

Lions Park and Norrie Job Park, Coolum – community engagement summary and final landscape plan

Project overview

Lions Park and Norrie Job Parks are two parks which collectively provide open space and outdoor recreation experiences for our community to enjoy at the northern end of Coolum Beach.

These parks, together with Tickle Park, provide a council-wide recreation function, supported by other district level recreation parks such as Jack Morgan Park.

Following three rounds of community engagement (in 2016, 2022 and 2023) a final landscape plan for Lions Park and Norrie Job Park has now been realised (refer Figure 1).

Staged construction of the project will begin in 2024 based on Council's current 10 year Capital Works Program. Council will explore future grant and funding opportunities for future stages, to deliver the best value to ratepayers over the coming years.

Council will continue to keep our community informed via regular project updates, and the project website.

How your feedback has helped inform the final landscape plan

From 13 March to 3 April 2023, the final stage of community engagement sought our community's feedback on the draft landscape plan.

As well as information gathered via survey responses, popular themes included an appreciation for the 'classic' local character and undeveloped nature of the space, and the value of the natural environment and surrounds.

Most survey respondents were local residents:

- Resident of Coolum (87%); Elsewhere in Australia (0 %); Elsewhere on the Sunshine Coast (11%); Other (2%)

Most people walked or ran to the park:

- Walk, run (47%); Drive (28%); Cycle, skateboard or scooter (23%); Public transport (0%); Other (2%)

And the parks' popularity was confirmed with many people visiting daily or 2-3 times a week:

- Daily (23%) 2-3 times a week (36%); Once a month (26%); Few times a year (9%); Other (6%)

Respondents included people from various age groups:

- 70 or older (1%); 60-69 (17%); 50-59 (17%); 40-49 (24%); 30-39 (35%); 20-29 (5%); 10-19 (1%); under 9 (0%)

Our community's top ten priorities for delivery of the landscape plan included:

1. A new public amenity including a people with disability (PWD) toilet
2. Installing underground drainage to increase the usable open green lawn space by approximately 2000m2 and link the parks
3. New shade trees and planting
4. A new, accessible pedestrian pathway connecting all areas of the park

5. A future Pump Track – a circuit track for non-motorised bicycles, scooters, skateboards, roller skates/blades etc that users “pump” up and down using body weight to maintain momentum around the track. The track can be enjoyed without pushing or pedalling
6. A new drinking fountain
7. Delivery of a 240m length of the Coastal Pathway, as a 3m wide shared path from the south
8. An upgrade to the existing beach shower
9. New seating and picnic areas
10. New picnic and barbecue shelters

The responses identified that most people supported the proposed activities and elements within the parks with some respondents referring to the ‘classic’ local character and undeveloped nature of the park space and their appreciation of the natural environment including existing trees, the adjacent beach and nearby Stumers Creek area.

Other community suggestions included upgrading outdoor fitness equipment, a new/upgraded family playground (such as a water park or adventure playground) in these parks or elsewhere in Coolum, items to better accommodate dogs (taps, dog waste bags etc) and improvements to parking and road safety along David Low Way.

Where outside of the scope or budget of this project, our community’s suggestions and feedback have been passed on to the relevant council departments and/or State Government (Department of Transport and Main Roads) for future consideration.

All feedback has been considered when finalising the landscape plan.

Next steps

With all stages of community engagement now complete, Council will assess which items can be delivered as part of Stage One works and continue planning and funding investigations for Stage Two works.

It is expected that the project will be staged as follows.

- 2024 - Stage One Construction
- 2026 - Stage Two Construction

Council will share further information about the Stage One construction program once a contractor has been appointed. A public tender will be issued by the end of 2023.

Register for future updates or for further information

Council’s commitment to sustainability means that all future project updates will be emailed only to those who register to receive them.

You can contact the project team or register for updates by emailing your details to the project team here:

lionsnorriejobpark@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

Alternatively, contact council’s customer service team (please quote ‘*Lions Park and Norrie Job Park landscape plan*’) via:

mail@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

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A note from your local councillor

I thank our community for your extensive feedback over the past seven years to help inform the final landscape plan. It is clear these parks make a positive contribution to the local community’s wellbeing and are enjoyed in different ways to other parks like Tickle Park and Jack Morgan Park. As works progress over the coming years, I look forward to the staged delivery of all elements of the plan, including the Pump Track that will be a major recreational asset to the area.

Cr Maria Suarez

Figure 1: Lions Park and Norrie Job Park upgrade – final landscape plan



Figure 2: Lions Park and Norrie Job Park upgrade – artist impression

