



Sunshine Coast Recreation Parks Plan 2021-2031

February 2021

DRAFT



Sunshine Coast
COUNCIL

Our region.
Healthy. Smart. Creative.



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Acknowledgements

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Also see

Sunshine Coast Recreational Parks Plan 2021-2031 – Technical Guidelines

Sunshine Coast Recreational Parks Plan 2021-2031 – Locality of Interest.



Acknowledgment of Country

Sunshine Coast Regional Council acknowledges the traditional Country of the Kabi Kabi Peoples and the Jinibara Peoples of the coastal plains and hinterlands of the Sunshine Coast and recognise that these have always been places of cultural, spiritual, social and economic significance. We wish to pay respect to their Elders – past, present and emerging – and acknowledge the important role Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to play within the Sunshine Coast community.

Council is committed to ongoing communications and consultation with the Traditional Owners and the broader Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community of the Sunshine Coast in the implementation of the plan.

How will council use the Sunshine Coast Recreation Parks Plan

The Sunshine Coast Recreation Parks Plan outlines the strategic direction for recreation parks across the region. 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 locational 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.

Sunshine Coast Recreation Parks Plan

- Why parks are important
- How we plan
- Functional planning by park type
- Activity Planning
- Park management
- Strategic actions

Localities of Interest

(For internal use)

- Mapping
- Demographics
- Activity shortfalls



Technical Guidelines










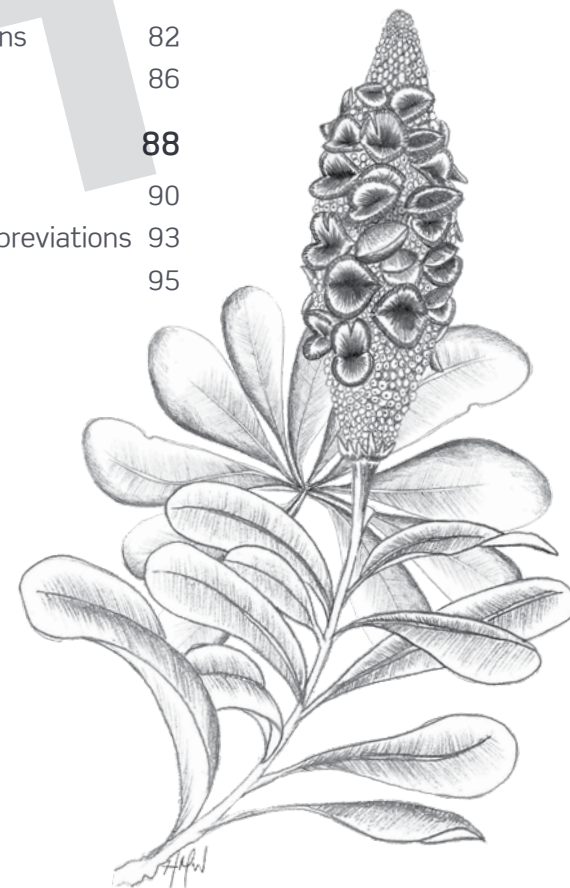
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- Functions and benefits of parks
- Activity planning
- Supporting embellishments
- Additional implementation actions



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Chapter 1.0 Strategic intent

OUR vision

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

Cotton Tree, Maroochydore

1.1 Introduction

“From wonder into wonder, existence opens.”¹

What is recreation?

To properly plan for the recreational needs of a community it is essential to define what is meant by recreation. The most common definitions relate to activities that require physical exertion. While active recreation is an important part of recreation overall, the term does not cover less physical activities people participate in that are just as important to their health and well-being. Such pursuits, often called passive recreation, include activities such as socialising, quiet contemplation, reading and observing nature.

When looked at holistically, recreation can be considered more of an experience than an activity. People recreate to experience different things. Runners might choose to run on a pathway because they enjoy the experience of getting physically fit in an outdoor setting. A student might sit on a park bench because they simply want a quiet place to hear the wind blowing through the trees. Both activities provide enjoyable experiences that represent recreation in different forms. Therefore, the RPP will use the following definition of recreation:

Recreation is the experience that results from freely chosen participation in physical, social, intellectual, creative and spiritual pursuits that seek to enhance individual and community well-being.²

This definition not only takes into account the chosen activity or pursuit, but also the setting in which it is undertaken. Using this definition, we can consider people's overall experience when planning for recreation opportunities that serve the community.

What is the Sunshine Coast recreation parks sub-network?

Recreation parks are at the heart of the Sunshine Coast's diverse landscape, lifestyle offering and community. They provide space for social, recreational and cultural activities, they connect people to nature and provide relief from the built environment. If recreation is an experience, recreation parks are the venues or settings in which this experience occurs.

Council owns and maintains a diverse open space network providing green spaces that contribute to the social, environmental and economic health of our region. This network is part of the broader landscape of the Sunshine Coast region which also includes state and privately owned open spaces. National parks, state forests, state owned and privately owned spaces provide extensions of habitat, amenity and recreational opportunity.

Within the council controlled open space network a series of sub-networks exists. The RPP will focus on the recreation parks sub-network, noting the relationship between recreation parks and all other open space sub-networks. Other sub-networks include environment reserves, sports grounds and trails.

Council manages over 1000 spaces across the Sunshine Coast region within the recreation parks

sub-network. They are located in a range of landscape settings and vary in embellishment and the activities they support.

The types of parks and green spaces in the recreational sub-network plan are:

- recreation parks
 - local
 - district
 - council-wide
 - civic
- amenity reserves
- linear parks
- landscape corridors.

What is the purpose of the Recreation Parks Plan?

The RPP is a planning tool that supports council's commitment to preserving spaces and parks that enhance the natural character of the Sunshine Coast's environment. This will lead to increased opportunities for park users to connect with nature and to enjoy spaces that encourage healthy lifestyles and well-being.

The RPP sets out a vision and principles to guide the implementation of the open space network and gives detailed guidance about the appropriate functions, activities and infrastructure in recreation parks.

Objectives of the RPP:

- Establish a clear vision for the Sunshine Coast's recreation parks, gardens and landscapes.
- Establish effective linkages to ensure strategic intent and policy directions are used to inform recreation parks planning, development and operations.
- Outline the current and future roles and functions of recreation parks including benefits to the community.
- Provide plans for park functions, settings, activities and embellishment to guide the design, development, management and maintenance of the parks network.
- Set a framework for technical guidelines to inform council staff and developers.


The RPP has been developed to reflect the policy positions set out in the council's Environment and Liveability Strategy 2017 (ELS) and provide the next level of detail. The plan demonstrates council's intention to enhance the variety of services that recreation parks provide for Sunshine Coast communities to complement the character of the region.

Council is committed to proactive planning to address future changes and challenges in our region. The Sunshine Coast's unique lifestyle and abundant natural resources will continue to attract new residents and visitors at a rapid pace. The forecast population growth will have significant impacts on existing networks, including open space. Opportunities to harness this growth through integrated planning will allow council to shape positive outcomes.

Who will use the Recreation Parks Plan?

The RPP is intended to provide clear and transparent guidance on how council plans for recreation parks and other similar types of open space. The contents of this plan will assist the local community in understanding how, why and where we locate park activities and the infrastructure that supports them. It will also assist policy makers and park planners within council and the development industry to design and deliver recreation parks that achieve our strategic goals.

OUR goals



Through the implementation of the RPP's planning principles, the SCC aims to provide a recreation parks network that incorporates six park functions:

Active recreation – providing equitable access to healthy recreation opportunities in a functional and affordable manner.

Scenic amenity – promoting the attractiveness of our region by preserving social and culturally significant park settings and by providing parks that bring people, place, and nature together.

Social – providing safe community gathering places that connect people and place, foster community cohesiveness, encourage creative lifestyles and improve mental health.

Ecological – increasing opportunities for residents and visitors to connect with nature in cooler, vegetated spaces.

Education – encouraging opportunities for educational programs that contribute to cultural heritage, the arts and living ecosystem knowledge.

Economic – contributing to the economic development of the region by supporting tourism with functional settings for a variety of uses and attracting workers looking for healthy lifestyles.



Pioneer Park, Landsborough

1.2 Park functions and benefits

Why are recreation parks important?

Recreation parks are unique because they meet a range of social needs in a single space. The role that an open space plays is often referred to as a function. Each park function delivers benefits for the health and liveability of the region.

Park functions

The goals of the RPP (section 1.1) each relate to a specific park function. Council has identified these functions through a review of existing strategies, plans and policies.

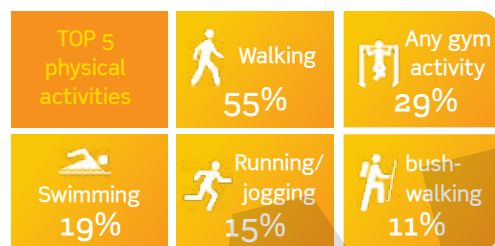


Active recreation

Active recreation is a very common park function that relates to activities across a range of physical exertions. These activities may be structured, like informal sporting games, or unstructured, like walking or use of a playground. Active recreation is activity where the goal is to increase physical fitness and overall well-being through exercise – it covers a wide range of behaviour. Preferred types of activity depends on individual physical ability and intention for the activity. Because these factors vary from person to person across the region council considers all ages and abilities when planning for active recreation opportunities. By doing this council assists residents and visitors to engage in physical activity and lead healthy lifestyles.

In some locations council provides activity specific infrastructure like play equipment

and basketball hoops. Council also provides spaces that are intentionally free from built embellishment. These places allow for flexible recreational use like kicking a ball or throwing a Frisbee. Embellished and non-embellished activity spaces have equal importance in terms of providing active recreation opportunities.



“The landscape and character of the Sunshine Coast is the essence of our region and helps define our identity and culture.”⁴

Social

Recreation parks are often used as a gathering place for communities. From a picnic overlooking the ocean to a community-wide festival, recreation parks allow many people to interact and engage with each other in an outdoor setting.

Neighbourhood parks encourage social inclusion in a culturally neutral environment. This allows residents from diverse backgrounds and age groups to feel a sense of ownership and belonging to a local community. This sense of inclusion promotes community participation and fosters civic identity. In rural communities where neighbours might live kilometres apart, recreation parks offer a central location for people to come together.

Scenic amenity

The attractiveness of a location's landscape and the extent to which a community values that attractiveness is often referred to as scenic amenity. Landscape is intrinsically linked with a community's character, the way in which the community sees itself within a broader regional, national or global context. On the Sunshine Coast this concept pre-dates European settlement of the region. First Nations people have long believed that identity and landscape are inherently connected.

Recreation parks provide a scenic amenity function in several ways. Parks provide a green frame around our built form that can integrate the built and natural environment. When properly planned, this integration:

- reflects and enhances local landscape and character
- connects residents and visitors with native flora and fauna
- strengthens community identity.

Ecological

The diverse natural environment of the Sunshine Coast, from the coastal foreshores to the dense rainforests of the hinterland, have long been appreciated by residents and visitors. These unique ecosystems set us apart from other regions and give us a natural advantage to attract new visitors, residents and people generally seeking a different work-life balance.

Biophilia is the innately emotional affiliation of human beings to other living organisms.⁵

Attraction to the living environment can be linked to a concept called biophilia which implies that humans require a direct physical, mental and emotional connection with the natural world in order to maintain personal well-being. Studies have shown that a consistent connection to nature can have measurable positive effects on personal health, productivity and societal relationships.

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Recreation parks serve a number of ecological functions. Green spaces in parks, streets, environment reserves and waterways make up what is commonly known as green infrastructure. This infrastructure plays a key

role in mitigating climate change by cooling surface temperatures and regulating natural hazards like droughts and floods. The services to the community that are provided through this infrastructure are known as ecosystem services.

Economic

Recreation parks serve a number of economic functions. Tourism has been a leading sector on the Sunshine Coast for many years and will remain a significant part of the regional economy in the future as predicted in the council's Regional Economic Development Strategy (REDS). Recreation parks support tourism by providing attractive public spaces that are freely available for use by visitors. The vibrancy of public spaces, like the Mooloolaba foreshore parks and Caloundra's Happy Valley and Bulcock Beach parks, is one of the many reasons people visit the Sunshine Coast region.

Recreation parks also deliver an economic function by providing the setting in which large events like festivals and markets occur. These events are socially and economically valuable to the community and it is vital that council continues to provide functional spaces for large groups.

Educational – cultural, natural and artistic

Parks provide an opportunity to learn about history, culture and nature in a stimulating setting. The Sunshine Coast's rich history, from First Nations heritage to modern surf culture, has been recognised in council parks through interpretive signs and monuments. These embellishments teach residents and visitors about the places that have shaped who we are as a community. It is important that council continues to engage with historians and Traditional Owner groups to value cultural heritage across the recreation parks network.

Opportunities for educational experiences in parks are not limited to historical topics. Many recreation parks across the network contain educational embellishments about the diverse flora and fauna of our region. Embellishments explaining ecological processes have also been incorporated into a number of play spaces, encouraging children to learn about the natural world around them.



Kabi Kabi Peoples interpretative sign, Muller Park, Bli Bli

Benefits of parks

Topophilia is the affective bond between people and place or setting.

Social

Studies have shown that recreation parks offer essential life-enhancing qualities that aid community and individual well-being. In addition to providing opportunities for people to connect with one another, parks can also strengthen the connection between people and place.

Childhood development

Recreation parks offer a range of benefits to children, particularly in their early development. Park activities have been proven to have a positive impact on young people by encouraging:

- exploration and adventure
- engagement with nature and peers
- increased physical activity.

Public health

The public health benefits associated with participation in park activities are well documented. These benefits include increased physical activity, reduced obesity rates and improved mental health.

Council can foster positive mental health outcomes with spaces that incorporate biophilic design, using nature to evoke positive emotional experience. Creative biophilic design can lead to feelings of caring, enjoyment, interest, fascination and wonder. The integration of site appropriate public art works that enable community to reflect, rest and connect will also contribute the health and well-being of the community.

Economic

Evidence shows that well designed open space enhances the economic attractiveness of commercial precincts, increases residential property values and creates improved opportunities for economic regeneration. Parks and recreational areas also play a vital role in attracting and pleasing tourists. On the Sunshine Coast tourism is a leading contributor to the economy. In particular, the popularity of ecotourism is a major economic opportunity that needs to be harnessed in our region.

Environmental

Recreation parks provide multiple environmental benefits to a community and local flora and fauna. These benefits can best be explained through the ecological framework known as green infrastructure.

Green infrastructure

Green infrastructure is the interconnected network of parks, gardens, native vegetation, green corridors, waterways, street trees and open countryside in a given area. There is general consensus that protecting and enhancing green infrastructure throughout the environment will build resilience to climate change and provide other ecological, social and economic benefits.

For more details and information about studies and evidence referenced in this section refer to RPP – Technical Guidelines – Appendix A – Benefits of Parks, extended.



Alexandra Headland Foreshore

Why do we need to plan for recreation parks?

Planning for a changing region

Planning for change manages the ongoing liveability and prosperity of our region. When we consider future contexts we are better placed to respond and adapt smoothly.

The work of the SCC, in partnership with the community, has created a strong basis for future decision-making. Through research, policy development and planning, we can respond to complex changes to current conditions with strategic and insightful decision-making. The RPP considers:

- the region's history and achievements
- economic, social and environmental strategic directions
- four major drivers of change:
 - rapid and ongoing population growth
 - climate change impacts and increased vulnerability to its effects
 - a changing economy
 - technological innovation.

Council governance

The RPP delivers long term planning approach that enables council to distribute fair and equitable park functions and activities across the Sunshine Coast. Council recognises the need for an integrated planning approach to address the community's recreation needs over the next 25 years. Significant changes, including residential growth, climate change and an evolving economy, are anticipated throughout the region.

With evidence-based planning council, responds to the drivers of change for the region in a strategic manner that balances community needs with financial sustainability. Consistent and effective long-term strategic planning allows council to offer collaborative leadership, deliver accountable and transparent planning decisions and reduce problems related to isolated decision-making.

Investment in community

Each year council invests significant resources into the acquisition, development and management of recreation parks and the facilities and services provided within them. This represents a direct and tangible long-term investment in community as recreation parks improve the region's liveability, social capital, land value and tourism revenue. The planning and development of recreation parks should enhance community pride and the sense of ownership that builds social capital to ensure maximum social, environmental and economic return on community investment.

Establishing planning criteria that guides park functions, activities and associated infrastructure allows council to meet changing trends and strategic issues. Appropriate types and levels of built and natural infrastructure will vary between locations depending on park function and setting. Council provides appropriate services by:

- using a sustainable approach that recognises intended park function
- respecting local landscape and character aspects
- delivering the assets required to support park functions.

Financial sustainability

A substantial portion of council's annual operating budget goes towards the cost of providing and maintaining recreation parks, including associated built infrastructure. The budget provides a network of equitably distributed, affordable and high-quality parks for current and future generations. It is extremely important that the long-term financial implications of decisions made about recreational parks are always considered. Capital and operational costs are managed through design, construction and selection of materials and species.

Over-embellishment, providing more built infrastructure than what is required, creates financial strain on council budgets and results in unsustainable outcomes. Over-embellishment can displace other park functions like passive recreation and kick and throw activities. In many cases, park service and activity outcomes can be achieved by using natural materials and landscaping. Adaptive use of landform, vegetation and other natural or soft elements helps to reduce constructed embellishment requirements and cost.

Whole of life maintenance implications must be considered during the planning and design of recreation parks. Parks that are designed and delivered with consideration of all necessary elements, including long-term maintenance, are likely to have lower maintenance and funding requirements. The involvement of council staff during recreation park design and planning stages will ensure appropriate function, design and materials are incorporated into the network.



WaranaApis Mellifera on a *Corymbia* Hybrid 'Summer Red' Flowering gum

1.3 Policy, planning and implementation framework

Relationship to existing local strategic directions

Council has developed three long-term strategic documents to inform corporate and operational planning and delivery:

- Environment and Liveability Strategy 2017 (ELS)
- Regional Economic Development Strategy 2013 – 2033 (REDS)
- Community Strategy 2019 – 2041 (CS).

These documents have been carefully reviewed and reflected in the RPP. In addition to the three regional strategies, other key council documents, including the SCC's Corporate Plan 2020 – 2024 have been considered and incorporated in the development of the RPP.

