

Open Space Strategy 2018–2028



DRAFT

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A NEW OPEN SPACE STRATEGY



Introduction

Council acknowledges the Ngandowal and Minyungbal people of the Bundjalung nation, in particular the Goodjinburra, Tulgi-gin and Moorung-moobah clans as being the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land and water within the Tweed Shire boundaries.

The Tweed Shire is unique for its diversity of open spaces and natural features. The Wollumbin Caldera, the stunning Tweed coastline, a continuous foreshore reserve running the length of the Tweed Coast, the Tweed River and its tributaries, its creeks, bushland reserves, parks and sports fields makes the Tweed a highly desirable place to live, work, play and visit.

Open spaces are the places we go to picnic with our family and friends, play sport, socialise, walk, cycle, sit at lunchtime, encounter nature and engage in cultural activities. Open spaces accommodate a range of sporting, recreation and park facilities that provide a wealth of recreational, environmental and tourism opportunities for the region. Open spaces add to the amenity, character and identity of our towns and villages and provides areas to celebrate our heritage and culture.

As population growth and development continues in the Tweed, Council is committed to improving the quality and diversity of the open space network. We aim to find the balance between supporting a vibrant, prosperous community life and protecting our much loved natural environment. We will build on what we have achieved so far to provide a better open space network for future generations.

The Open Space Strategy is the product of extensive consultation with residents, stakeholders, open space users and the broader community. We listened and engaged the community to determine what needs to be done over the next decade to protect and enhance the open space network. Making the most of what we have, improving health and well-being, fostering greater access and equity, connecting people and spaces and protecting natural and cultural heritage were the priorities of the communities priorities.

We will ensure our future open spaces provide recreational and social opportunities that appeal to all ages and abilities. We will work hard to establish high standards and consistent levels of service so that our parks and open spaces meet both community and visitor needs. We aim to deliver a sustainable open space network that delivers a range of social, environmental, cultural and economic benefits.

The *Open Space Strategy 2018-2028* sets the vision for the future of open space and provides the overarching framework and strategic direction for public open space planning in the Tweed Shire for the next 10 years. Whilst the strategy presents broad strategic directions for the Shire, it also includes specific actions relating to future works in parks and open spaces in local communities. This makes the Open Space Strategy both a strategic and an operational planning document. Implementation of the strategy will ensure that our open spaces provide existing and future residents and visitors with diverse, dynamic and enjoyable places to live and play.

Building on our success

Much has been achieved over the past decade to protect, enhance and expand the quantity and quality of Tweed's open space network. We are proud of our achievements and we want to build from this foundation. The recent projects have contributed to improving the quality of life of our residents and enhancing the Tweed's natural and built environments.

Open space improvements

Regional/district park or sport field upgrades

Upgrade of Jack Evans Boat Harbour, Tweed Heads
Development of Rowan Robinson Park, Kingscliff
Upgrade of Knox Park, Murwillumbah including skate park, playground and netball courts (Stage 1 Knox Park Master Plan)
Development of Stage 1 Arkinstall Park Master Plan, Tweed Heads South
District park upgrades in Pottsville, Hastings Point, Cabarita, Salt, Kingscliff, Fingal Head and Tweed Heads
Terranora Tennis Courts and playground
NSW Coastal Cycleway

Local/Neighbourhood park or sports field upgrades

Numerous neighbourhood and local park and playground upgrades
Provision of modern outdoor exercise equipment at Kingscliff and Tweed Heads
Provision of off-leash dog areas
Construction or redevelopments of lookouts at Cabarita, Tweed Heads and Tyalgum
Rural village park and playground upgrades including Uki, Tyalgum and Tumbulgum
Development of new sports fields including Seabreeze Sports Fields, Koala Beach Sports Fields and Black Rocks Sports Ground, Pottsville
Upgrade of Cabarita Skate Park

Civic space or streetscape upgrades

Bay St CBD Streetscape Upgrade, Tweed Heads
Pottsville Village Centre improvements
Cabarita Town Centre Master Plan

Improve access to waterways for recreation

Budd Park pontoon upgrade and river bank rehabilitation
Pontoon upgrades in Murwillumbah, Tumbulgum, Fingal Head, Chinderah
Condong boat ramp and river bank erosion stabilisation
Construction of numerous boat ramps and jetties
Canoe launch site, at Clarrie Purnell Park, Byangum

Policy development

Sports Field Strategy (2014)
Environmental Sustainability Prioritisation Strategy (2015–2020)
Tweed Coast Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management (2014)
Tweed Development Control Plan – Section A19 Biodiversity and Habitat Management (2017)
Draft Coastal Management Program for Tweed River Estuary (2018–2028)
Coastal Zone Management Plan for the Tweed Coast Estuaries (2013)
Tweed River Bank Erosion Management Plan (2014)
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan (2017)
Youth Strategy and Action Plan (2013–2017)
Tweed Shire Access and Inclusion Plan (2014–2018)
Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan (2014)
Commercial Recreation Activities on Public Open Space (2017)
Events Strategy (2016)
Kingscliff Locality Plan (Volume 3) Development Control Plan
Rural Villages Strategy (2016)
Cultural Plan (2017)
Kingscliff – Dreamtime Beach Coastal Zone Management Plan (2017)
Vegetation Vandalism on Public Land Policy (2016)

Defining open space

For the purpose of this strategy, public open space is defined as:

‘Land in public ownership set aside for the purpose of sport, recreation and leisure, cultural or nature conservation, amenity and urban stormwater management.’

Public open space may include:

- Parks (including foreshore reserves);
- Sports fields and courts;
- Natural areas such as bushland areas, coastal areas, some foreshore reserves, wetlands, salt marshes and estuaries
- Open space corridors for tracks, trails and pathways;
- Civic open space including streetscapes; and
- Land reserved for infrastructure (e.g. drainage, road reserve or as a utility easement) where opportunities for recreation, the protection of biodiversity values and visual amenity are also provided.

The Open Space Strategy applies to public open space, sport and outdoor recreation facilities for which Tweed Shire Council has either ownership or care, control and management responsibility. The strategy does not apply to indoor sport or recreation facilities.

Whilst, the coastline and waterways of the Tweed Shire are a significant component of the open space network and provide a range of recreational opportunities, their management is not discussed in this strategy. The management of these areas is addressed and regulated under the *Coastal Management Act 2016* and Tweed Shire Council's Coastal and Catchment Management Programs with the aim of protecting environmental, water-supply and the social, cultural and recreation values.

A number of other land management agencies are responsible for the provision, management and maintenance of open space, sport and recreation facilities within the Tweed Shire. The key agencies include NSW Crown Lands, Tweed Byron Aboriginal Land Council, National Parks and Wildlife Service and public and private education institutions. The Open Space Strategy does not apply to open spaces managed by these agencies however, we acknowledge the possible use of these open spaces, sport and recreation facilities by the community and these have been taken into account in determining overall provision, level of community access and amenity.

The strategy does not apply to privately owned open space or commercially owned open space or indoor recreation facilities. However, these open spaces and the sport and recreation opportunities they provide have also been considered in the development of this strategy.

Throughout this document, public open space will be referred to as open space.

Our open spaces

There are seven different types of open space.

Park (includes foreshore reserves)

Parks and foreshore reserves provide for active and passive recreation, opportunities for social interaction, nature appreciation and provide amenity values. They are venues for walking, jogging, cycling, exercising, child's play, walking the dog, throwing a ball, picnicking, relaxing, observing nature and a range of cultural activities including markets, festivals, events and wedding celebrations. Some foreshores reserves provide important access to waterways for water based recreation activities.



Sports field/court

Sports fields and courts provide for structured sport, active recreation and opportunities for social interaction. They are venues for playing sport, training, competition, social sport and other active recreation activities such as skating and bike riding. Sports fields and courts include the playing surface or court surface and the surrounding area required to accommodate ancillary facilities such as cricket nets, car parking, toilets and clubhouses.



Natural area

A natural area is land dedicated to protect and enhance areas of environmental and cultural significance and heritage e.g. biodiversity (flora and fauna), areas of historic significance, Aboriginal places of significance or landscapes. They may include bushland reserves, riparian habitats, wetlands, salt marshes, estuaries, coastal areas, geological and natural features. These areas provide opportunities to appreciate and learn about natural and cultural heritage, rest and contemplation and may support nature based recreation activities.



Tracks, trails and pathways

Tracks, trails and pathways provide for active and passive recreation and opportunities for social interaction. They are often linear corridors alongside beaches, rivers and creeks or provide linkages to other open spaces. Tracks, trails and pathways provide venues for walking, jogging, cycling, horse riding and commuting.



Civic spaces and streetscapes

Civic spaces are community spaces in and around activity centres and community hubs, including civic forecourts and plazas which are accessible to the public to walk, socialise and for workers to have lunch. Civic spaces and streetscapes provide important opportunities for shade, provide amenity values and can embrace a town or village's culture and identity.



Undeveloped

Land identified as open space or zoned for public recreation but is undeveloped or is being protected to meet future open space needs.



Drainage reserves, road reserves and land for utilities

These open spaces are primarily provided for drainage, as road reserve and for utility purposes which may include telecommunication and electrical infrastructure. They are often constrained, but can provide opportunities for recreation, important habitat for wildlife, opportunities for nature appreciation and can provide amenity values if well managed.



Benefits of open spaces

Open spaces and the sport, recreation and park facilities provided within them are extensively used by our local community and visitors from across the region, the border, Australia and overseas. Open spaces may provide the following benefits:

Health and wellbeing benefits

Open spaces can provide significant health and well-being benefits and have a positive impact on reducing the prevalence and severity of a variety of diseases including diabetes, heart disease, stroke, certain cancers and obesity, as well mental illnesses such as depression and anxiety.

The benefits of open spaces are associated with:

- people participating in physical activity;
- fostering children's play, developing new skills and allowing children to use their imagination;
- providing places that appeal to the senses whilst bringing joy, excitement and pleasure to individuals and communities;
- the restorative and stress relieving effects of being exposed to and connecting with natural areas;
- promoting active transport, particularly walking and cycling;
- being outside in the fresh air and sunlight;
- providing quiet or secluded places away from noise, annoyances and overcrowding;
- creating cooler environments to reduce the health impacts of a warming urban environment; and
- spiritual renewal.

Social benefits

Participating in sport and recreation activities, as well as volunteering activities can help connect communities and provide opportunities for social interaction, learning and teaching.

The benefits of open spaces are associated with:

- facilitating opportunities for planned and spontaneous social interaction – usually free of charge;
- transforming places into vibrant community places, decreasing feelings of loneliness and isolation;
- fostering community pride and a strong sense of place;
- creating places that foster intergenerational relationships;
- promoting social development in children and engaging young people positively in the outdoor environment; and
- facilitating community capacity building, ownership and stewardship.

Environmental and cultural benefits

Protecting our local biodiversity, Indigenous cultural heritage and remnants from early European settlements is fundamental to sustainability and provides important opportunities to promote respect for our natural and cultural heritage and can inspire responsible nature based recreation.

The benefits of open spaces are associated with:

- provision of habitat for local fauna;
- protecting and enhancing local biodiversity and maintaining green corridors;
- conserving Indigenous and European cultural heritage values;
- protecting scenic landscapes and seascapes;
- encouraging people's connection with nature and opportunities to learn about the natural environment;
- mitigating the effects of climate change and reducing the heat island effect i.e. through carbon storage; providing buffers to sea level rise, by encouraging active transport and the provision of shade; and
- providing land that supports sustainable water management through water storage, stormwater management and flood mitigation and improving water quality.

Economic benefits

Open spaces, sport and recreation activities can contribute significantly to economic prosperity. Quality open spaces not only attract residents to our shire, but visitors, tourists, tourism related businesses and investment.

The benefits of open spaces are associated with:

- reducing community health costs, by increasing levels of physical activity;
- enhancing the amenity and attractiveness of urban areas and the public domain which can attract new residents, new businesses and increase property values;
- providing places and landscapes of interest that encourage visitors, tourists and tourism related businesses to an area;
- providing places that accommodate special events, markets and festivals; and
- employment opportunities resulting from the use and enjoyment of open spaces.

Purpose of the Open Space Strategy

The *Open Space Strategy 2018–2028* is the umbrella document which will provide direction for the planning, development, and management of Tweed Shire's open spaces, sport and recreation facilities for the next 10 years.

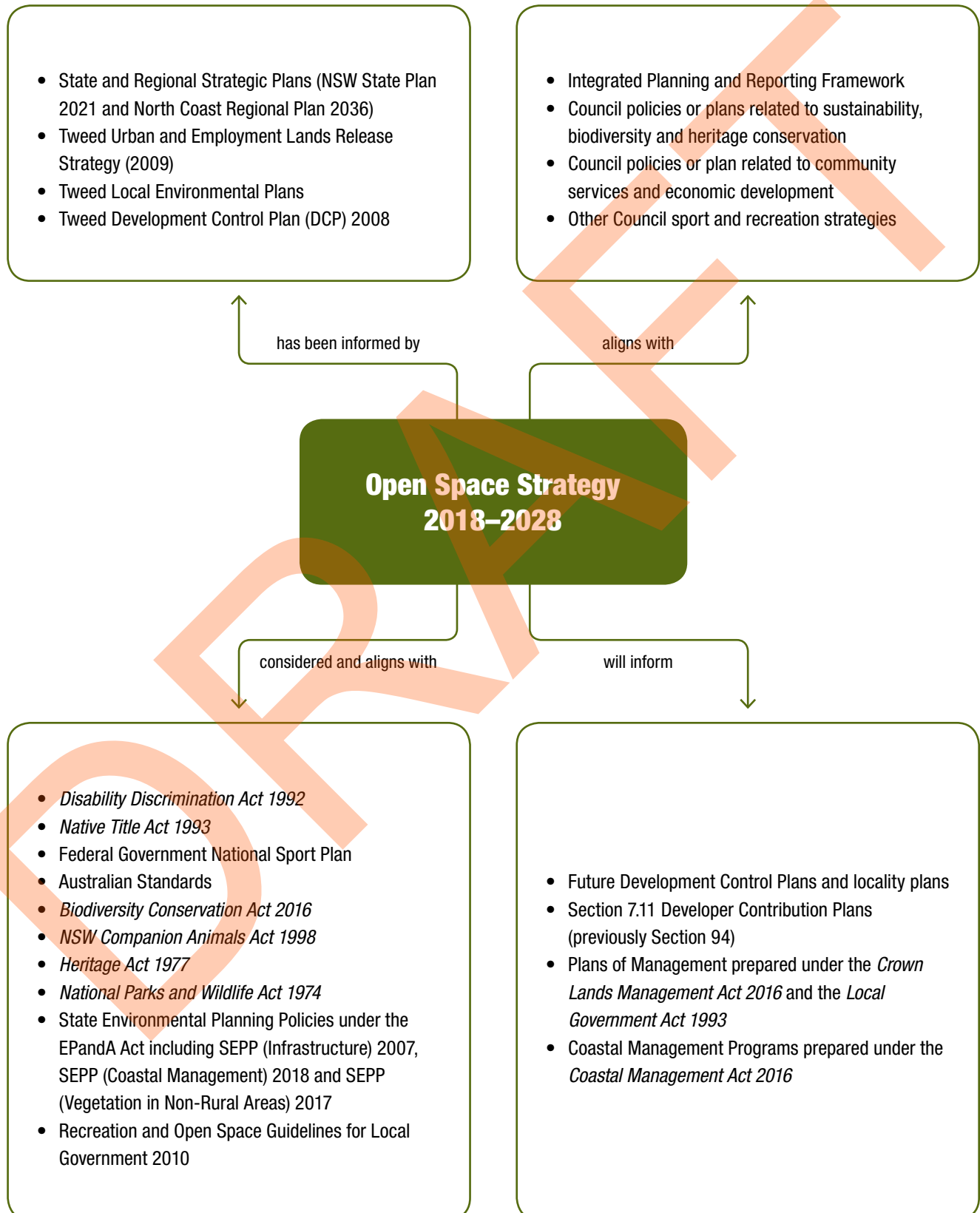
Given the importance of open spaces and sport and recreation to the Tweed Shire community and the significant pressures anticipated by residential growth and visitor use, it is a priority that a strategic and integrated approach to open space planning is undertaken. Without sound strategic planning and directions for open space there is a risk that decisions and allocation of resources tend to be made in an ad hoc and ineffective manner.

Supporting this strategy, but presented as a separate document, is the *Open Space Background Paper*, which contains the research and analysis which has informed the development of the strategy.

The Open Space Strategy seeks to:

- Align its vision and guiding principles with Council's *Community Strategic Plan 2017–2027*, community priorities and objectives for the Tweed;
- Integrate open space, sport and recreation projects into a centralized strategic planning document;
- Inform Tweed Shire Council's Planning Scheme, subsequent land use plans, more detailed open space master plans and concept plans relating to open spaces and sport and recreation facilities;
- Present the evidence base for open space decision-making and the allocation of resources, including open space contributions within the relevant Section 94 Contribution Plans;
- Enable community participation in open space planning, design and decision making;
- Ensure a more equitable distribution of high quality and diverse open spaces, sport and recreation facilities across the Shire;
- Present standards for the provision of open space to ensure all communities have access to open space;
- Respond to community needs and aspirations for open space, sport and recreation facilities;
- Acknowledge and respond to the open space needs of the predicted population and trends in sport, recreation and tourism;
- Recognise the constraints and key challenges likely to impact open space planning and management;
- Ensure the protection and enhancement of Tweed's natural and cultural heritage;
- Encourage the establishment of strategic alliances to better utilise and manage open space assets, sport and recreation facilities; and
- Demonstrate sustainable and responsible management of open space assets.

Strategic context and relevant legislation and policy



Methodology

This *Open Space Strategy 2018–2028* has been prepared following:

- An assessment of the Tweed Shire's progress and achievements in open space planning, development and management;
- A review of literature, best practice open space plans and strategies, State Government and Tweed Shire Council's key planning documents;
- Development of an internal working group and consultation with Council staff;
- Analysis of key issues and opportunities, including analysis of sport, recreation and tourism demands and trends;
- Development of demographic profiles for the Tweed Shire and its 14 profile areas, including a review of population forecasts to identify how the population is forecasted to change between 2016 and 2026.
- Benchmarking with other councils;
- Extensive community and stakeholder engagement;
- Review of secondary demand information including previous community consultation conducted for the Tweed Shire's Sports Field Strategy, Rural Village Strategy and the Youth Strategy;
- Site audits and analysis of the quantity, distribution and quality of open space across the Shire;
- Development and application of a new classification system, a review of the open space hierarchy and core service levels for public open space; and
- Mapping of all public open space managed by Tweed Shire Council.

Community engagement

The Tweed Shire community played a crucial role in the development of the Open Space Strategy. The community engagement process identified the community's needs, preferences and aspirations for Tweed Shire's open space network, its sport and recreation facilities.

Consultation for the Open Space Strategy included:

- **'Pop up' park** – Development of a 'pop up' park, which travelled to 10 community events across Tweed Shire including: Chillingham Markets, Pottsville Markets, Kingscliff Markets, Rotary Duck Race in Kingscliff, Kingscliff TAFE Orientation Day, Tweed City Shopping Centre, John Follent Park in Tweed Heads, Murwillumbah Farmers Market, Murwillumbah Agricultural Show and an event hosted by the Tweed Heads Canine Club. The 'pop up' park provided opportunities for engagement and comment from a broad range of interest groups.
- **Online and hard copy surveys** – Residents completed the following surveys: Open Space Survey, Youth Survey, Child Survey and Playground Survey. The Online Open Space and Playground Survey was available on the 'Have Your Say' page on Council's website for an extended period from November 2015 to January 2016. The surveys asked questions concerning the provision and management of parks and open spaces, sport and recreation facilities.
- **On-site surveys** – Playground surveys were distributed on-site in parks across the shire including Knox Park (Murwillumbah), Jack Evans Boat Harbour (Tweed Heads), Faulks Park (Kingscliff), and Norries Headland Park (Cabarita).
- **Surveys to schools** – Over 2,000 hard copies of the Open Space Surveys were sent to schools in Uki, Burringbar, Pottsville, Crabbes Creek, Crystal Creek, Chillingham, Stokers Siding and Bogangar.
- **Roundtable discussion** – Over 100 residents of Kingscliff participated in a community roundtable discussion on youth and family recreation opportunities in Kingscliff. The outcomes will inform the development of a Shire-wide Outdoor Youth Recreation Action Plan.
- **Other promotions** – Posters, postcards and hard copies of the surveys were available at Council's Civic Centres, libraries and community centres.

- **Written submissions** – Community members who could not attend the 'pop up' park events were encouraged to provide written comment on specific open space issues or opportunities.
- **Councillor workshops** – Two councillor workshops were held to inform Councillors of the process of developing the strategy, to participate in the process and report on its progress.
- **Internal working group** – An internal working group was established to guide and provide input into the strategy development process.
- **Other promotions** – Council announced the development of the OSS in a media release on 19 November 2016. The surveys were promoted in the Tweed Link, which was delivered to over 40,000 households in the Tweed.

| Community responses | Number |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| Open Space Survey | 456 |
| Playground Survey | 158 |
| Youth Survey | 57 |
| Child Survey | 125 |
| Comment postcards | 88 |
| Written submissions | 3 |
| Roundtable discussion | 100 |
| Councillor workshop | 2 |
| Internal working group meetings | 4 |

Table 1: Summary of community engagement initiatives

The complete Community Consultation Report (March 2016) is included in the Open Space Background Paper.

Consultation and community engagement activities conducted whilst the Open Space Strategy was in development have informed the development of the strategy including the Tweed Shire Council Cultural Plan (2018–2021), Draft Tweed River Estuary Coastal Management Program (2018–2028), draft Kingscliff Locality Plan and most recently the Tweed Shire's Access and Inclusion Policy and Action Plan (2018).





SETTING THE SCENE

Demand and consultation outcomes

The Open Space Strategy is based on a sound understanding of the needs of our community, a population and development review and analysis of sport, recreation and tourism trends that are likely to influence future demand for open space, sport and recreational facilities.

We have also identified shifts occurring globally and the key influencing societal trends and issues that will have implications for open space planning, design and development. Over the next decade we will be presented with opportunities as well as challenges, many of which have been encapsulated within the Open Space Strategy to identify how they will be addressed in the future.

Community needs and aspirations

The community identified their preferences for particular open spaces, sport and recreation facilities and their key priorities for achieving a quality and diverse open space network.

