the largest increase in total participation between 2001 and 2010
- The regular participation rate (participating at least 3 times per week) in non-organised physical activity increased 11% from 2001

### State considerations

- Walking remains the most popular activity in Queensland
- aerobics and fitness experienced the most growth between 2003 and 2010
- participation rates declined in swimming declined the most (3.1%) between 2003 and 2010
- bushwalking participation rates are increasing faster in Queensland than Australia

### Local considerations

- Similar to National and State trends, walking is the most popular non-organised physical activity
- Bushwalking is more popular in the Gympie Region when compared to National and State trends. This trend was also evident in the Gympie Tracks and Trails Plan
- Canoeing/kayaking is a growing activity. The development of the Gympie Canoe and Kayak Strategy will provides Council with strategic direction and recommendations to best utilise their natural assets and support this growing trend around the Region.



## Organised physical activity

Top ten organised physical activities

	Australia	Queensland	Gympie Regional Council*
1	Aerobics/fitness	Aerobics/fitness	Group exercise
2	Golf	Touch football	Equestrian
3	Soccer	Soccer	Motorsports
4	Netball	Netball	Soccer
5	AFL	Golf	Hockey
6	Tennis	Martial arts	Netball
7	Basketball	Rugby league	AFL
8	Touch football	Basketball	Basketball
9	Cricket	Cricket	Rugby league
10	Lawn bowls	Yoga	Cricket

\*participation in the Gympie Region is based on the responses from the community survey and may not be an actual representation of the true top ten organised physical activities in the Gympie Region

### National considerations

- In terms of the top 10 organised physical activities, AFL had the largest increase in total participation between 2001 and 2010, increasing by 64% since 2001. Soccer (55% increase) and cricket (33% increase) also had large increases
- Of all top 10 organised activities, tennis (-24%) and golf (-8%) experienced the greatest declines in participation between 2001 and 2010.

### State considerations

- aerobics/fitness was the most popular organised activity in 2010
- participation rates in football/soccer (outdoor) grew the most at 1.1%
- golf and aerobics/fitness were the only two sports in the 2010 top ten list to experience a decline in participation rates
- tennis and swimming from 2003, were replaced by cricket (outdoor) and yoga in 2010

### Local considerations

- consistent with National and State trends, group exercise is the most popular organised activity participated in
- Non-traditional sports, such as equestrian and motorsports, common activities.

## An ageing society

The population of Gympie Regional Council is ageing. With a median age of 41, five years older than the State median of 36, the population is expected to continue to age up to and after the anticipated ultimate growth.

An older society will have a greater demand for passive and informal recreation opportunities than a younger society. Access to playing fields and formal sport opportunities will continue to be important as the numbers of young people will continue to increase. Additionally, with the trend for grandparents to be carers for their grandchildren increasing, the need for recreation and play opportunities (outside formal care centres) will continue to exist. However, greater emphasis will be needed on the requirements of older people likely to be seeking walking, cycling and other low impact physical activity. Parks and public open space will require wider pathways, improved wheelchair/disabled access, more lighting, dog parks and the presence of shaded seats for resting along pathways. The increased use of mobility scooters as a favourable method of transportation will also need to be recognised and reflected in the development of a quality cycleway/pedestrian network.

There is also anecdotal evidence of an increase in participation in masters sports (formal sporting fixtures and carnivals for participants, generally, thirty-five years and above). Sports such as football (soccer) have maintained masters-level fixtures for a number of years, while large State, National, Pan Pacific and World Masters multi-sports carnivals are regularly conducted across Australia. These events are placing increasing pressure on existing sports facility networks. However, it should be noted that these participation observations are yet to be reflected in research conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).



## Becoming time poor

While the popularity of technology appears to be reducing available time for young people to be involved in leisure pursuits, the adult population is also becoming time poor.

Extended trading hours, shift work, increasing numbers in part-time and casual employment and new communications media are changing the concept of the nine to five, five-day work week to a more flexible work/life style. The traditional notion of recreation participation on weekends is diminishing and people are seeking more flexibility in facility opening hours and programming, and scheduling of training and competition.

There is increasing demand for drop-in drop-out (or pay as you go) sport and leisure options where participants are looking for opportunities without additional commitments (training, volunteering etc). Similarly, having limited uncommitted time for recreation pursuits is likely to push people more toward unstructured individual activities (e.g. walking, fitness) that can be conducted at flexible times rather than more traditional sport (particularly team sports) with fixed schedules. Many people are seeking to do activities at their own convenience.

For a proportion of Gympie Regional Council residents, there is additional time pressure associated with the need to travel outside the LGA for work. The additional time pressures involved in travel to work further reduce the uncommitted time available for physical activity and recreation pursuits.

## Rising cost of sport

The cost of participating in sport is increasing. Cost is now a barrier to participation for many people. A survey of parents of Australian children aged 5-14 years found that cost is a significant factor for parents when allowing their children to participate in organised sport<sup>1</sup>.

The Gympie Region has a moderately high proportion of people from a low socio-economic background. In addition to increasing membership fees, transport costs are prohibitive for some families, particularly as fuel continues to rise.

It is important that these people have access to free and/or low cost localised physical activity programs and/or transportation options to Gympie City.

## Declining volunteer numbers

Anecdotal evidence suggests that the rate of volunteering for executive positions in sport and recreation clubs has been declining for many years. The responsibility for these roles is being carried out by the remaining volunteers and as the public demands more flexible programs and a variety of weeknight/weekend competitions, the burden and pressure on these volunteers' increases. The increasing fear of personal liability claims is also leading to a reduction in the number of people prepared to volunteer.

## Impacts of technology

Traditional sport and leisure providers are not only competing against each other for participants but also against non-physical activities such as the internet and computer games.

The ABS nation-wide Children's (5 to 14 years) Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities Survey showed there had been no increase in the use of internet and other screen-based activities between 2003 and 2006. However, significant increases were found between 2006 and 2009 (the most recent occasion the survey was conducted).

While there are a number of movement-based computer gaming consoles (such as Wii) that can provide a level of physical activity, a much larger proportion provide predominantly sedentary activity.

The increases in the amount of time young people are spending playing computer games, using the internet and watching television is limiting available time for recreation.

However, councils are beginning to embrace technology as an opportunity to encourage people to use open space. Emerging technologies, such as QR (Quick Response) codes, and the provision of Wi-Fi in open spaces are popular.



Council's Tracks and Trails Plan recommends the use of QR codes along their walking trails. Scanning the QR code on trail signage with a phone or tablet provides access to online maps that identify where the person is, points of interest in the area, information of local flora and fauna and nearby infrastructure (i.e. rest/picnic stops, toilets).

<sup>1</sup> Hardy et al., 2010

## Barriers and motivators in participation

It is important that councils and other organisations that provide recreation opportunities understand what motivates or prevents members of the public from participation. Understanding these motivations and constraints allows organisations to develop strategies and programs that embrace the motivations and overcome the constraints/barriers to participation.

### Barriers

#### Gender

The ABS findings confirm the demand for flexible operation times and physical activity programs with 'lack of time due to work' the most common constraint for males. For females, 'not interested', 'age/too old', 'injury/illness' and 'lack of time due to work' are all key constraints.

#### Youth (0-15 years old)

While the ABS survey did not consider youth participation, previous research has identified key barriers for youth participation to include:

- Feeling uncomfortable, body image
- Parents do not approve
- Too much effort
- Commitments (family, work, study)
- Influence of peers.

#### Seniors (65 years and older)

Taken together, the ABS and Australian Sports Commission reports suggest that common barriers for participation by seniors include:

- Feeling old (stereotyped images)
- Injury, illness, poor health
- Lack of confidence
- Lack of appropriate opportunities and/or specialist trainers
- Lack of transport and access.

### Motivators

The two most common reasons for people participating in physical activity and other recreation pursuits is to participate for 'health/fitness benefits' and for 'enjoyment'. These results are consistent for both males and females.

#### Gender

Males are somewhat more motivated by 'enjoyment' than females, while 'weight control' is a more important factor for females.

#### Youth (0-15 years old)

Key motivators for youth participation include:

- Enjoying the activity
- Health/fitness
- Success – they are good at it
- They participated in the activity at school first and enjoyed it
- Their friends participate.

#### Seniors (65 years and over)

Common factors that encourage seniors to participate include:

- Improving health/fitness
- Enjoyment
- Companionship
- Increasing self-esteem and control over one's life.

Constraints for participation in sports and physical recreation (National level)

	Barriers (%)					Motivators (%)			
	Age/too old	Injury/illness	Not interested	Lack of time - work	Lack of time-family	Health/fitness	Well-being	Enjoyment	Social/family
Males	15.8	19.3	18.9	27.3	5.4	49.6	6.0	27.3	8.4
Females	17.8	17.6	18.2	17.6	13.5	58.5	8.8	16.1	5.5
Age Group (years)									
15 to 24	0.4	10.6	30.9	36.6	5.7	39.5	4.1	34.4	10.3
25 to 34	0.8	9.8	22.5	31.2	17.7	53.9	6.9	20.9	8.2
35 to 44	1.9	13.9	18.8	30.9	19.4	57.6	7.6	17.6	6.4
45 to 54	7.9	20.7	18.1	26.5	9.4	57.9	10.1	18.2	3.5
55 to 64	20.2	28.5	17.2	15.2	5.2	60.5	8.6	17.8	5.1
65+	55.7	24.4	8.6	1.6	1.6	50.2	8.4	17.9	7.4



## Provision considerations

### Move toward indoor sport?

Anecdotally, within the sport and recreation industry there is some suggestion of a move toward indoor sport (as opposed to outdoor field sports). However, it should be noted that this notion has not been confirmed by any of the ERASS<sup>2</sup> data up to and including 2010 (the most recent survey results).

If this move is shown to be a trend, potentially it may be a result of a preference for activity in a more controlled climate (e.g. out of the summer sun and winter chill), the provision of flexible hours of play and/or for the greater proportion of mid-week competition opportunities generally provided by indoor sport compared with outdoor.

### Multi-purpose community facilities

A trend in open space design and delivery is the move away from single-purpose or dedicated facilities towards a cost and land use efficient model of multi-purpose facilities.

Single field facilities are not viable and do not provide clubs with the ability to provide the diverse range of services required for them to remain viable in an ongoing manner.

The potential of multi-use precincts is increasingly evident with modern developments. The advantages of such developments are many and include, but are not necessarily limited to:

- shared use of major infrastructure such as car parking, access roads, clubhouses, amenities, recreational play areas, storage facilities, major signage and field lighting
- shared use of maintenance equipment and personnel
- greater ability to attract funding due to high number of beneficiaries
- integration of shared ancillary recreation infrastructure such as walk/cycle paths, shaded areas, seating, picnic facilities, landscaping and others to enhance the attraction of the site to the general community.

Gympie Regional Council have already adopted this multi-use approach, with One Mile Sport and Recreation Precinct and Albert Park offering a diverse range of sport and recreation opportunities all in one location. The future vision for both sites, it to provide most of the organised sporting opportunities region wide and more specifically in the Gympie (urban) planning precinct.

### Lengthening seasons

Further impacting on recreation time choices, is a move toward year-round sport. Nation-wide, a number of sports are lengthening their seasons well past the traditional summer/winter season to the point where it becomes difficult for participants to be involved in more than one activity each year. Alternatively, sports are running two seasons or a modified season (e.g. 20/20 winter cricket) as an adjunct to the primary season.

### Risk management

In the late 90's and early 2000's spiralling costs of liability insurance premiums placed added stresses on community organisations and councils. Many of these groups responded by developing policies and risk management strategies to control and avoid risk in an effort to reduce (or contain) premiums.

Community organisations and councils have moved toward formal training of operators in risk management planning and reducing exposure to risk, both for the operators and for participants. In a number of cases, these risk management processes are proving resource intensive (both in time and funding). For example, whereas cricket umpires previously commenced a match by simply tossing a coin, walking to the wicket and calling 'play', all State cricket bodies now legislate that umpires are expected to inspect the entire field before determining the facility fit-for-play. This is now common across many sports. Staying with the sport of cricket – many clubs and councils invested in attractive picket fences as field boundaries only to see the risk management movement result in these fences being banned as boundaries and replaced with ropes, line marking or markers.

Additionally, risk management has seen a reduction in play opportunities through play sanitisation<sup>3</sup>. Many play elements have been removed from public areas through perceived risk and hazard identification. Elements such as large open slides, climbing frames and monkey bars have been removed throughout many councils.

### Expectations of flexible hours

With the amount of time available for recreation pursuits decreasing, participants are seeking flexible hours to undertake activities. Walking, running and cycling are likely to continue to be popular forms of activity as participants can be flexible in when, where and how long they undertake the activity. For additional activities to retain or gain in popularity it is likely that they will need to be able to offer longer and more flexible operating hours or a more flexible approach to training and competition participation (in the case of more traditional team sports such as football).

<sup>2</sup> ERASS - Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey. a joint initiative of the Australian Sports Commission and State and Territory Departments of Sport and Recreation, conducted on an annual basis between 2001 and 2010

<sup>3</sup> Kidsafe NSW, 2013



## Importance of play

Play is a key driver of the health and wellbeing of children as well as a tool for their education and development - with active and social play adding to cognitive and social development. Results from the 2012 Australian Early Development Census<sup>4</sup> identify Gympie (or Cooloola as referred to in the report) as an area where action needs to be taken to improve the outcomes of children (aged 0 to 5 years). Results showed that 22.3% of children were at risk of not developing physical independence and gross and fine motors skills. This is extremely high compared to Queensland (15.5%) and Australia (13.4%).

Therefore, the need to provide well designed open space that are engaging is becoming more important, particularly in areas such as Gympie city (28.0%) and Southside (22.9%). Children need access to a range of play opportunities around their neighbourhood as they grow up.

A play experience should be vibrant and exciting. A play experience does not innately require the installation of structured play equipment. Interesting and interactive places to play and explore may be created by designing evocative landscapes. This may include sculpting the earth or utilising the natural contours, planting (e.g. vegetated tunnels or mazes, forests) and/or utilising textures and materials such as creative paving patterns (stepping stones, steps, edgings for balancing). A play space may incorporate interesting views or vistas, showcase art or innovation (mobiles and alternate energy sources), sculptural park furniture, landscape structures or buildings. Play experiences may incorporate elements such as:

- storytelling/sculpture trees
- labyrinth/mazes
- tunnels of plants
- mist water play and water jets
- meandering paths
- meeting places
- musical play.

Unstructured play needs to complement and be integrated with other recreation facilities to encourage active recreation for children, youth and adults. Examples include:

- basketball courts/hoops
- cycling/pedestrian and skill development circuits
- attractive open space areas for ball games etc.
- water play parks
- surfaces and markings for games (e.g. hopscotch and handball)
- swings for all ages and abilities
- flying foxes/climbing walls
- fitness stations/training equipment.

## Water availability

Water is critically important for the management of the landscape and to service the facilities that are located within open space. Water serves a number of functions within open space including the provision of a higher amenity value, creating a focus for both active and passive/informal recreation as well as for use for irrigation of the landscape. The irrigation of open space can create a positive environment that attracts users to open space and results in more hard wearing surfaces.

Potable water is costly. The availability of recycled water is improving and its use (along with stormwater) should be investigated to service both irrigation and toilet facilities. Water sensitive urban design should be incorporated in all landscape development including the use of drought-resistant plants and warm season grass wherever practical.

Council has put in place a number of actions to reduce water consumption associated with recreation reserves including the implementation of a warm season grass program at a number of sports grounds and the use of drought resistant plants when landscaping.

## Field overuse

While participation rates for adults in organised sport and recreation activities has decreased somewhat in recent years, sustained participation rates by young people, increasing populations and increasing range of opportunities have resulted in field overuse and/or lack of fields in a number of areas. Many councils have difficulty allocating field space each season or finding additional areas where clubs achieve growth or when new activities are born.

A growing trend is for councils to develop synthetic playing fields in an attempt to address field overuse, water conservation and field damage. Predominantly, these fields have been developed for soccer and can sustain far greater loads.

The shared use and individual codes lengthening seasons is causing significant field over use of Albert Park and One Mile Sport and Recreation Precinct, resulting in conflict between user groups and Council about field usage and availability.

In response to field overuse and to control ongoing maintenance issues, some councils are contracting specialist maintenance people to maintain the fields, as opposed to using council staff.

While Albert Park and One Mile Sport and Recreation Precinct are heavily used, Council's maintenance staff are doing an exceptional job at maintaining the quality of the fields.

Master plans seek to address overuse and associated burdens by providing a home for the respective sports that meet the demand and allow for future growth where required.

4 Australian Early Development Index Community Profile 2012. Cooloola ([www.aedi.org.au](http://www.aedi.org.au))



## Environmental usage behaviours

The surrounding environment, natural and built, can have the ability to influence how individuals and the community use and value open space, particularly passive open space. The Gympie Region can be categorised into three types of living environments:

- Urban
- Coastal/river
- Hinterland/rural.

Each environment has their own values systems based on community profiles, geographic influences and population trends. The three sub-networks are described as:

### Urban environment

The urban locality revolves around a semi-dense urban form where a variety of settings and open space outcomes are desired.

Gympie City is the major activity centre of the Region. Its urban structure is similar to many other regional centres across QLD, providing a strong economic base for the Region.

Compared to the other environments, the desired outcomes and key attributes of the urban environment are:

- a highly walkable open space network
- a diverse range of settings
- more traditional approach to planning open space
- variety and choice of recreation (including sport) options
- equitable geographic spread of recreation spaces
- connected open spaces by corridors (linear parks) and on- (and beside) road pedestrian paths
- where possible, clusters of open space nodes that complement surround land uses, especially social infrastructure such as schools and community infrastructure
- most of the Region's competitive sports precincts are in this environment.

### Coastal/river environments

The value of the beaches, coastline and rivers within the Gympie Region are highly valued and offer scenic and recreation opportunities. So much so that it influences the pattern and spread of development. From an open space perspective, the following outcomes are desired for coastal localities:

- parks are more linear with activity nodes along the spine
- those parks not on the water should be linear in nature and provide access to the linear park along the coast or river.
- due to the lack of traditional open space within the residential areas, the parks along the coastline or riverbank are often over embellished and provide a number of experiences, passive recreation, nature appreciation, play etc
- ancillary infrastructure to support use and access of the spine, in particular bench seating, water bubblers and bins
- embellishments and design of the parks are environmentally responsive and responsible.

### Hinterland /rural environments

There are a number of small to medium sized villages and localities. These localities are the social hubs for people living on farms in the rural land areas. Population numbers do not generate demand for regional and district facilities, though due to their locations and social importance, should have parks with a higher level of embellishments than a local park, if possible adjoining a sporting oval and/or community facility (hall, church, school etc).

Key desired outcomes are:

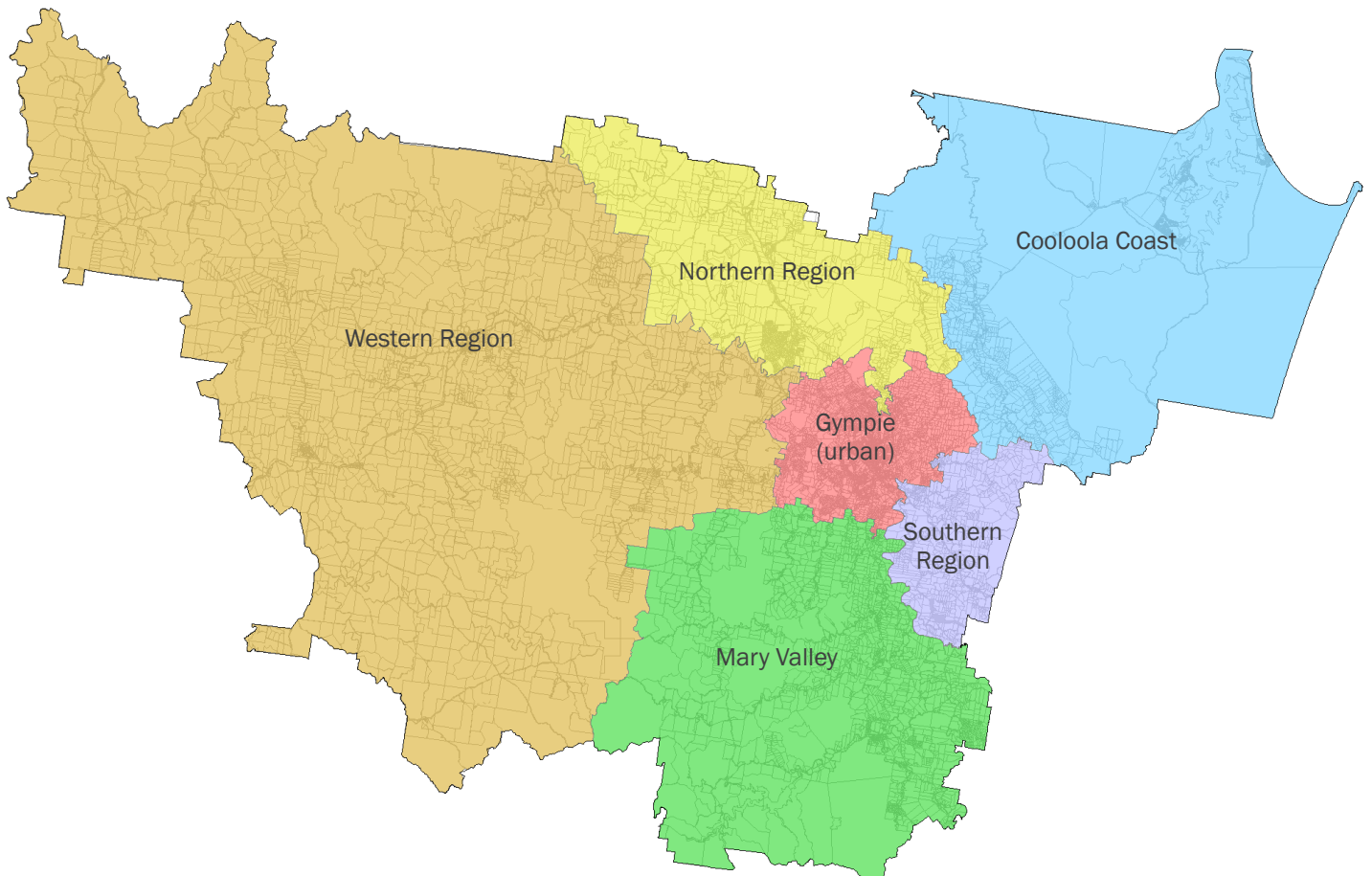
- develop high-quality open space in key urban nodes across the hinterland area
- recreation nodes should complement surrounding opportunities
- neighbours, and it is preferred that social clusters are achieved, particularly with schools and retail areas
- attractive, well-designed and embellished spaces for residents and visitors, in particular, passing tourists
- complementing the wide roads should be pathways that connect open space to residents and other social and retail areas
- where possible, the open space areas should include both sport and recreation opportunities
- neighbourhood level sports facilities are also important as these will be used by residents in rural areas near the localities.



# 5. Open space planning considerations

## Planning precincts

There are six open space planning precincts that have been used throughout the open space assessment. The purpose of these catchments is to understand sub-regional pressures and to appreciate the individual nuances of each precinct. Additionally, this approach assists to structure the findings and ensure that the Plan is easy to navigate.





## Planning approaches

The way in which councils plan open space varies depending on their geographic location, population, council organisational structure and resourcing. The two most common planning approaches within the industry are discussed below.

### Needs-based approach

The needs based approach to open space provision considers the social, demographic and environmental characteristics of an area for which open space is needed or the type of embellishments required in the open space. Not only does the needs based approach consider the number of people living in the area, but importantly it also takes into account their recreation preferences and cultural differences.

#### **Potential limitations**

Unfortunately, the needs based approach is often costly and time consuming as the information must be obtained through various consultation methods such as community surveys, observations, focus groups and other community interaction. Additionally, the needs of a community can change over time. Further, this approach is not practical in greenfield situations. Hence, this approach is often considered merely a point-in-time approach and is often used as a foundation in master planning activities.

### Standards-based approach

Clearly, it is important to develop open spaces that meet the needs of the community. It is also important to have desired standards of service (DSS) for open space by which Council strives to provide a 'minimum' to all residents across the LGA. DSS can be categorised under four broad measures:

- quantity of land for open space
- access to open space
- land characteristics
- level of embellishment.

#### Quantity standard

The quantity standard identifies the recommended minimum standards for the provision of land for open space. Standards are generally presented as hectares/1,000 (population).

It is important to note that while there is a provision rate for recreation parks at a regional level, demand for land for these purposes should be based on the presence of significant physical features, or unique opportunities.

