

An aerial photograph of a park. The left side is filled with a dense forest of tall, green trees. A narrow, light-colored path or clearing runs vertically through the center. To the right of the path is a large, open grassy area. The text 'Howard Walker Park' is overlaid in white on the right side.

# Howard Walker Park

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## Landscape Concept Plan Report

11.08.2022 — Rev C



# Acknowledgements

Council wishes to thank all contributors and stakeholders involved in the development of this document.

# Document Control

| Date       | Prepared by   | Status              | Revision |
|------------|---|---------------------|----------|
| 20.06.2022 | Environmental Ethos on behalf of<br>Landscape Architecture Services   Design & Placemaking Services | For Internal Review | A        |
| 18.07.2022 | Environmental Ethos   | 2nd Draft           | B        |
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# One Introduction

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**Howard Walker Park is a new local park for the Peachester community. The site has existing landscape features which provide a framework for a natural parkland including mature trees and creek line.**

**This Landscape Concept Plan aims to enhance the natural features of the site whilst developing the park as a focus for community recreation, social events, and play.**

## Project Purpose

The purpose of the Howard Walker Park Landscape Concept Plan is to develop a plan that:

- Guides future development of the park, which may occur over many stages
- Provides a basis for funding applications
- Directs community initiatives such as land care and community tree planting events

## Project Objectives

The objectives of the project are:

- To develop a park based on the ideas and feedback received from the community consultation process
- To implement the ideas and feedback provided by the Jinibara People
- To preserve and enhance the natural landscape features of the site and increase biodiversity and habitat values