For a full list of related documents refer to RPP – Technical Guidelines – Appendix C – Council documents, Appendix D – Supporting documents.



Figure 2: Parks and gardens policies and strategies alignment

Environment and Liveability Strategy

The ELS 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 until 2041. 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 ELS identifies a governance framework for delivery, a range of council services central to the delivery of the strategy, and 26 transformational actions delivered through five strategic pathways to actively respond to the drivers of change. The preparation and implementation of the RPP is an identified task required to deliver the transformational action titled 'Greening our neighbourhoods'.

Delivering cool and shady streets and places to connect and enhance our neighbourhoods and promote biodiversity, resilience and community well-being.⁶

The ELS is the endorsed council document that provides strategic policy directions to be carried out through the RPP's implementation. All policy positions related to recreation parks in the ELS have been incorporated and expanded upon within this plan.

Regional Economic Development Strategy (2013-2033)

The REDS provides a 20 year blueprint for sustainable economic growth across the Sunshine Coast region. The REDS establishes a pathway through a changing economy, including becoming a part of the global economy while respecting the region's local character. It focuses on high value industries, investment in talent and skills and a collaborative approach to growth. There are strong synergies with the ELS, and therefore the RPP, which both seek to support a transition to a smarter, innovative and more sustainable region while protecting the environment and liveability. The RPP acknowledges how vibrant public spaces and recreation opportunities attract skilled workers to the Sunshine Coast and support the tourism, sport and leisure industry.

Community Strategy (2019-2041)

Council's CS provides long-term social direction that builds on the region's positive social attributes; Sunshine Coast communities are engaged, diverse and resilient. The CS provides pathways to four distinct outcomes, each focused on ensuring that people are included, treated with respect and provided with equitable opportunities throughout the region. Recreation parks play a vital role in the delivery of these outcomes, include promoting healthy lifestyles and ensuring that people and places are connected. The social importance of recreation parks is clearly represented throughout the RPP.

Corporate Plan (2020-2024)

The RPP has been developed in accordance with the strategic guidance provided in the Corporate Plan and its vision to be 'Australia's most sustainable region: Healthy, Smart, Creative'.⁷ The corporate plan sets the pathways for council to pursue outcomes that benefit the community by establishing values and goals covering all aspects of the organisation and the services it provides.

Two of the goals outlined in the Corporate Plan are specifically relevant to the objectives and intended outcomes of the RPP. The first goal, 'A Strong Community', seeks to ensure that people in the Sunshine Coast are included, treated with respect and have equitable opportunities. The RPP will aim to provide a recreation park network that contains fair and equitable provision of park functions and activities that are accessible to the entire community, regardless of age or ability. This plan recognises the importance of providing safe spaces for all people.

The second goal, 'A Healthy Environment', highlights the importance of maintaining and enhancing the region's natural assets and the overall liveability of our communities. This plan supports this goal by detailing the ways council connect residents with the natural environment through recreation parks and linked open space networks. It will also describe an approach to asset management that is environmentally and economically sustainable.

Other relevant legislation and policy direction

Open space used for conservation purposes is governed by a robust framework of international, federal, state and local regulations. Land for recreation purposes is governed by a far less comprehensive framework, which is beginning to develop. Increased awareness of the important community function of recreation spaces has been reflected in recent Queensland Government policy initiatives. These state policies, along with relevant federal and local regulations, have been assessed and considered during the development of the RPP.⁸

Implementation framework

Sunshine Coast Council Planning Scheme 2014

The Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme 2014 provides direction relating to land use, settlement patterns and housing, employment, industry and open space into the future. The planning scheme contains the Local Government Infrastructure Plan (LGIP), integrating land use planning and infrastructure planning for public parks.⁹

Local laws

Local laws have a significant role in the management and regulation of open space, including animal management and environmental health and safety. Enacted under the *Local Government Act 2009* (Qld), local laws reflect community needs and ensure good governance. The principles contained in local laws are reflected in more detail in their subordinate local laws.¹⁰ The following Sunshine Coast Regional Council local laws are relevant to the planning and management of recreation parks:

- *Sunshine Coast Regional Council Local Law No. 2 (Animal Management) 2011*¹¹ and *Sunshine Coast Regional Council Subordinate Local Law No. 2 (Animal Management) 2011*¹²
 - seeks to reduce environmental harm and minimise risk to community amenity
- *Sunshine Coast Regional Council Subordinate Local Law No. 3 (Community Health and Environmental Management) 2011*¹³
 - declares local pests, fire hazards, community hazards, noise standards

- *Sunshine Coast Regional Council Local Law No. 4 (Local Government Controlled Areas, Facilities, Infrastructure and Roads) 2011*¹⁴
 - regulates access to local government-controlled areas and restriction of particular activities in controlled areas.

Open Space Landscape Infrastructure Manual

The purpose of the Open Space Landscape Infrastructure Manual (LIM) is to provide guidance for the design, development and delivery of council controlled open space and the maintenance of council assets. The LIM ensures that land development is managed in a sustainable, accessible, cost effective, durable and environmentally friendly way. It details built infrastructure that complements the natural landscape and provides a diverse range of recreation opportunities. The LIM is referenced within the Planning Scheme but sits outside of it. The LIM is updated regularly as improved products and technical information becomes available. It is a flexible document that evolves as council's needs change.

When a decision has been made on the appropriate types of functions and activities to occur in a certain park, the LIM is consulted for detailed guidance on specific embellishments used to support intended park functions and activities.



1.4 Key planning principles

The planning principles outlined in this chapter have been developed to guide fair and equitable provision of recreation park activities and infrastructure across the Sunshine Coast region. They are used to achieve design outcomes that result in safe, responsive and sustainable recreation parks, enhancing park experience for residents and visitors.

These principles have been developed to deliver the strategic outcomes related to parks found in council's regional strategies (the ELS, CS and REDS) and respond directly to the feedback we have received from the community and our stakeholders. Consistent application of these principles assists in the attainment of the goals outlined in section 1.1 of the RPP.

The planning principles are referenced and applied through all phases of planning and delivery of Sunshine Coast recreation parks. They inform decisions made and how decisions are implemented.

Refer to RPP – Technical Guidelines – Appendices B, C and D for additional information, planning principles and supporting council documents. These principles apply to new recreation parks and any works in existing parks.

Buderim Village Park

1 Fair and equitable provision

Opportunities to engage in recreational activities that contribute to healthy and creative lifestyles are available in all Sunshine Coast

Principle 1.1 – Recreation park activity and services are distributed evenly across the network.

Principle 1.2 – Recreation parks are designed to accommodate a range of users.

Principle 1.3 – Monopolisation of space in recreation parks is avoided.

2 Community need

Council's recreation parks are designed to be responsive to the evolving social, environmental, cultural and economic needs of the community.

Principle 2.1 – Recreation parks provide activities and infrastructure that is relevant to a particular community.

Principle 2.2 – Regular and relevant engagement with the community will inform recreation park planning.

3 Connectivity

The Sunshine Coast's recreation parks are green hubs connected to the natural environment, providing essential green infrastructure that allows ecological engagement and safe movement of people and wildlife across the landscape.

Principle 3.1 – Connection to the natural environment is provided in recreation parks.

Principle 3.2 – Provide safe connections between parks and other activity hubs.

Principle 3.3 – Connection to other council networks and public facilities is encouraged.

4 Functionality

Sunshine Coast recreation parks are functional, fit for purpose and contribute to the social, environmental and economic health of the region.

Principle 4.1 – Activities and associated infrastructure in parks are consistent with park category, location and setting.

Principle 4.2 – Park planning processes consider existing internal park functions and functions external to the site.

Principle 4.3 – Co-location of compatible functions and activities is considered.

5 Landscape and character

Recreation parks incorporate local landscape and character values and enhance community cohesiveness by bringing people and place together.

Principle 5.1 – Recreation parks reflect local character and identity.

Principle 5.2 – Opportunities to learn about cultural heritage and the natural environment are investigated and integrated into recreation parks in appropriate locations.

Principle 5.3 – Local landscape values and scenic amenity are preserved.

6 Financial sustainability

Long-term financial sustainability will be delivered through consistent application of key planning principles ensuring a functional and affordable recreation parks network.

Principle 6.1 – Appropriate levels of infrastructure embellishment supports park functions.

Principle 6.2 – Sustainable material choices are essential to long-term financial sustainability.

Principle 6.3 – Whole of life maintenance costs are considered for all park infrastructure.

7 Openness

The Sunshine Coast's recreation parks are open and inviting and provide ample space for exercise, social gatherings and enjoyment of the region's natural beauty.

Principle 7.1 – Openness is a key function of recreation parks, preserved and promoted in efficient design.

Principle 7.2 – Park activity nodes and facilities are located on the perimeter of open areas.

Principle 7.3 – Openness allows for casual surveillance and increased user comfort.

8 Accessibility

Council's recreation parks provide safe and equitable access to recreational opportunities for residents and visitors.

Principle 8.1 – Recreation parks are designed for equal access and enjoyment.

Principle 8.2 – Activities and facilities in parks are accessible to all users.

Principle 8.3 – Access/egress points in parks are easily identifiable.

9 Safety

Recreation parks provide safe environments for the community to enjoy.

Principle 9.1 – Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles are incorporated into the design of recreation parks.¹⁵

Principle 9.2 – Adequate shade is provided in recreation parks to provide relief from sun exposure and increase user comfort levels.

Principle 9.3 – Recreation parks are designed to avoid user conflicts.

10 Flexibility / adaptation

The Sunshine Coast's recreation parks are flexible and adaptive to accommodate future changes in user needs and to mitigate potential impacts of climate change.

Principle 10.1 – Recreation parks are designed to accommodate changing community needs.

Principle 10.2 – Green infrastructure is utilised to mitigate impacts of the urban heat island (UHI) effect.

Principle 10.3 – Climate resilience is built into recreation parks.



Chapter 2.0

How we plan

2.1 The role of the recreation parks network

A regional perspective

The Sunshine Coast's recreation parks are an integral part of council's broader open space network, a network which aims to provide an interconnected green frame around and within the region's built form. This green frame is central as it connects us to the natural world and creates a sense of identity within our communities. Sitting within this green frame are a number of council networks and facilities, each with a specific function that contributes to the social, environmental and financial health of the region.

Recreation parks rarely sit in isolation from other council networks and public facilities. More often than not, parks are connected to an overlapping series of other council service networks (Figure 6: Open space networks). For these networks to function in an effective and sustainable manner, it is crucial that adjoining networks are identified whenever park planning is undertaken. Doing so will lead to shared outcomes that benefit the whole community and help to avoid future conflicts.

An example of this is the relationship between streetscapes and the recreation parks network. Resilience of the urban forest and delivery of an enjoyable user experience are enhanced by selecting trees for a park that are consistent with the trees currently planted in accordance with the SCC's Street Tree Master Plan.

Warana

The Sunshine Coast region is comprised of a broad range of natural landscapes from the lush rainforests of the hinterland to the eucalypt forests of the foothills, across the wetlands and waterways of the coastal plains, through the wet and dry wallum and down to the coast. The natural landscapes are connected through habitats from the hinterland to the coast. These green links contain a range of unique biodiversity – plants, animals and microorganisms that are intrinsic to the character of the region.

In rural areas where existing natural habitats are often protected and managed as part of the conservation estate, like national parks and refuges, council environment reserves and voluntary conservation areas, recreation parks serve as a gateway to enjoying the region's biodiversity. Recreation parks are often co-located with council environment reserves, national parks and state forests. They provide a semi-natural setting where groups or individuals can use appropriate levels of built infrastructure while enjoying the natural beauty that surrounds them. To preserve the natural aesthetics of these settings it is very important that environmental values are considered and balanced with recreation opportunities.

Following these corridors down from the hinterland, along the riparian areas and down to the coastal wallum (the low-lying, swampy area just in from the coast that is home for many wildflowers), the landscape begins to exhibit more developed characteristics. In these urbanised areas recreation parks take on a more significant role in terms of access to local biodiversity and ecosystem services.

The vegetation in our parks, urban reserves and along our streetscapes combined with the vegetation on private property, make up what is commonly referred to as the urban forest. The urban forest provides several ecosystem services to our region:

- the purification of air and water
- shade and reduced surface temperatures
- opportunities to observe and interact with local biodiversity.

Park design and activities protect ecologically important areas and support local biodiversity where consistent with the primary function of the park. Remnant and established urban bushland and other spaces are enhanced and linked by recreation parks where possible and biodiversity values are maintained by avoiding vegetation clearing.

Parks planning activities must consider all existing and potential connections to the natural environment to strengthen our relationship to the natural environment and extend the green connections. The numerous physical and mental health benefits from exposure to nature, in urban and rural settings, means that incorporation of natural landscapes into park design is not just an exercise in aesthetic improvement, but also public health and wellbeing.

Parks are spaces where friends and families gather, where strong connections between people and place are often developed. These central gathering spaces should be connected to other community activity centres, such as schools and shopping precincts, via a network of green linkages and corridors that also encourage healthy and sustainable transport choices.

Recreation parks, in conjunction with street trees and footpath networks, play a vital role in encouraging active transport. The council's Integrated Transport Strategy has recognised the importance of integrated

active transport as our region continues to grow and urbanise. Council has committed to prioritising new and upgraded infrastructure that supports active transport options. This infrastructure will assist council in meeting its transport mode split targets of 20% active transport (increased from 12% in 2020) and 10% passenger transport (increased from 3% in 2020).¹⁶

To achieve these mode split targets it is important that council considers the user experience for people who want to use active transport modes like walking and biking. By integrating a living infrastructure network comprised of our urban forest, street trees and open space networks with our transport network, council can encourage and support active transportation across the region, particularly in more urban areas. Living infrastructure provides numerous user benefits including shaded and cooler pathways, increased visual amenity and connections to local biodiversity. Green, living infrastructure has the potential to enhance even short trips into opportunities for people to experience wonder, enjoyment and a connection to place. Integration of external transport linkages with recreation parks creates interesting and functional urban environments that enhance the first and last sections of a commute. Active transport commuters are provided the opportunity to experience the uniqueness of the place in which we live through sensory benefits like the sights and sounds of local birdlife or the smells of flowering trees in bloom.

As we move forward it is important that recreation parks include technological elements that allow people to connect with information services, from innovative public engagement to the smart city framework.

2.2 Planning context

Regional snapshot

The Sunshine Coast is 53 kilometres north of Queensland’s capital, Brisbane. Over the past decade the region has experienced population growth of 6500 people annually. The local government area that the SCC is responsible for covers around 2200 square kilometres, from its famous coastline to the panoramic hinterland. With the area’s annual population growth expected to continue into the foreseeable future, significant planning and investment in urban development and supporting infrastructure is occurring. The desirable combination of a thriving business community, a healthy outdoor lifestyle and abundant natural assets characterises the opportunities within the Sunshine Coast.

Environment

The region includes extensive waterways and wetlands, mountain ranges, and 60 kilometres of coastline. Within the Sunshine Coast’s subtropical climate there are 75 different regional ecosystems which are home to 2600 plant species and 850 animal species.¹⁷

Population

In 2020, the 303,400 residents of the Sunshine Coast occupy 127,000 dwellings, primarily within established urban centres along the coast. The population’s median age, 43 years, is six years older than the state’s median. The most common age group is between 45 to 49 years old.¹⁸

Economy

The SCC area represents Queensland’s second strongest regional economy, generating \$17 billion in GDP each year.¹⁹ It is a major urban and economic centre. The key industries of healthcare and social assistance, construction and retail, provide more than 40% of all jobs in the region.²⁰ Tourism is another crucial economic driver. Landmarks like Australia Zoo attract visitors from all over the world and beaches and parks bring day-trippers from across South East Queensland. Each year more than 8 million visitor nights are recorded, demonstrating the high volume of tourists staying overnight in the region.²¹

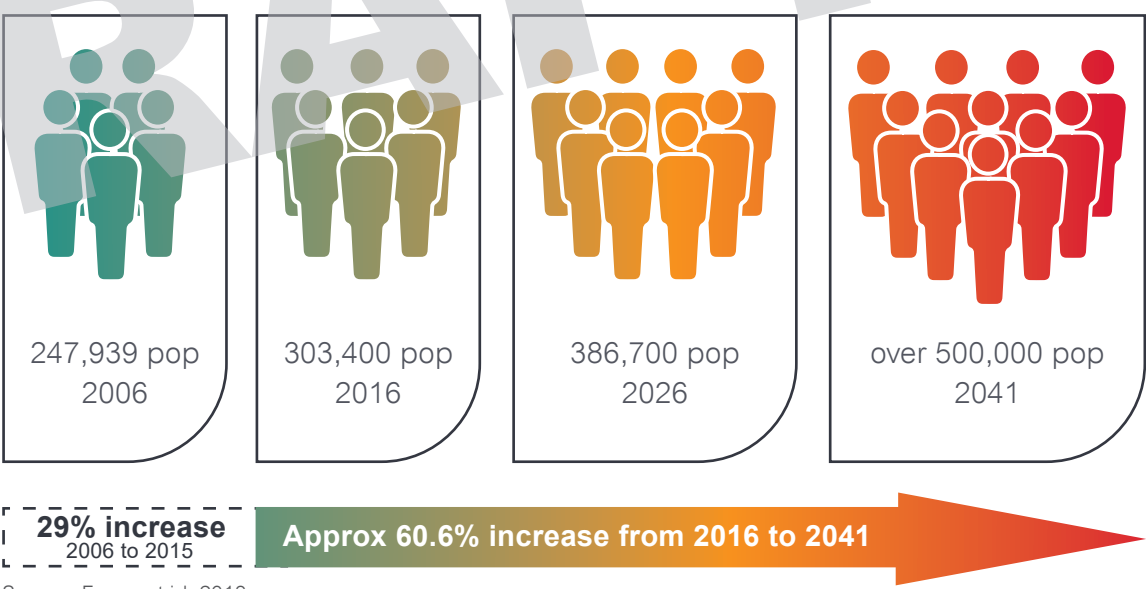


Figure 3: Population growth for the region



	Number of parks
Recreation parks	507
Local parks	390
District parks	88
Council-wide parks	15
Civic parks	2
Linear parks	127
Amenity reserves	485
Landscape corridors	78
Total number of parks	1180

Barbecues		Shelters	
Total	306 (298)	Total	917 (766)
Playgrounds		Skate Parks	
Total	360 (355)	Total	29 (28)
Dog parks (fenced)		Basketball courts	
Total	14 (14)	Total	71 (70)
Exercise equipment		Showers	
Total	51 (51)	Total	164 (144)
Public amenities		Beach access points	
Total	188	Total	263

* Current as at February 2021. All information provided is subject to change. Figures included do not take into consideration which council branch maintains these assets
*(Parks and Gardens assets only)



2.3 Parks hierarchy

Introduction

Council's recreation parks network is large and diverse, encompassing over 1000 hectares of land distributed across the region. The network includes parks that are big, little, busy, quiet, on the hinterland and across the beaches.

