

Open Space Strategy 2019–2029

Appendices



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Appendix 1

Park hierarchy (passive open space)

Local park (passive open space)	
Function	<p>Local parks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serve the local catchment and are provided within walking distance to residents • Are smaller in size and have fewer facilities • Encourage physical activity and opportunities for social interaction • Enhance local character, attractiveness and amenity of a neighbourhood • Can improve connectivity, access to other open space, to the transport and movement networks and key attractors such as schools, community facilities and foreshores • Can function as civic open space when located in business or urban activity centres or in a commercial and industrial zone for use by workers and visitors
Area and shape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum area 0.25 hectare or 2,500m² • Minimum dimensions of 40m in any direction to achieve a reasonably proportioned park and to allow for residential and hazard buffers • Local parks below the recommended size may be considered where the benefit can be demonstrated such as for civic open space, to improve linkages, or as passive open space nodes along waterways and beach foreshores
Activities	Includes informal recreation areas, a kick-about-space and opportunities for picnicking, relaxation and natural appreciation. May provide opportunities for dog walking (minimum area 0.3 hectares or 3,000m ² required)
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number and distribution of local parks should be determined by the spatial distribution of other open space including drainage reserves and natural areas • At least 50% of the park perimeter to have direct road frontage • Access to be provided via the transport and movement networks • Vehicle access required for maintenance, for garbage collection and for access to services e.g. water, electricity
Embellishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seating, at least 50% with back and arm rests • Sheltered picnic table • Drinking water fountain • Landscaping • Natural shade (tree planting) • Internal pathways connecting park facilities and the movement network • On-street car parking • Lighting in the shelter only • Incorporate universal design and environmental sustainability design principles • No irrigation beyond the establishment and maintenance period
Drainage	The site should be well drained
Buffers	For key activity areas (e.g. playgrounds, shelters) provide a minimum 15m buffer to residential boundaries, and for playgrounds provide a 30m buffer to roads, waterways, other water bodies or hazards.
Usage	Relatively low levels of use. Local parks located in prominent locations such as foreshores and activity centres may experience greater usage
Maintenance levels	Mowed fortnightly with regular weed management

Neighbourhood park (passive open space)

Function	<p>Neighbourhood parks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serve the neighbourhood and are provided within walking distance to residents • Are larger than local parks and caters to a range of age groups, including families, children and older people • Encourage physical activity and opportunities for social interaction • Enhance local character, attractiveness and amenity of a neighbourhood or rural village • In urban area, offers residents an open space to complement diminishing backyards
Area and shape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum 0.5 hectares or 5,000m² • Minimum dimensions of 60m in any direction to achieve a reasonably proportioned park and to allow for residential and hazard buffers • Length/width ratio shall not exceed 4:1. The preferred shape of the park is square to rectangular to allow for residential and hazard buffers • Neighbourhood parks below the recommended size may be considered where the benefit can be demonstrated such as parks located adjacent to waterways and beach foreshores
Activities	<p>Includes informal recreation areas, a kick-about-space, child's play, youth recreation, social spaces and opportunities for picnicking, relaxation and nature appreciation. Where neighbourhood parks are provided, a neighbourhood level playground should be provided. May also provide for community gardening</p>
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locate centrally within the neighbourhood catchment and provide within 500m of all residents (a walkable distance) without having to cross a major road or other physical barrier • Provide within 400m of all residents living in medium and high density housing (a walkable distance) without having to cross a major road or other physical barrier • In rural subdivisions, locate centrally within a village • At least 50% of the park perimeter to have direct road frontage • Access to be provided via the transport and movement network • Vehicle access required for maintenance, for garbage collection and to provide access to services e.g. water, electricity • Not located on encumbered land but can be co-located with encumbered open spaces such as waterways, drainage reserves and bushland areas to provide complimentary amenity and where safety and environmental values are not compromised
Embellishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's play equipment for ages 2–12 years, including natural play and inclusive play elements • May provide for youth recreation e.g. multi-court, skate elements • Seating, at least 50% with back and arm rests • Sheltered picnic table(s) • Drinking water fountain • Landscaping • Natural shade (tree planting) • Built shade to be provided over the play equipment (in new residential subdivisions) • Internal pathways connecting park facilities and the movement network and including a circular path for bikes and scooters • Bike parking facilities • On-street car parking • Lighting in shelters only • Incorporate universal design and environmental sustainability design principles • No barbeques, rubbish bins or public toilets unless the park forms part of a rest area or is located on a foreshore, beach or waterway, or is adjacent to other key attractions • No irrigation beyond the establishment and maintenance period
Drainage	<p>The site should be well drained</p>
Buffers	<p>For key activity areas (e.g. playgrounds, shelters) provide a minimum 15m buffer to residential boundaries, and for playgrounds provide a 30m buffer to roads, waterways, other water bodies or other hazards</p>
Usage	<p>Low to moderate levels of usage. Parks located in prominent locations such as foreshores may experience greater usage</p>
Maintenance levels	<p>Mowed fortnightly, with regular weed management, formal playground and park furniture inspections monthly</p>

District park (passive open space)

Function	<p>District parks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serve a district catchment, attracting visitors from neighbouring suburbs, visitors and tourists • Are significant recreation and social hubs for the community and are destination parks for all ages and abilities • Are higher-level multi-functional parks and provide a range of facilities and infrastructure • Enhance local character, attractiveness and amenity of a suburb or town • Are designed to minimise conflict between different user groups • May assist in establishing and protecting ecological corridors and increasing biodiversity • Provide the opportunity to diversify open space functions or settings • Allow for pedestrian and cycle movement within the park
Area and shape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum 2 hectares or 20,000m² • Minimum dimensions of 110m in any direction to achieve a reasonably proportioned park and to allow for residential and hazard buffers • Length/width ratio shall not exceed 4:1. However, it is accepted that the shape and features may be topographically dependent • District parks below the recommended size may be considered where the benefit can be demonstrated such as parks located adjacent to waterways and beach foreshores
Activities	<p>Includes informal passive and active recreation areas, a kick-about-space, child's play, youth recreation facilities, social spaces, walking, cycling or fitness loops, outdoor fitness equipment, areas for picnicking, relaxation, an area with supporting facilities for community events and festivals and opportunities for nature appreciation. Where district parks are provided, a district level playground is to be provided. May also provide for community gardening and dog walking. May include natural and cultural heritage (these spaces will not be credited as unencumbered open space)</p>
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Located centrally within a residential development greater than 3,500 people and within 3kms of all residents • Aim to co-locate with activity centres, active open space, community facilities, schools or other attractors such as waterways and beach foreshores • At least 50% of the park perimeter to have direct road frontage • Access to be provided via the transport and movement networks and serviced by public transport • Generally located on collector/arterial roads. There is an expectation that the community will travel by car to these parks from neighbouring suburbs for a unique recreational experience • Vehicle access required for maintenance, garbage collection and access to services e.g. water, electricity • Not located on encumbered land but can be co-located with encumbered spaces such as waterways, drainage reserves and bushland areas to provide complimentary amenity and where safety and environmental values are not compromised
Embellishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's play equipment for ages 2–12 years, including natural play and inclusive play elements for all abilities • Youth recreation facilities including skate, bicycle facilities and/or multi-court • Various seating options, at least 50% with back and arm rests • Sheltered picnic table(s) • Drinking water fountain(s) • Sheltered barbeque(s) • Landscaping • Significant natural shade (tree planting) • Built shade to be provided over the play equipment • Rubbish bins • Public toilets • Internal pathways connecting park facilities and the movement network. Include a circular shared-user path for fitness, bikes and scooters • Bike parking facilities • On-street car parking and off street car parking • Public art may be included • Incorporate universal design and environmental sustainability design principles
Drainage	<p>The site should be well drained</p>

District park (passive open space) (continued)

Buffers	For key activity areas (e.g. playgrounds, shelters) provide a minimum 50m buffer to residential boundaries and for playgrounds provide a 30m buffer to roads, waterways or other water bodies
Irrigation	No irrigation beyond the establishment and maintenance period
Lighting	Lighting to be provided in picnic and barbeque shelters. Additional lighting will be considered where the park is intended to be used for passive night time recreation, where the park is used as an access from one road to another, or to improve public safety
Usage	Moderate to high levels of use by all ages and abilities and for longer periods
Maintenance levels	Mowed fortnightly, formal playground and park furniture inspections monthly, barbeques cleaned daily, rubbish removed at each service.

Regional park (passive open space)

Function	<p>Regional parks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serve a wider catchment including people within and outside Tweed Shire, including visitors and tourists • Are major recreation and social hubs for the community and are destination parks for all ages and abilities • May be of unique historical or cultural significance • Are higher-level multi-functional parks and provide the opportunity to diversify open space functions or settings • Enhance local character, attractiveness and amenity of a suburb or town • Provide a wide range of facilities and infrastructure • Allow for pedestrian and cycle movement through the park • Are designed to minimise conflict between different user groups • May assist in establishing and protecting core ecological areas and increasing biodiversity • May include commercial facilities such as cafes commercial recreation activities
Area and shape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area not specified. Must be a size and shape suitable to support multiple recreation and social functions • Minimum dimensions of 150m in any direction to achieve a reasonably proportioned park and to allow for residential and hazard buffers
Activities	Includes informal passive and active recreation areas, kick-about-spaces, child's play, youth recreation facilities, social spaces for everyone, walking, cycling or fitness loops, outdoor fitness equipment, areas for picnicking, relaxation, a large grass area with supporting facilities for community events and festivals and opportunities for nature appreciation. Where regional parks are provided, a regional level playground is to be provided. May also provide for community gardening and dog walking. May include natural and cultural heritage (these spaces will not be credited as unencumbered open space)
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Located centrally within the Shire • Aim to locate adjacent to an activity centre, active open space, community facilities, schools or other key attractors such as waterways and beach foreshores • At least 50% of the park perimeter to have direct road frontage for passive surveillance • Access to be provided via the transport and movement network and serviced by public transport • Generally located on collector/arterial roads. There is an expectation that the community would be prepared to travel by car to these parks from across the Shire for a unique recreational experience • Vehicle access required for maintenance, garbage collection and access to services e.g. water, electricity