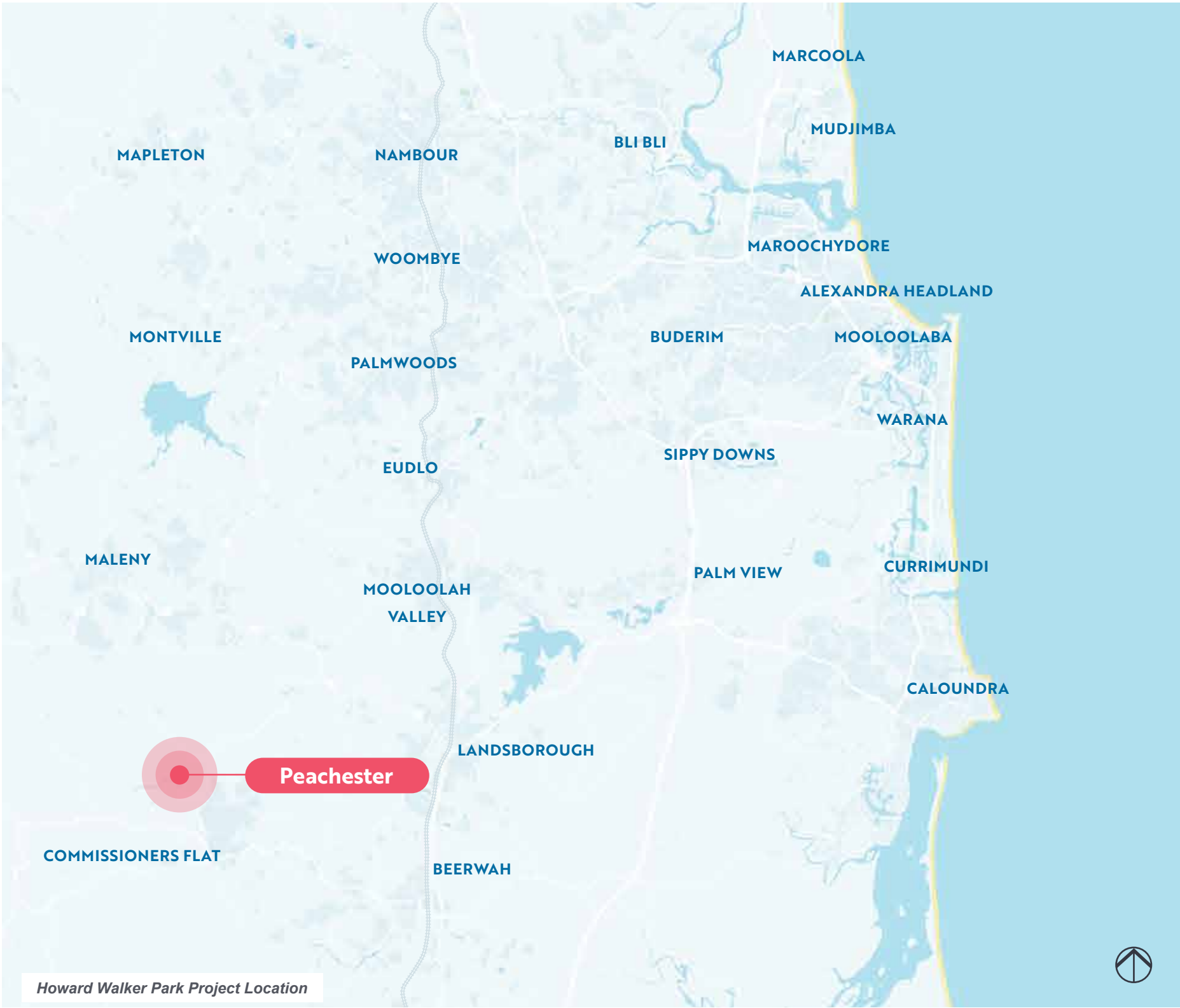




# Two Place

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# Location & Context

Peachester is located in the Sunshine Coast hinterland, between Beerwah and Commissioners Flat.

The Jinibara People are the traditional custodians of the land within which Peachester is located.

The landscape is characterized by forested hills and rural land. Topography is undulating to steep. Soils are generally fertile and support dense native forests including rainforest vegetation communities.

Peachester is a small community centered on the local shop, community hall, and school. Residential areas are low density with most properties being rural/rural residential.

Howard Walker Park is a new local park on the corner of Peachester Road and High Street.

# Site Analysis, Opportunities and Constraints

The topography of the site falls centrally to the natural creek forming a central spine of native vegetation that partially divides the park into two sections. A natural amphitheater is located in the centre of the park with a backdrop of native trees. This area naturally lends itself to a community gathering/performance space.

The creek including small dam are popular natural spaces where children enjoy interacting with nature. Positioning a playground next to this natural space will facilitate an interaction of play types whilst also allowing parental passive surveillance.

The existing open grass area in the northern portion of the site lends itself to becoming the main active recreation space.

The site provides the opportunity to group the active recreation area and community hub in the northern section of the site and retain the southern section for passive recreational activities.

Site constraints include a single road access from High Street, therefore parking must be located on this street.




















Topography is sloping and mature trees prevent significant alteration of the land form.

The existing small dam (Interactive Landscape Feature)is currently filled with debris and holding water. **Initial investigation identified the water depth may present a safety risk, further investigation is required to ascertain the full depth of water. This safety risk should be managed through council’s Safety in Design process.**

Mitigate of risks associated with this water feature could include partial filling and placement of sandstone blocks within the hollow to reduce the water depth to an acceptable level. Sandstone blocks should be placed with consideration to avoiding entrapment whilst also eliminating the risk of drowning. The water level should be controlled by opening a channel between the dam and the creek line, allowing water to freely flow out of the hollow.

This area will require on-going maintenance to ensure water related risks are managed appropriately.

## Legend

|   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
|  | Project Area                             |  | Community Hub                                    |
|  | Through site connecting route            |  | Active Recreation Zone                           |
|  | Internal circulation route               |  | Passive/Active Recreation Zone                   |
|  | Natural Creek                            |  | Passive Recreation and Community Gathering Space |
|  | Elevated Area with views across the site |  | Small Gathering Space                            |
|  | Open Grass Area                          |  | Interactive Landscape Feature                    |
|  | Ecotone between creek and open space     |  | Natural Creek and Vegetation                     |
|  | Natural amphitheater                     |  | Passive Recreation Spaces                        |
|  | Native Vegetation                        |   |  |
|  | Open grass area with mature trees        |   |  |
|  | View locations - refer pages 6 & 7       |   |  |



## Site Analysis, Opportunities and Constraints Plan





Existing Site Character and Landscape Features



VIEW 1 - CREEK AND OPEN SPACE AREA



VIEW 2 - CREEK AND OPEN SPACE AREA



VIEW 3 - SHADE TREES PROVIDE PARTIAL SCREENING TO PEACHESTER ROAD



VIEW 4 - SMALL DAM AT TOP OF NATURAL CREEK LINE





VIEW 5 - NATURAL AMPHITHEATRE



VIEW 6 - SHADE TREES PROVIDE PARTIAL SCREENING TO HIGH STREET



VIEW 7 - SOUTH WESTERN CORNER - MATURE TREES AND BACKGROUND OF NATIVE BUSHLAND



VIEW 8 - NATURAL CREEK SUPPORTING NATIVE VEGETATION INCLUDING MATURE TREE FERNs





# Three Guiding documents

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# Council’s guiding documents

The **Sunshine Coast Environment and Liveability Strategy** provides long-term strategic direction to shape the region by guiding growth and delivering the transformational change required to maintain a healthy environment and liveable Sunshine Coast in 2041 for future generations.