Each type of park has a specific role to play in the broader recreation parks network. Council uses a hierarchy of recreation park categories, established in the ELS, to identify the function or role of each parcel of designated parkland. This guides decision making about the types of activities and infrastructure provided, ensuring an equitable distribution of recreational opportunities across the region.

Detailed Desired Standards of Service

The following section of the RPP outlines the detailed Desired Standards of Service (DSS) for a typical recreation park in each level of the parks hierarchy. These standards are intended to complement the desired standards found in the ELS (park size, provision rate, location, accessibility etc.) by providing additional detail on the levels of infrastructure required to support park role and function. Most of the parks in each hierarchy category should include the characteristics and levels of infrastructure described here.

There will be circumstances where a park's location, setting and local character requires variation from these standards. These variations should only be considered if they assist in achieving network goals and can be delivered in accordance with the principles outlined in this plan.

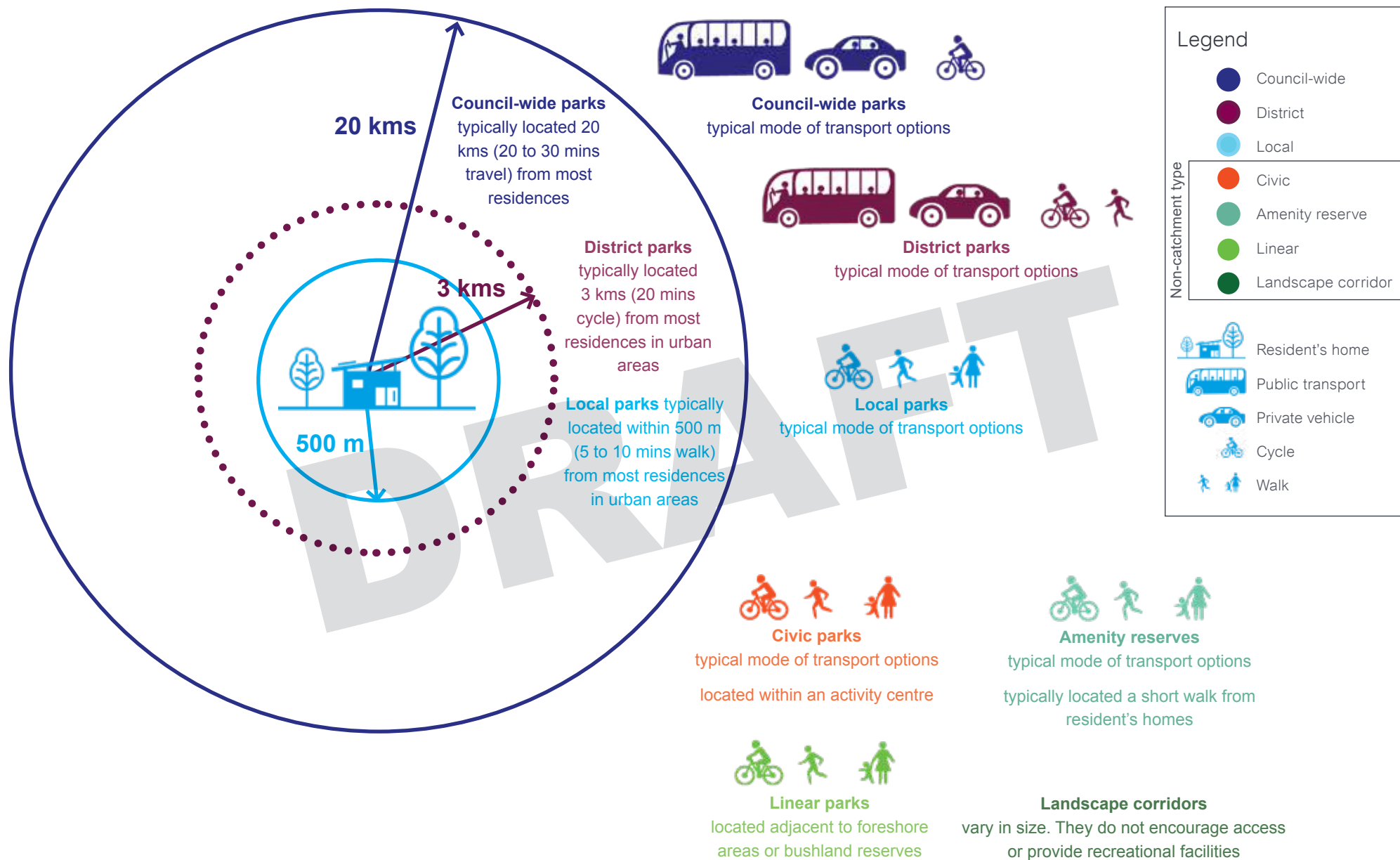


Figure 4: Park location and accessibility catchments (as described in the ELS)

Page 28 photograph: Cotton Tree Park

Council-wide recreation parks – the showcase



Council-wide recreation parks are important spaces where the Sunshine Coast community comes together to celebrate. These regional parks show off the best of the Sunshine Coast, drawing visitors from across the region and beyond.

Council-wide recreation parks are large parks that cater for large numbers of people. These parks provide specialised attractions and functions that are unique to the location. Visitors to these parks are likely to travel by car or public transport, with increasing use of active transport, as this network develops. These parks provide a wide range of experiences and opportunities that encourage longer visits. The central and accessible locations of these parks combined with unique and spectacular features and large amounts of supporting infrastructure, make council-wide parks the most suitable spaces for major events and celebrations that promote the liveability of the region.

Existing vegetation and landscape features are retained and incorporated into the design of council-wide parks, with a mix of softscape and built infrastructure provided to support functions and amenity. Multiple passive and active recreation opportunities are often supported with viewing platforms and boardwalks provided to showcase the unique scenic beauty of surrounding areas. There are undercover areas for picnicking and barbecuing and purpose-built areas for weddings or other celebrations. Innovative play spaces are provided that cater for many different ages and abilities. There are areas that can accommodate large sporting, music or other events as well as spaces for smaller performances. Public art

and interpretive infrastructure encourage enjoyment, interaction and education within council-wide parks.

Some council-wide parks experience extremely high levels of visitation at specific times of the year, like Kings Beach during the Caloundra Music Festival, while others have a more consistent level of use throughout the year like the Mooloolaba Esplanade. Built infrastructure in these parks is fit for purpose and able to support expected levels of use and the accompanying wear and tear. Examples of this infrastructure include a higher level of hard surfacing, efficient irrigation, signage and barrier controls. Infrastructure that supports longer visits includes ample car parking, bus let-down areas, larger amenity blocks and approved commercial ventures.

While most council-wide recreation parks have high levels of built infrastructure there are a few truly unique exceptions. Mary Cairncross Park has limited built infrastructure to ensure minimal impact on the pristine natural environment of the Mary Cairncross Scenic and Environmental Reserve.

Functional space guidelines for council-wide parks

- Minimum park area, 10-20 hectares.
- Minimum park area must remain free from all encumbrances including easements, environmental buffers, stormwater management devices and overland flow paths.

- Park must be designed to host large organised events.
 - concessionary hardstand area(s) (5m x 8m) for food and coffee vans and events with access to water and power.
- Area must provide a range of varying scale, form and function that cater to users of all ages and abilities from across the region.
- Area should represent proportional targets for spaces:
 - active open space (open areas with no infrastructure) 30% – 50%
 - 1 large kick and throw area (50m x 70m)
 - 2 small kick and throw areas (30m x 40m) which may be used for alternative active recreation elements if required
 - active recreation elements, for example hardcourts, fitness areas and dog exercise areas
 - social spaces, 10% – 30%
 - for example, shelters, barbecues, community gardens and play spaces, to be provided in designated nodes
 - vegetated areas, 10% – 20%
 - includes tree coverage and landscaping
 - planting style to suit setting, local landscape and character
 - car park and internal trails, 5%
 - stormwater management, maximum 5% (including vegetation)
 - must not impact park function
 - where possible, stormwater treatment facilities should be integrated with planted areas.

Type of embellishment	Council-wide park requirement / number
Animals	
Dog off leash parks	Yes - where need is demonstrated and where provision does not compromise park function
Furniture	
Barbecues	Yes – 1 double plate barbecue / 2 shelters
Bicycle rails	Yes – 4 bike parking spaces / ha
Bins (waste)	Yes – 1 waste bin / 2 shelters
Bins (recycle)	Yes – 1 recycling bin / 2 shelters
Drinking fountains	Yes – 1 / playground, 1 / 2 shelters
Maintenance taps	Yes – 1 / barbecue
Seats (stand alone bench)	Yes – 2 seats / ha, min 2 / playground
Showers	Yes – where adjoining beach access
Barriers	
Bollards	Yes – along non-fenced perimeter boundaries at 1.5m centres. Trees and vegetation preferred
Fences and gates (park maintenance access / emergency vehicle access)	Yes – 1 post and top-rail where required
Pedestrian infrastructure	
Accessible pathways	Yes – 2-3.5m wide dual-use, 1.5m internal access paths
Trails and tracks	Yes – connection to external trails and tracks provided
Planting	
Trees	Yes – native and non-native shade trees
Landscape planting (garden beds, turf, re-vegetation)	Yes - planting style to suit local landscape and character
Community gardens	Yes – where need is demonstrated and where provision does not compromise park function
Play, sport and activities	
Exercise equipment	Yes –multi –generational exercise activities

Table 1: Council-wide recreation parks embellishment requirements

Type of embellishment	Council-wide park requirement / number
Play spaces (playgrounds, natural activity areas)	Yes – 1000m2 with equipment and landform. Shaded by vegetation or temporary shade sails
Skate park	Yes – in accordance with the SCC Skate and BMX plan
Sports and games (fields and courts, outdoor games, children's bicycle track)	Yes – range of multi-generational sports and games
Kick and throw area	Yes – 1 large area (50m x 70m) and 2 small areas (30m x 40m)
Shade (natural)	
Coverage	40% coverage of pathways at tree maturity; 50% coverage of activity areas (playgrounds, exercise etc)
Signs, art and memorials	
Signage	Yes – naming, directional, interpretive, regulatory
Public art	Yes – durable pieces that provide opportunity for interaction
Primary public access points	Yes – min 2 highly visible and well-signed entrances
Structures and parking	
Parking (on-site)	Yes – 10 spaces / ha
Shade sails	Yes - temporary measure while trees mature
Public amenities (toilets)	Yes – 1 profile 1 (iconic) toilet block
Shelters	Yes – 1 shelter / 1.5ha
Utilities and smart technology	
Irrigation	As required and approved by council, high activity areas only, not entire park
Serviced site	Yes
Lighting	Yes – As required to meet CPTED principles - key pedestrian linkages, shelters, toilet blocks and car parks not serviced by ambient light from adjacent roadways
Other	
see Appendix B- Tables: 32, 33	

District parks – the community playground



District recreation parks attract residents and visitors from the local community and surrounding suburbs and provide a variety of spaces, settings and facilities. These parks will vary in appearance across the region, ranging from spaces that look like large local parks to highly utilised, multifunctional parks that approach council-wide standards.

The larger size of district parks allows for innovative spaces that cater to a wider range of community needs. District parks support neighbourhood amenity and provide opportunities for residents and visitors to connect with nature and each other. These parks support community gatherings by providing built infrastructure that encourages longer visits by diverse groups of users. District park design incorporates local landscape and heritage values into layouts that provide the community with vibrant and interesting locations to gather and celebrate away from the hustle and bustle of the region's coastal parks.

District parks play a key role in rural areas by providing gathering spaces and supporting community cohesion for people who may not see each other on a regular basis. These parks serve an economic function in rural areas by facilitating economic activities such as markets and providing a place for travellers to rest and relax while experiencing the local environment. Properly integrated with the existing public realm, including town centres and primary streetscapes, these parks support local businesses by encouraging exploration of the township by visitors.

District parks retain existing vegetation and landscape features and provide appropriate amounts of shade-bearing vegetation with linkages to local vegetation corridors and the street tree network. This living infrastructure also provides opportunities to observe local flora and fauna. Additionally, district parks provide an appropriate location for vegetation-related activities such as community gardens, sensory gardens and other unique botanical experiences.

There are several district parks across the network that intentionally maintain low levels of built infrastructure to allow for connection to nature and other passive recreation opportunities. These types of parks include Coochin Park in Dicky Beach, Dunethin Rock Recreation Area near Yandina.

Recreation opportunities within district parks should reflect the broader catchment they serve. Where possible, built form and recreation infrastructure within these parks should be multi-generational and cater to diverse abilities. These facilities should be provided across a variety of activity nodes, with each node providing a cluster of activities that are suitable for the people using the equipment and those who are caring for them. For example, when providing playground equipment, it is important that a naturally shaded bench, table or suitable landscape feature is also provided to accommodate carers.

Longer duration visits to district parks are supported by infrastructure such as public amenity blocks and on-site car parking. When appropriate, council can approve small-scale commercial activities to support and enhance user enjoyment.

Functional space guidelines for district parks

- Minimum park area, 3 hectares.
- Minimum park area must remain free from all encumbrances including easements, environmental buffers, stormwater management devices and overland flow paths.
- Park must provide a range of varying scale, form and function that cater to users of diverse ages and abilities from surrounding neighbourhoods.
- Area should represent proportional targets for spaces:
 - Active open space (open areas with no infrastructure), 40% – 60%
 - 1 large kick and throw area (50m x 70m)
 - active recreation elements including hardcourts, fitness areas and dog exercise areas
 - Social spaces, 10% – 20%
 - for example, shelters, barbecues, community gardens and play spaces, to be provided in designated nodes
 - Vegetated areas, 10% – 20%
 - includes tree coverage and landscaping
 - planting style to suit local landscape and character
 - Car park and internal pathways, 10%
 - Stormwater management, maximum 5% (including vegetation)
 - must not impact park function
 - where possible, stormwater treatment facilities should be integrated with planted areas.

Type of embellishment	District park requirement / number
Animals	
Dog off leash parks	Yes, where need is demonstrated and where provision does not compromise park function
Furniture	
Barbecues	Yes – 1 double plate barbecues / 2 shelters
Bicycle rails	Yes – 4 bike parking spaces / ha
Bins (waste)	Yes – 1 waste bin / 2 shelters
Bins (recycle)	Yes – 1 recycling bin / 2 shelters
Drinking fountains	Yes – 1 / playground, 1 / 2 shelters
Maintenance taps	Yes – 1 / barbecue
Seats (stand alone bench)	Yes – 2 seats / ha, min 2 / playground
Showers	Yes – where adjoining beach access
Barriers	
Bollards	Yes – along non-fenced perimeter boundaries at 1.5m centres. Trees and vegetation preferred
Fences and gates (park maintenance access / emergency vehicle access)	Yes – 1 post and top-rail where required
Pedestrian infrastructure	
Accessible pathways	Yes – 2-3.5m wide dual-use, 1.5m internal access paths
Trails and tracks	Yes – connection to external trails and tracks provided
Planting	
Trees	Yes – native and non-native shade trees
Landscape planting (garden beds, turf, re-vegetation)	Yes - planting style to suit local landscape and character
Community gardens	Yes – where need is demonstrated and where provision does not compromise park function

Table 2: District parks embellishment requirements

Type of embellishment	District park requirement / number
Play, sport and activities	
Exercise equipment	Yes – multi –generational exercise activities
Play spaces (playgrounds, natural activity areas)	Yes – 500m2 with equipment and landform. Shaded by vegetation or temporary shade sails
Skate park	Yes – in accordance with the SCC Skate and BMX plan
Sports and games (fields and courts, outdoor games, children's bicycle track)	Yes – range of multi-generational sports and games
Kick and throw area	Yes – 1 large area (50m x 70m)
Shade (natural)	
Coverage	40% coverage of pathways at tree maturity; 50% coverage of activity areas (playgrounds, exercise etc)
Signs, art and memorials	
Signage	Yes – naming, directional, interpretive, regulatory
Public art	Yes – durable pieces that provide opportunity for interaction
Primary public access points	Yes – min 2 highly visible and well-signed entrances
Structures and parking	
Parking (on-site)	Yes – 5 spaces / ha
Shade sails	Yes - temporary measure while trees mature
Public amenities (toilets)	Yes – 1 profile 2 (standard) toilet block
Shelters	Yes – 1 shelter / 1.5ha
Utilities and smart technology	
Irrigation	As required and approved by council, high activity areas only, not entire park
Serviced site	Yes
Lighting	Yes – As required to meet CPTED principles - key pedestrian linkages, shelters, toilet blocks and car parks not serviced by ambient light from adjacent roadways
Other	
see Appendix B- Tables: 32, 33	

Local parks – the extended backyard



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. In urban areas, local recreation parks provide supplementary open space that complements residential backyards and enriches the surrounding landscape providing visual amenity and ‘green relief’ from the surrounding built environment. In rural areas, particularly those areas where neighbours might live kilometres from each other, local parks also provide complementary open space, facilitating a sense of community and social cohesion.

Local parks provide a number of functions that benefit the community in which they are located. These functions are similar to those of larger, vegetated residential backyards: they allow for an easily accessible connection to the outdoors and a place to meet, play, rest and recuperate.

Local parks offer opportunities for neighbourhood 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.

Local parks provide opportunities for people to observe and appreciate nature and can provide important habitat linkages for flora and fauna. The living infrastructure within these parks play an important role in mitigating the urban heat island effect by reducing ambient temperatures through the provision of vegetated shade. Existing vegetation and landscape features are retained and incorporated into the design of local parks.

