

Coffs Harbour Public Realm Strategy

2023



Acknowledgement of Country

City of Coffs Harbour acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land, the Gumbaynggirr people, who have cared for this land since time immemorial. We pay our respects to their elders, past, present and emerging, and commit ourselves to a future with reconciliation and renewal at its heart.

Coffs Harbour Public Realm Strategy August 2023 City of Coffs Harbour**Disclaimer**

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Executive Summary

The City of Coffs Harbour has developed this Public Realm Strategy to “Create a Connected Network of Public Open Space – that is clean, green and safe”. The ultimate aim of this Strategy is that everyone in our community will have access to clean, green and safe open space within a 5 minute walk from their home.

The public realm is where people gather, build meaningful connections and form community. It begins the moment you leave your front door. It captures the streets we walk on, the town squares where we meet, and the parks, playgrounds and sport fields where we play. It is not just for people, but also our native plants and animals, as public open spaces can also be habitats themselves, that support biodiversity and strengthen the resilience of our environment.

A high quality and well connected public realm can address our community's needs associated with changing lifestyles and demographics. The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated how much we need our public realm, due to its effects on our overall health and wellbeing.

The NSW Public Spaces Charter¹ developed by the NSW Government acknowledges that everyone in NSW should have access to high-quality public spaces that allow them to enjoy and participate in public life.

This resonates with our community who has told us that they value high quality public open spaces and that our footpaths and bike paths need better connections to improve access to nature and help improve our overall health and well-being.

Guiding principles have been developed to support this strategy and align with the NSW Public Spaces Charter. These principles will be used by the City of Coffs Harbour to ensure that all public realm projects achieve the vision of this Strategy.

¹ NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, 2021. NSW Public Spaces Charter. NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.

The Strategy recommends that the City of Coffs Harbour becomes a signatory to the NSW Public Spaces Charter to establish a commitment to the charter principles and provide opportunities for support and funding from the NSW Government.

The Strategy proposes to achieve its vision by identifying, protecting and improving Coffs Harbour's 'Green Grid' (i.e. our community's public open space network).

By mapping a Green Grid for the City, public realm projects can be prioritised to connect our public open spaces and ensure that our whole community has access.

Whilst our open space supply is sufficient for our community at this point in time, this supply is contingent upon the provision of safe and accessible connections with trees to provide shade and shelter.

The big moves provided within this Strategy aim to protect and enhance the Coffs Harbour Green Grid and to address our community's concerns in relation to public open space.

By implementing this Strategy, the City is making a commitment to recognise the value of our public open space network and to protect and improve it for our future generations.

The City of Coffs Harbour has achieved ECO Destination Certification. We have a strong, well-managed commitment to sustainable practices and to providing high quality, nature-based tourism experiences within the region.

Importance of the Public Realm

Our community uses and relies on our public realm every day. It connects us to our homes, where we work, go to school, our favourite places and improves our health and well-being. The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated to us just how much we need our public realm.

The public realm consists of many types of public open space such as: parks, reserves, streets, creeks beaches and waterfronts. Connections between the different types of public open space must be strengthened to establish a connected network and so that everyone has access.

1. Introduction

Our Public Realm

The public realm is where people gather; build meaningful connections and form community. It captures all public land that the community use and enjoy, and is essential to how we identify a community's character. Public realm is key to our everyday lives, it is where we meet our friends and family to explore, play, learn and relax. It is not just for people, but also our native plants and animals, as it provides links to habitats and strengthens biodiversity.

Public realm elements include:

- Parks and Reserves
 - » Playgrounds
 - » Gardens
 - » Sports fields
 - » Bushlands (that are publically accessible)
- Streets and urban areas
 - » Plazas and squares
 - » Avenues, boulevards, cul-de-sacs
 - » Footpaths and bike paths
 - » Laneways and passages
- Waterways
 - » Estuaries
 - » Creeks
 - » Waterfronts
- Public beaches

"Public spaces are all publicly owned or of public use, accessible and enjoyable by all for free and without a profit motive. Each public space has its own spatial, historic, environmental, social and economic features" (United Nations Charter of Public Space 2016)

parks and reserves



streets and urban areas



waterways and beaches



The NSW Premier's Priorities

The priority represent the NSW government's commitment to enhance the quality of life for the people of NSW. The 1 priority that relate to this strategy is:

#12 Greening Our City

Increasing the tree canopy

Note: this was aimed at Greater Sydney and has since been extended to all NSW

Photo credit: Point Shoot Shine

2. Context

Coffs Harbour

The Coffs Harbour Local Government Area (LGA) is a large council area that encompasses 1,173.7 km² of land stretching north from Red Rock, south to Bundagen, and west past Brooklana and Lowanna. It is situated in a unique location where the mountains meet the sea and includes a range of different landscape settings and ecosystems from forests to grasslands, swamps, rainforests, estuaries, headlands and beaches. These beautiful natural settings are our blue and green links, which create a wide expanse of public spaces for our community to enjoy.

Approximately half of the Coffs Harbour LGA is made up of reserves, parks, National Parks and State Forest. The landscapes that make up the Coffs Harbour LGA hold special meaning for our First Nations people, the Gumbaynggirr Nation. The Gumbaynggirr people have occupied the land and seas in this area since the Yuludarla or the Dreaming. Over time Aboriginal people have grown to understand the relationships of their surrounding environments, where culture and identity are intertwined with **Country**. It is essential that this Public Realm Strategy considers the connection and meaning that the Gumbaynggirr Nation hold with our public open spaces.

The Community in Our Catchments

The Coffs Harbour LGA has been divided into 4 catchments in recognition of their distinct character: Northern, Central, Southern and Western. The following provides a discussion on how our community is likely to grow and change between now and 2040 within each catchment.

Statement of Country¹

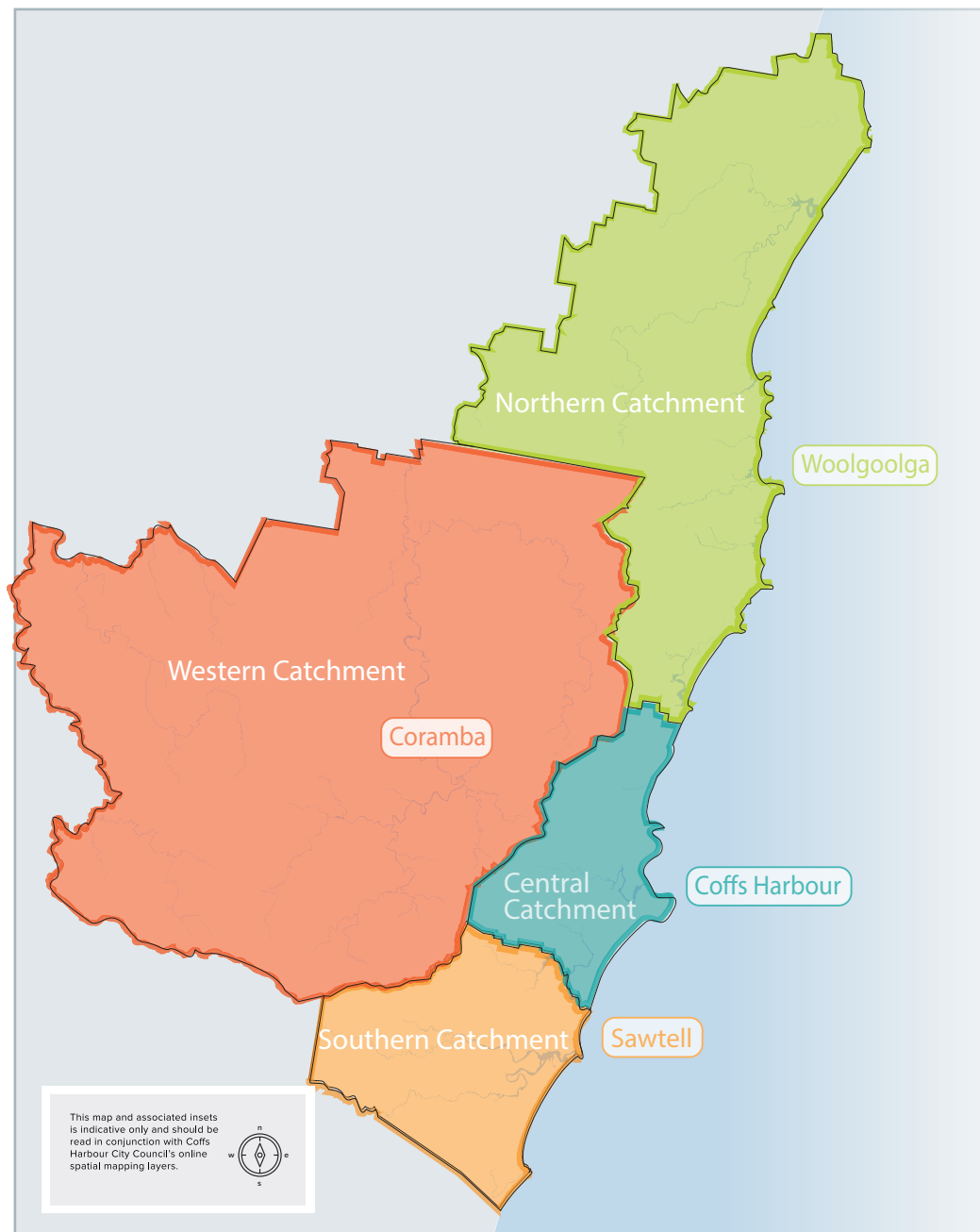
Country is a holistic worldview that incorporates humans, non-humans, more-than-humans and all the complex networks and systems that connect them. Country is known to be alive and sentient, and continually communicating. Country is not constrained by boundaries, lines on a map, or edges of a site. Instead, Country soars high into the atmosphere, plunges far into the ocean, and deep into the earth's crust. Country has diverse and distinct ways of expressing and being understood depending on the people, place, and context. Country is associated with Aboriginal people's cultural groups, it is where their ancestors still walk, and the places to which they belong. But it is much more than this. Country is known in physical, spiritual, and cultural ways. Tangibly it might include the flora, fauna, geology, elements, and waters. Intangibly Country includes expressions about place, spirit, narratives, identity, cultural practice, Law, lore, languages, and customs. Country holds all these individual aspects together harmoniously, storing knowledge like an eternal library.

While it may not have been built in the way it is currently understood, Aboriginal people have always designed and managed the environment, in collaboration with Country. The built environment is part of Country and needs to be cared for and designed as such. Likewise, relating to Country through public spaces enables those spaces to embody the spirit of place as story, culture and life are celebrated there. Because Country communicates and holds all knowledge, Country can guide what it needs to be healthy, and how it must be designed and managed, including in public spaces. Being in and activating public spaces as an extension of Country is part of caring for Country. Allowing Country to be lead designer or planner ensures the inclusion of all who access spaces, not just humans, as Country is inherently inclusive. Knowledge Holders of Country are descended from Country and know it best. Working together with them is key to understanding how to connect with and care for Country. Everyone is responsible for caring for Country as we all live, learn, work, and play on Country.

With thanks to the Elders, Knowledge Holders, kin, and family who have generously shared their knowledge and means of connecting to Country. With thanks to Country for providing these words and understandings.

Dr Danièle Hromek

¹ https://www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/484761/NSW-Public-Spaces-Charter.pdf



The **Northern Catchment** is forecast to have the biggest increase in population. It is essential that new housing provided for this growing population is connected to new and existing areas of public open space through tree lined footpaths and bike paths. It is also important that the City investigates the ability to connect this growing population to other catchments. Residents in the northern catchment have identified beaches as a prime public space for them. It is therefore also vital to ensure that residential development within this catchment is connected to these natural assets via trails and path networks.

The **Central Catchment** will have the highest population densities and associated need for public open space. Multipurpose and co-located facilities are highly recommended for this catchment, as it will be restricted by population density and limited open space. The western section of the central catchment (West Coffs) will initiate a strong trail base network that connects to reserves, schools and destinations from the west, heading east to the City Centre and Jetty.

The **Southern Catchment** will largely be comprised of empty nesters, retirees and the elderly, as the dominant age groups. Walking trails and fitness stations are favoured among these cohorts. Path widths must be suitable to accommodate mobility scooters, prams and other pedestrians to pass by each other easily. Tree planting along streets and in reserves will also be required to support people that are less mobile to enjoy the natural beauty of the catchment and support their mental health and well-being. There is also an opportunity to link this catchment to the Central Catchment along the coastline and complete the Solitary Islands Coastal Walk.

The **Western Catchment** will have the lowest growth rate out of the four catchments, with the least population increase. This catchment is likely to see a decline in some age groups, with an increase in elderly people. This decrease in some age groups is likely to be due to a lack of public investment and opportunities to access quality public open space. To retain local people, increase the number of families with children and reduce stagnation, investment into the public realm is vital. As opportunities to provide pathways and connections is restricted within this catchment, there is a potential to investigate links into State Forests and National Park trails.

The design of all public spaces within each of the 4 catchments must be multipurpose, flexible and adaptive to support a diverse range of uses, for different cultures to encourage and bolster community. The City must also consider connections and movement of people between the 4 catchments, to enable different people to mix together and meet.

Current Open Space Supply

The current best practice benchmark for access to public open space¹ is that you should arrive, pass or have access to a type of public open space within a 4 to 5 minute walk when you step outside your front door.

Using this benchmark as a guide, an analysis of all public open space within the Coffs Harbour LGA has been undertaken. The results of this analysis are positive, as currently we have a sufficient supply of public open space for our community. However it is important to note that meeting this benchmark is dependent upon strengthening connections between our various types of open spaces.

The current supply of public open space within the Coffs Harbour LGA will not be sufficient to cater for new growth areas or additional sporting needs of our community.

Future sporting needs for our community must be investigated and planned strategically at an LGA wide level.



¹ State of New South Wales (Department of Planning, Industry and Environment), 2020. Draft Greener Places Design Guide.

Places are where we get together, relax, celebrate and contemplate, as well as work, participate in civic life, learn and exchange.

Connecting with Country is an important aspect of gaining both a broader and deeper understanding of place. We can learn from this cultural understanding of the interdependency between people, their environment, and their wellbeing, and apply this as the primary frame through which we consider the design of the built environment.¹

If we care for Country, it will care for us.

¹ NSW Government. "Understanding Place." www.movementandplace.nsw.gov.au, NSW Government, 15 Nov. 2021, www.movementandplace.nsw.gov.au/place-and-network/understanding-place. Accessed 14 Dec. 2022.



3. Trends

How We Use Our Public Realm

As our lifestyles have changed, so has the way we use public space. The recent COVID-19 pandemic is clear proof of how important our public spaces are and how much we need them, not only for our physical health but also our mental health and well being.

Other changes in our lives that influence how we use the public realm include:

- We are increasingly time poor in our busy lives - this results in us seeking shorter more intense periods of exercise;
- We exercise to get fit, socialise with friends and connect with people;
- We prefer to be active in early mornings (before work) or late evenings (after work); and
- We need to seek out and connect with nature.