The strategy focuses on the preservation and enhancement of the natural environment and the liveability of the region, enabling a good quality of life for all residents and supporting a strong economy in an accessible and well-connected built environment.

The strategy seeks to guide decision-making and actions that will continue to protect and respect the importance of the natural environment as the foundation for the Sunshine Coast way of life.

The strategy is based on three interdependent sections:

- The natural environment
- The environment we create – the built environment
- Living in the environment.

The integration of these three sections within the one strategy ensures we do not plan for the protection of the natural environment in isolation, and highlights the importance of the relationship our built environment and our lifestyle have with these natural assets can be achieved.

Within the ELS, network blueprints have been developed that contain maps and descriptions to guide the geographical planning for the land and facilities within Sunshine Coast government area. The strategy also sets the Desired Standards of Service in regards to land, infrastructure **and** natural assets being purchased, contributed, developed or managed.

The Open Space Network Blueprint provides the guidance for the planning of recreation parks, sports grounds and recreation trails across the Sunshine Coast. There are 6 district catchments identified within the Sunshine Coast - Urban A, B, C & D and Rural 1 & 2. Howard Walker Park sits within District Catchment - Rural 1 in the ‘Locality of Interest’ (LOI) of Peachester, Crohamhurst, Booroobin and Wootha.

## District catchment - Rural 1

The Rural 1 district currently has around 50ha of district recreation parks and 60ha of district sports grounds. An open space assessment has identified that the district currently has an adequate supply of district recreation parks and sports grounds. However, this will become a shortfall as population increases.

The **Sunshine Coast Recreation Parks Plan (RPP)** outlines the strategic direction for recreation parks across the region. The RPP highlights the key recreational functions of our parks and provides guidance on the distribution of infrastructure (both living and built) to support these functions.

The plan is supported by two technical documents that provide additional planning tools to ensure consistent and sustainable development of these public spaces. The first supporting document contains technical guidelines and additional location criteria for park infrastructure.

A second technical document provides geographic and demographic information on each of the 31 localities of interest in the Sunshine Coast Council region as well as the mapping which shows the current provision of key park infrastructure.

## ‘Locality of Interest’ (LOI) of Peachester, Crohamhurst, Booroobin and Wootha.

LOI of Peachester, Crohamhurst, Booroobin and Wootha is 10,550 hectares in size and contains a population of 2,111 (0.20 persons per hectare). Population growth in this location has been minimal and is expected to stay at a similar level by 2041.

Couples with dependants and single parent families make up approximately 40% of households in this LOI. The general age of the population within the LOI is over 35 at 56% with current projections indicating this will remain the demographic to 2041.

The RPP has recommended the following opportunities for improvement be investigated with in the LOI:

- Play spaces
- Passive recreation areas
- Picnic nodes
- Community event space
- Fitness stations
- Informal sports to cater for teenagers and young adults
- Community gardens
- Dog off leash areas

The **Open Space Landscape Infrastructure Manual (LIM)** provides guidance for the design, development and delivery of council controlled open space, as well as assisting with he maintenance of councils assets.

The LIM provides guidance, ensuring that the land development is managed in the most sustainable accessible, cost effective, durable and environmentally friendly way. It uses embellishments which complement the natural landscape and provide a diverse range of recreation opportunities.

The LIM also sets the desired infrastructure standards (i.e. how the particular embellishment is to be designed and constructed) It contains performance criteria as well as diagrams that depict installation and positioning guidance. References are also provided to relevant legislation, Australian standards and council documents.

To support the detailed documentation of parks, the LIM provides technical drawings that include typical construction drawings for fabrication and the associated specifications that outline council’s minimum acceptable standard.

