

5.4. OPEN SPACES POLICY AND OPEN SPACES STRATEGY

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DEPARTMENT	Infrastructure

RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolves to:

- 1. Adopt the Open Spaces General Policy; and**
 - 2. Adopt the Open Spaces Strategy.**
-

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Open Space is a highly valued asset by residents and visitors to Douglas Shire and contributes significantly to the regions character, lifestyle, health biodiversity and economy.

Officers have developed an Open Spaces General Policy and Open Spaces Strategy to guide our management practices and investment into the future. Preparing an Open Space Strategy provided an opportunity for Officers to review current open space assets including level of service, desired standard of service and consider future needs.

This work was triggered by the need to provide an overarching strategic document for recreation, sport and natural areas that aligns with the current public parks and planning framework.

The purpose of the Open Spaces General Policy is to provide the strategic direction for public open space planning and management in the Douglas Shire. This Policy recognises Council's commitment to achieving a network of diverse, accessible, high quality parks, reserves and recreation facilities that are sustainable, contribute to the attractiveness and vitality of communities, and enhance people's health and wellbeing by meeting their needs for outdoor recreation in urban settings now and into the future.

The Open Space Strategy provides a strategic framework and direction for the planning and use of open spaces within Douglas Shire, between 2019 and 2031. The Strategy details the actions required to support the Open Spaces General Policy and has been developed utilising forecast population growth to identify the land and embellishments needed to deliver an affordable, functional and integrated open space network. The document aligns with the planning scheme, asset management plans and the Local Government Infrastructure Plan.

BACKGROUND

The development of an Open Spaces Strategy was an operational initiative in the 2016/2017 Operational Plan. The project framework was presented at the Council Workshop held on 22 February 2017 and it was resolved by Council at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 30 May 2017 to progress this project under a staged development plan.

Since then, the preparation of the Open Spaces Strategy involved several stages as follows:

- Formulate Open Space Policy for Council consideration;
- Gap analysis & Needs Assessment for Open Space;
- Obtain community and stakeholder input;
- Classification of Open Space; and
- Development of the draft Open Spaces Strategy.

The diagram below summarises development of the Open Spaces Strategy showing the key inputs and outputs.

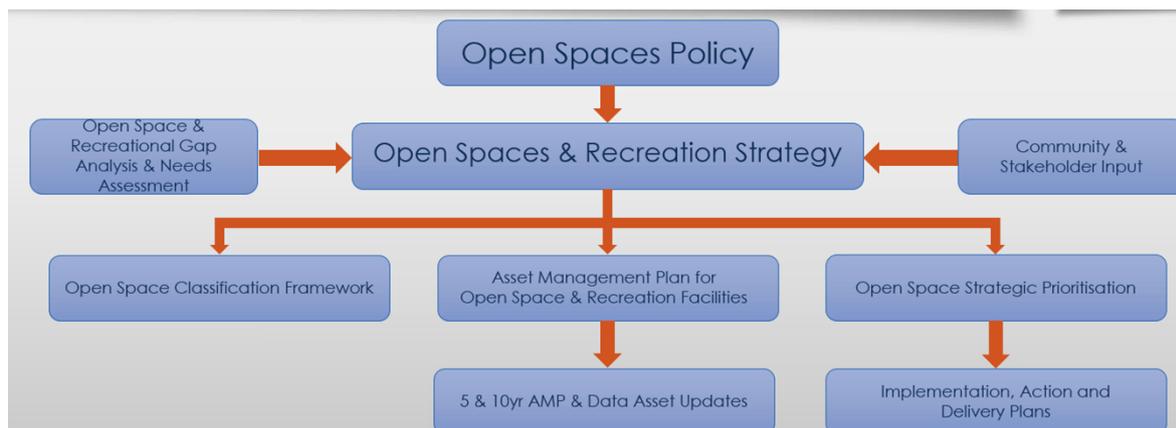


Figure 1.

Open Space is publicly owned land that has been set aside primarily for recreation, nature conservation, passive outdoor enjoyment and public gatherings. This includes public parks, gardens, reserves, foreshores and publicly owned community or sporting facilities.

Douglas Shire Council's diversity and quality of open spaces creates a range of different experiences and opportunities across the region. Public Open Space provides significant benefits to communities. These benefits include protecting biodiversity, improving psychological health and wellbeing, improving physical fitness, facilitating social interaction and cohesion, promoting community pride, and enhancing child development through play.