Key findings

- Our community values the diversity of Tweed Shire's open space network and the range of sporting and recreational activities provided.
- Walking and jogging are the most popular outdoor recreational activities, followed by surfing and swimming (at the beach, river or creek), walking the dog, using a playground, nature appreciation activities and bike riding for fitness and recreation.
- Enjoying nature and the outdoors, spending time with family and friends, rest and relaxation are the key reasons for using parks and open spaces.
- Participation in unstructured and passive recreation activities is more popular than structured sport activities across all age groups, except children.
- For children, playing in a park or playground, swimming, football, soccer and bike riding are the most popular activities. Parks, playgrounds and sports fields/courts are the most popular outdoor play spaces.
- Walking and jogging are the most popular activities for youth. Most young people visited parks and open spaces with their friends. The youth are satisfied with parks and the path network, and less satisfied with skate parks. For the young people who don't use open spaces, the main reason given was that the open spaces do not appeal to them.
- The key motivating factors for using parks and open spaces included 'enjoyment of nature and the outdoors', 'spending time with family and friends', 'for rest and relaxation', 'because they are free to use', 'to show visitors around the area' and 'to exercise'.
- Most residents visit parks and open spaces with their family (including children), with friends and either on their own or with their partner.
- A high proportion of residents feel safe using parks and open spaces. Fear of crime or threatening behaviour is identified as the key reason for feeling unsafe.
- The community identified the need to protect and enhance what open spaces we already have, specifically in relation to upgrading ageing infrastructure, enhancing the appeal of existing open spaces, improving path connections, improving access to open spaces, and as a minimum, continue delivering the existing maintenance levels.
- The community recommends Council does a better job of promoting the benefits of open spaces to ensure people know where they are and what sporting and recreation activities are available.
- Most residents drive to visit a larger playground that offers more play opportunities for children. Community priorities for playgrounds include 'the provision of more stimulating and challenging equipment', 'more trees for sun protection and grassed areas', 'the provision of park facilities such as seating, picnic tables, BBQ's and toilets adjacent to playgrounds. Other priorities include the provision of equipment for all ages and abilities and opportunities for nature play.
- The key features of parks enjoyed by the community include natural shade, picnic facilities with BBQ's, public toilets, high levels of maintenance, diversity of recreation activities, attractive spaces and family friendly spaces.
- Barriers to participating in sport and recreation include lack of knowledge of open spaces and opportunities available, perceived lack of safety in isolated locations, inadequate public transport (particularly in rural areas) and affordability.

Satisfaction levels

The community were asked to rate their level of satisfaction with Councils parks, playgrounds, sport facilities, natural areas, foreshore reserves and the path network in respect to quality, ease of access and maintenance levels.

- The community reported high levels of satisfaction with the quality of parks and the path network (including cycleways, shared paths and footpaths). However the comments indicated that residents living along the Tweed Coast were more satisfied than the rest of the Shire.
- The community are satisfied with the level of access to foreshore reserves and parks.
- The community are satisfied with the level of maintenance and management of parks.
- The community reported high levels of satisfaction with the quality of playgrounds, playground maintenance levels and the ability to access playgrounds. However, over half of the respondents do not use the playground closest to their home, because it was boring, lacked facilities and the playground doesn't meet their child's needs. Most drive to get to a better playground.
- Almost half of the respondents were dog owners and are unsatisfied with the number of off-leash dog areas where they live.

Community priorities for improving parks and open spaces

- **Shade and shelter:** Provide shade and shelter (natural or built) for protection from the elements, including shade over children's playgrounds, popular parks, seating and BBQ areas.
- **Park facilities:** To improve the provision of park facilities including rubbish bins (recycling bins), access to drinking water, working BBQ's, picnic tables and seating (including seating around playgrounds and for older people).
- **Public toilets:** Provide public toilets that are well maintained, safe, conveniently located and accessible for people with disabilities.
- **Park maintenance:** Provide well-maintained open spaces including regular mowing, emptying of rubbish bins, cleaning of public BBQs (particularly during the holiday periods) and the removal of graffiti.

- **Connectivity:** Provide a well maintained recreational path network, providing pathways that are safe, convenient and connect key open spaces, townships and neighbouring suburbs. The provision of additional paths in townships, other than coastal townships. The need for appropriate behavioural signage and line marking to reduce conflict between path users.
- **Children's play:** Provide quality playgrounds that provide for all age groups, which stimulate and challenge the users. Consider installing natural play equipment, climbing frames and spider webs. The provision of fencing for playgrounds located close to roads and water bodies and for people with specific disabilities. The upgrade of existing playgrounds or the provision of additional playgrounds in suburbs/ townships that are undersupplied. Address anti-social behaviour in parks with playgrounds.
- **Environment conservation:** Protect flora and fauna and plant more native vegetation, protect water quality and manage weeds. The provision of additional opportunities to appreciate and connect with nature, improve access to bushland, foreshores and waterways for everyone.
- **Accessibility:** To improve access to open spaces, including foreshore areas and bushland areas. The provision of bush trails for walking and cycling. Consider the needs of people with disabilities by ensuring open spaces are designed for universal access.
- **Off-leash dog areas and the management of dogs:** Provide more off leash dog exercise areas and dog parks that are fenced. The community identified the need for a new approach to the management of dogs in open spaces (including beaches), the need for additional enforcement of unleashed dogs, improved signage, and the banning of dogs in some open spaces.
- **Car parking:** Upgrade car parks at key open spaces and the provision of additional car parks that are conveniently located and close to other attractors and amenities.
- **Safety:** Identify opportunities to improve public safety in open spaces, consider lighting to improve safety at night.
- **Water park:** Integrate water features into key parks and provide a water park in the Shire.
- **Small or large parks:** The community prefer a mix of small local parks and playgrounds, as well as the larger parks and playgrounds that cater for all ages and abilities.

The complete Community Consultation Report (March 2016) is included in the Open Space Background Paper.

Implications for the provision of open space

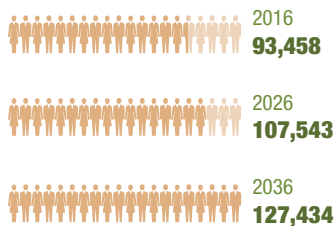
- The popularity of unstructured and passive recreation activities reflects state and national participation trends and reinforces the need to provide an adequate quantity and quality of passive open space offering a diverse range of recreation activities.
- There is support for investment in nature based recreation activities (land and water based activities) such as walking, biking, swimming, canoeing, kayaking and opportunities to observe nature such as bird watching and wildlife observations.
- The Tweed's coast, rivers and creeks are recognized by the community as part of the open space network. There is demand for additional safe swimming and accessible viewing locations along Tweed's foreshores and improved access for people with disabilities.
- The community value the Tweed's bushland areas and support efforts to secure their protection and conservation.
- There is support for the development of a Tweed Shire Bike Plan to improve the provision of shared paths for better access to open spaces, to address the increased demand for walking and cycling, to improve connectivity within and between communities, to improve access for people with disabilities and to reduce the dependence on the motor vehicle to access recreation.
- There is support for improving the planning, design and management of park infrastructure, public toilets and car parks.
- There are a significant number of neighbourhood playgrounds that are not meeting community needs. Playgrounds do not meet the needs of people with disabilities and there is demand for more accessible playgrounds.
- The community supports the provision of more off leash dog exercise areas across the Shire.
- Local markets and events in parks and open spaces are well attended and additional opportunities to activate open spaces through art and cultural activities will help meet the increase demand for family friendly spaces. There is a need to improve access to events in parks and open spaces for people with disabilities.
- There is demand for more picnic facilities, BBQ's, shade and diverse spaces that appeal to people of all ages and abilities. Within open spaces the park infrastructure should be well connected by pathways.
- There is demand for facilities and programs to target the needs of older people such as improved seating, shade, outdoor gyms that are accessible for people with disabilities and safe places to walk and socialize.
- There is an increase in demand for additional facilities and programs for young people, including the provision of youth spaces to hang out together, skate parks and multi-courts, provisions for youth events and free Wifi.
- The demand for shade, both natural and built supports further investment in tree planting in streets and parks, combined with the provision of built shade structures over children's playgrounds.
- The approach to plan a mix of large regional and district playgrounds, as well as smaller, well distributed neighbourhood playgrounds is supported by the community.
- The inequitable distribution of quality and diverse open spaces, playgrounds and youth recreation facilities across different communities of the Shire was recognized, particularly by residents of Banora Point, Tweed Heads West and rural communities. This supports the need to plan a more equitable distribution of open spaces, sport and recreation facilities across the Shire.
- There is demand for quality and diverse parks and open spaces within walking or cycling distance from people's homes to reduce the community's reliance on the motor vehicle to access the open space network.
- Crime Prevention through Environmental Design principles should be applied when master planning and concept planning for open spaces to ensure the essential features of safer places are integrated within our open space network.
- There is room to improve the quality of sports fields/ courts and extend their use to provide a range of passive recreational activities such as walking, biking, outdoor gyms, walking loops and playgrounds.

Population and density

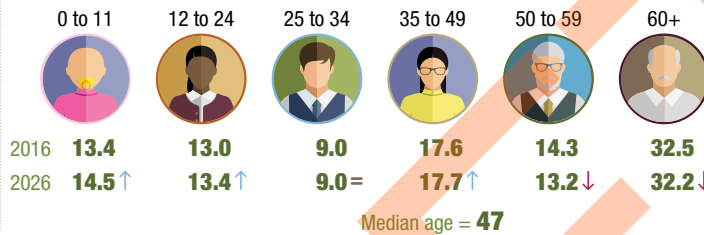
The population growth and forecast development in the Tweed Shire is significant, and will have implications for the provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities. A snapshot in time of the existing population, the growing population and identification of urban growth areas has been presented below.

Population

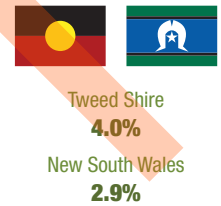
Total (#)



Ageing (%)

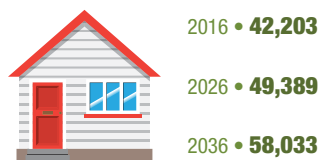


Indigenous (2016)

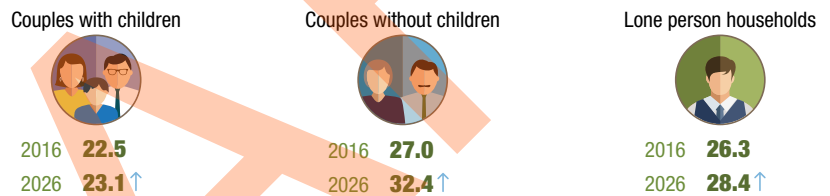


Housing

Dwellings (#)

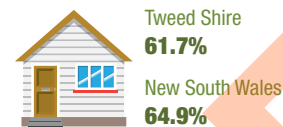


Household types (%)

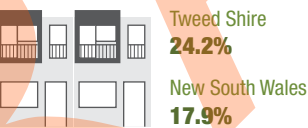


Dwelling summary (2016)

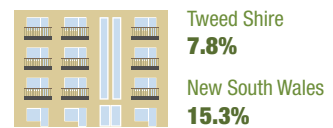
Separate houses



Medium density

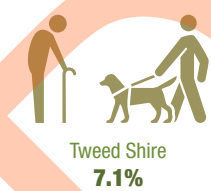


High density

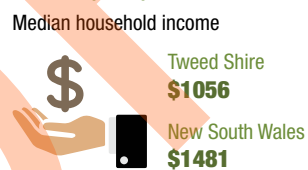


Economy

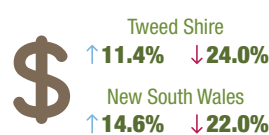
Needs assistance due to age or disability (2016)



Income (2016)



High/low income



SEIFA Index of Disadvantage



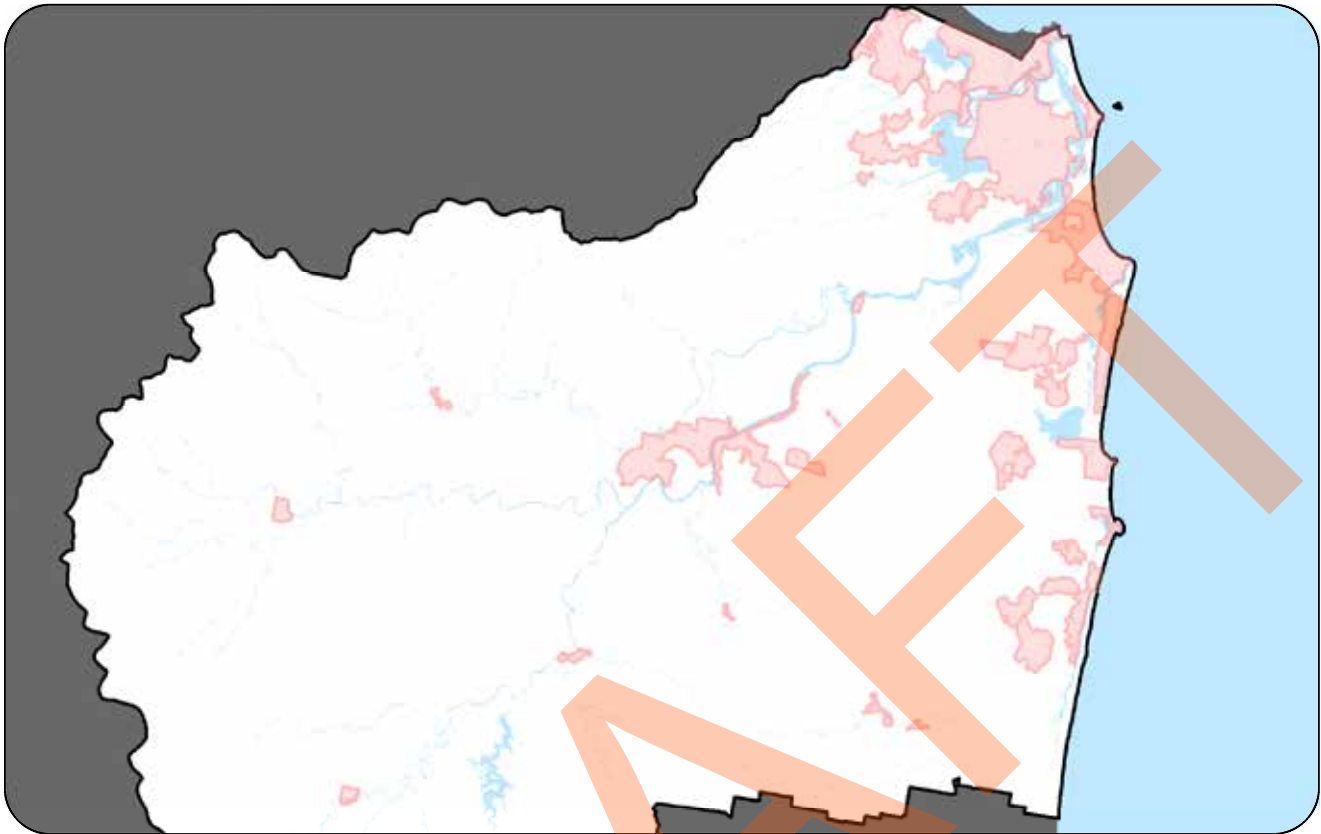


Figure 1: Urban growth areas identify both existing and proposed urban lands in the Tweed Shire.

Implications for the provision of open space

- The projected rate of population growth for the Tweed Shire will result in an increase in demand for open space, sport and recreation facilities and will place additional pressure on the existing open space network. Managing the predicted growth and ensuring the lifestyle, character and amenity of the Tweed Shire is preserved and enhanced is of vital importance.
- The majority of population growth will be accommodated in the following urban growth areas: Cobaki – Bilambil and district, Mid Coast – Casuarina (Kings Forest), South Coast – Pottsville (Dunloe Park), Terranora (Area E) and North Coast – Kingscliff (West Kingscliff). Additional open space will be required in new communities.
- The Tweed Shire's proximity to Gold Coast City, where the population is expected to grow to 820,000 people in the next 20 years, will have a significant impact on Tweed Shire's open space network. A regional approach to open space, sport and recreation provision is required. The shortage of available land, usage of current facilities and continuing pressure for more and better facilities cannot be met by Tweed Shire Council alone.
- Quality urban design and provision of parks and recreation facilities within walking distance is important in areas that experience increasing density where residents that do not have access to private open space (backyards). In areas with a higher proportion of medium and high density housing, providing a park or open space within walking distance of residents is critical to improving the liveability of those areas.

- A significant proportion of the Tweed Shire's population is over 60 years. The high proportion of households without children and lone person households is likely to reflect an ageing population. The aging and retirement of the baby boomers will have significant implications for open space planning. A commitment to 'age-friendly' and intergenerational planning and design will ensure open spaces, sport and recreation facilities are more accessible and inclusive of all ages. This should include the provision of safe places to walk and cycle (low impact physical activities), opportunities to spend time in nature, and the provision of park facilities that enable people to relax and socialise. Demand for group programs and activities such as community gardening, men sheds and group fitness is increasing.
- The open space network needs to be flexible and provide for diverse age groups. In areas where there are a significant number of families with dependents, open space planning and design should reflect their needs by providing age appropriate environments for children, youth and young adults. There is an increase in demand for facilities such as multi courts, skate facilities, parkour, paths for walking and riding, spaces for socialising and improving access to natural areas for nature based recreation. Public open spaces are some of the richest places to learn about and engage with broader society, therefore they are important places for young people to be part of.
- With a higher proportion of people with disabilities (compared to NSW) there is demand for accessible and inclusive open spaces, sport and recreational facilities.
- Tweed Shire has a slightly higher proportion of people of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin compared to NSW. Sport and recreation plays a vital role in improving the health and well-being of Indigenous people and their communities. Actively supporting their participation will help break down barriers and build social capital.
- The Tweed Shire has a higher proportion of low income households and higher levels of disadvantage, compared to NSW. Areas with the highest level of disadvantage (a lower SEIFA Index compared to the Tweed Shire) include Murwillumbah and district, North West Tweed – Tyalgum, South West Tweed Uki, Tweed Heads, Tweed Heads South – Banora Point and Tweed Heads West.
- A more equitable distribution of quality open spaces, sport and recreation facilities across the shire, with a focus on improving open spaces in lower socio economic areas can have a direct impact on people's lives and on the way they feel. Rundown, poorly maintained public spaces only worsen the sense of physical and social decline in an area. Regeneration projects that involve the local community can help to bring new life to underutilised and unattractive parks and open spaces.
- Access to free and affordable sport and recreational facilities and activities is important for low income households (especially for children and youth) to promote active living, improve health outcomes, help break generational poverty and to build safer and stronger communities. Open spaces can help to reduce the prevalence of social isolation in areas with higher levels of disadvantage, for older people and people with disabilities.
- Level of household income influences sport and recreation participation. Families with higher disposable incomes are more likely to spend money on sport and recreation membership fees and have access to vehicles for travel to participate in leisure.

Sport and recreation trends

General sport and recreation trends

- The latest AusPlay data for the period July 2016 to June 2017 shows that 58% of adults and 69% of children participated in sport-related activities.
- Soccer (football) remains the most popular club-based sport in Australia for adults and children combined; although netball is more popular for girls (0-14).
- While sport remains an important form of activity throughout a person's life stages, non-sport related physical activity becomes more important as we age. There is an increased preference for low impact activities such as walking, cycling, opportunities to relax, connect with nature and socialise for people over 60 years.

- The top 10 physical activities Australian adults (both men and women) participate in include: walking (recreational), fitness/gym, athletics (includes jogging and running), swimming, cycling, soccer, bush walking, golf, tennis and yoga.
- The top 5 activities for Australian women include: walking (recreational), fitness/gym, swimming, athletics (includes jogging and running) and cycling.
- The top 5 activities for Australian men include walking (recreational), fitness/gym, athletics (includes jogging and running), cycling and swimming.
- The top 5 club sports for Australian adults include: golf, soccer, tennis, cricket and netball. Golf is the highest ranking club sport overall for Australian adults.
- There is an increasing demand for modified sports such as 6-a-side soccer and shorter versions on traditional sport including T20 cricket.
- Changing work patterns and time pressure are key barriers to participation, as is poor health and injury as people age.
- Studies have shown that people with a disability, people born overseas, Indigenous Australians, older adults, women, and people with lower socio-economic status are least likely to participate in sport and physical recreation.¹
- Declining volunteerism is impacting sport participation opportunities for the community. The ongoing provision of education and training opportunities, positive recognition, and other forms of support for sport volunteers, has been shown to dramatically improve volunteer recruitment and retention rates, as well as the broader sustainability of Australian sport.
- Associated with an emerging preference for participation in informal activities is an increasing demand for local, low cost participation opportunities. There is increasing demand for informal nature based recreation activities such as bushwalking, rogaining, cycling, orienteering and river based aquatic sports.
- The re-emergence of community gardening has reinvigorated interest in food production in open spaces and in the public domain. A trend that is likely to increase in higher density urban areas where there is less private open space.

- Research reveals that living within close proximity to green spaces is associated with reduced depression, anxiety and other health problems. The relationship has been shown to be strongest for people with low incomes and children. Research also demonstrates that people are more likely to engage in active lifestyles in attractive and accessible open spaces.
- Programming and activation of open spaces through activities such as group exercise, educational programs, trails and walkways has been shown to increase physical activity levels. Activation of open spaces can also help to target and engage specific community groups such as seniors, youth, mothers and babies and indigenous communities.
- Technologies are increasingly used to keep active. The use of wearable technologies and apps for tracking activity such as adventures apps, trail maps, live cam and personal workout records are now common place. Other technologies such as QR codes on tracks, instructional and interpretative signage are making open spaces and the use of recreational facilities more accessible.

Sport and recreation trends of children and young people

- There has been a dramatic shift in childhood activity from outdoors to indoors. This has been driven by factors such as computer technology, a significant reduction in the size of backyards and an increasingly risk adverse culture.
- Australia has one of the highest rates of childhood obesity among developed countries. 1 in 4 Australian children (aged 2 to 17) were overweight or obese in 2014–15.
- Regular physical activity during childhood and adolescence helps to regulate body weight and establish health promoting lifestyle behaviours that reduce risk factors associated with obesity and chronic diseases
- 54% of Australian children aged 0 to 14 years are active at least once a week (outside of school hours). Only 19% of children are active at least three times a week. These findings highlight the critical role of sport and physical activity programs in increasing activity levels for children and young people.
- Sport clubs are the primary avenue for children to be active (except for children aged 0 to 4). Boys are more likely to be active through club sport than girls.

¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics. Socio-economic variations in Sport and Physical Recreation Participation rates. <http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/4156.0.55.001Main+Features3April+2014>

- The top 10 activities Australian children (boys and girls) participate in includes (outside of school hours): swimming, soccer, AFL, gymnastics, netball, dancing (recreational), basketball, tennis, cricket and athletics.
- The top 5 club sports for Australian children are: soccer, AFL, netball, basketball and cricket.
- The top 5 sport or physical activities for Australian girls are: swimming, netball, dancing (recreational), gymnastics and soccer.
- The top 5 sport or physical activities for Australian boys are: swimming, soccer, AFL, cricket and basketball.²
- Research showed that more children are spending time on the internet, computers and games consoles than three years ago. However more children are also riding bikes, skateboarding and riding scooters
- Access to parks, ovals or other open space closer to home increases the likelihood that children and young people will use them. A five minute walk to a park, without having to cross a busy intersection, is considered ideal.

- There is an emergence of new playing surface technologies which allow Councils to maximise the use of existing assets (e.g. synthetic playing surfaces). Although this provides a year round surface, it is a relatively expensive option for grass replacement. The value of artificial turf needs to be weighted up with issues of high temperatures emanating from the surface, maintenance costs, change in types of injuries and the loss of the environmental benefits of the natural surface.

Implications for the provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities

- Council has the capacity to influence the conditions needed for good community health, that is, the natural, built and social environments in which we live, work and play. It is increasingly important to plan and design urban environments with accessible open spaces that encourage active travel and provide active and passive recreational opportunities for everyone.
- Tweed Shire is fortunate that a large proportion of land within its boundaries are natural areas which are well placed to provide for nature based recreation. Council's open space network has potential to provide more opportunities for passive through to active nature based experiences such as bird watching, bushwalking, mountain biking, swimming, canoeing, kayaking and other river based aquatic sports, fishing and boating. The demand for more nature based recreation will require a managed approach to balance increased use and the impacts on natural areas.
- Extreme sports are increasing in popularity in the Tweed Shire, reinforcing general state and national trends. There is an increase in demand for purpose-built biking facilities such as urban bike parks (including BMX) and mountain biking.