In the development of the concept plan for Buderim Pines West Park, the information provided within the LIM has been used to ensure all proposed elements are:

- Fit for purpose, appropriately positioned and accessible
- Durable, robust and safe
- Vandal resistant with parts that are easily replaceable
- Easy to maintain
- Comply with relevant standards/ legislation/ corporate documents and approvals

Following the finalisation of this Landscape Concept Plan, the LIM will further guide the detailed design of recommended projects outlined in the plan.



## Local level parks

Howard Walker Park is designated as a local level recreation park in the **Sunshine Coast Environment and Livability Strategy**. Local recreation parks are smaller parks that are located a short walk from home for people in the surrounding local community and cater for frequent visits

Local parks offer opportunities for neighborhood residents to meet and socialise in a safe and healthy setting. Built form, material selections and planting design in local parks reflect the landscape and character of the surrounding area and support connections between people and place.

### Functional space guidelines for district parks

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

Table 3: Local parks embellishment requirements

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

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



# Sunshine Coast Design Principles





# Four Community consultation

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# Community consultation - Phase 1

Community consultation commenced in June 2020 with a workshop held on site with members of the Peachester Park Community Reference Group (the reference group), and interested members of the local community. The reference group comprises of local individuals many of whom had played a key role in the establishment of the park.

At the workshop, ideas were discussed on how the park could be developed including design principles, and park elements and infrastructure.

A second meeting was held on site with representatives of the Jinibara People and the reference group.

Information from the workshops was used by Sunshine Coast Council to develop a Schematic Concept Plan for Community Engagement. Engagement with the broader Peachester community, including mail-out and on-line survey, was undertaken in April 2022. Feedback from the community was reviewed and key findings detailed in the Community Consultation Summary Report, which is available from Council’s have your say website <https://haveyoursay.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/peachester-park-concept-plan>.

The Community Park Principles were developed from the reference group ‘brain storming plan’ and supported by the local community. These principles have guided the development of the Landscape Concept Plan as follows:

- To be a community gateway
- Building community connections
- Connection to the indigenous culture of Jinibara people
- Accessible
- A safe space
- Natural play opportunities for all ages
- To provide community amenities
- Lead the way on eco-friendly solutions
- Outdoor venue/space for local use
- To alleviate volunteer workload around recreational gatherings
- Native species and food forest options in buffer zone planting
- Take a lead on planning that is considerate of and celebrates the natural assets of the park and surrounds
- To stand out for being naturally unique to other parks
- Organic approach
- Plan thoughtfully

The majority of the community supported the proposed elements of the park identified in the Schematic Concept Plan. Priority was given to the following:

- Shelter and picnic table
- Natural spaces to play
- Playground
- Possible future amenities
- Fence to main road
- Multi use open space

A formalized car parking layout and turn around area along High Street was suggested by the reference group. This arrangement was investigated however the additional space required was found to encroach into the park open space, and would result in the alteration of existing landform and removal of existing trees. A more cost effective informal car park and turn around bay along High Street, with less impact on the park, was considered more consistent with the park design principles.

Feedback from the community has been used to develop the Landscape Concept Plan including prioritized staged works.





# Five The Plan

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## Overall concept plan



## LEGEND

- 1 SHELTER AND LONG TABLE
- 2 JUNIOR PLAYGROUND
- 3 MULTI-USE OPEN SPACE
- 4 CAR PARKING - GRAVEL SURFACE BAYS DEFINED BY PLANTING
- 5 POSSIBLE FUTURE AMENITIES
- 6 SMALL YARNING CIRCLES
- 7 LARGE YARNING CIRCLE/ PERFORMANCE SPACE
- 8 INTERACTIVE LANDSCAPE
- 9 PICNIC TABLES
- 10 FITNESS EQUIPMENT
- 11 PATH SYSTEM
- 12 BRIDGE OVER CREEK
- 13 BUFFER PLANTING
- 14 FENCE TO MAIN ROAD
- 15 EXISTING BUS STOP AND PARK SIGN
- 16 MAINTENANCE ACCESS AND TURN AROUND AREA
- 17 DROP-OFF BAY
- 18 PLANTING INCLUDING BUSH TUCKER SPECIES AND HERITAGE FRUIT TREES
- 19 EXISTING CREEK - BUSH REGENERATION