Open space also provides a location for participating in civic life. The importance and value of open space is likely to increase over time as a result of emerging pressures of population growth, demographic change, urbanisation and climate change. Urban change means access to private open space may alter over time and appropriately located, well designed and maintained public open space will become more important for future communities.

COMMENT

Local Government is the key provider and manager of open spaces for communities. It is not a requirement of legislation that Council has an Open Spaces Strategy; however Queensland Government Legislation requires that Councils have minimum standards for Open Spaces. Council has developed the Open Space General Policy and Open Spaces Strategy to guide the management of our Open Space networks.

Council engaged external consultants Trinity Engineering and Consulting to draft the Open Spaces Strategy. This practical planning tool encourages collaboration across a range of fields of expertise including but not limited to open space planning, statutory planning, strategic

planning, recreation planning, environmental planning, conservation and natural resource management, sports management and planning, landscape design, urban design, community health and wellbeing, and heritage planners.

PROPOSAL

That Council resolves to:

1. Adopt the Open Spaces General Policy; and
2. Adopt the Open Spaces Strategy.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Council have invested substantially in Open Spaces with a \$1.5 million allocation in the 2019/2020 Capital works program for Park Renewal. The Open Space Strategy guides the level of embellishments required within our parks.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The development of these documents will ensure Council sets a long-term strategic vision for Open Spaces. This will ensure that operational, tactical and strategic actions align with the overall vision.

Climate Resilience – The strategy provides an integrated approach to Open Space delivery that balances recreation need, storm water containment and mitigation of the heat island effect.

Flood Alleviation and Management - While maintaining the core recreation function of the Open Space, well designed and well-located Open Space may assist in the mitigation of peak flood events; reducing pressure on drainage and flood defenses and delaying or reducing the impact of flood events

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic: Local Workforce - High quality Open Spaces have a positive impact on the local economy by attracting and maintaining the local work force. Growth, Investment, Tourism - Proximity to well-designed and managed Open Space is shown to have a positive influence on business performance and investor confidence. The regional tourism base has a strong foundation in Open Space including events such as Carnivale. A quality natural environment provides further opportunity for exploration, supporting the local economy by attracting visitors.

Environmental: Biodiversity - Biodiversity is essential to the sustainability of ecosystems. The strategic importance of public Open Space becomes paramount when considering the development pressures on natural areas. Open Space planning can provide benefits to biodiversity through habitat management, nature conservation, maintaining green corridors and provision of diverse flora in a variety of Open Space typologies.

Social: Physical and Psychological Wellbeing - Open Space can facilitate active, healthy outdoor lifestyles in pursuit of a general state of wellbeing; a positive state of both mental and physical health. Recreation and Leisure - Open Space supports both passive and active recreation and leisure providing an opportunity to experience and appreciate nature. Open Space and associated pathways that may extend far beyond the boundaries of the Open Space enable healthy, free recreation.

CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN, POLICY REFERENCE

This report has been prepared in accordance with the following:

Corporate Plan 2019-2024 Initiatives:

Theme 4 - Inclusive Engagement, Planning and Partnerships

In delivering for our communities, economy and environment, Douglas Shire will ensure open and transparent engagement and communication. We will develop robust strategic plans and we will partner with our community and key stakeholders.

Goal 2 - We will develop forward looking strategies for the future of our communities and we will ensure balanced and appropriate planning decisions.

COUNCIL'S ROLE

Council can play a number of different roles in certain circumstances and it is important to be clear about which role is appropriate for a specific purpose or circumstance. The implementation of actions will be a collective effort and Council's involvement will vary from information only through to full responsibility for delivery.

The following areas outline where Council has a clear responsibility to act:

- Builder/Owner** Council makes a significant investment each year in the infrastructure that underpins the Shire through its capital works program. Council will manage its assets with appropriate frameworks and deliver its projects through robust project management.
- Custodian** Council owns and manages infrastructure, facilities, reserves, resources and natural areas. In fulfilling its role as custodian, Council will be mindful of the community, the economy, the environment, and good governance.

CONSULTATION

Internal: In developing these documents, Council Officers consulted with a wide range of internal stakeholders and with Councillors at the Workshop held on 10th September 2019.

External: A Community Survey was conducted in April 2019 to better understand ratepayer priorities. Parks and gardens were ranked the second highest priority for residents. Council has listened to the community and increased investment in this area in the 2019/2020 budget.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Open Spaces Strategy will be made available for viewing on Council's webpage.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Open Spaces General Policy [**5.4.1** - 3 pages]
2. Open Space Strategy PUBLISH Version [**5.4.2** - 24 pages]



OPEN SPACES GENERAL POLICY

Intent This policy recognises Council's commitment to achieve a network of diverse, accessible, high quality parks, reserves and recreation facilities that are sustainable, contribute to the attractiveness and vitality of communities, and enhance people's health and wellbeing by meeting their needs for outdoor recreation in urban settings now and into the future.