Trends in open space, sport and recreation facility planning

- There is a trend toward encouraging the co-location of open spaces, sport and recreation facilities close to other community assets such as community centres/halls, retail precincts and cultural precincts. This encourages integrated service provision and provides greater access to recreation and social opportunities for a broader audience.
- Across Councils, there is a shift to planning and designing open spaces, sport and recreation facilities that can be configured to meet a variety of different needs and uses. The benefits include shared use of infrastructure, a more efficient maintenance approach and enhanced ability to attract funding given the range of uses.
- Councils are increasingly adopting a hierarchal approach to facility and infrastructure provision which reflects different service levels, usage and standards of provision. .
- There is growing evidence of effective public-private partnerships between developers, government and sports clubs to develop sports facilities, including the design of joint-use facilities at schools, allowing educational use during daytime periods (weekdays) and community use during evenings and on weekends.

² Vic Health. Influencing children's health: critical windows for intervention (2015) <https://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/media-and-resources/publications/influencing-childrens-health-critical-windows-for-intervention>

- There has been an increasing trend for commercial recreation activities in parks and open spaces such as personal training, surf schools, commercial markets, large scale festivals, events and filming events. Council has adopted an Events Strategy and a Commercial Recreation Activities on Public Open Space Policy to manage these activities in parks and open spaces. Whilst these activities increase the use of open spaces and stimulate the economy, it will be important to balance these complementary activities with the needs of other open space users and to ensure the protection of natural values.
- There are significant opportunities and demand for low cost activities and programming in parks and open spaces with capacity to work with community groups and Northern NSW Local Health District to activate public open spaces in this way.
- Pathways, trails (including bushwalking trails) and the cycle network are important parts of the open space network. A greater emphasis should be placed on connecting open spaces to existing residential areas, key activity nodes and other open space destinations.
- Providing universal access to public open spaces, sport and recreation opportunities should be common practice in everything we do. There is increase demand for access to play spaces, park facilities, foreshore areas, bushland areas and waterways for people of all abilities.
- For children and young people, there is a growing recognition of the importance of both structured (sport) and unstructured physical activity, as well as opportunities to socialise and spend time in nature. Engaging in outdoor play and more specifically nature play has significant benefits for young children and their families. Providing opportunities for creative play, sensory play and nature play are all critical and often missing in the more traditional playgrounds.
- Tweed Shire will continue to make provision for community gardening and urban horticulture.
- The expectations of communities are growing regarding the standard of sport and recreation facility provision, programming and management. These growing expectations, which align with specific facility standards and requirements imposed by peak sporting bodies (such as sports field lighting, turf standards) places significant pressure on Council to provide state of the art facilities.
- Landform and topographic constraints and the rise in local land values will impact Council's capacity to acquire new land to address the undersupply of open spaces in some areas, particularly the large areas required for sports fields. There is significant opportunities to work with education institutions to meet the existing and future demand for high quality sport facilities.
- There is a significant number of ageing open space assets which require refurbishment and/or upgrading, which are now reaching the end of their useful life, including playgrounds, public toilets and sport facilities. A key issue for the Tweed Shire is that funds have not been put aside to adequately cover the depreciation of the assets to allow for asset renewal in open spaces.

Tourism trends

- It is estimated that the market for nature based recreation is increasing at six times the rate of tourism overall. People are looking for new experiences, more diverse experiences, combining business travel with holidays and looking to 'get back to nature'.
- In NSW the North Coast Region had the second highest proportion of international visitors who engaged in nature based recreation. The top two nature based activities were 'going to the beach' and 'visiting a National Park or State Park'.
- In NSW the North Coast Region had the second highest proportion of domestic overnight visitors who engaged in nature based recreation. The top two nature based activities being 'going to the beach' and 'bushwalking or rainforest walk'.
- In the Tweed Shire, the number of domestic day visitors in the year ending September 2016 was 1.2 million. The coastal villages south of Tweed Heads to Pottsville hold the largest market share of visitors to the Tweed, followed by the Tweed Valley.

- For both the Tweed Coast and The Tweed Valley outdoor or nature activities, sport and active outdoor activities are prominent activities undertaken by visitors, and will continue to be a key driver for domestic travel.
- Along the Tweed Coast, the holiday market is the strongest. The coast attracts a diverse range of visitors, predominantly families and couples and most visitors are from Queensland. There are further opportunities for growth in the holiday market along with attending special events, festivals and sport tourism.
- Visiting Friends and Relatives (VFR) is the strongest market in the Tweed Valley, followed by entertainment and special events. The Tweed Valley attracts predominantly families and most visitors are from Queensland.
- Surf tourism is a major contributor to Tweed's economy. Whilst the exact figures are not available, the popularity of surfing beaches, at Duranbah, Kingscliff and Cabarita, and Tweed's close proximity to the Gold Coast surf beaches continue to see the Tweed well placed to develop and promote surf tourism.
- There has been significant investment in rail trails around the world. In 2015 the NSW Government announced up to \$50 million for pilot rail trail projects, including the Tweed Valley Rail Trail, to boost tourist numbers in regional areas and the visitor economy.
- Council has recently received Federal and State government funding for the Tweed Valley Rail Trail with significant potential for job creation and infrastructure investment in Tweed's rural villages. The 24 kilometres of rail trail following the disused rail corridor from Murwillumbah to Crabbes Creek will further develop the tourism industry and provide an alternate to the heavily visited coastal areas.
- There is potential to invest further in our high-profile parks (including Pottsville Environment Park, Clarrie Hall Dam and Jack Evans Boat Harbour) that attract users from within and beyond the Tweed Shire. Our regional open spaces are characterised by their uniqueness and provide significant environmental, social, recreational, heritage, amenity or tourism value.
- Whilst tourism benefits the economy, there are significant issues and impacts associated with ecotourism particularly on the Tweed Coast and Tweed Coast estuaries. The use of these areas will require a managed approach to balance increased use and the impacts on natural areas and local amenity.

Implications for the provision of open space

- Tweed Shire's economy is largely based around tourism. Many of the Shire's key attractions are its open spaces, specifically its natural areas providing for recreation, sightseeing, events (including sporting tourism) and relaxation. The Wollumbin/Mt Warning Caldera, World Heritage listed Gondwana Rainforest, the Tweed River and the stunning coastline contribute significantly to the Tweed being recognised as a tourist destination. In the Tweed Shire, there is significant potential to expand the economy through investment in other open spaces and nature based recreational activities such as bushwalking, mountain biking, canoeing and kayaking trails. These would further extend opportunities to attract tourism expenditure and as a consequence, generate significant employment opportunities for the local economy.

Biodiversity protection, environmental sustainability and impacts of forecast climate change

- Increasing housing density, loss of backyards (which often provide good habitat linkages for fauna in particular) and loss of open space to infrastructure makes it difficult to enhance biodiversity in urban areas. It is increasingly important to protect areas of environmental significance and provide habitat connectivity.
- Contemporary planning practice and growing awareness around environmental responsibility has resulted in an increase focus on ecological sustainability.
- Healthy, intact bushland and the trees that grow within urban areas (the urban forest) contribute significantly to reducing the impacts of climate change. One of the most important functions of the urban forest is shade and cooling.
- As sea levels rise and weather events, including rainfall and climatic conditions become less predictable and potentially more intensive, it is inevitable that our open space network and associated infrastructure will be impacted.
- There is a growing awareness of the role of the open space network in supporting flood mitigation, stormwater management and water recycling. Open spaces play an essential role in the principles of Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD).
- As facilities are developed and renewed consideration should be given to energy efficiency, water usage and incorporating environmentally sustainable features in the design of sport and recreation facilities. Making the best use of available resources, sustainable procurement practices and proactive maintenance programs are important initiatives to progress environmental sustainability efforts.
- Planting additional trees in the urban landscape can help to reduce the impacts of climate change and the urban heat island effect.
- In the Tweed Shire many parks and related infrastructure is immediately adjacent to beaches and river foreshores. The potential loss or damage to these areas as a result of climate change impacts such as rising sea levels will have significant consequences for infrastructure, maintenance and the long term financial sustainability of open space assets.

Implications for the provision of open space

- Pressures on the local environment are significant. Our local urban population is growing faster than the state average, leading to increased threats to the environment such as habitat degradation and loss, the spread of invasive species and diseases, pollution, and our collective contribution to climate change. Protection of established green buffers and the active management of the Tweed Shire's natural areas of significance will help to ensure these areas are sustained for future generations.
- As environmental sustainability is everyone's responsibility, partnerships, sharing of knowledge, learning and supporting each other's efforts is essential to ensure finite resources are targeted to best effect.

Open Space Planning Framework

The Open Space Framework has been developed to assess the existing supply of open spaces in the Tweed Shire and will guide the future provision of open space in new communities.

The purpose of the Open Space Planning Framework is to:

- revise standards for the future provision and embellishment of open spaces;
- classify open spaces to identify the range of experiences and benefits the open space network provides;
- enable Council to identify gaps or deficiencies in the existing supply of open spaces, sport and recreation facilities;
- provide guidance to Council staff, land owners and the development industry in relation to the provision of open spaces in new developments; and
- present consistent terminology to describe public open spaces across Council's key planning documents.

The framework will guide Council's desired levels of service for the quantity and embellishment of open spaces over the next decade. During this time the Tweed Shire will experience continued growth and demand for residential development, which will result in a significant amount of new open spaces being added to the network. The Open Space Planning Framework aims to ensure Tweed's open space network responds to this growth, and to the community's desire for a high quality and diverse open space network.

There are three components to the Open Space Planning Framework and each component is essential to ensuring an adequate supply of open spaces, and to developing a well planned, designed and managed open space network for existing and new communities.

| | | |
|---|----------------------------------|--|
| 1 | Open space provision standards | Provision standards relate to both quantity of open space and its accessibility and are traditionally the primary two measures used in open space planning. Open space quantity standards relate to the amount of open space required for the purpose of 'passive' and 'active' open space. The accessibility standard is used to guide appropriate spatial distribution of open spaces in terms of the distance a resident is expected to travel to different open space types. |
| 2 | Open Space Classification System | The classification system identifies the core open space types and categorizes them into a hierarchy. Desired levels of service for open space hierarchy is attached as Appendix A. The classification system also defines the function of each open space, its benefit to the community, land characteristics and settlement type. |
| 3 | Open Space Design Guidelines | The development of Open Space Design Guidelines currently being developed will guide the future planning, design and construction of open spaces, sport and recreation facilities. |

Table 2: Open space planning framework

Application of the framework

The provision standards apply to Council's core open spaces: parks (including foreshore reserves) and sports fields/courts. The open space hierarchy applies to open space where community access is encouraged and where the open space is or will be actively managed for the purpose of 'passive' or 'active' recreation. The open space hierarchy applies to parks (including foreshore reserves), sport fields and tracks/trails and pathways.

The provision standards and hierarchy do not relate to natural areas, which includes land dedicated as environmental protection areas, such as riparian and habitat buffers, habitat conservation areas, and some foreshore reserves. Plans and actions to protect, enhance and manage these areas sit within separate strategic planning documents and management frameworks. In new residential subdivisions these areas are dedicated in addition to public open space requirements to ensure the protection of existing natural and landscape values.

In new residential developments, cycleways are not included as public open space. The provision of cycleways is addressed as a component of transport planning within Tweed Shire Development Control Plan. However, the integration of tracks, trails and pathways within some public open space such as parks, sports fields and drainage reserves is encouraged to provide important links in the open space network.

Further, provision standards and the hierarchy does not apply to drainage reserves, utilities, road reserves or undeveloped land, where community access is not encouraged.

Quantity Standards

Tweed Shire Council adopts the following quantity standards which apply to the provision of 'passive' and 'active' open space provided at a local, neighbourhood and district level.

In addition to the above provision standards, regional open space contributions are also required from new residential developments. Regional open space may be provided within a new development or the developer may pay an open space contribution. The financial contribution is calculated as a levy charged per person, a proportion allocated for structured open space (active open space) and casual open space (passive open space). The levy is calculated in accordance with the Section 94 Plan No 26 - Shirewide Regional Open Space and applies to residential and tourist development.

| Open space | Provision standard |
|--------------------|--|
| Passive open space | 1.13 hectares per 1,000 population |
| Active open space | 1.7 hectares per 1,000 population |
| TOTAL: | 2.83 per hectares per 1,000 population |

Table 3: Open space provision standards

Application of the quantity standards

The standards approach to guide the provision of open space is debated in Australia, with some arguing a needs based or demand based approach is more appropriate. Tweed Shire Council considers standards to be an appropriate starting point for identifying open space needs in existing areas and in new residential developments. These standards will be overlaid with locally based needs assessment (where possible) to determine actual demand.

A review of the provision standard for passive open space was undertaken as part of this Strategy. This involved analysis of the existing supply of passive open space, gaps and/or deficiencies in supply, an assessment of community need, benchmarking with other Councils and a review of Council's capacity to manage open space within operational budgets. It has been determined that the quantity standard adopted by Council for passive open space is considered appropriate. A review of the provision standard for active open space was conducted as part of developing Tweed Council's Sports Fields Strategy (2014), where the standard was also considered appropriate.

However, whilst the standards will be used as a reference point, Council will also adopt a combination of a needs-based and demand-based approach, which identifies users' needs and preferences, population numbers, density, residential distribution, demographics (if available), and recreation trends to determine the development and embellishment of open spaces. In new residential developments Council will negotiate with developers to ensure a range of open spaces, sport and recreation experiences are provided.

Defining 'passive' and 'active' open space

Council has reviewed its definitions of both 'passive' and 'active' open space to ensure greater diversity in the open space network. Research and consultation undertaken for this strategy indicated that people are engaging in less structured active recreation activities, by participating in physical activities such as cycling, running and skating, which fall outside the traditional definition for 'active' open space, being mostly for the purpose of sports fields. The definitions have been revised in response to changing recreational patterns and an increased demand for more diverse active recreational opportunities.

Passive open space includes land set aside for passive recreation activities such as sitting and relaxing, nature appreciation, socialising, picnicking, walking and child's play.

Active open space includes land set aside for active recreation such as organised sport, informal sport, as well as other physical activities undertaken for the purpose of exercise and recreation such as bike riding, outdoor fitness and skating.

Accessibility standards

Tweed Shire Council adopts the following accessibility standards for the provision of open spaces.

| Open space hierarchy | Accessibility standard | Catchment served (Approximate) |
|--|---|--|
| PASSIVE OPEN SPACE | | |
| | e.g. Parks, tracks, trails and pathways | |
| Local park | Not defined | Local parks should be provided for the purpose of linking the open space network, improving the amenity of local communities and WSUD. |
| Neighbourhood park | Within 500m | Approximately 1 per 500 to 2,000 people or |
| 1 per village with a population greater than 300 people. | | |
| District park | Within 3kms | Approximately 1 per 3,500 people |
| Regional park | Not defined | Demand for regional passive open space is generally based on the presence of significant natural or landscape features and/or potential for unique recreational opportunities. |
| ACTIVE OPEN SPACE | | |
| | e.g. Sports fields/courts or land that supports active recreation | |
| Local sports field/active open space | Within 5km | Approximately 1 per 3,000 people |
| District sport field/active open space | Within 5km to 15kms or a 15-20 minute drive | Approximately 1 per 5,000 people |
| Regional sports field/active open space | Not determined | Demand for regional active open space is generally opportunistic (depending on available land) because of the amount of land required and level of embellishment. |

Table 4: Open space accessibility standards

Application of the accessibility standards

The ability of residents to gain access to public open space within an easy walk from home is an important factor to improving quality of life. Council aims to ensure all residents are within 500m (a 5 to 10 minute walk) of an embellished open space that provides a range of recreation opportunities. Natural and man-made barriers must be considered (such as waterways or major roads) to ensure access is not inhibited.

The accessibility standard for active open space is significantly different to that for passive open space. This is attributed to a number of factors. Firstly, it is widely accepted that residents will drive (as opposed to walk or cycle) to participate in active recreation activities. The accessibility standard for active open space is indicative of what people are willing to travel to play a chosen sport. Secondly, people choose which sport they participate in - a decision not always influenced by what facilities are within close proximity and not all sports can be provided within a walkable or cycleable distance.

The provision of active open space, particularly sport field provision requires large areas of flat land. In the Tweed Shire, the varied topography and landform and the already built-up nature of some areas proves a challenge in providing enough active open space for sports fields. Council aims to ensure all residents are within a 20 minute of a district level sports field.

Whilst Council makes provision for local sports fields, strong emphasis is placed on the provision of district level facilities to apply best practice principles of joint use and co-location of sport and active recreation opportunities. This is highly relevant to sporting facilities where there are multiple user groups vying to make use of limited community land and financial resources. This approach is more cost efficient for Council to maintain and manage active open space and related sport and recreation facilities over the long term.

Open Space classification

To assist with planning and assessing the existing supply of open space, each open space has been classified and audited. The classification provides a tool to analyse each open space by identifying its purpose, function, the diversity of experiences and community benefit, land characteristics and development patterns.

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Open space type | There are seven different open space types, which define the purpose of the open space. Some parcels have a dual purpose, for example, land that has been dedicated as a drainage reserve also function as a park by providing recreational amenity. The primary and secondary use of each open space was identified (where applicable). |
| Open space hierarchy | The open space hierarchy describes the access that the community has to different types of open space (how far they have to travel), its size, and the nature and scale of facilities provided. |
| Function | Most open spaces provide a range of functions. A park may provide opportunities for child's play, socialising, nature appreciation and serve as an event space on weekends. Identifying the function(s) of an open space enables Council to identify the key benefits the community derive from the open space and helps to identify what experiences are not being provided for |
| Landscape setting | The setting describes the landscape or topography reflecting the characteristics of the open space and its visible features. |
| Settlement type | The settlement type defines the nature of the residential settlement and reflects the housing density in which the open space is located. |

Table 5: The components of Council's open space classification system.

Open space type

There are seven different types of open space including park (including foreshore reserves); sports field/court; natural area, track/trail or pathway, civic open space and streetscape; drainage reserve/road reserve/and land used for utilities or undeveloped land. Open space typologies were defined earlier on page 5.

Open space hierarchy

The position an open space sits within the hierarchy indicates the role it is expected to perform, its size, the catchment it serves, expected usage and length of stay, the desired standard of embellishment and level of maintenance required. Generally, the wider the catchment served by an open space, the more intensively developed and managed the space will be. The standards for embellishment are important in defining open spaces and in meeting users' needs.

The open space hierarchy helps to ensure that development of open spaces is planned, designed and funded equitably across the shire, and that available resources are used effectively and efficiently.

A hierarchical approach has also been adopted for playgrounds and off leash dog exercise areas and will be developed for youth outdoor recreation facilities, following the development of the proposed Outdoor Youth Recreation Action Plan in 2018/19.

| Open space type | Hierarchy |
|---|---|
| Parks (including foreshore reserves) | Local, Neighbourhood, District and Regional |
| Sports fields/courts or other active open space | Local, District and Regional |
| Tracks, Trails and Pathways | Local, Regional |

| Recreation facility | Hierarchy |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Playgrounds | Neighbourhood, District and Regional |
| Off Leash Dog Areas | Local, District and Regional |
| Youth Recreation Facilities | To be determined |

Table 6: Open space hierarchy

Function

The open space function is used to define how an open space is used and the community benefits(s).

Landscape setting

The landscape setting reflects the existing vegetation, the diversity of natural elements and other natural and scenic features of an open space. The landscape character and topography can help to determine the open space developments appropriate for each space and should be used to guide more detailed planning for the site.

Settlement type

The settlement type helps to define factors such as population, housing type and densities (indicating likely access to private open space) and access to other open spaces. This assists in determining the quantity, distribution and type of open spaces that may be required. Coastal communities may be found in each of the settlement types and may experience seasonal population variation due to tourism. Appendix 2: Classification descriptions.

| Function and community benefit(s) | Landscape setting | Settlement type |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Outdoor sport | Open grassed areas | Coastal village |
| Informal sport/games | Tress/Planting | Inland village |
| Children play/youth activities | Managed turf | Towns |
| Social activities | Natural bushland | Major town |
| Markets and events | Foreshore | Regional Centre |
| Rest and relaxation | Paved area | |
| Connectivity | Linear | |
| Visual amenity/nature appreciation | Scenic/views | |
| Nature conservation | Headland | |
| Historic/cultural conservation | Ridge/Hills | |
| Community gardening | Sloping | |
| Dog off leash area | Ornamental gardens | |
| Tourist attraction | | |
| Memorial/cemetery | | |
| Access to waterway | | |
| Drainage/storm water management | | |
| Utility easement | | |
| Other | | |

Table 7: Classification of open spaces: function and community benefit(s), landscape setting and settlement type, topography and description.

Open space audit

The open space audit was an important step in preparing the Open Space Strategy. In addition to assessing the quantity and accessibility of open spaces in the Tweed Shire, Council also assessed the quality of different types of open space.

All open spaces were audited except for natural areas where the primary purpose is for nature conservation. The open space network was audited against a set of criteria informed by what the community value and best practice guidelines.

| |
|---|
| Attractiveness and appeal |
| Quality place that is pleasing and/or appealing and reflects local character |
| Site including park facilities in good condition and well maintained e.g. mowed grass, park furniture in good condition |
| Attractive planting/landscaping |
| Welcoming entrances/boundaries |
| Low levels of rubbish and adequate bins |
| Good provision of natural shade or artificial shade |
| Car parking is well sited and well designed |
| Public toilets are in good condition and well maintained |
| Accessibility and connectivity |
| Designed for inclusive access |
| Centrally located, close to community |
| Allows movement in, through & between elements of the site |
| Connects to existing path network and public transport nodes |
| Provides sealed paths without defects |
| Good legibility, use of wayfinding and signage |
| Community safety |
| Safe and welcoming |
| Good levels of natural surveillance |
| Absence of anti-social behaviour |
| Lighting levels |
| Playground is safe, the equipment, foundations and surfaces are in good condition |
| Softfall complies with current Australian Standards |
| Park facilities well sited to improve safety and access |
| Physical activity, health and well-being |
| Provides a range of outdoor uses |
| Diverse play/sport/recreational opportunities for all ages and abilities |
| Playground caters for diverse ages and abilities |
| Offers good places to promote social interaction |
| Supports opportunities to enjoy and connect with nature |
| Size, shape and facilities appropriate for intended use |
| Environmental values |
| Bushland actively managed |
| Connects to wider habitat networks |
| Offers diversity of habitat and supports a range of species |
| Balance biodiversity protection and access for recreation, nature appreciation |

Table 8: Quality indicators for the open space audit



Open space supply

A detailed audit of Council managed open space, sport and recreation facilities was conducted to identify existing supply. The audit was informed by the open space provision standards, the open space classification system and the criteria developed to assess the quality and diversity of the open space network.

The audit was conducted on a regional level, district level (Tweed Urban North, Coastal and Rural West districts) and local level (14 local profile areas).

On a local level, the audit assessed the provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities within the 14 profile areas identified for the Tweed Shire. The planning areas align with those used for population forecasts and analysis (profile.id). A summary of the key findings for each profile area is presented below.