## PROJECT EXTENTS



## Concept plan - Focus Areas



### LEGEND

- 1 SHELTER AND LONG TABLE
- 2 POSSIBLE FUTURE AMENITIES
- 3 PARK ENTRANCE
- 4 DISABLED PARKING BAY
- 5 BINS
- 6 NATIVE PLANTING
- 7 PLAYGROUND GATES
- 8 PLAYGROUND FENCE
- 9 EARLY CHILDHOOD PLAYGROUND (E.G. LITTLE HOUSE, SWING, & BEE SPRINGER)
- 10 PICNIC COMBO
- 11 CLIMBING TOWER AND SLIDE
- 12 YARNING CIRCLE
- 13 NATURAL PLAY AREAS - ROCKS, LOGS AND PLANTING
- 14 GROUP SWING
- 15 SEATING
- 16 KICK & THROW AREA 900m<sup>2</sup> FOLLOWS SLOPE OF LAND
- 17 FEATURE TREE
- 18 NATURAL LANDSCAPE HOLLOW - SANDSTONE BLOCKS PLACED TO REDUCE WATER DEPTH AND ADD ADDITIONAL PLAY ELEMENT.

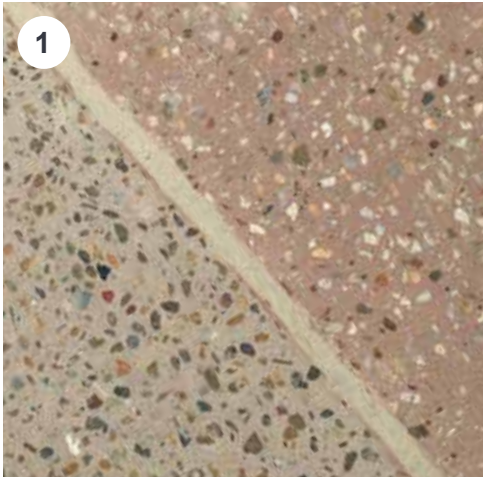


# Finishes Palette

## Hardcape

Hardscape materials to be durable and robust. Colours are to be natural tones to blend with the existing park landscape.

- 1. Coloured concrete pavements with light gravel exposure.
- 2. Bridge over creek to be fibre-composite decking with timber kickrail
- 3. Sandstone blocks - 'A Grade'



## Play Features

A variety of play features are to be located within discrete interconnected spaces and provide a wide choice of play types for the different stages of childhood development

- 1. Early childhood play house and slide
- 2. Junior Play - tower and slide
- 3. Group Swing



## Buildform

Built form to be composed of materials that blend with the natural setting and rural character of the area

- 1. Shelter and long table
- 2. Possible Future amenities





# Planting Palette

The planting palette for Howard Walker Park is guided by the ***Sunshine Coast Street Tree Master Plan (2019)*** and the ***Sunshine Coast Open Space Landscape Infrastructure Manual***.

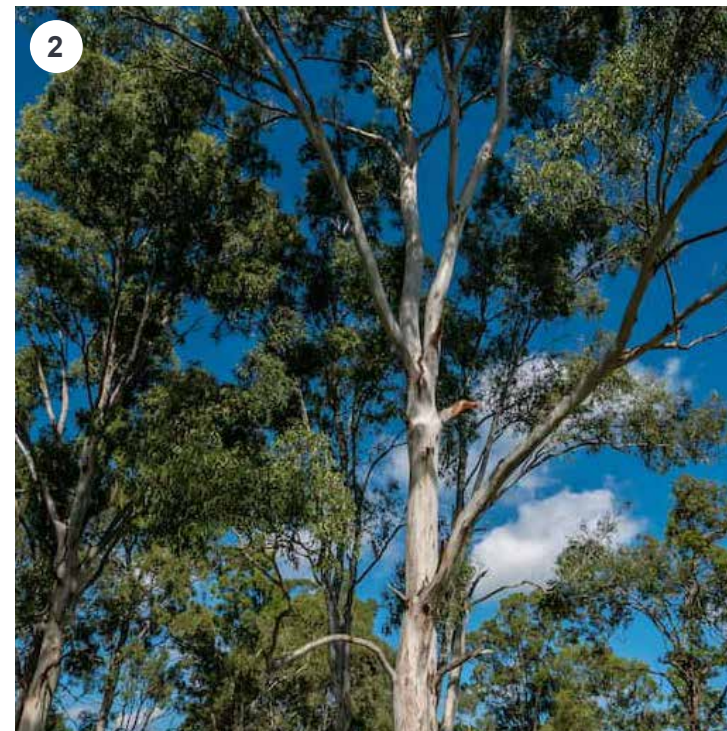
Species have been selected from the original plant communities, wet eucalypt forest, dry rainforest, and riparian species.