Open space is the publicly owned land that is set aside primarily for recreation, nature conservation, passive outdoor enjoyment and public gatherings. This includes public parks, gardens, nature reserves, waterways, and publicly owned sporting venues.

The purpose of this policy is to provide the strategic direction for public open space planning and management in the Douglas Shire.

Scope This policy is applicable to all of Council, its employees and contractors in all decisions and activities.

In terms of Open Space, this policy relates to all Councillors and Council Officers who are engaged in the process of planning, developing, and maintaining open spaces and associated infrastructure.

In addition, the policy serves as a guide to developers, State Government, organisations, community groups and individuals who are submitting open spaces projects for Council's consideration.

The key areas of focus for the delivery of this policy are:

- Capital works projects;
- Infrastructure maintenance;
- Procurement; and
- Planning / Development applications.

Reference

- Douglas Shire Council Corporate Plan 2019 – 2024;
- Douglas Shire Council Annual Operational Plans;
- Douglas Shire Planning Scheme;
- Local Government Infrastructure Plan.

Relevant Council Policies:

- Corporate Sustainability General Policy;
- Climate Change General Policy;
- Environment (Council Operations) General Policy;
- Arts General Policy.

Relevant Legislation:

- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003;
- Biosecurity Act 2014;
- Environmental Protection Act 1994;
- Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993;
- Sustainable Planning Act 2009;
- National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development – adopted by all levels of the Australian Government in 1992;
- Land Act 1994.

Definitions:

- Open Space – areas for "parks", "green spaces", and other open areas. The landscape of open spaces can range from playing fields to highly maintained environments to relatively natural landscapes. They are commonly open to public access.
- Intergenerational Equity – The present generation has a guardian duty to protect the natural environment for future generations, as each generation has the right to inherit the same resources enjoyed by previous generations.
- Life Cycle Cost Analysis – The financial, environmental and social costs associated with an asset or resource throughout the entirety of its life. This includes the costs associated with raw materials, production, transport, operating costs and disposal.
- The Precautionary Principle – When an activity may lead to morally unacceptable harm, for example the destruction of the natural environment, action should be taken to avoid or diminish that harm even when the scientific evidence has a degree of uncertainty.

PROVISIONS

Council commits to applying the following six (6) guiding principles to its operations and decision making, while delivering efficient and cost-effective services to the community.

- *Principle 1 - Accessible and Connected*
Safe, easily accessible and convenient cycling and walking connections between parks, activity centres, neighbourhoods and regional destinations is central to creating an integrated and accessible open space network, well connected communities and opportunities for sustainable and healthy living. Parks should be welcoming, and designed to avoid perceptions that some areas are limited access or private spaces.

- *Principle 2- Place Making*
Open Spaces play a major role in creating the identity or sense of place for a community. Parks, playgrounds and trails should respond positively to the natural environment and to local community values and needs. Open space plays an important role in the protection and enhancement of environmental, cultural and heritage values.
- *Principle 3 -Safe and healthy*
Public safety is an important consideration in the development, management and maintenance of parks, playgrounds and trails. Park design should incorporate the principles of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED). Well-developed parks are important to the physical and mental health of residents and provide opportunities for social interaction and the creation of a strong sense of community.
- *Principle 4 –Sustainability*
Open space will be developed and managed in response to contemporary environmental values and conditions, community aspirations and economic considerations and must remain viable in the long term. Parks should be fit for purpose and capable of adaption to cater for changing recreational demands.
- *Principle 5 -Diversity*
A diverse range of park setting types and playgrounds that creates an interesting and locally relevant Open Space network. The network should provide opportunities that cater for the varied recreational needs of residents and visitors of all ages and abilities. A balanced range of parks, playgrounds, nature reserves and trails is required to meet the diversity of community needs.
- *Principle 6 -Consultation*
Changes to local open space networks and improvements to individual parks will be guided by local communities.

This Policy is to remain in force until otherwise determined by Council

Manager Responsible for Review:

Executive Manager Infrastructure

ORIGINALLY ADOPTED:

DUE FOR REVISION:

REVOKED/SUPERSEDED:

OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

Douglas Shire Council

The open space strategy provides a strategic framework and direction for the planning and use of open spaces within Douglas Shire over the next 10 years. The strategy has considered the forecast population growth, to identify the land and embellishments needed to deliver an affordable, functional and integrated open space network.