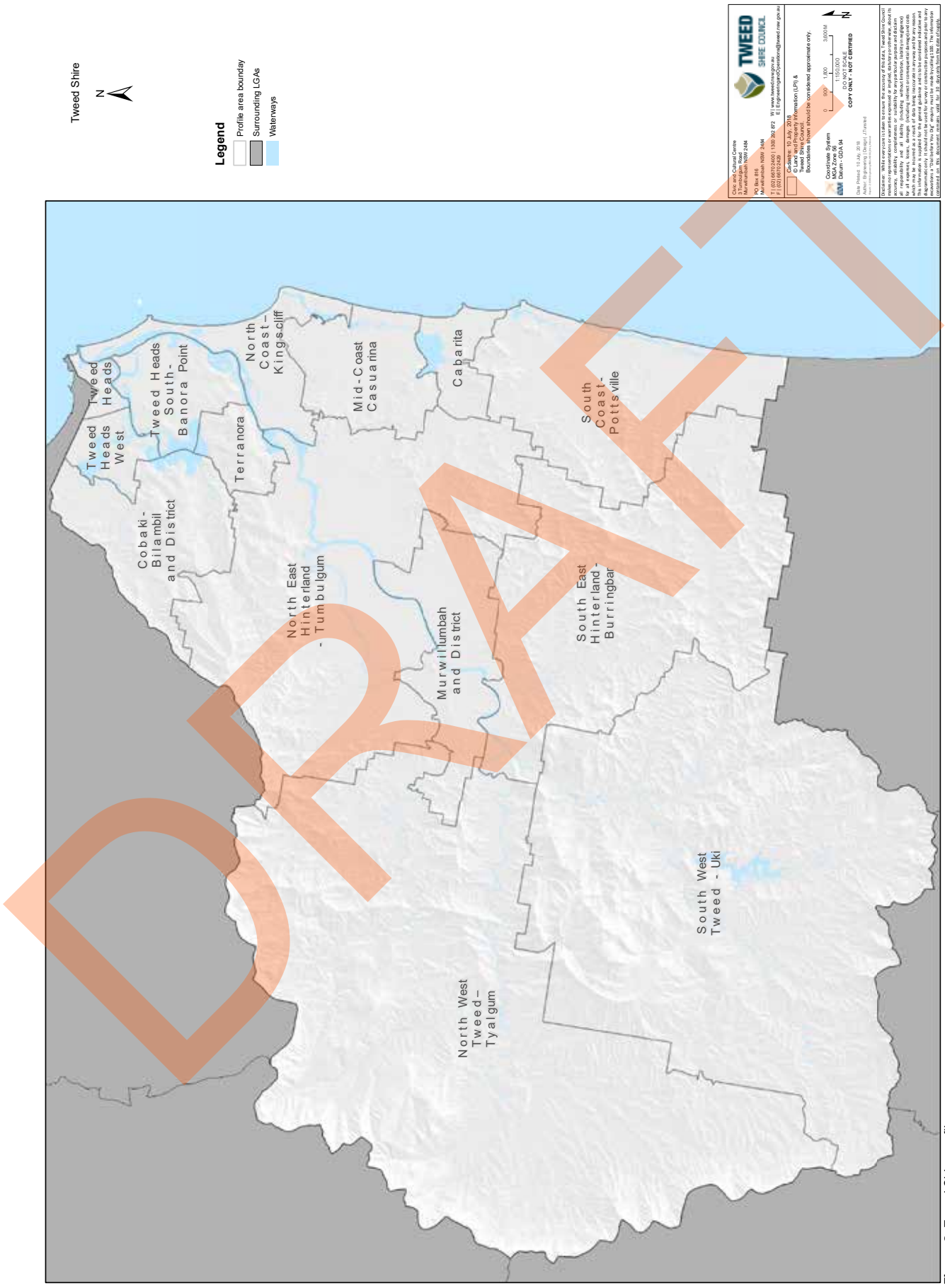
Each individual profile area has unique characteristics which are influenced by location, topography, land use, population development patterns and environmental character. The audit was considered in this context. The audit and assessment informed the development of 14 Local Action Plans, which will be presented as an attachment to this Strategy for the public exhibition period. The action plans provide a more detailed audit and assessment of the open space network.

Table 9 presents the supply of Tweed Shire's open spaces, sport and recreation facilities owned and managed by Council. Table 10 presents the total amount of open space, the amount of passive and active open space, and natural area across each profile area. Table 11 and Table 12 presents the findings of the demand and gap assessment for both passive and active open space, based on the open space provision standards. Table 13 lists the current open space supply by hierarchy for each profile area.

| What we have | |
|---|--|
| Open space, sport and recreation facilities | Area / quantity |
| Park (Passive open space) | 304 hectares |
| Sports/Court (active open space) | 125 hectares |
| Natural Area | 1,513 hectares |
| Total Open Space | 1,942 hectares |
| Playgrounds | 82 |
| Skate facilities | 4 |
| BMX | 1 (no longer functional) |
| Multi-courts | 10 |
| Social tennis courts | 12 |
| Off leash dog areas | 14 (10 park locations & 4 beach locations) |
| Beach (length) | 37km |
| Shared path | 104kms |
| On-road cycleway | 22kms |
| Footpath | 177kms |
| Community gardens | 1 |
| Boat ramps | 11 |
| Jetty/pontoon/wharf | 15 |
| Outdoor exercise equipment (locations) | 2 |
| Public Toilets | 67 |

Table 9: Quality indicators for the open space audit

Shire wide map



| Profile Area | Population (2016) | Total Open Space Area (ha) | Park (Passive Open Space ha) | Sports Field (Active Open Space ha) | Natural Area Total (ha) |
|--|-------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Cabarita | 3,339 | 100.07 | 6.11 | 7.62 | 86.34 |
| Mid Coast Casuarina | 3,923 | 169.27 | 13.36 | 15.13 | 140.78 |
| Cobaki, Bilambil & District | 4,449 | 80.71 | 3.47 | 19.37 | 57.87 |
| Murwillumbah & District | 10,504 | 76.71 | 38.95 | 22.23 | 15.53 |
| North Coast Kingscliff | 9,873 | 371.31 | 62.43 | 12.98 | 295.9 |
| North East Hinterland (Tumbulgum) | 2,924 | 18.25 | 4.26 | 1.85 | 12.14 |
| North West (Tyalgum & Chillingham) | 2,850 | 10.16 | 3.26 | 1.75 | 5.15 |
| South Coast (Pottsville & Hastings Point) | 8,257 | 817.47 | 19.79 | 12.29 | 785.39 |
| South East Hinterland (Burringbar, Stokers Siding & Crabbes Creek) | 3,224 | 17.54 | 4.67 | Nil | 12.87 |
| South West (Uki) | 2,213 | 31.05 | 24.38 | 2.11 | 4.56 |
| Terranora | 2,997 | 14.2 | 7.73 | 1.94 | 4.55 |
| Tweed Heads | 8,349 | 42.80 | 37.72 | 0.31 | 4.77 |
| Tweed Heads South (Banora Point) | 24,260 | 155.82 | 57.86 | 21.08 | 76.88 |
| Tweed Heads West | 6,282 | 36.33 | 19.94 | 6.03 | 10.36 |
| Total: | | 1,942 | 304 | 125 | 1513 |

Table 10: Tweed Shire Council's open space by ID Profile Area – ABS 016 Population Census

| Profile Area | Park (Total passive open Space ha) | Demand (1.13 ha per 1,000 persons) | Gap (1.13 ha per 1,000 persons) | Demand (1.13 ha per 1,000 persons) | Gap (1.13 ha per 1,000 persons) |
|--|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Cabarita | 6.11 | 3.77 | 2.34+ | 3.93 | 2.18+ |
| Mid Coast Casuarina | 13.36 | 4.43 | 8.93+ | 7.37 | 5.99+ |
| Cobaki, Bilambil & District | 3.47 | 5.03 | 1.56- | 9.79 | 6.32- |
| Murwillumbah & District | 38.95 | 13.66 | 25.29+ | 13.2 | 25.75+ |
| North Coast Kingscliff | 64.43 | 11.16 | 51.27+ | 11.87 | 50.56+ |
| North East Hinterland (Tumbulgum) | 4.26 | 3.3 | 0.96+ | 3.14 | 1.12+ |
| North West (Tyalgum & Chillingham) | 3.26 | 3.22 | 0.04+ | 3.11 | 0.15+ |
| South Coast (Pottsville & Hastings Point) | 19.79 | 9.33 | 10.6+ | 10.26 | 9.53+ |
| South East Hinterland (Burringbar, Stokers Siding & Crabbes Creek) | 4.67 | 3.64 | 1.03+ | 3.65 | 1.02+ |
| South West (Uki) | 24.38 | 2.5 | 21.88+ | 2.57 | 21.81+ |
| Terranora | 7.73 | 3.39 | 4.34+ | 4.11 | 3.62+ |
| Tweed Heads | 37.72 | 7.43 | 30.29+ | 11.53 | 26.19+ |
| Tweed Heads South (Banora Point) | 57.86 | 27.41 | 30.45+ | 29.48 | 28.38+ |
| Tweed Heads West | 19.94 | 7.1 | 12.84+ | 7.5 | 12.44+ |

Table 11: Passive open space (Park) demand and gap assessment for Tweed Shire Council's ID Profile Areas – ABS 2016 Population Census

| Profile Area | 2016 | | | 2026 | |
|--|---|---|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| | Sports Field/ Courts (Total active open space) | Demand (1.7 ha per 1,000 persons) | Gap (1.7 ha per 1,000 persons) | Demand (1.7 ha per 1,000 persons) | Gap (1.7 ha per 1,000 persons) |
| Cabarita | 7.62 | 5.68 | 1.94+ | 5.92 | 1.7+ |
| Mid Coast Casuarina | 15.13 | 6.7 | 8.43+ | 11.09 | 4.04+ |
| Cobaki, Bilambil & District | 19.37 | 7.56 | 11.81+ | 14.73 | 4.64+ |
| Murwillumbah & District | 22.23 | 17.86 | 4.37+ | 19.86 | 2.37+ |
| North Coast Kingscliff | 12.98 | 16.78 | 3.80- | 17.85 | 4.87- |
| North East Hinterland (Tumbulgum) | 1.85 | 4.97 | 3.12- | 4.7 | 2.85- |
| North West (Tyalgum & Chillingham) | 1.75 | 4.85 | 3.1- | 4.68 | 2.93- |
| South Coast (Pottsville & Hastings Point) | 12.29 | 14.04 | 1.75- | 15.44 | 3.15- |
| South East Hinterland (Burringbar, Stokers Siding & Crabbes Creek) | Nil | 5.48 | 5.48- | 5.490 | 5.49- |
| South West (Uki) | 2.11 | 3.76 | 1.65- | 3.86 | 1.76- |
| Terranora | 1.94 | 5.09 | 3.15- | 6.19 | 4.25- |
| Tweed Heads | 0.31 | 14.19 | 12.88- | 17.35 | 17.04- |
| Tweed Heads South (Banora Point) | 21.08 | 41.24 | 20.16- | 44.35 | 23.27- |
| Tweed Heads West | 6.03 | 10.68 | 4.65- | 11.29 | 5.26- |

Table 12: Active open space (sports field/court) demand and gap assessment for Tweed Shire Council's ID Profile Areas – ABS 2016 Population Census

| Profile Area | Park Hierarchy | Quantity | Sport Field/ Court Hierarchy | Quantity | Playground Hierarchy | Quantity |
|---|----------------|----------|------------------------------|----------|----------------------|----------|
| Cabarita | Local | 13 | Local | 2 | Neighbourhood | 2 |
| | Neighbourhood | 2 | District | - | District | 1 |
| | District | 2 | Regional | - | Regional | - |
| | Regional | - | | | | |
| Mid Coast Casuarina | Local | 16 | Local | 3 | Neighbourhood | 5 |
| | Neighbourhood | 2 | District | 1 | District | 1 |
| | District | 2 | Regional | - | Regional | - |
| | Regional | - | | | | |
| Cobaki, Bilambil & District | Local | 9 | Local | 2 | Neighbourhood | 3 |
| | Neighbourhood | 2 | District | 1 | District | - |
| | District | - | Regional | - | Regional | - |
| | Regional | - | | | | |
| Murwillumbah & District | Local | 44 | Local | 10 | Neighbourhood | 12 |
| | Neighbourhood | 13 | District | 1 | District | - |
| | District | 1 | Regional | - | Regional | 1 |
| | Regional | 1 | | | | |
| North Coast Kingscliff | Local | 25 | Local | 3 | Neighbourhood | 11 |
| | Neighbourhood | 16 | District | - | District | 4 |
| | District | 6 | Regional | 1 | Regional | - |
| | Regional | 2 | | | | |
| North East Hinterland (Tumbulgum) | Local | 6 | Local | 1 | Neighbourhood | 1 |
| | Neighbourhood | 1 | District | - | District | - |
| | District | - | Regional | - | Regional | - |
| | Regional | - | | | | |
| North West (Tyalgum & Chillingham) | Local | 6 | Local | 1 | Neighbourhood | 1 |
| | Neighbourhood | 1 | District | - | District | - |
| | District | 1 | Regional | - | Regional | - |
| | Regional | - | | | | |
| South Coast (Pottsville & Hastings Point) | Local | 37 | Local | 4 | Neighbourhood | 9 |
| | Neighbourhood | 8 | District | - | District | 2 |
| | District | 3 | Regional | - | Regional | - |
| | Regional | 1 | | | | |

| | | | | | | |
|--|---------------|----|----------|---|---------------|----|
| South East Hinterland (Burringbar, Stokers Siding & Crabbes Creek) | Local | 5 | Local | - | Neighbourhood | 3 |
| | Neighbourhood | 5 | District | - | District | - |
| | District | - | Regional | - | Regional | - |
| | Regional | - | | | | |
| South West (Uki) | Local | 15 | Local | 1 | Neighbourhood | 1 |
| | Neighbourhood | 2 | District | - | District | - |
| | District | 2 | Regional | - | Regional | - |
| | Regional | - | | | | |
| Terranora | Local | 10 | Local | 1 | Neighbourhood | 4 |
| | Neighbourhood | 3 | District | - | District | - |
| | District | - | Regional | - | Regional | - |
| | Regional | - | | | | |
| Tweed Heads | Local | 34 | Local | 1 | Neighbourhood | 3 |
| | Neighbourhood | 6 | District | - | District | 1 |
| | District | 3 | Regional | - | Regional | 1 |
| | Regional | 1 | | | | |
| Tweed Heads South (Banora Point) | Local | 61 | Local | 3 | Neighbourhood | 13 |
| | Neighbourhood | 16 | District | | District | 1 |
| | District | 2 | Regional | 1 | Regional | - |
| | Regional | - | | | | |
| Tweed Heads West | Local | 24 | Local | - | Neighbourhood | 2 |
| | Neighbourhood | 2 | District | 1 | District | - |
| | District | - | Regional | - | Regional | - |
| | Regional | - | | | | |

Table 13: Current open space supply by hierarchy for Tweed Shire Council's ID Profile Areas.

CABARITA AREA

Area description

The area includes the localities of Bogangar, Cabarita Beach and Tanglewood. The area encompasses rural and residential area, one primary school, an existing village centre in Bogangar/Cabarita Beach, substantial areas of environmental significance including bushland, wetlands, the beach and coastal reserves.

Supply Analysis - open space, sport and recreation facilities

Key Findings

- The area is currently well supplied with passive (parks) and active open space (sports fields), which will continue to be the case until 2026.
- All residents are within 500m of an open space.
- The area north of Poinciana Ave is undersupplied with neighbourhood parks.
- The area is well supplied by a district park.
- The natural areas (including Cudgen Nature Reserve and Cudgen Lake) support an exceptionally high diversity of plant and animal life (including a significant koala population) and provide a unique setting for nature based recreation.
- The existing streetscape and planting contributes to the visual identity and character of the area.
- The shared path and footpath links, including the NSW Coastal Cycleway are an integral part of Cabarita's open space system. There are no east-west shared path connections.
- There is an undersupply of neighbourhood playgrounds in the area north of Poinciana Ave.
- Whilst residents are within 3kms of a district park, the playground provided in the park is a neighbourhood playground, not a district playground.
- The area is well supplied with youth recreation facilities.
- There is one off leash area (beach location).

MID COAST - CASUARINA

Area description

The area includes the localities of Casuarina, Cudgen, Duranbah and Kings Forest. The area contains two residential settlements in Cudgen and Casuarina, an existing town centre in Casuarina and resort style accommodation in Casuarina, two primary schools, rural lands, agricultural land, and substantial areas of environmental significance.

Supply Analysis - open space, sport and recreation facilities

Key Findings

- The area is currently well supplied with passive (parks) and active open space (sports fields), which will continue to be the case until 2026.
- All residents are within 500m of an open space.
- When the new neighbourhood park is developed in the Casuarina Town Centre, all residents will be within 500m of a neighbourhood park, including Cudgen residents.
- Casuarina is well supplied by district parks. Residents of Cudgen have access to a district park in Kingscliff.
- The bushland areas provide important green corridors that support and protect an exceptionally high diversity of plant and animal life, including koala habitat.
- Casuarina's ocean beach, Cudgen Creek and Cudgen Nature Reserve provide a unique natural setting for nature based activities.
- The existing streetscape and planting contributes to the visual identity and character of the area.
- The shared path and footpath links, including the NSW Coastal Cycleway are an integral part of Casuarina's open space system.
- The area is well supplied with neighbourhood and district playgrounds.
- Youth recreation facilities include sports fields and shared paths, with the ability to access waterways for nature based activities. The closest skate park is at Cabarita (4kms), which is connected to Casuarina by shared path.
- There is no dog off leash area

COBAKI – BILAMBIL & DISTRICT

Area description

The area includes the small rural village of Bilambil and the localities of Bilambil Heights, Cobaki and Piggabeen. The area is a growing residential and rural-residential area with one school, rural lands and areas of environmental significance. The area is bounded in the north and west by the Queensland border.

Supply Analysis - open space, sport and recreation facilities

Key Findings

- The area is currently undersupplied with passive open space (parks) and well supplied with active open space (sports fields), which will continue to be the case until 2026.
- Most residents are within 500m of an open space.
- The area is undersupplied with neighbourhood parks.
- The area has no district park.
- The bushland reserves adjacent to the Terranora Broadwater provide important green corridors through to Bilambil Creek that support and protect a diverse plant and animal life.
- The Terranora Broadwater foreshore offers high scenic quality and is an important recreation area for local residents and visitors.
- The area is poorly connected by footpaths and shared paths.
- The established residential areas of Bilambil Heights have varying levels of street tree planting, with minimal planting in some locations.
- There are numerous locations within the area that are undersupplied with neighbourhood playgrounds. The area is undersupplied with district playgrounds.
- There are no youth recreation facilities, beyond the sports fields/court.
- There is no dog off leash area .

MURWILLUMBAH AND DISTRICT

Area description

Murwillumbah and District includes the localities of Bray Park, Condong, Kielvale, Murwillumbah, North Arm, Nunderi and South Murwillumbah.

Supply overview - open space, sport and recreation facilities

Key Findings

- The area is currently well supplied with passive open space (parks) and active open space (sports fields), which will continue to be the case until 2026.
- Large areas of open space, including the area's parks and sports fields are flood prone with associated constraints relating to drainage. Many sport facilities are located in flood prone areas which impact the quality of the sport facilities.
- All residents are within 500m of an open space.
- There are numerous locations within the area that are undersupplied with neighbourhood parks. A significant number of the neighbourhood parks are difficult to access.
- Whilst there are no district parks, the area is well serviced by a regional park (Knox Park).
- The key bushland reserves are in the vicinity of Lions Lookout Reservoir and Chinnamans Garden Park and provide for natural appreciation and environmental interpretation.
- The Tweed River is a valued recreational asset of great importance to the local community and visitors and is utilised for a wide range of recreational pursuits. The Tweed River is a highly valued natural area for its scenic, environmental, cultural heritage and amenity values.
- There are existing gaps in the path network in Murwillumbah. South Murwillumbah is poorly connected by footpaths and shared paths and there are limited opportunities to walk along the river foreshore.
- The established residential areas of Murwillumbah have varying levels of street tree planting, with minimal planting in some locations. The revitalisation of Murwillumbah's Town Centre streetscape and streetscape improvements along key arterial roads leading to Murwillumbah would help to improve the town's visual appeal.
- There are numerous locations within the area that are undersupplied with neighbourhood playgrounds. Many of the existing playgrounds are poor quality and provide limited play value. Playgrounds in newer residential areas are better quality. The area is well supplied with a regional playground (Knox Park).
- The area is well supplied with youth recreation facilities, however the existing BMX Park is not fit for purpose
- There are two off leash areas.

NORTH COAST – KINGSCLIFF

Area description

North Coast - Kingscliff encompasses the localities of Chinderah, Fingal Head and Kingscliff. The area is a growing residential and tourist area, with remaining rural areas, some industrial land use and several schools.

Supply overview - open space, sport and recreation facilities

Key Findings

- The area is currently well supplied with passive open space (parks) and undersupplied with active open space (sports fields), which will continue to be the case until 2026.
- All residents are within 500m of an open space.
- West Kingscliff and north-west of Cudgen Foreshore Reserve is undersupplied with neighbourhood parks.
- The area is well supplied with district parks.
- The natural areas support and protect an exceptionally high diversity of plant and animal life.
- Kingscliff's ocean beach and Cudgen Creek provide a unique natural and beautiful setting for nature based activities.
- There are known, and potential, Aboriginal cultural heritage sites
- The shared path and footpath links, including the NSW Coastal Cycleway are an integral part of Kingscliff's open space system. There are existing gaps in the path network in an east-west direction and in Fingal Head.
- There is extensive streetscaping in Seaside City and Salt. The established residential areas of Kingscliff, Chinderah and Fingal have minimal street tree planting in some locations.
- West Kingscliff and north-west of Cudgen Foreshore Reserve are undersupplied with neighbourhood playgrounds. Generally the quality of playgrounds is good, excluding Chinderah and West Kingscliff.
- The area is well supplied with district playgrounds.
- Youth recreation facilities include sports fields, shared paths, multi-court, skate elements, however there is no skate park. Young people have the ability to access waterways for nature based recreation.
- There are two off leash areas (beach locations)

NORTH EAST HINTERLAND - TUMBULGUM

Area description

North East Hinterland - Tumbulgum area encompasses the localities of Bungalora, Carool, Clothiers Creek, Dulguigan, Dungay, Duroby, Eviron, Farrants Hill, Glengarrie, Kynnumboon, North Tumbulgum, Reserve Creek, Stotts Creek, Tomewin, Tumbulgum, Tygalgah, Upper Duroby and Urliup. The area is a predominantly rural area which includes the small township of Tumbulgum and several schools.

Supply overview - open space, sport and recreation facilities

Key Findings

- The area is currently well supplied with passive open space (parks) and undersupplied with active open space (sports fields), which will continue to be the case until 2026.
- Whilst undersupplied with active open space, much of the demand for sporting facilities is likely to be met within other urban profile areas, particular Murwillumbah & District.
- All residents living in the village of Tumbulgum are within 500m of an open space.
- The area is well supplied with a neighbourhood park.
- There is no district park as the population is less than 3,500 people.
- The Tweed River, Rous River and Stotts Island Nature Reserve provide for provide unique natural and scenic setting for nature based activities.
- There are known, and potential, Aboriginal cultural heritage sites.
- The shared path and footpath network links the river foreshore, however there are no east-west connections.
- There is minimal street tree planting in the village.
- The area is well supplied with a neighbourhood playground.
- There is no district playground as the population is less than 3,500 people.
- There are no other youth recreation facilities other than the sports field and a tennis court, which in poor condition.

NORTH WEST TYALGUM

Area description

The North West Tweed - Tyalgum area encompasses the localities of Back Creek, Brays Creek, Chillingham, Crystal Creek, Eungella, Hopkins Creek, Limpinwood, Mebbin, Nobbys Creek, Numinbah, Pumpenbil, Tyalgum, Tyalgum Creek, Upper Crystal Creek and Zara.