Trends

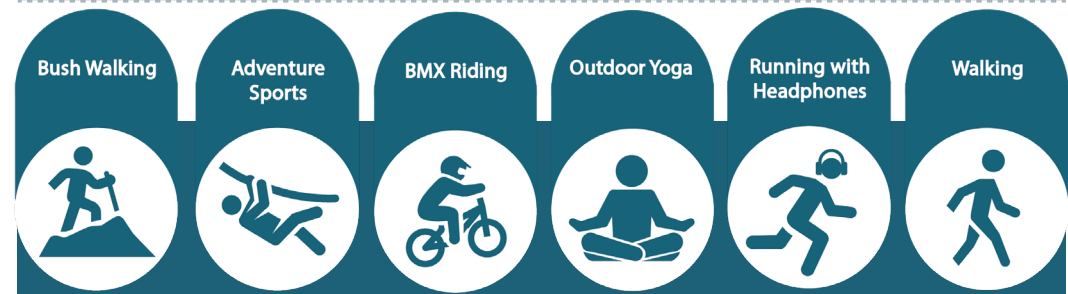
The most popular form of recreation for Australian adults is walking. This supports the feedback received through our community consultation on this Strategy in which our community identified *walking*, *jogging* and *bike riding* as their most favoured activity in the public realm.

In order to walk, cycle, or jog, our communities rely on public land to provide spaces for their needs and connections between places and destinations.

A key way to provide these connections is to use our streets. Our streets have become more of a focal point since the COVID-19 pandemic. With less cars, more bikes and more people on our streets, they have begun to revert to how we originally used them; for people to move, meet and mingle.

Streets can make up to 80% of public spaces within cities and have great potential to generate business activity, safe connections and establish the vitality of urban life! Vibrant streets generate positive social, economic, cultural and environmental outcomes. They become the key connectors to creating place where people can walk, ride, socialise and enjoy.

Most Popular Activities





4. Guiding Principles

Using Our Principles

The management, maintenance and development of public land for our community is at the heart of everything the City of Coffs Harbour does. A set of guiding principles have been developed to ensure that all public realm projects and works achieve the vision of this Strategy to create a connected network of public open space, that is clean, green and safe.

The guiding principles should inform all projects and works that impact the public realm, including:

- Developing strategies, place manuals, masterplans, development control plans and contributions plans;
- Environmental assessment;
- Development assessment;
- Project planning and design;
- Property, licencing and leasing;
- Asset maintenance and renewal; and
- Budgeting and finance.

For more detail on the Guiding Principles, refer to Appendix 2

The guiding principles are based on best practice public realm planning and our community's feedback provided as part of the development of City of Coffs Harbour's Community Strategic Plan, Local Strategic Planning Statement, Local Growth Management Strategy and draft Movement and Place Strategy (see Section 5 – What You Told Us).

The Guiding Principles



1. Connected Communities

Expanding connections within our public open space network - both physical and spiritual connections



2. People Orientated Design

When undertaking projects within the public realm, the pedestrian experience is prioritised



3. Going Green

We must focus on the environment and design with natural processes to incorporate nature into our urban lives



4. Our Growth Footprint

Reclaiming our public spaces for the community's use (e.g. streets) and investing in the quality of the public realm

Importance of Connections

Community feedback reinforces the importance of a connected public realm:



Strengthen
Our
Connections
to Nature



More
Footpaths and
Bike Paths that
are Connected



More
Trees!!



More Places
for our
Companion
Animals

Photo credit: Point Shoot Shine



5. What You Told Us

Throughout all of July 2021 and August 2021, the City of Coffs Harbour consulted with the community to validate best practice theories on public realm planning, guiding principles for this strategy (see Section 4 and Appendix 2) and the results of an early consultation process called 'Placescore'.

This testing was undertaken through a variety of consultation methods, including Online Engagement through the City of Coffs Harbour's Have Your Say website, Travelling Conversations and a School Visit.

Despite disruptions to the planned community consultation due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 270 individual feedback responses were made by members of the community.

Online Engagement

To seek input and keep our community up to date, the City of Coffs Harbour prepared a Have Your Say Page for the life of this project. The page describes the rationale for the Strategy and includes supporting online tools, such as:

- A short video on best practice public realm planning and how it is relevant to Coffs Harbour;
- An interactive map for community ideas and favourite places;
- A document Library;
- Frequently asked questions; and
- An community survey.

The community survey 'Our Open Spaces' was open to the community from July to August 2022 and sought to identify how our community utilises the public realm, validate the draft guiding principles and investigate issues associated with companion animals within the public realm. This survey was also a key conversation starter for 'Travelling Conversations'.

Travelling Conversations

The City of Coffs Harbour invited the community to have a coffee and chat with staff at local cafés (one in each of the Four Catchments), and complete a survey. Survey questions often stimulated conversations and encouraged other thoughts, memories and experiences within community responses.

The Travelling Conversations ran consecutively with a community survey on our open spaces hosted on the City's Have Your Say Page. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the City followed up with café's and local schools to notify them about the Strategy and to seek additional online feedback.

Chatting to our Youth

Throughout the consultation period, the City of Coffs Harbour was invited to visit Boambee Primary School to talk to year 5 and 6 students about the draft Public Realm Strategy. Students provided feedback to staff on how they use the public realm and what they thought could be improved. This evolved into a discussion about what the City of Coffs Harbour's role is within the public realm and how improvements within the public realm would benefit their school and students.

Your Feedback

Feedback received during the community consultation process has validated the strategic approach for the draft Public Realm Strategy (i.e. draft guiding principles, best practice guidelines and community sentiment towards our public realm).

BMX & bike tracks were the most talked about activity from the yr 5 & 6 students at Boambee Primary.



The community's most loved public spaces within Coffs Harbour



Moonee Beach Reserve



Jetty Foreshores



Coffs Creek Cycleway

My Coffs Community Check-In

During community consultation undertaken in early 2022, as part of an update to the City of Coffs Harbour's Community Strategic Plan, our community told us that:

- quality open space is important;
- footpaths and bike paths need to be improved for mental health and to provide access for people who don't drive;
- there is a need for community sporting activities that are free;
- action is required to protect our environment and to address climate change; and
- First Nations people need to be acknowledged by the City of Coffs Harbour.

The most common themes from the online survey



Our Community's Feedback

During public consultation undertaken as part of the development of this Strategy, our community told us that quality public open space is very important to them (i.e. they love quality and not quantity). This sentiment mirrors our community's feedback as part of developing the City's Local Growth Management Strategy, in which our community's top priority was "quality of public space (footpaths, verges, parks etc.).

The City's Local Growth Management Strategy seeks to deliver future growth by a Compact City Growth Model supported by a placemaking process, to ensure that our communities shape the places that they live in. A series of 'Place Manuals' and 'Movement and Place Plans' are to be prepared for key villages and precincts, such as the Jetty (west of the North Coast Rail Line), Park Beach, Moonee Beach, Toormina, Sawtell and West Coffs.

Delivering this placemaking process is vital to ensure that our community's aspirations are met and that high quality public realm outcomes are realised. The Public Realm Strategy should support this placemaking process by informing the location of the public open space network and associated active transport links. The Green Grid and Project Prioritisation Framework should be utilised to support the placemaking process to ensure that public realm works are of high quality, even if this means delivering the works over a longer period of time to enable suitable funds to be identified for the higher quality infrastructure.

6. Vision


Our vision for the Public Realm of Coffs Harbour is to:

Create a Connected Network of Public Open Space – that is clean, green and safe!

Achieving this Vision

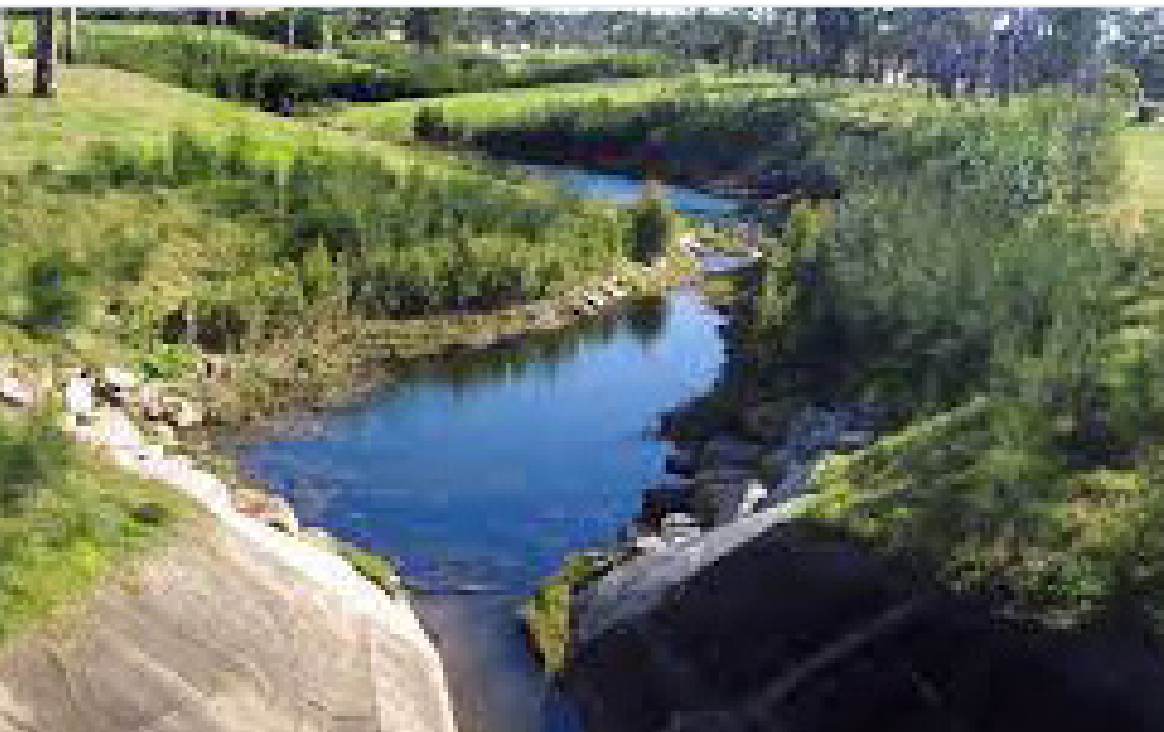
Our aim is that everyone in our community will have access to clean green and safe open space within a 4 to 5 minute walk from their home. This will be reliant on the provision of good connections and the use of different types of open space due to the size of the Coffs Harbour LGA. Some of our community may have access to either a Local Park, District Park or even a Linear Park, within a 4 to 5 minute walk from their home. The different types of open space are discussed in more detail in Appendix 1.

To assist the City of Coffs Harbour in achieving this vision, a set of guiding principles have been developed for use across the city when managing, maintaining and developing our public realm (see Section 4 Guiding Principles and Appendix 2). This is also accompanied by a 'check list' describing how to use the principles and achieve the vision (see Appendix 2).



This Vision is based on best practice public realm planning and our community's feedback provided as part of the development of the City of Coffs Harbour's Community Strategic Plan, Local Strategic Planning Statement, Local Growth Management Strategy and Draft Movement and Place Strategy. This vision has also been validated through community consultation and Placescore (see Section 5 – What You Told Us).

Green infrastructure is the network of green spaces (parks, reserves, street trees), natural systems (creeks, beaches, bushland), and semi-natural systems (constructed wetlands), that are planned and designed into urban lifestyles to mitigate climatic challenges, improve the quality of urban lifestyles, and increase interactions with nature (improving mental health and well-being).

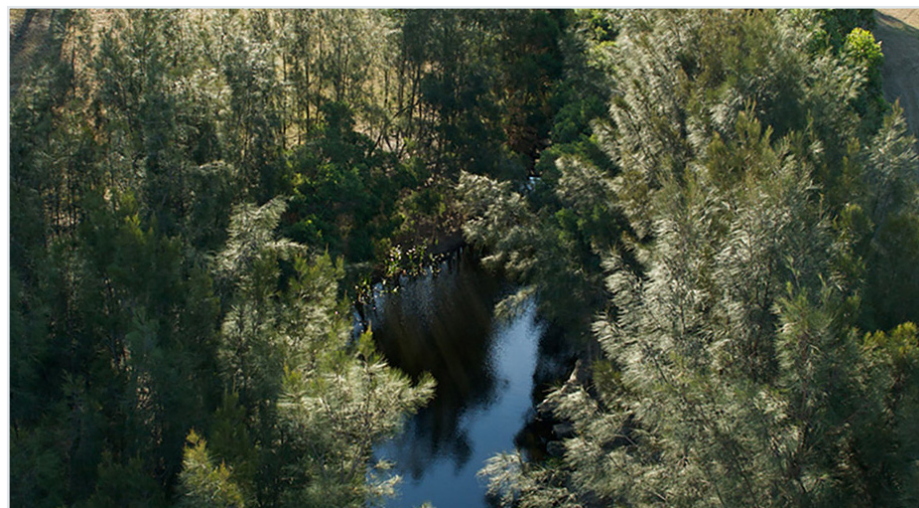


Case Study: Clear Paddock Creek Fairfield Council

Clear Paddock Creek is a green infrastructure project, developed over many years. Here the whole project was designed with a balanced approach considering the many constraints and factors such as public space requirements, environmental restoration, pedestrian connections and stormwater runoff. It began as an open concrete drain that ran through an area of open space. Close to residents and providing active transport links this asset was underutilised as one large mown area, as it only considered one site use – stormwater drainage.

Over time the stormwater channel was deconstructed and a naturally functioning (but still manufactured) creek was created. This project was designed to capture runoff and reduce pollutants getting into the creek and water cycle. This enabled the landscape to develop in a more natural form, improve biodiversity, and support natural recreational opportunities.

Green Infrastructure is not about returning areas back to their pristine natural condition, but creating a more sustainable environment that is harmonious and supportive of urban lifestyles.