#### Accessibility standard

The accessibility standard is used to guide appropriate spatial distribution of open space in terms of the accessibility and distances of the open space to its users. The recommended spacing and distribution will vary depending on the hierarchy, and the population to be serviced.

It is hoped that all residents within urban areas are within easy walking distance to an embellished open space area. Natural and man-made constraints (such as rivers, major highways and rail lines) must also be considered. It is also important to note that many councils acknowledge that residents are comfortable to drive some distance to participate in their preferred sport.

Historically, best practice guidelines suggest no more than a five minute (400m) walk is preferred. However, recent studies<sup>1</sup> are finding that the walking distance and duration varies depending on the purpose. People are walking an average of 10 minutes (750m) to a recreation park. These new findings compared with the growing trend in walking suggests that people would, and are, prepared to travel a greater distance than the previous accessibility standard of 400m, especially if it is to a quality recreation park, as proposed in this Plan.

*1 Yang, Y. & Diez-Roux, A. 2012, Walking distance by trip purpose and population subgroups. Shriver, K. 1997. Influence of Environmental Design on Pedestrian Travel Behaviour in Four Austin Neighbourhoods. Van Herzele, A., and Weidemann, T. (2003). A Monitoring Tool for the Provision of Accessible and Attractive Green Spaces*



## Land characteristics

These standards are used as a base in determining quality land characteristics. A range of land types are required to provide diversity within the open space network. These recommended minimum levels of provision will ensure a realistic and achievable quality urban open space network that is generous in accordance with the proposed vision. Land character standards include consideration of:

- size of the open space
- preferred shape of the open space
- flood immunity, topography and gradient
- road frontage
- other site features (creeks, outcrops etc).

## Embellishment standard

Embellishment standards are very important in defining open spaces and are also important in making them attractive for a variety of people to use. Embellishments include consideration of:

- activity options - play/recreation opportunities irrespective of age and ability
- furniture (e.g. tables, seats and bins), picnicking infrastructure, public amenities (toilets and showers), sports infrastructure
- buildings, signage, landscaping, car parking, fencing and lighting.

## Potential limitations

Standards-based approaches to park provision have received some criticism from both the industry and academia. Potential limitations of the standards approach may include:

- does not consider changing demographics over time
- changes in sport and recreation participation trends are not considered
- does not reflect geographic and climatic influences
- assesses park typology in isolation, without reference to how other park typologies may fill local need/demand (for example higher order park also serve the function of lower order parks in the same typology)
- the standards-based approach focuses on land for open space rather than the activities and opportunities the parks provide.



## Preferred open space planning approach

For future planned communities, Council currently uses the rate of provision identified in the Gympie Regional Council Planning Scheme 2013.

In light of significant future population growth, Council is in need of a comprehensive and defensible open space planning approach. Given that the majority of this growth will occur in greenfield areas, it is proposed that a standards approach, in partnership with the needs approach, will provide the Gympie community with the best outcomes for open space land provision.

A needs based approach (to lead the on-ground provision and embellishment) is an important tool that can be implemented by Council in developed areas. It is important that Council also consider the planning guidelines and local guidelines in their design and provision of the open space network.

The desired land quantity standards presented in the Open Space Strategy have been expressed as hectares: 1,000 residents. Additional standards are also presented for each open space type for accessibility, land characteristics and embellishments.



# Planning principles

In an attempt to create a successful open space network for the community that is well used, sustainable and that the community are proud of, the principles of rural planning, place making, and active living have been used in the development of this Plan. These principles are seen as fundamental to achieving Council's open space vision.

## Rural planning

Like those living in the city, residents in rural areas also require access to public open space for recreation and sport. While the need for sporting facilities is obvious, the need for some recreation activities can not be met on individual private properties, regardless of their size.

If designed and managed properly, open space in some rural areas have the potential to:

- provide access to attractive landscapes and/or historic features
- provide non-motorised recreation corridors allowing exploration of the landscape by horse, bicycle and/or foot, further promoting the area as a popular destination for outdoor recreation pursuits
- providing opportunities for tourism (eg. caravan parks and camping areas that can be linked by horse, bicycle and walking trails)
- provide for protection of scenic features/amenity and nature conservation.

By adopting a multiuse approach where possible and practical, the benefits a rural community can gain from its open space network are maximised. The multiuse approach should also be applied to the trunk open space network. Where appropriate, formal activities should be developed in the same area as, and complement, informal opportunities.

## Place making

Place making is a conscious objective to create meaningful and connected public places and spaces that promote a sense of community, happiness and well being.

Creating attractive and meaningful places creates a sense of pride in the community resulting in people spending more time in their community. Vibrant public spaces attract people to sit, rest, connect and celebrate.

A park is good. A park with a fountain, playground, and ice cream cart is better. A library across the street is even better, more so, if they feature storytelling hours for kids and exhibits on local history. If there's an al fresco café nearby, train station, a bike path, and a supermarket, then you have what most people would consider a great place<sup>2</sup>.

The role of place making in the Gympie Region is to create great spaces for the community to live, work and visit both now and into the future.

## Active living

Active living is at the trunk of open space planning, and seeks to integrate physical activity into people's everyday lives. Park and recreation opportunities (including open space, pathways, sporting fields and swimming pools etc) located close to where people live or work encourages a more active lifestyle.

Active living is best achieved through integrated land use planning, allowing people to easily walk or cycle to schools, shops, parks and public transport, resulting in a healthier lifestyle for residents, a more social neighbourhood, and providing both economic and environmental benefits.

The role of active living in this Plan is to enhance connectivity between open spaces and key destination areas to increase the Gympie Region's walkability and cycling opportunities, as well as to activate the open space network through innovative programming.

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<sup>2</sup> Project for Public Spaces 2014, What makes a successful place?



## Locally appropriate guidelines for recreation and open space development

Below is a list of locally appropriate guidelines to help guide, design and plan for the provision of a quality open space network across the Gympie Region.

- people have diversity and choice within the open space network leading to a variety of vibrant opportunities
- the parks are attractive and desirable places for people to enjoy regardless of their age and ability
- innovation and creativity are encouraged within the Region's open space network
- localities are designed with enhanced green space and strong connections to the natural environment, including the rural surroundings
- the open space network is connected through a series of green nodes/recreation corridors including parkland and streetscaping
- green nodes/recreation corridors are valued equally to local recreation parks and in some instances offer more recreational value and opportunity
- the open spaces and communities are linked, encouraging active transport (particularly pedestrian focussed) options
- social interaction and physical activity is encouraged through regular activation of open space
- community safety principles are incorporated into open space planning and design
- multiple-use of open space is encouraged to provide cost effective options for Council to maintain while still providing community health and well-being benefits
- equitable access is achieved across the four main localities of the Region, considering differing community values and expectations
- consideration of different social and demographic profiles is given to the location, design and enhancement of the open space, now and in the future
- a network that considers the character of places and spaces and incorporates these themes into open space design.

Design considerations regarding play elements and picnic embellishments are found in Appendix A.



# Open space classification framework

Underpinning the Open Space Plan is the classification framework for the open space network. The open space framework is an agreed system that classifies and allocates open space, based on land and activity use.

With the development of Council's new Local Government Infrastructure Plan (LGIP), it is important that the framework defines open space that is considered 'trunk infrastructure', so it can be identified and assessed for the development of the LGIP. Trunk infrastructure is the higher-level infrastructure that is shared between several different developments

Various open space types possess different values, functions and settings. Open space needs to be assessed in terms of its existing and likely future function (classification) and its role (hierarchy) within that function. Detailed open space typologies, design considerations and costs are in Appendix A and B.

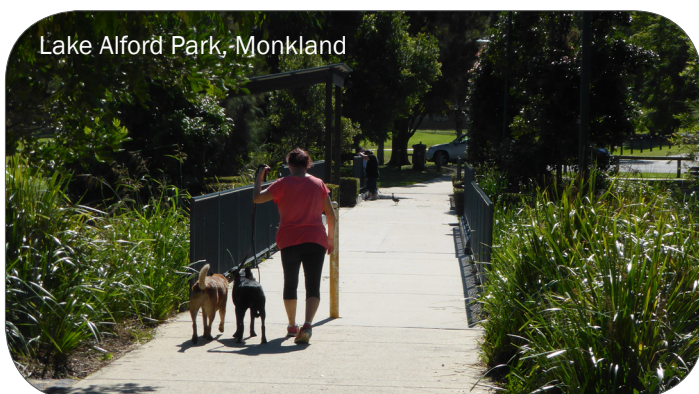
Hierarchy	Description
<b>Recreation park (passive)</b>	
Regional recreation park	Regional parks provide a wide variety of opportunities to a broad cross-section of the Region's population and visitors. These parks differ in size depending on their locality. Those in the centre of town are often large in size, while those along the coast line are linear embracing the natural surroundings. Regardless of locality, parks are well embellished, well-known amongst residents and are major destinations for locals and tourists.
District recreation park	Larger sized parks that service several suburbs or whole communities, depending on the surrounding population density, by providing a range of facilities and activity spaces for recreation. Often well-known destinations for those people living within their catchment (and beyond), these parks have facilities to cater for large groups and will host a variety of play equipment, seating and picnic facilities, amenity lighting, paths and toilets.  Ideally, district parks are located near, or are well-connected to social infrastructure such as schools, community centres, halls and activity centres.
<b>Sports park (active)</b>	
Regional sportsground	Are more than a sports ground, rather a facility. They have formally maintained sports field/ovals and courts for a mixture of winter and/or summer sports. The fields/ovals and courts comply and are maintained to State regulations for the sport codes using the grounds. Regional sports grounds generally include spectator seating, canteen buildings and multiple amenities buildings catering for the range of sports at the ground. Car parking will be extensive and the facility will be suitable to attract competition at a local and regional level and possibly state level.
District sportsground	District grounds will have formal to semi-formal maintained sports ovals/fields for a mixture of winter and/or summer sports. The facilities would be of a good standard but may not have the required playing surface or ancillary infrastructure of a regional wide level facility nor comply with State regulations for the sport.  Informal recreation may be restricted to certain parts of the ground. Toilets, changing facilities and car parking are likely to be available and some reserves may have sports club facilities. Clubs (or Council) may have installed floodlights to enable evening training.

Trunk public open space network



Hierarchy	Description
Local recreation park	<p>Likely to provide a green buffer and possible amenity mitigation against development, be planted with trees (where possible) and have a lower level of maintenance to a district park. Probably suitable for dog walking with reasonable pedestrian access and possibly providing a “green” link to other reserves or open space.</p> <p>A local park is likely to have only basic embellishments such as seats and bins. Play equipment will generally not be required but may be provided in some cases. Not all parks need to be ‘developed’ to provide benefits to the community - the simple provision of open space and a green buffer may justify the existence of the park.</p>
Private	Open space is privately owned
Aquatic	Aquatic facilities are publicly owned and managed swimming pools. These can either be outdoor (uncovered) facilities, indoor aquatic facilities or a mix of both. Aquatic facilities are very important community assets as they are often social meeting places as well as venues for sport and (swimming) education.
Indoor	Indoor sport and recreation centres primarily provide space and ancillary facilities for playing indoor sports. Indoor sports are facilities with a high level of built form required to undertake the activity.
Specialised	Parks providing for sporting activities where the nature of the activity precludes free, unrestricted access to members of the public or where land and infrastructure needs of the sport/activity is specialised and transferring the use to another sport is difficult. Specialised sports include motocross/motorcycling, equestrian, golf, shooting, etc. Many of the specialised sport uses are likely to be considered ‘hard to locate’ or ‘noisy’ sports.
Bushland	Areas of open space that are covered with trees, shrubs or other natural vegetation. The sites may vary from large sites with a diversity of ecological communities and extensive connectivity to smaller fragmented sites. Upon further investigation, some site may be of ecological significance.
Constrained/ Utility	<p>Areas of open space that provide basic recreation opportunities, but are limited in their functionality, maintenance and development potential due to constraints including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> utility infrastructure (e.g. electricity transmissions, telecommunications, water and sewerage)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> on-site or adjacent detention basins and drainage corridors</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> water bodies</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> contaminated land</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> steep slope, dense vegetation or topography</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> lack of road frontage or access</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> location from, or general appeal to, a wide population base</li> </ul>

Non-trunk public open space network





## Local government infrastructure plan (LGIP)

This Plan provides sufficient information relating to the public parks network for Council to include in its development of the LGIP. The LGIP is only concerned with parks that are considered 'trunk infrastructure'. These being:

- district recreation parks
- regional recreation parks
- district sports parks
- regional sports parks.

These park types account for 13.99% (159.98ha) of the total open space network.

### Desired standards of service

Desired standards of service (DSS) are the level of open space that Council strives to provide as a minimum to all residents across the local government area. The standards are then used to guide the future development of the LGIP and associated charges schedules. As previously noted, DSS are often categorised under four broad measures:

- quantity of land for open space
- access to open space
- land characteristics
- embellishments.

The access and quantity standards are, traditionally, the two primary measures used to assess and plan for open space land demands. Land characteristics and the level of embellishment provide additional information that should be used as a guide in developing open space. Recognising that it is equally important to provide a diverse range of open space opportunities must also be considered in this process.

Unfortunately, it is not always possible to apply these standards for each different classification of open space as many of them are opportunistic, dependant on site-specific attributes (e.g. topographical or geographical) and/or are intrinsically linked to social or environmental descriptors. As such, it is commonplace that DSS are only set for trunk open space (formal parks (passive open space) and outdoor sporting facilities (active open space)).

Given the supply of open space across the Region (and particularly over supply at the local level) and the benefits of utilising and maintaining a smaller number of parks with a good quality provision, it is suggested Council seek to provide higher quality facilities over quantity to address any perceived or real shortfall. As a result, Council has determined that a lower proportion of the 0.5ha/1,000 people for passive open space (recreation park) is designated for local-level facilities and a higher proportion of 1.2ha/1,000 people for district-level open space. A similar approach has been adopted for active open space, as consultation identified that people preferred to drive into Gympie (urban) to participate in their chosen sport.

The DSS for the trunk open space types within the Gympie Region is provided below. Local recreation parks have been included in the following tables as a reference point for Council's parks team and should not be included in the LGIP. A more detailed description of each park typology is provided in the Appendix B.

#### Quantity standard for trunk parks (ha/1,000 people)

Open space type	Local (non-trunk)	District	Regional
Recreation park	0.5ha/1,000 people	1.2ha/1,000 people	0.6ha/1,000 people
Sports park	NA	0.7ha/1,000 people	1.2ha/1,000 people

#### Accessibility standard for trunk parks (kilometres)

Open space type	Local (non-trunk)	District	Regional
Recreation park*	Residents are within 750 metres or 10 minutes walk	Residents are within a 10 to 15 minutes drive	Local government area
Sports park*	NA	30km	Local government area

\*residents are within 750 metres or 10 minutes walk of some type of trunk open space





Usable open space is land that is easily accessible with no obstructions from the road or footpath and meets all other DSS requirements. Any bushland, heavy vegetation, stormwater swales and/or waterways (creeks) located within the park are to be seen as complementing natural assets, not usable open space.

### Desired land characteristics for trunk recreation parks

Characteristics	Local (non-trunk)	District	Regional
Size (ha)	0.5ha of usable open space	1.5ha of usable open space	2.5ha of usable open space (varies depending of location)
Shape	The preferred shape for a park is square to rectangular with the sides no greater than 2:1	The preferred shape for a park is square to rectangular with the sides no greater than 2:1	The preferred shape for a park is square to rectangular with the sides no greater than 2:1
Road frontage	Between 30- 50% of the park perimeter to have direct road frontage	Approximately 50% of the park perimeter to have direct road frontage	Approximately 50% of the park perimeter to have direct road frontage
Gradient	Maximum grade of 1:50 for 80% of usable open space. Remainder of the park may be at a gradient of up to 30% for plantings, etc.	Maximum grade of 1:10 for 80% of usable open space. To facilitate wheelchair access to parks, areas with a grade of 1:33 will also be provided, where possible. Variable topography is satisfactory for the remaining area	Average grade of 1:20 for main use areas, 1:50 for kick about areas and variable topography for the remainder
Flood immunity*	Main use area free of regular flooding (above Q10) with at least 10% of usable area above Q50	Main use area free of regular flooding (above Q10) with at least 10% of total area above Q50. Areas containing buildings are to be located above the Q50 design level	All use areas free of regular flooding (above Q10). Areas containing playgrounds are to be located above the Q50 design level. Built facilities above the Q100 design level

### Desired land characteristics for trunk sport parks

Characteristics	District	Regional
Size (ha)	minimum of 3ha of usable open space	minimum of 5ha of usable open space (ideally 10ha)
Shape	To maximise the area available for playing fields, a square or rectangular shape is considered most efficient. Fields and courts to be as close to north/south configuration as possible	To maximise the area available for playing fields, a square or rectangular shape is considered most efficient. Fields and courts to be as close to north/south configuration as possible
Road frontage	Between 25-50% of the park perimeter to have direct road frontage	Between 25-50% of the park perimeter to have direct road frontage
Gradient	Minimum grade of 1:80 for all playing surfaces. Gradient of 1:50 for remainder of space.	Laser levelling to a maximum gradient of playing surface 1:100. Gradient of 1:50 for remainder of space.
Flood immunity	Minimum Q10 design flood line for fields and courts, Q50 for courts. All buildings and other expensive facilities above the Q100 flood level	Minimum Q10 design flood line for fields and courts, Q50 for courts. All buildings and other expensive facilities above the Q100 flood level



### Indicative embellishments for trunk parks

Type of embellishment	Recreation parks			Sports parks	
	Local (non-trunk)	District	Regional	District	Regional
Playground (activity node)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Half basketball court (activity node)	✓				
Re-bounce wall (activity node)	✓				
Fencing - bollards	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Shade trees clustered near activity node	✓	✓	✓	✓^	✓^
Turf		✓	✓	✓	✓
Landscaped garden beds			✓		✓
Irrigation			✓	✓	✓
Lighting	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Internal pathways and paving		✓	✓	✓	✓
Bicycle racks		✓	✓	✓	✓
Signage	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Shade structures	✓	✓	✓	✓#	✓#
Tap/bubbler	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bench seating	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Electric barbeque		✓	✓		
Picnic shelters		✓	✓		
Bins	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dog off leash area					
Toilets		✓"	✓	✓	✓
Internal road and car parking			✓	✓	✓
Clubhouse				✓	✓
Spectator facilities (grandstand)				✓	✓
Sports fields				✓	✓
Sports courts				✓	✓
Indicative Embellishment cost*	\$126,800	\$771,260	\$3,080,460	\$2,560,000	\$3,885,000

\*Excludes non-chargeable items

^Shade trees are to be around the perimeter of the sports field and clustered around spectator areas

" Only to be provided in certain district recreation parks. The decision to build toilets in a district recreation park will be based on the park's popularity, location and type of use (some district recreation parks may be popular venues for weddings and large social gatherings)

#Shade structures should be structures that teams can stand under, not shade sails

# 6. Open space assessment

## Region-wide assessment

Demand for open space is generally based on residential population. However, a number of social and geographical inputs also affect what on-ground demand is generated for open space, including:

- age and population distribution
- housing density
- inputs such as natural and man-made geographic influences.

Additionally, the Region, particularly the Cooloola Coast, has a further influence from the large influx of visitors during peak times. The projected populations for each of the planning precincts and the Region as a whole are highlighted in the table below.

Planning precinct	Projected population				Change 2015-2031
	2015	2021	2026	2031	
Gympie (urban)	25,419	33,417	34,996	35,816	10,397
Cooloola Coast	8,167	13,358	14,168	14,971	6,804
Mary Valley	4,892	6,328	6,444	6,564	1,672
Western Region	4,208	4,171	4,246	4,326	118
Northern Region	3,661	3,661	3,661	3,661	NA
Southern Region	2,006	2,006	2,006	2,006	NA
<b>TOTAL (LGA)</b>	<b>48,353</b>	<b>62,941</b>	<b>65,521</b>	<b>67,344</b>	<b>18,991</b>

Source: GHD 2009, Gympie Regional Council Planning Scheme Study - Demographic Profile

## Current supply

Overall, Gympie Regional Council has an abundance of Council-managed open space (almost 1,143.42ha<sup>1</sup>) available to residents and visitors. However, only 159.98ha of this land is trunk open space (recreation and sport).

The Council-managed land alone reflects an open space provision rate of approximately 23ha/1,000. Because the provision of undeveloped, utility, bushland and specialised active space are largely opportunistic and depend on the surrounding environment and land uses, open space planners tend to remove these open space types for analysis purposes<sup>2</sup>. When only trunk open space areas (passive and active) are considered, this provision rate is reduced to 3.30ha/1,000 - 0.4ha lower than the proposed DSS (3.7ha/1,000).

A summary of Gympie Region's open space network is presented below.

Classification	Hierarchy	Function	Provision (ha)	Proportion of open space network
Recreation park (passive)	Local	Non-trunk	37.83ha	3.31%
	District	Trunk	37.20ha	3.25%
	Regional	Trunk	23.29ha	2.04%
Sports park (active)	District	Trunk	58.41ha	5.11%
	Regional	Trunk	41.08ha	3.59%
Other passive	Bushland	Non-trunk	393.69ha	34.43%
	Undeveloped	Non-trunk	105.93ha	9.26%
	Utility	Non-trunk	119.32ha	10.44%
Other active	Aquatic	Non-trunk	6.13ha	0.54%
	Specialised	Non-trunk	320.54ha	28.03%
	Indoor	Non-trunk	-	-

<sup>1</sup> Excluding State and National Parks

<sup>2</sup> However, the impact that these open space types have within individual planning precincts is discussed in the precinct level analyses



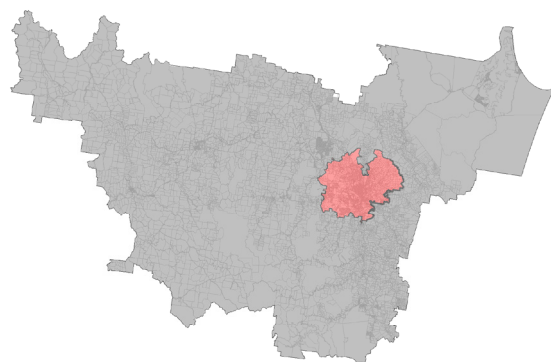
## Gympie (urban) Planning Precinct

Gympie (urban) Planning Precinct comprises Gympie township, the main economic hub of the Region. Home to most of the Region's regional open space and sporting facilities, the Precinct hosts a large amount of sporting and community events and festivals throughout the year.

The Precinct has a moderate growth rate, which is expected to continue due to the reasonable cost of housing, local infrastructure projects and its proximity to the Sunshine Coast. The majority of future residential growth is expected to occur around Southside. Commercial/industry growth is also predicted to occur in Victory Heights. It is important that the workers in these areas are also supplied with open space.