Regional park (passive open space) (continued)

Embellishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's play space for ages 2–12 years, including natural play and inclusive play elements • Youth recreation facilities including skate, bicycle facilities and/or multi-court • Various seating options, at least 50% with back and arm rests • Sheltered picnic tables • Drinking water with capacity to refill bottles • Sheltered barbeques • Rubbish bins • Public toilets • Staging and access to power • Internal pathways connecting park facilities and the movement network. Include a circular shared-user path for fitness, bikes and scooters • Bike parking facilities • Landscaping • Significant natural shade (tree planting) • Built shade to be provided over the play equipment • Public art • Fencing • Boardwalk and viewing platforms where applicable • Lighting • Irrigation • On and off street parking required <p>Incorporate universal design and environmental sustainability design principles</p>
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Drainage	The site should be well drained
Buffers	For key activity areas (e.g. playgrounds, shelters) provide a minimum 50m buffer to residential boundaries, and for playgrounds provide a 30m buffer to roads, waterways or other water bodies
Irrigation	Irrigation may be installed for use beyond the establishment and maintenance period
Lighting	Lighting to be provided in picnic and barbeque shelters. Additional lighting will be considered where the park is used for passive night time recreation and/or the park is used as an access from one road to another or to improve public safety
Usage	High levels of use by all ages and abilities and for longer periods
Maintenance levels	Mowed fortnightly, formal playground and park furniture inspections monthly, barbeques cleaned daily, rubbish removed at each service

Sports field/court hierarchy (active open space)

Local sports fields and courts (active open space)

Function	<p>Local sports fields</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serve the local catchment and are provided within walking distance to residents. • Provide for structured sport, training and competition, social sport and active recreation • Provide for winter and summer sports • Are smaller in size and have fewer facilities • Encourage physical activity and socialisation • Generally provide for one or two sports
Area and orientation	<p>Minimum area 4 hectare or 4,000m²</p> <p>Generally north-south orientation. Specific details vary between sports</p>
Activities	<p>Primarily caters for senior training, junior training and competition. Clubhouse facilities provide for sports clubs, and for community uses such as meetings and events. Depending on size, local sports fields may provide for informal recreation such as fitness loops, areas for picnicking, relaxation and dog walking (around the periphery)</p>

Local sports fields and courts (active open space) (continued)

Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Located centrally in the local catchment, within 5kms of residents in developments between 2,000 and 3,500 people • Encourage the co-location of sports fields with activity centres, community and education facilities • At least 50% of the sports field perimeter to have direct road frontage for passive surveillance • Access to be provided via the transport and movement network and serviced by public transport • Vehicle access required for maintenance, garbage collection and access to services e.g. irrigation, water, sewerage, electricity
Embellishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turf surfacing • May include courts • Seating • Sheltered picnic table(s) • Drinking water refill station • Spectator seating and areas (e.g. mounds) • A clubhouse with change rooms, showers and public toilets, canteen/kitchen and storage area • Field lighting to Australian Standard and the specific requirements for field lighting for different sports • Fencing to Australian Standard and the specific requirements for fencing for different sports • Landscaping • Natural shade (tree planting) • Internal pathways connecting the clubhouse, auxiliary facilities to the movement network • Off street car parking • Irrigation • Signage • Incorporate universal design and environmental sustainability design principles • Buildings must be sited, designed and constructed to comply with the Building Code of Australia and Australian Standards
Land and drainage	Sports fields should be flat and well drained
Buffers	From the boundary of the playing surface, provide a minimum 30m buffer to residential boundaries, roads, waterways, other waterbodies of hazards. The exception is behind the goals at each end where a minimum 40m buffer is required
Usage	Regularly mid-week use, evening use and extensive use on weekends
Maintenance levels	Generally mowed fortnightly. Maintenance to meet sport user groups and maintained to state regulations for sport codes. Rubbish removed at each service and quarterly inspections of park furniture. Irrigation program to ensure survival of turf and landscaping. Other hardscape elements including the car park and footpaths are inspected in accordance with the asset management plan for the relevant asset class. Public toilets inspected weekly. Annual weed and fertiliser program and other sport specific maintenance as required e.g. turf cricket wickets
Comments	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 approach is also more cost efficient for Council to maintain and manage active open space and related sport and recreation facilities over the long term.

District sports fields and courts (active open space)

Function	<p>District sports fields</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serve both a local and district catchment and attracts participants from neighbouring suburbs, towns, rural villages and visitors • Provide for structured sport, training and competition, social sport and active recreation • Provide for winter and summer sports • Are higher-level multi-functional sports fields and provide the opportunity to diversify open space functions or settings providing an active and passive open space for everyone to enjoy • Encourage physical activity and socialisation • Generally provide for two to three sports
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District sports fields and courts (active open space) (continued)

Area and orientation	Minimum 6.5 hectare or 6,500m ² Generally north-south orientation. Specific details varies between sports
Activities	Caters for senior training, junior training and competition at a local, district and regional level and possibly state level. Clubhouse facilities provide for sports clubs and as community spaces for community meetings and events. Multi-purpose sports field also provide for informal recreation such as fitness loops, fitness equipment, child's play and other youth recreation facilities, areas for picnicking, relaxation and dog walking (around the periphery)
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Located centrally, within 5kms of residents in developments over 3,500 people • Encourage the co-location of sports fields with activity centres, community and education facilities • At least 50% of the sports field perimeter to have direct road frontage for passive surveillance • Access to be provided via the transport and movement networks and serviced by public transport • Generally located on collector/arterial roads. There is an expectation that the community would travel by car to these parks from neighbouring suburbs for a unique recreational experience • Vehicle access required for maintenance, garbage collection and access to services e.g. irrigation, water, sewerage, electricity
Embellishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turf surfacing • Courts • Practice facilities • Seating • Sheltered picnic table(s) • Drinking water refill station • Spectator seating and areas (e.g. mounds) • A clubhouse with change rooms, showers and public toilets, medical room, referees room, social area, administration area, canteen/kitchen and storage areas (internal and external) • Field lighting to Australian Standard and the specific requirements for field lighting for different sports • Fencing to Australian Standard and the specific requirements for fencing for different sports • Landscaping • Natural shade (tree planting) • Built shade structures for spectators • Internal pathways connecting the clubhouse, auxiliary facilities to the movement network • On and off street car parking • Irrigation • Signage • Incorporate universal design and environmental sustainability design principles • Buildings must be sited, designed and constructed to comply with the Building Code of Australia and Australian Standards
Land and drainage	Sports fields should be flat and well drained
Buffers	Include a 50m buffer to residential boundaries, 70m buffer to roads, waterways, other water bodies or hazards
Usage	Regularly mid-week use, evening use and extensive use on weekends
Maintenance levels	Generally mowed fortnightly. Maintenance to meet sport user groups and maintained to state regulations for sport codes. Rubbish removed at each service and quarterly inspections of park furniture. Irrigation program to ensure survival of turf and landscaping. Other hardscape elements including the car park and footpaths are inspected in accordance with the asset management plan for the relevant asset class. Public toilets inspected weekly. Annual weed and fertiliser program and other sport specific maintenance as required e.g. turf cricket wickets

Regional sports fields and courts (active open space)

Function	<p>Regional sports fields</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serve a regional catchment and attracts participants from within and outside the Shire due to their standard of facilities, specialisation or multi-purpose function • Provide for structured sport, training and competition, social sport and other active and passive recreation activities • Provide for winter and summer sports • Are higher-level multi-functional sports fields and provide the opportunity to diversify open space functions or settings providing an active and passive open space for everyone to enjoy • Encourage physical activity and socialisation • Generally provide for multiple sports
Area and orientation	<p>Not defined</p> <p>Generally north-south orientation. Specific details varies between sports</p>
Activities	<p>Caters for senior training, junior training and competition at a local, district, regional, state and possibly national level. Clubhouse facilities provide for sports clubs and as community spaces for community meetings and events. Multi-purpose sports field also provide for informal recreation such as fitness loops, fitness equipment, child's play and other youth recreation facilities, areas for picnicking, relaxation and dog walking (around the periphery)</p>
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Located centrally within the Shire • Encourage the co-location of sports fields with activity centres, community and education facilities • At least 75% of the sports field perimeter to have direct road frontage for passive surveillance • Access to be provided via the transport and movement networks and serviced by public transport • Generally located on collector/arterial roads. There is an expectation that the community would travel by car to these parks from neighbouring suburbs for a unique recreational experience • Vehicle access required for maintenance, garbage collection and access to services e.g. irrigation, water, sewerage, electricity
Embellishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Built and maintained to a premier standard based on the needs of specific sports/ activities • Turf surfacing • Courts • Practice facilities • Seating • Sheltered picnic table(s) • Drinking water refill station • Spectator seating and areas (e.g. mounds) • A clubhouse with change rooms, showers and public toilets, medical room, referees room, social area, administration area, canteen/kitchen and storage areas (internal and external) • Field lighting to Australian Standard and the specific requirements for field lighting for different sports • Fencing to Australian Standard and the specific requirements for fencing for different sports • Landscaping • Natural shade (tree planting) • Built shade structures for spectators • Internal pathways connecting the clubhouse, auxiliary facilities to the movement network • On and off street car parking • Irrigation • Signage • Incorporate universal design and environmental sustainability design principles • Buildings must be sited, designed and constructed to comply with the Building Code of Australia and Australian Standards

Regional sports fields and courts (active open space) (continued)

Land and drainage	Sports fields should be flat and well drained
Buffers	Include a 50m buffer to residential boundaries, 70m buffer to roads, waterways, other water bodies or hazards
Usage	Regularly mid-week use, evening use and extensive use on weekends
Maintenance levels	Generally mowed fortnightly. Maintenance to meet sport user groups and maintained to state regulations for sport codes. Rubbish removed at each service and quarterly inspections of park furniture. Irrigation program to ensure survival of turf and landscaping. Other hardscape elements including the car park and footpaths are inspected in accordance with the asset management plan for the relevant asset class. Public toilets inspected weekly. Annual weed and fertiliser program and other sport specific maintenance as required e.g. turf cricket wickets

Other active open space

Deviation from the provision of active open space, that is not flat land for the purpose of structured sport, will only be considered where a detailed needs analysis and feasibility study for the site and proposed use is developed and is consistent with Council's land use and open space planning documents.