## Feature Trees

Feature trees are to complement the existing native trees and provide replacements for weed tree species which will gradually be replaced over time.



1. Hoop Pine  
*Araucaria cunninghamii*



2. Forest Red Gum  
*Eucalyptus tereticornis*



3. Cudgerie  
*Flindersia schottiana*



4. White's Fig  
*Ficus virens*



5. Turpentine  
*Syncarpia glomulifera*

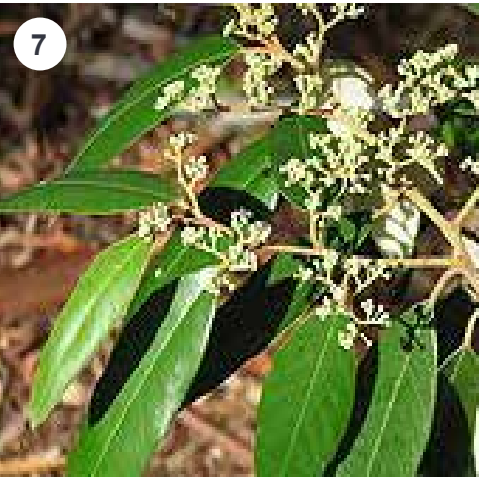


# Planting Palette

## Small Trees and Shrubs

Small trees and shrubs will be predominately native species endemic to the area. Species will include bush tucker plants, flowering plants and plants that provide food and habitat for native fauna.

- 1. Ivory Curl Tree  
*Buckinghamia celissima*
- 2. Wild Lime  
*Citrus australis*
- 3. Pink Doughwood  
*Melicope elleryana*
- 4. Firewheel Tree  
*Stenocarpus sinuatus*
- 5. Macadamia Tree  
*Macadamia tetraphylla*
- 6. Native Mulberry  
*Pipturus argenteus*
- 7. White Ash  
*Alphitonia petriei*







# Six Delivering the Vision

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## Staging

A staging plan has been provided to inform future budget bids and grant applications. The stages are divided into ten areas. These stages are indicative and could be combined or sub-divided further subject to available funds.

The project stages have been listed in order of the communities preference for delivery and focus on elements that will assist in activation of the park.



- (A) BOUNDARY FENCE**  
Includes: Fence to Peachester Rd boundary
- (B) MAIN PATH AND KICK & THROW AREA**  
Includes: Path, Multi-use Open Space, Park Furniture
- (C) SHELTER & INFORMAL CAR PARK**  
Includes: Shelter, long table with connection paths
- (D) PERFORMANCE SPACE/ YARNING CIRCLE**  
Includes: Seating, hardstand area connection paths
- (E) PLAYGROUND (STAGE 1)**  
Includes: Junior multi play unit, rockers, seesaw and connection path
- (F) PLAYGROUND (STAGE 2)**  
Includes: Large multi play unit, basket swing, yarning circle and connection path
- (G) FITNESS STATION**  
Includes: Fitness stations, softfall and connection paths
- (H) SMALL YARNING CIRCLE**  
Includes: Seating, hardstand area and connection paths
- (I) POSSIBLE FUTURE AMENITIES BUILDING**  
Includes: Connection path to path network
- (J) PATH AND PICNIC TABLE**  
Includes: Path, Park Furniture





# Budget

The development of the park is subject to future funding. Park improvements such as weed removal, bush regeneration, and tree planting can progress through community initiatives irrespective of Capital Works funding being available.

## Scheduled works / Capital Works Program

- Financial Year 2022/2023 \$4,000 Vehicle Park Entry Sign - constructed
- Financial Year 2022/2023 xxx Boundary Fence - TBC

## Unscheduled work (subject to future budget allocations) / Minor Capital Works Program

- Pathway network, kick and throw area and park furniture
- New Shelter with long table
- Performance space/ yarning circle
- Playground (stage 1)
- Playground (stage 2)
- Fitness station
- Small yarning circles
- Possible Future Amenities (subject to local park exemption agreement)

Additional funds will be required to be sought in order to implement the entire landscape plan. Funding sources may include grants and future capital funding opportunities.

# Next Steps