The localities included within Gympie (urban) Planning Precinct include:

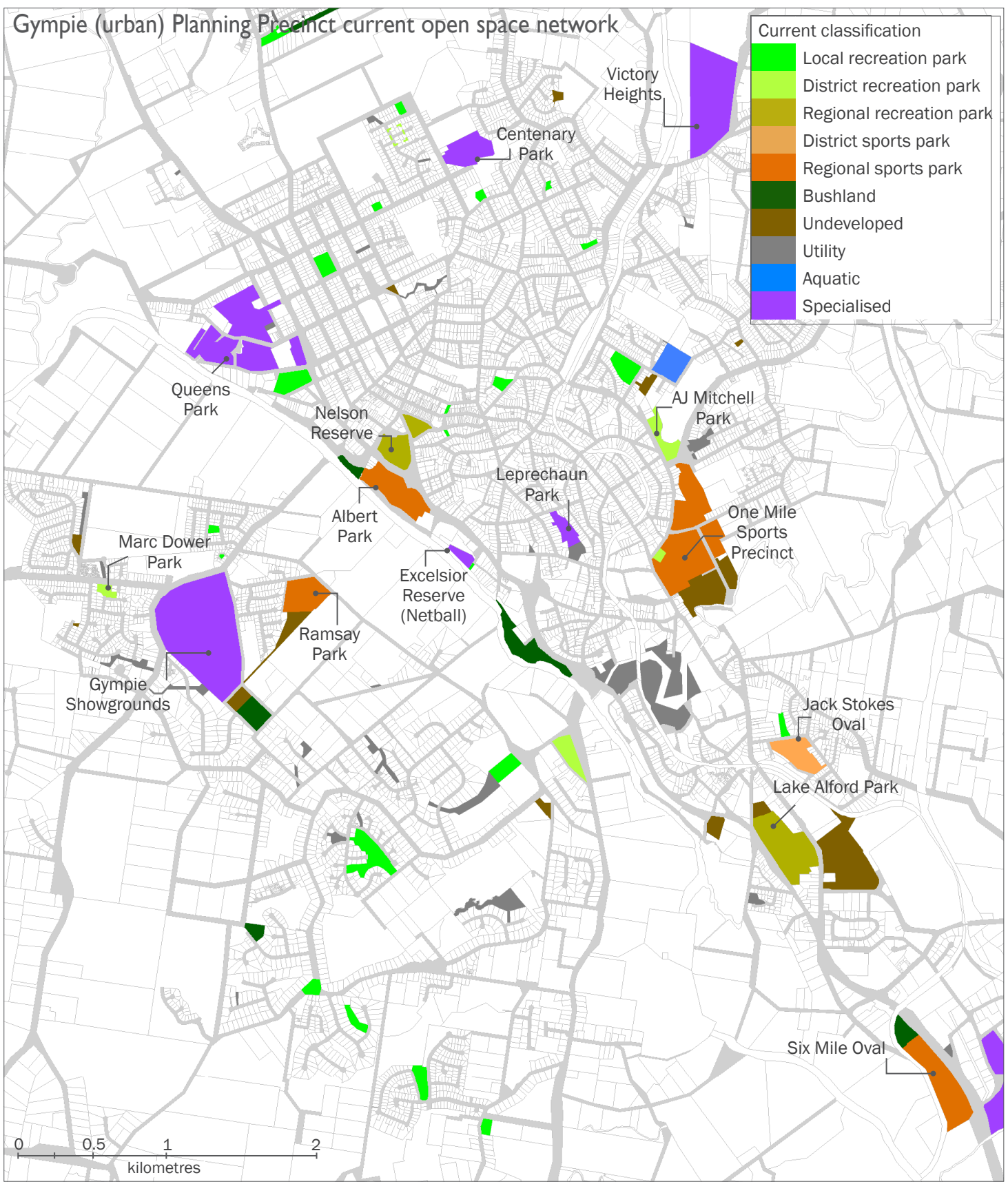
- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Araluen           | <input type="checkbox"/> Greens Creek  | <input type="checkbox"/> Tamaree                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Banks Pocket      | <input type="checkbox"/> Gympie        | <input type="checkbox"/> The Dawn               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Canina            | <input type="checkbox"/> Jones Hill    | <input type="checkbox"/> The Palms              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chastworth        | <input type="checkbox"/> Monkland      | <input type="checkbox"/> Two Mile               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corella           | <input type="checkbox"/> Nahrunda      | <input type="checkbox"/> Veteran                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> East Deep Creek   | <input type="checkbox"/> Pie Creek     | <input type="checkbox"/> Victory Heights        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fishermans Pocket | <input type="checkbox"/> Scrubby Creek | <input type="checkbox"/> Widgee Crossing North  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Glanmire          | <input type="checkbox"/> Southside     | <input type="checkbox"/> Widgee Crossing South. |



## Current supply of open space in the Gympie (urban) Planning Precinct

The Gympie (urban) Planning Precinct has approximately 341.89ha of open space, of which, 71.83ha is trunk open space.

		Gympie	Southside	Monkland/ Glanmire	Other	Total
Population		9,942	5,939	1,475	8,063	25,419
Trunk open space	Recreation parks	7.79ha	3.25ha	10.34ha	5.02ha	26.40ha
	District	2.86ha	3.25ha	0ha	5.02ha	11.13ha
	Regional	4.93ha	0ha	10.34ha	0ha	15.27ha
	Sports parks	26.21ha	5.36ha	13.87ha	0ha	45.44ha
	District	0ha	0ha	4.36ha	0ha	4.36ha
	Regional	26.21ha	5.36ha	9.51ha	0ha	41.08ha
Non-trunk open space	Other open space	33.91ha	29.97ha	25.76ha	42.24ha	131.88ha
	Local recreation park	9.35ha	8.29ha	0.62ha	3.34ha	21.60ha
	Bushland	6.74ha	3.56ha	1.83ha	12.12ha	24.25ha
	Undeveloped	8.58ha	7.08ha	13.56ha	22.52ha	51.74ha
	Utility	9.24ha	11.05ha	9.74ha	6.18ha	36.21ha
	Other active parks	29.69ha	31.03ha	58.56ha	-	119.28ha
	Aquatic	3.59ha	0ha	0ha	0ha	3.59ha
	Specialised	26.10ha	29.03ha	58.56ha	17.00ha	130.69ha
	Indoor	0ha	2.00ha	0ha	0ha	2.00ha
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>97.60ha</b>	<b>69.60ha</b>	<b>108.52ha</b>	<b>66.18ha</b>	<b>341.90ha</b>	



## Demand and gap assessment

### Quantity

The table below details the likely demand and gap assessment for the Gympie (urban) Planning Precinct's (Council-managed) open space extrapolated out until 2031. This is calculated by multiplying the desired land standard for open space (2.3ha/1,000 for recreation parks and 1.9ha/1,000 sports parks) by the projected population. The figures are based on the current network with no additional upgrades, purchases or rationalisation of land.

	Current supply (ha)	DSS	2015		2021		2026		2031	
			Demand (ha)	Gap (ha)	Demand (ha)	Gap (ha)	Demand (ha)	Gap (ha)	Demand (ha)	Gap (ha)
Recreation parks (trunk only)	26.4	1.8	45.75	-19.35	60.15	-33.75	63	-36.60	64.47	-38.07
Recreation parks (total)	48	2.3	58.46	-10.46	76.86	-28.86	80.49	-32.49	82.38	-34.38
Local (non-trunk)	21.6	0.5	12.71	8.89	16.71	4.89	17.5	4.1	17.91	3.69
District	11.13	1.2	30.5	-19.37	40.1	-28.97	42	-30.87	42.98	-31.85
Regional	15.27	0.6	15.25	0.02	20.05	-4.78	21	-5.73	21.49	-6.22
Sports parks	45.44	1.9	48.3	-2.86	63.49	-18.05	66.49	-21.05	68.05	-22.61
District	4.36	1.2	30.5	-26.14	40.1	-35.74	42	-37.64	42.98	-38.62
Regional	41.08	0.7	17.79	23.29	23.39	17.69	24.5	16.58	25.07	16.01

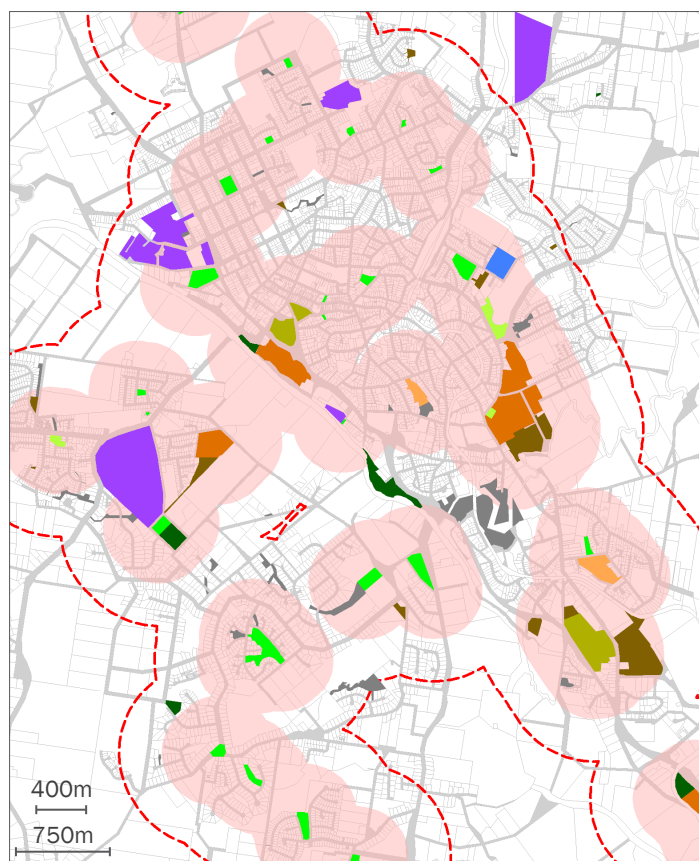
Note: Positive numbers reflect an over-supply, while negative numbers (highlighted in red) indicate an under-supply

### Access

A large proportion of the residential houses in the Gympie (urban) Planning Precinct are within 400 metres (walking distance) of a parcel of trunk open space (developed recreation and/or sports park).

Residential areas not within 400 metres includes those north and south of Deep Creek and along Alfred Street. Most of the other areas outside of the 400 metre radius are located in commercial and industrial areas.

However, once the new 750 metres<sup>1</sup> accessibility standard is applied, and the recommended upgrades/changes to the current network are implemented, the majority, if not all, of the residents living within the Gympie (urban) Planning Precinct will have access to embellished open space.



<sup>1</sup> People will walk approximately 10 minutes in one direction for recreational purposes, approximately 750 metres

## Analysis and recommendations

### Connections

Due to the large number of regional recreation and sports parks in the Precinct, residents will be drawn to these parks to participate in recreation, sporting and play activities. Through the implementation of the Gympie Region Walk and Cycle Strategy, Council has the opportunity to create recreation corridors (green corridors) linking the Precinct's open space network.

Connections can be created with existing and future pathways. The additional planting, bench seats and water bubblers along these paths will create a park amenity outside of parks and into the Precinct's streets and gardens, while increasing open space connectivity.

Enhanced connection through the linkage of open spaces will increase the Precinct's open space and recreation opportunities including active living/physical activity (through walking and cycling), improved amenity and increased livability.

### Recreation parks

Overall, the Precinct has an under supply of recreation parks, approximately 10ha. This will increase to 34ha by 2031 with no future development of recreation parks.

However, when the hierarchy is applied, it shows that the Precinct has a surplus of local recreation parks and an under supply of district recreation parks.

This under supply of district recreation parks is also reflected in the community survey results (40% of respondents feel that there is not an adequate supply), yet, they are generally pleased with the existing quality of open space.

Council has identified a number of key upgrades and additions to the existing open space network within the Precinct. These include:

- redevelopment of Scottish Mine and Retort House Reserve into a regional recreation and tourism destination (as per Draft Masterplan Strategy 2013)
- upgrade of the existing playground at One Mile Sport and Recreation Precinct and the addition of an adventure playground
- rehabilitation and development of Victoria Bridge Conservation Area.

The upgrade, redevelopment and addition of facilities/embellishments at these reserves will make them key destinations that locals will want to travel to, as apposed to their nearby local and/or district recreation parks.

To reduce maintenance costs and provide the community with a quality and diverse network of open space, it is recommended that Council upgrade (and in some locations rationalise), a number of local recreation parks to district recreation parks, as an alternative to purchasing new land to minimise the gap in district recreation parks. As the number of local recreation parks around the Precinct will be reduced, it is important that Council develop safe off-road connections to district and regional recreation parks.

Two new district recreation parks are required, one in Southside (the future parcel of land on Groundwater Road, already identified as open space in the development plans) and the other in Victory Heights, the residential estate off Rifle Range Road. However, these will only be required if the predicted growth occurs in these areas after 2026.

Despite the above upgrades, by 2031 there will still be a slight under supply (2.40ha) of local recreation parks in the Gympie (urban) Planning Precinct. As an alternative, the community will be provided with a large number of high quality open spaces, offering a variety of experiences for residents (and tourists) of all ages that people want to visit.

### Future recreation parks supply

	Current supply (ha)	2015		Future supply after recommendations are implemented (ha)	2031	
		Demand (ha)	Gap (ha)		Demand (ha)	Gap (ha)
Recreation parks	49.25	58.46	-10.46	85.25	82.38	2.87
Local	25.30	12.71	8.89	15.51	17.91	-2.40
District	8.68	30.50	-19.37	43.01	42.98	0.03
Regional	15.27	15.25	0.02	26.72	21.49	5.23

## Recreation parks recommendations

A number of recreation parks have been identified for upgrade, decommission or rationalisation to create a quality open space network that will be well used by the community.

Park Name	Current status	Future status	Recommendation
Allen Family Park, Chatsworth	Undeveloped	District	Upgrade Allen Family Park to a standard consistent with a district recreation park (appendix A). At the time of developing this Plan, a draft development plan for the site was in community circulation.
Chatsworth Park, Chatsworth	District	Local	Rationalise park to a standard consistent with a local recreation park (Appendix A), with the addition of a toilet block, once Allen Family Park is developed
Gympie Showgrounds, Southside	Specialised sport	District	Continue with the proposed district recreation park as recommended in the Showgrounds Master Plan, once this park is completed, begin to rationalise Marc Dower Park to a local recreation park by decommissioning the toilet facilities
Vantage Road Park, Chatsworth	District	District	Continue to support district-level functions alongside RV usage
Andrew Fisher Memorial Park, Gympie	Local	District	Upgrade to a formalised garden, potential to link through undeveloped parcels of open space to A.J. Mitchell Park
Excelsior Park, Gympie	Local	Undeveloped	Remove embellishments end of life, make into additional car parking for Netball
Madill Park, Southside	Local	Local	When development occurs upgrade park to a proper local park. Ensure recreation linear corridors connect to it from the surrounding development. Embrace the wetland. Refer to Master Plan (currently in draft format)
Nelson Reserve	Regional	Regional	Upgrade Nelson Reserve as per the Master Plan. The area is to include a youth precinct.
Jaycees Park, Gympie	Undeveloped	Local	Investigate opportunities for a large fenced off-leash dog park
Winnington Road Park, Gympie	Local	District	When development occurs upgrade park to a proper district park. Ensure recreation linear corridors connect to it from the surrounding development. Embrace the wetland.
Iron Street Park, Gympie	Local	Local	Upgrade play embellishments to a standards consistent with a local recreation park (Appendix A)
A.J. Mitchell Park, Gympie	Local	Local	Upgrade pedestrian and cycling connections to the future aquatic centre and One Mile Sport and Recreation Precinct
Walsh's Park, Gympie	Local	Local	Relocate the existing play equipment to a better location within the park. Once the future of Jack Stokes Oval is decided, consider relocating the play equipment there and building an embellished recreation linear corridor through Walsh's Park.
Marc Dower Park, Southside	District	Local	Start to remove toilets once the district recreation park at the showgrounds is completed. Rationalise the play equipment and relocate to a drier position within the park.
Don Mackay Park, Gympie	Local	Undeveloped	Remove embellishments end of life
Victoria Bridge Conservation Area, Gympie	Undeveloped	District	Develop a master plan for the area, with the intention of developing the park as a district recreation park with recreation and environmental significance. While not open space, include lot 4 plan CP896297 and Lot 1 MPH24189 in the master plan



## Sports parks

The Precinct is home to all of the Region's regional sporting facilities, as such, the Precinct has become under supplied in district sports parks, placing pressure on some of the well used sports parks. Sports club surveys identified that simple upgrades to the embellishments of some sports parks, such as lights, would increase the usage capacity of their facility. As such, developer contributions should go towards upgrading the existing sporting facilities to ensure they are up to State standards and meet the needs of the existing users, instead of developing new district sports parks.

Master plans for Albert Park and One Mile Sport and Recreation Precinct were being prepared during the development of this Plan. The One Mile Sport and Recreation Precinct Master Plan proposes that the undeveloped land along Deep Creek (approximately 7ha), be developed into additional sporting fields.

By 2031, Council will have a sports park deficiency of 22.61ha. Should the Region experience a substantial amount of growth in organised sport in the future, Council should consider developing a new sports park or adding to an existing sports park. As such, it is recommended that Council investigate the purchase of land to meet any significant gap in demand (approximately 15-20ha) in the medium- to long-term. Ideally, any future site would contribute to a consolidated precinct.

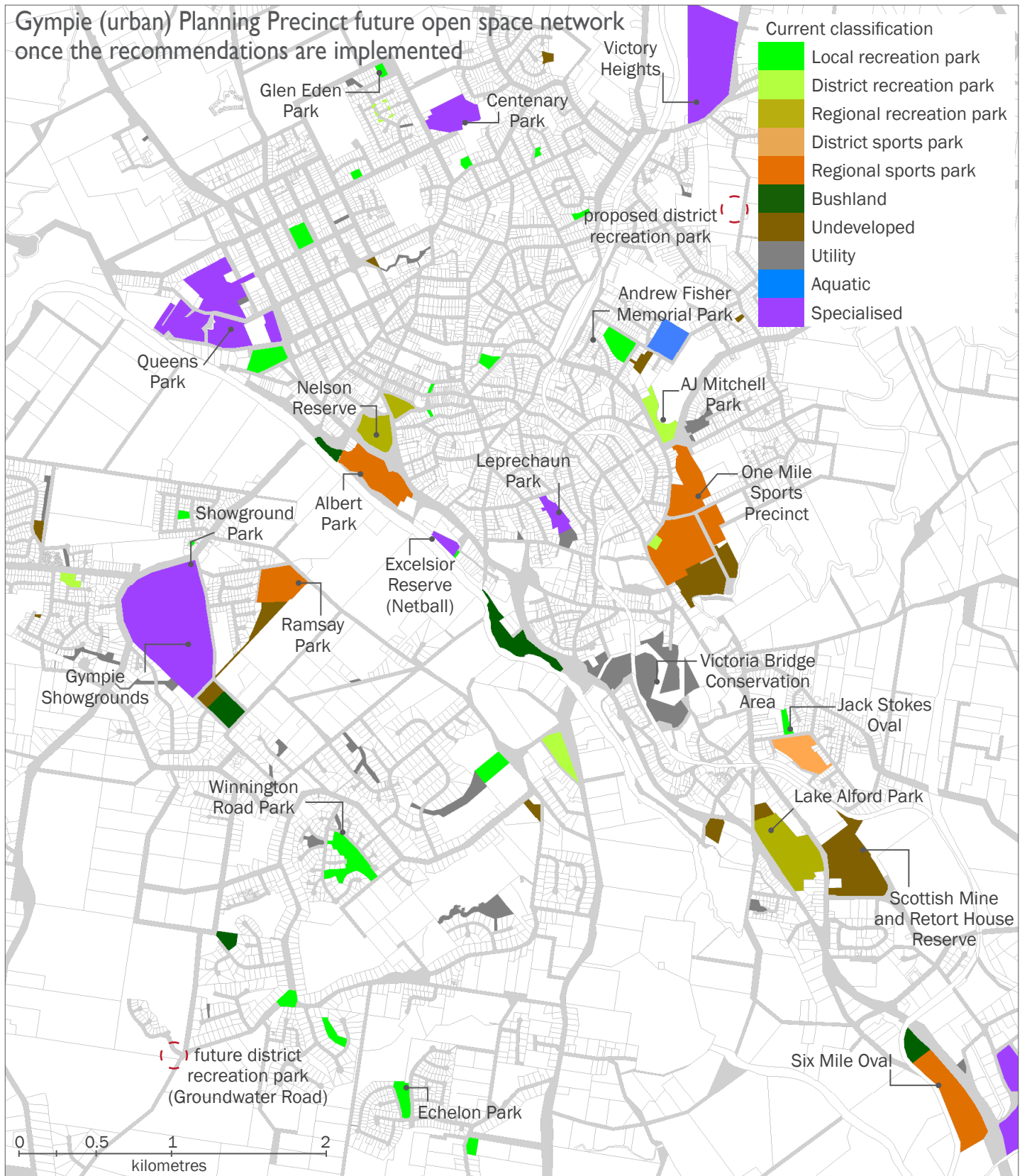
### Future sports parks supply

	Current supply (ha)	2015		2031 Demand (ha)	Without additional land purchase (assume 15ha)		With additional land purchase (assume 15ha)	
		Demand (ha)	Gap (ha)		Supply (ha)	Gap (ha)	Supply (ha)	Gap (ha)
Sports parks	45.44	48.30	-2.86	68.05	52.51	-15.51	67.51	-0.51
District	4.36	30.50	-26.14	42.95	0	-42.95	0	-42.95
Regional	41.08	17.79	23.29	25.07	52.51	27.44	67.51	42.44

### Sports parks recommendations

To achieve a sports park network that is multiuse and meets the needs of users, upgrades to a number of sports parks are required.

Park Name	Current status	Future status	Recommendation
Albert Park, Gympie	Regional	Regional	As per Master Plan once is it adopted by Council
One Mile Sports Precinct, Gympie	Regional	Regional	As per Master Plan once is it adopted by Council
Jack Stokes Oval	District	Regional	Develop a Master Plan for the reserve to ensure future upgrades to a regional sports park are planned, meet the needs of users and avoid ad-hoc developments. Recommendations from the Albert Park and One Mile Sport and Recreation Precinct Master plans should also be considered
Six Mile Oval	Regional	Regional	Develop a Master Plan for the reserve and include lot 185 MCH4242. Upgrade existing lighting



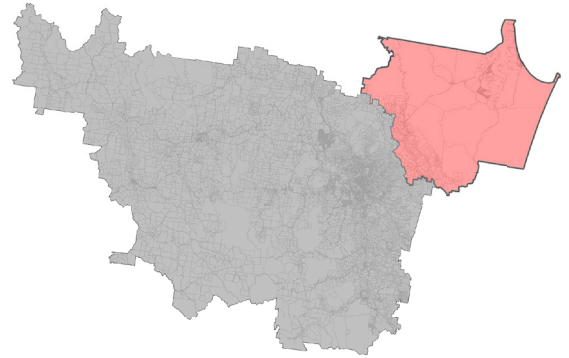


## Cooloola Coast Planning Precinct

The Cooloola Coast comprises of Rainbow Beach, Tin Can Bay and Cooloola Cove, each having their own distinctive role within the Cooloola Coast Planning Precinct.

Tin Can Bay and Rainbow Beach are the main tourist towns of the three. Tin Can Bay has the opportunity for potential expansion for residential growth. However, the majority of residential growth for the Precinct is expected to occur in Cooloola Cove.

Rainbow Beach is constrained by numerous National Parks and as a result is a popular destination for campers and bushwalkers. The majority of land here is State owned and as such, future growth potential is dictated by the State releasing land for tourist residential/residential purposes.



Other localities in the Precinct include:

- Wolvi
- Neerdie
- Kia Ora
- Cooloola.

### Cooloola Coast Planning Precinct current open space supply

The Cooloola Coast Planning Precinct has a total of 421.83ha of open space, of which, 42.21ha is trunk open space.