7. Greener Places Framework

Greener Places

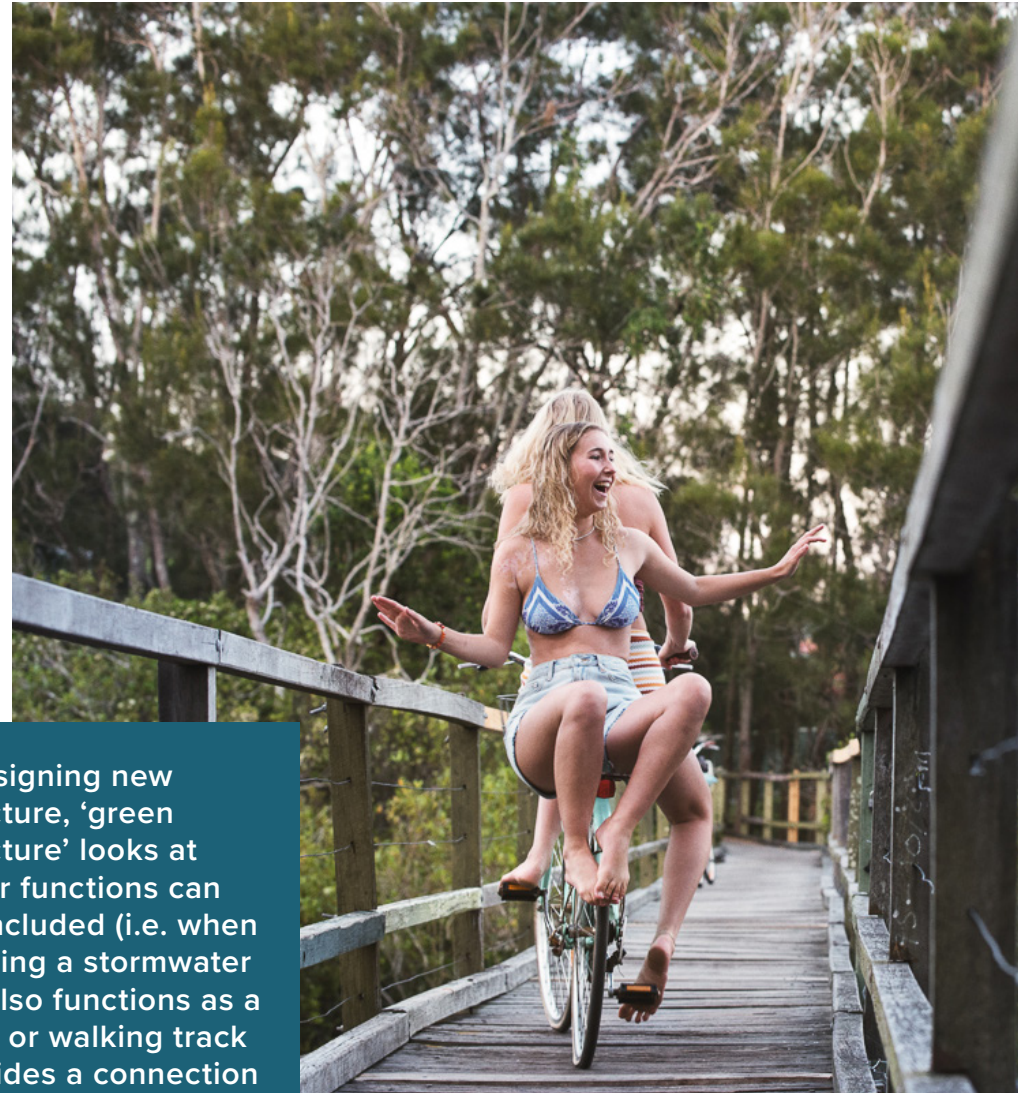
The Greener Places Framework¹ developed by the NSW Government Architects Office aims to create healthier, liveable and sustainable urban environments. The framework is centred around improving access and connections to recreation and exercise (i.e. walking and cycling connections), as well as improving the resilience of urban areas. Connections are key to this.

The Greener Places framework puts forward new ideas for open space planning, such as the provision of 'Green Infrastructure' which looks at creating 'assets' that are multifunctional and multipurpose to benefit the community in a number of ways.

This new framework looks at maximising benefits to the community (i.e. providing a stormwater channel, bike path and tree planting as one integrated system).

Green Grids

Along with the Greener Places Framework, the NSW Government Architects Office has also developed the concept of 'Green Grids'. Essentially, a green grid is developed through a mapping process to identify systems that contribute to the public realm. This enables an assessment to be undertaken on how connected the public realm network is and to identify future projects that require further planning. The green grid mapping process is useful in identifying how current systems or 'grids' are performing in certain localities and in identifying any 'gaps' that need to be addressed.



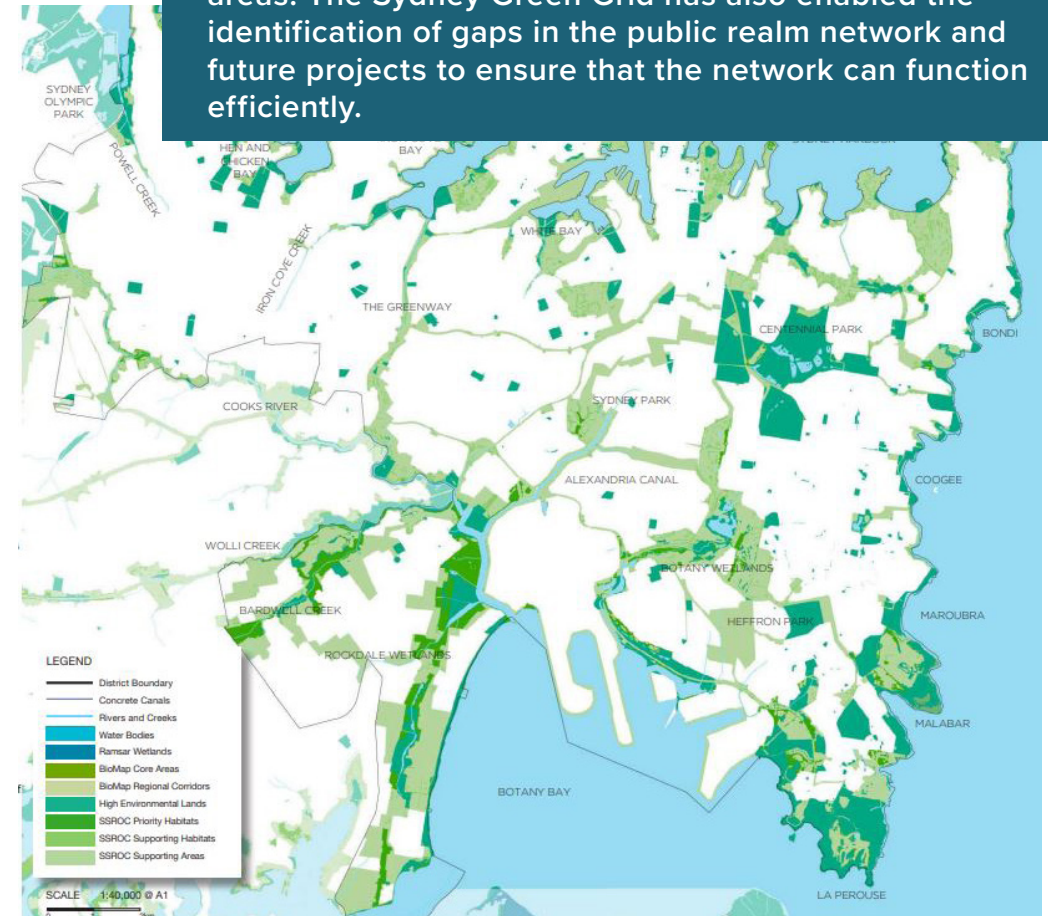
When designing new infrastructure, 'green infrastructure' looks at how other functions can also be included (i.e. when constructing a stormwater drain, it also functions as a bike path or walking track that provides a connection to other open space or residential areas).

¹ State of New South Wales (Department of Planning, Industry and Environment), 2020. Greener Places, An Urban Green Infrastructure Design Framework for New South Wales.

SYDNEY GREEN GRID

SPATIAL FRAMEWORK AND PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES

The Sydney Green Grid developed by the NSW Government Architects Office captures recreational areas, public land, hydrological systems, pedestrian and cycle networks and major roadways. This has enabled the identification of a public realm network to connect town centres, public transport hubs and major residential areas. The Sydney Green Grid has also enabled the identification of gaps in the public realm network and future projects to ensure that the network can function efficiently.



8. Coffs Harbour Green Grid

Our Green Grid

The Coffs Harbour Green Grid is a map of the public open space network within the Coffs Harbour LGA that connects our residential areas, business centres, urban areas and destinations. The green grid is based on the NSW Government's Greener Places Framework and green grid concept.

Protecting and improving our green grid will ensure that:

- Our community has sufficient access to open space;
- Our biodiversity and Aboriginal cultural heritage is protected;
- Healthy living is promoted in our community; and
- The urban heat island effect is minimised.

Our green grid was developed by overlaying a series of inter-related spatial maps or 'grids' and undertaking an analysis of missing connections between the various systems within each grid. The grids were compiled into one cohesive 'Green Grid'.

• **Hydrological Grid - Blue Links**

The hydrological grid includes our waterways and Marine Park, and their interplay with our public realm. This grid provides an opportunity to use our water systems as an interconnected network, capturing vital links and connections along waterways that are utilised by our community and biodiversity.

• **Ecological Grid - Green Links**

The ecological grid captures National Park, High Value Habitats (including freshwater wetlands, heathlands, grasslands and saline wetlands), Coastal Wetlands, Littoral Rainforests and Koala Habitat, and their interplay within the public realm. This grid provides an opportunity to protect and enhance biodiversity, in conjunction with creating green links throughout our public realm network.

• **Cultural Heritage Grid**

The cultural heritage grid captures known and predictive Aboriginal cultural heritage within our public realm. This grid provides an opportunity to ensure that cultural heritage landscape values are adequately considered and protected as part of our interconnected public realm network.

• **Recreational Grid - Green Links**

The recreational grid comprises all of our public open spaces, our parks and reserves, plazas, streets, forecourts, beaches – all places that are publically owned and publically accessible that we use to play, relax and rejuvenate. This grid portrays the existing and potential distribution and connectivity of public open space and how it can be improved to provide our community with a network of high quality green spaces.

• **Active Transport Grid**

The active transport grid captures all existing and proposed active transport links (bike paths and footpaths). This grid provides an opportunity to identify where active transport links could be provided or improved to connect our public open spaces to residential areas, business centres, urban areas and destinations (i.e. schools, hospitals, public transport interchanges, places of public worship, community centres, swimming pools and destination facilities such as the Big Banana and Dolphin Marine Magic). Active transport links provide our main connections along, through and around parks and reserves, our waterways and streets. The purpose of this grid is to connect our public open space network. This grid will enable the City to develop an Active Transport Plan for Coffs Harbour and assist in achieving the vision of this Strategy.

Key Consideration: Update the City's Local Planning Controls and Development Specifications to align footpath widths and pedestrian corridors with the Public Types (Appendix 1)

Key Consideration: Prepare an Active Transport Plan for the Coffs Harbour LGA to connect the City's public open space network

- **Residential Grid**

The residential grid, captures all of our residential areas and provides an opportunity to identify how well our residential areas are connected to our public open space network.

- **Centres Grid**

The centres grid captures all of our business and employment centres. Similar to the residential grid, the centres grid provides an opportunity to identify how well our business and employment centres are connected to our public open space network.

Purpose of the Green Grid

The Green Grid visually describes how to achieve the vision of this Strategy (i.e. a holistic network of public open space).

By mapping a Green Grid for the Coffs Harbour LGA, the City is able to protect the public open space network and ensure that our whole community has access to sufficient open space.

Spatially mapping a Green Grid also enables the City of Coffs Harbour to identify gaps (i.e. missing connections) within our open space network that can be improved over time.

The Green Grid Values

The Green Grid will enable the City of Coffs Harbour to prioritise projects based on maximum benefits for our community and overall benefits to the public open space network. Projects that encourage and improve walking and bike riding will strengthen our Green Grid and are therefore to be prioritised. Five values have been

developed to assist in the prioritisation of the City's projects so that they align with this Strategy and the draft Coffs Harbour Movement and Place Strategy:

1. Ability to mitigate identified open space deficit within the immediate area (approximately 4 to 5-minute walk) by creating direct active transport link to open space;
2. Ability to connect to and through public open space, prioritising District and Regional Parks;
3. Ability to connect to business centres and key destinations (i.e. educational establishments and hospitals);
4. Ability to connect to public transport nodes;
5. Ability to connect residential areas (existing and future) into the open space network and key destinations; and
6. Potential to strengthen or complete habitat links and strengthen habitat through both street tree planting and water sensitive urban design.

Priority projects will be identified within an Active Transport Plan developed for the Coffs Harbour LGA.

The Coffs Harbour Green Grid can be viewed and explored on City of Coffs Harbour's [Online Mapping Tool](#).

Key Consideration: Establish a Green Grid for the Coffs Harbour LGA to protect and enhance our public open space network

Key Consideration: Amend/Update the City's Local Planning Controls to ensure future development connects to the Green Grid

Key Consideration: Prioritise trees, as they are essential to our public realm



Protecting and Improving Our Green Grid

Whilst the analysis of our open space supply within the Green Grid has determined that there is a sufficient supply for our community at this point in time, this open space supply is contingent upon the City of Coffs Harbour protecting and improving its Green Grid and ensuring that the public open space which makes up the green grid is not sold or used for another purpose. It is also important that future residential growth within greenfield areas is designed to ensure that sufficient open space is provided and does not rely on the existing supply.

To do this, the City of Coffs Harbour needs to develop a framework to ensure that organisational decision making does not undermine the Coffs Harbour Green Grid and is cognisant of the vision of the Public Realm Strategy. It is also vital that projects are prioritised to strengthen the Green Grid.

Processes also need to be put in place to address discrepancies with zoning, classification and categorisation of public land identified in the Green Grid and for securing high priority links and connections as part of the development assessment process. Analysis of the City's future projects against the Green Grid should be completed to align works and achieve an efficient approach to the delivery of green infrastructure.

LEGEND

-  Crown Land
-  Regional Park
-  Land Managed by the City
-  Streets



Visual Representation of the Coffs Harbour Green Grid

Case Study: Travelling from Nugget Close to the Jetty using the Public Realm Network and Active Transport Links



1. A Linear Park on Nugget Close, West Coffs provides open space needs within a five-minute walk for residents living in the vicinity of Nugget Close.
2. If these residents travelled east along this Linear Park, it would link them to the Combine Street Reserve.
3. Moving north, through the Combine Street Reserve, they would then connect with the Westside Tennis Courts and the adjacent reserve.
4. Crossing King Street heading further north through the reserve to West High Street, they would connect to Vost Park.
5. Following Active Transport Links east they would arrive at the Coffs Harbour City Centre.
6. Heading further east through the Coffs Harbour City Centre to Brelsford Park, they could continue east onto the Jetty Foreshores.
7. Total distance of approximately 6kms! Only a 15-20 minute bike ride!

9. Public Realm Types

Categorisation of Land

Under the NSW Local Government Act 1993, the City of Coffs Harbour must 'classify' and 'categorise' all of the land it owns. There are two classifications that the City of Coffs Harbour can use for its land: 'operational' and 'community'. This is to identify land that the public can use (community) such as parks, and land which is needed for another purpose (operational) and may not be safe for the public to access (such as a City of Coffs Harbour works depot).

This Strategy focuses on land classified as 'community'. When land is classified as community, it must then be then categorised and have a Plan of Management in place. This broadly establishes the uses, activities and works that can be undertaken on the land.

There are 5 categories under the Local Government Act 1993 that can be assigned to community land:

1. Natural Area – this category is also broken down further into another six sub categories;
2. Sportsground;
3. Park;
4. Area of Cultural Significance; and
5. General Community Use.

Our Public Realm Types

The City of Coffs Harbour has also developed an internal system that describes our different types of open space within the LGA, so we know what we've got and where we've got it. This additional categorisation is referred to as 'Public Realm Types'. A type is a description of each parcel of open space and how it provides for the community.

The Public Realm Types have been developed to align with the NSW Government's Greener Places Framework and include:

- Local Park (including Small Local Parks);
- District Park;
- Regional Park;
- Coffs Coast Regional Park;
- Linear Park;
- Natural Area;
- Street;
- Sports Facility; and
- Community Garden

For a more detailed description on each of the Public Realm Types please see Appendix 1.

The ultimate aim of this Strategy is to connect all of the various public realm types within the Coffs Harbour LGA, so that everyone can access each type, no matter where they live. Our community should be able to access at least one of the public realm types within a 4 to 5-minute walk from their place of residence, connecting them directly into our public open space network. Our Green Grid should enable our community to safely walk, ride, skate, scoot anywhere within our LGA. If our Green Grid is connected, access is provided to all.