1 July 2019

DOUGLAS SHIRE
COUNCIL

Engaging, Planning, Partnering

Muruku Kirraji - Eastern Kuku Yalanji

Nganyji pina ngunda-lum ... Ma:Inyjiirri-yngku - Yirrganydji

Ordinary Council Meeting - 12 November 2019

Artists impression of Anzac Park Lookout (Port Douglas Masterplan)

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Executive Summary

The open space strategy provides a strategic framework and direction for the planning and use of open spaces within Douglas Shire, between 2019 and 2031. The strategy has considered the forecast population growth, to identify the land and embellishments needed to deliver an affordable, functional and integrated open space network.

The strategic framework provided within the Open Space Policy includes definitions, principles and the desired standards of service for planning and design of recreational and sporting parks.

Findings of the assessment conclude that there is currently significantly more open space available in the network than is required under the minimum requirements. There are no additional land requirements for trunk open space required before 2031. There are however, upgrades recommended to major parks.

What is Open Space?

Open Space is publicly owned land that has been set aside primarily for recreation, nature conservation, passive outdoor enjoyment and public gatherings. This includes public parks, gardens, reserves, foreshores and publicly owned community or sporting facilities.

Other public land such as schools, hospitals, and streets complement the open space network, and are guided by other Council policies or plans. Throughout this strategy, public open space is referred to as 'open space'.

Douglas Shire Council's diversity and quality of open spaces creates a range of different experiences and opportunities across the region.

Why Is Open Space Important?

Social Connectedness

Open spaces provide places for meeting, events or festivals. They facilitate the community's social connectedness. These restorative places of social interaction provide increased levels of mental health and wellbeing.



Photo : Port Douglas Markets

Physical Health and Wellbeing

The network of open space, parklands and sporting fields provides opportunities for exercising informally through recreational activities, or formally by participating in organised sport.



Photos : Port Douglas Running Festival

Biodiversity

The Daintree National Park is approximately 1,200 km² in size and contains the Daintree rainforest – which is part of the oldest continuously surviving tropical rainforest in the world. It is a critical habitat for preserving the biodiversity of the native flora and fauna.



Photos: The flora and fauna biodiversity of the Daintree

Cultural Heritage and Character

Areas that are of relevance or importance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage values form part of the open space network.



Photo: Cultural Dancers at the Mossman Gorge Community Centre. The residents of Mossman Gorge Community are predominantly from the Kuku Yalanji Clan, whose traditional lands spread to the Wujal Wujal community and the township of Mossman

Economic and Tourism

Tourism is the primary economic driver of the Douglas region. The tourism industry relies primarily on the spectacular World Heritage listed beauty of the region and several internationally renowned natural attractions. Significant tourism assets include access to the Great Barrier Reef, Daintree Rainforest National Park, unspoilt beaches, the Daintree and other fresh water rivers including dazzling waterfalls.



Photo: Four Mile Beach – Port Douglas



Photo: Daintree River Weaving through the Daintree Rainforest



Photo: Great Barrier Reef

Figures from Tourism and Events Queensland demonstrate that, with an 80% economic reliance on tourism, the Douglas Shire ranks as the most tourism-dependent region in Australia.

Events

Open Spaces provide public areas for Events and the Arts. These may include:

- Art Installations;
- Performances; or
- Events (Commemorative or Celebratory).



Photos: Port Douglas Carnivale

Principles for Open Space Provision

There are six guiding principles, which underpin the need and planning for open space in the Douglas Shire. These are listed in the open Spaces General Policy and include:

1. Accessible and Connected;
2. Place Making;
3. Safe and Healthy;
4. Sustainability;
5. Diversity; and
6. Consultation.

Existing Open Space

The Douglas Region is the traditional homeland of Aboriginal Rainforest People (Bama) who have lived within the area and maintained their culture and languages for thousands of years. The two main language groups within the Shire are the Eastern Kuku Yalanji to the north and Yirrganydji to the south. The Eastern Kuku Yalanji and Yirrganydji peoples are the Traditional Custodians and Owners of the land and sea country that encompass the Douglas Shire region.

The Traditional Owners of the region place great importance on the protection and sustainability of the land and sea (country); as well as sites of great cultural significance to their people. This Open Space Strategy acknowledges and reflects the principles of sustainability throughout.

The major open spaces in the Douglas Region include formal and informal areas of Open Space.