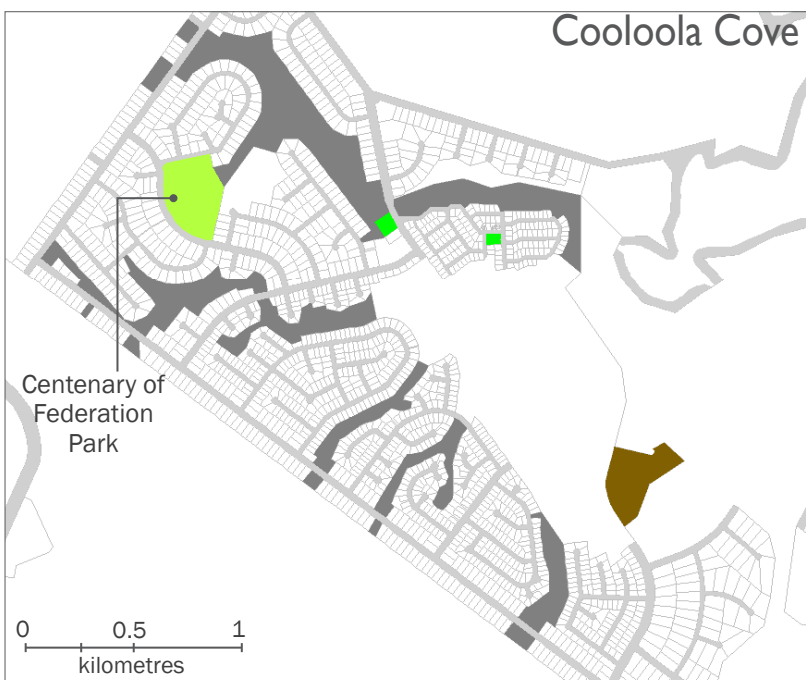
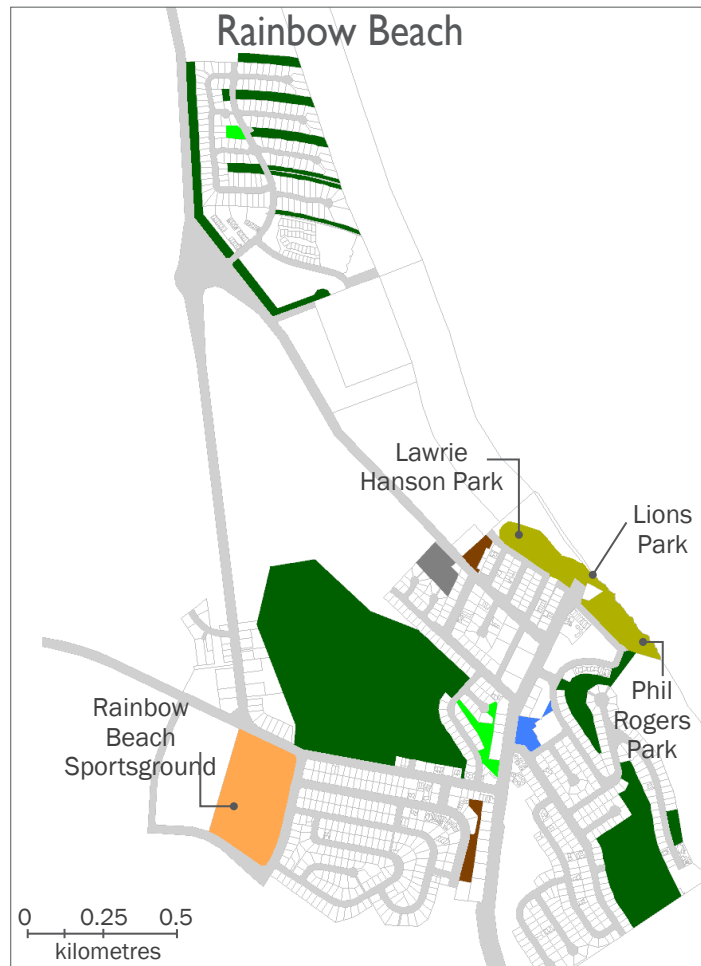
	Cooloola Cove	Tin Can Bay	Rainbow Beach	Neerdie and Kia Ora	Wolvi	Total	
Population	2,512	1,992	1,101	501	466	8,167 <sup>^</sup>	
Trunk open space	Recreation parks	8.17ha	7.84ha	6.89ha	4.21ha	0.40ha	22.90ha
	District	8.17ha	4.83ha	1.88ha	0ha	0ha	14.88ha
	Regional	0ha	3.01ha	5.01ha	0ha	0ha	8.02ha
	Sports parks	0ha	7.75ha	7.92ha	3.61ha	0ha	19.28ha
	District	0ha	7.75ha	7.92ha	3.61ha	0ha	19.28ha
Non-trunk open space	Other passive	72.00ha	27.24ha	163.07ha	5.58ha	42.98ha	338.54ha <sup>*</sup>
	Local recreation park	0.98ha	4.06ha	1.19ha	4.21ha	0.40ha	10.84ha
	Bushland	0ha	21.14ha	159.43ha	0ha	42.58ha	224.45ha <sup>*</sup>
	Undeveloped	0ha	0.60ha	1.22ha	1.37ha	0ha	29.54ha <sup>*</sup>
	Utility	71.02ha	1.45ha	1.24ha	0ha	0ha	73.71ha
	Other active parks	0ha	40.43ha	0.71ha	0ha	0ha	41.14ha
	Aquatic	0ha	0.27ha	0.71ha	0ha	0ha	0.98ha
Specialised	0ha	40.16ha	0ha	0ha	0ha	40.16ha	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>80.17ha</b>	<b>83.26ha</b>	<b>178.59ha</b>	<b>9.18ha</b>	<b>42.98ha</b>	<b>421.83ha<sup>*</sup></b>	

<sup>^</sup> Total population is for the whole Cooloola Coast Planning Precinct, not just the six localities listed in the table

<sup>\*</sup> an additional 26.35ha of undeveloped open space and 1.3ha of bushland have been added to the total, as they are located outside the six localities listed

There are numerous natural areas within the Precinct that offer outdoor recreation opportunities (refer to Tracks and Trails plan for more specific details). The natural areas include:

- Cooloola Cove/Pipeclay National Park
- Rainbow Beach National Park
- Toolara State Forest and National Park
- Tin Can Bay Wildflower Walk and Foreshore Walk
- Cooloola National Park (Great Walk).



- Local recreation park
- District recreation park
- Regional recreation park
- District sports park
- Bushland
- Undeveloped
- Utility
- Aquatic
- Specialised

## Demand and gap assessment

### Quantity

The table below details the likely demand and gap assessment for the Cooloola Coast Planning Precinct's (Council-managed) open space extrapolated out until 2031. This is calculated by multiplying the desired land standard for open space (1.8ha/1,000 for recreation parks and 1.9ha/1,000 sports parks) by the projected population. The figures are based on the current network with no additional upgrades, purchases or rationalisation of land.

	Current supply (ha)	DSS	2015		2021		2026		2031	
			Demand (ha)	Gap (ha)	Demand (ha)	Gap (ha)	Demand (ha)	Gap (ha)	Demand (ha)	Gap (ha)
Recreation parks (trunk)	22.64	1.8	14.7	7.94	24.04	-1.41	25.5	-2.87	26.95	-4.31
Recreation parks (total)	33.47	2.3	18.78	14.69	30.72	2.75	32.59	0.89	34.43	-0.96
Local (non-trunk)	10.84	0.5	4.08	6.76	6.68	4.16	7.08	3.76	7.49	3.35
District	14.62	1.2	9.80	4.82	16.03	-1.41	17.00	-2.39	17.97	-3.35
Regional	8.02	0.6	4.90	3.12	8.01	0.00	8.50	-0.48	8.98	-0.96
Sports parks (district only)*	19.28	1.2	9.80	9.48	16.03	3.25	17.00	2.28	17.97	1.32

Note: Positive numbers reflect an over-supply, while negative numbers (highlighted in red) indicate an under-supply

\*regional sports parks have been removed from the analysis, as there is no need for a regional sports parks within the Cooloola Coast Planning Precinct

### Access

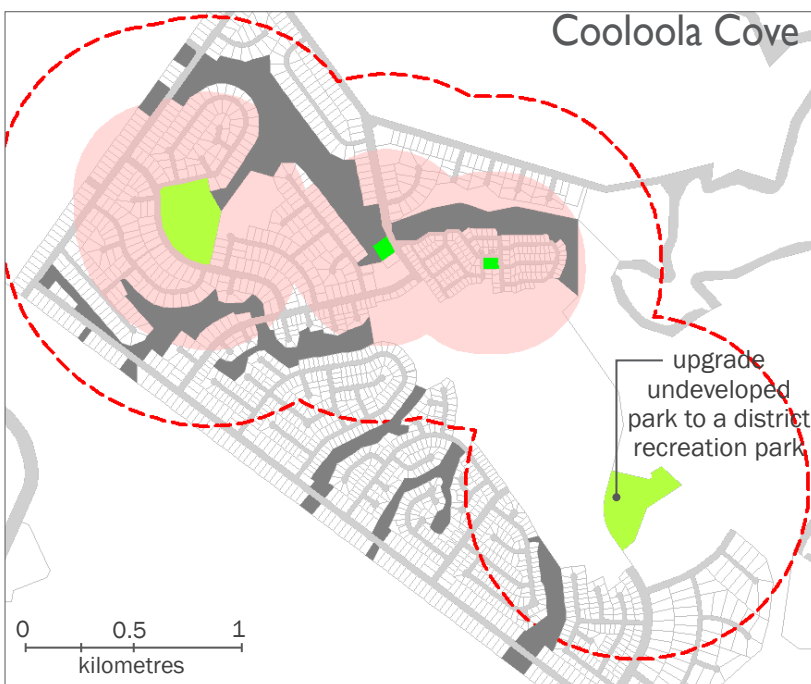
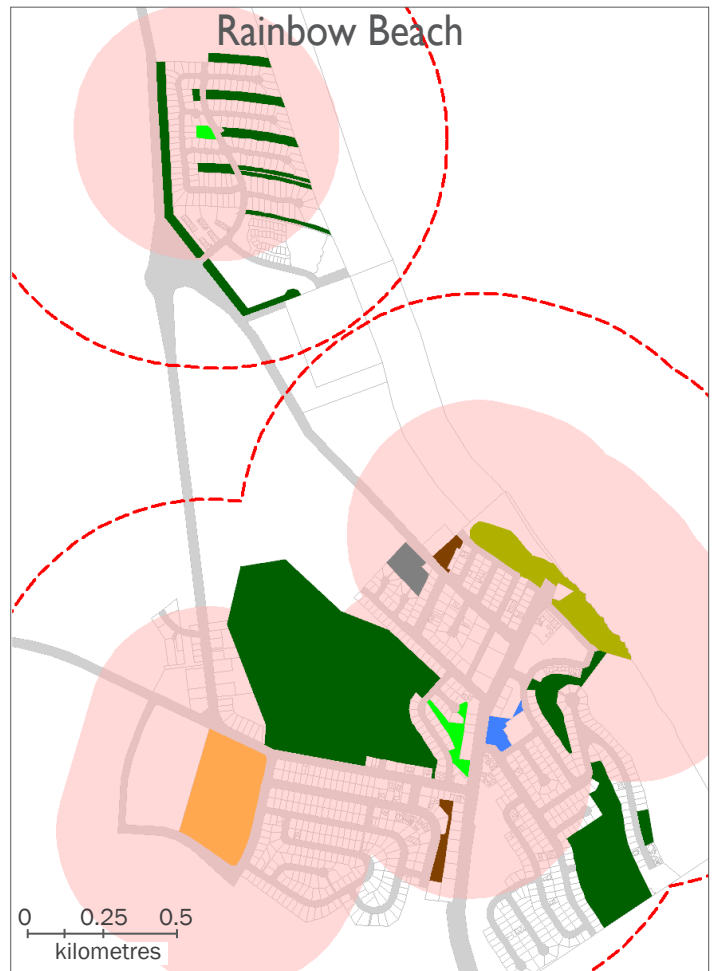
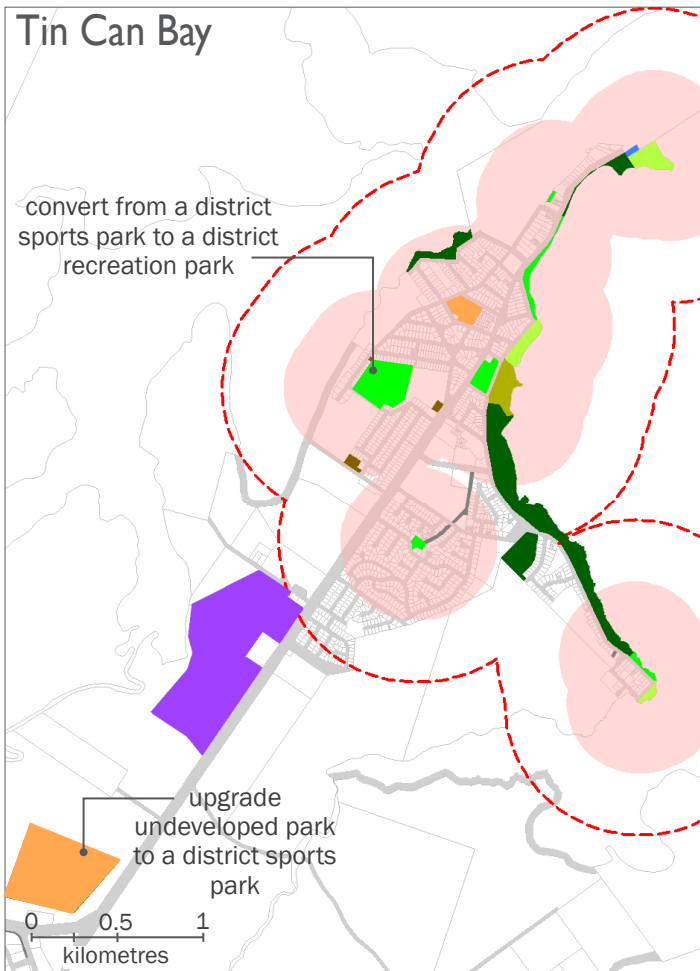
Using the accessibility code, nearly all residents living in Tin Can Bay and Rainbow Beach are within 400 metres of trunk open space. Those outside of the buffer are often located near non-trunk open space that offer a number of recreation opportunities, especially bushwalking, the most common physical activity participated in by the Precinct's residents:

- Tin Can Bay - Mallet Street and Imply Avenue - access to a quality recreation corridor along the foreshore, classified as busland
- Rainbow Beach - streets off Rumbalara Avenue - access to Great Sandy National Park

The area south of Castaways Park is also outside the 400 metre accessibility buffer.

Considering, the foreshore is located approximately 1km (Tin Can Bay) and 500m (Rainbow Beach), it is assumed that most residents will either walk, cycle or drive to the embellished foreshore parks, as apposed to their local park.

Unlike Tin Can Bay and Rianbow Beach, large numbers of residents in Cooloola Cove are not within 400m of trunk open space. However, considering that bushwalking is the most popular physical activity, surveyed residents want more quality walking paths and retirees are to be the majority of the population, focus should be on ensuring the existing parks connect to the surrounding bushland via semi-formal/formalised walking paths along the natural drainage corridors (utility open space).



## Analysis and recommendations

### Recreation parks

Overall, the Precinct is well supplied with recreation parks. However, by 2031 there will be a small deficiency in district recreation parks.

Community consultation in the development of this Plan and the Gympie Tracks and Trails Plan showed that the residents living in the Cooloola Coast Precinct value the presence of the coastline and surrounding national parks/bushland. Bushwalking was also identified as a popular recreation activity within the Precinct.

Instead of Council trying to close the gap in district recreation parks, it is recommended that Council resources focus on implementing the recommendation from the Tracks and Trails Plan within this Precinct to enhance the bushwalking and natural appreciation experiences of locals and tourists. It is important to note, that recreation trails are not trunk infrastructure, as such, can not be included in the LGIP.

However, considering the predicted growth in Cooloola Cove, there is opportunity to develop a new district recreation park within the new residential area. A short fall of local recreation parks will develop in Cooloola Cove as population grows, however, it is recommended that Council encourage developers to embrace the natural topography and develop linear recreation paths as apposed to local recreation parks. This can easily be achieved by simply embellishing the existing utility open space parcels.

### Future recreation parks supply

	Current supply (ha)	2015 Demand (ha)	2015 Gap (ha)	Future supply after recommendations are implemented (ha)	2031 Demand (ha)	2031 Gap (ha)
Recreation parks	33.47	18.78	14.69	46.20	34.43	11.77
Local (non-trunk)	10.84	4.08	6.76	10.84	7.49	3.35
District	14.62	9.80	4.82	27.34	17.97	9.38
Regional	8.02	4.90	3.12	8.02	8.98	-0.96

### Recreation parks recommendations

Park Name	Current status	Future status	Recommendation
Centenary of Federation Park and Billabong Park, Cooloola Cove	District	District	As per Cooloola Cove Centenary of Federation Park Master Plan
Cod Street Park	Local	Local	Add some additional picnic facilities. No play embellishments are required.
Rainbow Beach foreshore	Regional	Regional	Upgrade as per Rainbow Beach foreshore parks revitalisation plan
Snapper Creek Boat Ramp	District	District	Embellish the park with picnic facilities to support the use of water based recreation, as per The Gympie Regional Council Canoe and Kayak Strategy
H.A. Chooky Mallet Park, Tin Can Bay	Sports park - district	Recreation district park	Change to a passive park with a large dog park
Les Lee Park, Tin Can Bay	Local	Local	Develop a local recreation playground within the park

## Sports parks

The Precinct is well supplied with sports parks now and into the future.

At a local level, predicted growth in Cooloola Cove will trigger the development of a new sporting facility, however, the upgrade of existing facilities could accommodate for this demand.

Council is currently in negotiations with the Cooloola Coast community and Rainbow Beach State School regarding the future development of Rainbow Beach Sportsground (Kurrawa Drive). There is the potential to develop an agreement between Council and the school regarding the shared use, development and maintenance of the ground.

There are also plans to develop the 'Complex' (parcel of land located at the intersection of Gympie Tin Can Bay and Bayside Road) as the central major sporting facility for the Precinct, however, trends identified that people prefer to drive to Gympie (urban) to participate in sport, as such the money from developer contributions should be invested into upgrading the City's facilities. Also, a larger proportion of the predicted population are expected to be retirees looking for a 'sea-change', as such, they would seek passive recreation activities over organised sport.

The parcel of land for 'the Complex' has been included in the analysis and marked as a future sports park, however, it is recommended that Council investigate the feasibility of building a new sports park and identify if there are enough clubs/user interested in using the park. This is particularly relevant given even without this facility there will continue to be a surplus of land till 2031 to meet demand for district sports parks.

### Future sports park supply

	Current supply (ha)	2015 Demand (ha)	2015 Gap (ha)	Future supply after recommendations are implemented (ha)	2031 Demand (ha)	2031 Gap (ha)
District Sports Park	19.28	9.80	9.48	19.57	17.97	1.60

### Sports park recommendations

Park Name	Current status	Future status	Recommendation
Tom Steele Park, Tin Can Bay	District	District	Conduct an investigation to enhance usage of the facility. Previously home to Little Athletics, but the facility did not meet their needs.
The Complex, Tin Can Bay	Undeveloped	District	Conduct an investigation into the feasibility of creating the Complex into a district sports park, may be other alternatives that cater more to the surrounding demographics







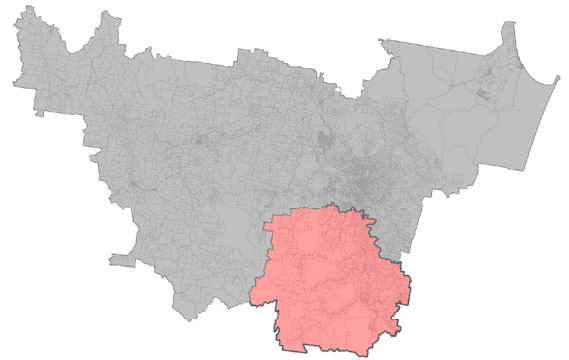
## Mary Valley Planning Precinct

The Mary Valley Planning Precinct is located south west of Gympie (urban), in the hinterland. The Precinct is popular tourist destination offering numerous outdoor recreation pursuits, particularly along the Mary River.

Numerous localities are dispersed through out the Precinct, Imbil, the largest in the Precinct is expected to accommodate any future growth. However, little future growth is predicted for the Precinct.

Other localities in the Precinct include:

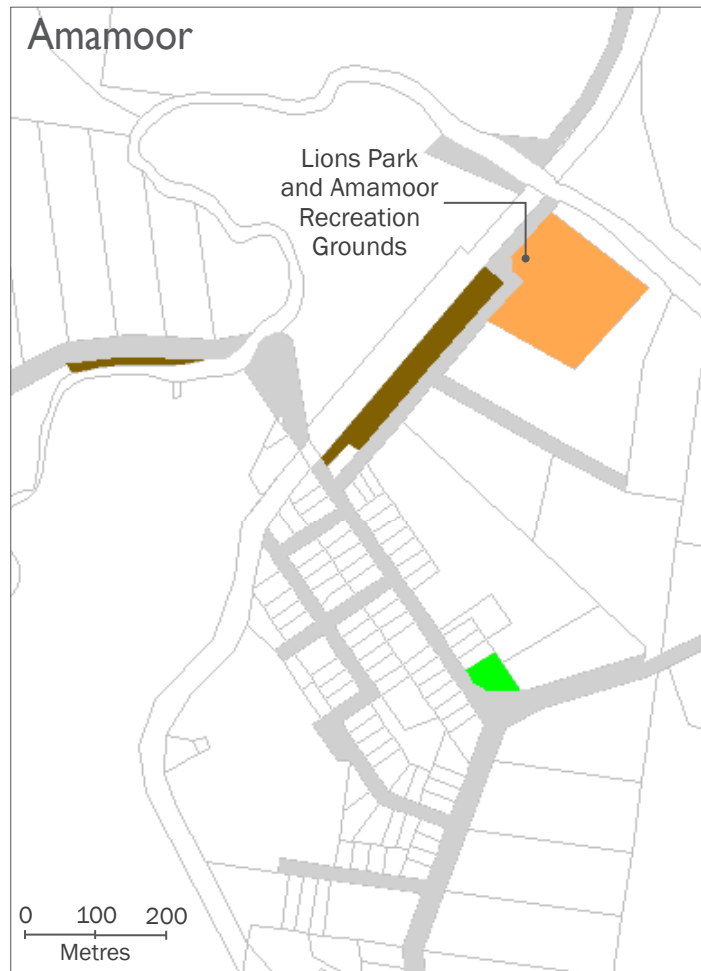
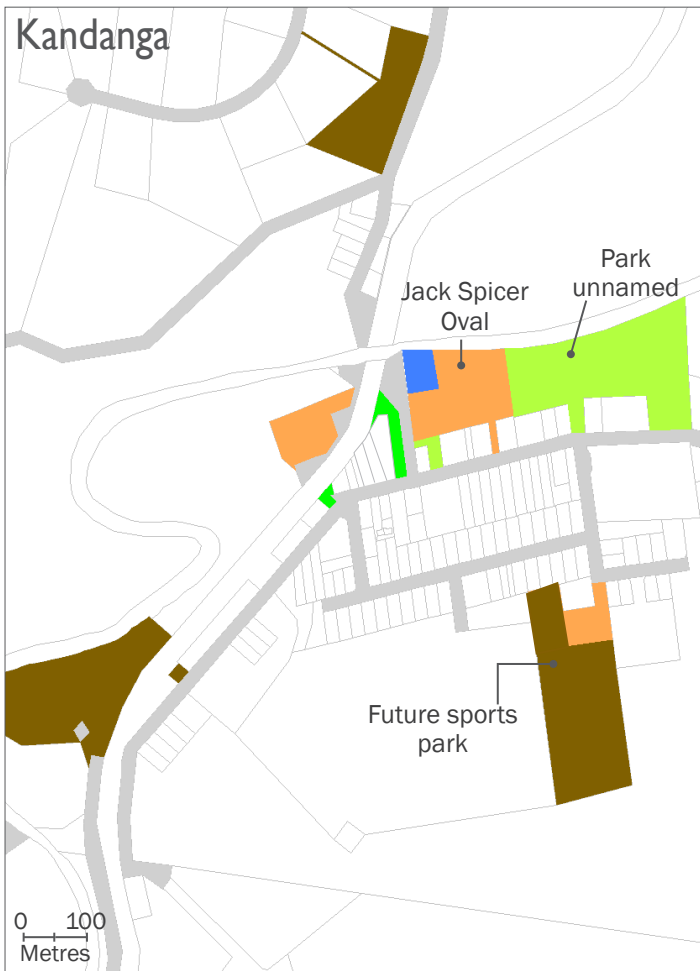
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|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amamoor        | <input type="checkbox"/> Lake Borumba      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amamoor Creek  | <input type="checkbox"/> Langshaw          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bella Creek    | <input type="checkbox"/> Long Flat         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bollier        | <input type="checkbox"/> Marys Creek       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brooloo        | <input type="checkbox"/> McIntosh Creek    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Calico Creek   | <input type="checkbox"/> Melawondi         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carters Ridge  | <input type="checkbox"/> Mooloo            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dagon          | <input type="checkbox"/> Moy Pocket        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Imbil          | <input type="checkbox"/> Tuchekeoi         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kandanga       | <input type="checkbox"/> Upper Glastonbury |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kandanga Creek | <input type="checkbox"/> Upper Kandanga    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lagoon Pocket  |  |



## Mary Valley Planning Precinct current open space supply

The Precinct has a total of 214.08ha of open space, of which, 10.16ha is trunk open space.