Supply overview - open space, sport and recreation facilities

Key Findings

- The area is currently well supplied with passive open space (parks) and undersupplied with active open space (sports fields) which will continue to be the case until 2026.
- Whilst undersupplied with active open space, much of the demand for sporting facilities is likely to be met by the sports facilities provided by the Tyalgum Reserve Trust (Bruce Bartrim Oval) and facilities within other urban profile areas, particular Murwillumbah & District.
- All residents living in the villages of Tyalgum and Chillingham are within 500m of an open space.
- The area is well supplied with neighbourhood parks.
- Whilst the population is less than 3,500 people, Tyalgum is well supplied by a district park.
- In the area there are known, and potential, Aboriginal cultural heritage sites.
- The footpath network links the open spaces and the main streets of Tyalgum and Chillingham.
- The streetscapes contribute significantly to the village's amenity and character.
- Tyalgum is well supplied with a neighbourhood playground. Chillingham does not have a playground.
- There is no district playground as the population is less than 3,500 people.
- Youth recreation facilities include the sports fields and tennis courts only, which are in poor condition.

SOUTH COAST - POTTSVILLE

Area description

The area includes the localities of Pottsville, Hastings Point, Cudgera Creek, Round Mountain, Sleepy Hollow, and the Tweed Shire part of the locality of Wooyung. The area contains a number of separate residential estates distinguished by a series of green corridors, an existing village centre located in Pottsville and a small coastal village at Hastings Point, two primary schools, rural lands and agricultural land, and substantial areas of environmental significance.

Supply overview - open space, sport and recreation facilities

Key Findings

- The area is currently well supplied with passive open space (parks) and slightly undersupplied with active open space (sports fields) which will continue to be the case until 2026.
- There is limited development opportunity to expand any of the existing sports fields due to their proximity to environmentally sensitive lands.
- All residents are within 500m of an open space.
- There is an oversupply of local parks located east of Overall Drive, Pottsville Waters.
- North Pottsville and a location in Pottsville Waters are undersupplied with neighbourhood parks.
- The area is well supplied with district parks.
- The bushland areas support and protect an exceptionally high diversity of plant and animal life and provide opportunities for residents and visitors to experience nature and learn about ecological communities. Pottsville Environment Park is a regional park and an important natural, cultural and recreational asset. The park's facilities are in poor condition.
- Cudgera and Mooball Creeks provide a unique setting for nature based recreation activities.
- Hastings Point Headland provides recreational and educational opportunities. Camping on Hastings Point Headland is an important use that attracts many visitors during holiday periods.
- There are known, and potential, Aboriginal cultural heritage sites.
- The shared paths and on road cycleways are an integral part of the NSW Coastal Cycleway. There are good east-west connections linking the area's key open spaces.
- The civic open spaces including Pottsville Memorial Oval and Phillip St Reserve will continue to be focal points for social, recreational and cultural activities in the area.
- The streetscapes contribute significantly to the Pottsville's character. There is minimal street tree planting along Tweed Coast Rd in Hastings Point village.
- North Pottsville and a location within Pottsville Waters are undersupplied with neighbourhood playgrounds
- The area is well supplied with district playgrounds.
- Youth recreation facilities include sports fields, shared paths and a multi-court, with the ability to access waterways for nature based activities. There are no skate facilities.
- There is one off leash area (beach location).

SOUTH EAST HINTERLAND - BARRINGBAR

Area description

The area includes the localities of Burringbar, Byangum, Crabbes Creek, Dunbible, Fernvale, Mooball, Palmvale, Stokers Siding, Upper Burringbar and Wardrop Valley. The area is predominantly rural and agricultural land, with three primary schools, the village of Burringbar, and the smaller villages of Crabbes Creek, Mooball and Stokers Siding, with a small residential estate at Dunbible.

Supply overview - open space, sport and recreation facilities

Key Findings

- The area is currently well supplied with passive open space (parks) and undersupplied with active open space (sports fields) which will continue to be the case until 2026.
- Whilst undersupplied with active open space, much of the demand for sporting facilities is likely to be met by the sports facilities provided by the Burringbar Public Recreation Trust (Tom O'Connor Recreation Reserve) and facilities within other urban profile areas, particular South Coast – Pottsville and Murwillumbah & District.
- All residents living in the village centres of Burringbar, Mooball and Stokers Siding are within 500m of an open space. The only open space in Crabbes Creek in the area is adjacent to Crabbes Creek Community Hall.
- Burringbar, Mooball and Stokers Siding are well supplied with neighbourhood parks. Crabbes Creek is undersupplied.
- There is no district park in the area as the population is less than 3,500 people.
- The areas key bushland reserves are in the vicinity of Burringbar Creek and along the Tweed River at Dunbible, which provide opportunities for walking and nature appreciation.
- There are known, and potential, Aboriginal cultural heritage sites.
- There are existing gaps in the footpath network in the three villages.
- There is minimal streetscaping or landscaping in the rural villages of Burringbar, Mooball, Crabbes Creek or Stokers Siding. This includes both street trees and garden bed plantings.
- Burringbar and Crabbes Creek are undersupplied with neighbourhood playgrounds. In Mooball and Stokers Siding the playgrounds are either in poor condition or provide minimal play value.
- There is no district playground as the population is less than 3,500 people.
- Youth recreation facilities include the sports field and tennis courts.

SOUTH WEST TWEED - UKI

Area description

The South West Tweed - Uki area encompasses the localities of Byrill Creek, Cedar Creek, Chowan Creek, Commissioners Creek, Doon Doon, Dum Dum, Kunghur, Kunghur Creek, Midginbil, Mount Burrell, Mount Warning, Rowlands Creek, Smiths Creek, Terragon and Uki. The area is a predominantly rural area, with some rural-residential areas, including the small village of Uki and two schools.

Supply overview - open space, sport and recreation facilities

Key Findings

- The area is currently well supplied with passive open space (parks) and undersupplied with active open space (sports fields), which will continue to be the case until 2026.
- Whilst undersupplied with active open space, much of the demand for sporting facilities is likely to be met by the sports facilities within other urban profile areas, particularly Murwillumbah & District.
- All residents living in the village centre are within 500m of an open space.
- The area is well supplied with a neighbourhood park, although it is not central to the village resulting in some residents having to walk more than 500m to access the park.
- There is a district park at Clarrie Hall Dam. The area is highly utilised for events, picnicking and low impact water based activities. There is potential for additional nature based recreation activities in the park.
- Mt Nullum and the bushland reserves around Byrill Creek support a diversity of plant and animal life and are highly valued for their environmental, Aboriginal cultural and European heritage values. The areas could provide a unique setting for nature based recreation.
- There are known, and potential, Aboriginal cultural heritage sites.
- There are existing gaps in the footpath network between the village's key open spaces and there are no pathways along the Tweed River.
- There is minimal streetscaping or landscaping in the rural village of Uki.
- The area is well supplied with a neighbourhood playground.
- There is no district playground as the population is less than 3,500 people.
- Youth recreation facilities include the sports field, tennis courts and water based activities.

TERRANORA

Area description

Terranora area encompasses the locality of Terranora only. Terranora is a rural and growing rural-residential and residential area with two schools.

Supply overview - open space, sport and recreation facilities

Key Findings

- The area is currently well supplied with passive open space (parks) and undersupplied with active open space (sports fields) which will continue to be the case until 2026.
- All residents are within 500m of an open space.
- The area is undersupplied with quality neighbourhood parks.
- The area is undersupplied with a district park.
- The bushland reserves adjacent to the Terranora Broadwater provide important green corridors through to Bilambil Creek that support and protect a diverse plant and animal life. This area is not publically accessible.
- There are known, and potential, Aboriginal cultural heritage sites.
- The area is poorly connected by footpaths and shared paths. Connections within the drainage and utility reserve provide limited opportunities for walking and cycling.
- The established residential areas of Terranora have varying levels of street tree planting, with minimal planting in some locations.
- The area is undersupplied with quality neighbourhood playgrounds. Most of the existing playgrounds are in poor condition and offers minimal play value.
- There is no district park as the population is less than 3,500 people.
- Youth recreation facilities include the tennis courts only.
- There is one off leash area.

TWEED HEADS SOUTH - BANORA POINT

Area description

The Tweed Heads South - Banora Point precinct encompasses Banora Point and Tweed Heads South. The precinct is a growing residential and tourist area, with significant industrial and commercial land use and retail centres, including Tweed City Shopping Centre and three shopping precincts located in Banora Point.

Supply overview - open space, sport and recreation facilities

Key Findings

- The area is currently well supplied with passive open space (parks) and undersupplied with active open space (sports fields), which will continue to be the case until 2026.
- Large areas of open space, including the area's parks and sports fields are flood prone with associated constraints relating to drainage. Many sport facilities are located in flood prone areas which impact the quality of the sport facilities.
- All residents are within 5kms of a sports field, however the area is significantly undersupplied given the population of the area.
- All residents are within 500m of an open space.
- There are numerous locations within the area that are undersupplied with neighbourhood parks.
- The area is undersupplied with district parks.
- The Western Drainage System whilst primarily provided for stormwater management, provides pathways for walking and cycling and opportunities for nature appreciation. There are existing gaps in the path network.
- Lake Kimberley provides opportunities for walking, cycling and nature appreciation.
- The area is well connected by shared paths along key arterial and sub-arterial roads only. There are significant gaps in the path network across the area.
- Landscaping is provided along key sub arterial roads in Banora, which improves visual amenity. Much of Tweed Heads South's retail and industrial areas have minimal street tree planting, including along Minjungbal Drive.
- The area is undersupplied with neighbourhood playgrounds and many of the existing playgrounds are older in style.
- The area is undersupplied with district playgrounds, given the population of the area.
- Youth recreation facilities include sports fields and a regional skate park, which is in poor condition.
- There are two off leash areas.

TWEED HEADS WEST

Area description

Tweed Heads West encompasses residential, environmental, rural and part of the Gold Coast Airport is located within the precinct. Tweed Heads West is bounded by the Queensland border in the north, the Pacific Highway in the east, Terranora Creek and the locality of Bilambil Heights in the south, Cobaki Creek, the Cobaki Broadwater and the locality of Cobaki Lakes in the west.

Supply overview - open space, sport and recreation facilities

Key Findings

- The area is currently well supplied with passive open space (parks) and undersupplied with active open space (sports fields), which will continue to be the case until 2026.
- All residents are within 5kms of a sports field, however there area is significantly undersupplied with sports fields given the population of the area.
- All residents are within 500m of an open space.
- There are numerous locations within the area that are undersupplied with neighbourhood parks.
- The area is undersupplied with a district park.
- Cobaki Broadwater, Terranora Creek and the associated foreshore areas offer high scenic quality and are important recreation areas for local residents and visitors.
- There are known, and potential, Aboriginal cultural heritage sites.
- The area is poorly connected by footpaths and shared paths. There is a key missing shared path connection between Birds Bay Dve and Golan Dve.
- The established residential areas of Tweed Heads West have varying levels of street tree planting, with minimal planting in some locations.
- The area is undersupplied with neighbourhood playgrounds. There are only two playgrounds servicing the whole area. The existing playgrounds are either in poor condition or offer minimal play value.
- The area is undersupplied with a district playground.
- Youth recreation facilities include sports fields, with opportunities for water based activities.
- There is one off leash area.

TWEED HEADS

Area description

Tweeds Heads is bounded by the Queensland border, an established residential, commercial and tourist area, with some industrial land use and several schools. Housing is in transition from low to medium to a higher density.

Supply overview - open space, sport and recreation facilities

Key Findings

- The area is currently well supplied with passive open space (parks) and undersupplied with active open space (sports fields) which will continue to be the case until 2026.
- Whilst all residents are within 5kms of a sports field, the area is significantly undersupplied with sports fields given the population of the area.
- All residents are within 500m of an open space.
- There are numerous locations within the area that are undersupplied with neighbourhood parks.
- The area is well supplied with district parks.
- There area is well supplied with a regional park (Jack Evans Boat Harbour, including “Goorimabah”.
- The Tweed River is a valued recreational asset of great importance to the local community and visitors and is utilised for a wide range of recreational pursuits. The Tweed River is a highly valued natural area for its scenic, environmental, cultural heritage and amenity values.
- Duranbah Beach is a popular surfing destination.
- There are known, and potential, Aboriginal cultural heritage sites.
- The area is well connected by a shared path along key arterial roads and along the Tweed River foreshore to Jack Evans Boat Harbour. The residential areas are poorly connected by footpaths and shared paths.
- The established residential areas of Tweed Heads have varying levels of street tree planting, with minimal planting in some locations. There is minimal street tree planting along the key arterial roads.
- The area is undersupplied with neighbourhood playgrounds.
- The area is undersupplied with a district playground, given the population of the area.
- Whilst residents have access to a regional park, the playground provided in the park is a district playground, not a regional playground.
- Youth recreation facilities include sports fields, with opportunities for water based activities.
- There is outdoor exercise equipment in John Follent Park.
- There is one off leash area.

A large, tall pine tree stands in the center of a park. In the background, there is a modern building with large windows and a playground with colorful equipment. The scene is bright and sunny, with shadows cast on the ground. A large, stylized orange watermark is overlaid on the image.

**STRATEGY TO ACTION:
REGIONAL AND DISTRICT ACTIONS PLAN**



Open space vision and guiding principles

Our vision

“The Tweed Shire is recognised for its diverse network of quality open spaces that meet the needs of a healthy and active community, whilst protecting our rich natural and cultural heritage for future generations.”

Guiding principles

To achieve this vision, the following guiding principles will guide the planning, design and management of open spaces, sport and recreation facilities in the Tweed Shire.

Quality

- Open spaces are attractive and welcoming for everyone;
- High quality open spaces and public realm projects are delivered in new and existing communities.
- The character of each town or village is reflected in the design of open spaces; and
- Open spaces are well maintained to encourage use.

Diversity

- A range of open spaces, sport, recreation facilities and activities is provided to enrich the diversity of community life;
- Reflect and celebrate cultural diversity;
- Design open spaces to be flexible with the capacity to adapt as needs change; and
- Plan multi-purpose spaces that are capable of delivering a range of benefits.

Health and well-being

- Encourage all people to live active and healthy lifestyles;
- Promote a sense of community, happiness and well-being;
- Ensure the safety of the community through good design of open spaces; and
- Support opportunities for social interactions and community connections.

Accessibility

- People of all ages, ability, health, gender and cultural backgrounds feel welcome and can easily access the open space network;
- Open spaces are within walking distance of where people live; and
- Universal design principles are applied when planning and designing open spaces to improve access for everyone.

Equity

- Quality open spaces, sport and recreation facilities are equitably distributed and funded across the Shire.

Connectivity

- An open space network that is well connected by way of pathways, trails, streetscapes and natural corridors;
- Open spaces are connected to key community destinations; and
- Opportunities exist for people to connect with the natural environment.

Environment protection and conservation

- Protect and enhance local biodiversity and ecosystems;
- Strengthen and celebrate our diverse Indigenous and non-Indigenous heritage; and
- Encourage people to experience natural and cultural heritage without compromising biodiversity, heritage and scenic values.

Sustainability

- Adopt an evidence based strategic approach to the planning of open spaces;
- Invest in quality improvement to ensure environmental, social, cultural and economic values are enhanced for future generations;
- Incorporate sustainable design and maintenance practices;
- Mitigate the impacts of climate change;
- Build partnerships with others to ensure an integrated approach to open space management for better outcomes for the community and the environment; and
- Ensure sustainable financial management of the open space network.

Strategic outcomes

What we will do

These are the five desired outcomes that we will strive to achieve over the next 10 years. Collectively the vision, guiding principles and outcomes will guide the priorities, strategies and actions of Council and its partners to deliver an open space network that is socially, environmentally, culturally, and economically sustainable.

Outcome 1

Our open spaces are high quality and offer diverse sport and recreation opportunities for everyone to enjoy.

Priorities

- Protect and enhance the value and amenity of existing open spaces and ensure high quality open spaces in new communities.
- Create the right mix of open spaces to provide a diversity of sport and recreation experiences.

Outcome 2

Our open space network promotes physical activity, fosters good health and well-being and is safe.

Priorities

- Increase participation in sport and physical activity and build stronger communities.
- Improve the safety of our open spaces, sport and recreation facilities.

Outcome 3

Our open spaces are equitably distributed, well connected and accessible to everyone.

Priorities

- Ensure a fair and equitable distribution of open spaces, sport and recreation facilities across the Shire.
- Provide a well-connected open space network that improves access to open spaces and promotes active travel.
- More places and spaces in our communities are accessible to everyone.

Outcome 4

The Tweed Shire's natural and cultural heritage is protected and enhanced for future generations.

Priorities

- Protect and restore the significant biodiversity and ecological values of Tweed's natural areas.
- Ensure environmental sustainability and develop resilience to the impacts of climate change.
- Protect and conserve Tweed Shire's cultural heritage.
- Protect and enhance Tweed Shire's highly valued scenic landscapes.

Outcome 5

The open space network is effectively managed and economically sustainable.

Priorities

- Ensure a robust planning and management system for open space assets.
- Plan for the strategic acquisition of land for open space purposes to accommodate a growing population.

Outcome 1

Our open spaces are high quality and offer diverse sport and recreation opportunities for everyone to enjoy.

What you said

- Parks and open spaces should be aesthetically pleasing and incorporate natural features including trees, landscaping and water landscapes.
- Improve the quantity and quality of park facilities including rubbish bins, drinking water fountains, BBQ's, picnic tables, seating and include seating suitable for older people.
- We value both the smaller local open spaces and the additional recreational opportunities provided by larger regional open spaces.
- Upgrade public toilets and provide new toilets in specific locations, improve their cleanliness, extend opening hours, improve safety, provide additional accessible toilets, provide toilets close to playgrounds, include showers in some public toilets, develop a public toilet map and consider environmentally sensitive toilets.
- Provide regular park maintenance including mowing, removal of graffiti, path maintenance, empty rubbish bins and clean BBQ's regularly.
- Improve the quantity and quality of children's playgrounds, provide a variety of equipment that appeals to children of all ages and abilities, provide shade, consider fencing some playgrounds, provide seating for parents/carers who are supervising and improve playground maintenance.
- Improve the quality of Tweed Heads South Skate Park and provide a skate park in Kingscliff.
- Provide additional off-leash dog exercise areas, improve Council's management of dogs, install dog waste bags and drinking bowls, install signage, provide spaces for dog training and prohibit dangerous dog breeds in public.
- Prohibit dogs on beaches.
- Provide additional car parking in parks and foreshore reserves to meet demand. Continue to provide free parking.
- Improve the quantity and quality of open spaces in rural villages.
- Provide free camping for seniors and spaces to cook food.
- Provide more diverse activities for young people.
- Encourage the use of sports fields for other activities, avoid exclusive use by sports clubs and encourage more family friendly spaces.

What we will do

Priorities

Protect and enhance the value and amenity of existing open spaces and ensure high quality open spaces in new communities.

- Sufficient quantity and quality of open space is critical in the planning and sustainability of communities to ensure community recreation and social needs are met and environmental values preserved. Over the next 10 years Council will invest in developing sound and consistent policy to inform open space development as new communities are planned and existing communities are regenerated. The delivery of open space is now built into planning at the regional, district, neighbourhood and local level.
- Council will invest in quality design and materials to create an open space network that people want to use, spaces that are welcoming, aesthetically pleasing, safe and accessible. We will design open spaces, sport and recreation facilities in accordance with best practice guidance. Progressive upgrades to the quality of existing open spaces across the Shire will be delivered over the next decade. Master planning and concept planning in consultation with the community will be a key mechanism by which we will improve the quality of open spaces, park infrastructure, sport and recreation facilities to ensure we meet community needs.
- Council will develop new Open Space Design Guidelines to ensure public realm design achieves a high standard. The guidelines aim to ensure that a high standard of maintainable open space provision is achieved throughout the Tweed Shire. The guidelines will apply to existing residential areas and new subdivisions and across the open space hierarchy, to our high profile destinations (e.g. coastal foreshore areas), as well as local and neighbourhood parks, small civic open spaces and residential streets.
- We will prioritise quality improvements in areas of high need, in areas identified as undersupplied with quality open spaces, including higher density areas such as Tweed Heads South – Banora, Tweed Heads West and Tweed Heads. We aim to improve the quality of the Tweed's key recreation destinations along the creek, river and coastal foreshores and across the hierarchy of open space types – regional, district, neighbourhood and local open spaces. The quality of parks and open spaces in Tweed's rural villages will also be enhanced to better meet community needs and support increase visitation to rural villages.
- Our community value being able to access quality local and neighbourhood parks that are within walking or cycling distance of their homes. This Strategy includes specific actions to improve the quality and diversity of neighbourhood open spaces in Councils 14 profile areas. Over the coming months Council will collaborate further with local communities to prioritize local actions for implementation over the next decade. This participatory process will inform the development of the Strategy's Implementation Plan.
- We are committed to improving the appeal of open spaces for families, children and youth. Council will ensure more robust planning and an equitable approach is taken to providing high quality play experiences and spaces for socialising. Playgrounds and outdoor youth recreation facilities such as skate facilities, multi-courts and areas to ride a bike and learn new skills will be well located, planned and designed in consultation with young people, families and the broader community.
- We will continue to liaise closely with developers as early as possible in the subdivision process to achieve the best open space outcomes for new communities (social, economic, environmental and cultural outcomes). We aim to satisfy demand by providing quality as well as quantity. We will ensure Council has the capacity to maintain any new open space assets acquired through the development process, so we can move toward a more sustainable portfolio of good quality open spaces, sport and recreation facilities and park infrastructure across the Shire.

- ‘Quality’ for some people means a good level of maintenance. Effective open space maintenance is essential to maximise the benefits of the open space network, as well as to ensure a project performs to the design intent. We will develop maintenance service levels, which will be our standards for maintaining the quality of the open space network. Service levels will be consistent with the new open space classification system and open space hierarchy. We will continue to provide a high level of maintenance for open spaces located adjacent to waterways, regional and district open spaces. These areas are highly valued by the community and support a high intensity of uses by residents, workers and visitors. Where possible, we will plan and design open spaces with minimisation of maintenance costs in mind (where practical) so we can sustain our levels of service over the long term.
- Council experiences increasing demand for the use of open spaces for other uses such as car parking or traffic management, for accommodating utilities and low cost housing. We will protect the quality of existing open space by restricting the conversion of open space to other uses, limiting encroachment from other uses and we will monitor the impact of commercial uses on the quality of parks and open spaces.
- Community participation will underpin our future planning of open spaces. We will provide regular opportunities for our community to have a voice on open space decisions that affect them. This will help ensure community needs are met, to achieve high quality open space outcomes and to increase the appeal and use of the open space network. When developing open spaces the level of community engagement will be appropriate to the size and scope of the project. A mix of consultation methods and tools of engagement will be implemented to enable the community to have their say.

Strategies and actions

Invest in open space planning and design to deliver better outcomes for everyone

- Develop a Shire-wide Play Space Action Plan to ensure high quality and diverse play opportunities for children aged 2–12 years.
- Develop a Shire-wide Outdoor Youth Recreation Action Plan to identify the needs of young people and to improve the quality, and diversity of outdoor youth recreational facilities.
- Develop a Shire-wide Public Toilet Strategy to improve the quality, siting and distribution of public toilets across the Shire.
- Develop an Open Space Car Park Improvement Program to improve the standard and availability of car parking facilities adjacent to Council’s regional, district and foreshore open spaces.
- Develop guidelines for dogs in public open spaces to guide the planning of quality and diverse off-leash areas. Include provisions for fencing regional and district off-leash areas.
- Develop Signage Design Standards and an Open Space Signage Implementation Plan to guide the planning, specification and design of signs in Tweed’s parks and open spaces (including environmental and cultural heritage interpretative signage and wayfinding signage).
- Develop a Community Gardens Policy and a template for developing a Community Garden Management Plan for groups wishing to establish a new community garden.
- Revise Open Space Design Guidelines to guide the development of high quality open spaces, sport and recreation facilities in existing and new communities (including guidelines for playgrounds and youth recreation facilities).
- Develop open space master plans or concept plans when upgrading existing and developing new parks and sports fields.