INFORMAL OPEN SPACE

Examples of Informal open space may include:

Daintree National Park (1,200 km²)

- Founded in 1981 and in 1988 became part of the World Heritage Site
- Mossman Gorge Section (56,500 ha of mostly inaccessible forests)
- Cape Tribulation (17,000 ha of rainforest lowlands)

Coastal Beaches

- Four Mile Beach Esplanade
- Wonga Beach
- Cooya Beach
- Thornton Beach
- Cape Tribulation Beach

The informal areas of open space have been provided over time and are accessible for residents and tourists alike. Indeed many of the informal areas of open space within the Douglas Shire Council are significant national and international tourist attractions.

FORMAL OPEN SPACE

There are formal areas of open space that have been planned and delivered to serve the needs of the residents of Douglas Shire Council. These include

- Recreational Parks;
- Sports Parks and Facilities; and
- Land for Community Purposes.

The settlement patterns within the Douglas Shire Council Local Government Area consist of two major population centres (Port Douglas and Mossman) and multiple smaller satellite towns and villages (e.g. Daintree Village, Cooya Beach township, Wonga Beach, Rocky Point, Mossman Gorge Community, Wangetti etc.).

A hierarchical approach to the provision of open space within the Douglas Shire has been adopted and is explained in the following sections.

Open Space Network – Types

Overview

The open space network is comprised of formal and informal spaces. In the Douglas Shire, informal spaces are typically large tracts of rainforests or beaches and are controlled by the State or Federal Governments. The formal open space network consists of a three (3) tiered system of parks, which provide open space on the local, district and regional levels, for recreational or sporting activities. An explanation of each of the hierarchies has been provided below, with a more detailed explanation of each provided in Appendix A. The appendix provides information on the minimal level of Supply/embellishments.

Local Park

Local Parks are typically provided to provide open space opportunities on a local neighbourhood level. They are designed to be accessible by pedestrians or bicycles users and provide basic facilities for informal use and play.

District Park

District Parks are provided to provide open space for recreational or sporting activities for a group or collection of neighbourhoods.

District Recreational Parks:

District level recreational Parks are provided to service several neighbourhoods and offer a range of active and passive opportunities.

District Sport Parks:

The District level sports parks usually support one or more sports training or competition venues and service multiple suburbs and across the region.

Regional Park

Regional Parks supply opportunities to the whole of local government area or a “sub regional” catchment comprised of multiple district catchments.

Regional Recreational Parks

These are “destination parks” which attract users from all over the city and usually encourage extended stays of half a day or more. These parks are master planned to provide multiple opportunities and facilities to encourage extended use.

Regional Sports Precinct

Large sports precincts usually catering to more than one sport and used for major competitive events.

Community Facilities

Community Facilities may include a variety of uses, which can be generalised into –

- Cultural Activity Space;
- Community Meeting and Activity Space;
- Community Service Facilities;
- Formal Memorial Spaces.

Table 1 – breakdown of the Formal Open Space hierarchies

Park Type	Park Hierarchy	Annotation	Examples
Recreational	Local Park (Recreational)	LRP	Jalumbu Park – Port Douglas Lou Prince Park – Bonnie Doon Bells Park – Wonga Pioneer Park - Daintree
	District Park (Recreational)	DRP	Rex Smeal Park – Port Douglas Jim Holdsworth Park – Cooya Beach Hutchings Park - Craiglie
	Regional Park (Recreational)	RRP	Market Park – Port Douglas George Davis Park - Mossman
Sports	District Sports Park	DSP	Reynolds Park – Port Douglas Wangetti Sports Field-Wangetti Cassowary Soccer Grounds – Cassowary Diwan Sports Reserve - Diwan
	Regional Sports Park	RSP	Port Douglas Sports Grounds Coronation Park/ Show Grounds - Mossman
Land For Community Facilities	Land For Community Facilities	LFCF	Community Hall – Port Douglas Anzac Park – Memorial – Port Douglas Library and Shire Hall – Mossman Boat Ramps – Cooya, Newell, Daintree, Port Douglas Wonga Beach Caravan Park

Open Space Network – Desired Standards of Service

To ensure that the Open Space Network is planned and delivered to the expectations of the community the Desired Standards of Service have been provided for planning and engineering design.