		Imbil	Kandanga	Amamoor	Rural	Total
Population		942	535	611	2,804	4,892
Trunk open space	Recreation parks	0.59ha	3.79ha	0ha	0ha	4.38ha
	District	0.59ha	3.79ha	0ha	0ha	4.38ha
	Sports parks	0ha	2.98ha	2.81ha	0ha	5.79ha
	District	0ha	2.98ha	2.81ha	0ha	5.79ha
Non-trunk open space	Other passive	3.34ha	10.33ha	0.71ha	126.73ha	141.11ha
	Local Recreation Park	1.18ha	0.39ha	0.26ha	0.88ha	2.71ha
	Bushland	1.85ha	0ha	0ha	117.50ha	119.35ha
	Undeveloped	0ha	9.94ha	0.45ha	7.73ha	18.13ha
	Utility	0.31ha	0ha	0ha	0.62ha	0.92ha
	Other active	62.49ha	0.32ha	0ha	0ha	62.81ha
	Aquatic	0ha	0.32ha	0ha	0ha	0.32ha
Specialised	62.49ha	0ha	0ha	0ha	62.49ha	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>66.42ha</b>	<b>17.42ha</b>	<b>3.52ha</b>	<b>126.73</b>	<b>214.08</b>



- Local recreation park
- District recreation park
- District sports park
- Bushland
- Undeveloped
- Utility
- Aquatic
- Specialised



## Demand and gap assessment

### Quantity

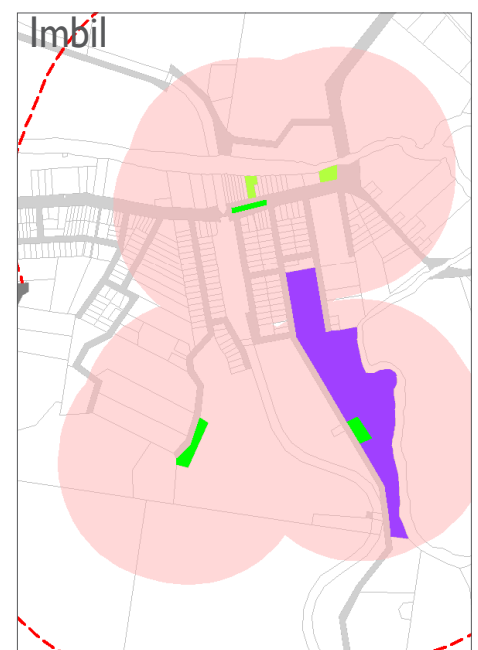
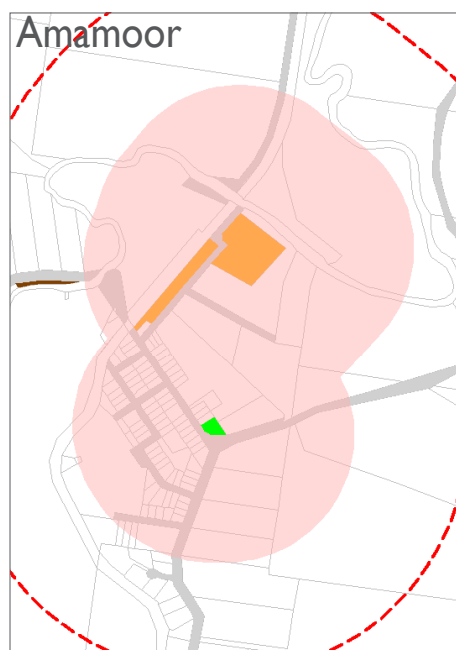
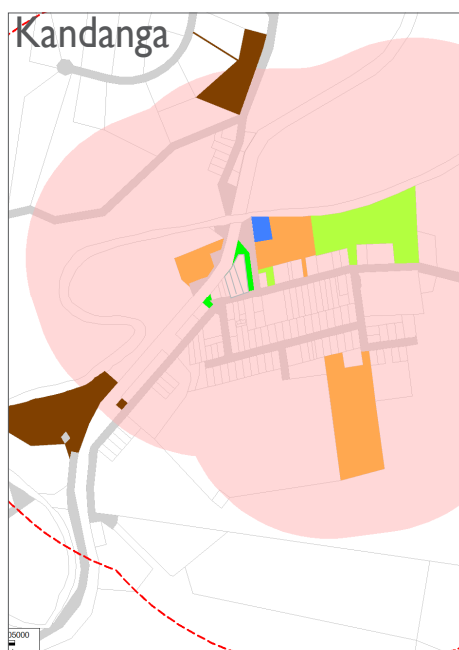
	Current supply (ha)	DSS*	2015		2021		2026		2031	
			Demand (ha)	Gap (ha)	Demand (ha)	Gap (ha)	Demand (ha)	Gap (ha)	Demand (ha)	Gap (ha)
Recreation parks	7.09	1.7	8.32	-1.23	10.76	-3.67	10.95	-3.86	11.16	-4.07
Local (non-trunk)	2.71	0.5	5.87	-3.16	7.59	-4.88	7.73	-5.02	7.88	-5.17
District (trunk)	4.38	1.2	2.45	1.93	3.16	1.22	3.22	1.16	3.28	1.10
Sports parks (district only)	5.79	1.2	5.87	-0.08	7.59	-1.8	7.73	-1.94	7.88	-2.09

*Note: Positive numbers reflect an over-supply, while negative numbers (highlighted in red) indicate an under-supply*

*\*regional recreation parks have been removed from the analysis, as there is no need for a regional recreation park within the Mary Valley Planning Precinct*

### Access

The majority of residents within the three main towns are within 400m of trunk open space.



## Analysis and recommendations

### Recreation parks

The demand and gap assessment has shown an under-supply of recreation parks both currently and into the future.

A further interrogation of results indicates that while the provision of recreation parks may be limited, opportunity exists for suitable recreation pursuits, particularly along Yabba Creek. As such, future developer contributions should focus on enhancing the existing network in the Mary Valley planning precinct, instead of building new recreation parks.

Consistent with the findings of the Gympie Regional Council Canoe and Kayak Strategy, consultation showed that community felt the Yabba and Kandanga Creeks were under utilised and under promoted as a tourism and recreation asset.

The creation of linear/local recreation parks along the Yabba Creek, with connections to the main streets, particularly in Imbil and Kandanga, is a way Council can minimise the gap for recreation parks.

Additionally, it is important to acknowledge that as a largely rural area, many of the residents of this Precinct currently live on large blocks potentially with access to a greater range of recreation pursuits than the average 1ha to 2ha park.

### Recreation parks recommendations

Park Name	Current status	Future status	Recommendation
<b>Recreation parks</b>			
Amamoor Playground, Amamoor	Local	Local	Erect simple signage to let people know that the park is public open space. The fence around the playground gives the perception that the playground is on private property, owned by the hall
Yabba Creek Parkland, Imbil	District	District	Continue to activate the foreshore of Yabba Creek. Develop sections as linear local parks with basic embellishments (e.g. bench seats, lighting and water bubblers)
Jack Spicer Oval (recreation park component), Kandanga	District	District	Develop a formalised recreation corridor (1.5m wide shared path and bench seats) along the Yabba Creek foreshore and down Main Street creating a walking/cycling circuit around Jack Spicer Oval.  Consult with the local community regarding the implementation of outdoor exercise equipment along the circuit
District Parks, Imbil	District	District	Investigate development of a skate park

### Sports parks

The demand for sports parks is being met within the Precinct. By 2031, the Precinct will have a short fall of 1.61ha of sports park. Although the gap does not trigger the development of a new sports park, there are plans to upgrade some of the existing facilities:

- Council has recently received a parcel of land from the State in Kandanga accessed off Pine Avenue. There are opportunities to develop the remaining section of the site to expand on the current district level sports facilities in Kandanga. It is recommended that Council develop the site in the far future (2026) and consult with the local community and sporting clubs regarding their needs. Kandanga Recreation Ground is currently meeting the needs of the local community.
- at time of developing this Plan, Council was in the process of acquiring the land next to the Amamoor Recreation Grounds to expand the RV part of the park.

Kandanga is home to the main sporting facilities within the Precinct, consisting of Kandanga Recreation Ground and the Kandanga Swimming Pool. Although not a Council asset, Imbil does have a swimming pool located at the local school that is open for community use. However, there are expectations among the local Imbil community, that Council should acquire the management/ownership of the Imbil swimming pool.

### Sports parks recommendations

Park Name	Current status	Future status	Recommendation
<b>Sports park</b>			
Imbil Swimming Pool, Imbil (Private)	Aquatic (private)	Unknown	Develop an aquatic strategy for the Region, to investigate the need for additional Council owned facilities

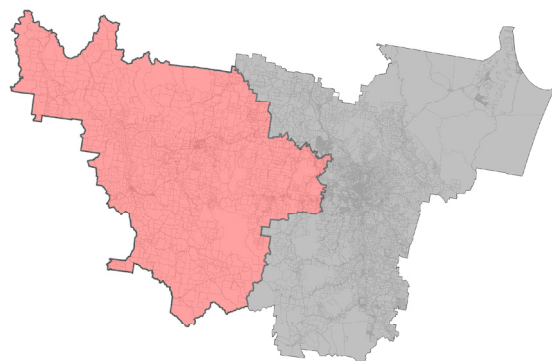
## Western Region Planning Precinct

The Western Region Planning Precinct is spatially, the largest Precinct in the Gympie Region. Goomeri and Kilkivan are the two main localities within the Precinct and contain the majority of the Precinct's open space network.

While the growth within the Precinct is minimal, it is expected that Goomeri and Kilkivan will accommodate any future growth.

Other localities within the Precinct include:

- |                                       |                                      |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barambah     | <input type="checkbox"/> Kilkivan    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bells Bridge | <input type="checkbox"/> Kinbombi    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black Snake  | <input type="checkbox"/> Lower Wonga |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boonara      | <input type="checkbox"/> Manumbar    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cinnabar     | <input type="checkbox"/> Manyung     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elgin Vale   | <input type="checkbox"/> Mudlo       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Glastonbury  | <input type="checkbox"/> Oakview     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Goomeri      | <input type="checkbox"/> Tansey      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Goomeribong  | <input type="checkbox"/> Widgee      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Johnstown    | <input type="checkbox"/> Woolooga.   |



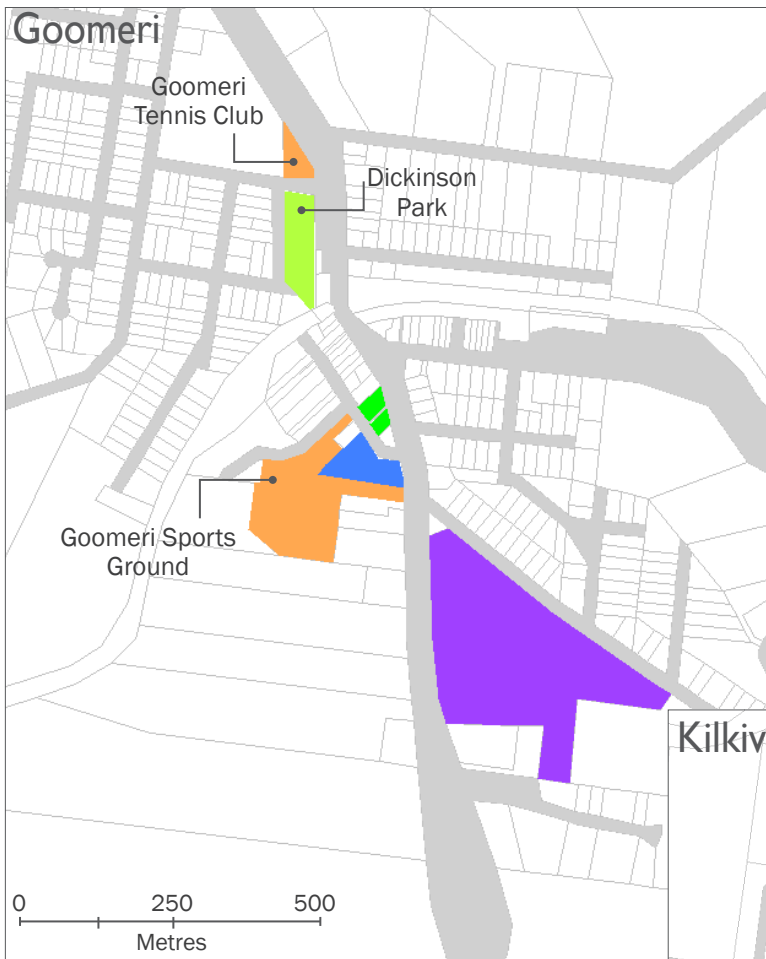
## Western Region Planning Precinct current open space supply

The Precinct has a total of 127.48ha of quality open space, of which, 28.58ha are trunk open space.

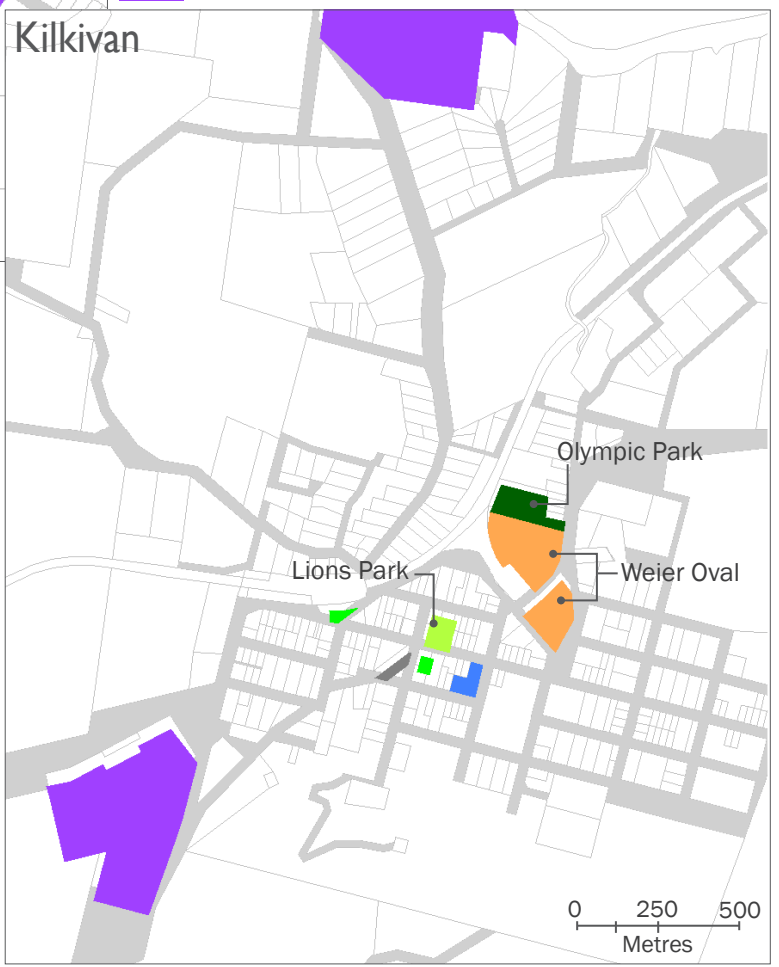
		Goomeri	Kilkivan	Other	Total
Population		497	411	3,300	4,208
Trunk open space	Recreation parks	0.87ha	0.81ha	0ha	1.68ha
	District	0.87ha	0.81ha	0ha	1.68ha
	Sports parks	2.89ha	5.30ha	18.71ha	26.91ha
	District	2.89ha	5.30ha	18.71ha	26.91ha
Non-trunk open space	Other passive	0.22ha	2.05ha	17.76ha	20.03ha
	Local recreation park	0.22ha	0.42ha	0.66ha	1.30ha
	Bushland	0ha	1.63ha	16.77ha	18.40ha
	Undeveloped	0ha	0ha	0.12ha	0.12ha
	Utility	0ha	0ha	0.21ha	0.21ha
	Other active	0.64ha	42.41ha	35.81ha	78.86ha
	Aquatic	0.64ha	0.61ha	0ha	1.25ha
Specialised	0ha	41.80ha	35.81ha	77.61ha	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>4.62ha</b>	<b>50.57ha</b>	<b>72.28ha</b>	<b>127.48ha</b>

Consistent with Goomeri and Kilkivan being the two main localities within the Precinct, the district recreation parks are located here. Both localities have a comfortable amount of sporting infrastructure. The development of the new Goomeri skatepark is a popular location for the youth within Goomeri and the wider Precinct.

Council managed swimming pools are also located in both towns. The one at Kilkivan however, is located on land owned by the Queensland Department of Education.



- Local recreation park
- District recreation park
- District sports park
- Bushland
- Undeveloped
- Utility
- Aquatic
- Specialised





## Demand and gap assessment

### Quantity

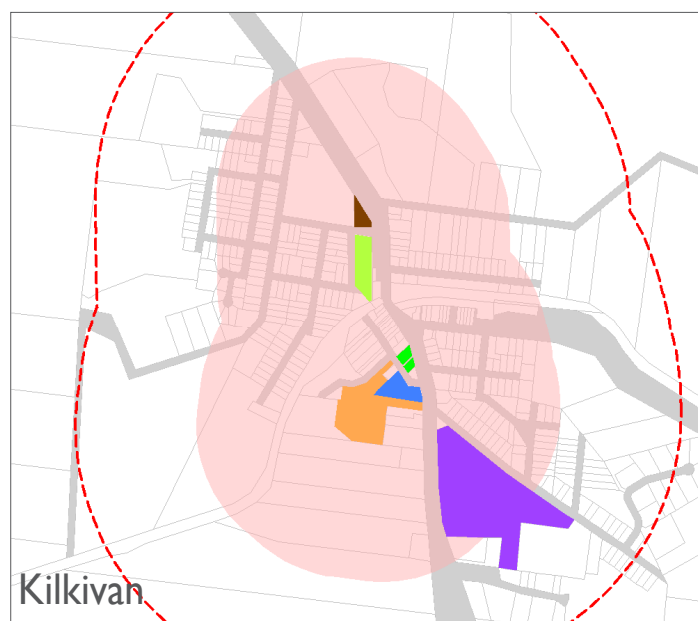
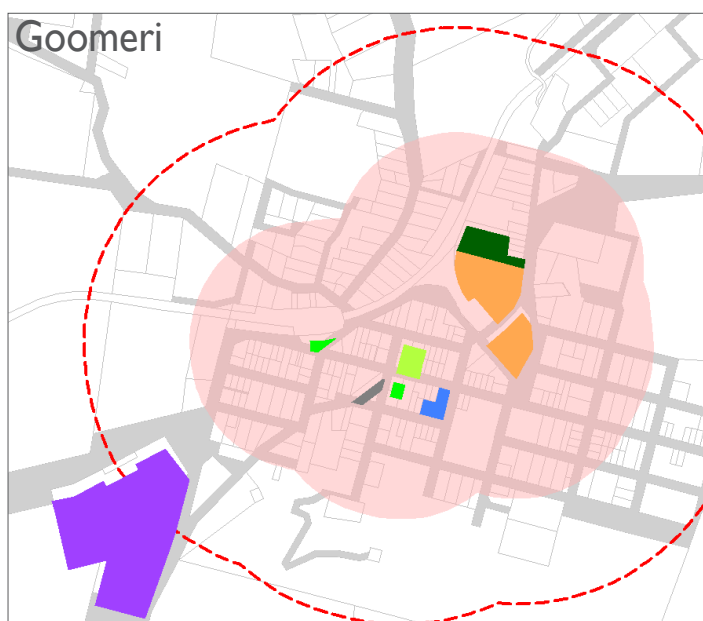
	Current supply (ha)	DSS*	2015		2021		2026		2031	
			Demand (ha)	Gap (ha)	Demand (ha)	Gap (ha)	Demand (ha)	Gap (ha)	Demand (ha)	Gap (ha)
Recreation parks	2.98	1.7	7.15	-4.17	7.09	-4.11	7.22	-4.24	7.35	-4.37
Local (non-trunk)	1.30	0.5	2.10	-0.80	2.09	-0.79	2.12	-0.82	2.16	-0.86
District (trunk)	1.68	1.2	5.05	-3.37	5.01	-3.33	5.10	-3.42	5.19	-3.51
Sports parks (district only)	26.90	1.2	5.05	21.85	5.01	21.89	5.10	21.80	5.19	21.71

Note: Positive numbers reflect an over-supply, while negative numbers (highlighted in red) indicate an under-supply

\*regional recreation parks have been removed from the analysis, as there is no need for a regional recreation park within the Western Region Planning Precinct

### Access

The majority of residents in Goomeri and Kilkivan are within 400m of trunk open space. Once the new 750m accessibility access standard is applied, all residents will be 10 minutes walk of a recreation and/or sports park.





## Analysis

### Recreation parks

The Precinct is slightly under supplied in recreation parks, particularly district recreation parks. With limited growth in the Precinct, the actual need for additional parks is not required. However, simple upgrades to the existing network will provide better quality recreation parks.

Winifred Power Park in Widgee is a large park (district sport) with a cricket oval and playground. The addition of BBQ facilities, toilet block and extra play equipment will make it a destination park for the Precinct.

Additionally, it is important to acknowledge that as a largely rural area, many of the residents of this Precinct currently live on large blocks potentially with access to a greater range of recreation pursuits than the average 1ha to 2ha park.

### Sports parks

Analysis identified a significant surplus of sports parks. By 2031, the precinct will still be an additional 18ha over the desired provision.

As such, many of the sporting facilities need to be upgraded to enhance the facilities/parks capacity and enable them to attract specific events to the area.

There are a large amount of community tennis courts in the Precinct, however, many are run down. The Widgee tennis courts, based within the Widgee Community Complex, are covered in weeds and unusable, used only by the local children as a place to ride their bikes.

It is noted that the Goomeri courts were beyond their life-cycle and recommended they be closed down and future alternative uses be investigated. Kilkivan tennis courts, however, are still well utilised by the community. Tennis courts are also located at Woolooga and Boobyjan.

### Sport park recommendations

Park Name	Current status	Future status	Recommendation
<b>Sports park</b>			
Weier Oval, Kilkivan	District	District	Remove the run-down basketball court
Goomeri Tennis Court, Goomeri	District	District	Decommission the facility as it is too run down and not used by the community
Widgee Tennis Courts, Widgee	District	Recreation local	Redevelop the courts into a children's learn to ride circuit
Winifred Power Park, Widgee	District	District	Develop barbecue facilities, amenities and additional play opportunities

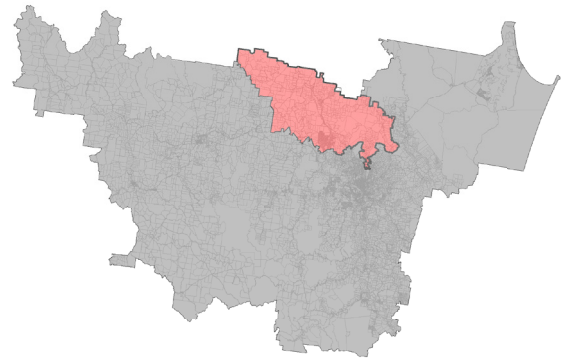




## Northern Region Planning Precinct

The Northern Gympie Planning Precinct is mostly composed of rural farming with a number of small localities listed below. Gunalda and Curra are the main localities in the Precinct. Limited growth is predicted in the area. The localities in the area include:

- |                                     |   |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Anderleigh | <input type="checkbox"/> Kanigan          | <input type="checkbox"/> Ross Creek     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Curra      | <input type="checkbox"/> Miva             | <input type="checkbox"/> Scotchy Pocket |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Downfield  | <input type="checkbox"/> Munna Creek      | <input type="checkbox"/> Sexton         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Glen Echo  | <input type="checkbox"/> North Deep Creek | <input type="checkbox"/> Theebine       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gunalda    |   |   |



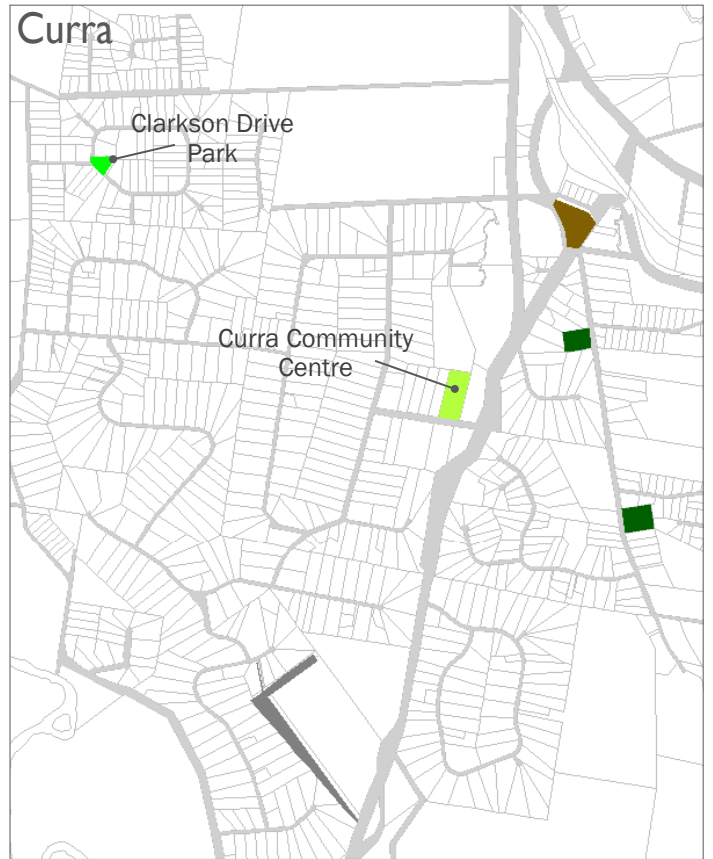
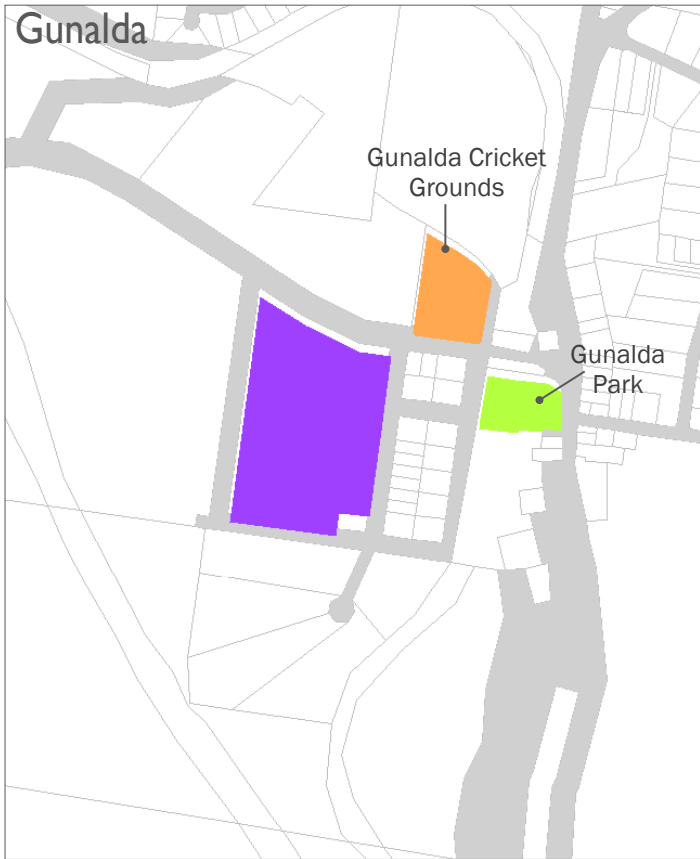
### Northern Region Planning Precinct current open space supply

		Curra	Gunalda	Rural	Total
Population		271	419	2,971	3,661
Trunk open space	Passive open space	4.03ha	1.11ha	0ha	5.14ha
	District	4.03ha	1.11ha	0ha	5.14ha
	Active open space	0ha	1.73ha	0ha	1.73ha
	District	0ha	1.73ha	0ha	1.73ha
Non-trunk open space	Other passive	18.60ha	0ha	0.28ha	18.88ha
	Local recreation park	1.0ha	0ha	0.28ha	1.28ha
	Bushland	4.91ha	0ha	0ha	4.91ha
	Undeveloped	4.39ha	0ha	0ha	4.39ha
	Utility	8.30ha	0ha	0ha	8.30ha
	Other active	0ha	7.59ha	0ha	7.59ha
	Specialised	0ha	7.59ha	0ha	7.59ha
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>22.63ha</b>	<b>10.42ha</b>	<b>0.28ha</b>	<b>33.34ha</b>

Due to the rural nature of the localities, the Precinct has a total open space network of 33.34ha, of which, 6.87ha is trunk open space.