Activities in these spaces also include opportunities for social gathering, and a limited range of informal active recreation uses. Local park design reflects the specific needs of user groups located within the local catchment. The needs of an older community are different to a community comprised of young families. Therefore, reference to demographic and cultural needs is required.

Built form and recreation infrastructure within local parks should be clustered in a single activity node, allowing for maximised use of open areas for activities such as kicking a football, playing backyard cricket or passive recreation. Whenever possible, this activity node should be naturally shaded. The type of facilities in the park should complement those in nearby parks, thereby increasing the range of facilities available to nearby residents. Local parks do not provide facilities like public amenities and on-site car parking that service people travelling more than walking distance. Those types of facilities are more appropriately located in district parks which have sufficient space and are intended for users from a larger catchment.

As most users access local parks via active transport modes, it is important that local parks are connected to naturally shaded pathways and trails that extend to and from community facilities and the surrounding area. Internal connections provide linkages to the key activity node in the park and allow for equitable access by all users. Pathways that provide walking links, cycling links or shortcuts also provide connections that support the region's active transport network.

Functional space guidelines for local parks

- Minimum park area, 0.5 hectares.
- Minimum park area must remain free from all encumbrances including easements, environmental buffers, stormwater 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 (open areas with no infrastructure), 50% – 70%
 - 1 small kick and throw area (30m x 20m)
 - active recreation elements including hardcourts, 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
 - Stormwater management, maximum 5% (including vegetation)
 - must not impact park function
 - where possible, stormwater treatment facilities should be integrated with planted areas.

Type of embellishment	Local park requirement / number
Animals	
Dog off leash parks	Yes - where need is demonstrated and where provision does not compromise park function
Furniture	
Barbecues	No
Bicycle rails	Yes – 4 bike parking spaces / ha
Bins (waste)	As required, where play spaces are provided
Bins (recycle)	As required, where play spaces are provided
Drinking fountains	As required, where play spaces are provided
Maintenance taps	Yes – 1
Seats (stand alone bench)	Yes – 2 seats / ha, min 2 / playground
Showers	Yes – where adjoining beach access
Barriers	
Bollards	Yes – along non-fenced perimeter boundaries at 1.5m centres. Trees and vegetation preferred
Fences and gates (park maintenance access / emergency vehicle access)	Yes – 1 post and top-rail where required
Pedestrian infrastructure	
Accessible pathways	Yes – 1.5m internal access paths
Trails and tracks	Yes – connection to external trails and tracks provided
Planting	
Trees	Yes – native and non-native shade trees
Landscape planting (garden beds, turf, re-vegetation)	Yes - planting style to suit local landscape and character
Community gardens	Yes – where need is demonstrated and where provision does not compromise park function

Table 3: Local parks embellishment requirements

Type of embellishment	Local park requirement / number
Play, sport and activities	
Exercise equipment	Yes - where need is demonstrated and where provision does not compromise park function
Play spaces (playgrounds, natural activity areas)	Yes – 300m2 with equipment and landform. Shaded by vegetation or temporary shade sails
Skate park	No
Sports and games (fields and courts, outdoor games, children's bicycle track)	Yes - where need is demonstrated and where provision does not compromise park function
Kick and throw area	Yes – 30m x 20m
Shade (natural)	
Coverage	40% coverage of pathways at tree maturity; 50% coverage of activity areas (playgrounds, exercise etc)
Signs, art and memorials	
Signage	Yes – directional, regulatory
Public art	No
Primary public access points	Yes – min 1 highly visible entrance
Structures and parking	
Parking (on-site)	No
Shade sails	Yes- temporary measure while trees mature
Public amenities (toilets)	No
Shelters	Yes – max 2 shelters
Utilities and smart technology	
Irrigation	As required and approved by council, high activity areas only, not entire park
Serviced site	Yes
Lighting	No
Other	
see Appendix B- Tables: 32, 33	

Civic parks – the meeting place



Civic recreation parks are vibrant urban parks such as plazas or town squares in the heart of an activity centre. These parks are designed for frequent and high-level use by residents, visitors and workers who use the space to socialise and engage in civic activities and community events. Civic parks also provide opportunities to rest, physically and mentally, and seek relief from the surrounding built form.

These parks are located within an activity centre in a prominent and central location with a high level of pedestrian activity. They are often physically connected to civic services, like libraries and town halls, and are visually connected to the community through the use of culturally significant infrastructure and prominent vegetation. Civic parks are located on multiple public transport links and are connected to the pedestrian and bicycle networks or recreation trails. While typically small in size compared to other recreation park types, these parks are big in the hearts of those who visit them.

As civic parks are a reflection of the community in which they are located, it is essential that they mirror the landscape and character of the community. Existing vegetation and landscape features are retained and incorporated into design with built infrastructure and formal landscaping established to provide amenity and support civic function. Fit for purpose event spaces are often provided to support community events. These parks should provide safe and enjoyable spaces where people have the opportunity to interact or sit quietly and enjoy a view. Civic parks should contain naturally shaded benches or landscape features that provide relief from the strong Queensland sun.

Functional space guidelines for civic parks

- In principle or major centres minimum park area, 0.5 hectares.
- In district centres or below minimum park area, 0.1 hectares.
- Area must remain free from all encumbrances including easements, environmental buffers, stormwater management devices and overland flow paths.
- Park must be designed for frequent, high-level use.
- Area includes increased levels of hardstand to cater for community events.
- Area includes adequate natural shade provided to maximise user comfort and safety.
- Park incorporates a planting style that suits local landscape and character.
 - Stormwater management must not impact park function.
 - Where possible, stormwater treatment facilities should be integrated with planted areas.

Type of embellishment	Civic park requirement / number
Animals	
Dog off leash parks	No
Furniture	
Barbecues	No
Bicycle rails	Yes – min 4 bike parking spaces
Bins (waste)	Yes – 1 waste bin / .25 ha
Bins (recycle)	Yes – 1 recycling bin / .25 ha
Drinking fountains	Yes – 1
Maintenance taps	Yes – 1
Seats (stand alone bench)	Yes – 2 seats / ha, min 2 / playground
Showers	No
Barriers	
Bollards	Yes – along non-fenced perimeter boundaries at 1.5m centres. Trees and vegetation preferred
Fences and gates (park maintenance access / emergency vehicle access)	Yes – 1 post and top-rail where required
Pedestrian infrastructure	
Accessible pathways	Yes – 1.5m internal access paths
Trails and tracks	Yes – connection to external trails and tracks provided
Planting	
Trees	Yes – native and non-native shade trees
Landscape planting (garden beds, turf, re-vegetation)	Yes - planting style to suit local landscape and character
Community gardens	Yes – where need is demonstrated and where provision does not compromise park function
Play, sport and activities	
Exercise equipment	No

Table 4: Civic parks embellishment requirements

Type of embellishment	Civic park requirement / number
Play spaces (playgrounds, natural activity areas)	Yes – where provision does not compromise park function. Shaded by vegetation or temporary shade sails
Skate park	No
Sports and games (fields and courts, outdoor games, children's bicycle track)	No
Kick and throw area	No
Shade (natural)	
Coverage	40% coverage of pathways at tree maturity; 50% coverage of activity areas (playgrounds, exercise etc)
Signs, art and memorials	
Signage	Yes – naming, directional, interpretive, regulatory
Public art	Yes – durable pieces that provide opportunity for interaction
Primary public access points	Yes – min 2 highly visible and well-signed entrances
Structures and parking	
Parking	No
Shade sails	Yes - temporary measure while trees mature
Public amenities (toilets)	Yes – 1 profile 2 (standard) toilet block
Shelters	Yes – max 2 shelters
Utilities and smart technology	
Irrigation	As required and approved by council, high activity areas only, not entire park
Serviced site	Yes
Lighting	Yes – As required to meet CPTED principles - key pedestrian linkages, shelters, toilet blocks and car parks not serviced by ambient light from adjacent roadways
Other	
see Appendix B- Tables: 32, 33	

Linear parks – the connecting space



Linear parks and esplanades are long, narrow green corridors that often connect other open space functions and key features and facilities. Their linear shape is generally due to the nature of adjoining landscape features such as foreshores, waterways and bushland reserves, a relationship that makes these types of parks very popular with residents and tourists who wish to enjoy some of the best natural attributes that the Sunshine Coast provides. Due to their constrained size and popular locations, these parks see a very high level of use that requires resilient and durable supporting infrastructure.

Linear parks provide a range of passive and active recreation opportunities and promote healthy transport choices, like walking and biking, in a naturally shaded environment. Infrastructure in these parks is responsive to local landscape and character with existing vegetation retained and enhanced by built form, infrastructure and planting design that reflect the natural and cultural values of the immediate area. Viewsheds in linear parks are identified and protected by balancing the retention of existing vegetation with the promotion of passive recreation opportunities that embrace scenic amenity.

Recreation opportunities and supporting built infrastructure in linear parks are informed by the narrow width of the park. In order for these parks to function properly as connectors, it is important to consider impacts on movement patterns, whether that be an individual wandering slowly through the park or a jogger utilising the pathway network. Recreation

facilities are to be located in breakout points along the path system that do not impede continuous movement across the park.

Pathways are an essential element of linear parks, however, these pathways accommodate a wide range of users like on-leash dog exercise, jogging, and cycling by adults and children of all ages and abilities.

Functional space guidelines for linear parks

- Distinctive qualities of the landscape character, formal and natural, are strengthened through material selection, built form and planting design.
- Park incorporates a planting style that suits local landscape and character.
- Area has adequate natural shade to maximise user comfort and safety.
- Existing trees are retained and new trees are planted at strategic locations to contribute to amenity.
- Play spaces and fitness nodes may be included close to pathways.
- Key viewpoints are identified and protected.
- Interpretive signage elements are provided as cultural and environmental features.
- Stormwater management must not impact park function.
 - Where possible, stormwater treatment facilities should be integrated with planted areas.

Type of embellishment	Linear park requirement / number
Animals	
Dog off leash parks	Yes - where need is demonstrated and where provision does not compromise park function
Furniture	
Barbecues	No
Bicycle rails	No
Bins (waste)	As required, where play spaces are provided
Bins (recycle)	As required, where play spaces are provided
Drinking fountains	As required, where play spaces are provided
Maintenance taps	Yes - 1
Seats (stand alone bench)	Yes – 2 seats / ha
Showers	Yes – where adjoining beach access
Barriers	
Bollards	Yes – along non-fenced perimeter boundaries at 1.5m centres. Trees and vegetation preferred
Fences and gates (park maintenance access / emergency vehicle access)	Yes – 1 post and top-rail where required
Pedestrian infrastructure	
Accessible pathways	Yes – 2-3.5m wide dual-use, 1.5m internal access paths
Trails and tracks	Yes – connection to external trails and tracks provided
Planting	
Trees	Yes – native and non-native shade trees
Landscape planting (garden beds, turf, re-vegetation)	Yes - planting style to suit local landscape and character
Community gardens	Yes – where need is demonstrated and where provision does not compromise park function

Table 5: Linear parks embellishment requirements

Type of embellishment	Linear park requirement / number
Play, sport and activities	
Exercise equipment	Yes - where need is demonstrated and where provision does not compromise park function
Play spaces (playgrounds, natural activity areas)	Yes - where need is demonstrated and where provision does not compromise park function. Shaded by vegetation or temporary shade sails
Skate park	No
Sports and games (fields and courts, outdoor games, children's bicycle track)	Yes – where provision does not compromise park function
Kick and throw area	Yes – 30m x 10m or similar size
Shade (natural)	
Coverage	40% coverage of pathways at tree maturity; 50% coverage of activity areas (playgrounds, exercise etc)
Signs, art and memorials	
Signage	Yes – directional, interpretive, regulatory
Public art	No
Primary public access points	Yes- multiple public access points as required
Structures and parking	
Parking	No
Shade sails	Yes -temporary measure while trees mature
Public amenities (toilets)	No
Shelters	No
Utilities and smart technology	
Irrigation	As required and approved by council, high activity areas only, not entire park
Serviced site	Yes
Lighting	Yes – As required to meet CPTED principles - key pedestrian linkages, shelters, toilet blocks and car parks not serviced by ambient light from adjacent roadways
Other	
see Appendix B- Tables: 32, 33	

Amenity reserves – the quiet space



Amenity reserves are small land parcels, gardens and streetscapes that provide physical and visual relief from the built form of the surrounding area. These spaces provide an important amenity function for the community by catering for short and frequent visits a short walk from home. Mature vegetation in these spaces provide habitat for local flora and fauna, making these parks an excellent place to sit and listen to the birds or watch butterflies dance amongst the flower gardens. In keeping with the quiet and relaxing function of these spaces, amenity reserves do not support high levels of built infrastructure. In most cases, these parks will contain a pathway connecting to external networks and a few naturally shaded benches.

Functional space guidelines for amenity reserves

- Minimum park area, 0.2 hectares.
- Minimum park area must remain free from all encumbrances including easements, environmental buffers, stormwater management devices and overland flow paths.
- Park is appropriately sized to sustainably support mature trees while providing adequate buffers to adjoining properties.
- Adequate natural shade is provided to maximises user comfort and safety.
 - Existing trees are retained and new trees are planted at strategic locations to contribute to amenity.
- Park incorporates a planting style that suits local landscape and character.
- Stormwater management must not impact park function.
 - Where possible, stormwater treatment facilities should be integrated with planted areas.

Type of embellishment	Amenity reserve requirement / number
Animals	
Dog off leash parks	Yes – unfenced only, where need is demonstrated and where provision does not compromise park function
Furniture	
Barbecues	No
Bicycle rails	No
Bins (waste)	As required
Bins (recycle)	As required
Drinking fountains	No
Maintenance taps	As required
Seats (stand alone bench)	Yes – min 2
Showers	No
Barriers	
Bollards	Yes – along non-fenced perimeter boundaries at 1.5m centres. Trees and vegetation preferred
Fences and gates (park maintenance access / emergency vehicle access)	No
Pedestrian infrastructure	
Accessible pathways	Yes – 1.5m internal access paths
Trails and tracks	Yes – connection to external trails and tracks provided
Planting	
Trees	Yes – native and non-native shade trees
Landscape planting (garden beds, turf, re-vegetation)	Yes - planting style to suit local landscape and character
Community gardens	Yes – where need is demonstrated and where provision does not compromise park function

Type of embellishment	Amenity reserve requirement / number
Play, sport and activities	
Exercise equipment	No
Play spaces (playgrounds, natural activity areas)	No
Skate park	No
Sports and games (fields and courts, outdoor games, children's bicycle track)	No
Kick and throw area	No
Shade (natural)	
Coverage	40% coverage of pathways at tree maturity
Signs, art and memorials	
Signage	Yes - regulatory
Public art	No
Primary public access points	Yes – min 1 highly visible entrance
Structures and parking	
Parking	No
Shade sails	No
Public amenities (toilets)	No
Shelters	No
Utilities and smart technology	
Irrigation	As required and approved by council, high activity areas only, not entire park
Serviced site	No
Lighting	No
Other	
see Appendix B- Tables: 32, 33	

Table 6: Amenity reserves embellishment requirements

Landscape corridors – the buffer



Landscape corridors are typically long and narrow strips of land that provide a vegetated buffer between different land uses. These spaces are provided and maintained by council to contribute to the ecological services and natural amenity of the region. Landscape corridors are another key type of green infrastructure provided and maintained by council. They do not encourage pedestrian access or provide recreational facilities but provide ecosystem services to the community like air purification, stormwater filtration and reduction of ambient air temperature. Landscape corridors retain natural vegetation where appropriate and provide biodiversity linkages that connect nature to the urban built form. Landscape corridors provide natural amenity and support enhanced connectivity, functionality and integration of the natural and built environments.

Functional space guidelines for landscape corridors

- Park is appropriately sized to sustainably support mature trees while providing adequate buffers to adjoining properties.
- Park incorporates a planting style setting, that suits local landscape and character.
 - Natural vegetation is to be retained where appropriate.
- Stormwater management must not impact park function.
 - Where possible, stormwater treatment facilities should be integrated with planted areas.
- Must provide suitable maintenance access and fire break.

Type of embellishment	Landscape corridor requirement / number
Animals	
Dog off leash parks	No
Furniture	
Barbecues	No
Bicycle rails	No
Bins (waste)	No
Bins (recycle)	No
Drinking fountains	No
Maintenance taps	As required
Seats (stand alone bench)	No
Showers	No
Barriers	
Bollards	Yes – along non-fenced perimeter boundaries at 1.5m centres. Trees and vegetation preferred
Fences and gates (park maintenance access / emergency vehicle access)	No
Pedestrian infrastructure	
Accessible pathways	No
Trails and tracks	No
Planting	
Trees	Yes – native shade trees only
Landscape planting (garden beds, turf, re-vegetation)	Yes - planting style to suit local landscape and character
Community gardens	No

Type of embellishment	Landscape corridor requirement / number
Play, sport and activities	
Exercise equipment	No
Play spaces (playgrounds, natural activity areas)	No
Skate park	No
Sports and games (fields and courts, outdoor games, children's bicycle track)	No
Kick and throw area	No
Shade (natural)	
Coverage	N/A – no recreational activities provide
Signs, art and memorials	
Signage	Yes - regulatory
Public art	No
Primary public access points	No
Structures and parking	
Parking	No
Shade sails	No
Public amenities (toilets)	No
Shelters	No
Utilities and smart technology	
Irrigation	No
Serviced site	No
Lighting	No
Other	
see Appendix B- Tables: 32, 33	

Table 7: Landscape corridors embellishment requirements



2.4 Catchments

Planning catchments

Due to the size and complexity of the Sunshine Coast's open space network, council has established a Network Blueprint, based on smaller geographic areas, which provides guidance for future planning and includes broad recommendations based on detailed assessments.

The RPP has been developed using the planning catchments from council's Network Blueprint, as described in the ELS. The Network Blueprint has been prepared based on three planning catchments:

- **Council-wide** – recreation parks, sports grounds, specific purpose sports, recreation trails and the inter and intra urban separation areas ('green spaces') that provide a range of diverse experiences for users from across the region.
- **District** – recreation parks, sports grounds and recreation trails that provide recreational opportunities at a district level. There are six districts that currently service 30,000 to 80,000 people each:
 - Urban A
 - Urban B
 - Urban C
 - Urban D
 - Rural 1
 - Rural 2
- **Local** – recreation parks, recreation trails, linear parks and other open spaces that provide recreation opportunities and visual relief from the built form are planned for based on the 31 'Localities of Interest' (LOI) within the Sunshine Coast.