Upgrade existing and develop new regional and district parks and open spaces

- Develop a plan of management for the Jack Evans Boat Harbour (Tweed Heads) which includes (Goorimabah). Consider upgrading the playground in Jack Evans Boat Harbour (Tweed Heads) to a regional level and consider integrating nature play elements and cultural values.
- Develop a plan of management for the Pottsville Environment Park (Pottsville).
- Develop a plan of management for the Clarrie Hall Dam (Doon Doon).
- Implement the masterplan for Kingscliff Sport and Recreation Complex (Kingscliff).
- Develop a master plan for the district sports field at Depot Rd (Kings Forest).
- Develop a new district park and playground in Pioneer Park (Tweed Heads West).
- Develop a new district park and playground in Amaroo Park (Banora Point).
- Upgrade the playground at Recreation Ground (Tweed Heads) to a district level.
- Upgrade the skate park in Tweed Heads South to a regional multi-purpose family and youth recreation precinct.
- Provide a new skate park in Kingscliff (hierarchy to be determined).
- Provide a new regional off-leash dog area in Banora Point (fenced).
- Provide a new district off-leash dog area in Murwillumbah (fenced).

Upgrade open spaces in Tweed's rural villages

- Prioritise parks and open space upgrades in the following rural villages: Burringbar, Stokers Siding, Mooball, Crabbes Creek and Chillingham. Develop open space master plans in consultation with rural communities.
- Develop a Rural Social Tennis Court Program to review the provision of Council managed social tennis courts in the following rural villages: Bilambil, Chillingham, Tumbulgum, Tyalgum and Cudgen. Consider the conversion of low use tennis courts to multi-purpose courts or other uses.

Upgrade existing and develop new neighbourhood parks and open spaces

- Upgrade local and neighbourhood open spaces in accordance with the recommended actions for each profile area. Prioritise actions in consultation with local communities.
- Replace and upgrade neighbourhood playgrounds in accordance with the recommended actions for each profile area. Prioritise actions in consultation with local communities.

Preserve the quality and integrity of existing open spaces

- Protect existing open spaces by restricting its conversion to other uses such as accommodating utilities or infrastructure that does not relate to or impedes open space values, sport and recreational activities.
- Develop a management procedure to identify and address where private property owners have encroached onto public open spaces, particularly onto parks, foreshore reserves and bushland reserves.
- Implement a management procedure to manage the frequency, duration and usage impacts of commercial uses on the quality of open space, the community's enjoyment of open spaces and impacts on environmental and cultural values.
- Develop a management response for the erection of permanent and temporary advertising signs in parks and open spaces.

Ensure high quality open spaces and sport and recreation facilities in new communities

Review the Tweed Development Control Plan, Section A5 Subdivision Manual and the Development Design Specification – D14 Landscaping Public Space (includes streetscapes) to reflect the vision, guiding principles and outcomes of the Open Space Strategy.

Encourage greater collaboration with developers early on in the subdivision process to achieve quality open space outcomes and the full range of community benefits.

Continue to require a developer to prepare an open space master plan and landscape concept plan, to be endorsed by Council prior to the subdivision approval.

Advocate for new district parks, playgrounds and outdoor youth recreation facilities in Cobaki, Kings Forest, Dunloe Park, Bilambil Heights and Area E Urban Release Areas.

Open space contributions should not be land that has encumbrances and should be cost effective to maintain.

Proactively manage open space assets to maintain quality

Develop an Open Space Maintenance Service Level Manual for open spaces, sport, recreation facilities and park infrastructure (including car parks, public toilets and pathways). Service levels should be developed in accordance with the revised open space hierarchies and

Conduct condition assessments of all pathways, including pathways located within parks and open spaces every 4 years to inform Council's Footpath Rehabilitation Program.

Ensure the community has input into open space planning, design and management

Encourage stakeholders and the broader community across all ages, abilities and backgrounds to positively contribute to open space development projects. This may require targeting consultations to encourage minority groups to participate.

When upgrading existing or developing new parks and open spaces the level of community engagement should be appropriate to the size and scope of the project and in accordance with the Draft Community Engagement Strategy (2018).

Investigate volunteering initiatives to help promote active involvement in the management of open spaces.

Priorities

Create the right mix of open spaces to provide a diversity of sport and recreation experiences.

- Council will focus on creating the right mix of open spaces, sport and recreation experiences to reflect community need, changing demographics and contemporary leisure patterns. We aim to provide a range of open spaces that meet the needs of children, young people, older people, people with disabilities and Aboriginal people across all profile areas within the Shire. In residential areas we aim to provide for sport, recreation, play, nature appreciation, social interaction, rest and relaxation, nature appreciation and dog walking. New open spaces, outdoor gyms, off-leash areas, community gardens, pathways, tracks and trails and street trees will be added to the open space network.

- We will adopt a multi-use approach to open space planning to help maximise open space benefits, achieve the best outcomes from the land available and to ensure cost effective open space development and maintenance. This will include the provision of regional and district sports fields that can accommodate multiple sports, providing active open spaces that can also accommodate passive uses and maximising the use of linear drainage reserves for walking, cycling and nature appreciation. We will also partner with schools to utilise their open space and sport and recreation facilities outside school hours for community use (including outdoor multi-purpose courts and playgrounds).

- As part of assessing our current supply of open space, we have classified open spaces by type, function, landscape setting and where it sits in the open space hierarchy to identify what open spaces we have and to be clearer on what open spaces and recreation experiences we are not currently providing for. To improve the diversity of Tweed’s open space network we will look to enable spaces to perform better, consider changing the existing use of some open spaces to create new opportunities and we will work in partnerships with developers to achieve greater diversity.
- Our community want to see more diverse opportunities for child’s play (including nature play and water play) and youth recreation facilities that meet the needs of a broader audience, rather than just providing skate parks. Consultation for this strategy revealed requests for more skate facilities, basketball courts or multi-purpose courts, parkour facilities, bike dirt jumps, fitness equipment and safe spaces to just hang out with family and friends.
- The Tweed has a substantial amount of natural open space and there is a clear desire among the community for additional infrastructure enabling access to natural areas for active and passive recreation. There is an increasing demand to access Tweed’s bushland areas, foreshore reserves and waterways for recreation. The Tweed Shire has significant potential to be recognised as a premier nature based recreation destination. At present, there are very few formalised trails for bush walking, horse riding and no mountain bike trails in Council managed open space. In addition to the proposed Tweed Valley Rail Trail, we will investigate opportunities to develop an Integrated Recreation Trail Network to identify suitable locations for nature based recreation, including canoe and kayak trails.
- Council is currently drafting a Coastal Management Program for the Tweed River Estuary (2018-2028) which includes a Recreational Use Strategy. The program will aim to provide for more diverse active and passive recreational activities including boating, fishing, swimming, improving access for people with disabilities, picnicking, nature appreciation, as well as walking and cycling connections along the river foreshore (where practical).

Strategies and actions

Adopt a multi-use approach to maximise diversity and increase use of open spaces

When upgrading existing or developing new sports fields, investigate opportunities for walking and cycling circuits around the periphery, outdoor gyms, the co-location of youth recreation facilities, playgrounds and dog off-leash areas (where appropriate) to appeal to a broader range of users.

Continue to support and expand the shared management model of sports fields and ancillary facilities, where there are several clubs or sports codes sharing one sports field.

Partner with schools to investigate shared use of school facilities, where school facilities are made available for community use outside of school hours.

Prioritise investment in regional and district open spaces that are more adaptable, are typically better suited to cater for multiple users and provide a diverse range of active and passive activities.

Invest in open space planning and design to deliver better outcomes for everyone

When upgrading open spaces, consider opportunities to change existing use, add different functions and integrate different landscape settings to improve the diversity of the open space network.

When developers of new residential developments prepare open space master plans and landscape plans ensure different open space types, functions and landscape settings are well defined, demonstrating the provision of a diverse open space network.

Develop the Tweed Valley Rail Trail from Murwillumbah to Crabbes Creek to create a shared use rail trail.

Convene a multi-agency task force including land managers, recreation and tourism industry groups and community representatives to investigate the development of an Integrated Recreational Trail Network. The project will incorporate nature-based trails for walking, mountain biking, horse riding, canoeing and kayaking.

Investigate the use of Clarrie Hall Dam (Doon Doon) as a regional park for low-impact nature based activities including bushwalking, mountain biking, nature appreciation activities, recreational fishing, boating, kayaking and canoeing. Investigate the use of Mt Nullum and Mt Burrell for low-impact nature based activities.

Identify funding sources available through Federal and State government programs or private partnerships for the funding of nature based recreation and tourism.

Provide more inclusive play spaces for children, parents and carers with disabilities in a range of settings and offer more diverse play experiences such as sensory and tactile play spaces.

Increase the diversity of youth recreation facilities across the Shire. Consider skate park facilities, multi-purpose courts, hang out spaces, a range of seating, shade, parkour facilities and access to Wi-fi and public toilets.

Determine the demand and feasibility for an urban bike park in the Tweed Shire such as a pump track, BMX or bike skills park.

Review the demand and the feasibility study conducted for the proposed Regional Botanical Garden in the Shire (2005).

Consult with the Tweed community to determine the demand and feasibility of providing a cycling criterion in the Tweed Shire.

Review the provision of off-leash dog areas in parks and on beaches and the associated park infrastructure (such as dog waste bins, bags and drinking water) to diversify the open space network and to meet growing demand.

When upgrading existing or developing new open spaces, consider providing opportunities to observe and appreciate nature.

Investigating providing WiFi in regional and civic open spaces.

Encourage and facilitate a diverse range of community events in parks and open spaces, events of regional, national and international importance in accordance with Tweed Shire Council's Event Strategy (2016-2020). Ensure parks and open spaces suitable to host events have adequate infrastructure to support the intended level of use.

Outcome 2

Our open space network promotes physical activity, fosters good health and wellbeing and is safe.

What you said

- Provide a mix of open spaces, recreation, sports and play facilities to encourage physical activity across all neighbourhoods.
- Provide more outdoor exercise gyms to improve health and well-being. Cluster the equipment to provide social interaction opportunities.
- Provide more spaces for neighbours to meet up and socialise.
- Provide bike parks and areas to learn to ride a bike.
- Provide free programs and activities in parks for families.
- Provide opportunities for nature play, including water play.
- Children like to play in a park or playground, swim, play football, soccer and ride a bike. Playgrounds, sports fields, waterways and jetties were their favourite outdoor areas or facilities.
- Youth use parks and open spaces to exercise, rest and relax and hang out with friends. They would like to see more youth spaces, cultural facilities (dance, arts, and theatre), BMX tracks and skate parks.
- Some young people feel youth specific places are not safe, often poorly maintained and not activated.
- When the community felt unsafe using public open spaces, fear of crime or threatening behaviour, poor lighting, and not enough people around were the main reasons.
- Provide more shade and shelter in parks, over seating, picnic tables and children's playgrounds, with a preference for natural shade.
- Consider fencing water bodies to improve safety for children.
- Provide lighting to improve safety and to increase the use of parks and open spaces in the evenings.

What we will do

Priorities

Increase participation in sport and physical activity and build stronger communities.

- Less than a third of Australians are getting enough physical activity to benefit their health. We aim to create new opportunities for residents' of the Tweed Shire to make physical activity a part of their daily lives. Providing walkable and connected communities, co-locating open spaces with community facilities, designing high quality streets and providing appropriate facilities and infrastructure to enable sport and physical activity are key priorities of Council. We will partner with sporting clubs, community groups, recreation and environment groups to enable those who want to be active and encourage those who are inactive to become active.
- We aim to develop an open space network that enables all people to engage in regular physical activity. With a significant proportion of our population over 60 years, Council will plan and design age-friendly and inclusive open spaces that encourage physical activity independently and with others. Council aims to address some of the barriers to participation by supporting and encouraging free or low cost physical activities and programs and providing appropriate infrastructure that supports the use of open spaces by older people, such as seating, public toilets, outdoor gyms, dog parks and pathways for walking and cycling.
- Council aims to encourage children and youth to accumulate the 60 minutes of moderate- to vigorous-intensity physical activity required daily. We will build on the existing provision of sports fields, courts, skate facilities and bike paths to encourage young people to be physically active. We will work with young people when planning and designing open spaces with the aim of increasing the appeal of open spaces, increasing participation, providing social spaces to hang out with family and friends and providing safe places for respite and to rejuvenate.
- Council will make sure the community are more aware of what the open space network has to offer. We will promote the range of unique open spaces, their values, facilities and the activities that take place within them to increase community participation and engagement. A range of promotion initiatives will be implemented to reach the broader community.
- Council understands the benefits of building a strong social community. We will plan and design open spaces to improve opportunities for people to socialise and connect. This can help promote social cohesion and create a sense of belonging in a community. Our parks and open spaces provide important venues for social activities and cultural celebrations and allow people to meet on neutral ground in both planned and unplanned ways. We will continue to provide park facilities that support the gathering of friends and families and the meeting of groups through common interests (such as a walking group or gardening group).
- In new communities Council will encourage the co-location of open spaces and recreational facilities with community assets such as community centres, libraries and community halls. Council will encourage a mix of land use and activities and avoid single use open space facilities. Co-locating community assets and open space assets in this way broadens the appeal of the community facilities provided, increases awareness of open spaces and makes participation in sport and recreation more convenient for a broader audience.
- Council will invest in creative place making and cultural programming to increase the use of open spaces, to promote health and well-being and strengthen communities. Activation activities may include community events, commercial activities, active living programs, markets and festivals, public art opportunities and the interpretation of environmental and cultural values. Our focus will be on activating regional and district open spaces, river and coastal foreshores and underutilised open spaces.

Strategies and actions

Establish regional and local partnerships to increase participation

Continue to partner with the Tweed Shire Sports Advisory Committee in relation to broad-based sports and recreation issues and opportunities, effective policy and service provision regarding sports and recreation within the Shire.

Develop a part-time position for a Sports Development Officer to support sporting clubs to develop club development plans, assist with grant applications and enable increased player participation and development. Partner with sports clubs to encourage active participation by youth, girls and women, people with a disabilities and residents on low incomes.

Continue to work with the North Coast Academy of Sport, participate in the North Coast Parks Forum and partner with the Sports Advisory Committee to encourage participation in sport and recreation at all levels, respond to participation trends, and ensure the sustainability of sport and recreation in the Tweed Shire and the region over the long term.

Work in partnership with community health services and other agencies such as Northern NSW Local Health District and social services to encourage activities or programs in parks and open spaces that support community health (e.g. green prescription programmes, Heart Foundation walking groups).

Work in partnership with commercial providers to encourage activities or programming in open spaces that increase community participation in physical activity (e.g. yoga classes and fitness classes in parks).

Assist environmental groups such as Landcare and Dunecare to get more people involved in environmental projects that promote physical and mental wellbeing.

Support the growing movement for community gardening and the community health benefits it provides.

Encourage active transport and increased participation in walking and cycling (e.g. participation in the 'National Walk Safely to School' and 'Walk to Work Day').

Enliven and activate parks and open spaces to encourage participation and community connections

Ensure parks and open spaces are designed to maximise social exchange and interactions. Provide park furniture, pathways, lighting, shade and co-locate open spaces with key community facilities to create safe, accessible and comfortable open spaces for interaction.

Develop a 'pop up' place making program, a temporary low cost program of innovative place making opportunities to promote healthy and active living, community connections to open spaces and social connections.

Consider place making opportunities to activate the following regional and coastal destinations: Pottsville Environment Park (Pottsville), Clarrie Hall Dam (Doon Doon), Knox Park (Murwillumbah), Jack Evans Boat Harbour (Tweed Heads), Rowan Robinson Park (Kingscliff) and Salt Central Park (Kingscliff).

Consider place making opportunities to activate the following underutilised open spaces: Ebenezer Park (Tweed Heads), Recreation Ground (Tweed Heads) and Budd Park (Murwillumbah).

Integrate public art in parks and open spaces, in consultation with the Public Art Advisory Committee to reinforce a local sense of place and support community arts and culture.

Undertake a public awareness program to raise awareness of Council's open space network, including sport and recreation facilities and activation programs. This may include creating an interactive mapping tool with the latest information, exploring technological applications (e.g. mobile applications) and social media to increase participation, Tweed Link feature articles and updating information on Council's website.

Priorities

Improve the safety of our open spaces, sport and recreation facilities.

- Council wants people to be safe and feel safe using our parks and open spaces. We will design open spaces to provide good levels of natural surveillance, clear sightlines with well-defined entrances and boundaries, and minimise conflict between different user groups. We will be guided by the 'Crime Prevention through Environmental Design' design principles to promote community safety and prevent vandalism and graffiti in parks and open spaces. We will locate facilities that have a higher potential for vandalism or crime risk such as public toilets, playgrounds and youth recreational spaces in prominent and visible locations.
- Open spaces, playgrounds and youth recreational facilities should be safe for children and young people. We aim to find the balance between providing opportunities to make spaces interesting and challenging for young people while managing unacceptable risks associated with public safety.
- We acknowledge the importance of providing shade in parks and open spaces to reduce exposure to ultra violet (UV) radiation from the sun and the effects of heat stress. It is our preference for natural shade provided by trees rather than built structures. However, we aim to provide built shade structures in our highly utilized open spaces, in regional and district open spaces and open spaces along river and coastal foreshores. In new residential developments, developers will be required to provide built shade over playgrounds and sheltered picnic areas in addition to planting appropriate species of shade trees to provide future shade.
- We will continue to implement a regime of regular maintenance, ongoing audits and monitoring of service levels to ensure the safety of our open space assets. The installation of regulatory signage will inform users of potential safety risks and call on users to take responsibility to ensure the safety messages are adhered to.

Strategies and actions

Plan and design safer open spaces

Design, construct and maintain sport and recreation facilities, park infrastructure and playgrounds to meet relevant Australian standards and safety codes.

Implement the design principles, 'Crime Prevention through Environmental Design' to discourage crime and support community safety in public open spaces.

When required conduct community safety audits to improve safety in 'at risk' parks and open spaces in consultation with NSW Police and local community representatives.

Conduct lighting audits to improve safety in 'at risk' parks and open spaces and to increase the use of regional open spaces outside of daylight hours including Jack Evans Boat Harbour (Tweed Heads), Kingscliff Foreshore (Kingscliff), and Knox Park (Murwillumbah).

Develop a Shade Policy to guide the provision of natural shade and the installation of built shade structures in open spaces and over recreation facilities.

Conduct shade audits of regional and district open spaces to determine the extent of natural and built shade provided. Implement a tree planting shade program to provide additional natural shade in parks and open spaces.

Provide access to drinking water in regional, district and neighbourhood parks and sports fields to reduce the impact of heat stress.

Review the Graffiti Vandalism Management Policy and implement creative strategies to deter vandalism and graffiti in parks and open spaces.

Develop an education program to promote responsible dog ownership and compliance with regulatory and advisory signage.

Outcome 3

Our open spaces are equitably distributed, well connected and accessible to everyone.

What you said

- Improve access to open spaces and playgrounds.
- Ensure access to diverse open spaces for people with disabilities.
- Improve pedestrian and cycle connections to parks, sports fields, playgrounds and youth facilities.
- Improve access to natural areas including bushland areas, foreshore reserves and Tweed's beaches, creeks and rivers (Tweed and Oxley Rivers specifically mentioned).
- Improve access to natural areas for viewing opportunities.
- Provide more trails for walking and cycling. Allow walkers and mountain bikers to access natural areas.
- Access to open spaces should be free and programming in parks should be affordable.
- Improve access to local parks to ensure they are within walking distance.
- Provide an 'all accessible' playground.
- Community feedback suggests a relatively high level of satisfaction with the community's ability to access open spaces, particularly parks and foreshore reserves.
- The community value local parks but also value having access to larger open spaces within a reasonable driving distance that offer something for everyone.
- Improve the provision of public toilets that are accessible for people with disabilities.
- Prohibit vehicle access onto open spaces.
- There is no public transport to and from small villages so we can't access youth facilities.
- Council should partner with NPWS to promote the use of fire trails for walking and biking. The gates at the entrance to fire trails stop people and vehicles from accessing them.

What we will do

Priorities

Ensure a fair and equitable distribution of open spaces, sport and recreation facilities across the Shire.

- We will implement a new Open Space Planning Framework to ensure residents living in residential areas have access to high quality and diverse open spaces. The framework defines the quantity (the minimum amount of open space required), accessibility (how far resident's should be expected to travel to an open space) and the quality of public open space (expected level of embellishment and maintenance). The framework applies to all new residential areas, but has been applied to our existing residential areas as a benchmark for assessing open space supply. We have not relied on standards alone, we have listened to what the community needs, researched sport and recreation trends, audited the existing open spaces and developed population profiles to be sure open spaces are equitably distributed across the Shire and community needs are met.
- The ability of residents to gain access to open space within an easy walk from their home is highly valued by the Tweed community, as is access to larger more diverse district and regional open spaces. We aim to ensure residents in existing and new residential areas are within 500m (a 5 to 10 minute walk) of a neighbourhood park (an embellished open space with a children's playground), within 3kms of a district level park, and within 15 to 20 minutes of a district level sports field or other active open space.
- We have audited the existing open space network, our sport and recreation facilities and identified gaps in provision. Some areas are undersupplied with open space and in other areas, while there is an adequate supply of open space, it is poorly distributed, not of a high quality and/or doesn't provide diverse recreational experiences. Over the next decade we aim to address the undersupply of quality and diverse open spaces, sport and recreation facilities.
- We will prioritise open space improvements in medium and higher density areas, areas of socio economic disadvantage and areas that have not seen significant capital investment over the last 10 years. Priority areas include Tweed Heads South – Banora Point, Tweed Heads West, Tweed Heads, established areas of Murwillumbah, Bilambil Heights and Tweed's rural villages. Whilst we aim to address these gaps to ensure fairness and equity, there will be some instances where this will not be possible given the difficult topography, natural landscape features, past development patterns and the resultant lack of open space 'fit for purpose'. In terms of specific recreation facilities we aim to provide a more equitable distribution of playgrounds, youth recreation facilities, outdoor gyms, off-leash dog areas and pathways and trails.
- We will use the gap analysis identified in this strategy and in the Sports Field Strategy (2014) to guide future land acquisition and investigate shared use agreements to address gaps in open space and recreation provision. Where required, we may need to seek additional land to increase the size of existing open spaces or acquire new open space to ensure residents are within the recommended distance thresholds. We will develop acquisition criteria and prioritise the acquisition of active open space in the north of the Shire in accordance with the Sports Field Strategy. We will investigate opportunities to partner with the NSW Department of Education and other education institutions to improve broader community access to their open space and recreation facilities outside of school hours.

Strategies and actions

Address the gaps in the provision of high quality and diverse open spaces, sport and recreation facilities across the Shire

In new residential areas all residents should be within 500m (a 5 to 10 minute walk) of an embellished park, which should include the provision of a children's play space; within 3km of a district park; and within 5km of a district level sports field.

Aim to address the gaps in the provision of recreation facilities not adequately provided in some profile areas, including district level playgrounds, off-road trails, outdoor gyms and youth recreation facilities (where possible).

Provide at least one off-leash dog area in each profile area with a population greater than 3,000 people.

Prioritise the acquisition of land for sports fields in areas identified in the Sports Field Strategy as being undersupplied and poorly placed to meet future demand.