Playground hierarchy

Neighbourhood

Function	Small to medium playgrounds that serve the neighbourhood catchment
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locate centrally and provide within 500m of all residents (a walkable distance) without having to cross a major road or other physical barrier • Provide within 400m of all residents living in medium and high density housing (a walkable distance) without having to cross a major road or other physical barrier • Approximately 1 per 500 to 2,000 people or 1 per rural village with a population greater than 350 people
Area	Locate within a neighbourhood park, minimum 0.5 hectares or 5,000m ²
Embellishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play equipment for at least two age-groups (2–5 years, 5–12 years and/or youth) • Nature play elements • Soft fall • Various seating options, at least 50% with backs and arm rests • Sheltered picnic table(s) • Drinking water fountain • Landscaping • Natural shade (tree planting) • Built shade over the play equipment (in new residential subdivisions) • Park and playground elements linked by pathways • Bike parking facilities • In large subdivisions each precinct should have a complementary variety of play equipment that collectively cater for all age groups • Incorporate universal design principles providing access into the site, park furniture and to at least some play elements • Incorporate environmental sustainability design principles
Usage	Low to moderate levels of usage. Parks located in prominent locations such as foreshores may experience greater usage
Maintenance levels	Monthly inspection of play equipment and audited annually
Example of a neighbourhood playground: Eunga Street, Tweed Heads	

District

Function Medium to large playgrounds that serve a district catchment, attracting visitors from neighbouring suburbs, rural villages, visitors and tourists

Access

- Located centrally within the development and provide within 3km of all residents.
- Approximately 1 per 3,500 people
- District playgrounds are typically accessed via a combination of pedestrian, bicycle and vehicle and should be integrated with the transport and movement networks and serviced by public transport

Area Located in a district park. Minimum 2.0 hectare or 20,000m²

Embellishment

- Play equipment for all age-groups including 2–5 years, 5–12 years and youth (e.g. skate facilities, multi-court, bike facilities, outdoor fitness equipment)
- Locate adjacent to an open grassed area for informal games
- Quiet spaces for reflection and relaxation
- Nature play elements
- Inclusive play for all abilities
- Soft fall
- Various seating options, at least 50% with backs and arm rests
- Sheltered and unsheltered picnic tables
- Drinking water fountain
- Sheltered barbeques
- Park and playground elements are link by pathways
- Bike parking facilities
- Landscaping
- Significant natural shade (tree planting)
- Built shade over the play equipment
- Large subdivisions should have a complementary variety of play equipment across the development
- Incorporate universal design principles providing access into the site and to play elements and park furniture
- Incorporate environmental sustainability design principles

Usage Medium to high levels of use and generally used for longer periods. Are generally busier on weekends and holiday periods

Maintenance levels Weekly inspection of play equipment and audited annually, barbeques cleaned daily, rubbish removed at each service

Example of a district playground: Faulk Park, Kingscliff

Regional

Function Large playgrounds that serves a wider catchment including people within and outside Tweed Shire, including visitors and tourists

Access

Generally located centrally in a large district town or regional centre

Approximately 1 per 50,000 people

Regional playgrounds are typically accessed via a combination of pedestrian, bicycle and vehicle and should be integrated with the transport and movement networks and serviced by public transport

Area Located in a regional park. Size not defined

Regional (continued)

Embellishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play equipment for all age-groups including 2–5 years, 5–12 years and youth (e.g. skate facilities, multi-court, bike facilities, outdoor fitness equipment) • Locate adjacent to an open grassed area for informal games • Quiet spaces for reflection and relaxation • Natural play and sensory play elements • Inclusive play for all abilities • Soft fall • Various seating options, at least 50% with backs and arm rests • Sheltered and unsheltered picnic tables • Drinking water fountains • Sheltered barbeques • Landscaping • Significant natural shade (tree planting) • Built shade over the play equipment • Park and playground elements are link by pathways • Bike parking facilities • Large subdivisions should have a complementary variety of play equipment across the development • Incorporate universal design principles providing access into the site and to play elements and park furniture • Incorporate environmental sustainability design principles
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Usage High levels of use and generally used for longer periods. Are busier on weekends and holiday periods

Maintenance levels Weekly inspection of play equipment and audited annually, barbeques cleaned daily, rubbish removed at each service

Example of regional playground: Knox Park, Murwillumbah

Dog off-leash park hierarchy

Neighbourhood

Function Small to medium dog off-leash park that serves the neighbourhood catchment

Access Located centrally in a town or suburb, within 5kms of residents in developments under 3,500 people

Area Minimum 0.3 hectares or 3,000m²

Embellishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seating • Waste bins and bag dispenser • Natural shade (tree planting) • Signage • On-street parking • Generally not fenced
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Usage Low to moderate level of use depending on its location

Maintenance levels Mowed fortnightly with regular weed management, rubbish bins emptied at each service. Access required for regular maintenance

District

Function	Medium to large dog off-leash area that serves a neighbourhood and district catchment, attracting visitors from neighbouring suburbs, visitors and tourists
Access	Located centrally in a town or suburb, within 5kms of residents in developments over 3,500 people
Area	Minimum 0.5 hectares or 5,000m ²
Embellishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seating • Sheltered picnic table • Waste bins and bag dispenser • Natural shade (tree planting) • Signage • Natural shade (tree planting) • On-street parking and off street parking • May contain perimeter fencing (depending on its location e.g. if located close to a busy road or waterway). If fenced provide a double gate entry • May contain internal footpaths connecting park elements (as a circular path)
Usage	Low to moderate level use depending on its location
Maintenance levels	Mowed fortnightly with regular weed management, rubbish bins emptied at each service. Access required for regular maintenance

Regional

Function	Large dog off-leash park caters for a district town or regional centre and may attract users from across the Shire, visitors and tourists
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locate centrally within a district town or regional centre • Approximately 1 per 50,000 people
Area	Minimum 1 hectare or 10,000m ²
Embellishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog agility equipment • Seating • Sheltered picnic table • Waste bins and bag dispenser • Natural shade (tree planting) • Signage • Fenced • Double gated entry • Natural shade (tree planting) • On-street parking and designated off street parking • Internal footpaths connecting park elements (as a circular path) • Incorporate universal design principles providing access from the car park, into the site and to park elements including park furniture
Usage	Moderate to high level of use
Maintenance levels	Mowed fortnightly, rubbish bins emptied at each service. Access required for regular maintenance

Appendix 2

Open space function

The open space function is used to define the purpose of the public open space and the range of community benefits. Open space may serve one or more functions.

Function	Community Benefit
Outdoor sport	Land for the playing of structured sport e.g. soccer, tennis, cricket, AFL
Informal sport/games	Land for the playing of ball games, including kick-about areas and other active recreation activities
Children play/youth activities	Areas that supports children's play or youth activities e.g. playgrounds, multi-courts, skate parks
Social activities	Open space that supports social activities and gatherings where facilities are provided to support such activities e.g. barbeques, picnic tables and child's play equipment
Markets and events	Open space that supports community markets, social or civic events and festivals
Rest and relaxation	Open space that supports resting your body or mind and provide areas of visual relief from the urban setting
Connectivity	Open space that supports walking, running, cycling and provides access between local roads
Visual amenity/nature appreciation	Open space which enhances the visual amenity of an area or supports the enjoyment of nature e.g. bird watching, seating overlooking natural features
Nature conservation	Open space managed for the protection and/or conservation of biodiversity
Historic/cultural conservation	Open space dedicated for the protection and interpretation of Aboriginal and/or European cultural heritage
Community gardening	Open space for community horticulture
Dog off-leash area	Open space that supports the exercising and socialisation of dogs (off lead)
Tourist attraction	Open space that is likely to attract a high number of visitors or tourists
Memorial/cemetery	Areas dedicated to the memory of people or events
Access to waterway	Open space which provides direct access to a beach, river, creek or canal
Drainage/storm water management	Open space that supports drainage or storm water management
Utility easement	Open space that accommodates electricity and telecommunications infrastructure or other infrastructure
Other	For example, land provided for community facilities

Landscape setting

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

Landscape/Topography	Description
Open grassed areas	Open area covered with grass (which describes many of our parks)
Trees/Planting	Open space with scattered trees, generally surrounding open grassed areas
Managed turf	Open space that is predominantly turf and managed for the purposes of playing sport
Natural bushland	Open space containing typically endemic, Indigenous or native vegetation
Foreshore	Open space located along the coast, river or creek

Landscape/Topography	Description (continued)
Paved area	Hard surfaces, generally functioning as civic spaces or picnic areas
Linear	Open space that is substantially longer than it is wide, often includes pathways and located along the coast, a river or creek
Scenic/views	Open space offering views or an outlook
Headland	Open space which projects from a coastline into the sea
Ridge/hills	Land that forms a continuous elevated crest
Sloping	Describes the slope of the land
Ornamental gardens	Planted areas with flowering plants, typically exotic and ornamental

Settlement type

The settlement type helps to define factors such as population, housing type and housing density and likely access to other open spaces, including private open space. An understanding of settlement types assists in determining the quantity, distribution and type of open spaces that may be required in an area. Coastal communities may be found in each of the settlement types and may experience seasonal population variation due to tourism.