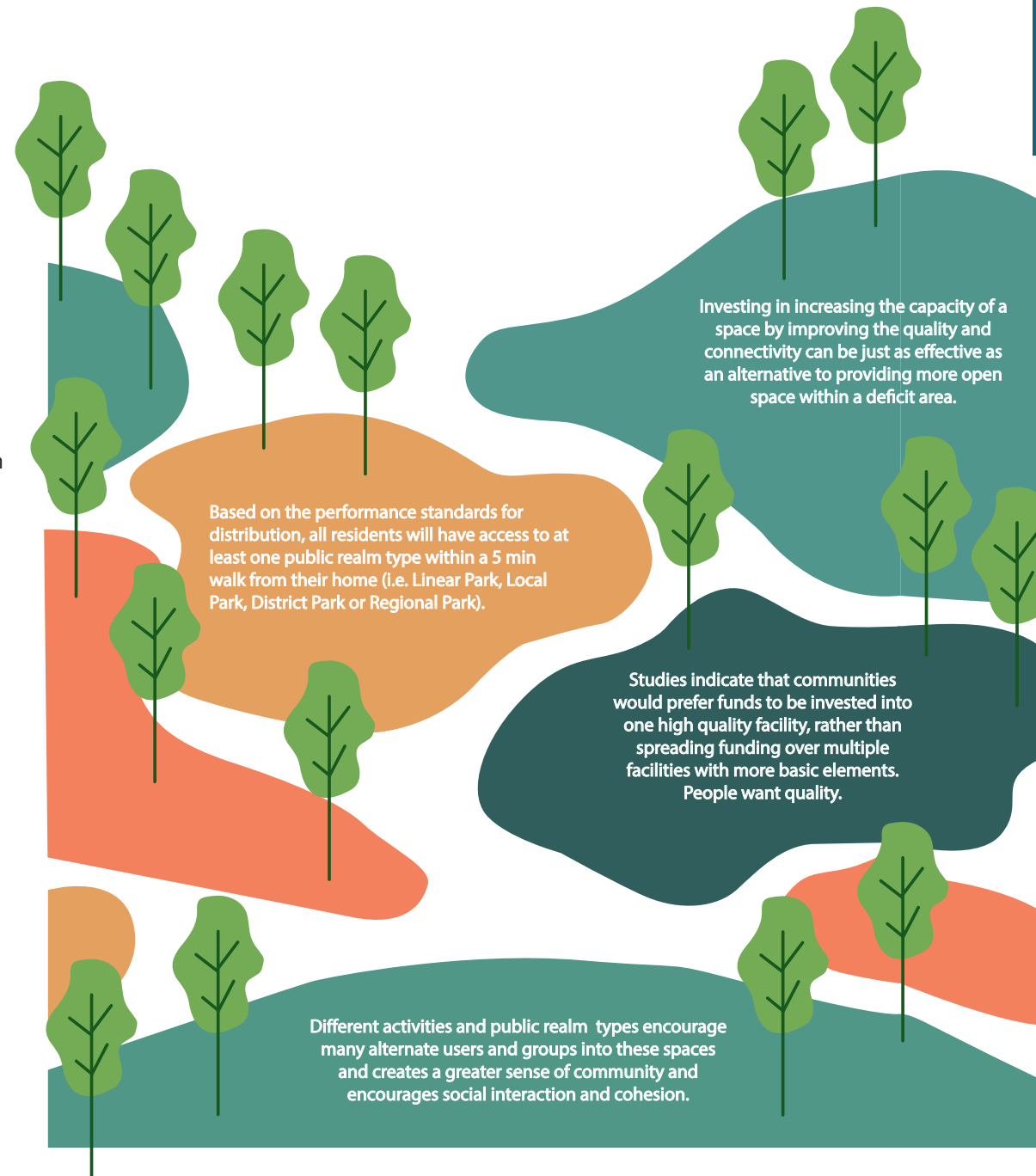
Performance Based Approach to Prioritising Levels of Service

Best practice open space planning and management has moved away from traditional benchmark standards towards a more performance based approach.

To assist the City of Coffs Harbour in prioritising public realm works, the following set of performance criteria is to be used to inform levels of service and provision for each public realm type:

- **Accessibility and Connection –**
 - » ease of access to the City of Coffs Harbour's public open space and active transport network both visually and physically; and
 - » access to public open space within a 5-minute walk that is uninhibited by major barriers (highway, watercourse, railway line).
- **Distribution & Quantity –**
 - » existing provision and diversity of public realm types;
 - » existing and potential connectivity between public realm types;
 - » quantity and diversity of public realm types within each catchment; and
 - » alignment with the City of Coffs Harbour's public open space network and active transport network.
- **Quality –**
 - » the standard of elements and/or equipment and associated ongoing maintenance requirements.
- **Diversity –**
 - » existing range of activities available within the public realm types.

Note: the performance criteria are all weighted equally.



10. Managing Our Tricky Issues

Companion Animals

Living with our Furry Friends

We see our companion animals (pets) as members of our family and it is important to provide safe public spaces for them to enjoy along with their families. However, not everyone in the community is a pet owner, therefore the City of Coffs Harbour must establish a balance within our public realm for all.

The NSW Companion Animals Act 1998 sets out the rules that define where we can and cannot take our pets in public. The most relevant rules for this Strategy include the following:

- requirements for dogs and owners within a public place;
- lists of public areas that dogs are prohibited (i.e. children playgrounds, schools, childcare centres, certain recreational areas and wildlife protection areas);
- a requirement for at least one public place within the Coffs Harbour LGA to be an off-leash area; and
- authority for City of Coffs Harbour to declare a public place to be an off-leash area.

The Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 also stipulates that the City of Coffs Harbour has a custodial and legislative requirement to protect the environment. The City must examine and assess all activities on public land that are currently affecting and have the potential to affect the environment. Approval cannot be granted for an activity that may significantly affect the environment unless an environmental impact statement has been prepared assessing the potential impacts.

City of Coffs Harbour – Stewards of the Environment

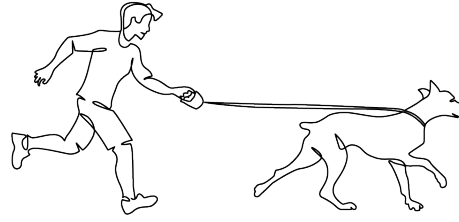
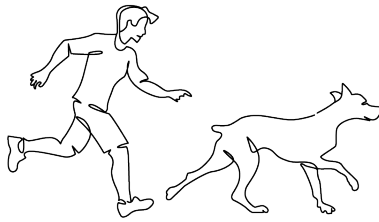
As much as we love our companion animals, they can have a significant impact on our environment unless managed appropriately. There are some beaches within the Coffs Harbour LGA where dogs are permitted (either on or off leash), but are having a negative impact on the environment and wildlife. Shore birds that nest in estuary and beach environments are becoming disturbed by dogs, leaving their nests and not returning. This is resulting in population decline in the shore birds.

It is understood and acknowledged that certain localities are loved by dogs and their owners. However, it is vital that the City of Coffs Harbour manages the impacts from dogs on the wildlife and the environment. The City must take an active role to ensure that animal owners comply with the rules put in place for the management of dogs in public places. The City should also work in partnership with the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service and seek funding to establish an educational and compliance program.

For more information and reading regarding the impacts of dogs on beaches please [follow this link](#).

Case Study

In 2020, a decision made by the Northern Beaches Council in Sydney to permit dogs on a beach, which contained threatened seagrass and seahorse habitat was challenged in the NSW Land and Environment Court. The case tested the Council's ability to assess the environmental impact of the activity. Evidence was provided by aquatic experts to demonstrate that by allowing dogs on the beach, the environment was severely affected. The Land and Environment Court found that the Council did not properly consider the environmental impacts when deciding to allow dogs on a beach which contained threatened seagrass and seahorse habitat.



Dogs On Beaches

Dogs Allowed Off Leash

- Boambee Beach
- North Wall Beach
- Emerald Beach (north of Fiddamans Creek)
- Hearn's Lake Beach
- Woolgoolga Back Beach (subject to seasonal restrictions during Little Tern breeding season)
- Darkum Beach (subject to seasonal restrictions during Little Tern breeding season)
- Corindi/Pipeclay Beach (south of Ocean Street)

We also have 2 Off Leash Dog Parks:

- Thompsons Road Reserve Dog Park
- West Coffs Reserve District Park

Dogs Allowed On Leash

- Sawtell Beach (north)(Murray's Beach)
- Charlesworth Bay
- Korora Beach
- Hills Beach
- Campbells Beach
- Sapphire Beach
- Moonee Beach
- Safety Beach
- Mullaway Beach
- Mullawarra Beach (Ocean View Beach)
- Arrawarra Beach
- Red Rock Beach
- Little Beach
- Corindi Beach (north of Ocean Street)
- Woolgoolga Beach (north of Hofmeier Close)

Dogs Prohibited

- Sawtell Main Beach (including Sawtell Beach Reserve and Rock Pool)
- Jetty Beach
- Park Beach (including Park Beach Reserve)
- Emerald Beach (southern end)
- Diggers Beach
- Sandy Beach
- Woolgoolga Beach (southern end)

Creating A Balanced Approach

There are currently a number of areas within the public realm where companion animals are allowed within the Coffs Harbour LGA:

- Seven beaches where dogs are allowed off leash;
Note: 2 of these beaches are subject to seasonal restrictions during Little Tern breeding season)
- Fifteen beaches where dogs are allowed on leash; and
- Two formal off leash dog parks.

Whilst there are multiple benefits for dog off leash areas, including exercise and socialisation for both pet and owners alike, some segments of the community do not want dog off leash areas, particularly on certain beaches due to social and environmental impacts. It is the City of Coffs Harbour's duty to ensure that our community and their pets are able to enjoy the public realm, whilst minimising impacts on our environment – a balanced approach.

Increasing the number of off leash areas within formal dog parks, can assist in reducing conflicts in other more highly pedestrianised public areas and environmentally sensitive areas. To test this idea we asked our community the following questions during travelling conversations and an online Survey:

- Where and why our community likes to take their dog in the public realm;
- Would our community take their dog to a formal dog park and how far would they be willing to travel; and
- What facilities would our community like to see in formal dog parks.

Feedback identified that the City of Coffs Harbour's existing dog parks are currently underutilised for a number of reasons and could be improved.

The West Coffs dog park is restricted in size, where as some dog owners are after a larger space for their dogs to run. Whilst the Thompson's Road dog park is adequate in size, our community has identified that it lacks the following elements:

- Fully fenced site;
- Facilities for people;
- Drinking fountain for dogs and people;
- Stimulating activities for dogs and people (agility courses); and
- Shade, shelter and protection from the sun and elements.

Issues have also been raised in relation to an open drain which runs through the dog park. Many dog owners won't use the facility, as their dogs get dirty and there are no facilities to clean them.

The City of Coffs Harbour has the potential to increase the usage and capacity of the Thompson's Road dog park by addressing these issues and providing strong active transport links to the facility, connecting into the public open space network. Attracting more dog owners to this facility may also alleviate some of the social and environmental impacts from dogs on our beaches. In the longer term, the City of Coffs Harbour should investigate the need for an additional (non-beach) dog park in the southern catchment.

Given that the majority of the beaches where dogs are allowed (both on and off leash) are within the Northern Catchment, an off leash dog park is not a priority within this catchment. This was reinforced by the feedback from the community which identified that residents within the Northern Catchment preferred to take their dog to the beach. Strategies for reducing social and environmental issues from dogs within the public realm in this catchment should therefore focus on responsible dog ownership and educational campaigns.

Damage to dunal areas is of particular concern at Boambee Beach.

Disturbance to "Little Terns", an endangered species, and turtles, at Hearn's Lake Beach and Sandy Beach North has been identified as a concern.

Key Consideration: Update the Coffs Harbour Companion Animals Management Plan

Key Consideration: Develop Place Manuals and Movement and Place Plans for Key Villages and Precincts

Developing A Companion Animals Management Plan

The City of Coffs Harbour needs to strategically identify issues associated with companion animals within the Coffs Harbour LGA and develop strategies to address the identified issues through an updated Companion Animals Management Plan.

Companion animals management plans provide an animal management framework and a commitment from councils to the provision of an effective companion animals service under the Companion Animals Act 1998.

The City of Coffs Harbour's Companion Animals Management Plan should be updated to outline strategies to minimise conflicts between companion animals and people within public spaces and to ensure the safety of everyone (including our animals). This updated plan should include an education and compliance campaign, targeting localities such as Moonee Beach to reduce the social and environmental impacts from companion animals.



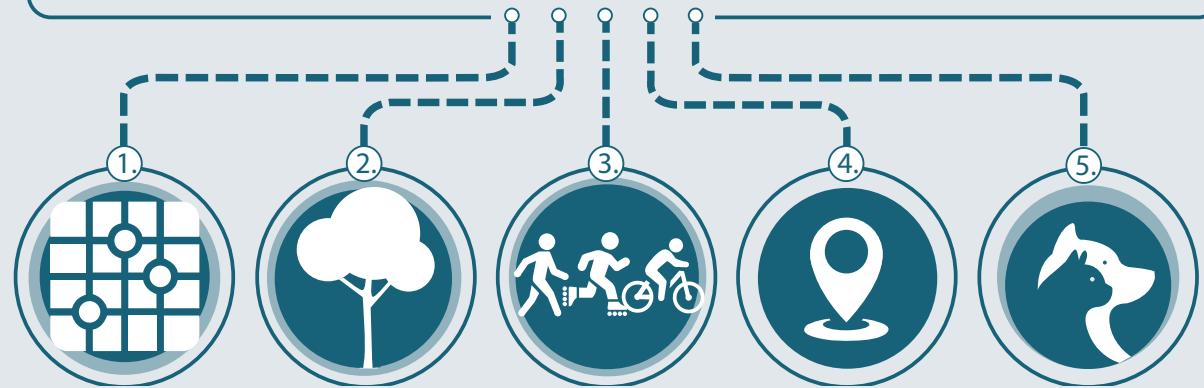
11. Recommendations to Achieve Our Vision

The City has developed 5 Big Moves and a number of future consideration which are based on community consultation (issues identified the community), best practice public realm guidelines and emerging trends in the use of public open space.

The 5 Big Moves are considered to be the highest priority for the City to achieve the vision of this Strategy. A number of future considerations have also been identified that the City should address when adequate funding and resources are available.

Vision

Create a Connected Network of Public Open Space – that is clean, green and safe



DELIVER 5 BIG MOVES

1. Establish a Green Grid Framework

2. Establish a Public Realm Tree Delivery Program

3. Support the Preparation & Implementation of an Active Transport Plan

4. Support City of Coffs Harbour's Placemaking Framework

5. Promote Responsible Pet Ownership in the Public Realm

BIG MOVE 1

Establish a Green Grid Framework



The Coffs Harbour 'Green Grid' is the entire public open space network within the Coffs Harbour LGA.

Analysis of the open space supply within the Green Grid has determined that there is a sufficient supply of open space for our community at this point in time. This is, contingent upon the City protecting and improving its Green Grid and ensuring that the public open space is not sold off or used for another purpose. It is also important that future residential growth within greenfield areas is designed so sufficient open space is provided within growth areas and does not rely on the existing supply.

It is recommended that the City of Coffs Harbour become a signatory to the NSW Public Spaces Charter and utilises the practitioners guide when designing/managing public open space. This will establish a commitment to the principles and provide opportunities for support and funding from the NSW Government.