With limited growth, predicted for the Precinct and low population rates a demand/gap analysis is not required.

There are only three recreation parks within the Precinct. As many of the residents of this Precinct currently live on large blocks potentially with access to a greater range of recreation pursuits than the average 1ha to 2ha park, there is no demand for additional recreation parks.



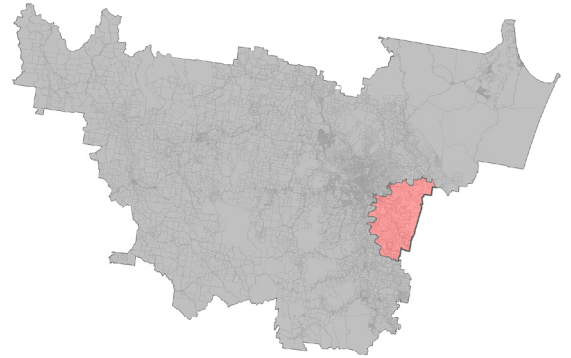
- Local recreation park
- District recreation park
- District sports park
- Bushland
- Undeveloped
- Utility
- Specialised



## Southern Region Planning Precinct

Localities in the Planning Precinct include:

- |   |  |                                    |
|---|--|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beenaam Valley | <input type="checkbox"/> Kybong          | <input type="checkbox"/> Tandur    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cedar Pocket   | <input type="checkbox"/> Mothar Mountain | <input type="checkbox"/> Traveston |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coles Creek    | <input type="checkbox"/> Neusa Vale      | <input type="checkbox"/> Woondum   |



### Current supply of open space in the Southern Region Planning Precinct

		Total
Population		2,006
Trunk open space	Recreation parks	0.102ha
	Sports parks	0.350ha
Other open space	Bushland	2.329ha
	Undeveloped	2.028ha
TOTAL		4.808ha

With limited, to no growth, predicted for the Precinct and low population rates, a demand/gap analysis is not required.

Apart from those mentioned in the Kayak and Canoe Strategy, there are no recommendations for the Southern Region Planning Precinct regarding open space planning.

# 7. Strategic opportunities

## Activation of open space

The outdoors is becoming the 'new gym'. Throughout the Plan, it has been observed that participation in informal recreation and physical activity is increasing among the residents of the Gympie Region.

Council has embraced the community's desire to participate in outdoor recreation activities by activating the parks around the Region. Programs currently in place include:

- Movies in the Park – held in townships across the Region from September to March
- Holiday Fun Program (for the Region's school aged children) – each holiday, Council selects a range of activities that include "active and healthy " components that increase the usage and awareness of the Region's recreation parks and facilities. An example of activities includes:
  - Introduction to Mountain Biking at Victory Heights Recreational Centre
  - Kayaking at Inskip Point
  - skate clinics and competitions in Regional skate parks
  - Bubble Soccer
- The Duckpond Dash – all abilities walk for seniors at Lake Alford during Seniors Week
- The Community Lending Library – community organisations are able to hire sports and event equipment, games and learning resources for a period of up to four weeks. Council also takes equipment to major events as another activity for children and families to engage with.

As people become more time constrained and the costs involved to participate in organised sports continues to increase, Council has the opportunity to further build upon and enhance their already successful outdoor recreation programs. In partnership with local sporting clubs, Council could develop that allows individuals to participate in traditional sporting activities in a 'drop in drop out' environment. The program would require no weekly commitment or up front fees from individuals. Originally, Council should aim to offer support (both financial and personnel) and promotion of the drop in drop out activity to make it easier on the clubs, with the clubs eventually taking ownership of the program.

Activating the Region's open space provides many benefits to the community and Council. In addition to the health benefits of keeping the community active, the community becomes aware of what is available in the Region and what Council is providing them and begin to develop a sense of ownership and pride over the Region's parks. Having people in Council's parks increases the casual surveillance of the park, thus reducing the opportunity for vandalism. However, to maintain and enhance such a program, additional staffing resources are required.





## Tourism

The Gympie Region is a popular tourist destination due to its beautiful coastline and rich hinterland. Through Council's Economic Development Strategy and Destination Gympie Region, the pre-eminent tourism organisation for the Region, Council aims to ensure that there is a range of experiences for visitors to encounter when in the Region.

The Region's open space network has the potential to attract many of the visitors from South East Queensland to experience a quality rural or coastal lifestyle. While not all Council managed/owned, there are key destinations and experiences within these open spaces that can be promoted towards tourists to make the Region a popular destination place, especially considering its location along the Bruce Highway, Mary Valley Road and the Wide Bay Highway.

A couple of these experiences include:

- numerous locations for participation in outdoor recreation activities
  - Cooloola Coast (Rainbow Beach and Tin Can Bay)
  - National Parks
  - Mary River
  - Yabba and Coondoo Creek
  - Lake Borumba
- bicentennial trail (sections 5).

Council's vision to make October the month of festivals. Council already hosts a number of events within its open space network. It is imperative that Council continues to support these events given their ability to draw visitors from outside the Region. The major events include:

- Gold Rush
- Tin Can Bay Seafood, Boat and Camping Show
- Mary Valley Art Festival
- Mary Valley Scarecrow Festival
- Gympie District Show
- Goomeri Pumpkin Festival
- Kilkivan Horse Ride
- Mary River Festival.

It is through these events that Council can continue to promote the many outdoor recreation experiences it has to offer.

While Council may have the network to host these events, many of the open spaces lack the appropriate supporting infrastructure, power is the main issue. It is believed that the Region could potentially host a number of additional festivals/events, but it is often too hard for organisers considering the lack of power connections. The layout of Nelsen Reserve is also a concern, as some of the play embellishments often restrict the layout and size of the event/festival.





## Multiple use of parkland and stormwater

In areas similar to the Gympie Region, stormwater infrastructure is often hidden behind residential houses, but it still maintained by council's park maintenance services. Many councils are moving towards the multiple use of parkland and stormwater infrastructure to create more engaging open space areas that meet the community's desire for active recreation, reflection, nature appreciation and sense of place, while reducing the net open space maintenance costs.

The design of stormwater infrastructure is most often the responsibility of civil and stormwater engineers and is often undertaken after the urban planning process is complete. Open space planners and landscape architects are generally only involved after the design has been approved.

Previously, stormwater infrastructure has been considered as an eyesore to the open space network, especially if not designed appropriately. There is now a more to integrate the two. Properly designed stormwater infrastructure can provide linear recreation links connecting the open space network and as passive recreation activities, such a walking and cycling increase, the demand for wide linear paths will increase. The perception of stormwater infrastructure will begin to change and instead become a selling asset. Buyers will want to live near a linear recreation park that provides a safe, off road connection to nearby parks. Below is an artists impression of how smart planning via the integration of open space and stormwater infrastructure can be embraced.



*By changing the spacial layout and embracing the stormwater infrastructure behind the residential houses in A, the stormwater infrastructure becomes part of a linear recreation park/corridor that connects residents to the local park in B.*

Council needs to ensure that when planning new residential areas the following guidelines are used to encourage multiple use:

- where possible there is co-location of trunk open space with waterways and stormwater management systems
- linear recreation parks along waterways and stormwater management systems connect to other open space parcels and key destinations
- creates multiple-use functions within recreation and sports parks
- is safe
- is easily maintained.

# 8. Implementation and delivery



## Open Space, Sport and Recreation Working Group

The planning, development and ongoing management and maintenance of Gympie's open space network requires a multi-disciplinary approach, with input and joint understanding from a number of Council departments. In addition, the successful implementation of the Plan will require both support and resources from across Council.

Council's Open Space, Sport and Recreation Working Group will become the driving group behind the Plan. In regards to the implementation of the Plan, the role of the working group can be summarised as:

- address internal open space information management
- manage internal work flow
- maintain Council's internal open space GIS layer
- ensure integration of land use projects (i.e. open space, stormwater management, transport planning and residential development)
- determine and prioritise the annual capital works program.



## Action plan

Implementation of the actions outlined in this Action Plan will require strong leadership, appropriate resourcing and a commitment from Council to making some difficult decisions. The general actions are categorised into 6 different focus areas:

1. Policies and documents
2. Facility feasibility, business planning and facilities management
3. Facility maintenance, upgrades and renewal
4. Club development, education and training
5. Communication, promotion and marketing
6. Programming and physical activity.

For each action a business unit as been allocated the responsibility of ensuring the implementation of the action. In many cases, it requires the integration of one or more business units. Consistent with Council's Operational Plan, the business units are:

- |                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> CCSD | Corporate and Community Services Directorate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ESD  | Engineering Services Directorate             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ISD  | Infrastructure Services Directorate          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> P&DD | Planning and Development Directorate         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OCEO | Office of the CEO                            |

Priorities have also been assigned to each action and where site specific, costings of future assets have also been provided:

- |                                      |                            |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Short term  | as soon as resources allow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medium term | the next 5 to 10 years     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Long term   | 10 years plus.             |



## General recommendations

Reference	Action	Rationale	Responsibility	Timeframe
<b>Focus area 1: Policies and documents</b>				
Desired outcomes - policies and documents are developed and updated to promote Council's support for open space and recreation and to guide decision-making processes from Council and the community				
<b>Corporate plans and other strategic documents</b>				
1.1	Ensure that the Open Space and Recreation Plan informs the review of the Gympie Regional Planning Scheme and LGIP, local area plans and master plans	To ensure community aspirations and needs are effectively addressed and to encourage local ownership of open space	P&DD	Short
1.2	Ensure that Council's Corporate Plan (and other strategic documents) reflects Council's commitment to all facets of open space, including a focus that identifies and promotes the quality outdoor recreation opportunities available in the area and Council's commitment to further developing these and new opportunities	To ensure the strategic vision of the Open Space and Recreation Plan has a place within Council's corporate framework	P&DD & OCEO	Short
<b>Strategic and operational documents</b>				
1.3	Develop a Dog Off-leash Strategy	To inform the service level, site selection criteria and establish an equitable process for the distribution of dog off-leash areas across Gympie	P&DD & ISD	Short
1.4	Develop and implement a strategy for the installation of informative and/or directional signage	To provide legible information where the community and visitors can walk, cycle and access key destinations	P&DD, ISD & ESD	Medium
1.5	Undertake a review of the Gympie Region Walk and Cycle Plan and prioritise actions that connect the open space network	To ensure the open space network is connected thus creating an environment that is safe and encourages physical activity. To recognise increased importance of walking and build infrastructure (on and off-road) to support growing demand and standard of provision to meet DSS	P&DD & ESD	Short
1.6	Develop a sports field lighting policy in conjunction with a club pricing/ payment schedule	The provision of adequate field lighting at many venues would greatly improve field access and overall condition of popular fields	ISD	Short
1.7	Commit to the recommendations in the Gympie Tracks and Trails Plan	Outdoor recreation, particularly bushwalking is highly valued by the community and will serve to reinforce the role of the Region as a nature-based tourism hub	ESD & ISD	ongoing
1.8	Commit to the recommendations in the Gympie Canoe and Kayak Plan	To activate the Region's waterways and increase safe recreation opportunities and will serve to reinforce the role of the Region as a nature-based tourism hub	ESD & ISD	ongoing



Reference	Action	Rationale	Responsibility	Timeframe
1.9	Conduct an audit of all aquatic facilities to identify future costs and upgrades	A number of existing facilities are ageing and in poor structural condition and not meeting community expectations. The cost of repairing these or building a new regional facility should be considered and budgeted for accordingly. Timing to reflect recommendations for each planning precinct and to be set out in LGIP	CCSD, ISD & ESD	Short
Work instructions and processes				
1.10	Actively purchase or acquire key identified open space sites	To address any shortfall in land for some open space types as well as to ensure that facilities are accessible by new communities	ISD & CCSD	Long
1.11	In partnership with Council's Property Department, review the existing undeveloped Council-owned land or land controlled by Council as trustee and consider alternatives uses, such as: <input type="checkbox"/> disposal by sale <input type="checkbox"/> relinquishing trusteeship <input type="checkbox"/> rehabilitate to natural bushland	To reduce maintenance costs and responsibility over unused land.  <i>Note: The State is currently in the process of reviewing sections of the Local Government Act 2009, advised to wait until this review is complete</i>	P&DD, CCSD & ISD	Medium/ Long
1.12	Develop work processes that clearly identify the extent of roles of each work unit (particularly for the prioritisation and development of master plans and the delivery of open space infrastructure projects)	To ensure everyone within the business unit, and Council, understands their responsibility and involvement in the development of master plans and projects	Whole of Council	Short - ongoing
1.13	Develop clear work processes that detail how Council will manage open space projects through the development assessment process from detailed embellishment planning and site design through to delivery and ongoing management	To ensure the provision of appropriate infrastructure in appropriate spaces	Whole of Council	Short - ongoing
Focus area 2: Facility feasibility, business planning and facilities management				
Desired outcomes - appropriate preliminary facility planning occurs to ensure the sustainability of proposed upgrades and development				
Feasibility studies and business plans				
2.1	Investigate the feasibility of the development of a purpose built, regional indoor multi-purpose facility	To investigate the need and possible requirements for a purpose built facility for indoor court sports and gymnastics	P&DD & CCSD	Medium
2.2	Develop templates to assist clubs prepare feasibility studies and business plans	To assist clubs prepare quality funding applications (and ensure proposed projects are of clear benefit) and provide ongoing support through the implementation and review stage	CCSD	Medium



Reference	Action	Rationale	Responsibility	Timeframe
<b>Focus area 3: Facility maintenance, upgrades and renewal</b>				
Desired outcomes - appropriate facility management regimes are undertaken to ensure the long term sustainability (and quality) of open space and leisure facilities				
3.1	Ensure suitable funds are allocated for maintaining specialised facilities such as aquatic centres	To ensure maximum asset life and condition of important facilities	P&DD, ISD & CCSD	Short
3.2	Recognise the natural area network as an important regional asset and allocate appropriate maintenance budget for recreation areas	To allow the appropriate maintenance of recreation assets within natural areas, including tracks and trails and canoe and kayak launch and exit points	P&DD & ISD	Short
3.3	Ongoing monitoring of clubs meeting their maintenance responsibilities as determined by their lease arrangement	To ensure that clubs are aware of and committed to, their duty, as users of Council facilities	ISD & CCSD	ongoing
3.4	Review the existing maintenance regime of the open space network and develop a new parks maintenance regime based on park classification and usage	To ensure parks that are regularly used by the community are maintained to an appropriate level and to ensure resources are being targeted towards priorities	ISD	Short
<b>Focus area 4: Club development, education and training</b>				
Desired outcomes - ensure a range of appropriate resources are available to guide and assist clubs				
<b>Club development</b>				
4.1	Review Council's existing education program for clubs and ensure that it addresses various issues such as; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> alternative delivery methods (catering for drop in-drop out sports)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> governance issues and processes</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> fund raising</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> business planning</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> field management (scheduling team use of fields)</li> </ul>	To raise the self-sufficiency of clubs and allow them to cope with the ever-changing nature of sport and recreation provision	CCSD	Medium
4.2	Liaise with key outdoor recreation clubs/groups to investigate the potential of developing tourism opportunities and promotion	To create a point of difference within the Region by involving equine, bushwalking and kayak/canoe clubs and other sports groups	P&DD, ESD & OCEO	Short - ongoing
<b>Focus area 5: Communication, promotion and marketing</b>				
Desired outcomes - expand existing communication, promotion and marketing processes				
5.1	Conduct a bi-annual club survey to seek regular and update information on clubs and user groups	To ensure Council understands club membership, club development initiatives and key issues impacting clubs	CCSD	Short
5.2	Conduct an annual club forum to educate clubs and develop a relationship with committees	To encourage networking opportunities and ensure Council can appropriately disseminate necessary information and promote programs and services	CCSD	Short



Reference	Action	Rationale	Responsibility	Timeframe
5.3	Promote across Council the role it plays in the planning and development of open space and recreation	Current communication is lacking with little knowledge of cross-department roles and responsibilities in regards to open space and recreation planning, development and maintenance	P&DD	Short - ongoing
5.4	Ensure parks operational staff have input into the design of park features and furniture	To ensure appropriate infrastructure is installed, and adequate maintenance can be undertaken	P&DD & ISD	Short - ongoing
5.5	Budget and recruit a full time Open Space and Activation Officer (or similar) to act as the one contact person between clubs and Council, the programming of physical activity programs within the open space and the promotion of healthy living.  Over time, the role may require an additional part-time assistant	To monitor club tenure operations, facility developments, grants, and to increase communication and application of Council policy.  To ensure the current programs run by Council are and will continue to meet expectations and encourage healthy living	ISD & CCSD	Short/ Medium
Focus area 6: Programming and physical activity				
Desired outcomes - continue to promote and deliver a range of quality recreation and physical activity programs (including low cost and free activities)				
6.1	Continue to operate and expand on the range of free or low cost physical activity programs within parks	To encourage participation in physical activity, especially by those with limited access (i.e. low socio-economic status) and to activate open space	CCSD & ISD	ongoing
6.2	Continue to support Council's Holiday Fun program	To provide the youth with an opportunity to participate in a range of activities. Activities to remain low cost or free, especially to those with limited access (i.e. low socio-economic status)	CCSD & ISD	ongoing
6.3	Partner with a range of external stakeholders (such as Mountain Bike Clubs, Bushwalking Clubs, Scouts/Girl Guides and outdoor recreation tourism providers) to facilitate and promote nature-based and outdoor recreation opportunities using existing and planned facilities and resources	To ensure Council facilitates a range of appropriate nature based recreation opportunities reflecting different abilities and degree of difficult terrain	CCSD, ISD & OCEO	Short/ Medium - ongoing
6.4	Investigate the policy position on commercial activity in open space	To generate activity, interest and provide a supporting service to open space (e.g. kayak hire)	CCSD & ISD	Medium
6.5	Investigate the feasibility of a mobile playgroup/gymboree that visits a key park in the main rural localities each week	To activate parks and provide low cost activities for families with children	CCSD	Long
6.6	Develop an 'Adopt a Park' program	In addition to the increased sense of community and levels of service, would also reduce maintenance costs	CCSD & ISD	Medium/ Long

## Site specific recommendations

Reference	Timeframe	Park name	Action	Rationale	Indicative cost*
Whole of Gympie Region					
7.1	Short	Whole of Region	Retrofitting of shade structures throughout the Gympie Region (over 5 years)	Shade in playgrounds in lacking within the Region. Shade structures need to be upgraded or erected	\$300,000
7.2	Short	Whole of Region	Retrofitting of playground structures throughout the Gympie Region (over 5 years)	New and exciting playground equipment is now available that could encourage use	\$500,000
Gympie (urban) Planning Precinct					
Short - as soon as resources allow					
8.1	Short	Excelsior Park, Gympie	Remove playground equipment and turn into additional parking for the netball courts	Playground is run down and rarely used	\$50,000
8.2	Short	Walsh's Park, Gympie	Relocate the existing play equipment to a better location within the park or adjacent Jack Stokes Oval	Once the future of Jack Stokes Oval is decided, consider relocating the play equipment there and building an embellished recreation linear corridor through Walsh's Park	\$35,000
8.3	Short	Don Mackay Park, Gympie	Remove embellishments	The park is located in a road reserve with no safe access	\$10,000
8.4	Short	Victoria Bridge Conservation Area, Gympie	Develop a Master Plan for the area include lot 4 plan CP896297 and Lot 1 MPH24189 in the master plan	Activate the area for recreation and conservation	\$25,000
8.5	Short-ongoing	Victoria Bridge Conservation Area, Gympie	Develop into a district recreation park with environmental significance	As per Master Plan (ref 8.4)	\$775,000
8.6	Short	Unknown (Tozer Park Road)	Develop into a fenced district size dog off-leash park	The park is currently undeveloped and an ideal location for an off-leash dog park	\$54,000
8.7	Short-ongoing	Nelson Reserve, Gympie	Upgrade Reserve as per Master plan	The park is to be redeveloped to include a youth precinct once the pool is removed	\$2,500,000
8.8	Short	Iron Street Park, Gympie	Upgrade play embellishments to a standards consistent with a local recreation park (Appendix A)	The surrounding area is lacking quality play opportunities	\$40,000
*Indicative design embellishment considerations and costings for open space typologies are found in Appendix A, while individual embellishment costings are found in Appendix B					



Reference	Timeframe	Park name	Action	Rationale	Indicative cost*
8.9	Short	Rifle Range Road Park, Gympie	Rationalise the parcel of land, options may include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. sell the parcel of land and use funds to purchase a more appropriate parcel</li> <li>2. investigate a land swap with a developer</li> </ol>	While some residents in this area are not within 750 metres of an embellished recreation park, the land characteristics are not suitable for a local recreation park	Unknown
8.10	Short	A.J. Mitchell Park, Gympie	Upgrade pedestrian and cycling connections to the future aquatic centre and One Mile Sport and Recreation Precinct	To increase connectivity to key destinations and encourage physical activity (walking and cycling)	\$40,000
8.11	Short - ongoing	Albert Park, Gympie	Upgrade as per Master Plan	To accommodate future participation growth and manage demand	\$2,465,000
8.12	Short - ongoing	One Mile Sport and Recreation Precinct, Gympie	Upgrade as per Master Plan	To accommodate future participation growth and manage demand	\$4,773,000
8.13	Short	Jack Stokes Oval, Monkland	Develop a Master Plan for the Oval	Dependent on actions 8.11 and 8.12, changes will need to be made to the Oval to accommodate future needs	\$17,000
8.14	Short-ongoing	Allen Family Park, Chatsworth	Develop the park to a standard consistent with a district recreation park (Appendix A)	There is community demand to develop the park into a destination park	\$775,000
8.15	Short	Six Mile Oval	Develop a Master Plan for the Oval Upgrade lighting	To accommodate future participation growth and manage demand	\$17,000 \$60,000
Medium - next 5 to 10 years					
8.16	Medium*	Gympie Showgrounds, Southside	Develop the district recreation park	As recommended in the Showgrounds Master Plan	\$775,000
8.17	Medium*	Marc Dower Park, Southside	Rationalise park to a local recreation park by removing the toilet block and some of the play equipment. Relocate remaining play equipment to a drier position in the park	Once the district park at the showgrounds is completed there will be an over supply of district recreation parks in the area. The toilet block often floods in heavy rain	\$15,000
* timing of these two parks depends on the implementation of the Gympie Showgrounds Master Plan					
*Indicative design embellishment considerations and costings for open space typologies are found in Appendix A, while individual embellishment costings are found in Appendix B					