The settlement types, description and examples are in accordance with *North Coast Urban Design Guidelines, NSW Department of Planning, 2008*.

Settlement type	Description	Example
Coastal Village	Coastal villages typically have a strong sense of community, are generally of walkable size, often attractive to holiday makers and 'sea changers'. This can lead to significant development pressure and population growth.	Pottsville
Inland Village	Inland villages similarly have a strong sense of community and are compact and well-defined. Faced with similar pressures to coastal villages, as a result of their recent popularity as lifestyle areas, inland villages must consider their future carefully to ensure long-term social and environmental sustainability.	Uki
Town	Towns exhibit many of the characteristics of villages but with an increase in scale, population and the range of services offered. They support a wider range of housing types and more formalised streetscapes. A town's character is often imparted by street pattern and relationship to the immediate landscape setting.	Kingscliff
Major Town	Major towns provide a higher order of services offering stable employment and sufficient cultural facilities with an increased range of housing types including increased density. They are able to sustain high quality parks and open spaces, have mature street plantings and a clear, identifiable character related to their landscape setting.	Murwillumbah
Regional Centre	Regional centres are a regional hub exhibiting the highest order of recreation, retail and residential uses. Regional centres face the challenges of significant growth and are able to sustain a high quality public domain including streets and parks.	Tweed Heads

Appendix 3

Quality assessment criteria

Attractive and appealing places					
Quality Indicator	High performing	Needs improving	Low performing	Not applicable n/a	Comments
Quality place that is pleasing and/or appealing and reflects local character	Appeal created through the character, location and amenity of the elements, contributes to local identity, sense of place, enhancing the natural and cultural values of the site/ area. A distinctive, memorable place	Attractive with many positive elements contributing to a sense of place, but has issues that need addressing. These issues significantly affect the enjoyment and amenity of the place	Low level of appeal/ attractiveness and likely to generate a negative image, the site negatively contributes to sense of place, local identity and amenity	Not relevant or serves another function	Should be relevant to most open spaces. Assists with place making by building on the special attributes of an area
Site including park facilities in good condition and well maintained e.g. mowed grass, park furniture in good condition	Clear indication of appropriate levels of maintenance, park facilities are in good condition and contribute to the aesthetics of the public realm	Level of maintenance generally good but challenged by use/ misuse, some elements in need of renewal or upgrade to remain fit for purpose and to contribute to the aesthetics of the public realm	Adequately maintained but poor quality finishes, materials and equipment that limit appeal and use	Not relevant	The n/a category might apply to open spaces where no facilities are provided e.g. some local parks, bushland reserves or drainage reserves
Attractive planting/ landscaping	Offers quality design and an attractive display of plants and landscape elements contributing to the quality and appeal of the site	Offers a variety of plants and landscape elements that contribute to the amenity of the site	Generally poor quality, no plantings or inappropriate planting and landscaping.	Plantings and landscape elements may not be relevant for specific open space types	
Welcoming entrances/ boundaries	Entrances and boundaries are easy to negotiate, clearly defined, contributes to accessibility, functionality and quality e.g. through embellishments, landscaping, lighting (where appropriate)	The main entrance and boundaries define the site, but not universally accessible	Poor quality entrances and boundaries impacting on the perceptions of place, functionality and access	Not relevant to the site or location	The n/a category might apply to natural areas where the habitat value is considered more important than public access
Low levels of rubbish and adequate bins	No evidence of rubbish (may occur in peak periods only), adequate number of bins, emptied regularly	Low levels of rubbish with bins provided. If rubbish is there, it's generally short term	Rubbish clearly an issue and bins absent or not adequately emptied	Rubbish bins not provided at the site by reason of hierarchy level and management e.g. generally no bins in local parks	The n/a category might apply to open spaces where bins may not be appropriate

Attractive and appealing places (continued)

Quality Indicator	High performing	Needs improving	Low performing	Not applicable n/a	Comments
Good provision of natural shade or built shade	Good natural or built shade protecting all users from the extremes of weather when using the site, including playground and park facilities	Natural or built shade provides some level of protection to users from the extremes of weather when using the site, playground and park facilities	No natural or artificial shade provided to protect users from the extremes of weather	Provision of shade not relevant to the site by reason of scale or management decision or limitations of the site	
Car parking is well sited and well designed	Car parking well designed, supply meets demand, the car park is well sited, designed for Universal Access	Car parking supply meets usual demand (except in peak periods), the car park is well sited, improved design could increase capacity, may or may not be designed for Universal Access	Car park is poorly designed and sited, supply maybe inadequate and not designed for Universal Access	Provision of car parking is not relevant to the site by reason of scale or management decision	Consider limitations to reconfiguring car park e.g. physical barriers etc. The n/a category might apply to natural areas where access is not encouraged
Public toilets are, in good condition and well maintained	Public toilets in good condition (including the structure, fixtures, plumbing, signage, pathways), designed for Universal Access and well maintained. Has a 1 or 2 public toilet condition rating	Public toilets in good to fair condition (including the structure, fixtures, plumbing, signage, pathways), may or may not be designed for Universal Access and adequately maintained. 3 public toilet condition rating	Public toilets traditional in design, in a poor or very poor condition (including the structure, fixtures, plumbing, signage, pathways), may or may not be designed for Universal Access and minimal levels of maintenance, may even be closed to the public. 4 or 5 public toilet rating	Public toilets not relevant to the site by reason of scale or management decision	The provision of public toilets is not appropriate to some types of open spaces e.g. local parks or natural areas

Promote activity, health and well-being

Quality Indicator	High performing	Needs improving	Low performing	Not applicable n/a	Comments
Provides a range of outdoor uses	Site is adaptable, catering for multiple uses and a diverse range of activities, capable of accommodating changing needs	Site is somewhat adaptable catering for one or more uses or activities, significant change of use would require major change	Very limited range of use and activity, significant change of use would require major change	Adaptability of use may not be relevant, or providing a range of uses is not the function of the open space (in accordance with the hierarchy e.g. local park)	This indicator may not be appropriate for natural areas, small local parks that provide amenity or a place to rest
Diverse play/sport/recreational opportunities for all ages and abilities	Play, sport and recreational activities provided for a breadth of ages or user groups, accessible to all users	Play, sport and recreational activities provided for a range of ages or user groups (in accordance with intended use), but not accessible to all users	Play, sports/recreational facilities limited or not provided in locations were such facilities would be appropriate	Play and sports facilities not relevant to this type of open space/location	The n/a category might apply to civic spaces, drainage reserves or natural areas where the environmental values are considered more important than public access

Promote activity, health and well-being (continued)

Quality Indicator	High performing	Needs improving	Low performing	Not applicable n/a	Comments
Playground caters for diverse ages and abilities	Playground caters for a diverse range of ages 2–12 years, high play value, allows for a mix of active and passive play and is designed for Universal Access	Playground may cater for all ages, a mix of active and passive play, but is not designed for Universal Access. Or may cater predominantly for one age group, either 2–5 years or 5–12 years, providing less play value across all ages.	Playground provides minimal play value e.g. swings only allowing for only active or passive play	Playground not relevant to this type of open space/location	The playground may only provide for one age group because of site limitations or that another open space within walking distance provides for the age group. The n/a category may apply to open spaces where playgrounds are generally not provided e.g. local parks, bushland reserves and/or drainage reserves
Offers good places to promote social interaction	Offers a good place for social activity, welcoming visitors and users of all ages and abilities	Offers a place for social activity, one or more park facilities such as a seat or barbeque or picnic table, but not accessible for all ages and abilities	Offers none or very limited areas to promote social interaction, not accessible for all ages and abilities	Not relevant	These spaces generally include park facilities which support social activities and gatherings
Supports opportunities to enjoy and connect with nature	Site supports opportunities to enjoy and connect with nature, provision of park facilities and pathways, may include education opportunities, designed for Universal Access	Site supports opportunities to enjoy and connect with nature, the provision of park facilities and pathways, may include education opportunities, but not designed for Universal Access.	Site provides some opportunity to enjoy or connect with nature but may lack the provision of park facilities and/or pathways for this to occur, offers low levels of appeal/attractiveness providing little opportunity to enjoy or connect with nature	Not relevant	
Size, shape and facilities appropriate for intended use	Site is of a sufficient size, shape and facilities are appropriate for intended use (in accordance with open space hierarchy)	Either one or more being the size, shape of the site and/ or the facilities are not consistent with its intended use (in accordance with open space hierarchy)	Size, shape and facilities are not consistent with its intended use (in accordance with open space hierarchy). This can also refer to the over embellishment of some sites.	Appropriateness of facilities is not relevant	Each type of open space should be assessed in accordance with the open space hierarchy

Community safety					
Quality Indicator	High performing	Needs improving	Low performing	Not applicable n/a	Comments
Safe and welcoming	Site offers safe, welcoming image through a range of positive measures such as sightlines, signage and lighting	Site is welcoming but issues of safety may impact user groups. Or the site is not particularly welcoming.	Site is clearly neither safe or welcoming for the majority of users	Community safety and whether the site is welcoming not relevant	Lighting may not be appropriate in some open space types e.g. open spaces where access to the public is not desirable after dark
Good levels of natural surveillance	Site offers good natural surveillance from surrounding areas	Site generally offers good natural surveillance approx. 50% street frontage	Site offers very limited natural surveillance and safety issues could arise	Not relevant	
Absence of anti-social behaviour	No evidence of anti-social behaviour and no evidence of activity likely to establish perceived threats to users, alternatively issues have been adequately managed	Site generally feels safe but with some evidence of anti-social behaviour or misuse that requires management	Evidence of persistent antisocial behaviour	Not relevant	
Appropriate lighting levels	Appropriate lighting throughout the site with no obvious management or user issues	Appropriate lighting of entrances, of suitable elements within the site e.g. picnic facilities/shelters or along key routes.	Lighting inadequate, restricting use and contributing to feeling of being unsafe	Lighting not relevant to this site by reason of hierarchy and management	Lighting may not be appropriate in some open space types e.g. open spaces where access by the public is not desirable after dark
Softfall complies with current Australian Standards	Softfall complies with current Australian Standards	Softfall compliant at the time of construction	Softfall does not comply with current Australian Standards	No playground at this site	
Park facilities well sited to improve safety and access	Park facilities are well sited to improve natural surveillance	Park facilities are good to adequately sited to improve natural surveillance, but with opportunities for improvement	Park facilities are poorly sited and minimal levels of natural surveillance	Not relevant	This indicator may not be appropriate for some open space types. Dependant on whether the site contains facilities for public use