To achieve this, the City needs to develop a framework and procedure to ensure that:

- decision making is cognisant of the vision of the Public Realm Strategy to Create a Connected Network of Public Open Space – and does not negatively impact on the Green Grid;
- funding opportunities are identified to strengthen the Green Grid;
- discrepancies with zoning, classification and categorisation of public land identified in the Green Grid are rectified as part updating and preparing new Plans of Management;
- a process is established for securing high priority active transport links, as part of the development assessment process; and
- a process is put in place to prioritise the City's future projects in alignment with the Green Grid to achieve an efficient approach to the delivery of green infrastructure and multiple benefits for the community.

Resourcing:

- Update Contributions Plans to include high priority projects that will deliver green infrastructure.

Delivery:

Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority Timeframe
Amend the City's Local Planning controls to ensure future development connects into the Coffs Harbour Green Grid	Local Planning	Immediate
Establish a Green Grid Framework	Local Planning	Short Term 1-4 years
Strengthen and Improve the Coffs Harbour Green Grid with Active Transport Links	Transport & Open Spaces Services	Medium term 5-10 years Ongoing 10+ years

CSP Objectives	LSPS Planning Priorities (PP)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We support our community to lead healthy active lives• We create liveable places that are beautiful and appealing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PP1• PP2



BIG MOVE 2

Establish a Public Realm Tree Delivery Program

Trees are essential to the success of this Public Realm Strategy and the City of Coffs Harbour's draft Movement and Place Strategy. They provide shade and refuge for pedestrians utilising active transport links and visually frame the paths and connections, allowing pedestrians and cyclists to find their way along the public opens space network instinctively. Importantly, trees strengthen habitat connections in urban areas and ensure that our environment is resilient.

Despite strong community sentiment for the provision of more trees within the public realm and overwhelming evidence on the environmental, social and economic benefits, an average of 240 mature trees are removed from the public realm by the City annually. There is currently no procedure in place to guide the City on the replacement of trees lost from the public realm over the past ten years. Additionally, funding currently allocated towards the replacement, protection and delivery of trees within our public realm is insufficient.

To ensure that we replace the trees lost within our public realm over the past decade, it is strongly recommended that the City develop a tree delivery program to: establish a commitment to the protection of trees within the public realm; identify priority planting zones for the Coffs Harbour LGA; and identify innovative funding opportunities for planning, planting, maintenance and succession planting.

Case Study: City of Sydney

City of Sydney consider trees as financial capital assets since 2005. Trees are long-term assets like utilities, built form, roads and footpaths. Sydney's approach to protecting and improving their tree assets includes:

- Forward planning – *Urban Forest Strategy & Greening Sydney Strategy*
- Policy to support the Strategies- *Tree Management and Donation Policy*

Resourcing:

- Identify innovative funding opportunities for a public realm tree delivery program.

Delivery:

Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority Timeframe
Establish a Public Realm Tree Delivery Program	Transport & Open Spaces Services/ Local Planning	Short Term 1-4 years
Implement the Public Realm Tree Delivery Program	Transport & Open Spaces Services	Ongoing 10+ years

CSP Objectives	LSPS Planning Priorities (PP)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We support our community to lead healthy active lives• We create liveable places that are beautiful and appealing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PP1• PP2

An average of 240 mature trees are removed from the public realm by the City annually. There is currently no policy in place to guide the City on the replacement of trees

BIG MOVE 3

Support the Preparation and Implementation of an Active Transport Plan



Active Transport is physical activity undertaken as a means of transport and includes travel by foot, bicycle and other non motorised vehicles. Active Transport Plans promote active lifestyles by making it easy for the community to walk, ride, skate or scoot throughout the public realm by identifying Active Transport Links. These links are well-designed and connected networks for all people of all ages and abilities to ride bikes, scooters or walk to get around.

Development and implementation of an Active Transport Plan for the Coffs Harbour LGA is therefore vital to achieve the Vision of this Public Realm Strategy. Active Transport Links identified within this Plan will be the key to a connected public open space network for our community.

It is recommended that an Active Transport Plan is developed for the Coffs Harbour LGA, as sub-component of the City's draft Movement and Place Strategy. This plan should capture Active Transport Links throughout the Coffs Harbour Green Grid and identify where improvements are required (i.e. completing a missing section).

This is to include the Coffs Creek Cycleway given that this facility is such a significant community asset and its number of users continue to increase, Consideration should be given to upgrading this facility and investigate the potential widening of the path where needed, as this will enable easy passing by cyclists and pedestrians.

Resourcing:

- Support the preparation and implementation of an active transport plan as proposed in the City's draft Coffs Harbour Movement and Place Strategy.

Delivery:

Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority Timeframe
Update the City's Local Planning Controls and Development Specifications to align footpath widths and pedestrian corridors with the Public Types	Local Planning	Immediate
Prepare an Active Transport Plan for the Coffs Harbour LGA	Local Planning	Short Term 1-4 years
Implement City of Coffs Harbour's Active Transport Plan	Transport & Open Spaces Services	Ongoing 10+ years

Note: the Active Transport Grid (see chapter 8 Coffs Harbour Green Grid page 17) refers to the network of paths in the Active Transport Plan.

CSP Objectives	LSPS Planning Priorities (PP)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We support our community to lead healthy active lives • We create liveable places that are beautiful and appealing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PP1 • PP2



BIG MOVE 4

Support City of Coffs Harbour's Placemaking Framework

During public consultation undertaken as part of the development of this Strategy, our community told us that quality public open space is very important to them (i.e. they love quality and not quantity). This sentiment mirrors our community's feedback as part of developing the City's Local Growth Management Strategy in which our community's top priority was "quality of public space (footpaths, verges, parks etc.)".

Quality places consist of a combination of environmental, social and economic elements that result in places that people want to be in. Successful places are not just about getting land uses and locations right, but also the physical form of development. It is essential to consult and understand the local community to create quality successful places that promote social connections, health and well-being and support its longevity. To get the balance right, a placemaking process must be undertaken.

The City's Local Growth Management Strategy seeks to deliver future growth by a Compact City Growth Model, supported by a placemaking process, to ensure that our communities shape the places that they live in. A series of 'Place Manuals' and 'Movement and Place Plans' are to be prepared for key villages and precincts, such as the Jetty (west of the North Coast Rail Line), Park Beach, Moonee Beach, Toormina, Sawtell and West Coffs.

Delivering this placemaking process is vital to ensure that the vision of this Strategy is met and that high quality public realm outcomes are realised. The Public Realm Strategy should support this placemaking process by informing the location of the public open space network and associated active transport links. The Green Grid Framework should be utilised to support the placemaking process to ensure that public realm works are of high quality, even if this means delivering the works over a longer period of time to enable suitable funds to be identified for the higher quality infrastructure.

Resourcing:

- Support the Placemaking Framework as proposed in Chapter 3 of the Coffs Harbour Local Growth Management Strategy 2020.

Delivery:

Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority Timeframe
Develop Place Manuals and Movement and Place Plans for Key Villages and Precincts	Local Planning	Medium term 5-10 years
Implement Place Manuals and Movement and Place Plans for Key Villages and Precincts	Transport & Open Spaces Services/ Local Planning	Medium term 5-10 years

CSP Objectives	LSPS Planning Priorities (PP)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We support our community to lead healthy active lives• We attract people to work, live and visit in the Coffs Harbour local government area	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PP1• PP3• PP9

BIG MOVE 5

Promote Responsible Pet Ownership in the Public Realm



If not managed appropriately, dogs in public places can impact on environmental values and cause conflict with other members of the community who do not own dogs. The City of Coffs Harbour needs to strategically identify issues associated with companion animals within the Coffs Harbour LGA and develop strategies to address the identified issues by updating its Companion Animals Management Plan. The updated Companion Animals Management Plan should seek to minimise conflicts between companion animals and people within public spaces and ensure the safety of everyone (including our animals). The updated Plan should also include a significant education and compliance program to increase awareness of dog etiquette, rules on our beaches and other prominent high profile public spaces (i.e. Jetty Foreshores and Moonee Beach Reserve). To alleviate environmental and social impacts on our beaches, the City of Coffs Harbour should upgrade Thompson's Road Dog Park to service the Central Catchment, including: fencing of the entire site, providing an area at the entry for a 'holding pen' for safe entry and exit with dogs; facilities for people and dogs (i.e. seating and water fountains); providing tree plantings for shade and refuge; filling the open drain that runs through the site; and providing active transport links to surrounding residential areas.

Resourcing:

- Unfunded - seek external grant funding to update the City of Coffs Harbour's Companion Animals Management Plan.
- Funded - captured with the current delivery program.

Delivery:

Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority Timeframe
Update the Coffs Harbour Companion Animals Management Plan	Compliance and Regulatory Enforcement	Short term 1-4 years
Implement the updated Coffs Harbour Companion Animals Management Plan	Compliance and Regulatory Enforcement	Ongoing 10+ years
Upgrade Thompson's Road Dog Park	Transport & Open Spaces Services	Short term 1-4 years

CSP Objectives	LSPS Planning Priorities (PP)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We protect the diversity of our natural environment • We create liveable places that are beautiful and appealing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PP1 • PP3 • PP7



FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

A number of specific issues were identified during the development of this Strategy that require further consideration. The City should investigate these issues either as business as usual or alternatively, funding opportunities should be identified to resolve the issues.

Bakker Drive Reserve

Community feedback has identified a need to develop a masterplan for Bakker Drive Reserve, Bonville. As part of this masterplanning process, access to the reserve via the Crown Road to Crossmaglen Road is to be resolved to ensure that community access is maintained. This project will require targeted consultation with the local community to create a balanced masterplan for the reserve and enable current uses.

The following activities and uses within the reserve will all need consideration within the masterplan:

- Informal low-key horse area for riding, socialising and informal activities.
Note: the main access for horse riding will be walking/riding to the reserve into the horse area.
- Public open space for the community to utilise, with the potential for seating areas and walking track; and
- Secure public connections through to Crossmaglen Road from Bakker Drive Reserve to maintain a connected network of public open space.

Mountain Bike Trails

There is a keen interest in our community for mountain bike trails. Purpose built trails in forest locations attract mountain bike riders to travel and stay. State Forest in proximity to the urban areas of the Coffs Harbour LGA may be highly suitable for the development of mountain bike trails that are appealing and accessible to mountain

bike riders. This has the potential to contribute to local outdoor recreation opportunities and the local economy through tourism and visitation. Investigation is required, in consultation with NSW Forestry Corporation as to the suitability/availability of State Forests near urban areas for development of mountain bike trails. An investigation needs to be carried out to understand the demand for mountain bike trails, as well as the availability of suitable public land and the potential for approval/construction of trails on that land. This would involve consultation and collaboration with NSW Forest Corporation, traditional custodians of the land and the mountain biking community.

District Facilities

A District Park should be provided within each of the four catchments within the Coffs Harbour LGA (see Appendix 1). Currently the Western Catchment does not have a district facility and the existing district facility within the Southern Catchment does not meet the access and size requirements of a District Park. The City of Coffs Harbour should investigate funding opportunities to decommission Boronia Park in Sawtell as a District Park, as it does not meet access and size requirements of a District Park. To replace this loss, the City of Coffs Harbour should investigate the provision of a District Park in Amaroo Crescent Toormina, as this location meets the requirements of a District Park in relation to size, location, proximity and surrounding connections. Targeted community engagement must be undertaken to understand what this facility may provide for the community, with a focus on youth spaces and active recreation. Once the nature of the facility is defined for the nominated site, a high-level concept design should be developed. In the longer term, the City of Coffs Harbour should investigate the need for a District Park in the Western Catchment.

FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

Jetty Foreshores

The Jetty Foreshores is a place that is highly valued by our community for its public open space. It has a rich history and substantial cultural significance both to the Indigenous peoples of the region and to its non-Aboriginal population. Community consultation undertaken as part of the development of this Public Realm Strategy identified our community's love for the Jetty Foreshores and the need to protect open space within this precinct. The City of Coffs Harbour should continue to represent our community's passion for this much loved place, as part of any future projects in the locality to ensure that the public open space is protected and enhanced for our community.

Strategic Long Term Use of Council Owned Land

To assist the City in meeting the vision/ benchmark in the future as our community grows, both the Englands Road Waste Facility and the decommissioned water treatment plant on Hulberts Lane must be retained in the City of Coffs Harbour's ownership.

Hulberts Lane facility (Lot 6 DP 755536) must be retained for open space purposes as it has the potential to provide for future community use as open space, active recreation and environmental/habitat links. This facility is to be repurposed for public open space / environmental conservation and must connect into the City of Coffs Harbour's Green Grid (public open space network) through active transport links. The site should be investigated for rezoning from Zone SP2 (infrastructure) to Zone RE1 Public Recreation) and Conservation Zones, as there is significant opportunity for recreation and protection of high conservation value land. A similar process should be undertaken for the England's Road Waste Facility once it is no longer required for waste services. The site's strategic location provides for future opportunities to extend the existing Sports Precinct on Stadium

Drive. A future investigation should be undertaken to determine how this facility will best serve the recreational and/or sporting needs of our community.

Investigate an Indigenous Land Use Agreement

The City of Coffs Harbour is the land manager for various crown reserves within the Coffs Harbour LGA. The Native Title Act 1993 (Cth) and Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 both apply to crown reserves and must be taken into consideration for any use and/or works undertaken on the reserves. Consideration of native title and Aboriginal land claims by the City of Coffs Harbour is currently reactive and is negatively impacting the use and management of such reserves.

The City of Coffs Harbour should commence discussions with the original custodians of the land and investigate the potential for the development of a strategic LGA wide Indigenous Land Use Agreement.

This is an agreement between native title parties and other stakeholders about the use and management of areas of land and/or waters. Once registered, all native title holders are bound to the terms of the agreement, which operates as a contract between the parties. Strategically addressing native title will enable the City to better manage crown reserves and provide certainty for future works on such land.

FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

Undertake Regular Reviews of the City's Sports Facility & Active Recreation Plan

The Public Realm Strategy focuses on the supply and demand of public open space for our community's use. It does not consider future trends, needs or expansion of sporting facilities, as this is addressed by the City's Sports Facility and Active Recreation Plan. Whilst there is a sufficient supply of open space for our community at this point in time, this supply is contingent upon the City of Coffs Harbour not selling it off, or using it for another purpose. All of our existing public open space is required for our community's open space needs. To ensure sufficient supply of sporting facilities, it is imperative that the City undertakes regular reviews (every five years) of its Sports Facility and Active Recreation Plan to understand the needs, trends and supply of open space for sports and active recreation. These reviews should alternate in the level of detail, with a more detailed review undertaken every ten years. Such reviews are required as an ongoing process to ensure that the future sporting needs of our community are strategically aligned with the Public Realm Strategy and link into the City of Coffs Harbour's Green Grid (i.e. public open space network).

Develop a Water Sensitive Urban Design Development Servicing Plan

Water Sensitive Urban Design: In Coffs Harbour, urban stormwater significantly impacts our public realm, including our waterways and the Solitary Islands Marine Park. Existing stormwater systems are not improving the quality of stormwater runoff from development. Currently Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) structures either become public assets maintained by the City of Coffs Harbour (i.e. bioretention basins in greenfield development areas) or remain in private ownership (i.e. systems constructed on a lot by lot basis for infill development).

This is a disjointed process and maintenance of private systems is not as effective, as City of Coffs Harbour managed assets. Individual on-lot systems often fail to achieve pollutant reductions and can create a burden for development on constrained sites.