Additional information regarding planning catchments can be found in the RPP – Technical Guidelines. The RPP also provides analysis on recreation activity shortfalls for each LOI in the RPP – Locality of Interest.

Coolool area

2.5 Park settings

The main characteristics of the surrounding environment in which a recreation park is located is known as its setting. Sunshine Coast recreation parks are provided in a variety of settings, ranging from highly developed urban settings to natural or semi-natural settings in the hinterland.

The design of recreation parks and the amount of infrastructure within them should directly respond to the setting in which the park is located. This is a crucial element in connecting people to place, as recreation parks should reflect the environmental and social values of the communities in which they are located.

Sunshine Coast recreation parks occur in the following settings:

- **Natural** – natural landscape (native or exotic) where there are no built structures and limited recreation access. Usually located some distance from urban areas, includes conservation and ecological reserves.
- **Semi-natural** – a very natural landscape may have a few built structures, including signage, access, natural paths and car parks.
- **Semi-developed** – a landscape that consists of natural and built structures which often adjoins urban areas and provides a range of facilities for recreational and social activities.
- **Developed** – a landscape consisting of mostly built structures for recreational and social activity with some natural assets like trees, lawns and gardens.
- **Urban** – a landscape within a city, town or other densely populated area that is characterised by a highly developed built form.
- **Rural** – a landscape occurring in the countryside that is characterised by a sparsely developed built form.

The detailed Desired Standards of Service for each park type provides guidance on the types and levels of infrastructure to support functions in a typical park. There will be circumstances where a park's location and setting require deviation from these standards. It is council's intention to provide a level of flexibility that allows for a design response that reflects park settings.

For example, a district park in a developed, urban area might have higher levels of built infrastructure to match the surrounding built form. A district park in semi-natural, rural location might have a lower level of built infrastructure in keeping with the expansive surrounding landscape.

There may be circumstances where a recreation park located in an urban setting has lower levels of built infrastructure, particularly when the primary function of that park is to provide relief to the urban built-form. Also, certain rural parks may require higher levels of embellishment, particularly those in rural activity centres.

An assessment of the park's surrounding environment, local character, and primary park function will assist with determining if variation from the detailed Desired Standards of Service is required.



Figure 5: Park settings



2.6 Relationship to other council networks

Open space network

Recreation parks are only one part of council's broader open space network. The Sunshine Coast's open space areas have been grouped into sub-networks based on their primary use, to assist with their planning, development and management. In addition to recreation parks, council's open space network includes the following sub-networks:

- Landscape sub-network
- Sport sub-network
- Environmental and coastal sub-network
- Other open space areas (caravan parks, drainage reserves etc).

Other council networks related to parks

- Integrated transport network
- Flooding and stormwater network.
- Social infrastructure network
 - schools
 - universities
 - libraries
 - hospitals
 - emergency service facilities
 - showgrounds
 - major outdoor events spaces
 - indoor sport facilities
 - recreation facilities.

Network overlaps

It is essential to recognise that these networks do not operate in isolation. *Figure 12: Open space networks* demonstrates the relationship between the different areas of the open space network. There are a number of services that council aims to provide that occur in the overlapping space between recreation parks and other uses. It is therefore essential that planning for recreation parks considers the other existing and planned networks that occur around, and sometimes within, parks. Recognising this context allows integrated and sustainable decisions to be made that meet multiple outcomes and reduce the amount of required infrastructure through co-location of services.



Figure 6: Open space networks

A photograph of a park pond with several people fishing. In the foreground, three men are standing on the grassy bank, holding fishing rods. One man is wearing a blue shirt and a cap, another a dark jacket, and a third a blue shirt. In the background, another person is sitting on a bench, also fishing. A wooden shelter is visible on the right side of the pond. The scene is set in a lush green park with trees in the background.

Chapter 3.0

Network feedback

3.1 What has the community told us?

Council is committed to understanding the recreational needs of our communities, as well as the types of experiences that our residents expect to enjoy across the Sunshine Coast recreation parks network. To better understand these needs and expectations, public feedback has been reviewed from several sources, from comments on region-wide strategic documents to detailed requests for additional council services. This feedback has provided insight into the performance of our parks network and assisted council to identify trends and future opportunities for parks activities.

2017 Yardstick park user surveys

In 2017 council participated in the Yardstick park user survey, a tool that shows how recreation parks meet user expectations. These surveys also measure the delivered level of service and identifies gaps in the service. The intercept-style surveys were undertaken in 13 council-wide and district recreation parks.

User behaviour

- About two thirds of the survey respondents reported staying in the park for a relatively long period of time, between 30 minutes and 2 hours.
- More than half of respondents had travelled to the park in their private vehicle and of the rest had walked, a few had cycled and one respondent used public transport.

Bli Bli

User activities

General responses

- More than 50% of the survey respondents reported they were participating in passive recreation activities such as relaxing or supervising children in the park, with a roughly even distribution between these activities.
- The second most common activities were walking the dog and play activity, about 10% each.

People under 15

- The survey did not include anyone younger than 15, however participants were asked to report what they could observe of children's activities.
- The most common observation was play activity using facilities and/or playing with other children at just over 40%.
- Walking was 14%, the second most common activity.

User profile

- **Age** – Almost half of the respondents were between 30 and 44 years of age. People over 65 represented 10% of respondents and a small portion were under 24.
- **Gender** – More than half of respondents were women.
- **Ethnicity** – Almost 80% of people identified as Australian European, around 10% identified as Asian and 10% as "other".
- **Catchment** – Almost all respondents were from the local area or the region, only 10% said they were tourists and almost all tourists were Australian.
- **Proximity** – Local area respondents were evenly distributed in terms of travel time, between less than 5 minutes and up to 30 minutes.

Level of service

Survey respondents were asked to rate the importance of various features of the park and how satisfied they were with these, including:

- trees, shade
- cleanliness
- playgrounds, seats and tables
- toilets (public amenities)
- paths and tracks
- grass maintenance
- security, and car parking.

In terms of importance, trees scored highest, followed by cleanliness, playgrounds and toilets. The lowest scored by importance were grass maintenance, security and car parking.

2018 Customer relationship management

Our customer relationship management (CRM) tool, also known as a 'request', is a way for the community or a visitor to contact council and ask a question, make a comment or provide feedback. This information is forwarded to relevant council staff for action or information. In the Parks and Gardens (P&G) branch of council, this allows staff to understand where action needs to be taken, for example, if there are fallen trees that need to be cleared, undesirable activities that need to be managed or where different levels of infrastructure are required.

In 2018, 206 requests related to the provision of new parks infrastructure were lodged with council. The top ten most requested infrastructure or activity types are shown in Figure 7: Top ten most requested infrastructure or activity types.



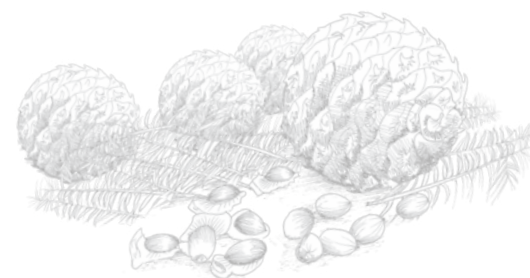
Figure 7: Top ten most requested infrastructure or activity types

Chapter 4.0 Activity and infrastructure planning

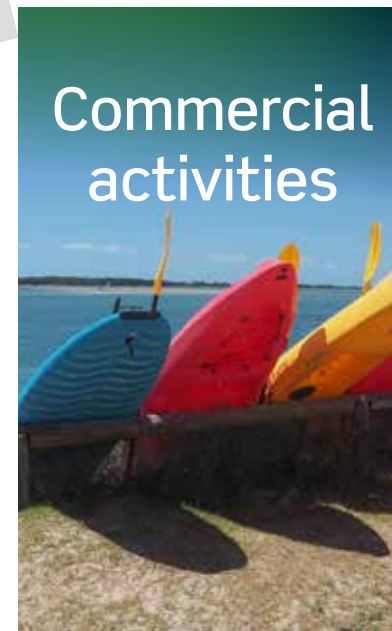
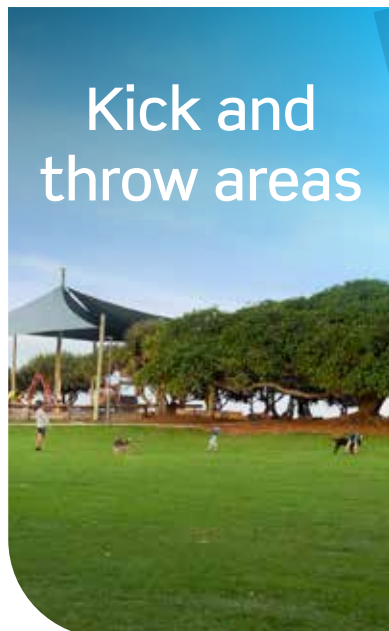
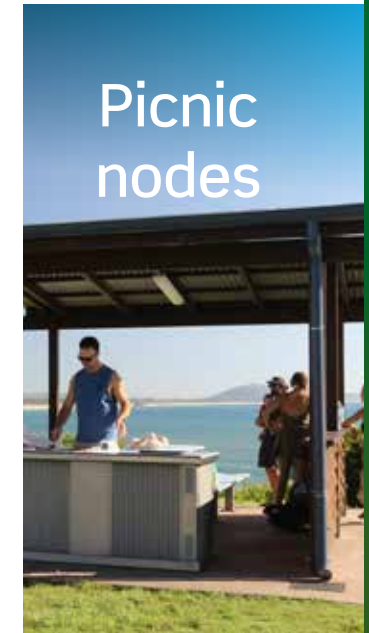
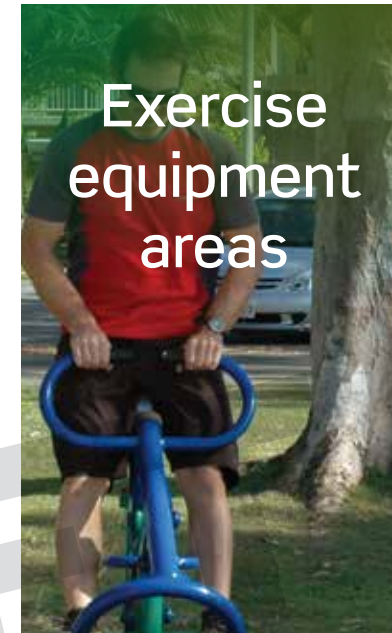
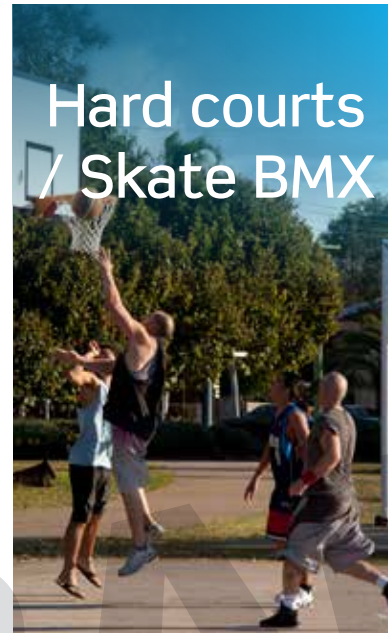
4.1 Activity planning

People visit parks for many reasons. Some people go to parks to exercise, others visit parks to relax and breathe the fresh air. Council is committed to ensuring that there are a range of activities available for all park visitors to enjoy in each Sunshine Coast locality.

The following section describes the most common park activities, why they are important, who we provide the activity spaces for and how we plan for the fair and equitable distribution of these activities across the recreation parks network. The activity plans incorporate the planning principles and assist in fulfilling network goals.



Eleanor Shipley Park, Moffat Beach





Dick Caplick Park, Eumundi

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

As part of an investigation to offer new park activities, or following a community or councillor request, council goes through a series of steps to determine appropriate locations for park activities.

Step 1:

Review park activity network mapping



- Identify proposed site in relation to existing park activities.
 - If the proposed site is not currently serviced by a similar existing or future park activity, continue to [step 2](#).
 - If the proposed site is within reasonable walking or driving distance of existing or future park activity, then the proposed site is not suitable.
 - Exception: If existing park activities nearby are at demonstrated capacity then an additional park activity in this locality may be considered.

Step 2:

Demonstrated need



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

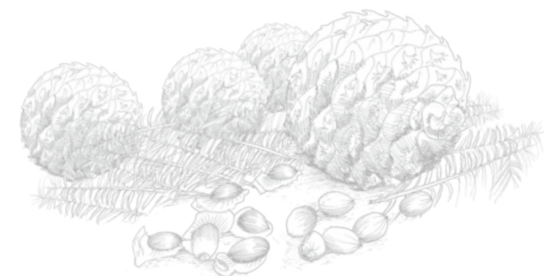
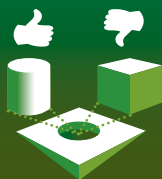


Figure 8: Park activity provision flowchart

Step 3:

Suitability of proposed site



- Review the proposal against ELS Open Space Policy positions
- Review proposal against RPP planning principles:
 - Provision
 - Community need
 - Function
 - Landscape and character
 - Connectivity
 - Accessibility
 - Openness
 - Safety
 - Flexibility and adaptability
- Other considerations
 - Distance to adjacent residents or sensitive land uses.
 - Land suitability
 - Existing supporting embellishments
 - Amount of available space.
 - Future projects
 - Expansion of an existing activity / use
- If suitability criteria is satisfied, proceed to [step 4](#)
- If certain criteria in [step 3](#) cannot be satisfied within the proposed park, continue to investigate alternative sites within locality.
- If no sites are suitable within locality, then consider upgrading next closest similar park activity.
- If multiple sites are suitable then select the most suitable based on future growth and other projects planned for the locality.

Step 4:

Community consultation



- Consult community on likelihood of style of use.
- Discuss results of consultation with management and councillors.
- Consider satisfactory and unsatisfactory responses.
 - If result is satisfactory to justify council action progress to [step 5](#).
 - If result is unsatisfactory consider putting the project on hold and waiting for additional evidence of community need/support.

Step 5:

Funding opportunity



- Confirm funding opportunities, based on generic figures, with councillors and management.
- Demonstrate evidence that [steps 1 to 4](#) have been wholly or partially satisfied.

Step 6:

Design and delivery



- If community consultation and funding are satisfied, the project can be designed by a landscape architect, referring to LIM standards and specification.

How do we ensure and measure success?

To ensure long-term sustainability of the park activities network, council undertakes the following actions:

Promotion

- Update council's website to make information on park activities clear and accessible, including improved online mapping.
- Work with stakeholders to ensure a whole-of-council approach to promotion.
- Use of council's media, including Facebook, Twitter and other digital media, to promote parks.

Measurement

- Counting users with a range of technologies.
- Conducting user satisfaction surveys as part of broader annual consultation.
- Monitor annual CRMs for new park activity, aiming for a reduction in requests.

Review

- Update park activity mapping on an annual basis.



Pioneer Park, Landsborough

Play spaces



Why are play spaces important?

Play spaces are areas in recreation parks where children, friends, families and carers can use built and natural infrastructure for play. Play allows children to learn, develop as individuals and become members of the community. Children are dependent on play to cultivate personal identity, self-respect, confidence and self-worth. Play also helps children to acquire important behavioural skills that are needed in social contexts later in life.

Play spaces also give users the opportunity for exploration and adventure which leads to a sense of excitement. This sense of excitement and adventure helps to strengthen the bond between people and place.

What are the different types of play spaces that council provides?

The following play spaces categories are used by council:

- **Toddlers to pre-schoolers** – Ages 2 to 5 years.
 - Play focuses on the development of balance, creativity and social role play.
 - Equipment encourages verbal interaction and supports fine motor skills.



Local area activity

500 metres from most residences in urban areas, within rural township in rural areas (5 to 10 minute walk)

There should be one play space for every 2,500 to 5,000 people

- **School aged** – Ages 6 to 12 years.
 - Children are testing the limits of their coordination and abilities and have developed most of their basic motor skills.
 - Equipment provides measurable challenges.
 - Spaces are provided for small group gatherings.
- **Teenage** – Ages 13 to 17 years.
 - Have developed most of their basic motor skills and are confident with movement and creativity.
 - Equipment supports speed, endurance, strength and agility.
 - Spaces are provided for social interaction.
- **All-abilities** – Appeals to children of all ages.
 - Provides equal access elements, under-surfacing and facilities.

- **Adults / seniors** – Ages 18 years +
 - Equipment is designed to promote balance, strength and cardiovascular fitness in a safe, play style environment.
 - Play experience is enhanced by providing equipment that can also be used by young children.
- **Natural activity areas** – All ages.
 - These areas incorporate natural play equipment such as timber logs into a play space, either in a natural state or embellished with artistic carving, designs or unique works of art.

The LIM provides additional information these types of play spaces and how to deliver them.

What are the typical embellishments associated with play spaces?

The level of embellishment provision for each play space will be determined on a case by case basis. Site assessment will be required to assess local site conditions and each facility's requirement. Refer to Table 8: Play spaces – location. Refer RPP – Technical Guidelines for further guidance for what embellishments may be included in play spaces.

Where do we currently provide play spaces?

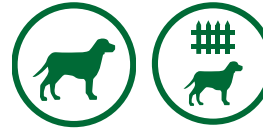
Council provides 361 play spaces across the Sunshine Coast Council region. These activity areas are located in a range of settings, from urban areas to our rural hinterland. For details on locations of current play spaces refer to RPP – Technical Guidelines – Map 1: Play spaces region wide and RPP – Locality of Interest – Activity Provisions.

Table 8: Play spaces – location

Type of activity	Detail	Council-wide	District	Local	Civic	Linear	Amenity reserve	Landscape corridor	Legend
Play spaces	natural play areas / playground	✓	✓	✓	*	*			✓ suitable
	size of a play space (minimum)	1,000m ²	500m ²	300m ²	tbd	tbd			suitable dependent on appropriate location not suitable



Dog exercise areas (DEAs)



Why are dog exercise areas important?