Accessible and connected open spaces					
Quality Indicator	High performing	Needs improving	Low performing	Not applicable n/a	Comments
Designed for inclusive access	Regardless of ability a person can approach, enter or pass through and make use of the site and its facilities without assistance or with minimal assistance	Elements of the site e.g. park facilities, playground and pathways are designed for Universal Access e.g. continuous line of travel to seating, picnic table, designated accessible public toilet, play equipment, seats with backs and arm rests, shade provided	The site including the park facilities and playground is not designed for Universal Access	Universal Design not appropriate or not achievable on a site of this character/location/type	Land ownership issues or physical barriers may prevent the accessibility of the site. The n/a category might apply to natural areas where the habitat value is considered more important than public access

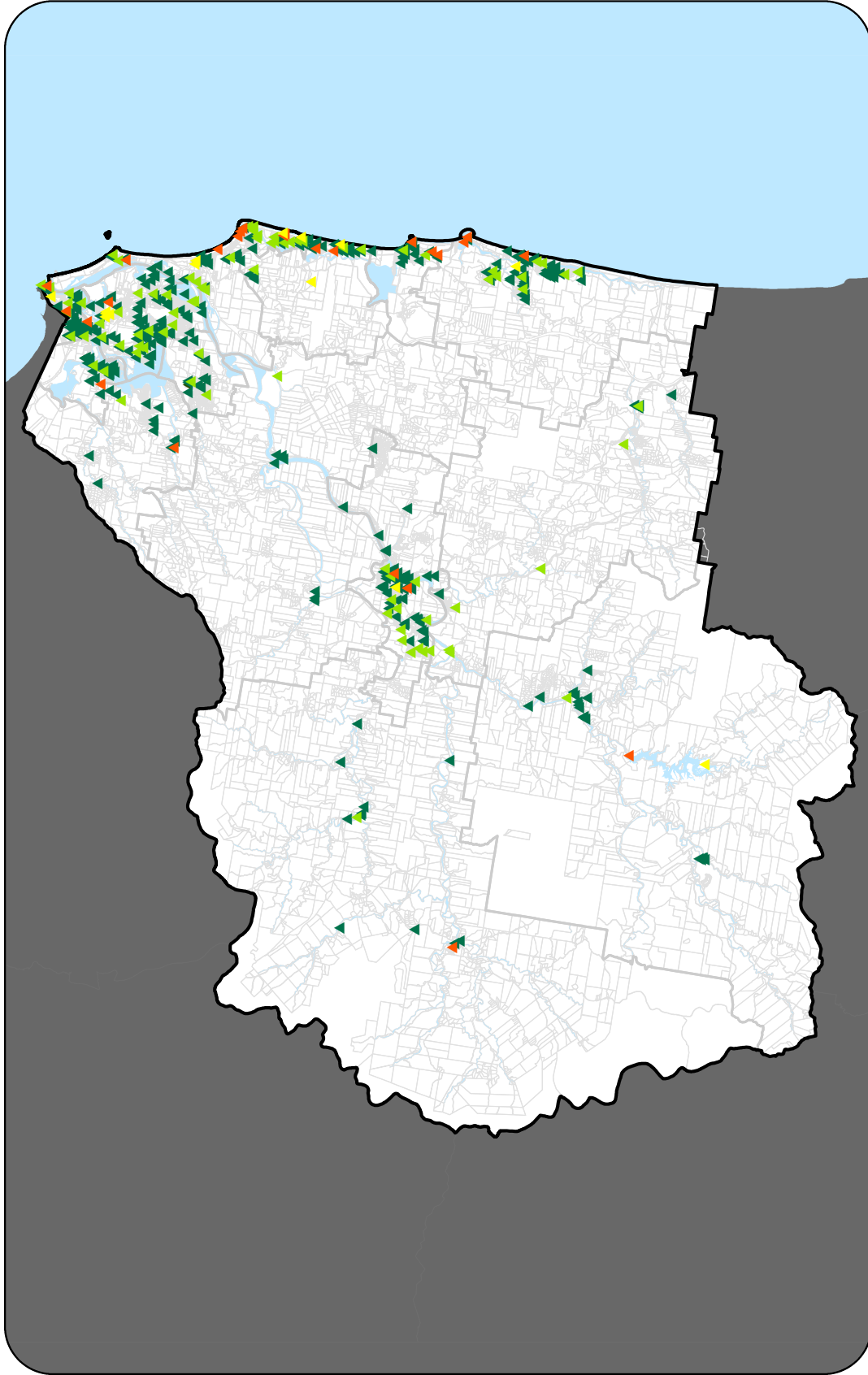
Accessible and connected open spaces (continued)					
Quality Indicator	High performing	Needs improving	Low performing	Not applicable n/a	Comments
Centrally located and close to community	Integral with community infrastructure, the path network and other open spaces	Legible connections to community infrastructure, the path network and other open spaces, but obstacles or other barriers exist in the path of travel	Poorly connected to community infrastructure, the path network and other open spaces, barriers exist in the path of travel	Connections to community not relevant or not achievable on a site of this character/location/type	Consider in context to the residential areas, activity/village centre, local path network and neighbouring open spaces
Allows movement in, through & between elements of the site	Well defined entrance(s), allows for good movement through the site and between elements via internal pathways, permeable boundaries	Adequately defined entrance(s), allows movement through the site and between elements via internal pathways and/or natural desire lines	Entrance(s) provide inadequate access, poor movement through the site and between elements, no internal pathways	Entrance locations determined by other factors or movement through the site may not be relevant	Land ownership issues or physical barriers may prevent access to the site. The n/a category might apply to natural areas where the environmental values are considered more important than public access
Connects to existing path network and public transport nodes	Connected to the path network and existing transport links including public transport nodes. Bike parking provided	Connects to the path network, but not to public transport nodes or vice versa. Bike parking may or may not be provided	Poorly connected to existing path network and public transport nodes and no bike parking	Connectivity not available or appropriate on a site of this character/location/type and/or there are no local pathways to connect to	Consider in context of wider path network and public transport nodes.
Provides sealed paths without defects	Path surfaces in good condition, well maintained with no defects	Appropriate path surfaces with some defects	Path surfaces where cracking, displacement, or damage from trees roots >20mm.	No paths expected on a site of this size or function e.g. some small local parks provided predominantly for visual amenity and/or natural areas	
Good legibility, use of wayfinding and signage	All users can find their way around the site with ease, directional signage provided, signage indicating park facilities, other attractors and safety advice, wayfinding and signage designed for Universal Access	Most users can find their way around the site despite lacking directional signage, includes information on park facilities, other attractors, safety advice, but may require updating, wayfinding and signage not designed for Universal Access	Difficult to negotiate the site, wayfinding is poor, no information on park facilities or safety advice and signage not designed for Universal Access. Conflict between user groups may occur as a result	Legibility not relevant to the site by reason of scale or management decision	The n/a category might apply to natural areas where the environmental values are considered more important than public access

Supporting environment conservation

Quality Indicator	High performing	Needs improving	Low performing	Not applicable n/a	Comments
Bushland actively managed	Bushland is actively managed to facilitate the protection of biodiversity e.g. bush regeneration activities, weed, pest management	Bushland is being managed to improve biodiversity, but further action required for effective management; including the management of weeds and pests	Bushland poorly managed; weeds and pests not managed; no bush regeneration activities	Bushland management not relevant	The n/a category might apply to sports fields, civic spaces or small isolated parks
Connects to wider habitat networks	Good habitat connectivity facilitating the protection of biodiversity, is a key part of the open space network providing an important 'green link' or belt	Provides habitat connectivity, is a key part of the open space network but requires additional management and financial investment to protect biodiversity	Fragmented habitat and does not contribute to habitat connectivity	Where maintaining or re-establishing connectivity is not critical for protecting biodiversity	Consider in context of neighbouring or connecting open spaces and the landscape character of the surrounding area. Identify if the site is fragmented or isolated
Offers diversity of habitat and supports a range of species	Offers high-value habitats and supports a wide range of species	Site supports habitats and species but fragmented and value limited to site	Site fragmented with little habitat value therefore supporting less species	Not relevant	Size of the site and its connectivity to the wider habitat network is an important consideration
Balance biodiversity protection and access for recreation, nature appreciation	Biodiversity is protected whilst allowing for a range of passive recreational opportunities, recreation use is well managed, supported by education, information and managed pathways and designed for Universal Access	Biodiversity is adequately protected whilst allowing for a range of passive recreational opportunities, recreation use is not well managed, no education, information or managed pathways, not designed for Universal Access	Biodiversity values are impacted as a result of recreational uses and requires management. Alternatively no public access is provided.	Not relevant. This is not relevant to sensitive areas where recreational use is not desirable.	