Catchment Based Approach: An holistic WSUD approach on public land can integrate stormwater management into the landscape to improve public open space, and recreational and visual amenity for the community. A catchment based approach should be investigated by the City through a Development Servicing Plan to identify solutions in a holistic manner, particularly for built up areas where WSUD solutions can be expensive and not very effective.

12. Future Open Space Supply

Future Supply

To ensure that we provide enough open space for our growing community, it is essential that when our growth areas are being investigated for rezoning for residential purposes, they provide sufficient open space as part of their development and do not rely on our existing public open space network. Similarly, when infill areas are being investigated for additional housing and higher density housing, the City of Coffs Harbour must ensure that the infill area is adequately planned and that sufficient open space is provided for the new residents, or if not possible, that sufficient active transport links are provided to connect the new residents to the public open space network.

Proponents of rezoning proposals must demonstrate to the City of Coffs Harbour how they will supply public open space within their development site and/or provide adequate justification for relying on links to the City's existing open space network.

For example: if a proposed development is isolated from the existing public open space network and cannot access a public realm type within a five-minute walk, the development must provide an additional public realm type (i.e. a Local Park or Linear Park Type) within the development site. If the proposed development is unable to provide an additional public realm type within the development site and is able to provide adequate justification, the City of Coffs Harbour may support the development if active transport links can be provided to connect the development into the existing public open space network.

Future growth and infill areas are identified within Chapter 4 of the City's Local Growth Management Strategy. The matters in Appendix 3 are to be taken into consideration as part of rezoning proposals for specified growth and infill areas, and captured as part of the development of Place Manuals and/or updates to the City of Coffs Harbour's Development Control Plan.



Photo credit: Point Shoot Shine



13. Delivering Our Strategy - Leadership

A New Way of Working

This Strategy is reliant upon a new way of delivering infrastructure in our public realm, with a move towards the provision of 'Green Infrastructure' which looks at creating 'assets' that are multifunctional and multipurpose to benefit the community in a number of ways.

A project prioritisation framework should be embedded into the City of Coffs Harbour's processes. A key action in this Strategy, is for the City of Coffs Harbour to undertake an analysis of its Green Grid and Delivery Program to align and prioritise projects. Prioritisation will assist the City of Coffs Harbour in identifying projects that provide multiple outcomes for our community (i.e. completing a missing link within our green grid, whilst improving stormwater infrastructure and biodiversity outcomes at the same time). This Project Prioritisation Framework should be built into the City of Coffs Harbour's asset management planning processes and long term financial planning processes.

This strategy is to be a 'living' document and needs to be reviewed every 5 years with the current best practice theory, to ensure it is relevant and meets the community's open space needs.

Local Park

Local Park Uses

Local parks provide spaces for small recreational games in a simple responsive manner and adapt to changing demographics and emerging recreational trends. To achieve this, local parks will contain areas for informal recreational games on both open grassed areas (soccer, football etc.) and hardstand/concrete (basketball, handball etc.). Formal infrastructure, such as playgrounds will be minimised in Local Parks where there is no demonstrated need from the local neighbourhood and where the following criteria is met:

The Local Park:

- is located within a 5-10-minute walk of a District Park or another Local Park; or
- has strong connections (footpath/bike path) to a District Park; or
- contains existing playground infrastructure that is not regularly used and requires repair; or
- does not meet the Performance Criteria for levels of service (see page 22);

Where the above criteria is met for a specific Local Park, existing playground infrastructure may be redistributed to a locality where there is demonstrated need. In a situation where playground infrastructure is removed from a Local Park, the City of Coffs Harbour is to ensure that strong footpath and bike path connections are provided from the Local Park to the nearest Local Park or District Park. It must then provide infrastructure within the Local Park for informal recreational games and trees for shade and shelter.

Local Park Requirements

- Minimum 5,000 - 7,000sqm in area (low and medium density);
- Minimum 1,500 - 3,000sqm in area (high density);
- 50% of the site with road frontage for access and visual surveillance;
- Tree plantings;
- Facilities for short visits (concrete slab and grassed areas for informal games);
- Amenities (optional depending on community needs with the exception of hinterland villages); and
- Connected to other open spaces and destinations.

The City of Coffs Harbour acknowledges that some existing Local Parks do not meet the minimum size requirements. Such parks are considered to be 'Small Local Parks' and are valued contributors to the City of Coffs Harbour's Green Grid (i.e. public open space network). Any future Local Park dedicated to the City of Coffs Harbour must meet the minimum size requirements.

District Park

District Parks are larger than Local Parks and centrally located within a catchment (near schools, shops and residential areas), as they are key facilities that serve multiple neighbourhoods/suburbs for long stay activities.

District Park Uses

District Parks must focus on the co-location of play and active recreational opportunities to provide for a range of age groups, ensuring everyone can play and stay (as per the [NSW Everyone Can Play Guidelines](#)). The play and recreational opportunities are to be of a higher standard than those found within Local Parks and must focus on inclusive, multifunctional destination play opportunities.

It is a priority to link all District Parks into the City of Coffs Harbour's Green Grid (i.e. public open space network) by connecting them to Local Parks and Linear Parks via the City's Active Transport Network. This will secure and increase everyone's accessibility to district open space.

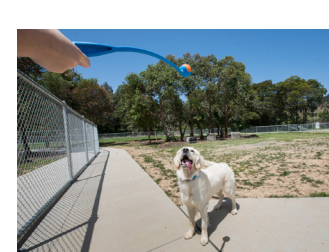
Note: This Strategy aims to connect all District Park to schools, residential areas and hubs within a 5-minute walk via the City's Active Transport Network. District Parks should be located near higher density residential areas and commercial services to ensure that everyone has access to sufficient open space.

Woolgoolga Beach Reserve is an example of a District Park. This park is located near medium density residential areas, medical services, schools and commercial services. The park has been designed to provide for a variety of activities and inclusive play to encourage our community and visitors to stay longer.

District Park Requirements

- Minimum 2 to 5 hectares in area;
- Preferably 50% of the site with road frontage for access and visual surveillance;
- Centrally located and within 2 kilometres (roughly a 25-minute walk) from residential areas, local services, other open space or destinations such as schools;
- Strong connections to the City of Coffs Harbour's Active Transport Network and public transport to minimise the need for parking;
- Inclusive play;
- Active youth facilities;
- Relaxation areas;
- Visitor facilities and amenities;
- Large shade tree species to maximise natural shade and expand urban tree canopy;
- Establish outdoor spaces for activation including community functions/events and major events; and
- Consideration of Aboriginal cultural heritage values.

There is to be a minimum of one District Park per catchment where there is demonstrated need.



Regional Park



Regional Parks attract visitors from across the Coffs Harbour LGA. They are significant and important public open spaces, managed by either the NSW Government, Crown Land Managers or the City of Coffs Harbour.

Regional Park Uses

Regional Parks are unique, often providing for a variety of destination recreation whilst simultaneously protecting high conservation values.



Regional Park Requirements

- More than 5 hectares in area;
- Highly accessible;
- Long stay bespoke facilities (i.e. amenities, community buildings and furniture);
- Strong connections to the City of Coffs Harbours' Active Transport Network and public transport to minimise the need for parking, encourage people movement and longer stays and strengthen activities;
- Design focused around key landscape features (i.e. harbour, estuary or central reserve);



- Tree planting to maximise natural shade, expand urban tree canopy; frame views and protect biodiversity values;
- Include a series of large parklands spaces with a variety of recreational activities including:
 - » destination inclusive play areas that cater to a range of age groups,
 - » trail and path based recreation that link to surrounding types and points of interest,
 - » large outdoor spaces to accommodate major events, performance, community functions and events, and
 - » passive reflective retreat spaces away from active areas; and
- Consideration of Aboriginal cultural heritage values.

There is to be a minimum of two to three Regional Parks within the Coffs Harbour LGA.

Note: parking needs to be addressed with a parking study to determine the supply demand. If no parking study is undertaken, parking is to be on street only to protect the use of public space for people.

The Coffs Coast Regional Park differs slightly to a 'Regional Park', as defined by the public realm types (refer to The Coffs Coast Regional Park Type).

Coffs Coast Regional Park

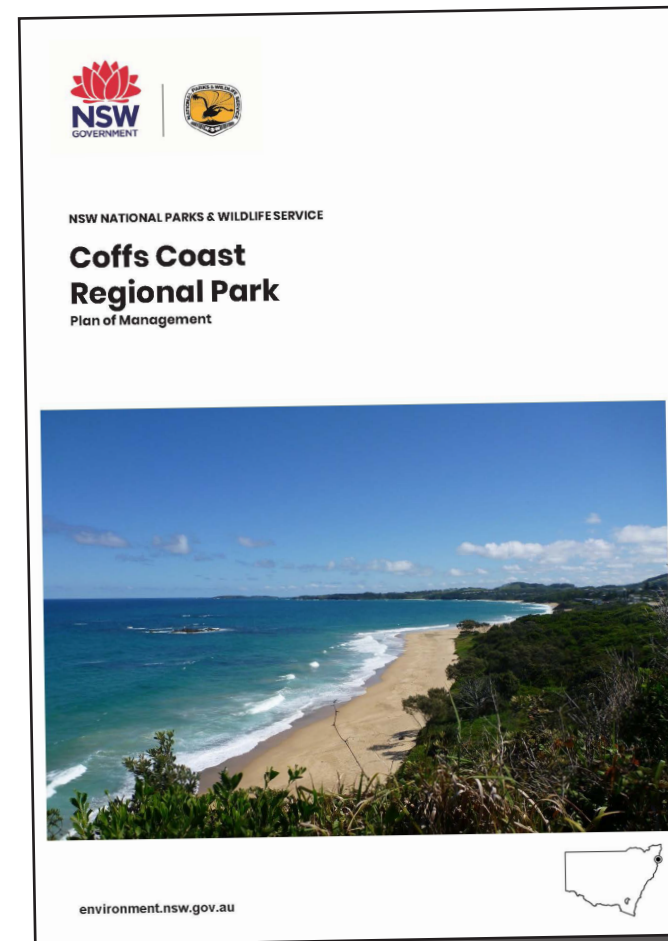
The Coffs Coast Regional Park is a unique public realm type. The park was gazetted in October 2003 and comprises 366 hectares of land from Coffs Harbour to Corindi. This park is managed in partnership by the City of Coffs Harbour and the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service under the direction of the Coffs Coast Regional Park Trust Board.

Coffs Coast Regional Park Uses

The Coffs Coast Regional Park protects important natural and cultural values, and provides multiple recreational opportunities for the community.

Coffs Coast Regional Park Requirements

This park is managed by the Coffs Coast Regional Park Trust Board in accordance with guidelines established under the Coffs Coast Regional Park Plan of Management and supports the City of Coffs Harbour's Green Grid (i.e. public open space network). Future updates to the Plan of Management must acknowledge that the park is made up of various public realm typologies (i.e. Local Parks; District Parks; Linear Parks; and Natural Areas). The public realm types should be spatially mapped for the Coffs Coast Regional Park using the methodology developed by the City of Coffs Harbour for this Strategy (Refer to Appendix 1).



Linear Park



Linear Parks are smaller, often long and thin continuous areas of open space that do not meet the performance standards of other public realm typologies. They are the primary connectors within the City of Coffs Harbour's open space network and are often made up of natural areas and Active Transport Links. The connections within Linear Parks are both physical and visual, and promote a walkable/cycle-able active environment and support natural systems.

Linear Park Uses

Linear Parks often coincide with the Natural Areas public realm type, as they both contain natural environmental features, connect habitat and expand urban biodiversity. Protection of biodiversity and habitat is of a high priority within Linear Parks. Paths can perform as 'edge strips' or a boundary between native vegetation and mown surfaces to clearly delineate and balance the two different functions. Linear Parks also play a significant role in moving people through the City of Coffs Harbour's open space network, as they connect to other public realm types, such as Local Parks, District Parks and Regional Parks.



Linear Park Requirements

- No minimum area;
- Suitable width to accommodate a safe, shaded walking/bike path;
- Connected to residential areas, local services, other open space and destinations such as Schools;
- Clear site lines along Active Transport Links;
- Consistent path materials to ensure intuitive wayfinding;
- 50-80% shade tree canopy cover of paths for user comfort;
- No amenities;
- Seating options and active recreational opportunities depending on site suitability and passive surveillance; and
- Designed holistically with the public open space network to support natural systems and habitat links.

Note: A Linear Park can be provided on operational land. Seating options and active recreational opportunities are not to detract from the intended purpose of Linear Parks, as connections.

Natural Area

This public realm type captures a variety of sensitive and significant landscape settings and environments, of all shapes and sizes. Natural Areas comprise high conservation value vegetation and high conservation value land managed by or on behalf of the City of Coffs Harbour, such as:

- primary or secondary koala habitat (and koala habitat links);
- endangered ecological communities;
- over-cleared vegetation types;
- high value arboreal habitats;
- heathlands, freshwater wetlands, grasslands, saline wetlands, and sedgeland;
- native old growth or hollow-bearing trees;
- trees listed on City of Coffs Harbour Significant Tree Register
- riparian zones;
- coastal wetlands;
- littoral rainforests;
- land within Zone C2 Environmental Conservation, W1 Natural Waterways, and W2 Recreational Waterways under Coffs Harbour LEP 2013.

Natural Areas are extremely valuable, as they play a key role in protecting and enhancing habitats, hold unique features of our favourite places and help establish and strengthen visual and physical connections throughout the public realm. This public realm type is the primary contributor to our blue links (waterways/estuaries) and green links (vegetated corridors/trees), which are essential components of our public open space network and enhance urban biodiversity.

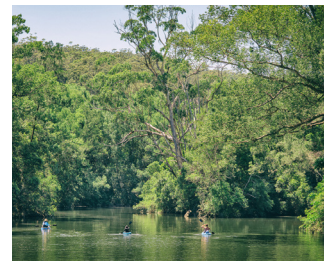
Natural Area Uses

Natural Areas are primarily used to connect people to nature, protect and enhance biodiversity and strengthen the City of Coffs Harbour's public open space network through vegetated links for people movement in a natural setting.

Natural Area Requirements

- No minimum area;
- Connect people to nature without ecological impacts;
- Provide buffers to adjoining public realm types to protect ecological sensitivity and minimise threats;
- Create opportunities for habitat and habitat links as part of urban infill and greenfield development; and
- Strengthen the current network of Natural Areas through additional connections.

Note: All work undertaken within a Natural Area must accord with the City of Coffs Harbour's Biodiversity Action Strategy.



Street



Streets are the most important and often forgotten piece of the public realm and contribute up to 80% of public land within the Coffs Harbour LGA. This public realm type is both the key connector within our public open space network and also an essential public place where we live, work and spend time. Streets include the whole area from property line to property line including the footpaths, the grassed verges, outdoor dining areas, the road pavement and parking spaces. Streets hold the power to create local character for all the places we love.



Street Uses

A successful street will capture people and encourage them to stay (i.e. First Avenue Sawtell). However, if not designed well, streets can create bad experiences and make you want to leave.

Good street design should allocate enough space to people (pedestrians) and their refuge (seating and trees/natural elements). Trees and footpath widths are pivotal to good streetscape design and function, as width and amenity intuitively indicate to people that the space is for them to use and safe. This can vary depending on the function of the street.



Moving forward, the NSW Government’s Movement and Place Framework should inform all planning, design and management of streets to make sure the form of our streets suit the function. The Framework is about getting the right mix of transport in the right locations, to create places we can all enjoy.