Dog exercise areas (DEAs) are activity spaces provided by local governments that promote social and physical health for dogs and their owners. New DEAs were the most commonly requested park activity by Sunshine Coast residents in 2018 (Figure 7: Top ten most requested infrastructure or activity types). As the population of the SCC region grows and the movement towards smaller lot sizes with reduced private open space continues, the demand for public DEAs is likely to increase. The benefits to the community include:

- opportunities to practice responsible pet ownership
- promotion of increased physical activity and social interaction of dogs and their owners
- enjoyment to onlookers
- provision of safe and responsible area for dogs and their owners.

What are the different types of dog exercise areas that council provides?

Council is committed to the promotion of proactive animal management and responsible pet ownership through the Domestic Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Strategy 2014 – 2020 and the Sunshine Coast Regional Council Subordinate Local Law No. 2 (Animal Management) 2011.^{22 23} These rules designate six different types of areas specific to dogs in parks, reserves, beaches and foreshores. They are:

- dog on-leash areas
- dog off-leash at all times (fenced and unfenced)
- dog off-leash at designated times
- specific prohibited areas
- prohibited areas.



District level activity

3 kilometres from most residences in urban areas, within a rural township in rural areas (average a 30 minute walk, 20 minute cycle or 10 minute drive)

There should be one dog park for every 5,000 to 10,000 people

Dog owners may take their dog on a leash to any park area unless it is signed as a prohibited dog area. Council also provides a number of designated and signed dog off-leash areas in recreation parks, reserves and on beaches and foreshores. These areas are sometimes restricted to specific hours of the day..

Regardless of the type of DEA, owners must comply with the relevant local law and ensure that their dogs are under effective control at all times and do not impact on other park or beach users and activities. All dogs must be registered with council.

Sports fields are not dog off-leash areas. Outside of training and competition times dogs are generally allowed on sports fields while on a leash, however local clubs have the right to ban dogs from their fields.

Where do we currently provide DEAs?

Council provides 38 DEAs across the SCC region. These activity areas are located in a range of settings, from fenced DEAs in urban areas to designated sections of coastal beaches. For details on locations of current dog off leash parks refer to RPP – Technical Guidelines – Map 2: Dog exercise area types / registered dog numbers.

What are the typical embellishments associated with dog exercise areas?

The level of embellishment in each dog exercise area will be determined on a case by case basis. Site assessment will be required to understand local site conditions and facility requirements.

Typical embellishments for dog exercise areas are shown in Table 9: Dog exercise areas – location. Refer RPP – Technical Guidelines for further guidance for what embellishments may be included in dog exercise areas.

Additional details on embellishment standards for DEAs can be found in council's LIM. The LIM provides specific guidance on the types of embellishments used for a particular park activity. Once an appropriate location for a DEA is confirmed using the RPP planning principles (section 1.3), the LIM must be consulted in the design and delivery processes.

Table 9: Dog exercise areas – location

Type of embellishment	Detail	Council-wide	District	Local	Civic	Amenity reserve	Linear	Landscape corridor	Legend
Dog off leash park	fenced	✓	✓						✓ suitable
Dog off leash	unfenced	*	*	*		*	*		suitable dependent on appropriate location
Dog exercise area	size (minimum)	1,600m ²	1,600m ²	tbd		tbd	tbd		not suitable



DesScanlon Park, Maroochydore

Hard courts – basketball, netball, cricket



Why are hard courts important?

Hard courts are designated activity spaces for informal field and court games that require hard surfacing and specialised infrastructure. On the Sunshine Coast these games and sports include basketball, netball, and cricket as well as pavement games such as hopscotch, handball and other sports that utilise a rebound wall.

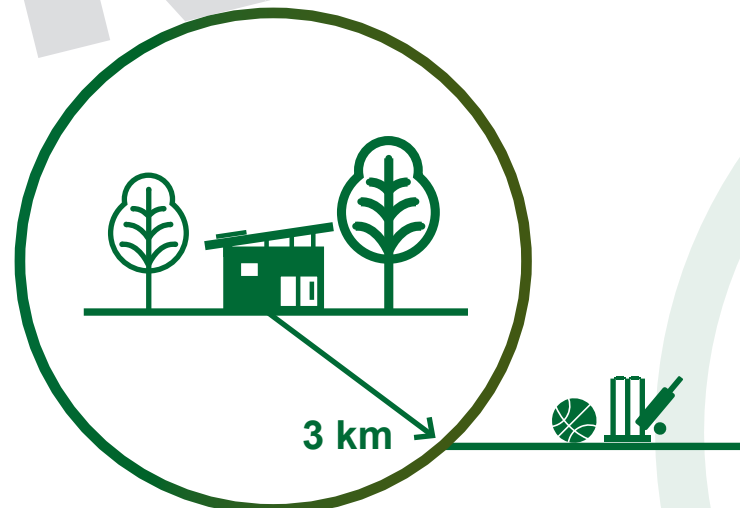
Hard courts provide opportunities for individuals or small groups to engage in healthy, physical activity in an outdoor setting. They offer social engagement opportunities for a wide range of user ages and abilities. Hard courts also allow users to develop skills that may be used in formal sporting activities.

What are the different types of hard courts that council provides?

Council provides the following types of hard courts:

- Court – basketball (full and half-court) and netball
- Field – cricket
- Pavement – hopscotch, handball, rebound walls.

Council provides hard courts for all ages and abilities. Hard courts provide an important community function for children and young adults who have outgrown traditional playground equipment and are looking for park activities that suit their physical activity needs.



District level activity

3 kilometres from most residences in urban areas, within a rural township in rural areas (average a 30 minute walk, 20 minute cycle or 10 minute drive)

There should be one hard court for every 5,000 to 10,000 people

What are the typical embellishments associated with hard courts?

The level of embellishment for hard court activity areas is determined on a case by case basis. Site assessment will be required to understand local site conditions and facility requirements.

To ensure optimal utilisation of hard courts, shade (preferably natural) should be provided with particular attention paid to northern and western sun exposure. A qualified arborist should be consulted to ensure the appropriate type of shade trees are utilised to avoid safety and maintenance concerns.

The LIM provides detailed guidance on the design and construction of hard courts and is to be used with Table 10: Hard courts – location. Refer RPP – Technical Guidelines for further guidance for what embellishments may be included in hard courts.

Where do we currently provide hard courts?

Hard courts may be provided in council-wide, district, local, civic and linear recreation parks. Council currently provides 69 basketball / netball courts, 21 cricket pitches and 3 rebound walls across the Sunshine Coast Council region. These activity areas are located in a range of settings. Please refer to the hard court network Map 3: Hard courts and skate and BMX parks in RPP – Locality of Interest – Activity Provisions, for the locations of existing hard courts.

Hard courts are considered a district level activity, meaning that they serve a catchment area similar to our district parks (3 km from most residences in urban areas, 30 minute walk or 10 minute drive).

Table 10: Hard courts – location

Type of activity	Detail	Council-wide	District	Local	Civic	Linear	Amenity reserve	Landscape corridor	Legend
Basketball, netball	Hard courts	✓	✓	*	*	*			✓ suitable
	Size (full court / half court)	full or half	half	half	tbd	tbd			suitable dependent on location
	Multi-purpose court	✓							*
Cricket	Cricket pitch	✓	✓						not suitable



Quota Park, Nambour

Skate and BMX parks



Why are skate and BMX important?

Skate and BMX (bicycle motocross) facilities are particularly important as places for residents and visitors to increase physical activity, enhance coordination and interact with peers in a positive way.

Like hard courts, skate and BMX facilities within recreation parks provide healthy recreation and social interaction opportunities for users who have outgrown traditional playground equipment and are looking for park activities that suit their physical activity needs. These types of activities are an essential part of multi-generational park design.

What are the different types of Skate and BMX facilities that council provides?

The Skate and BMX Plan has divided facilities into five categories, four of which may be located in district and council-wide recreation parks. Refer RPP – Technical Guidelines for further guidance for the function, benefits and facility breakdown.

According to the Skate and BMX Plan the main age range of people who use skate and BMX facilities is between the ages of 5 to 16 years. The rate of use slowly declines between the ages of 16 to 24 years. However, consultation and background research also indicated a broad range of users up to 50 years of age, resulting in a multi-generational use of these facilities. Council has recognised that facilities must be designed to accommodate and integrate a number of styles and user groups.



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

Refer SC Skate and BMX Plan

What are the typical embellishments associated with skate and BMX parks?

The level of embellishment in each skate and BMX facility will be determined on a case by case basis. Site assessment will be required to understand local site conditions and facility requirements. Refer to Table 11: Skate and BMX facility – locations. Refer RPP – Technical Guidelines for further guidance for what embellishments may be included in skate and BMX parks.

Where do we currently provide Skate and BMX?

Council provides 28 concrete skate and BMX facilities in SCC district and council-wide recreation parks. Refer to Map 3: Hard courts and skate and BMX parks and RPP – Locality of Interest – Activity Provisions, for details on location of current skate and BMX facilities. The Skate and BMX Plan also provides details on the location, size, style, features and other useful information for each facility.

Table 11: Skate and BMX parks – location

Type of activity	Detail	Council-wide	District	Local	Civic	Linear	Amenity reserve	Landscape corridor	Legend
Skate parks	Skate and BMX park	*	*						✓ suitable
	Size (minimum)	1,000m ²	500m ²						suitable dependent on appropriate location
									* not suitable

Please note: Major/Council-wide facilities are to be located in Council-wide parks.
District/Local facilities are to be located in District parks



Exercise equipment areas



Why are exercise equipment areas important?

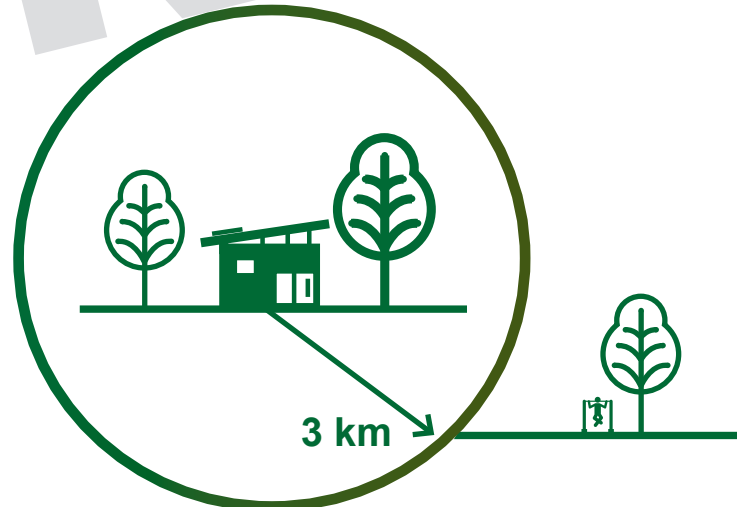
Exercise equipment areas provide active recreation opportunities in a comfortable outdoor setting. These spaces are designed for regular exercise and provide a free alternative to commercial fitness gymnasiums.

What are the different types of exercise equipment that council provides?

Council provides two different categories of exercise equipment. Static equipment has no moving parts and includes elements such as pull-up bars and sit-up benches. Kinetic equipment includes moving parts and elements like stationary bicycles and resistance training machines.

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

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



District level activity

3 kilometres from most residences in urban areas, within a rural township in rural areas (average a 30 minute walk, 20 minute cycle or 10 minute drive)

There should be one exercise equipment area for every 5,000 to 10,000 people

What are the typical embellishments associated with exercise equipment areas?

The level of embellishment for each exercise equipment area will be determined on a case by case basis. Site assessment will be required to understand local site conditions and facility requirements.

To ensure optimal utilisation of exercise equipment, shade (preferably natural) should be provided, with particular attention paid to northern and western sun exposure.

The LIM provides detailed guidance on the design and construction of exercise equipment and associated embellishments listed below.

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

Where do we currently provide exercise equipment areas?

Exercise equipment are provided in council-wide, district, local and linear recreation parks. Council provides 50 exercise equipment areas across the SCC region. These activity areas are located in a range of settings, shown in RPP – Technical Guidelines – Map 4: Exercise equipment areas with information about existing exercise equipment.

Table 12: Exercise equipment areas – location

Type of activity	Detail	Council-wide	District	Local	Civic	Linear	Amenity reserve	Landscape corridor	Legend
Exercise equipment	nodes / areas	✓	✓	*		*			✓ suitable suitable dependent on appropriate location * not suitable



Alexandar Headlands

Picnic nodes



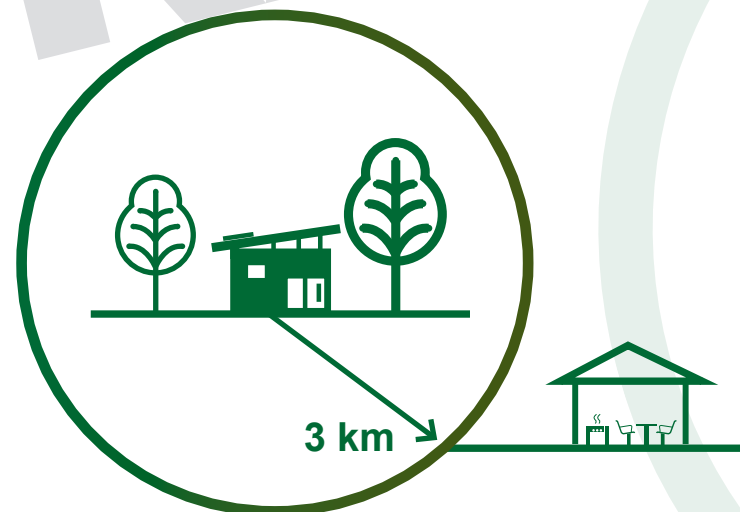
Why are picnic nodes important?

Picnic nodes are designated areas within parks that include barbecues, tables and shelters. These facilities support an important social function for the community as they allow friends, neighbours and families to gather and enjoy a meal or celebration together in a safe and comfortable outdoor setting.

What are the different types of picnic nodes that council provides?

A basic picnic node contains a single barbecue, table and shelter. In popular recreation parks where demand for picnic nodes is anticipated to be high, such as our larger district parks and council-wide parks, clusters of multiple barbecue units and shelters of varying size may be provided.

Opportunities to have a picnic are available in other park and open space types, however, supporting infrastructure such as barbecues, should be limited to council-wide and district parks.



District level activity

3 kilometres from most residences in urban areas, within a rural township in rural areas (average a 30 minute walk, 20 minute cycle or 10 minute drive)

There should be one picnic node for every 5,000 to 10,000 people

What are the typical embellishments associated with picnic nodes?

The level of embellishment associated with each picnic node will be determined on a case by case basis. Site assessment will be required to understand local site conditions and facility requirements. For more detail refer to Table 13: Picnic nodes – locations. Refer RPP – Technical Guidelines for further guidance for what embellishments may be included in picnic nodes.

Where do we currently provide picnic nodes?

Council provides 284 picnic nodes in council-wide and district recreation parks across the SCC region. These activity areas are located in a range of settings, from quiet hinterland parks to dense urban areas adjacent to the coastal beaches.

For the locations of existing picnic nodes refer to RPP – Technical Guidelines – Map 5: Picnic nodes region wide. For more details on name, location and type of current picnic nodes, refer to RPP – Locality of Interest – Activity Provisions.

Table 13: Picnic nodes – locations

Type of activity	Detail	Council-wide	District	Local	Civic	Linear	Amenity reserve	Landscape corridor	Legend
Picnic nodes	barbecue, tables and shelters	✓	✓						✓ suitable suitable dependent on appropriate location * not suitable



Tickle Park, Coolumb

Kick and throw areas



Why are kick and throw areas important?

Kick and throw areas are designated spaces within parks that are open and free from built and natural infrastructure. They function as an extension to the residential backyard, where space for kicking, throwing and other space intensive activities is often insufficient. The increasing density of urban areas due to a growing population make these open and un-encumbered spaces valuable for residents.

One of the most important functions of a kick and throw area is the ability of these spaces to be flexible and accommodate a wide variety of temporary uses.

What are the different types of kick and throw areas that council provides?

The optimal size for kick and throw areas in local parks is around 30 metres x 20 metres, though kick and throw areas generally come in a range of shapes and sizes. Larger district and council-wide parks may provide kick and throw areas approaching or exceeding 50 metres x 30 metres in size.

Some parks, particularly local parks, are too small or narrow to accommodate this size of kick and throw area. In these parks a smaller sized kick and throw area may be used. Once a kick and throw area drops below 200 square meters in size, or the size of a standard tennis court, it becomes difficult to pass or kick a ball and achieve an exercise benefit. Therefore, kick and throw areas below this size are not recommended.



Local level activity

500 metres from most residences in urban areas, within rural township in rural areas (5 to 10 minute walk)

There should be one kick and throw area for every 2,500 people

What are the typical embellishments associated with kick and throw areas?

Kick and throw areas are open and free from other park embellishments to achieve functionality and safety within the space. These areas should be located adjacent to other activity spaces such as picnic nodes, play spaces and passive recreation spaces that also serve the kick and throw area, for example, to allow casual surveillance from a safe, shaded location. Table 14: Kick and throw – locations. Refer RPP – Technical Guidelines for further guidance for what embellishments may be included in kick and throw areas.

Where do we currently provide kick and throw areas?

Kick and throw areas are open and free from other park embellishments to achieve functionality and safety within the space. These areas should be located adjacent to other activity spaces such as picnic nodes, play spaces and passive recreation spaces that also serve the kick and throw area, for example, to allow casual surveillance from a safe, shaded location.

Table 14: Kick and throw – location

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

Legend

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

When do we provide new kick and throw areas?

New kick and throw areas are created in one of two ways, either as a developer contributed asset in a new growth area, or through the community / councillor request process supported by a demonstrated need.

It is very difficult to provide a kick and throw area in an existing park that contains other existing park infrastructure, therefore, it is very important to incorporate designated areas for kick and throw into the design of recreation parks and to preserve the function of these areas.

What other functions do kick and throw areas provide?

The flexible and multi-functional nature of kick and throw areas make them valuable to the community, generating health and social benefits associated with the range of physical recreation activities that occur with them.

Kick and throw areas support important social benefits by providing open areas for families or groups of friends to occasionally gather and celebrate special events. These areas provide a space that can be used for a temporary day-time event and be returned to another shared use the next day.