Appendix 4 – Map series

Parks



Regional Park ▲

District Park ▲

Neighbourhood Park ▲

Local Park ▲

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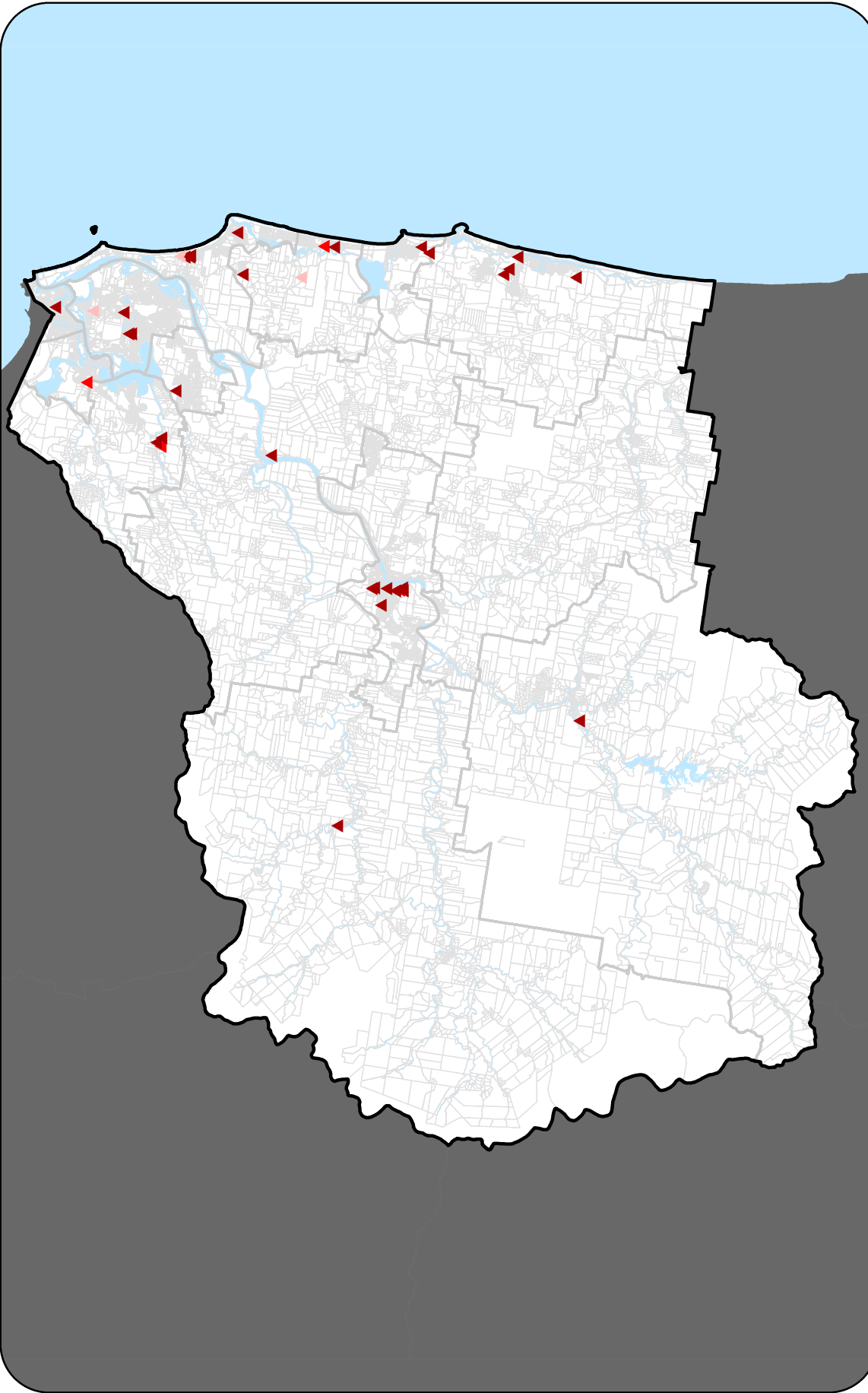
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Sports fields



Regional Sports Field
District Sports Field
Local Sports Field

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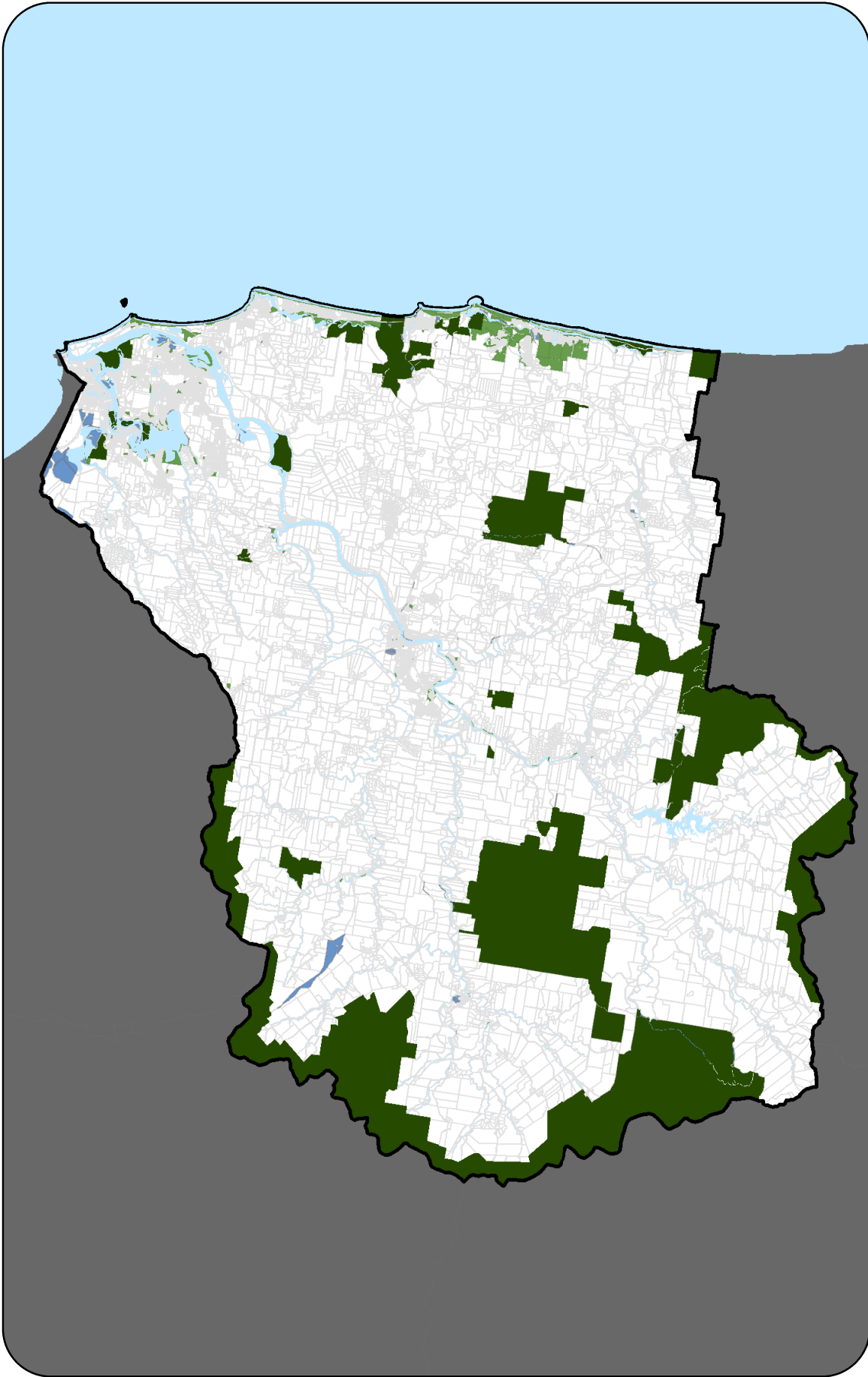
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Natural areas



Legend

- Council managed natural area
- National Park and Nature Reserve
- Crown managed open space

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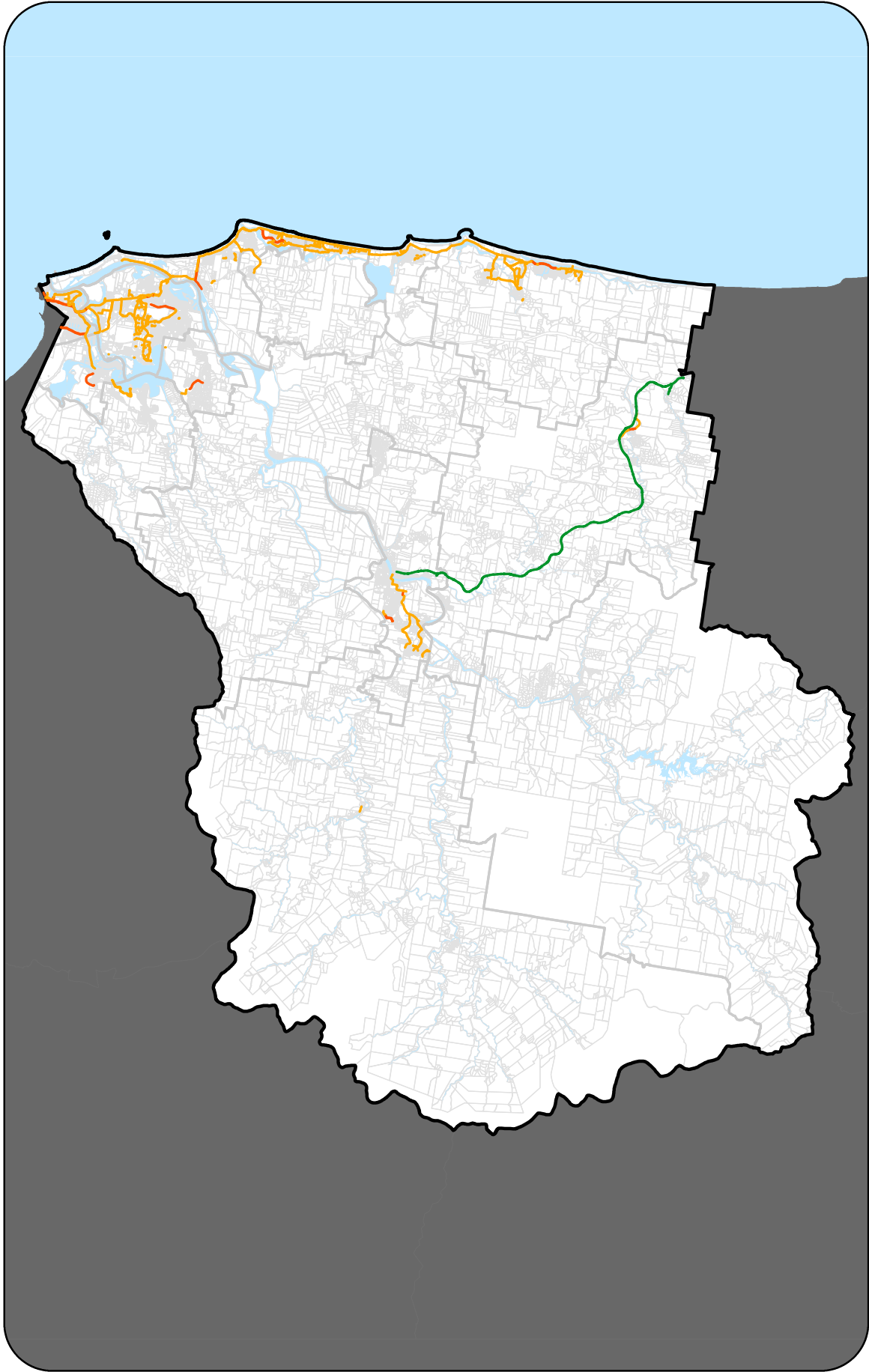
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Path network