Street Design Requirements

Key infrastructure for streets, includes footpaths and trees. Street trees are to be placed at approximately 10metre intervals in along the street, adjacent to the footpath with consideration to existing services when locating and planting.



To assist in determining the width of the footpath, the NSW Movement and Place Framework¹ identifies 4 street environments. Each type of street environment has typical characteristics, noting that such characteristics are not a set of rules, assumptions or planning outcomes. The complex nature of our transport networks, streetscapes and our community’s needs means that every road and street is different and should therefore be considered individually within its own context. The street classifications should be used, as a tool (not as a set of rules) to support analysis and discussion.

The following footpath dimensions for each street environments are recommended:

- civic spaces - merit based assessment
- local streets - 1.5 to 2.5 metres
- main streets - 2 to 3 metres
- main roads - separated path 2 to 3 metres



¹ <https://www.movementandplace.nsw.gov.au/place-and-network/classifying-street-environments>

Sports Facility Uses

A sports facility is land that is used for sports, such as tennis, soccer, netball, basketball, Australian rules football, outdoor cricket, hockey, athletics, rugby union, rugby league and softball.

Sports Facility Requirements

This Strategy has identified a 'Green Grid' for the Coffs Harbour LGA (i.e. public open space network) that needs to be protected and improved to ensure that our community has sufficient access to public open space. It is therefore vital that the public land identified in the City of Coffs Harbour's 'Green Grid' is not sold or shifted to another purpose, as it is needed for public open space.

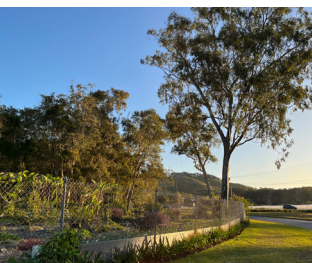
Regular investigations into the needs, provision, inclusions and performance criteria for sports facilities should be undertaken by the City of Coffs Harbour to determine future requirements. This will enable the City to provide for the communities sporting needs, without impacting on its public open space network.

When updating City of Coffs Harbour's Sports Facility and Recreation Plan, the following requirements should be taken into consideration to ensure that sports facilities within the Coffs Harbour LGA integrate appropriately with the City's public open space and active transport network:

- Facilitate multipurpose use of sportsgrounds and facilities (i.e. encouraging co-location of sporting activities);
- Connect sporting facilities to adjacent public realm types and to the City's public open space/active transport network;
- Provide significant tree plantings to increase shade and canopy cover and increase the usage of links to the City's public open space/active transport network; and
- Provide flexible facilities to enable other uses (i.e. informal games, exercise and relaxation).



Community Garden



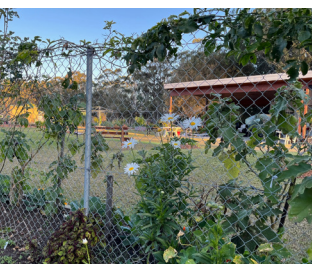
There are currently three community gardens within the Coffs Harbour LGA:

- Woolgoolga in the Northern Catchment;
- Combine Street in the Central Catchment; and
- Boambee Community Centre in the Southern Catchment.

Community Gardens are common in high density areas where the majority of residential accommodation is predominantly residential flat buildings with little to no private open space, making it difficult to have productive gardens. These gardens are located in high pedestrian areas that see a lot of people movement daily and are connected via footpath and bike path networks. Community Gardens are not an isolated entity. They offer great benefits for high density residential areas and have high use rates, compared to areas with low density housing with more private open space.

As is the case in regional cities like Coffs Harbour, the majority of our residential areas are low density in character and have lower pedestrian activity. Our residents have access to substantial private open space, reducing the need for community gardens.

At this point in time, a Community Garden within both the Northern, Central and Southern Catchments is sufficient. There may be additional need for new community gardens, as our regional city grows and the compact city model for Coffs Harbour is realised.



Community Garden Uses

Community gardens are a unique form of open space. They are self-managed by the community, primarily for the production of food and to contribute to the development of a sustainable urban environment. They also contribute to the health and wellbeing of residents, by connecting people and encouraging inclusion in the local community. Community Gardens provide opportunities for the community who live in high density areas to connect with

nature, learn how to grow plants and fresh produce and establish connections within their local community.

Community Garden Requirements

At a minimum, the establishment of new community gardens within the Coffs Harbour LGA should meet the following:

- Approval from the City of Coffs Harbour;
- Adequate public liability insurance;
- Site analysis demonstrating that the site is appropriate for a community garden;
- Ability for the local community to participate;
- Design layout for the community garden facility;
- City of Coffs Harbour endorsed plan of management for the community garden facility;
- Demonstrated ability for the community garden facility to be self-managed and maintained to a high standard;
- Demonstrated capacity to fund the ongoing maintenance and running of the community garden facility; and
- Demonstrated ability for the for the community garden facility as a long-term community initiative and ability to establish a community garden group.

Notes: 1. In the event that a community garden ceases to operate in accordance with these requirements, the City of Coffs Harbour reserves the right to remove the community garden to allow other community uses to be undertaken on the land. 2. Whilst, the City of Coffs Harbour does not currently have a specific policy or set of guidelines for the establishment of Community Gardens within the Coffs Harbour LGA, the City of Sydney's Community Gardens Policy and Guidelines can be used as a reference.

APPENDIX 1 - Public Realm Types

Table Summary

Open Space Type	Size	Minimum per Catchment	Service Level	Play Level/ Types	Connections	Trees	Public Amenities	On Site Parking
Local Park <i>(low-medium density)</i>	5,000-7,000m ²	No minimum per catchment	Local neighbourhoods short term stay	Concrete slab and grassed areas for informal games	Must provide path connections into the Active Transport Grid to other typologies	Tree plantings for shade tree	Not required	Not required
Local Park <i>(high density)</i>	1,000-3,000m ²	No minimum per catchment	Local neighbourhoods short term stay facilities	Open grass kick around areas and concrete/ hardstand areas	Must provide path connections into the Active Transport Grid to other typologies	Tree plantings for shade tree	Not required	Not required
District Park	Between 2-5ha	1 per catchment	Multiple neighbourhoods long term stay facilities	Inclusive, multifunctional and destination play with relaxation areas, spaces for small outdoor events	Connect to schools, residential areas within a 5 min walk	Large shade tree plantings	1 per park	Focus on road parking
Regional Park	More than 5ha	2-3 per catchment	Multiple districts long term stay with bespoke facilities	Destination recreation with high conservation values	Strong connections to active transport network and surrounding employment centres	Large shade tree and feature tree plantings	Refer to Masterplan	Parking study to be undertaken
Coffs Coast Regional Park	Refer to appropriate Public Realm Type							
Linear Park	N/A	N/A	Short term stay - transient use	No play elements required - no long stay facilities	Strong path connections to other typologies	Tree canopy cover over paths	Not required	Not required
Natural Area	N/A	N/A	Short term stay	No play elements required - no long stay facilities	Strong vegetative connections to other typologies	Increase tree canopy with appropriate native species	Not required	Not required
Street	N/A	N/A	Refer to Active Transport Plan	No play elements required	Refer to Active Transport Plan	Refer to Active Transport Plan	Not required	Refer to Active Transport Plan
Community Garden	N/A	Only 3 required in LGA	Multiple neighbourhoods long term stay facilities	No play elements required	Path connections into the Active Transport Grid to other typologies	Tree plantings for shade tree	Not required	Focus on road parking
Sports Facility	Refer to Sports Facility Plan				Path connections into the Active Transport Grid to other typologies	Tree plantings for shade tree	Refer to Sports Facility Plan	



1. Connected Communities

- Connect to Country;
- Improve connections to nature to improve health and well being;
- Use our open space, our creeks and reserves, and street network as active transport links (foot paths and bike paths) to connect people to nature and destinations;
- Recognise that our streets are not only for moving people and cars but are places in their own right;
- Harness technology to improve how we move around;
- Create safe spaces and networks for walking, cycling and active healthy lifestyles;
- Live locally, where most of our daily needs are within a short walk from home;
- Design our links and spaces so they can be enjoyed by all;
- Embrace our heritage and unique character; and
- Establish legible and cohesive, connected paths and networks.



2. People Orientated Design

- Plan and design for all, including demographic shifts, aging in place, our culturally diverse community and the disadvantaged;
- Put people first and design at pedestrian scale;
- Design our public spaces so that they are inclusive and multi-functional;
- Provide more street trees to support walkability and encourage active lifestyles;
- Consider companion animals in the design of the public realm and open spaces; and
- Create spaces and places to meet, play, and relax.



3. Going Green

- Ensure that trees are a priority, as they make place;
- Weave nature into our urban areas to support biodiversity, connect habitats, and make nature a part of our everyday lives;
- Plan and design for resilience;
- Create sensory experiences;
- Provide generous shading with more trees;
- Manage stormwater and flooding in innovative ways within our streetscapes and public spaces;
- Design to preserve and enhance our natural assets and street trees;
- Design our streets to ensure that there is enough space for street trees and services;
- Care for the environment and public realm for future generations; and
- Consider sustainable maintenance and renewal when designing for the public realm.



4. Our Growth Footprint

- Provide for the current and future growing recreational needs for the community;
- Reclaim our public spaces (i.e. streets) for the community's use;
- Design the public realm so it is multifunctional and flexible with adaptable spaces;
- Invest in the quality and diversity of the public realm for both existing and key infill areas;
- Promote walkability with wide generous footpaths and more street trees; and
- Enhance activation and passive surveillance in open spaces.

Checklist to Creating a Connected Network

To establish a quality public realm network that is connected, the following elements must be taken into consideration:

1. Recognising Country

To understand and plan for place we must respect culture. Place is a combination of physical and emotional interconnections to the meaning, activity and physical forms of Country. Traditional Custodians of the land have a deep and ongoing connection to Country, with a strong belief that if we care for Country, it will care for us. We can all benefit and learn from this cultural understanding and incorporate this process into the design of the built and natural environment within our public realm¹. Establishing an effective public realm network for Coffs Harbour is therefore reliant on respecting and considering Country.

2. Working Towards a Common Vision

The establishment of a successful public realm network is reliant upon the City working towards a common vision and aligning with a set of guiding principles. Providing and maintaining connections between parks, reserves, sports grounds, residential areas and destinations is the key to a successful public realm network.

3. Connecting to Neighbourhoods

Neighbourhoods must be designed so that they are permeable, connected, walkable and prioritise people (pedestrians and cyclists). They must link to surrounding open space areas and destinations to support local living opportunities and sustain healthy communities.

4. Connecting to Nature

Tree planting and other landscape elements must be utilised to establish connections to existing natural areas and habitats, thereby enhancing biodiversity and increasing our community's connection to nature.

5. Prioritising Funding

Secure funding and a dedicated budget is necessary to establish and maintain a successful public realm network. Investment in the establishment and maintenance of key connections within our public realm is necessary for our community to realise its full potential. We love quality, not quantity.

6. Linking to Other Strategies

Aligning all City of Coffs Harbour's strategies with the vision and guiding principles of the Public Realm Strategy will ensure that a quality public realm network is achieved and not undermined. It is necessary to think outside the realm of a single project and to investigate how other mutual outcomes can be reached (i.e. completing a missing section of a path network as part of road upgrade project).

7. Implementing Strategy Recommendations

The establishment of a successful public realm network for the Coffs Harbour LGA is reliant on a commitment from the City of Coffs Harbour to implement the recommendations within this Strategy and strong leadership within the organisation to deliver its vision.

¹ State of New South Wales (Department of Planning, Industry and Environment), 2020. Designing with Country, A Discussion Paper.



ORARA RIVER

APPENDIX 3 - Future Growth Infill Areas

Corindi Beach Growth Area

- Provision of strong connections through Linear Park Public Realm Types and Active Transport Links to the Crown Reserve 55008 Lot 2 DP 1021768.

Woolgoolga South West Growth Area

- The growth area south of Gita Street is to provide an additional Local Park to link into the open space network and connect to the Crabbe Street Reserve through Active Transport Links.

Korora Infill Area (east)

- If Lot 302 DP 1272182 is developed it must include a Local Park to prevent a deficit of open space provision for this community. This additional Local Park must strongly connect into the open space network through Active Transport Links and additional Linear Parks.

North Coffs Infill Areas:

- Strengthen Active Transport Links across the Pacific Highway from Bay Drive and Diggers Beach Road; and
- Provide an Active Transport Link through Lot 301 DP 791505 on Richmond Drive.

North Coffs Growth Areas

- Provision of an additional Local Park and supporting Linear Parks to connect into the existing open space network;

- Strengthen Active Transport links and connections across the railway line linking Mackays Road to Vera Drive (or appropriate alternative to link proposed development into the existing open space network); and
- Provision of Linear Parks along Spagnollos Road connecting into the West Coffs public open space network through Roselands Drive and McEntyre Street.

Bonville Infill Areas

- Provision of an additional Local Park and supporting Linear Parks when this area is developed; and
- Connection of additional parks into the existing public open space network (including a link to Bakker Dive Reserve).

Bonville Compact Village 2040

- Provision of a new multipurpose District Park connecting into the existing public open space network, with consideration given to the provision of additional sporting facilities; and
- Provision of an additional Local Park and supporting Linear Parks to support the future needs of the residents and to strengthen the public open space network (Note: this includes a Linear Park and Local Park along North Bonville Road and Pine Creek Way).





Coffs Harbour Local Government Area

The following Categorisation Methodology has been developed to assist in the categorisation of land owned by the City of Coffs Harbour that is classified as community, which is a requirement of the Local Government Act 1993 and Crown Lands Management Act 2016.

There are five Categories that public land can be categorised as within the Local Government Act 1993. This includes:

- Park;
- Sportsground;
- General Community Use;
- Area of Cultural Significance; and
- Natural Area - which has an additional five subcategories;
 - » Bushland;
 - » Wetland;
 - » Watercourse;
 - » Foreshore; and
 - » Escarpment.

To determine the most appropriate category for public land, this methodology utilises spatial mapping layers ('attributes') to inform the categorisation of land. The spatial mapping process identifies characteristics, features and assets that are within the parcel of land to help determine the category.

Figure 1 identifies the spatial mapping layers that should be used to inform how each category on a parcel of land is identified.

Note: The City of Coffs Harbour's spatial mapping continuously evolves and therefore must be reviewed regularly.