Investigate shared use agreements with schools to improve access to open spaces and outdoor recreation facilities on education land outside of school hours, in urban and rural areas.

Identify opportunities to partner with other landowners including Crown Lands, NSW Transport (NSW Railways), NPWS and Tweed Byron Aboriginal Land Council to address gaps in the provision of open spaces in some profile areas.

Priorities

Provide a well-connected open space network to improve access to open spaces and promote active travel.

- We have looked at how people get around by foot, bicycle, public transport and car to identify opportunities to improve connections between open spaces, residential areas and key community destinations (such as schools, community centres, halls, activity centres and public transport nodes). We aim to make our parks and open spaces easier to get to and more integrated physically and visually with the built environment.
- We have a vision to create a linked open space network to improve connectivity and accessibility. In new residential developments we will ensure connectivity is an integral part of the urban design process. This includes connectivity within the subject development and between developments (where possible). We will aim to create open space corridors utilizing existing and future parks, sports fields, foreshore reserves, bushland corridors and drainage reserves (collectively referred to as greenways), waterways including creeks, rivers and beaches (referred to as blueways) and the path network, including footpaths, shared paths, cycle paths, road reserves and trails. Additional tree planting, landscaping and park amenities such as bench seats and drinking fountains along key routes will also improve connectivity, wayfinding and the amenity of the open space network.
- Whilst drainage reserves such as drainage swales and drainage basins are not typically classified as open space, they are an important requirement, particularly as part of new residential developments. We support the application of Water Sensitive Urban Design principles where usable spaces with opportunities for passive surveillance, connections for walking and cycling and improvements to local amenity can be achieved. The successful integration of drainage corridors will require collaboration and negotiation with developers, designers and enhanced coordination within Council units, specifically Roads and Stormwater and Recreation Services. Investment in design up front will ensure public safety and risks are managed, unsightly utilities or functional infrastructure is softened or screened, sensitive areas are protected and maintenance requirements are well planned and adequately funded.
- We will review Council's Bike Plan (1999) to provide a more strategic approach to delivering cycling infrastructure including shared paths, on-road cycleways, end-of-trip facilities, signage and path lighting across the shire. The plan will include renewed actions for a connected bicycle network, to improve links to existing routes, to ensure a more equitable distribution of pathways across the shire and to make cycling more accessible for people of all ages and abilities.

- We will continue to implement and review the Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan (PAMP) to target infrastructure treatments that improve path connectivity, pedestrian safety and equity of access. The PAMP delivers a schedule of works to improve pedestrian access and safety, including improvements to footpaths, shared paths and the provision of other pedestrian facilities. Within this strategy, we have identified walking gaps to access parks and open spaces which should be considered in the next review of the PAMP.
- Council currently provides very few off-road trails. Moving forward we have committed to partnering with the state and federal government to build the Northern Rivers Rail Trail as a key open space corridor connecting Murwillumbah to Tweed’s rural villages. We will also improve local connections from the Rail Trail to the rural village centres and central open spaces. In new residential developments, we will adopt a stronger focus early on in the development process to deliver perimeter trails for walking and cycling loops in local neighbourhoods and we will investigate the potential to incorporate trails in ecological setbacks and through drainage reserves. We have also proposed a Recreational Trails Project to improve the future provision of trails for walking and mountain biking, access to waterways and water-based trails for canoeing and kayaking.

Strategies and actions

Create a connected open space network of greenways, blueways (waterways) incorporating the street network

Ensure provisions in Tweed’s Development Control Plan require a developer to prepare an open space masterplan and landscape plan that demonstrates the integration of the open space network (include waterways) with the transport network (including pedestrian path and cycling connections) and the drainage system.

In new residential developments ensure the provision of smaller local parks as open space contributions to improve connectivity, linkages and access.

When upgrading existing or developing new parks and open spaces provide internal pathways that connect to the local path network.

Encourage the inclusion of walking and cycling loops around the periphery of new residential developments and around district and regional level open spaces.

Ensure all land classified as coastal protection under any environmental planning instrument is to be dedicated as public open space, with provisions for direct pedestrian access to foreshore areas.

Continue to implement Council’s Waterways Program, a program of improving access to Tweed’s rivers, creeks and other waterways, including signage, maps and other associated amenities such as boat ramps, pontoons, jetties, canoe/kayak launching facilities, boardwalks and viewing platforms.

Investigate opportunities to use areas identified as ecological setbacks and bushland asset protection zones for walking, cycling and nature appreciation.

Establish an internal working group to address the design and maintenance challenges and financial implications associated with the integration of stormwater with parks, sports fields, linear paths and trails. Develop design criteria (to be included in the Open Space Design Guidelines) to maximise the visual and recreational amenity of these areas.

Apply the principles of Water Sensitive Urban Design where usable spaces, connections for walking and cycling and local amenity improvements can be achieved through appropriate design and management.

Review the Tweed Shire Council Bike Plan (1999) to address the gaps in the network and provide important links to key open spaces. The review should consider the provision of cycling support facilities including signage, line marking and end-of-trip facilities.

Review the Tweed Shire Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan (PAMP) to ensure the future provision of safe, accessible and connected pedestrian infrastructure.

Create a connected open space network of greenways, blueways (waterways) with the street network (continued)

Partner with State and Federal Governments to establish the Northern Rivers Rail Trail between Murwillumbah and Crabbes Creek.

Improve connections from the Tweed Valley Rail Trail to village centres and key open spaces in Tweed's rural villages located along the trail.

Identify opportunities for new land and water based trails and improved local and regional connections as part of the proposed Recreational Trails Project.

Enhance streetscapes along pathways that link key open spaces, activity centres and community facilities to delineate connections.

Priorities

More places and spaces in our communities are accessible to everyone.

- We will plan and design more inclusive parks and open spaces where all members of the community are treated with respect and feel welcome, including people with disabilities, older and younger people and people from low socio economic backgrounds.
- We will apply the principles of Inclusion and Universal Design when planning and designing open spaces (including streetscapes). We will prioritise access improvements in key recreation destinations along our creek, river and coastal foreshores, regional and district open spaces and in open spaces where there are existing accessible features. We will design open spaces to ensure accessible features are grouped together and an accessible continuous path of travel is provided that connects the recreational and park facilities within key open spaces.
- In each profile area we have made recommendations for access improvements to park infrastructure such as seating, picnic tables and BBQ's, signage, car parks, public toilets and pathways and recreational facilities such as playgrounds and sports fields. We will also provide additional opportunities for everyone to experience natural and cultural heritage, and improve pedestrian access to foreshores and waterways for viewing, nature appreciation and water based recreational activities including swimming, fishing and boating. A recent access audit of Council's foreshores and waterways identified a number of barriers that we aim to address.
- We will assess and rate all of our playgrounds and play spaces against Universal Design principles to ensure we cater better for people of all abilities. The NSW Government is currently developing a set of playground and park design guidelines for councils to improve facilities for young people with disabilities, their parents, older people and carers. Once developed, we will apply these guidelines to progressively incorporate accessible and inclusive elements into new and existing playgrounds where practicable.
- The cost of participating in sport and recreation is generally increasing and identified by the community as a barrier to participation. We aim to provide access to free and/or low cost opportunities to access open spaces and to participate in recreational activities, particularly in profile areas with a higher proportion of people from a low socio-economic background. We will also support accessible and inclusive programming in parks and open spaces as part of our open space activation program.

Strategies and actions

Our parks and open space are more welcoming and inclusive

Apply the Principles of Inclusion and Universal Design and comply with relevant Australian Standards when upgrading existing or developing new open spaces, outdoor recreational facilities and park infrastructure.

Review the Access and Inclusion Policy (2014) and the Access and Inclusion Plan (2014-2018) in accordance with mandatory requirements of the Disability Inclusion Act (2014).

Conduct disability access audits of existing regional and district open spaces and prioritise recommendations from the completed audits.

Consult with the Tweed Shire Equal Access Advisory Committee when upgrading existing or developing new regional and district open spaces.

Implement the recommendations of the Access to Foreshores and Waterways Project to improve public access to the Shire's waterways and foreshores for viewing, nature appreciation and water based recreational activities.

Develop the Public Toilet Strategy and incorporate the recommendations from the Public Toilet Access Audit to upgrade designated accessible toilet facilities.

Develop an accessibility checklist (to be included in the Open Space Design Guidelines) for Council and developers to ensure existing and new open spaces, outdoor recreation facilities and park infrastructure are more inclusive and accessible.

Provide staff and policy makers with training and awareness in the Principles of Inclusion and Universal Design.

Develop a program to progressively upgrade non-compliant designated accessible car spaces and kerbed ramps in parks and open spaces in accordance with relevant Australian Standards.

Provide information in accessible formats for residents and visitors about inclusive opportunities in Council parks and open spaces.

Continue to ensure that the Council's user fees are affordable and encourage participation in sport and recreation.

Outcome 4

The Tweed Shire's natural and cultural heritage is protected and enhanced for future generations.

What you said

- Conserve large areas of natural bushland for future generations and protect natural areas from being developed.
- Protect native flora and fauna and their habitats such as koalas.
- Plant native vegetation and improve the management of natural areas.
- Increase spending on the conservation of bushland, consistent with other open spaces specifically sports fields.
- Protect water quality.
- Protect cultural heritage including art and heritage sites and provide interpretative information.
- Address environmental vandalism, including tree vandalism.
- Improve management of feral and domestic animals.
- Restore undergrowth as habitat for small birds.
- Manage weeds to protect the amenity of our open spaces; remove the Giant Devil's Fig weed.
- Improve management of insects including midges.
- Promote and encourage volunteer programs such as Dune Care.
- Implement community education programs to promote the values of the Tweed's natural areas.
- Natural areas provide important opportunities for nature appreciation.
- Improve access to waterways, foreshores, bushland and provide walking trails in bushland.
- Improve access to viewing areas and provide quiet areas for reflection in natural areas.
- Improve boat and kayak launching facilities for water-based recreation.
- Address farmers fencing off areas.
- Trees improve the amenity of our local neighbourhoods.
- Prevent development other than marine related activities long coastal foreshores.
- Prohibit vehicles on beaches.
- Prohibit dogs on beaches.
- Green space (trees, plants and grass) and natural shade provided by trees is highly valued by the community.
- Provide seating and natural shade along foreshore reserves.
- Consider planting trees in clusters.
- The lack of shade is a barrier to using open spaces for people suffering from skin cancer.

What we will do

Priorities

Protect and restore the significant biodiversity and ecological values of Tweed's natural open space

- Population and development pressures and our collective contribution to climate change pose a fundamental threat to our natural open spaces. Almost 80 per cent of Council managed open space is managed by the Natural Resource Management Unit (NRM) primarily for the protection, conservation and restoration of our unique natural heritage and its rich biodiversity. Priority areas are the protection and management of threatened species, bushland, wetland and coastal management, weed and pest management and the protection of natural watercourses and adjoining riparian land.
- We will continue to work collaboratively with key stakeholders to address the environmental challenges of our time. Challenges such as habitat loss and fragmentation, declining native fauna populations, spread of invasive species, erosion and sedimentation, altered fire regimes and climate change require a coordinated and collaborative approach. Council will continue to play a leadership role and will partner with all levels of government, land management agencies, (including the NPWS, Crown Lands and Tweed Byron Aboriginal Land Council), neighbouring LGA's, private land holders, community groups, volunteer groups and the broader community to protect natural assets, improve service delivery and increase engagement in biodiversity protection.
- Whilst existing legislation and regulations help protect and conserve our natural areas, Council is committed to strategic land use planning and policy development to protect and enhance our natural assets. We will apply development controls, use voluntary land management agreements and develop a strategic biodiversity offset framework to counterbalance the significant impact of development on local biodiversity. We will develop a draft Generic Plan of Management for Community Land Categorised as Natural Area to identify management objectives and outcomes for Tweed Shire's natural areas and continue to develop and implement management plans for key bushland reserves, waterways and the coast. Where applicable, we will propose Wildlife Protection Areas as a management policy for the protection of native animals and their habitats.
- We aim to retain and restore habitats in patches of a size and configuration that ensure existing plant and animal communities are more resilient, enabling survival in the long term. We will work in partnership with stakeholders to develop regional priorities for enhancing key vegetation corridors and habitat linkages. On a local level, we will continue to protect and manage established green buffers between Tweed's coastal villages and along waterway corridors to reduce fragmentation of habitats. We will also retain and restore small remnants of native vegetation within new and existing parks and open spaces to support native species and provide habitat for local fauna.
- We will continue to support and promote volunteerism and environmental stewardship to achieve the protection and conservation of local flora and fauna, to promote engagement in environmental protection and ecological sustainability. We will also engage community, residents and businesses to increase their awareness of biodiversity values by delivering community environmental awareness programs, providing advice on management activities, installing interpretative and regulatory signage and participating in environmental education events such as World Environment Day.
- The protection, restoration and maintenance of natural areas require significant financial investment, beyond what is currently available. Many of Council's natural resource management programs and initiatives are opportunistic and are heavily dependent on funding assistance from State and Federal governments, through grants and incentives. Council will continue to sustain funding for natural resource management programs, identify opportunities to increase investment and facilitate innovative partnerships to fund programs into the future.
- We aim to protect, conserve and manage parks, foreshore reserves and sports fields to avoid impact on areas of environmental significance. Where parks and sports fields are located adjacent to natural areas, the relevant sections of Council will work collaboratively to facilitate community use of open spaces for sporting and recreation purposes, and to support the in perpetuity protection of biodiversity values. In open spaces where threatened species are at risk, due to the use of the area for sport or recreation, we will implement mitigation measures such as signage, fencing and where applicable place conditions on development and events.

- There is a clear desire among the community for additional infrastructure and increased ability to access natural areas for active and passive recreation including our bushland areas, foreshore reserves and waterways. However, access and recreational use must be balanced with amenity and the need to protect the ecological values of these areas. Our aim is ensure that the level of use, extent of development and intended user groups are consistent with the environmental values of the open space. We aim to avoid adverse impacts on biodiversity values and ensure recreational activities do not impinge on environmental management practices.
- We are currently developing a draft Coastal Management Plan for the Tweed River Estuary (2018-2028) which includes a Recreational Use Strategy. The strategy aims to provide for various recreational activities, address conflicts between users and address impacts on environmental, cultural and amenity values. We will investigate the allocation of character/usage zones to promote active and passive recreational use away from fragile natural areas. For this approach to be successful, we need to ensure the provision of sufficient infrastructure to cater for the higher concentration of users in particular zones such as boating and non-motorised craft (canoe and kayak) infrastructure, car parking, public toilets, picnic areas and viewing locations. We will also improve walking and cycling connections along the river foreshore (where practical).
- Walking dogs on beaches is a popular recreational activity in the Shire. Dogs on beaches raise safety concerns for other beach users and for wildlife, including threatened species and migratory species. Council will develop guidelines for the management of dogs in parks and beaches and, in consultation with the community, designate particular beaches for this activity, as well as horse riding. We will educate dog owners and horse riders about the biodiversity values and potential impacts of these activities in natural areas and provide additional enforcement to ensure compliance.
- Many of the coastal access paths were developed in an ad-hoc manner and are often unauthorised. We will work with the local community and environment groups to manage public access, with the aim of reducing erosion and degradation of these fragile environments.

Strategies and actions

Conserve and/or manage biodiversity values and ecological integrity

Finalise mapping of vegetation communities. The information will be used to inform the development of vegetation protection overlays for the Tweed Shire, identifying ecologically significant areas for protection and management.

Complete the review and apply Environmental Zones to land managed by Tweed Shire Council to protect land that is of important environmental value.

Ensure a regional approach by working with NSW State Government, private land owners, neighbouring Local Government Areas and the Tweed Byron Aboriginal Land Council to protect linkages and biodiversity corridors and ensure cross boundary management of ecologically significant areas and ecosystems.

Continue to investigate strategic land acquisition to protect additional habitat of high ecological value and to improve habitat and wildlife connectivity.

Develop a strategic biodiversity offset framework to counterbalance the significant impact of development on native vegetation.

Finalise and adopt the Draft Generic Plan of Management for Community Land Categorised as Natural Area.

Review the Tweed Vegetation Management Strategy.

Deliver and monitor the Tweed Coast Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management (2015).

Conserve and/or manage biodiversity values and ecological integrity (continued)

Continue to deliver relevant actions of the threatened species recovery programs such as the Glossy Black Cockatoo Plan of Management and the NSW Recovery Plan for the Bush-stone Curlew

Implement the Wildlife Protection Area Policy and enforce declared Wildlife Protection Areas to reduce the impact of domestic animals on native fauna.

Retain and manage established green buffers between Tweed's coastal villages and along waterway corridors to protect biodiversity values and improve habitat connectivity.

Finalise and implement management plans for Pottsville Environment Park (Pottsville), Clarrie Hall Dam (Doon Doon), Mount Nullum and develop management plans for other bushland reserves across the Tweed Shire, in accordance with NRM's annual action plans (schedule of works).

Implement development controls to prevent the degradation of biodiversity, ecological values and water quality in accordance with the Tweed LEP and the Biodiversity Development Control Plan, Section A19 Biodiversity and Habitat Management.

Develop the Tweed Shire Coastal: Coastal Management Program for the ongoing protection and management of Tweed's coastline.

Develop, monitor and review Coastal Management Programs to guide immediate and longer-term management of coastal areas (e.g. Kingscliff – Dreamtime Beach Coastal Zone Management Plan 2017).

Finalise and implement the draft Tweed River Estuary Coastal Management Program (2018-2028).

Implement the Coastal Zone Management Programs: Cobaki Broadwater and Terranora Broadwater and the Tweed Coast Estuaries.

Continue to deliver water quality, riparian restoration and erosion control programs and studies such as the Condong River Bank Restoration Project.

Deliver comprehensive weed and pest management, bushfire management and bush regeneration programs

Implement and monitor programs that target high priority weed species in accordance with the Biosecurity Act 2015 and the North Coast Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017-2022. Restoration plans and management actions will focus on prevention, eradication, containment and asset protection. Continue to work with stakeholders and private land holders to integrate and coordinate weed management control and treatment. Develop skills, knowledge and capacity of Council staff and private land holders to implement pest management programs.

Continue to implement and monitor pest management programs to manage nuisance insects including mosquitoes, biting midges, Pandanus Planthopper and invasive animals including foxes, wild dogs and cats.

Implement and monitor bush fire management programs in accordance with the Rural Fire Act, 1997 and the Far North Coast Bush Fire Risk Management Plan (BFMP). Work with partners to minimise and manage the spread of bush fire on or from any land vested in or under Council's control and management. Deliver coordinated treatments including fuel reduction, provision of Asset Protection Zones (APZs) and defensible spaces and fire trail maintenance. Continue to allocate a dedicated budget for bush fire hazard reduction works.

Implement and monitor bush regeneration projects on public and private land. Management actions will focus on habitat restoration, drainage, weed management and establishing native communities. Continue to work with stakeholders and private land holders to increase ecological diversity and resilience.

Maximise funding streams and investigate new funding mechanisms for natural resource management programs and initiatives. Provide assistance to community and environment groups to apply for funding.

Increase the community's awareness of local biodiversity and ecological values

Promote biodiversity and conservation action through public education programs, educational resources and events such as My Local Native Garden Planting Guide, Environment and Sustainability eNewsletter and World Environment Day. Implement other public awareness activities on natural resource management actions, illegal dumping, encroachment and pollution.

Provide opportunities for environmental interpretation in our parks and open spaces to promote better understanding and protection of biodiversity values and ecological processes. Integrate environmental interpretation into development planning to enrich people's understanding and appreciation of natural heritage e.g. interpretative panels, use of technologies such as QR code based mobile interpretation.

Develop an interpretative plan for Pottsville Environment Park (Pottsville) and Pottsville Wetland to provide opportunities to showcase the environmental and conservation values.

Provide regulatory and interpretative signage to increase levels of voluntary compliance and to protect our natural heritage.

Include information on natural areas when publishing open space network maps and on Council's website.

Ensure nature-based recreation and tourism activities do not compromise biodiversity values

Explore opportunities for low impact nature-based recreation and tourism activities in Council managed bushland reserves. When proposing locations for nature based recreation activities ensure the natural and cultural heritage values and environmental impacts are well understood and the management actions respond directly to protect biodiversity values.

Convene a multi-agency task force including land managers, recreation and tourism industry groups including Destination Tweed and community representatives to develop a Tweed Shire Recreational Trails Project.

Investigate opportunities to use areas identified as ecological setbacks and bushland asset protection zones for walking, cycling and nature appreciation.

Finalise the Recreation Use Strategy developed as part of this Tweed River Estuary: Coastal Management Program (2018-2028) to guide the future recreational use of the Tweed estuary and the protection of estuarine values.

Develop a Waterways Asset Management Plan to improve management of waterways infrastructure including boating facilities (including boat ramps, pontoons, jetties and wharfs), fishing facilities, viewing platforms and boardwalks.

Provide advice on the development on the Roads and Maritime Services Tweed Estuary Boating Plan.

Where parks and sports fields are located adjacent to natural areas, Recreation Services and Natural Resource Unit will work collaboratively to facilitate community use of open spaces for sporting and recreation purposes, and to support the in perpetuity protection of biodiversity values.

Implement mitigation measures such as signage, fencing and where applicable place conditions on development and events to avoid impact where threatened species are at risk.

Investigate lighting design in open spaces, particularly parks and sport fields to avoid impacts on native fauna.

Continue to develop and implement community education to encourage responsible pet ownership.

Improve management of public beach access points to reduce dune erosion.

Priorities

Ensure environmental sustainability and develop resilience to the impacts of climate change.

- Our open space network has a vital role to play in achieving ecological sustainability and developing resilience to climate change. In addition to the strategies and actions to protect and manage natural and cultural heritage, our parks and open spaces assist in mitigating and managing climate change impacts by absorbing and storing carbon from the atmosphere, facilitating active transport, providing shade to help mitigate the heat island effect, improving air and water quality and mitigating the intensity of flood events through stormwater absorption.
- We will advance the Environmental Sustainability Strategy (2015-2020) by planning and designing more resilient buildings and landscapes. The design stage provides the best opportunity to improve the ongoing environmental sustainability of open spaces. We will incorporate environmentally sustainable design principles in open space planning, design and management. We will invest in sustainable products, renewable energy and implement maintenance strategies to extend the life of ageing open space infrastructure. Water sensitive urban design should also be incorporated in landscape development including the use of locally occurring native plants and drought-resistant plants (wherever practical).
- Our parks and open spaces, related infrastructure and service provision have the potential to be affected by the impacts of climate change, resulting from more frequent and extreme weather patterns, more severe storm surges, sea level rise and coastal erosion. When we plan, design and construct parks and open spaces we will use the most up to date climate modelling, account for climate risks by locating park infrastructure further inland outside coastal and estuarine hazard areas, using hardy plants in foreshore parks and plan for flood resiliency such as investing in durable materials that can withstand heavy rain events.
- We will develop an Urban Street Tree Planting Program to increase the tree canopy in our urban areas. Protecting significant trees, improving canopy cover, ensuring the right tree is planted in the right place and making provisions for community horticulture are key priorities. Priority locations for street tree planting will include arterial roads, along shared paths, in civic spaces, urban residential streets, in parks, foreshore reserves and over playgrounds. The provision of natural shade is highly valued by the community, to improve user comfort, safety and amenity. All future open space improvement projects will enhance opportunities for natural shade from trees.
- This new approach will require a change in Council's focus, from a reactive approach where resources are expended in managing risk, replacing vandalised trees or based on community requests, to a more proactive asset management approach with a focus on broader management and maintenance of the urban forest – on a life cycle basis, similar to the way Council manages its built assets. The program will require additional financial investment, so we will investigate external funding and community volunteer partnership opportunities. A more holistic approach to tree planting across the Shire's urban landscape will maximise the capacity of Tweed's urban forest to deliver ecological, economic, social and aesthetic benefits to both present and future generations. We will also aim to develop a greater public knowledge of the benefits of street trees.
- We aim to manage water more efficiently in parks and open spaces. Water is critically important for the management of the open space network and to service the facilities that are located within them, particularly sports fields (and the related amenities), public toilets and for the irrigation of newly developed parks. However, potable water is costly. The availability of recycled water is improving and its use (along with stormwater) should be investigated further to service both irrigation and public toilet facilities. We will continue to put in place actions to reduce water demand in open spaces including the use of recycled water, moisture retention technology and centrally controlled watering systems to reduce waste.