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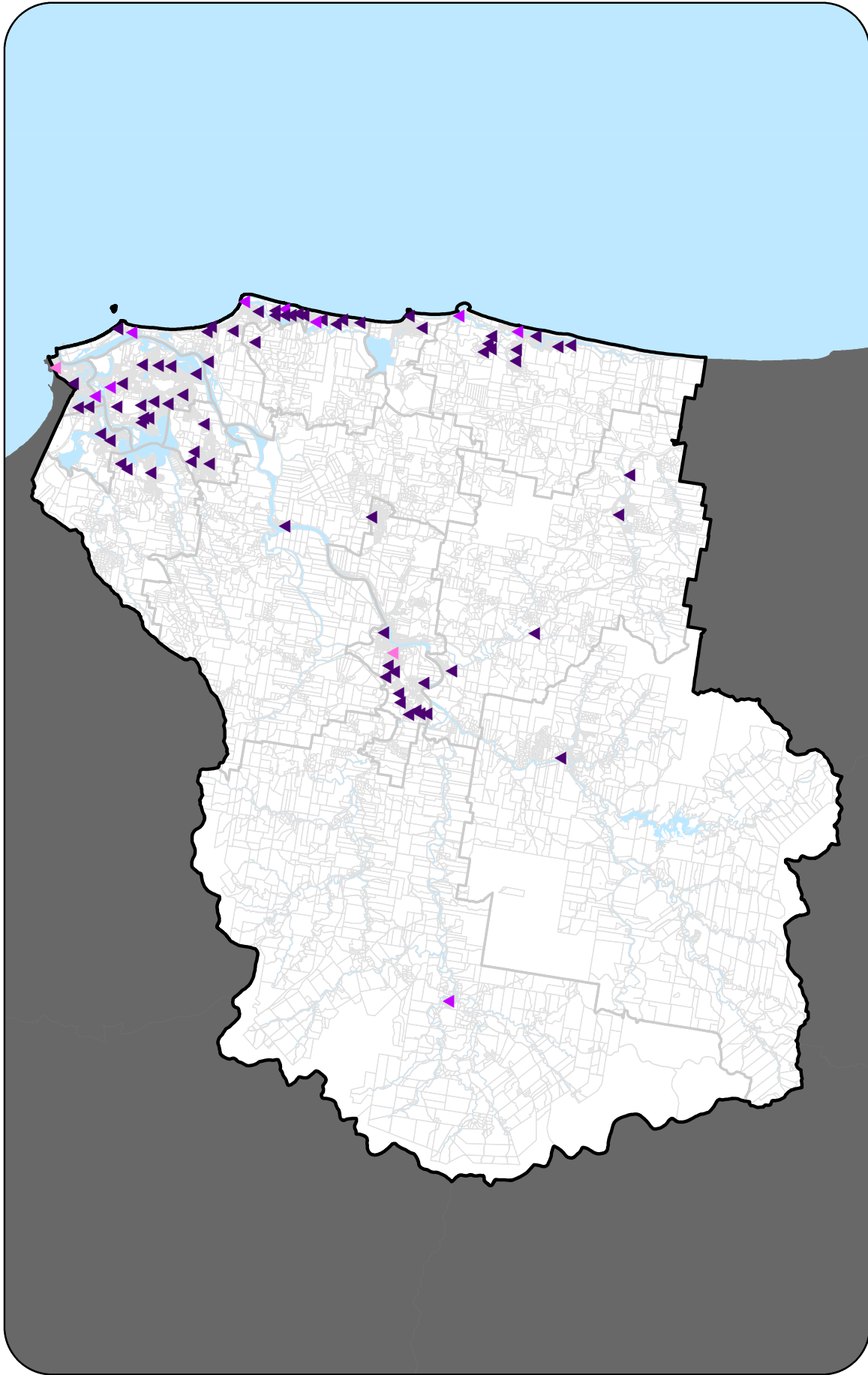
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Shared path
On road cyclway
Proposed Rail Trail



Playgrounds



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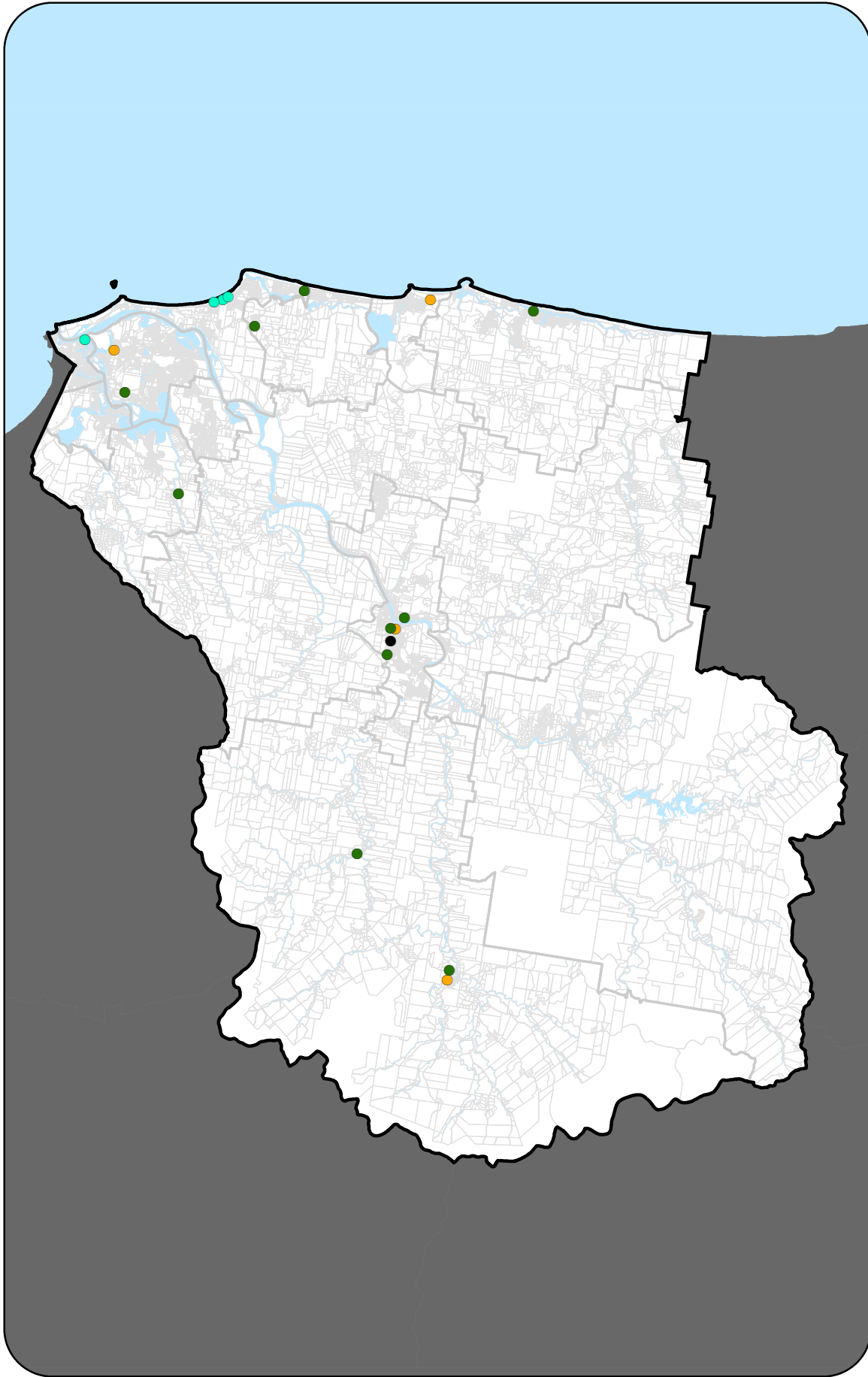
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Other recreation facilities

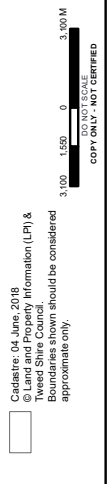


- Skate Facility
- Multi-court/Social Tennis
- BMX (Disused)
- Outdoor Gym

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Wharves, pontoons, boat ramps & jetties