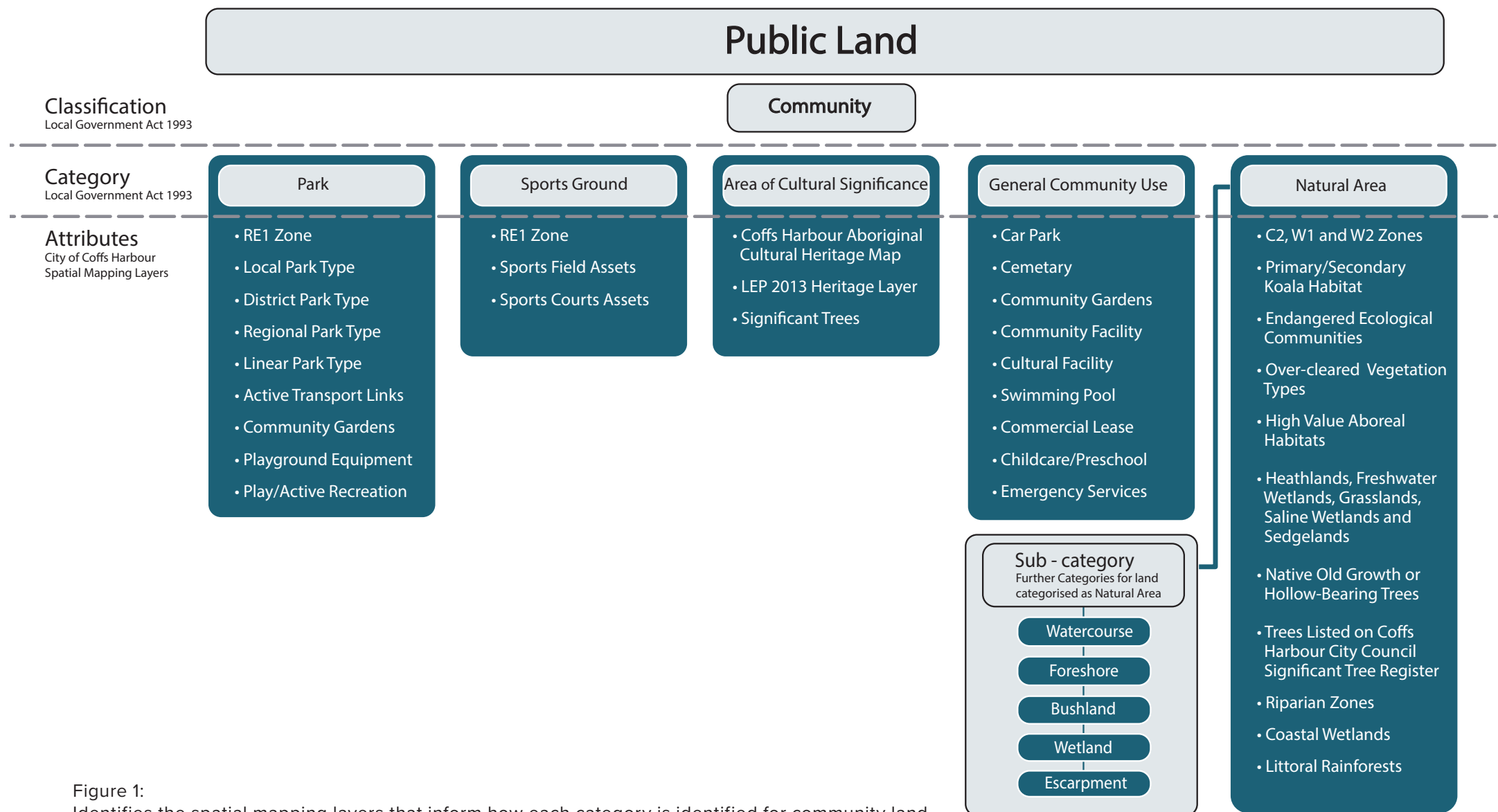
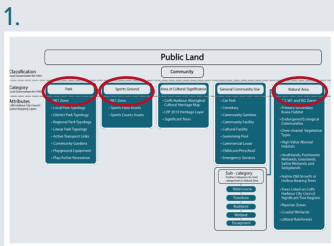


Figure 1:
Identifies the spatial mapping layers that inform how each category is identified for community land

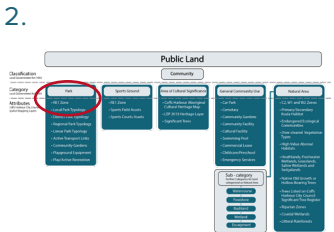
APPENDIX 4 - Categorisation Methodology

Case Study: Determine a Categorisation for Community Classified Land
Wonga Park Lot 8 DP 14800

1. Determine the land use zone of the land:
The land is within Zone RE1
Public Recreation and Zone C2
Environmental Conservation
(indicating potential categorisation could be Park, Sports Ground or Natural Area)



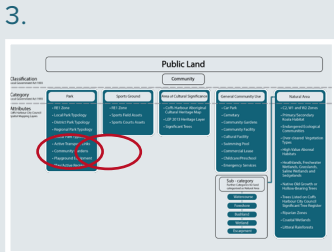
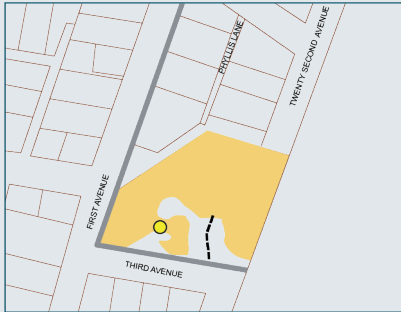
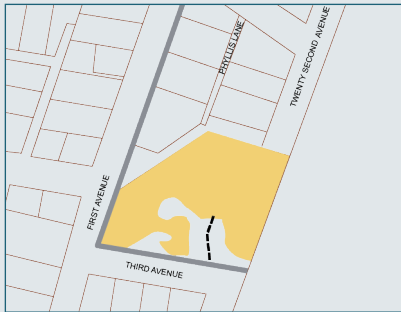
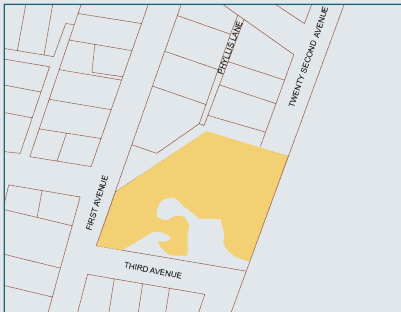
2. Determine if the parcel of land is mapped with a Public Realm Type:
The land mapped as Local Park Type
(indicating Park Categorisation)



By referring to the flow chart in Figure 1 and utilising the spatial mapping attributes associated with each category, it can be determined that the appropriate categorisation for Wonga Park is a 'Natural Area', given that only a minor part of the land comprises attributes for a Park.

A similar process can also be undertaken to review and determine the classification and assigning plans of management.

3. Determine any additional attributes:
Contains High Value Habitat and Littoral Rainforest *(indicating Natural Area Categorisation)* and Active Transport Links and Park existing playground *(indicating Park categorisation)*.



Case Study: Determine Classification of Public Land Brelsford Park LOT 100 DP 865320

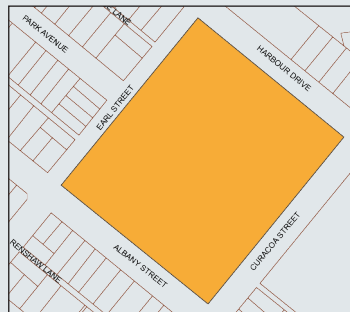
1. Zone RE1 Public Recreation– Park Category



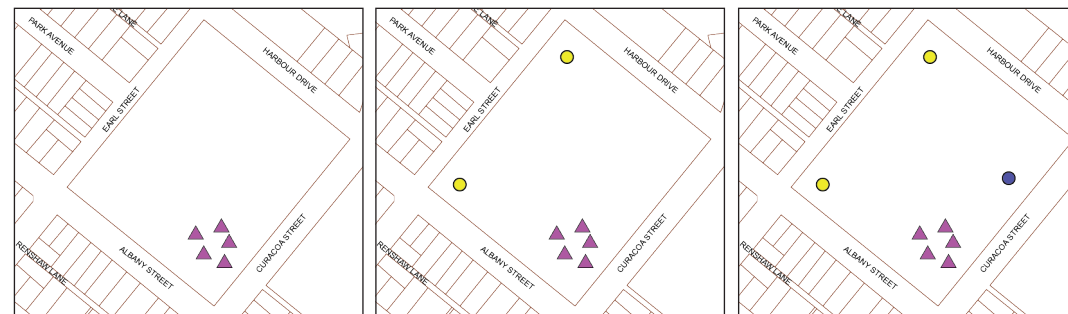
The categorisation methodology can also be utilised to review and identify the most appropriate land classification.

For example: Brelsford Park is currently classified as Operational Land. By assessing the attributes that apply to the parcel of land within the categorisation methodology (see Figure 1), this classification can be checked for its accuracy.

2. Regional Park Type – Park Category



3. Significant Trees – Area of Cultural Significant Category Park Infrastructure – Park Category Sports Court - Sports Ground Category



As there are multiple attributes dedicated for community use on this parcel of land, the most appropriate classification is 'Community Land'.
A similar process can also be undertaken to assign plans of management.

Developing Plans of Management

The overarching principles and performance standards for public realm types within this Strategy should inform plans of management developed by the City of Coffs Harbour. Locality specific plans of management should be developed where specific management criteria are required, preferably alongside the development of Place Manuals and Movement and Place Plans.

In the absence of a locality specific plan of management, it is recommended that generic plans of management are developed based on functions, such as:

- *Natural Areas*
- *Sportsgrounds*
- *Parks (including playgrounds)*
- *Holiday Parks*
- *General Community Use*
- *Areas of Cultural Significance*



Glossary of Terms

Active Transport is physical activity undertaken as a means of transport and includes travel by foot, bicycle and other non-motorised vehicles.

Active Transport Link means a safe well-designed and connected network for all people of all ages and abilities to ride bikes, scooters or walk to get around.

Biophilic means the human tendency to interact or be closely associated with other forms of life in nature.

Coffs Coast Regional Park is a unique public realm type comprising 366 hectares of land from Coffs Harbour to Corindi, managed in partnership by City of Coffs Harbour and the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service under the direction of the Coffs Coast Regional Park Trust Board and a specific plan of management.

Coffs Harbour Active Transport Plan means a plan prepared for the Coffs Harbour Local Government Area in accordance with the Coffs Harbour Movement and Place Strategy that identifies priority active transport links that are required to support and improve an active transport network for the Coffs Harbour community.

City of Coffs Harbour Public Realm Urban Design Guidelines provide the direction for the City of Coffs Harbour on the development, planning and design of the public realm to ensure a consistent and legible approach to public spaces.

Coffs Harbour Green Grid means is a spatial map of the public open space network within the Coffs Harbour Local Government Area that connects residential areas, business centres, urban areas and destinations.

Coffs Harbour Local Growth Management Strategy provides a coordinated, strategic and planned approach to cater for growth in the Coffs Harbour Local Government Area to 2040.

Coffs Harbour Local Strategic Planning Statement is the City of Coffs Harbour's overarching planning strategy for the Coffs Harbour Local Government Area, which outlines how growth and change will be managed to establish and maintain high levels of liveability, environmental amenity and landscape quality that characterises Coffs Harbour.

Coffs Harbour Movement and Place Strategy sets out goals for a viable transport system for the future of the Coffs Harbour Local Government Area.

Community Garden is a unique form of open space that is self-managed by the community, primarily for the production of food and to contribute to the development of a sustainable urban environment.

Compact City Growth Model is defined in Chapter 4 of the Coffs Harbour Local Growth Management Strategy and aims to achieve a more compact city urban form for the Coffs Harbour LGA by minimising urban footprint expansion with infill development and better utilisation of existing greenfield areas.

Companion Animal means all dogs and cats.

Companion Animals Management Plan provides an animal management framework and an organisational commitment to the provision of an effective companion animals service under the Companion Animals Act 1998.

Development Control Plan means a plan made under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to support the planning controls contained within a Local Environmental Plan.

District Park is a large park that is centrally located within a catchment (near schools, shops and residential areas) and comprises key facilities that service multiple neighbourhoods/suburbs for long stay activities.

Greenfield means land that has not been previously developed.

Green Infrastructure¹ is the network of green spaces, natural systems and semi-natural systems that support sustainable communities and includes waterways; bushland; tree canopy and green cover; parks; and open spaces that are strategically planned, designed and managed to support a good quality of life in an urban environment.

Greener Places is a design framework produce by the NSW Government to guide the planning, design and delivery of green infrastructure in urban areas across NSW.

Growth Area means greenfield areas identified within Chapter 4 of the Coffs Harbour Local Growth Management Strategy.

Indigenous Land Use Agreement is a voluntary agreement between native title parties and other stakeholders (i.e. City of Coffs Harbour) about the use and management of areas of land and/or waters.

Infill Area means land identified within Chapter 4 of the Coffs Harbour Local Growth Management Strategy, as an infill area that may offer greater housing choice and affordability.

Infill Development means the development of land within an existing developed area.

Local Government Area is a gazetted area defining boundaries between adjoining shires, municipalities and cities.

Linear Park is a small, often long and thin continuous area of open space that does not meet the performance standards of other public realm typologies. Linear parks are the primary connectors within City of Coffs Harbour's open space network and are often made up of natural areas and Active Transport Links.

Local Environmental Plan is an Environmental Planning Instrument made under Part 3 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. An LEP implements the strategic narrative and planning priorities described in a local strategic planning statement by establishing land use zones and imposing standards to control development.

Local Park is a simple, flexible space that meets the day-to-day recreation and restorative needs of a neighbourhood.

MyCoffs Community Strategic Plan sets out the long-term community aspirations of the Coffs Harbour Local Government Area over a ten-year horizon.

Natural Area is public open space that comprises sensitive and significant landscape settings and environments, of all shapes and sizes. A natural area plays a key role in protecting and enhancing high value habitats, and strengthening visual and physical connections throughout the public realm.

NSW Public Spaces Charter² has been developed by the NSW Government to support the planning, design, management and activation of public spaces in NSW.

Movement and Place Plan is a guideline developed by City of Coffs Harbour in conjunction with place manuals for identified key villages and precincts to ensure that the vision of the Coffs Harbour Movement and Place Strategy is achieved.

Place Manual is a guideline developed by City of Coffs Harbour that facilitates built form and public realm outcomes for identified key villages and precincts via the placemaking framework identified in Chapter 3 of the Coffs Harbour Local Growth Management Strategy.

¹ <https://www.governmentarchitect.nsw.gov.au/resources/ga/media/files/ga/design-guides/framework-document-greener-places-2020-06-02.pdf>

² <https://www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/premiers-priorities/great-public-spaces/festival-of-place/public-spaces-charter>

City of Coffs Harbour Placemaking Framework means the framework identified in Chapter 3 of the Coffs Harbour Local

Growth Management Strategy for the preparation of place manuals and movement and place plans via a placemaking process with the community for identified key villages and precincts.

Placescore is a 'place experience' measurement tool that lets communities share what they most care about for their city and neighbourhood and what needs improving.

Public Open Space³ is open space which is publicly owned and managed by local, State or Federal government and is accessible to the public.

Public Realm is all public land that the community use and enjoy, including parks and reserves; Streets and Urban Areas (plazas, squares, laneways, footpaths); and Waterways (estuaries, creeks, foreshore, beaches).

Public Realm Type is a description assigned to different types of public open space within the Coffs Harbour LGA based on how the open space provides for the community (i.e. local park, district park, regional park, linear park, natural area, street, community garden and sports facility).

Regional Park is a unique public open space that attract visitors from across the entire Coffs Harbour Local Government Area and provides for a variety of destination recreational uses, whilst often simultaneously protecting high conservation values.

Sports Ground is land utilised within the Coffs Harbour Local Government Area for sports, as identified within the Coffs Harbour Sports Facility and Active Recreation Plan.

Street is a key connector within the public open space network and includes footpaths, grassed verges, outdoor dining areas, the road pavement and parking spaces.

Water Sensitive Urban Design integrates land and water planning and management into urban design.



³ <https://www.governmentarchitect.nsw.gov.au/resources/ga/media/files/ga/discussion-papers/discussion-guide-greener-places-2020-06-03.pdf>

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