Reference	Timeframe	Park name	Action	Rationale	Indicative cost*
8.18	Medium-long	One Mile Sport and Recreation Precinct, Gympie	Investigate purchase of additional land adjacent to the Precinct to meet future demand (if required). This would be in the order of 15-20ha to meet DSS demand generation	To ensure land is available to implement the Master Plan and facilitate growth in sports parks in response to possible future demand	\$640,000 (2015 land valuation at \$20,000 / ha) \$2,500,000 (fields and facilities)
8.19	Medium	Madill Park, Southside	Upgrade park to a local recreation park	Upgrade park to a standard consistent with a local recreation park (Appendix A). Ensure recreation linear corridors connect to it from the surrounding development. Refer to Master Plan (currently in draft format)	\$122,000
8.20	Medium	Jaycees Park, Gympie	Investigate opportunities for a large fenced off-leash dog park	Accommodate community demand	\$55,000
8.21	Medium	Echelon Park, Southside	Continue to develop park to a quality district recreation park. Ensure the expansion of the playground suits older children and includes shade structures	To accommodate future growth in Southside	\$90,000
8.22	Medium	Winnington Road Park, Gympie	Upgrade to a district recreation park, without toilets	Upgrade park to a district recreation park. Ensure recreation linear corridors connect to it from the surrounding development. Embrace the wetland.	\$551,000
8.23	Medium	Chatsworth Park, Chatsworth	Rationalise park to a local recreation park once Allen Family Park is developed	To avoid a surplus of district open space in the area and unnecessary maintenance	\$35,000
Long - 10 years plus					
8.24	Long	Scottish Mine and Retort House Reserve, Monkland	Develop the Reserve as per Master Plan	To educate residents and visitors about the history of Gympie	\$3,420,000
8.25	Long	One new district recreation park	Investigate the purchase of one parcel of land for a future district recreation park in Victory Heights	Proposed growth in the areas will trigger the demand for additional recreation parks	\$1,587,000 + land purchase
*Indicative design embellishment considerations and costings for open space typologies are found in Appendix A, while individual embellishment costings are found in Appendix B					



Reference	Timeframe	Park name	Action	Rationale	Indicative cost*
8.26	Long	Andrew Fisher Memorial Park, Gympie	Upgrade the existing playground equipment and further develop the park as a formalised garden	The Region is lacking a formalised garden, the history of the park make it a favourable location	\$775,000 + playground upgrade
8.27	Long	Unknown (Lynden Court), Gympie	Depending on future development there are three other options for the park: 1. Develop into a local recreation park, once the parcel of land behind it is developed 2. sell the parcel of land and use funds to purchase a more appropriate parcel 3. investigate a land swap with a developer	Residents in this area do not have access to a quality local park	\$127,000 (if option 1 is chosen)
<b>Coolooloa Coast Planning Precinct</b>					
<b>Short - as soon as resources allow</b>					
9.1	Short	Centenary of Federation Park and Billabong Park, Coolooloa Cove	Upgrade park to a district recreation park	As per Coolooloa Cove Centenary of Federation Park Master Plan	\$649,000
9.2	Short	Cod Street Park	Add additional picnic facilities	The area is a popular transit area for tourists heading across to Fraser Island	\$10,000
9.3	Short - ongoing	Rainbow Beach foreshore	Continue to upgrade park	Upgrade as per Rainbow Beach Foreshore Parks Revitalisation Plan	\$2,626,000
9.4	Short	The Complex, Tin Can Bay	Develop a feasibility study into the development of the site	Current plans to turn the site into a district sports park, study may identify alternative options and consider surrounding demographic	\$17,000
9.5	Short	Les Lee Park, Tin Can Bay	Develop a new Local Recreation Park	Demand for a local sized recreation park at Normal Point	\$180,000
<b>Medium - next 5 to 10 years</b>					
9.6	Medium	H.A. Chooky Mallet Park, Tin Can Bay	Redevelop as a recreation park with a large dog park	The Park is currently not used by any sporting groups and there is no irrigation	\$55,000
9.7	Medium	Snapper Creek Boat Ramp	Embellish the park with picnic facilities to support the use of water based recreation	As per The Gympie Regional Council Canoe and Kayak Strategy	\$12,000
*Indicative design embellishment considerations and costings for open space typologies are found in Appendix A, while individual embellishment costings are found in Appendix B					





Reference	Timeframe	Park name	Action	Rationale	Indicative cost*
9.8	Medium	Tom Steele Park, Tin Can Bay	Conduct an investigation to enhance usage of the facility - future of the Park will depend on findings from Action 8.5 (The Complex)	The facility is significantly under utilised. Clubs are moving out, seeking alternative locations	\$17,000
Long - 10 years plus					
9.9	Long	Unknown (Queen Elizabeth Drive), Cooloola Cove	Develop park as a district recreation park	Future growth will result in the need for another recreation park	\$775,000
Mary Valley Planning Precinct					
Short - as soon as resources allow					
10.1	Short	Amamoor Playground, Amamoor	Place some signage on the park fence to let people know it is public open space	The fence around the playground gives the perception that the playground is on private property, owned by the hall	\$5,000
10.2	Short	Kandanga Recreation Grounds, Kandanga	Develop a formalised recreation corridor (1.5m wide shared path and bench seats) along Yabba Creek and down Main Street creating a walking/cycling circuit around Kandanga Recreation Grounds.	Activate the creek corridor and increase the opportunity for physical recreation. Opportunity to link with the Kandanga Weir Circuit Canoe and Kayak launch/exit point	\$217,000 or \$256,000 with exercise equipment
10.3	Short	District Parks, Imbil	Investigate development of Imbil Skate Park	Community demand for a skate park in the Precinct	\$110,000
Western Gympie Planning Precinct					
Short - as soon as resources allow					
11.1	Short	Weier Oval, Kilkivan	Remove basketball court	Facility is run down and not used by the community	\$10,000
11.2	Short	Goomeri Tennis Court, Goomeri	Rationalise the facility, options may include: 1. sell the parcel of land and use funds to purchase a more appropriate parcel 2. investigate a land swap with a developer	Facility is run down and not used by the community	\$10,000
Medium - next 5 to 10 years					
11.3	Medium	Widgee Tennis Courts, Widgee	Redevelop the courts into a children's learn to ride circuit	Children currently use the courts to ride their bike, should make it more interesting and educational	\$10,000
*Indicative design embellishment considerations and costings for open space typologies are found in Appendix A, while individual embellishment costings are found in Appendix B					



# Appendix

## Appendix A: Open space typologies

Age appropriate play elements

Local recreation park

District recreation park

Regional recreation park

District sports park

Regional sports park

## Appendix B: Embellishment costs

## Appendix C: Project prioritisation tool



# Appendix A: Open space typologies

## Age appropriate play elements

Below is a list of different play park assets that could be considered when trying to diversify the range of opportunities available.

### Toddlers (2-5 year olds)

- climbing play structures
- panels or themed elements e.g. kitchen, boat, train, firetruck, shop counter
- swings
- slides
- spring rockers/animal riders
- stepping stones

### Small children (5-8 year olds)

- climbing play structures
- swings
- slide
- natural climbers (e.g. rocks)
- sensory equipment
- climbing net
- spinner
- undulating small bike loop zone
- balancing elements
- spinner
- panels or themed elements e.g. kitchen, boat, train, firetruck, shop counter
- spring rockers/animal riders
- tunnels

### Older children (8-12 year olds)

- flying fox
- rockclimbing wall/natural climbers (e.g. rocks)
- climbing nets
- spinners
- basket ball hoop
- skate ramps
- balancing elements
- tunnels

### Youth (12-17 year olds)

- skate ramp
- BMX
- hangout spaces (e.g. outdoor table tennis/ping pong)
- rockclimbing wall
- power lift bar and other stationary exercise equipment
- basket ball hoop
- rage cages

### Adults (18+ year old)

- seating
- shade
- picnic and barbecue areas
- outdoor exercise equipment (stationary and moving parts)



## Local recreation park

### Description and intent

Local passive recreation open space (parks) provide a range of recreation opportunities for local residents. These parks contain limited infrastructure, yet offer local community benefits.

Local passive recreation parks are intended to offer residents a complementary open space to their backyards. They are likely to attract users from a small catchment area (about 400m radius) and generally cater for short visits by small groups.

Local passive recreation parks will be centrally located to the catchment or as hubs along recreation corridors where such corridors exist. There are many cost and land efficiencies (such as from dual use of land and consolidation of embellishments) that can be gained by developing hubs along pathways that connect key community areas such as: residents to schools, retail hubs etc.

Where a number of parks are to be provided, or are to receive embellishment upgrades within an area or community, community recreation master plans should be developed. These plans will ensure that the park embellishment suitably and collectively meets the needs and demands of the community. Furthermore, each park should complement nearby open space and be relevant to the local area, its character and demographic.

### Design considerations

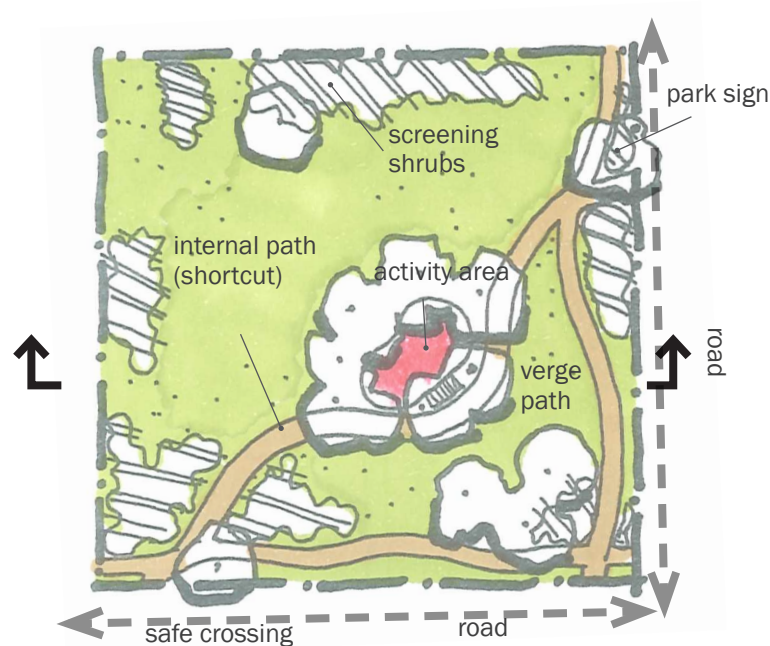
The following elements should be considered when designing and developing a local passive recreation open space:

- park to be located in a residential area and easy for residents to walk and ride to
- recreation buildings to be clustered in an activity area, ideally located under natural shade where possible
- mix of 3 activity options, such as:
  - basic toddler play (spring toy, slide and swing)
  - rebound wall
  - path circuit
  - flat kick-about area
  - multi-generational equipment to service a range of age groups
  - multi-functional equipment which can be used for both play and exercise (e.g. parkour equipment, monkey bars)
- picnic table and seats to be located where they can oversee and access the activity area (preferably under a shade tree), along the internal path
- surveillance of the majority of the park should be available from adjacent properties and from the road
- internal paths to connect to on-road pathway system and connect to the key activity area in the park. If the park can act as a short cut for pedestrians it may also encourage them to stop and utilise the buildings
- embellishments in the parks complement those in nearby parks (increasing the range of buildings available to nearby residents) and be relevant to the local area's character and demographic
- design and embellishment of parks reflect the demographic desires of the local catchment
- landscape edge treatments in the form of screening shrubs will improve the aesthetics of the park, soften the edges and provide some buffering to nearby residents.



## Estimated cost

Item	Rate	Measure	Quantity	Total
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$126,800</b>
<b>Recreation Activity areas</b>				
– basic play (per item) such as swing, spring toy etc	7,700	item	2	\$15,400
– multi-purpose court with either backboard and hoop or rebound wall	14,000	item	1	\$14,000
<b>Fencing</b>				
– bollard	55	item	150	\$8,250
<b>Landscaping</b>				
– park trees	250	item	5	\$1,250
<b>Park lighting</b>				
	7,000	item	2	\$14,000
<b>Pathways (concrete)</b>				
	120	m <sup>2</sup>	300	\$36,000
<b>Park furniture</b>				
– small park sign	2,520	item	1	\$2,520
– shade structures (soft)	210	m <sup>2</sup>	100	\$21,000
– water bubbler (including connection)	5,000	item	1	\$5,000
– bench seating (over concrete slab)	2,100	item	2	\$4,200
– park table and seats (over concrete slab)	3,080	item	1	\$3,080
– bins	2,100	item	1	\$2,100





## District recreation park

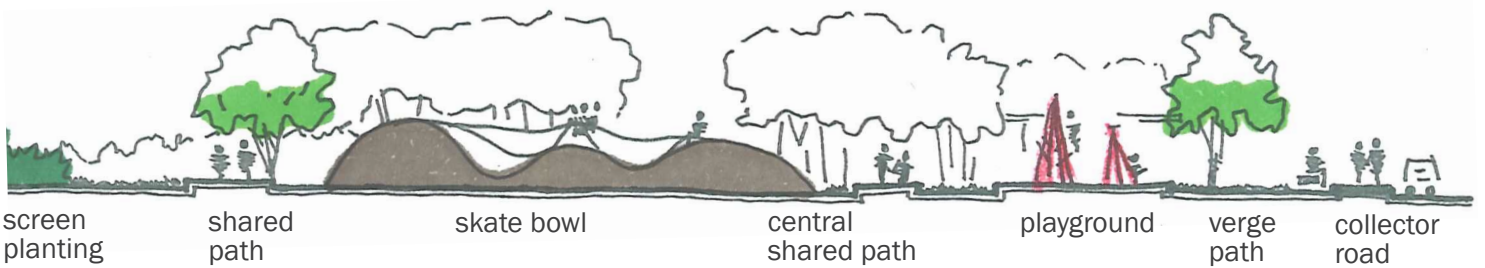
### Description and intent

District passive recreation open space parcels are larger sized parks providing a range of buildings and activity spaces for recreation. These parks have buildings to cater for large groups and are appealing to a wide range of users. District passive recreation parks can service several suburbs depending on population density, and are well known destinations for those people living within their catchment. Ideally, district passive recreation parks are located near social infrastructure such as schools, community centres and halls.

### Design considerations

The following elements should be considered when designing and developing a district passive recreation open space:

- design should reflect a broad range of needs (i.e. something for all ages and abilities)
- one main activity node which has clusters of activities for different age groups (i.e. park equipment designed for teenagers to be together, and near to the activity node for younger age groups). This helps separate the age cohorts but keeps all activities in one larger area to assist carers monitoring activities
- activity area could include (in addition to those listed in the local recreation park type):
  - skate park, climbing structure, outdoor table tennis
  - bike activity track/learn-to-cycle facility
  - outdoor exercise stations
  - all-abilities play (design and layout should seek to integrate all of the play buildings together to provide social inclusion and integration of all abilities)
  - gazebos for larger groups
  - unisex toilets
  - grouped picnicking buildings
- activity area to be ideally located under natural shade, however, may be supplemented by artificial shade
- there should be clear sight-lines into the park from nearby road and other land uses, especially the main activity area
- picnic areas located where they oversee the activity area
- embellishments in the parks could be themed
- if there are multiple district recreation parks in the same suburb/s each should have a range of (preferably different) recreation opportunities
- parks to be close to public transport, where possible
- amenities to be near road and active area for surveillance
- pathways link areas within the park and externally
- off-street car parking is required.



## Estimated cost

Item	Rate	Measure	Quantity	Total
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$775,020</b>
Recreation Activity areas				
– basic play (per item) such as swing, spring toy etc	7,700	item	1	\$7,700
– advanced play (modular kit-style play of moderate size (10 activities)	70,560	item	1	\$70,560
– medium climbing structure	35,000	item	1	\$35,000
– softfall	168	m <sup>2</sup>	2,000	\$336,000
Fencing				
– bollard (recycled plastic)	55	item	300	\$16,500
Landscaping				
– park trees	250	item	30	\$7,500
– turf	8	m <sup>2</sup>	4,000	\$33,600
Park lighting	7,000	item	5	\$35,000
Pathways	120	m <sup>2</sup>	300	\$36,000
Toilet block	98,000	item	1	\$98,000
Park furniture				
– bike racks	1,680	item	1	\$1,680
– small park sign	2,520	item	2	\$5,040
– shade structures (soft)	210	m <sup>2</sup>	100	\$21,000
– water bubbler (including connection)	5,000	item	2	\$10,000
– bench seating (over concrete slab)	2,100	item	3	\$6,300
– barbecue(s)	12,740	item	1	\$12,740
– picnic shelters, including table and seats (over concrete slab)	17,000	item	2	\$34,000
– bins	2,100	item	4	\$8,400





## Regional recreation park

### Description and intent

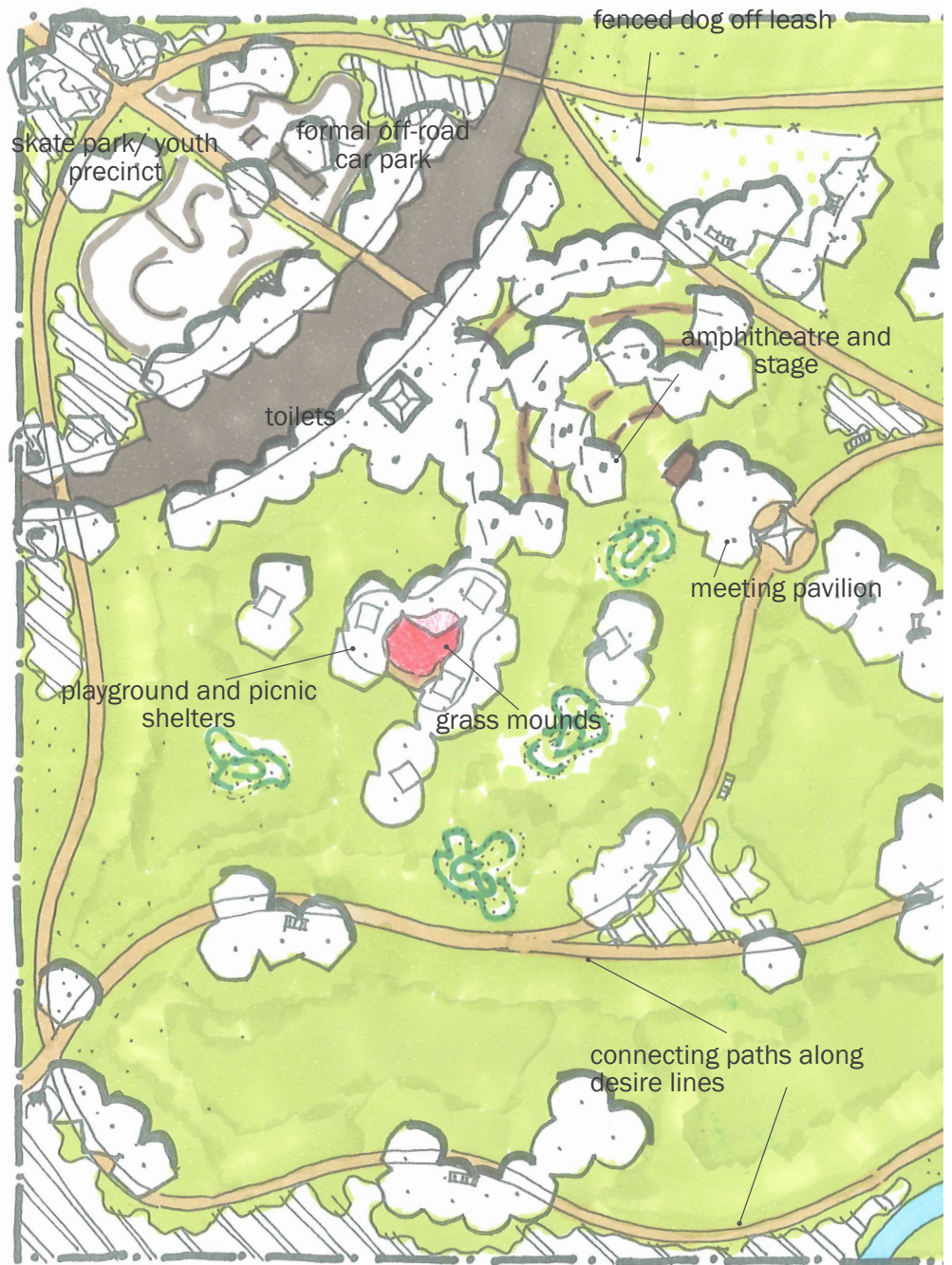
These open spaces are major recreation parks that offer a wide variety of opportunities to a broad cross-section of the City's population and visitors. They are large, embellished for recreation, are well known amongst residents and are major destinations.

People are usually content spending several hours in these parks. Regional recreation parks offer unique experiences. They are often used to host large community events such as carols in the park, Australia Day celebrations and other festivals. Regional passive parks offer exciting and no cost activities for residents and visitors.

### Design considerations

The following elements should be considered when designing and developing a regional passive recreation open space:

- undertake a master plan of the park. This is likely to include a long-term vision that can take many years to activate (potentially 10-15 years). The master plan should be staged so that it can be rolled out as demand is generated (and as resources allow)
- community input into the design of the park should occur (at master plan stage and as changes occur). This is important as the community will have specific thoughts and concerns regarding this level of park
- design must consider all age groups, people of all abilities and different cultural backgrounds
- detailed design is often required for specific elements
- multiple activity nodes may exist, however, these nodes will be unique, not replicated within the park and will add to the overall quality and attractiveness of the park
- potential to have some low key commercial activity such as kiosks, cafes, museums
- potential to have an array of buildings that offer some community service such as a nursery offering free street trees, environmental education centres, community training rooms, libraries etc.
- park to be located where people can access easily
- park should preferably have a variety of settings, from natural areas to highly-embellished activity areas.