Designated kick and throw areas also play a very important role in preserving the scenic amenity and aesthetics of a recreation park. These areas are the key design element that promotes openness in our parks. This openness allows for enjoyment of the region's climate and natural beauty in an environment that provides green relief from busier built environments.



Passive recreation

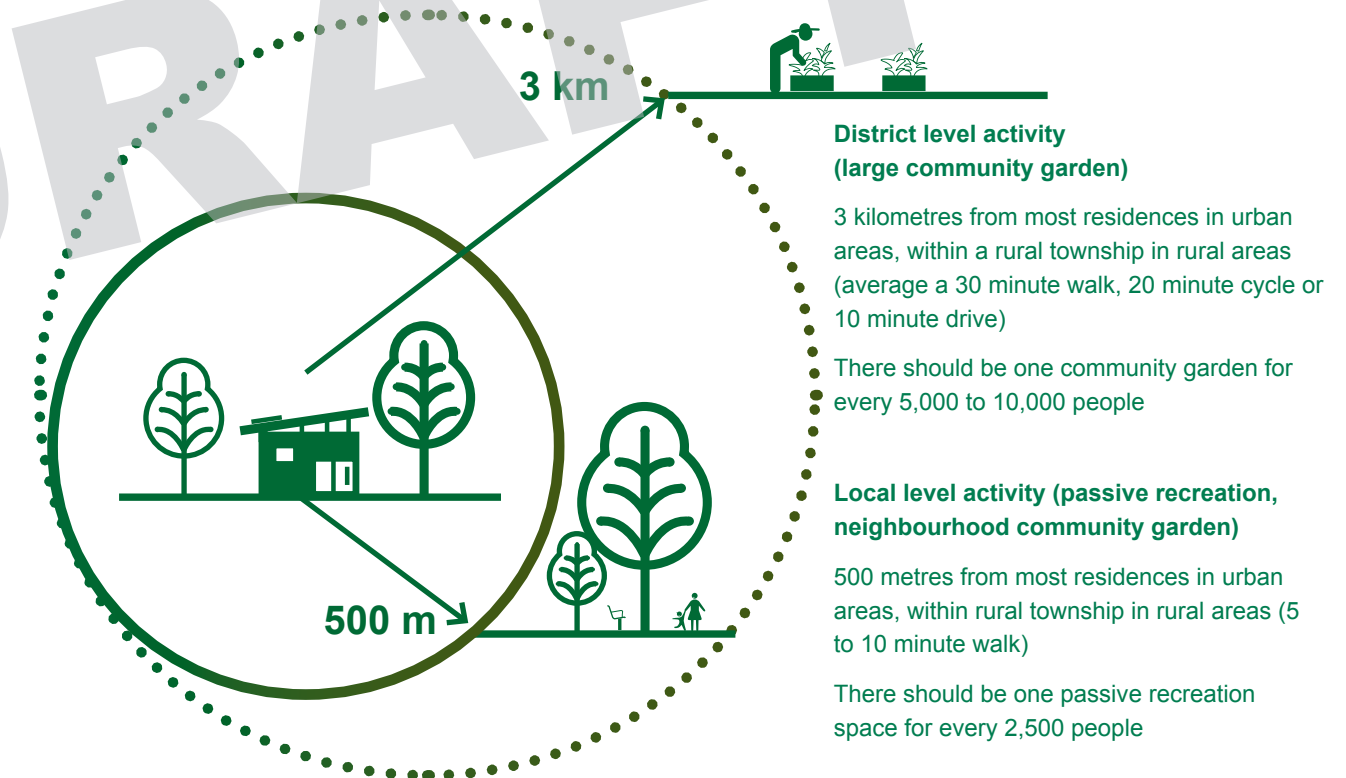


Why are passive recreation areas important?

Passive recreation areas are spaces dedicated to observing nature and community. These areas include shaded seating areas, gardens and overlooks. Passive recreation areas allow for quiet contemplation and enjoyment of a community's scenic amenity. They provide opportunities to take a break from the hustle and bustle of daily life and take in the fresh air and local scenery.

These areas are a very important component of community building as they allow users to observe the natural and social process that occur in the neighbourhood on a daily basis. The user forms a connection to place through this observation.

Specially designed gardens, like sensory gardens, provide particular mental and emotional value to people who benefit from stimulation of the senses.



What are the different types of passive recreation areas that council provides?

Council provides many passive recreation opportunities from simple, shaded seating areas in local parks to council-wide attractions like the Maroochy Bushland Botanical Gardens. Passive recreation areas generally take the following forms:

- **Passive observation areas** – shaded seating areas for enjoyment of the local landscape and passive surveillance of the parklands.
- **Gardens**
 - **Ornamental** – gardens in recreation parks that provide opportunities to observe plants, particularly including flowering native and exotic flora.
 - **Botanical** – large scale parklands dedicated to the observation of a wide variety of plants.
 - **Community** – typically used for growing fruit and vegetables on community land.
 - **Sensory** – designed for close interaction with plants that stimulate the senses.
- **Overlooks and viewing areas** – designated areas with a focus on observing a particular landscape or view.

What are the typical embellishments associated with passive recreation areas?

The level of embellishment provision in each passive recreation area will be determined on a case by case basis. Site assessment will be required to understand local site conditions and facility requirements.

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

Where do we currently provide passive recreation areas?

Council aims to provide basic passive recreation opportunities in all recreation parks, including providing seating for people to enjoy their surrounding landscape.

Passive recreation is considered a local level activity, meaning it serves a catchment area similar to our local parks, around 500 metres from most residences in urban areas and within a township in rural areas.

There are eight community gardens located across the SCC region (RPP – Technical Guidelines – Map 6: Community gardens).

How does council determine appropriate locations for community gardens?

The SCC's Community Gardens Policy and Community Gardens Guidelines provide the framework for planning, implementing and maintaining community gardens. RPP – Technical Guidelines – Table 19: Criteria for site selections – Community gardens provides criteria from these documents to be used when considering potential sites for the establishment of a community garden on council owned or managed land.³¹

Community gardens have typically been used by the public to produce food, however council is investigating new and innovative opportunities for public gardening in a range of recreation parks.

Table 15: Passive recreation – location

Type of activity	Detail	Council-wide	District	Local	Civic	Linear	Amenity Reserve	Landscape corridor
Passive recreation - basic	Shaded seating	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Community gardens	Fruit/vegetable, ornamental and sensory etc.	*	*	*	*	*	*	

Legend

✓ suitable

suitable dependent on appropriate location

* not suitable



Mooloolaba triathlon competition

Community event spaces



Why are community event spaces important?

Council recognises the important role events play in building social capital, encouraging community participation and enhancing tourism opportunities. In support of this recognition, council provides community event spaces in recreation parks that offer functional settings for the community to celebrate special occasions and enjoy festivities. These spaces are a focal point for community participation and activation, contributing to a community's vibrancy and sense of place.

Efficiently designed community event spaces also provide flexible areas that can be used for activities such as kick and throw and passive recreation during non-event periods.

What are the different types of community event spaces that council provides in recreation parks?

Council provides a wide variety of community event spaces. These spaces range from areas in scenic parks with supporting infrastructure like toilets and shelters to dedicated precincts with large amounts of infrastructure capable of accommodating very large crowds, such as Kings Beach park during the Caloundra Music Festival. Refer to RPP – Technical Guidelines – Map 7: Community event spaces for locations of event spaces.



District level activity

3 kilometres from most residences in urban areas, within a rural township in rural areas (average a 30 minute walk, 20 minute cycle or 10 minute drive)

There should be one community event space for every 5,000 to 10,000 people



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

Council's Event Policy explains the principles that guide council's support of community events. The following principles are essential to deciding which events are supported within fiscal capacity and corporate priorities.

What are the typical embellishments associated with community event spaces?

The level of embellishment provision for each community event space will be determined on a case by case basis. At a minimum, community event spaces should include shelters, and public amenities within walking distance (500m). Site assessment will be required to understand local site conditions and facility requirements. Refer *Table 16: Community event spaces – locations*. Refer RPP – Technical Guidelines for further guidance for what embellishments may be included in community event spaces.



Wedding celebration in the natural environment

Table 16: Community event spaces – location

Type of activity	Detail	Council-wide	District	Local	Civic	Linear	Amenity Reserve	Landscape corridor	Legend
Event space	Public amenities / shelters	✓	✓		✓				✓ suitable suitable dependent on appropriate location * not suitable



Leach Park, Golden Beach

Commercial activities



Why are commercial activities in recreation parks important?

Appropriate commercial activities in recreation parks support the vibrancy of a community by activating a space and providing external services that are not typically provided by council.

What are the different types of commercial activities that council permits in recreation parks?

Council permits commercial activities in recreation parks in accordance with the Community Land and Complementary Commercial Activity Policy.

There are four types of permits available for commercial use of community land:

- **High use/high impact permit** – for commercial activities that have a higher intensity of use and/or are located in high profile areas and therefore may have a more significant impact on the use of community land.



- **Low use/low impact permit** – for commercial activities that are not considered high use/high impact, and where activities will have a lesser intensity of use, including fitness classes, itinerant vendors and activities conducted by not-for-profit organisations. The following criteria are considered when determining if an activity is low use/low impact:
 - further permit applications can easily be accommodated in the area
 - the activity is irregular, occasional or regular minor use
 - there is little to no impact on the space or the community use
 - the activity is considered a trial to ascertain potential for inclusion as a high use/high impact activity.
- **Outdoor dining permit** – for commercial activities that require access to community land for the purpose of conducting outdoor dining in conjunction with an adjacent food and drink business, operating on private land. The following criteria are considered when determining if an activity is permitted:
 - supports local business
 - encourages business operators to enhance the use of footpaths
 - improves amenity
 - creates vitality and ambience
 - ensures community safety.
- **Goods on footpath permit** – for commercial activities that require access to community land for the purpose of displaying goods for sale in conjunction with an adjacent business, operating on private land. The following criteria are considered when determining if an activity is permitted:
 - supports local business
 - encourages business operators to enhance the use of footpaths
 - improves amenity
 - creates vitality and ambience
 - ensures community safety.

What are the typical embellishments associated with commercial activities?

No additional embellishments are provided by council to support commercial activities. For further information refer to *Table 17: Commercial activities – Locations*. Refer RPP – Technical Guidelines for further guidance for what embellishments may be included in commercial activity spaces.

Where do we allow commercial activities in parks?

Council permits commercial activities in district and council-wide parks. Commercial activities are generally not supported in local parks due to their small size and primary function.

Permitted commercial activities are provided in accordance with council's Community Land and Commercial Activities Policy.

Table 17: Commercial activities – location

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

Legend

✓

suitable

suitable dependent on appropriate location

*

suitable dependent on appropriate location

not suitable



Maroochy Botanic Gardens

Public art



Why is public art in recreation parks important?

Public art is important to create vibrant and attractive places across the Sunshine Coast region. Council is committed to incorporating innovative, stimulating and relevant public art that enhances public spaces and enriches the character of local communities.

Supporting public art projects in parks also contributes to individuals being actively engaged in strengthening and shaping their community. It enables us to engage in conversations, provoke questions and hear from diverse voices in our culture. Expressing ideas through creative art is an essential part of being human. It can take many forms, including permanent installations in public spaces, temporary installations and performance.



What are the different types of public art that council supports?

Council manages new public art projects within streetscape and park developments. Public art can exist as standalone works or it can be integrated as a functional element such as bespoke seating or other structures. Artworks such as projections and ephemeral installations are also described as public art.

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

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

Partnerships

To deliver a range of public art, council may enter partnerships with external organisations, including:

- state and national funding programs to facilitate public art
- government departments
- arts and cultural organisations
- developers
- private sector partners.

Community-initiated

Council may subsidise community-initiated projects when outcomes are aligned, including:

- community art projects
- proposals received from community groups or individuals.

Gifts, donations, bequests and developer contributions

Public art received from external sources must be approved for installation by council and may be donated by various sources, including:

- visiting delegations
- individuals
- developers.

What are the typical embellishments associated with public art?

The level of embellishment of each public art installation will be determined on a case by case basis. Site assessment will be required to understand local site conditions and facility requirements. Table 18: Public art – locations. Refer RPP – Technical Guidelines for further guidance for what embellishments part of public art installations.

Where do we currently provide access to public art in recreation parks?

Council provides 114 art pieces in 56 council-wide, district and civic recreation parks across the SCC region. RPP – Technical Guidelines – Map 8: Public art in *parks* shows the location of public art pieces in recreation parks.

Public art will be considered in local and linear parks and amenity reserves if integrated with infrastructure appropriate for those park types. This includes benches/seating, pathways etc.

Table 18: Public art – locations

Type of embellishment	Detail	Council-wide	District	Local	Civic	Linear	Amenity Reserve	Landscape corridor	Legend
Public art	Artwork	✓	✓	*	✓	*	*		✓ suitable suitable dependent on appropriate location * not suitable



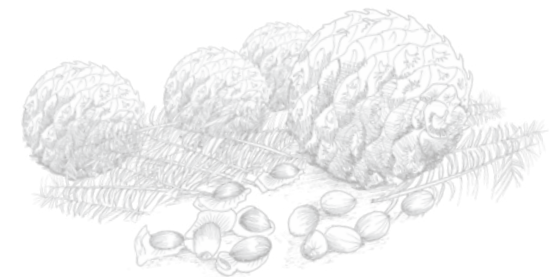
4.3 Embellishment standards

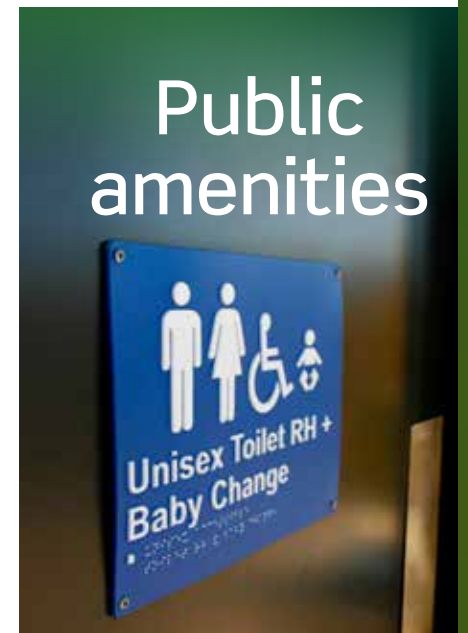
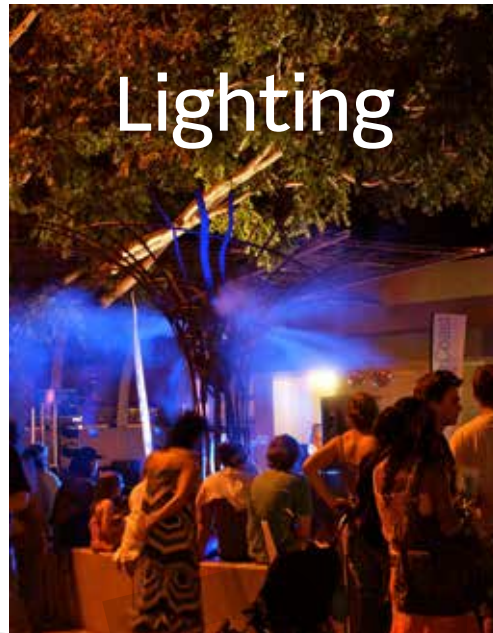
Park embellishment standards outline the fundamental requirements for the provision of landscape elements and facilities in parks. These guidelines are applied in planning of parks to deliver well designed parks that are accessible, safe and enjoyed by the whole community.

The standards of embellishment in a park is influenced by the park type, setting, intended functions and anticipated demand. The ELS sets the desired standards of service for provision and embellishment of parks, while the desired infrastructure standards are described in the LIM.

Providing park embellishments that are appropriate to a park type ensures that park development achieves a balance between what is sustainable, affordable and beneficial to the community.

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





Chapter 5.0

Parks management

5.1 Management

The RPP is designed to assist with future park management, noting the links between recreation parks planning, operational management and maintenance which are vital to the long-term sustainability of the recreation parks network. Through a review of current levels of provision and service, including identified over-service and shortfalls, the RPP is essential to manage council's recreation park assets. Council's existing management framework consists of capital works programs, asset management plans, local laws and maintenance service levels.

Capital works programs

Council's capital works programs deliver funding for strategic land acquisition and development of recreation parks on an annual basis. They also include plans for the renewal or replacement of existing parks infrastructure. To achieve the outcomes outlined in council's strategic policies the funding and scheduling of these programs should align with the priorities outlined in this plan and other endorsed policy documents.

Male blue-faced honey eater

Asset management

Asset management planning is a comprehensive process that ensures services and infrastructure are delivered in a financially sustainable manner. Asset management plans provide information about infrastructure assets and the actions required to provide an agreed level of service in the most cost-effective manner. These plans define the services to be provided, how the services are delivered and what funds are needed to deliver the services.

Council has developed a Parks and Gardens Asset Management Plan that covers the SCC's recreation park infrastructure assets. These assets include recreation parks throughout the Sunshine Coast that enable people to use the region's open space network. The Parks and Gardens Asset Management Plan is used to guide and demonstrate responsive and sustainable management of park assets, including:

- the services provided by park assets
- compliance with regulatory requirements
- strategies and funding required to provide the required levels of service.

Modelling within this plan is completed to represent a 10 year planning period. A full revision of the RPP is required every five years (minimum) with financial information updated annually.

This plan will also assist Council during asset renewals by providing a framework to determine whether the asset is still required to support park function. Demographic information found in the documents that support this plan will also help to determine whether the asset is still appropriate for the intended user catchment, and if not, will help guide provision of a new, more appropriate asset.

Local laws

Local laws have a significant role in the management and regulation of open space from animal management to environmental health and safety. Enacted under the Local Government Act 2009 (Qld), local laws reflect community needs and ensure good governance.

Local laws assist Council with the management of our parks by providing additional regulation for particular park uses (ie. dog exercise). This ensures enjoyment of our recreation parks by the entire community.