Desired standards of service- PLANNING

Planning Standard	Community Outcomes
Provide a connected and accessible network of parks, open space, and community facilities that meet the needs of the Local government's resident population.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides opportunities for access and increased usage of open space, recreational and community facilities. • Provides for an appropriate balance of land uses and ensures high levels of amenity in the urban form. • Provides a basis for a healthy and active community.
Ensure strong linkages and, where possible, co-location of existing and future parks, open space and community facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensures utilisation of existing and future assets while maintaining maximum access.
Provide embellishments to public parks, commensurate with the range of activities envisaged.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides open space embellishments that meet the needs of the community by providing a range of facilities for social activities and/or fitness/recreational pursuits. • Ensures activities are met and contained within designated areas - reducing potential off-site impacts to other more sensitive areas in the Local government.
Ensure that existing and future parks, open space and community facilities with significant environmental, waterway or cultural heritage value are managed appropriately.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protects and enhances items of cultural interest in the Local government for the benefit of current and future communities in the Local government. • Provides a basis for tourism opportunities. • Protection of the natural landscape ensures maintenance of quality of air, water and land resources reducing negative impacts requiring amelioration. • Recreational and sporting parks promote the health and wellbeing of the Local government's residents.
Ensure that the proposed uses and prescribed activities for the Public Parks and Community Facilities are co-ordinated and managed appropriately	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide guidance as to the Suitability of Commercial Uses and Prescribed Activities for Public Parks and Community Facilities (See Appendix B)

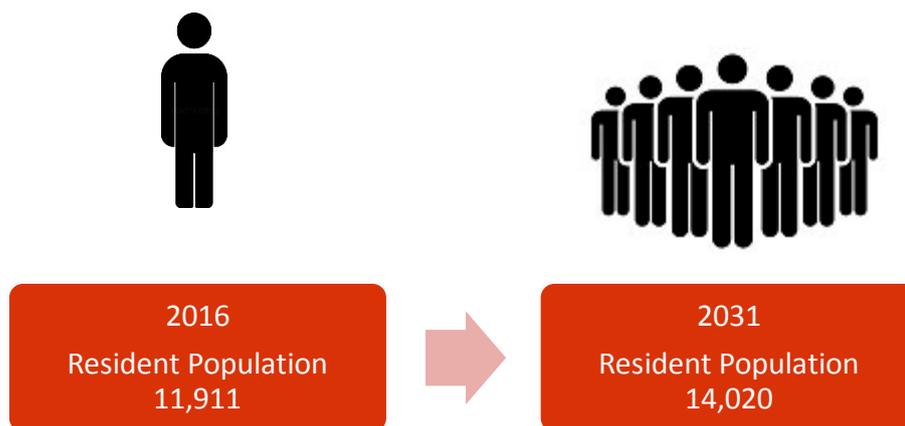
Desired standards of service - DESIGN

Design Standards	Community Outcome
Public parks and land for community facilities areas are provided in accordance with the preferred quantity, distribution (Shire Wide, district, local, sporting, community), quality and level of development specified in Council's 'Public Parks and Land for Community Purposes Trunk Infrastructure Planning Study' and Plans for Trunk Infrastructure – Public Parks and Land for Community Facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a standard of service reflecting the communities' needs as identified by the local government's adopted strategies. • Provides recreation and sporting parks with a diverse range of activity opportunities and landscape settings to encourage healthy lifestyles and maximise opportunities for activity. • Recreation and open space facilities are managed in the most efficient and cost-effective way. • Recreation and open space facilities can be safely and conveniently accessed by all existing and potential users.
Land provided for parks, recreation, and sport is not constrained by physical, environmental or other hazards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure adequate provision of safe, accessible and usable facilities.
<p>Ensure land is accessible, of suitable quality and integrated with the urban and open space networks.</p> <p>Provide an accessible network of parks, open space, and community facilities that meets the needs of residents and visitors in accordance with the rate of provision , accessibility standards and minimum land size as identified in Appendix A</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides community access to a range of park, open space and community facilities.
Ensure suitable Embellishments are provided to complement and facilitate the type and purpose of the open space (Appendix A)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a range of park types that are suitability embellished to meeting their purpose within the park hierarchy.

What Will Change?

As the region grows, there is a need to ensure that we provide enough Open Space, Parks and Community facilities for the region for the growing resident population.

POPULATION



OPEN SPACE

Land Provision

An analysis was conducted of all the land in the Douglas Shire Council's Open Space Network¹. When considering the minimum land provision requirements, and the desired standards of service land provision it was found that there is approximately 50% more land in the network than is required to service the resident population in 2031. **No additional trunk park land is required to be provided to maintain the minimum open space requirements before 2031.**

Embellishments

Upgrades are recommended to be undertaken on a number of parks within the Open Space network. These are focussed around the major population centres and major facilities.