Strategies and actions

Plan, design and manage a network of sustainable open spaces

Integrate Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) principles in the planning, design, construction and management of all new and upgraded open spaces and recreational facilities. Implement the following adaptation and mitigation strategies:

- Be resource efficient in design to avoid/reduce/reuse existing resources, minimise energy and water use and reduce emissions. Include energy and water efficient fittings and appliances e.g. in sport field amenity blocks, public toilets, sport field lighting, park lighting.
- Invest in renewable energy sources where possible e.g. solar power lighting.
- Consider water conservation through rain water harvesting and the use of recycled water e.g. for the irrigation of sport fields (where practical and feasible).
- Implement service level efficiencies.
- Consider the environmental properties of materials e.g. the use of recycled materials and non-toxic materials in park and playground design.
- Incorporate natural features in parks and open space design.
- Maximise natural solutions for shade e.g. (use of hardy native species) to protect users from extreme weather conditions.
- Include lightly coloured and heat reflective surfaces.
- Consider permeable pavements in car parks, sports courts and pathways.
- Consider regular and adequate maintenance and fuel efficiency of equipment and vehicles.
- Encourage and enable walking and cycling.
- Open space planning decisions should reflect community need and the priorities in the Open Space Strategy.

Regularly re-assess and respond to climate change risks and build adaptation to future climate conditions in the planning, design and maintenance of Tweed's open space network

Integrate Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) principles into the planning and design of open spaces to help manage flood risk, protect waterways, habitats, providing access to nature and to creating shaded and walkable neighbourhoods.

Apply best-practice approaches for assessing the risk to open space infrastructure from climate change. Plan and adapt open space infrastructure so it can withstand the impact of changing climatic conditions – sea level rise, coastal and river bank erosion, floods, extreme temperatures, drought and bush fire.

Manage the open space system in a collaborative way, with state and regional stakeholders, neighbouring LGA's, various land managers/owners, developers and community working together to achieve sustainability outcomes and address climate change e.g. participation in the Integrated Regional Vulnerability Assessment for the North Coast, Coastal Flood Study and Border Ranges Alliance.

Maximise funding streams that help build our open space system's resilience to climate change e.g. funding programs that protect river and coastal foreshores, funding programs for street tree planting programs.

Increase the community's awareness of climate change, the role of the open space network and Council's actions to address climate change impacts.

Increase the extent of the tree canopy to create an urban forest

Review existing tree coverage and the provision of natural shade in highly utilised parks and open spaces, and over playgrounds.

Develop an Urban Street Tree Planting Program to increase tree planting where there are limited trees or where trees are in decline and require replacing. Priority locations include along arterial roads, shared paths, in civic spaces, in urban residential streets with minimal tree coverage, in highly utilised parks, foreshore reserves and over playgrounds.

Investigate the creation of habitat nesting places for birds and mammals by making artificial hollows or enlarging old ones in older or dead trees. This approach will be considered in context of Council's risk management framework for trees on public land.

Record, categorise and monitor veteran trees in the Tweed Shire. Protect with a Tree Preservation Order where appropriate, to ensure veteran trees in addition to mature trees are protected with due regard to environmental, social and economic impacts.

Integrate the objectives of the proposed Urban Street Tree Planting Program with Council's structure planning, master planning and infrastructure delivery programs to maximise opportunities for street tree planting.

Monitor the Urban Street Tree Planting Program – record the number of trees planted and improvements to streetscapes.

Review the Tweed DCP Section A5 – Subdivision Manual and the Development Design Specification D14 Landscaping to reflect best practice landscaping and street tree management. Investigate opportunities to review the design of streets, where appropriate, to widen verges to create more space for street trees.

Monitor the compliance of consent conditions around the planting and protection of street trees.

When upgrading existing or developing new parks and open spaces and in new residential developments, select local indigenous plantings to enhance ecological values and reflect original landscape character (in accordance with Councils plant selection guidelines for landscaping public open space and the Native Species Planting Guide).

Ensure the protection of remnant indigenous vegetation (including single remnant mature indigenous trees) within new residential developments in accordance with the relevant planning documents.

Select tree species that will reach maturity and provide adequate shade without compromising other assets and property in the immediate vicinity. Utilise, where appropriate, root barriers and other technologies to prevent damage to infrastructure.

Continue to implement a routine pruning and maintenance program to provide regular maintenance of Tweed Shire's street trees.

Increase community's awareness and knowledge of Tweed Shire's urban forest, its ecological processes, the benefits it provides and their role in its management. Use events such as National Tree Day, Living for the Future Home Expo and World Environment Day as opportunities to build community capacity.

Replace vandalised trees (where practical) and increase the community's awareness of vegetation vandalism.

Priorities

Protect and conserve Tweed Shire's cultural heritage.

- We aim to improve the protection and management of cultural heritage in open spaces. In the context of the open space network, cultural heritage includes built structures, such as public buildings, archaeological sites, monuments and memorials sometimes located in public parks, as well as landscapes, social, ceremonial or spiritual associations with places. Cultural heritage includes Aboriginal cultural heritage, European heritage and other artifacts and attributes that are inherited from past generations. We aim to ensure open space planning, design and management reflects and protects contemporary and historical Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultural values (where appropriate) and features.
- We have prepared a draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan (ACHMP) which provides the framework for the identification and protection of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage (ACH) across the Tweed Shire. The plan provides clear pathways for Council, other land managers and developers to ensure we meet our obligations under the law and to enable cultural heritage to be properly managed. We will consult with the local Aboriginal community through the Tweed Aboriginal Advisory Committee and the Tweed Byron Local Aboriginal Land Council to promote awareness and assist in the protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage.
- We know that many known and predicted Aboriginal cultural items, places and landscapes are embodied within the open space network. We aim to respect its presence in the landscape, and consider carefully how to minimise impact and manage the land where it is situated. We will take a precautionary approach prior to commencing any open space improvement works and ensure the pathways detailed in the ACHMP are followed. Our future approach will be more systematic and we will flag areas likely to contain heritage as early in the planning process as possible.
- This year Council adopted its first Reconciliation Action Plan (2018-2020). In accordance with this plan we acknowledge and respect the Tweed Aboriginal community's right to speak for its country and to care for its traditional country in accordance with its laws, customs and traditions. We will partner with Traditional Custodians to facilitate the conservation of their heritage, to build collective knowledge of Tweed's natural and Aboriginal cultural heritage and support the participation of Aboriginal people in open space planning, design and management. We aim to establish a Pilot Indigenous Ranger Program to build capacity of Aboriginal people to manage Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and help protect country.
- In consultation with the Aboriginal community and heritage groups, we will promote awareness in the community of Tweed Shire's cultural heritage (where appropriate). When conducting open space improvement works, we will consider integrating interpretation to enrich people's understanding and appreciation of cultural heritage.

Strategies and actions

Improve the planning and management of cultural heritage and increase awareness in the community

Finalise the Draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan (ACHMP) 2017.

Develop Aboriginal Cultural Heritage assessment procedures for internal works and development assessment.

Deliver training of key Council staff on the implementation and use of the ACHMP, including cultural awareness training.

Develop standard conditions of consent to ensure the protection of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage.

Prior to upgrading existing or developing new parks and open spaces check the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS), the Heritage Schedule of the applicable Local Environmental Plan, the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Mapping and follow the requirements of the applicable LEP, the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan and the NPW Act.

Prior to upgrading existing or developing new open spaces, in an area of Aboriginal Place of Heritage Significance (in accordance with the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan) consult with the Tweed Byron Local Aboriginal Land Council, Aboriginal Advisory Committee and the Aboriginal community to ensure Aboriginal cultural heritage is valued, protected, and respected.

Improve the planning and management of cultural heritage and increase awareness in the community (continued)

Partner with Traditional Custodians to facilitate the conservation of their heritage, to build collective knowledge of Tweed's natural and Aboriginal cultural heritage and support the participation of Aboriginal people in open space planning and management. Consider the establishment on a Pilot Indigenous Ranger Program.

Maximise funding streams for projects that encourage the management and conservation of cultural heritage in open spaces e.g. Heritage Near Me incentives program and environmental trust.

When upgrading existing or developing new open spaces, identify opportunities for cultural heritage interpretation (where appropriate) and the integration of historic or cultural features in consultation with the Aboriginal community, Tweed Shire's Museum staff and heritage/historical groups.

Continue to support the Heritage Advisor service.

Maintain and keep current Council's significant tree register.

Priorities

Protect and enhance Tweed Shire's highly valued scenic landscapes.

- We aim to identify, protect and enhance wherever possible the scenic qualities and the diverse landscape characteristics of the Tweed Shire. Tweed's landscape tells a rich and complex story of evolution including the region's geological morphology, biodiversity and cultural development, and are central to the Tweed's identity and sense of place. The Wollumbin/Mt Warning caldera, officially recognised as of national iconic significance through the Australian National Landscapes program, the Tweed River, the stunning coastline and World-Heritage listed Gondwana Rainforest contribute significantly to the Tweed being recognised not just as a tourist destination, but as a sample of outstanding scenic and biodiversity value. Whilst not necessarily as dramatic on a physical scale, the rural hills and valleys, coastal forests, estuaries, creeks and eclectic townships and villages also contribute to the overall landscape character of the Tweed. It is therefore of paramount importance that we protect our open spaces, preserve or enhance their scenic qualities and provide vantage points to view the significant vistas of the Tweed's landscapes.
- We are developing a draft Scenic Landscape Strategy which provides the framework for identifying and protecting the Tweed's significant and highly valued scenic landscapes and for incorporating visual impact assessment and mitigation measures into planning and development proposals. As part of the process we have drawn on the experiences and knowledge of local communities and visitors to develop an understanding of the landscape qualities and vantage points that are valued and central to the identity of the Tweed. We will apply the assessment methodology and scenic management principles and mitigation measures developed as part of the Scenic Landscape Strategy to the planning, design and management of our open space network.
- Future planning and development of parks and open spaces will take into account visual amenity, local character, aesthetic qualities and environmental impacts. We will identify potential viewing locations, provide appropriate viewing infrastructure and interpretative information in key locations in order to increase access to, enjoyment and awareness of the Tweed's scenic landscapes, for the benefit of local residents and visitors alike.

Strategies and actions

Apply measures to protect valued scenic landscapes, viewing locations and viewsheds within the open space network

Pending adoption of the Draft Scenic Landscape Strategy, apply the landscape character and visual impact assessment methodology and scenic management principles, as they relate to land classified as public open space.

Identify highly valued scenic landscapes, viewing locations, viewsheds and important features within the open space network. Where possible, apply measures to protect and enhance the visual quality and viewing experiences to and from these lands, such as, but not limited to:

- Improving access to and visibility of scenic attractions through landscaped space and vegetation management;
- Designing and siting park facilities and amenities such as lookouts and viewing platforms to maximise views;
- Providing interpretive information to increase awareness of highly valued landscapes; and
- Manage vegetation to protect significant viewsheds.

Ensure future development and open space design is sympathetic to the scenic qualities and environmental attributes of the landscape, such as topography and vegetation of the local area, and provides opportunities for residents and visitors to appreciate scenic views e.g. open space dedications on significant ridgelines, hillsides, river and creek corridors and coastal foreshores.

Ensure proposed development and change of use on land classified as public open space undertake a land suitability and visual impact assessment to identify measures to protect and enhance scenic values or mitigate against adverse impacts as conditions of consent. Examples include built infrastructure located within open spaces such as public utilities, telecommunications services, and other land use activities that may impact on scenic values of the subject land and/or significant viewsheds from other locations.

Outcome 5

Our open space network is well managed and financially sustainable.

What you said

- Provide more parks in areas that are undersupplied to ensure equity of provision of open space.
- Improve park maintenance in some areas.
- Encourage negotiations with authorities such as National Parks and Wildlife Service to provide additional opportunities to access the region's natural areas.

What we will do

Priorities

Ensure a robust planning and management framework for open space assets.

- Council seeks to maintain an attractive, accessible and sustainable open space network that meets the needs of current and future generations. We have acknowledge that open space planning and design must implement ecologically sustainable development principles and we have committed to a more strategic approach to open space planning and development. But, the efficient management of open space assets is vital to financial sustainability. This means maintaining safe assets, ensuring viable levels of service that extends the life of the asset and sufficiently resourcing open space assets.
- A significant gap in Council's existing open space asset management framework is funding the renewal of open space assets. This has led to an overall decline in many assets to the point where there are many assets requiring substantial refurbishment or complete replacement. Another aspect of this issue is that funds have not been put aside to adequately cover the depreciation of the open space assets. To ensure a more sustainable approach to open space asset management Council will investigate the development of a reserve to fund open space asset renewal or replacement and depreciation.
- There is a strong desire and need to develop a clear framework to ensure a coordinated approach to the provision, use and maintenance of public open space within the Tweed Shire. Council's current approach to open space asset management is currently under review. The review aims to identify the gaps in current asset knowledge and service delivery, to identify improvements in strategic and operational processes and to develop a new framework for the future management of open space assets across the asset lifecycle. The review will be undertaken in accordance with Tweed Shire's Community Strategic Plan, the existing Asset Management Policy and the Asset Management Strategy 2010.
- It is expected that the review process will inform a revision of Council's Open Space Asset Management Plan (OSAMP). The OSAMP is the key planning document that currently guides Council's operations, maintenance, renewal and upgrade of all open space assets. Essential components of the OSAMP is the open space hierarchy, levels of service, the lifecycle management plan, performance monitoring, demand management, risk management and continuous improvement in open asset management practices. A review of the OSAMP will ensure a more robust and sustainable approach to open space asset management moving forward.

- As part of the Strategy's development a review of the open space provision standards and the open space hierarchy was conducted with the aim of achieving sustainable levels of development. Collectively these are referred to as levels of service and they are the standards that ensure open spaces are accessible and "fit-for-purpose". Generally, the standard and scale of open space assets as well as levels of maintenance, increase as the size and the catchment the open space serves increases. Hence the service levels are different for local, neighbourhood, district and regional catchments. The levels of service have been reviewed in the context of community needs, whilst at the same time, ensuring provision is sustainable and can be maintained within operational budgets in the long term. The established levels of service should inform the future review of Council's Open Space Maintenance Service Level Manual and Council's OSAMP.
- Whilst Council allocates substantial resources to the development and maintenance of open space assets, this will need to be reviewed. In addition to growing community expectations for a higher quality open spaces, over the past decade Council has acquired significant amounts of open space, sport and recreation facilities through new residential developments and as a result of State Government funding to upgrade sport and recreation facilities. Adequate funds are required to ensure the future life cycle costs are managed, valued and depreciated in accordance with appropriate best practice in asset management.
- As part of developing this strategy, a demand and supply assessment was conducted. The review has identified that some areas within the Shire are undersupplied with open space or diverse sport and recreation facilities. In some established areas where opportunities arise the acquisition of open space may be desirable. In other areas, where there is an oversupply of open space or the open space provided is of low community value, the disposal of open space may be desirable. Council will develop a framework and methodology for the acquisition and disposal of open space with the aim of getting the best outcomes from Council's open space network. The strategy recommends that this process is undertaken to address the undersupply of open space in some areas and to achieve open space improvements in areas where the quality and diversity of open space does not meet community need. Desirably, disposal and acquisition of open space should be investigated together, not in isolation of each other.
- Whilst the disposal of open space can be very controversial. Council will commit to returning the revenue raised from the sale of land to the open space network. Where open space sites of low community value have been assessed and the site is deemed as surplus and to be divested, an alternative open space site will be developed or embellished in the same area. The disposal of public open space will only be considered in cases where such disposal is demonstrably beneficial to the open space network and a transparent assessment criteria is developed for the disposal of a site or sites and a report adopted by Council. Sites of low community value will be assessed further to establish if they have potential to perform another open space function before they are considered for disposal. Council will consult the community affected by the disposal of public open space consistent with the processes detailed in the *Local Government Act 1993*. Funds derived from the disposal of public open space are to be transferred to and held in an 'Open Space Development Reserve' or similar to assist the purchase, development or improvement of the open space network.

Strategies and actions

Ensure the long term sustainability of open space assets

All future open space planning, design and management decisions should be informed by the *Open Space Strategy 2018–2028*, Open Space Design Guidelines, including the desired levels of service for the embellishment of core open space.

Review the Open Space Asset Management Plan. Implement a Total Life Cycle Asset Management System to ensure that assets provide their required levels of services in the most cost effective manner.

Ensure Council's inventory of open space assets is kept up to date, as an essential management tool.

Conduct a review of Council's open space asset management framework to ensure a coordinated approach to the provision, use and maintenance of the Shire's open space network.

Review Council's Parks and Asset Creation Handover Process. Develop a framework for the implementation, handover and ongoing maintenance of new assets acquired through the subdivision process, as an essential tool for forward planning and resource allocation.

Identify opportunities through the amendments to the *Crown Land Management Act 2016* and Crown Land Review to reduce costs and/or increase income and efficiencies of the management of Crown Land that contributes to the open space network.

Establish an Open Space Development Reserve to provide an ongoing funding mechanism for open space asset renewals and replacements. In the absence of committed annual budget contributions to this fund, consideration will be given to the transferring of any surplus funds from the overall open space budget at the end of each financial year, to this reserve.

Investigate opportunities to supplement general revenue and developer contributions to fund open space asset renewals. For example allowing cafes in parks where revenue generated is reinvested into the open space network.

Plan for the strategic acquisition and disposal of open space to improve open space and community outcomes.

Develop a framework and methodology for the acquisition and disposal of open space.

Identify open spaces of low community value. Assess the open spaces to establish if they have potential to perform another open space function before they are considered for disposal.

Develop an Open Space Development Reserve or similar to assist the purchase, development or improvement of the open space network.

Develop strong partnerships to deliver open space, sport and recreation opportunities cost effectively.

Ensure Council's priorities align with NSW State Government priorities and strategies. Identify State and Federal Government grant opportunities and align these with open space development priorities, progressing identified projects to a 'shovel ready' status in readiness for grant applications.

Through the Sports Advisory Committee continue to encourage sporting clubs to develop business plans ensuring clubs are sustainable and planning for the future.

Continue to accrue the Sports Fields Assets Reserve Fund from the sport field licence fee, and utilise for sports field asset renewal/upgrade program, and encourage contributing clubs to utilise the funds to carry out asset renewal/upgrades on Council sports field assets and use the funds as leverage for grants.

Develop lease system for sports fields where there is a sole tenant including greater responsibility on tenant for asset maintenance/renewal.

Continue and develop collaboration with other Local Governments Areas to share information and explore partnering opportunities through the North Coast Sports and Recreation Forum.

Instigate cross border collaboration with Gold Coast City Council to better coordinate open space facility planning between the two councils.

Investigate opportunities with the Department of Education and other education institutions for shared use of school facilities, particularly where there is an identified under supply of open space.

Adopt a coordinated approach to be sustainable and achieve the desired natural resource management outcomes across the region. This can only be achieved by partnerships and/or collaboration with other groups, agencies and stakeholders.

Implement opportunities for community involvement in the maintenance and management of open space.

Establish cross departmental processes to ensure effective implementation of the Strategy.

Conduct annual customer satisfaction surveys to ensure Council is directing its limited resources, in the most cost-effective way, to the open space services that the community values.

IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGY



Implementing the strategy

Funding

Implementation of the Strategy will require a commitment of funding and resources as well as the establishment of partnerships and attainment of grant funding to be achieved.

Funding opportunities include:

- Council revenue – operational and capital budgets. Priorities and actions will need to align with Council's annual budgets, Council's Long Term Financial Plan and Asset Management Plan;
- Developer contributions in accordance with Section 7.11 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* which can be monetary contributions, land dedication or agreed embellishments/works of material public benefit in lieu, in accordance with adopted Section 7.11 Plans;
- Government grants and subsidies which can be related to sport and recreation, health promotion, arts and culture, biodiversity, tree management, streetscape initiatives or infrastructure development for example;
- Community grants;
- Landowner and partnership agreements. For example, facility sharing with Department of Education, private land agreements for biodiversity conservation or voluntary planning agreements; and
- Philanthropic sources.

However, it must be acknowledged that implementation of the Strategy's actions is influenced by:

- The availability of State and Federal Government grants and subsidies;
- The prescriptive nature of various grants and subsidies and aligning the grant funding directive with the Strategy's recommendations and outcomes;
- The availability and capacity of staff;
- Council's capacity annually to fund the desired levels of service, considering both capital investment and ongoing operational and maintenance demands; and
- Council's wider budgetary priorities.

Accordingly, as work programs and budgets are developed, some prioritised actions may be delayed or others brought forward. Some actions may be reconsidered as circumstances change, new information is uncovered and experience is gained following implementation.

It will also be necessary to allocate additional maintenance funding and resources to respond to new open spaces, sport and recreation facilities when obtained through residential developments and State and Federal Government grants.

Monitoring and reporting

The Strategy is a long term planning document with a 10 year horizon. Monitoring and reviewing its implementation is essential for the Strategy's success as new opportunities or competing priorities for funding arise. It is planned that an annual review of the implementation will provide a status report on the strategic actions and the open space achievements.

It is recommended that a full review of the strategic priorities and the desired levels of service is undertaken in four years. Ongoing communication with community organisations and the wider community on the strategy is recommended.

Community engagement

The *Draft Open Space Strategy 2018–2028* will be placed on public exhibition for an extended period of 90 days from August to October 2018 or as per Council Resolution.

The next stage of community engagement will feature:

- A series of community drop in sessions in each of the local profile areas. The aim of the sessions will be to work with local communities to prioritise the local actions recommended in the Strategy;
- Presentations to community groups including Residents Association Action Groups and Associations;
- Direct mail to registered persons who participated in initial community engagement activities;

- Two 'Dog Breakfasts' (community forums) to consult specifically on off leash dog areas;
- Youth consultation to consult specifically on outdoor recreation facilities;
- Capacity to comment via 'Your Say Tweed'; and
- An online interactive tool where those who are unable to attend the drop in sessions can also prioritize the local actions recommended in the Strategy.

Implementation plan

The feedback received from the second stage of community engagement for the Draft Open Space Strategy will inform the creation of an Open Space Prioritisation Matrix.

The Open Space Prioritisation Matrix will be a decision making tool that provides a way of sorting a diverse set of actions into an order of importance and guide the prioritisation and implementation of future open space projects. This will be applied to ensure regional, district and local actions are incorporated.

The community engagement outcomes and the matrix will inform the development of a detailed Implementation Plan which will form part of the final Strategy. The Implementation Plan will:

- Support and inform the progress of the Strategy's implementation, achievements and challenges toward achieving our 10 year vision;
- Include the abovementioned Open Space Prioritization Matrix;
- Set out the priority actions for the Tweed Shire;
- Contain time frames, estimated costs, funding options and initiatives and assigns responsibility to units within Council;
- Be a working document that should be reviewed and updated in-line with the Council's Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework.



DRAFT



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