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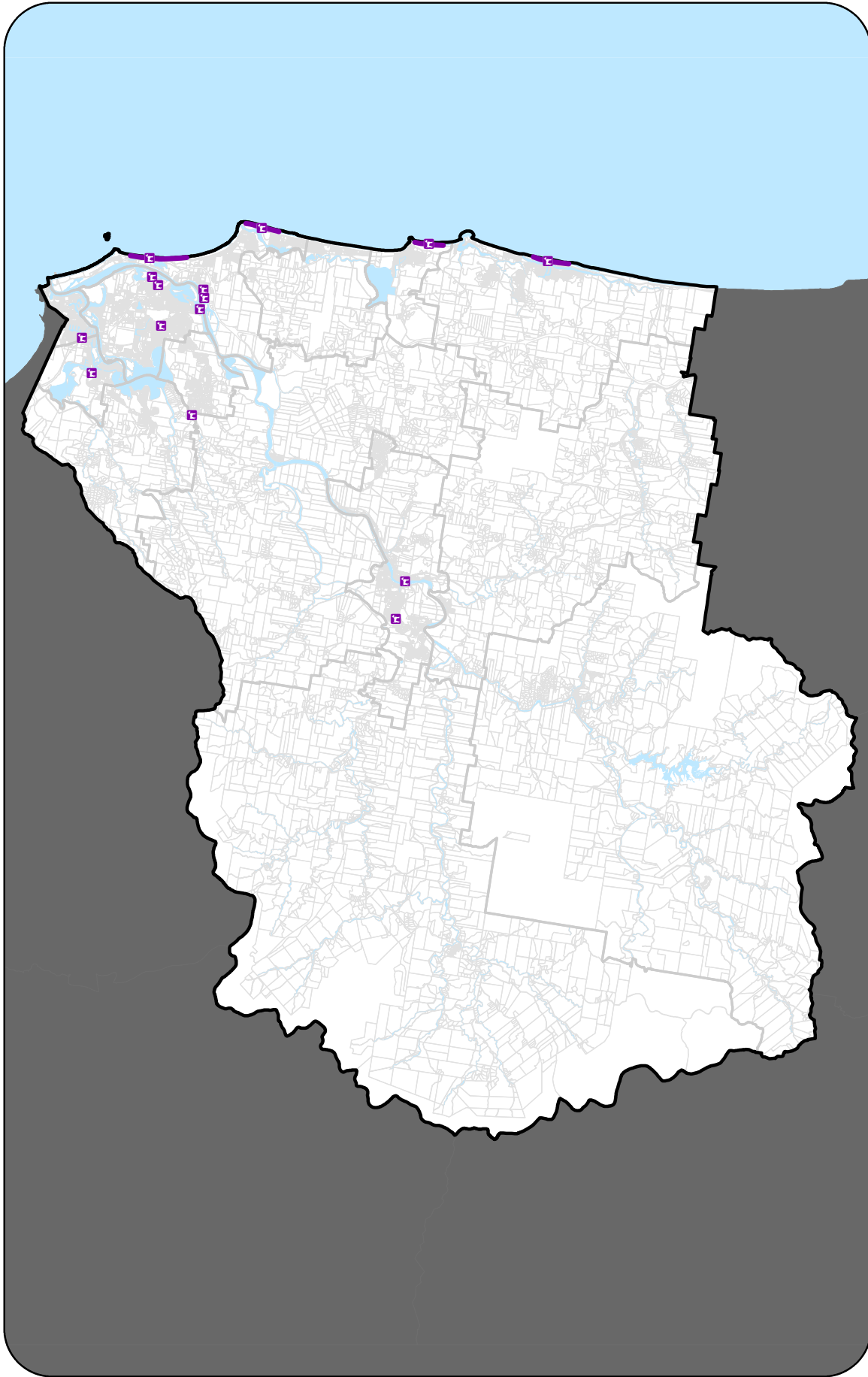
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Wharf, Pontoon, Boat Ramp and or Jetty



Dog off-leash areas



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GDA 2011 SCALE
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Cadastral: 21 June, 2018
Land and Property Information (LPI) &
State Street
Boundaries shown should be considered
approximate only.



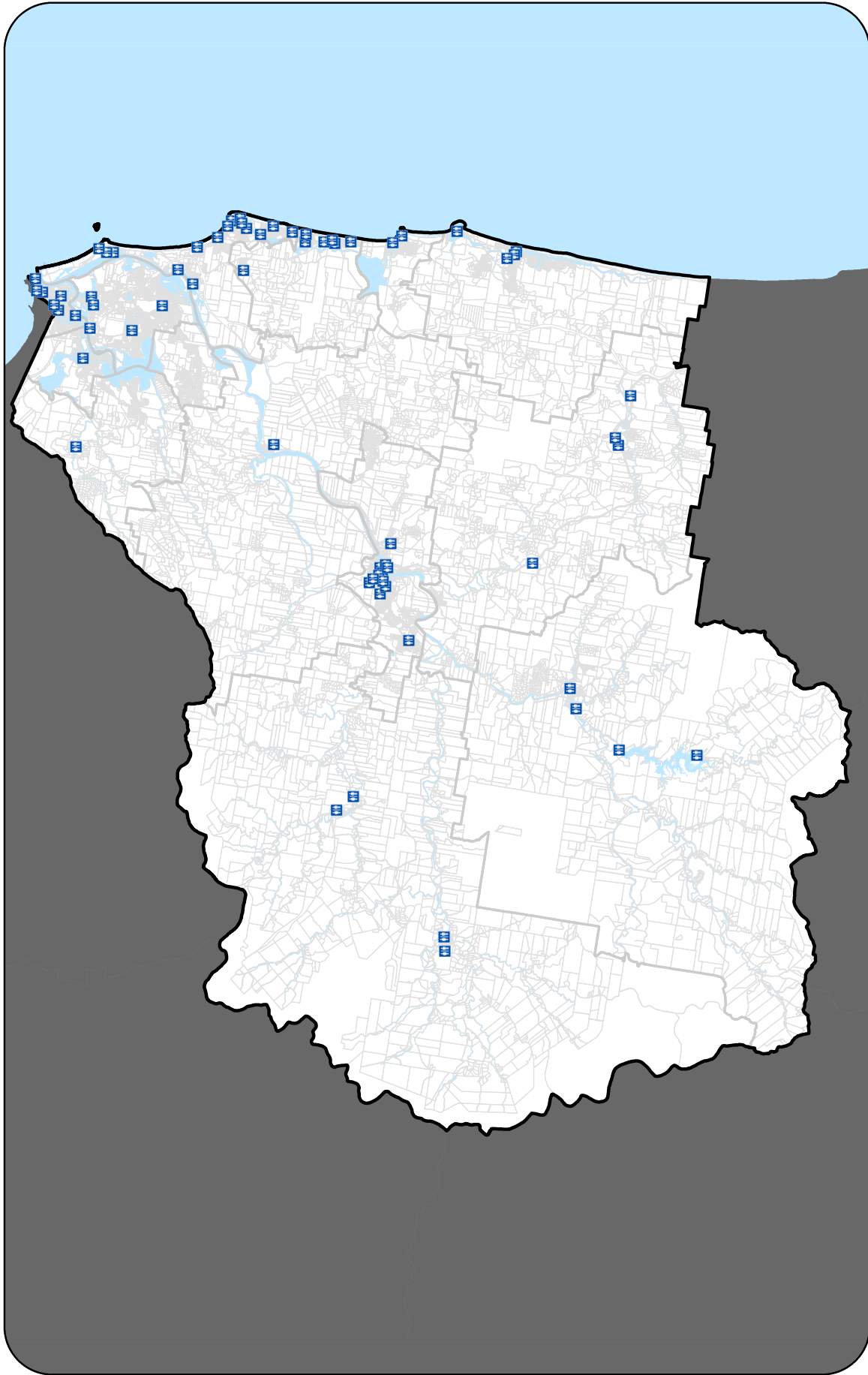
Coordinate System
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GDA
Date Printed: 21 June, 2018
Author: Engineering | Design | J.T. Unseed
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Dog off-leash
 Dog off-leash



Public toilets



Public Toilet

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Coordinate System
GDA Datum - GDA 84

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Cadastre: 21 June, 2018
Boundary Information (LPI) &
Tweed Shire Council
Boundaries shown should be considered approximate only.

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Appendix 5

Open space prioritisation matrix and weighting

PART ONE: Asset condition rating	30
This criteria applies to existing assets only	
What is the condition of the existing open space asset (building condition, functionality and compliance with relevant standards?)	
PART TWO:	70
Quality & Diversity	10
(in accordance with Outcome 1 of the Open Space Strategy)	
Will the project address an undersupply of quality open space?	
Will the project increase the diversity of open space functions and recreation opportunities available and encourage multi-use of an open space?	
Health & Well-being	10
(in accordance with Outcome 2 of the Open Space Strategy)	
What are the community benefits: health, social, environmental, cultural, and economic benefits?	
What is the approximate number of persons (the catchment) that will benefit from the project?	
Equity, Access and Connectivity	10
(in accordance with Outcome 3 of the Open Space Strategy)	
Does the project address a gap in the provision of passive or active open space?	
Will the project result in the open space network being more inclusive and/or provide better access to open spaces, sport and recreation facilities, park facilities etc.?	
Will the project result in the better connection of the open space network (e.g. linking open space, protect green corridors, linking the movement corridor and/or improve visual connectivity e.g. streetscapes)?	
Environment & Cultural Protection, Conservation	10
(in accordance with Outcome 4 of the Open Space Strategy)	
Will the project protect and enhance the natural environment, cultural and European heritage or result in the protection of flora and fauna?	
Will the project help to adapt to the physical impacts of climate change and result in Council being more resilient to the impacts of climate change?	
Financial Sustainability	10
(in accordance with Outcome 5 of the Open Space Strategy)	
Is the project endorsed in an existing Council planning document?	
Are there existing funds allocated to the project such as Council revenue, Section 7.11 contribution funds, secured funding from other sources e.g. grant funding?	
What is the ongoing financial implication for Council, capital costs and life cycle costs?	
Financial Equity	5
What has been the level of financial investment in open spaces, sport and recreation facilities within the local profile area over the previous 5–10 years?	
Community Priority	15
How was the project ranked by the community?	
Total	100

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