Port Douglas

- | | |
|---|--------|
| a. Upgrade Port Douglas Sports Precinct | ~ \$2M |
| b. Upgrade Waterfront Parks | ~0.5M |
| c. Upgrade Foreshore Park 4 mile | ~0.5M |

Mossman

- | | |
|--|----------|
| a. Upgrade Mossman District Park (David Jack Park) | ~ \$0.5M |
|--|----------|

¹ The Open Space Strategy is supported by the Technical report for Public Parks and Land for Community Purposes, undertaken by Trinity Engineering Pty Ltd (2018)

Implementation

Overview

To ensure the successful implementation of the open space strategy, and delivery the of the identified projects, key responsibilities, funding, and immediate actions have been outlined below. The provision and embellishment of parks will be delivered through the Council's Local Government Infrastructure Plans (LGIP), general revenue and external grants.

Responsibilities

Douglas Shire Council will take the lead implementation role. The successful implementation of the strategy requires -

Council

- (a) to undertake planning, procurement and construction of the identified embellishments in existing parks to meet the needs and expectations of the wider Community.

Developers:

- (a) To continue to develop a well-planned, efficient and highly desirable urban fabric, which reflects the requirements and intent of Council's Planning Scheme;
- (b) To provide sufficient areas and quality of open spaces, to meet the desired standards of service;
- (c) To contribute to the Trunk Facilities (Public Parks and Community Facilities) in accordance with Council's LGIP

Funding

Funding of the capital works embellishments and future land acquisition costs will be sourced from a combination of:

- (d) Open space contributions collected under the provisions of the Local Government Infrastructure Plans (LGIP);
- (e) External grants from State and or Federal Government Sources
- (f) Council (constrained) reserves;

Next Steps

Delivering the Open Space Strategy requires the following actions to be undertaken:

- (a) Council adopts the open space strategy;
- (b) Council review the findings of the Open Space Technical Document and integrate the agreed actions into the Local Government Infrastructure Plan;
- (c) Commence detailed planning on parks identified for embellishment within the next 10 years;
- (d) Commence master planning for the additional parks identified in the 10+ year horizon;

How to contact us

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Appendix A – Open Space Definitions and Minimum Standards

For each park type and hierarchy referred to within this strategy, Appendix A contains

- A detailed explanation of each;
- A minimum rate of provision;
- Desired accessibility Standards;
- Minimum Park Sizes; and
- Minimum Levels of Embellishment.

DEFINITIONS

Local Recreation Park

A local recreational park offers informal recreation and play opportunities. Typical characteristics include:

- A minimum area of 0.5 Ha – with a preferred area of 1 Ha.;
- At least 95% of residences should have access to a local park or local recreation node within 500m safe walking distance;
- Minimum 50% road frontage;
- Minimal hazards and constraints;
- Embellished with local facilities as outlined A5 and A6;

District Recreational Park

A district level recreational park offers informal recreation and play opportunities to a group of neighbourhoods. Typical characteristics include:

- Minimum 2 ha of usable area
- District Recreation Parks should be provided within 2-5 km of 95% of residences.
- Provides a range of informal passive and active opportunities (eg. picnic facilities, ½ courts, kick-about areas, teenage activities, bike paths, exercise stations)
- Provided as a stand-alone park, as a node within district or regional linear open space systems or as part of a larger individual park which includes formal sporting opportunities.
- High accessibility (car, bike, foot) multiple access points and accessible for people with mobility challenges.
- Linked to local bikeway and pathway network.
- Min 50% road frontage

District Sports Park

Formal sporting provision in a single area or “precinct” which provides for organised and programmed sport and recreation activities. They may include fields, courts and built facilities supporting community and club use².

- Minimum 10 Ha;
- 95 % of Residences should be within a 5 km radius;
- Formal layout for fields and specific use areas;
- Includes club facilities and amenities;
- High accessibility;
- Location should consider buffering of noise and other impacts from residential areas;

Regional Recreation Park

A Regional recreational Parks are provided to service the whole region/ local government area and are based on specific or unique features. They are typically master planned and provide a range of facilities and uses. Typical characteristics include:

- Usually 5-10 Ha +
- 95 % of Residences should be within a 20 km radius;
- Planned provision based on identified opportunity;
- Serves whole city/ region / multiple neighbourhoods;
- Infrastructure based on master plan;
- Could have a major landscape or habitat conservation objective
- Accessible by all transport modes and should be located on public transport routes

Regional Sporting Park

A Regional sporting park or precincts are required to service the whole city/ region/ local government area.