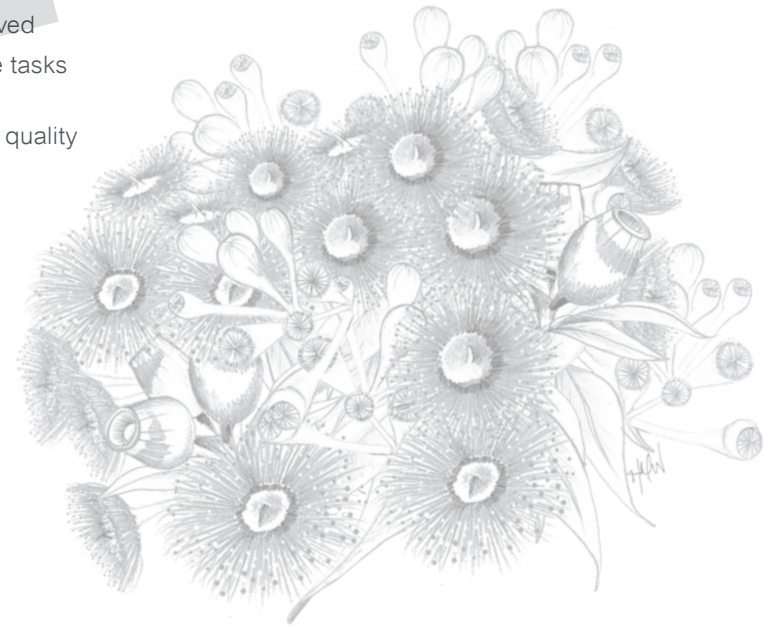
Service levels

Recreation park service levels and specifications guide the maintenance of parks assets. These service levels are based on the categories of parks established in the ELS, including:

- amount and frequency of maintenance
- maintenance standards and outcomes achieved
- specification of operational and maintenance tasks for contractors and internal crews
- monitoring of maintenance performance and quality evaluation
- CRM response times and targets.

The key to managing future demand and accommodating growth is delivering operational maintenance services more efficiently. Council conducts reviews of service levels to achieve efficiency, balance maintenance performance, manage service costs and mitigate risks. Modelling of service costs and reviewing service levels, schedules and quality standards, enables the best use of resources within financial constraints. Service level reviews include analysis of the following:

- unit rates for delivery of maintenance services
- resources for management areas
- costs for current levels of service
- historic growth in assets and service costs
- forecast growth and future demand.



Service standards

P&G service standards define the frequency of maintenance and are an assessable guide for the operation and management of park assets.

P&G service levels, standards and specifications influence:

- service level and frequency of maintenance
- maintenance standards and outcomes achieved
- specification of operational and maintenance tasks for contractors and internal crews
- monitoring of maintenance performance and quality
- CRM response times and targets.

Service planning

Delivery of operational services by P&G is informed by modelling and analysis of service outcomes, resource requirements and costs.

P&G service planning enables:

- development of schedules and programming of operational activities
- integration with council's geographical information system (GIS) and asset information systems
- modelling of service outcomes and labour, plant and resource requirements
- analysis of costs and budget forecasting.

Table 19: Service standards and planning

	Service levels and CRM response	Levels of service matrix Site assessment framework, service frequencies and response times for asset maintenance in Parks and Gardens management areas
	Service standards and specifications	Assessable quality standards Defined maintenance outcomes, service specifications, quality standards and operating procedures
	Performance and quality evaluation	Service evaluation criteria and checklists Service quality evaluation tools, performance auditing and reporting mechanisms
	Service schedules	Schedules and programming Parks operations, asset maintenance and condition auditing schedules and programs
	Mapping and asset information	Mapping and asset information Service delivery mapping and asset information integrated into GIS and strategic asset management systems
	Cost analysis and financial forecasts	Cost analysis and budget forecasting Service cost and growth modelling, budget analysis and long term financial forecasting



Figure 9: Service level planning flow chart

Chapter 6.o Implementation, monitoring and review

6.1 Framework for strategic actions

Strategic action plan

To achieve the outcomes articulated in the vision, goals and principles of this plan, a list of strategic actions has been prepared. The strategic actions bridge the gap between strategic policy direction and the delivery of council's recreation parks. These actions will direct future priorities in recreation park planning and management, incorporating and building on current council projects and programs.

Measurable actions are assigned under each strategic goal. A measure or indicator has been assigned to each action to enable monitoring and review of the plan's objectives.

Each strategic action is assigned an action device to assist delivery. This helps to identify the fundamental process required to initiate and complete each action.

Action devices:

- Advocacy – support, promote or sponsor project development
- Alliances – collaborate with internal or external bodies
- Activation – improve utilisation of existing space
- Audit – review and assess existing assets or activities facilitated
- Asset management – develop asset management plan.


The strategic actions are assigned a priority rating with a timeframe for commencement:

- Primary – 1 to 5 years
- Secondary – 3 to 10 years.

It is expected that projects rated as high or medium will appear in the 10 year capital works program.




Table 20: Strategic actions – park recreation, scenic amenity, social



Park recreation

A recreation parks network that provides equitable access to healthy recreation opportunities in a functional and affordable manner


Action	Process	Measure	Priority
Develop a play strategy to analyse current play space provision, including the specific elements provided in each space, and to provide detailed guidance on the types of play spaces to be utilised in specific areas across the Sunshine Coast region	Asset Management	Strategy completed	Primary
Work with Strategic Planning to ensure park planning principles are incorporated in future versions of the Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme	Alliances	Amendments included in Planning Scheme	Primary



Scenic amenity

A recreation parks network that promotes the attractiveness of our region by preserving social and culturally significant views and by providing parks that bring people, place, and nature together

Action	Process	Measure	Priority
Develop water management plan for parks to guide future irrigation needs	Asset Management	Plan developed	Primary
Develop guidelines for water sensitive urban design infrastructure in parks that contributes to recreation and amenity	Alliances	Guidelines developed	Secondary




Social

A recreation parks network that provides safe community gathering places that connect people and place and encourage community cohesiveness, creative lifestyles and improved mental health benefits

Action	Process	Measure	Priority
Engage with the community to identify new recreational activities that respond to community needs	Advocate	New activities identified	Primary
Provide opportunities for community tree planting in recreation parks	Advocate	New trees planted by community	Primary


Table 21: Strategic actions – ecological, educational, economic



Ecological

A recreation parks network that increases opportunities for residents and visitors to connect with nature in cooler, vegetated recreation parks


Action	Process	Measure	Priority
Develop guidelines for park trees that meet urban forest objectives	Asset Management	Guidelines completed	Primary
Analyse current shade provision in perks to identify gaps and opportunities to extend the provision of shade	Audit	Analysis completed	Primary



Educational

A recreation parks network that encourages opportunities for educational programs that contribute to cultural heritage, the arts, and living ecosystem knowledge in our recreation parks

Action	Process	Measure	Priority
Work collaboratively with First Nations Peoples to strengthen linkages and interpretation of indigenous cultural heritage in open space	Advocate	Community engaged and plan developed	Primary
Utilise council's Smart City framework to provide digital education opportunities in recreation parks	Activate	Programs implemented	Secondary



Economic

A recreation parks network that contributes to the economic development of the region by supporting tourism, providing functional settings for users, events and programs, and by attracting workers looking for active and healthy lifestyles

Action	Process	Measure	Priority
Develop a digital platform that assists parks users with finding specific park activities	Advocate	Platform developed	Primary
Develop a comprehensive marketing and promotion plan to encourage the visitation and use of recreation parks across the entire network	Activate	Marketing and promotion activities implemented	Secondary



6.2 Implementation

Timeframes

Tasks identified in the strategic action plan will be implemented over a 10 year timeframe. The strategic action plan is broken up into goal-based sections that outline objectives and associated actions. An action device and measure or indicator is assigned to identify how to action and monitor the task's progress. Each action is assigned a priority rating which identifies expected delivery timeframes. This helps to bring actions into a work program.

Duties

P&G will take a lead role in developing and managing most of the projects associated with the actions. Several actions are related to existing programs that have been developed and managed by other council branches; P&G will take a supporting role for those actions. Certain responsibilities lie with external providers, for example, the development industry must provide open space contributions consistent with council goals and principles.

A whole of council approach to project delivery will be required to ensure outcomes that are integrated and responsive to community needs. P&G will work collaboratively to develop and deliver each project. Comprehensive consultation will be carried out for a variety of projects providing the locals with an opportunity to offer input for community-based outcomes.

Funding

A range of funding options are available to support the planning, development and management of recreation parks. One or a combination of funding options may be considered to achieve the implementation of the strategy.

Funding for recreation park projects may be sourced from a combination of the following options:

- the LGIP
- general revenue
- infrastructure agreements
- external grants and subsidies from state and federal government agencies
- philanthropic approaches
- special levies
- partnerships
- tenure security and adjustment
- commercial leases
- commercial revenue
- land disposal
- compensation for land required for other purposes (for example, road-widening or drainage).

What's next

- Development of project plans for strategic actions following formal adoption of the RPP.
- Continue projects and the development of the master plan as identified in the capital works program
- Review council's operational plan to ensure key tasks are included in future plan development
- Review the 10 year capital works program and look to include key tasks as identified in this plan.

Appendices

DRAFT



Appendix A – Reference list

Appendix B – Glossary of terms,
Abbreviations

Appendix C – Acknowledgements

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Appendix A

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Appendix B

Glossary of terms

Active recreation – Recreational activities which require varying degrees of physical exertion.

Activity centre – Commercial focal points which include a combination of land uses and infrastructure such as offices, retail, higher density housing, entertainment, civic spaces and community facilities. Also known as a community hub.

Adaptation – The process of adjustment to the effects of actual or expected changes in climate.

Annual exceedance probability (AEP) – the likelihood of occurrence of a flood of given size or larger occurring in any one year.

All abilities play space – A place which is designed primarily for equal access children's play regardless of physical or mental development.

Biodiversity – The variety of species and ecosystems and the ecological processes of which they are a part.

Biophilia – The innately emotional connection between human beings and other living organisms.

Built environment – The systems of buildings, facilities and constructed infrastructure services.

Built infrastructure – Constructed park elements that support park functions and activities.

Character – The intrinsic features and innate qualities of an area (including natural, built, cultural and spiritual) that create a sense of connection in people.

Climate change – Natural and human induced changes to the climate attributed to increased levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

Coast – Coastal foreshore and adjacent areas.

Coastal foreshore – Area between high and low mean spring tides.

Community hub – See activity centre.

Community view lines – Accessible public areas that provide a vantage point overlooking significant views and vistas in natural and built environments.

Conservation estate – A collection of state, council and private lands managed for conservation.

Cultural heritage – An expression of the ways of living developed by a community and passed on from generation to generation including customs, practices, places, objects, artistic expressions and values.

Ecological connectivity – Natural vegetation corridors that provide connectivity between habitats to enable species movement and gene exchange.

Ecologically functional – The effective functioning of habitats to support plants and animals.

Ecosystem services – The benefits people obtain from the natural environment such as clean air and drinking water.

Embellishment – The level of built and living infrastructure required to achieve the desired function.

Formal recreation – Recreational activities with formal rules and event organisation and administration structures.

Green infrastructure – The physical natural environment within and between our cities, towns and villages. A network of parks, gardens, native vegetation, green corridors, waterways, street trees and open countryside.

Hard-stand – open area finished with a hard surface such as concrete, pavers or similar.

Informal recreation – Recreational activities that do not require event organisation and administration structures.

Legibility – The quality of being clear enough to comprehend.

Living infrastructure – The multi-functional network of natural landscape elements, integrated with the built environments to provide a range of ecological, social and economic benefits.

Localities of interest (LOI) – Geographical planning areas defined to identify the characteristics and traits of the wide range of communities currently existing on the Sunshine Coast. They are based on a combination of neighbouring gazetted suburbs and where possible represent communities that share a number of traits in addition to their geographical location.

Mitigation – Activities to reduce, eliminate or prevent risk.

Multi-generational – A range of age groups.

Natural environment – Elements that exist without intervention through naturally occurring processes, including water, soil, air, plants and animals, and the ecological and physical processes that affect them.

Node – Gathering point within a park where activities and infrastructure are grouped together and easily accessed

Park function – The role of an open space. Each park function delivers benefits for the health and liveability of the region.

Passive recreation – Recreational activities that require minimal physical exertion. This can include walking, socialising and observing nature.

Public realm – Publicly accessible areas including open spaces, buildings and facilities including civic buildings, streets, pathways and parks.

Recreation – The experience that results from freely chosen participation in physical, social, spiritual, intellectual, creative and spiritual pursuits that seek to enhance individual and community well-being.

Riparian – land alongside creeks, streams, gullies, rivers and wetlands.

Scenic amenity – The collective appreciation of scenery and the attractiveness of a place, including natural and built environments.

Self-contained neighbourhood – An urban residential area that facilitates walk and cycle access to local services and facilities including integrated public transport options.

Setting – The characteristics of the surrounding environment in which a recreation park is located.

Abbreviations

Smart technology – A range of integrated information gathering and communication technologies such as sensors, data and real-time monitoring used to connect people, businesses, communities and the environment.

Stream order – used to describe the hierarchy of streams from the top to the bottom of a catchment.

Topophilia – The affective bond between people and place or setting.

Universal access – Also called equal access. Access that enables the inclusion of a range of people including, but not limited to: children, older people, people in wheelchairs and mobility devices, small statured people, people with hearing or vision impairments, people with a psychiatric or intellectual disability and injured people.

Urban biodiversity – The variety of species, ecosystems and ecological processes in an urban environment.

Urban heat island (UHI) effect – A weather phenomenon causing urban areas to be hotter than surrounding non-urban areas.

Values – The positive qualities, benefits and opportunities individuals associate with open space.

Wallum – The low-lying, swampy area slightly inland from the coast.

AEP – Annual exceedance probability

BMX – Bicycle motocross

Corporate Plan – Sunshine Coast Council Corporate Plan 2020 – 2024

CPTED – Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

CRM – Customer response management, also known as customer request management

CS – Sunshine Coast Council Community Strategy 2019 – 2041

DEAs – Dog exercise areas

DSS – Desired standards of service

ELS – Sunshine Coast Council Environment and Liveability Strategy 2017

GIS – Geographical information system

ha – hectares

km – kilometres

LGIP – Sunshine Coast Council Local Government Infrastructure Plan

LIM – Sunshine Coast Council Open Space Landscape Infrastructure Manual

LOI – Localities of interest

m – metres

P&G – Parks and Gardens Branch

Planning Scheme – Sunshine Coast Council Planning Scheme 2014

REDS – Sunshine Coast Council Regional Economic Development Strategy 2013 – 2033

RPP – Sunshine Coast Recreation Parks Plan

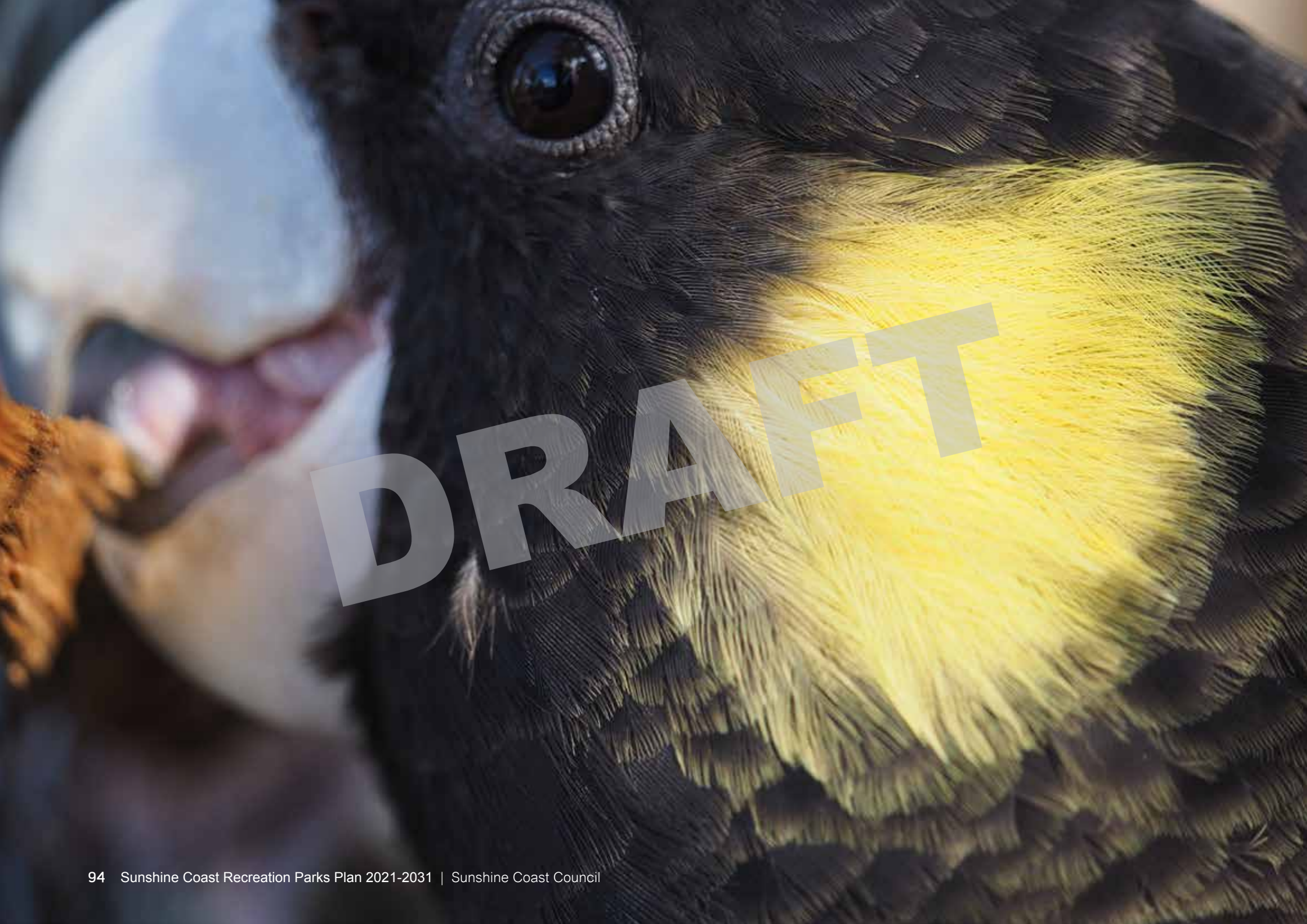
SCC – Sunshine Coast Council

SICS – Smart Irrigation Control System

UHI – Urban heat island

UV – Ultraviolet

WSUD – Water-sensitive urban design



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