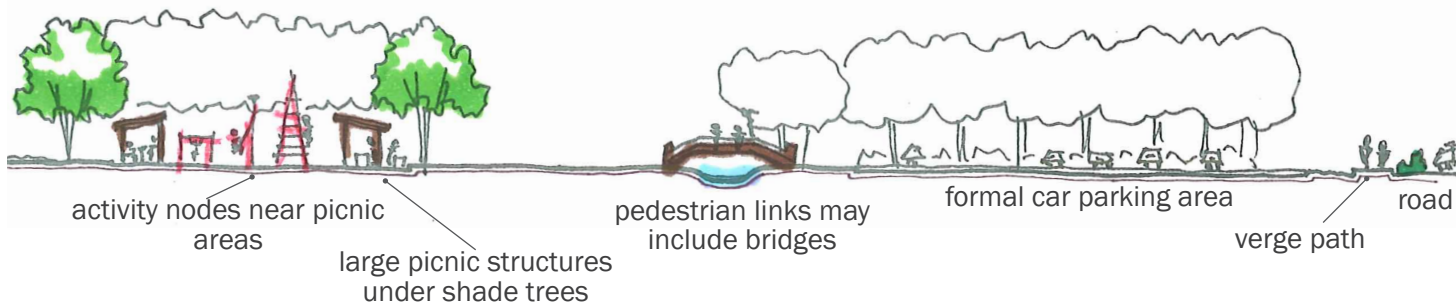
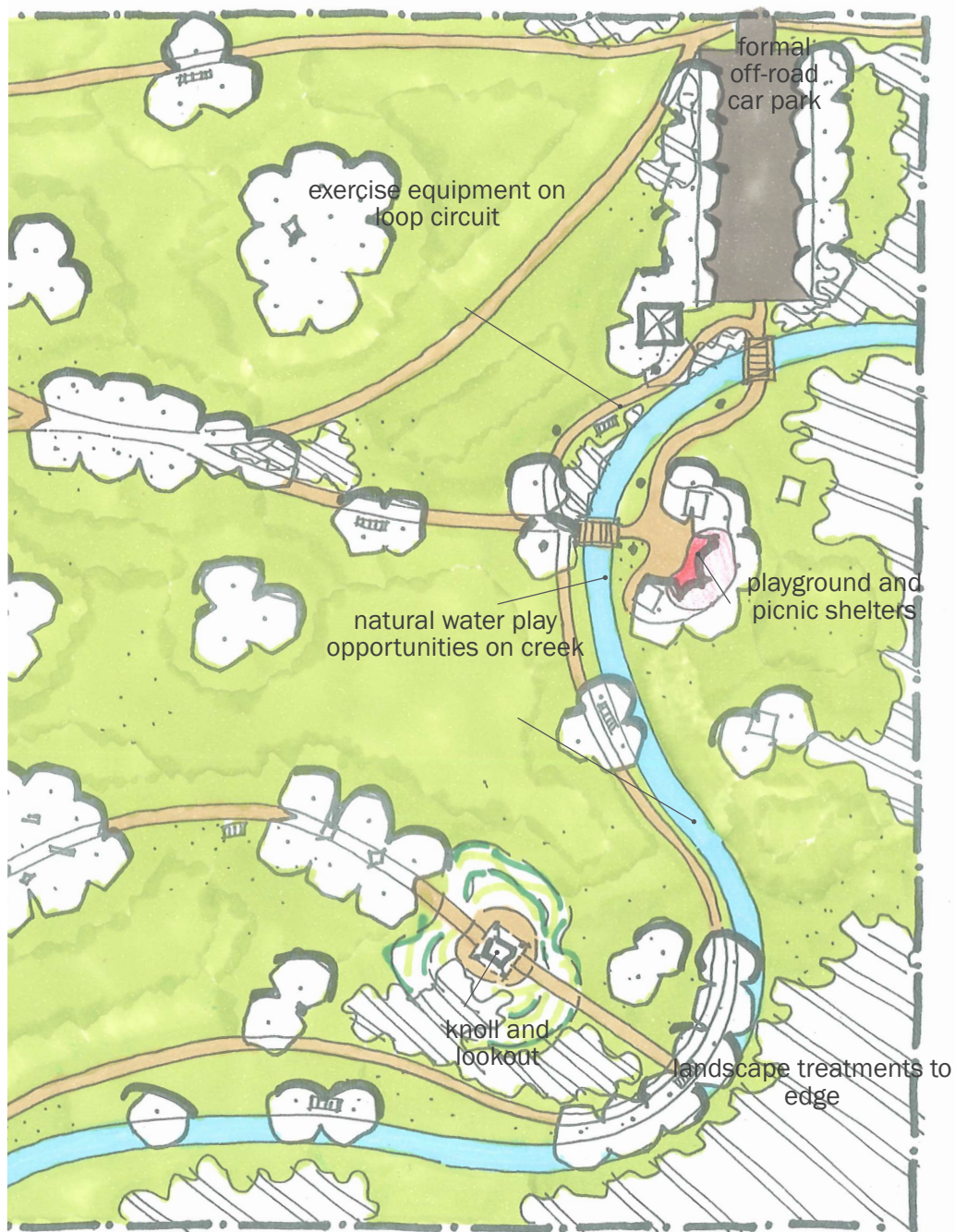


potential connection to natural area (river or forest)

topographical assets promoted, such as hills

some undeveloped spaces should exist, these include tree areas

natural areas provide different opportunities such as natural play and water activities



## Estimated cost

Item	Rate	Measure	Quantity	Total
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$3,003,020</b>
<b>Recreation Activity areas</b>				
– basic play (per item) such as swing, spring toy etc	7,700	item	3	\$23,100
– advanced play (modular kit-style play of moderate size (10 activities)	70,560	item	1	\$70,560
– large climbing structure	42,000	item	1	\$42,000
– exercise stations (per item)	7,700	item	5	\$38,500
– amphitheatre	150,000	item	1	\$150,000
– softfall	168	m <sup>2</sup>	5,000	\$840,000
<b>Fencing</b>				
– bollard (recycled plastic)	55	item	500	\$27,500
<b>Landscaping</b>				
– garden beds and plants	70	m <sup>2</sup>	4,000	\$280,000
– park trees	250	item	100	\$25,000
– turf	8	m <sup>2</sup>	6,000	
Park lighting	7,000	item	12	\$84,000
Pathways (concrete)	120	m <sup>2</sup>	1,400	\$156,800
Toilet block	98,000	item	2	\$196,000
<b>Vehicular movement</b>				
– off road car parking	5,250	car park	20	\$105,000
– internal road (includes kerb and channel)	252	m <sup>2</sup>	1,000	\$252,000
<b>Park furniture</b>				
– bike racks	1,680	item	2	\$3,360
– large park sign	112,000	item	1	\$112,000
– small park sign	2,520	item	2	\$5,040
– shade structures (soft)	210	m <sup>2</sup>	2,000	\$420,000
– water bubbler (including connection)	5,000	item	6	\$30,000
– bench seating (over concrete slab)	2,100	item	12	\$25,200
– park table and seats (over concrete slab)	3,080	item	2	\$6,160
– picnic shelters, including table and seats (over concrete slab)	17,000	item	2	\$34,000
– picnic node includes 2 barbeques, picnic tables, seats and hard structure (over concrete slab)	30,000	item	2	\$60,000
– bins	2,100	item	8	\$16,800



## Linear recreation corridors

### Description and Park Intent

These linear recreation corridors provide embellished pedestrian linkages that connect recreation facilities or open spaces, residences, community infrastructure, commercial areas or could form a circuit. The land contains infrastructure to facilitate recreation use, including a formed path and offers an attractive recreation setting.

Linear recreation corridors create a green web across communities. The purpose of this typology is to concentrate on the land-based components of the web, the parts that offer off-road walking/cycling experiences. Much of this component of the network is located along drainage corridors and other easements (rail, telecommunications) and therefore the land usually has dual-functionality as utility land.

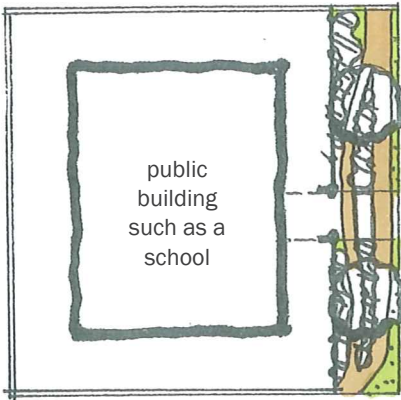
Walking and cycling continue to be the most preferred physical activity options for all areas of Australia, with no trend to support a shift in this fact. Linear corridors can encourage more (off road and tree lined) walking, cycling and other wheel-based movement opportunities and experiences, should the facilities be well-designed, well-located and promoted.

Linear corridors must link with the on-road path network, however, to maintain the experience of the linear corridors it is recommended that Council consider developing park streets where possible. The park street concept takes advantage of wide-country streets that have sufficient space to accommodate a pedestrian path (and other park embellishments).

### Design Considerations

Below is a list of elements that should be considered when designing/developing a linear, recreation corridor:

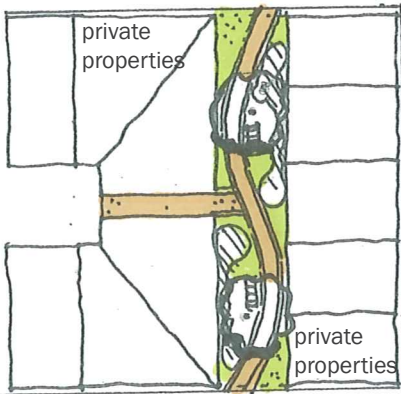
- ensure the corridor is suitable for people of all abilities
- pathway should follow contour lines, to provide as little grade as possible. Grades should preferably not be more than 1:20 at any section of the pathway
- appropriate vehicle access for maintenance is required
- create pathways and routes that connect to destinations directly link residential areas to retail nodes and social hubs
- create circuits within the network, where possible and appropriate
- ensure the corridors are safe for people to use and provide adequate visibility throughout the park (e.g. clear sightlines through the park, including selecting clear trunk trees and low groundcovers that allow visibility). Areas should be lit where appropriate
- encourage different settings and experiences for the recreation corridor, including taking advantage of views and vistas
- create a legible network by
  - creating clear and obvious path connections
  - use of continuous path materials (so you know you are on the right route)
  - signage, where appropriate
  - use of trees and avenues and tall elements to aid in wayfinding and navigation etc
  - entry statements (can be minimal embellishment such as a totem pole), so you know when you are at the route entry or at an exit point. These statements should be of a consistent theme and typology throughout the linear park
- create park areas that provide green webs by creating green treelined corridors, thereby creating a natural green off road alternative route, as well as providing shade and green visual relief
- where linear paths are located along road verges, create park streets through green planting and appropriate park embellishments
- unsightly utility or functional elements such as concrete channels or rear fencing should be softened or screened as much as possible to create an aesthetically pleasing experience
- park embellishments should be robust and vandal resistant
- park design should provide minimal operational maintenance.



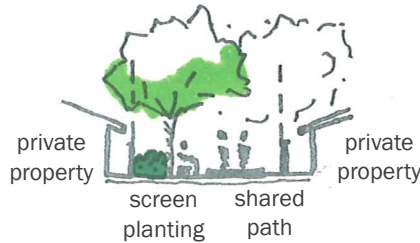
"Park Street" verge path, separate bike and walking path with planting in between



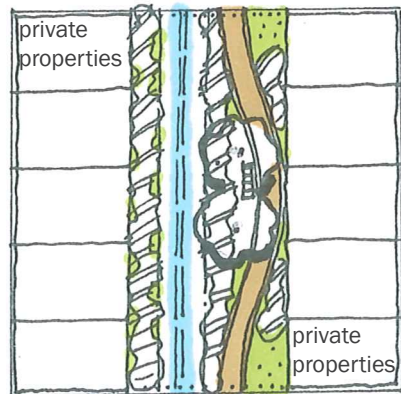
public building such as a school verge path, separate bike and walking path with planting in between



pathway meanders between residences. Benches placed under trees



private property screen shared path private property



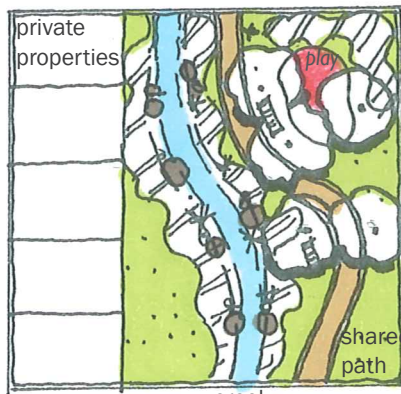
pathway meanders between residences. Benches placed under trees

concrete culvert and rear fencing screened by native trees and shrubs

linear corridor along concrete culvert



screen concrete shared screen path culvert planting



local recreation park as a node along the linear recreation corridor

creek provides attractive feature to which the path can run alongside

linear corridor within local park



screen native shared local path planting to creek path park



## District sports park

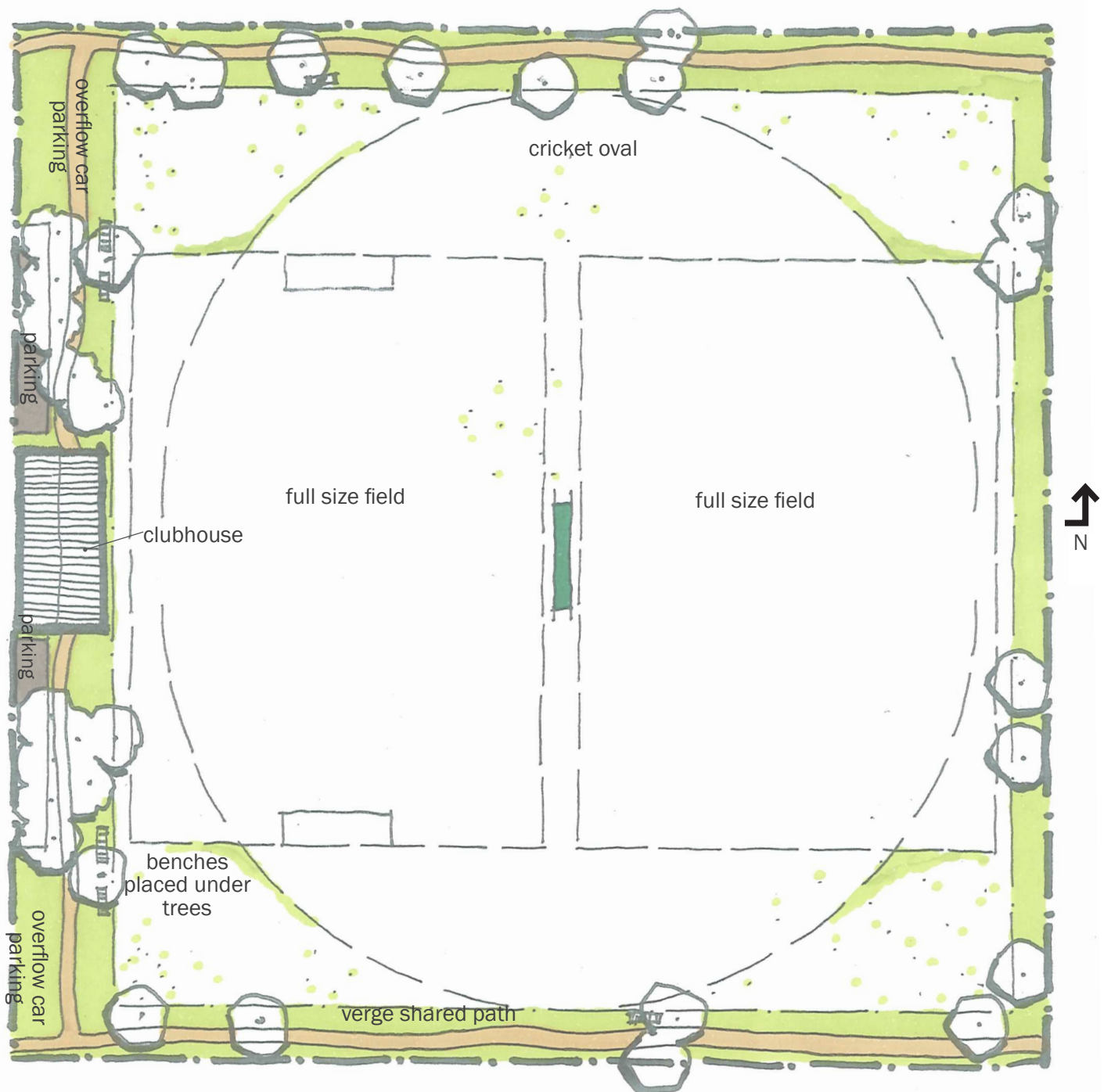
### Description and intent

District sports parks and courts provide the vast majority of the venues for the City's training and club fixtures. A range of sports are catered for in these multi-use buildings including both field and court sports. Supporting buildings provided at district sports parks and courts allow clubs to effectively operate and include amenities, pavilion, storage, lighting and car parking.

### Design considerations

The following elements should be considered when designing and developing district active recreation open space:

- undertake a site master plan to set the direction for the facility
- where possible, aim for sports buildings to meet state sporting organisation standards
- internal path network to allow for connections within and to land adjacent to the facility
- maximise trees and natural shade around fields and courts (although careful tree selection for court areas is important to avoid issues associated with root invasion and limb, leaf or seed fall)
- long benches and spectator areas should be placed under shade trees where possible. Shaded spectator grass mounds can also provide good viewing areas
- hard surfaces should be minimised by developing the minimum number of sealed parking bays, and providing turf/unsealed overflow parking (for bigger spectator games, if required)
- consideration to be made regarding noise and light spillage with regards to its impact on surrounding land uses
- all field and court orientation to be north-south (or as close to as possible)
- facility to include pavilion with basic infrastructure that is suitable for a variety of uses. Pavilion to be centrally located where possible. Internal spaces to include:
  - amenities, change rooms and public toilets
  - kitchen/kiosk
  - first aid, massage/strapping areas
  - office and storage
  - social area
- flexible design to allow for multiple current (e.g. summer and winter sporting season) and future uses of the open space
- design consideration to allow for potential alternative events and temporary uses (circus, festivals, event registration area)
- consider co-locating with local/district passive open space - especially in smaller communities to maximise land efficiencies.







Item	Cost (chargeable)	Cost (non-chargeable)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,560,000</b>	<b>\$450,000</b>
Landscaping (varies based on size, location and purpose of the sports park)	\$45,000	-
Sportsfield development	\$1,560,000	-
– levelling		
– top surface		
– irrigation (3ha)		
– field lighting		
– line marking		
– goal posts		
Clubhouse	-	\$450,000
Car parking (125 car parks)	\$525,000	-
Toilets	\$150,000	-
Spectator buildings - grandstand and mounding	\$280,000	-



## Regional sports park

### Description and intent

Regional active open space (sports parks and courts) are larger parks providing a greater number of fields/ovals and multi-purpose courts for formal sporting purposes. Buildings include a range of training and competition infrastructure as well as supporting buildings including pavilions, amenities, car parking, lighting and passive recreation nodes.

The level and quality of infrastructure at regional active open space buildings enable clubs (or associations) to host higher-level competitions and/or multi-day carnivals.

Sports parks and courts provide free, unrestricted access to the public when formal sport is not being undertaken. Public access may also include special and community events being hosted at these larger buildings including exhibitions, shows and festivals.

### Design considerations

The following elements should be considered when designing and developing regional active open space:

- undertake a master plan for the site to ensure appropriate development in line with the established direction
- ensure an internal path network to allow for connections within and to the wider network
- maximise trees and natural shade around fields and courts (although careful tree selection is important to avoid issues associated with limb, leaf or seed fall)
- benches and spectator areas should be placed under shade trees where possible. Shaded spectator grass mounds can also provide good viewing areas in addition to built grandstands
- hard surfaces should be minimised by developing the minimum number of sealed parking bays, and providing turf/unsealed overflow parking (for bigger games and events)
- internal road and parking layout to accommodate bus parking, drop-off and turn around
- consideration to be made regarding noise and light spillage and impact on surrounding uses
- field and court orientation to be north-south (or as close to as possible)
- provision of ample storage. Should be located near the pavilion and form one single large shed (or preferably be combined into pavilion design to reduce built structures)
- pavilion to be of significant size and offer flexibility in design to cater for a range of uses (consider beyond those sports anticipated to use the site at opening). Pavilion to be centrally located to service fields. Internal spaces to include storage, kitchen/kiosk, multiple change rooms and amenities, public toilets, offices, versatile function/activity space and medical rooms
- recreation/activity area to consider the users of sports when designing nodes (e.g. play for spectators/children). These should ideally be clustered together and located under natural shade (where possible)
- complementary commercial opportunities could be considered at the facility (physiotherapy, personal trainers etc.)
- provision of adequate signage especially within large, multiple use regional sports parks (e.g. directional and information signs)
- create additional landscape amenities such as entry planting, feature landscaping, or earth mounds to increase visual amenity.



Item	Cost (chargeable)	Cost (non-chargeable)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,885,000</b>	<b>\$1,580,000</b>
Landscaping (varies based on size, location and purpose of the sports park)	\$45,000	-
Sportsfield development (based on 6 fields or 3 ovals)	\$2,340,000	
– levelling		
– top surface		
– irrigation (10ha)		
– field lighting		
– line marking		
– goal posts		
Clubhouse	-	\$1,580,000
Car parking (200 car parks)	\$840,000	-
Toilets	\$340,000	-
Spectator buildings - grandstand and mounding	\$320,000	-

## Appendix B: Embellishment costs (estimate)

Item	Rate	Measure
<b>Recreation Activity areas</b>		
– basic play (per item) such as swing, spring toy etc	\$5,500	item
– advanced play (modular kit-style play of moderate size (10 activities)	\$50,400	item
– medium climbing structure	\$25,000	item
– large climbing structure	\$30,000	item
– dog off-leash area	\$30	m <sup>2</sup>
– multi-purpose court with either backboard and hoop or rebound wall	\$14,000	item
– skate park (medium)	\$140,000	item
– skate park (large)	\$250,000	item
– exercise stations (per item)	\$5,500	item
– liberty swing	\$68,000	item
– water play	\$130,000	item
– amphitheatre	\$110,000	item
– play fencing (pool style)	\$107	linear m
– softfall	\$120	m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Sports Facilities</b>		
– clubhouse	\$400,000	item
– toilet block	\$150,000	item
– field development (minor earthworks, drainage, ground treatment, top dressing and irrigation)	\$12	m <sup>2</sup>
– field lighting	\$35,000	item
– 400m, 8 lane running track, high jump, dual double ended long jump, triple jump and runway, double ended pole vault, steeple chase, hammer circles, discus and shot put	\$1,790,000 (synthetic track) \$70,000 (turf)	facility
– basic three tier aluminium grandstand	\$4,000	item
– cricket nets	\$20,000	item
– cricket pitch (synthetic turf overlay and concrete pitch)	\$11,250	item
– turf block incorporating four pitches	\$40,000	item
– sight screens	\$20,000	item
– goal posts	12,000	pair
– player shelters (6x6 with concrete floor)	\$17,000	item
– storage shed with lights	\$54	m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Fencing</b>		
– post and rail	\$300	linear m
– bollard (recycled plastic)	\$55	item
– bollard (timber)	\$90	item



Item	Rate	Measure
<b>Landscaping</b>		
– irrigation (landscaped areas)	\$5	m <sup>2</sup>
– garden beds and plants	\$50	m <sup>2</sup>
– park trees	\$250	item
– turf (laid, rolled and watered for 2 weeks)	\$6	m <sup>2</sup>
Park lighting	\$8,000	item
Pathways (concrete)	\$120	m <sup>2</sup>
Toilet block	\$70,000	item
<b>Vehicular movement</b>		
– off road car parking	\$3,750	car park
– internal road (includes kerb and channel)	\$180	m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Park furniture</b>		
– bike racks	\$1,200	item
– large park sign	\$80,000	item
– small park sign	\$1,800	item
– shade structures (soft)	\$150	m <sup>2</sup>
– water bubbler (including connection)	\$4,000	item
– bench seating (over concrete slab)	\$1,500	item
– park table and seats (over concrete slab)	\$2,200	item
– barbecue(s)	\$9,100	item
– picnic shelters, including table and seats (over concrete slab)	\$18,000	item
– picnic node includes 2 barbeques, picnic tables, seats and hard structure (over concrete slab)	\$30,000	item
– bins	\$1,500	item
– outdoor amphitheatre	\$100	m <sup>2</sup>



# Appendix C

## Project prioritisation tool

The Plan will become the over arching strategic document for all open space planning. A number of sub-set activity and location specific documents have been developed by Council each with their own prioritised list of recommendations.

To assist the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Working Group prioritise the recommendations for Council’s annual capital works budget, a set of criteria have been developed based on the issues and opportunities identified throughout the development of the Plan. This criteria will allow the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Working Group to standardised the process for prioritising its open space capital works, while being transparent and equitable in its decision making.

Each project is scored out of 100, with some factors having higher weight than others.

Factor	Description	Score	
Planning	Alignment with Corporate Plan	Priority should be given to projects that directly link with the goals, objectives and strategies prescribed in Council’s Corporate Plan	/5
	Growth areas	Priority focus should be on supporting facilities within growth areas. This helps to ensure that there are facilities in growth areas that support the community at a local level	/5
	Planning tool	Priority should be given to projects that have been identified through a comprehensive planning process and demonstrate strategic importance at either a local, district or regional level. This could be through a Council master plan, feasibility strategy or activity specific strategy	/5
	Club management	For sportsgrounds and courts, priority should go to facilities that are managed in an efficient and effective way. As most facilities are leased/licenced, a condition of the lease/licence agreement should be that clubs have a management plan that incorporates asset management, financial management, club development and capital works planning	/5
	Sub total		/20
Asset management	Asset condition	Priority should go towards projects that are improving an asset. Capital works should not be used to repair facilities, which should be undertaken through a maintenance program associated with the facility (either lessee or Council) or be indicated in an asset renewal schedule	/5
	Safety	While capital works should not be primarily used for funding safety aspects, safety and risk remain critical issues for Council	/5
	Sub total		/10



	Factor	Description	Score
Function	Capacity	Priority should be given to projects that will cater for increased participation in recreation, physical activity or sport	/10
	Access	Priority should be given to facilities that cater for more than one sport or activity. Any leases/licenced facilities that have only one user group or club should be encouraged to share facilities if possible. Priority should also be given to by both clubs and the community	/10
	Function	Priority should be given to projects where there is a demonstrated need within the community. Funding should also target projects that are appropriate for the type of open space. There is a strong need for a variety of facilities to serve all areas of the community. A project at one site should not impact on the ongoing use of another facility and preference away from projects where needs are already being met elsewhere within its catchment.	/10
	Social impact	Priority should go to those projects that are targeting growth or emerging recreation activities and/or sports. Clubs or activities with limited or declining participation will need to look at the reasons why and address these issues to achieve a higher priority	/10
	Sub total		
Financial	Funding capacity	For sportsgrounds and courts, priority should go to clubs or groups who have actively raised funds toward the development of their facility	/15
	Eligible for grants or sponsorship	Priority should be given to organisations that have secured funding. Organisations should be informed of what funding sources are available  Priority should be given to projects where external funding is available (i.e. State funding) once Council approves the project	/15
	Sub total		
TOTAL			/100



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