- 20 Ha preferred minimum size;
- 95% of residents should be able to access a regional sporting park within 15km;
- Multiple sports and multiple facilities;
- Planned provision based on identified opportunity;
- Serves whole city/ region / multiple neighbourhoods;
- Infrastructure based on master plan;
- Provided on a planned basis- usually master planned;
- May also provide local and district level recreation opportunities; and
- Accessible by all transport modes and should be located on public transport routes.

² Under the constraints of IPA and the November version of the Standard Infrastructure Charges Schedule the cost of building club houses, indoor sports centres and public pools can not be included in any infrastructure charge.

District Level - Land/ Space for Community Purposes

Land space provided for community purposes including the potential provision of a range of facilities such as community halls and libraries.

- Minimum sizes range from 1,000m² to 2,000m²
- Land must be suitable for buildings
- Provided within 5 km of 95% of residences.
- Ideally collocated with other community facilities or service precincts.
- Provided as a single site for a specific building or as a portion of a community precinct providing space for several facilities.
- High accessibility (car, bike, foot) multiple access points and accessible for people with mobility challenges.
- Linked to local bikeway and pathway network.
- Min 50% road frontage

City Wide Land for Community Purposes

- Community facilities that serve a City Wide catchment are centrally located and provide access to major opportunities or services such as Galleries, Performing Arts Centres, Museums, Council Chambers and Memorial Spaces. Preferred access for City Wide level recreation parks is within 15-20 km of 95 % of all residences.
- Areas needed range from 1Ha to 10 Ha (i.e. cemetery)
- Usually located as part of a major services and community hub.
- Serves whole city
- Can be provided as part of large integrated complex (eg. floor space in a major centre)
- accessible by all transport modes and should be located on public transport routes

MINIMUM STANDARDS*Table 1 – Rate of Land Provision for Public Parks and Land for Community Facilities*

Hierarchy Supply Rates	Rate of Provision (Ha / 1000 people)		
	Local	District	Regional
Recreation Park (2.5 Ha/1000)	1 Ha/1000	1.3 Ha/1000	0.2 Ha/1000
Sport Park (2 Ha/1000)	N/A	1.6 Ha/1000	0.4 Ha/1000
Land for Community Facilities (0.3 Ha/1000)	N/A	0.15 Ha/1000	0.15 Ha/1000

Table 2 – Accessibility standards for Public Parks and Land for Community Facilities

Hierarchy	Accessibility Standard (km)		
	Local	District	Regional
Recreation Park	500m	2-3km	10-15km
Sport Park	N/A	2-5km	15km
Land for Community Facilities	N/A	5km	20km

Table 3 – Desired size of public parks and land for community facilities

Hierarchy	Minimum Size (Ha)		
	Local	District	Regional
Recreation Park	0.5 - 1 Ha	2-5 Ha	2-5 Ha
Sport Park	N/A	10 Ha	20 Ha
Land for Community Facilities	N/A	Cultural Activity Space (CAS) 1,500m ²	CAS 1 Ha
		Community Meeting & Activity Space (CMS) 2,000m ²	CMS 1 Ha
		Community Service Facility (CSF) 1,000m ²	CSF 1 Ha
		Formal Memorial Space (FMS) 1,000m ²	FMS 10 Ha

MINIMUM STANDARDS – EMBELLISHMENTS (PLANNING)

Park Type	Park Types- Hierarchy	Reference		Embellishments to be provided / park Type															
		Open Space Code	LGIP	Water connection/ tap	drinking fountain	Lights (gen use/ safety) + field	Fencing (bollards)	Playground equipment. (inc soft fall + shade sails)	Seating	Picnic shelter	BBQ (2 electric plates and shelter)	earth works (Field prep/ Kickabout)	active specific facilities	L'scape	Power	New park establishment and Irrigation	Public toilets	Path / bikeways	Car parking and access works
Recreational	Local Park (Recreational)	LRP	LP	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
	District Park (Recreational)	DRP	DP	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Regional Park (Recreational)	RRP	CWRP	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sports Park	District Sports Park	DSP	DSP	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Regional Sports Park	RSP	CWSP	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Land for Community Facilities	Land for Community Facilities	LFCF	LFCF	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗

Appendix B – Suitability of Commercial Uses and Prescribed Activities for Public Parks and Community Facilities.

To be reviewed once adoption of the new Local Laws and Open Spaces is completed. The intention is to provide the community and Council Officers with a matrix detailing what activities will be considered appropriate for each park.

