

LISMORE OPEN SPACE STRATEGY BACKGROUND

VOLUME 1. STRATEGY
VOLUME 2. LOCALITY ANALYSIS



VOLUME 1. STRATEGY

About this document

This document is Volume 1 Lismore Open Space Strategy prepared by @leisure Planners.

The additional documents prepared for this project are:

Volume 2: Locality Analysis

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1. The project

1.1 Purpose, scope and methods

Purpose

The purpose of this Open Space Strategy is to:

- Identify future open space needs for Lismore City and its villages and to consolidate, link and enhance open space and green corridors.
- Guide long-term investment in and maintenance of Lismore's parks and open space network.
- Ensure that Lismore remains an attractive and healthy place to live and work with ample opportunities to enjoy the unique and biodiverse local environment in a recreation setting or an active sporting context.

Scope

- Lismore LGA includes the villages of Clunes, Nimbin, Dunoon, The Channon, Bexhill, and other rural localities including Caniaba and Wyrallah. The open space network comprises over 100 parks and reserves.
- The strategy draws on a survey conducted by Council prior to the commencement of the strategy.

Methods

The Open Space Strategy was prepared in three Phases:

- Phase 1 – Audit and review
- Phase 2 – Strategic issues, opportunities, and directions
- Phase 3 – Open Space Strategy

Objectives

The objectives of the Open Space Strategy are to:

- Provide strategic direction for the future provision of recreation parks in accordance with State Government planning legislation.
- Recommend the distribution and standard of open space appropriate to Council's population, projected growth, corporate priorities, and emerging community needs
- Review existing Desired Standards of Service (DSS) for the provision of public open space
- Review the location and classification of sites
- Identify priorities for development etc.
- Ensure open space meets the environmental objectives of mitigating against the impacts of climate change and providing biodiversity benefits, improves community safety, participation, accessibility, equity, and health outcomes.

1.2 Context

As a regional city with an urban population of 27,650, Lismore plays an important role in the Northern Rivers region. It is a centre for jobs and high-level services, particularly in the health and education sectors, as well as providing regionally significant sporting and cultural facilities.

Much of the newer development in the City is likely to be in more challenging steep fringe locations or as infill housing in the main urban areas.

The quickening of change because of climate and the greater interest in open space from a health and well-being perspective, have prompted some state initiatives such as the NSW Public Spaces charter.

The COVID -19 pandemic has also created additional demand for open space, especially for casual use for social /family recreation and walking and cycling.

Since the last Sport and Recreation Plan, when the matter of preparing an open space strategy was raised, some further work in sport means that some related issues such as the preparation of a sports training hub are no longer required in this document.





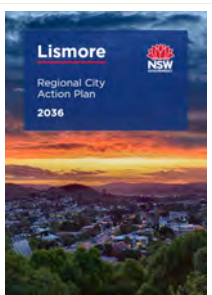
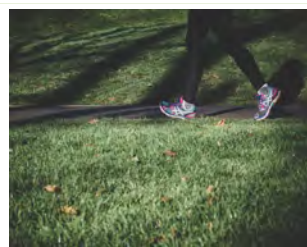
Since the commencement of this strategy, natural disaster and a flood have devastated Lismore and surrounding locations. As Lismore recovers, further consideration will be needed to address the significant changes in land use patterns and the impact that will have on open space and opportunities to address open space needs. The need and ambition for a planned retreat out of some of the most flood-prone areas of Lismore needs to be considered alongside the recommendations of this Strategy,

which were prepared before the natural disaster and flood of 2022. In areas where planned retreat occurs, opportunities for improved or new open space provision exists. However, this must be balanced against Lismore's overall recovery goals and other land uses may be suitable in these areas. This Strategy can be used to guide master planning works and influence the functions, landscape setting, and catchment hierarchy and design of any open spaces that may be provided or upgraded alongside the planned retreat.





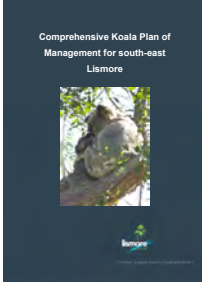


1.3 Key plans

The following plans have been reviewed in the preparation of this strategy and align with its contents.

Key plans this strategy aligns with	
	<p>The NSW Public Spaces Charter has been developed to support the planning, design, management, and activation of public spaces in NSW. It identifies 10 principles for quality public space, developed through evidence-based research and discussions with public space experts and community members.</p>
	<p>North Coast Regional Plan 2036 The North Coast Regional Plan (NCRP) is the overarching land use planning strategy for the region and sets out the vision, goals, and directions to 2036. At the time of preparing this Strategy, an update of the NCRP, to 2041, was in draft format and has also been considered.</p>
	<p>Inspire Lismore 2040 The Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) is a requirement of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and provides the basis for strategic land use planning. It identifies planning priorities, strategies and actions that have been developed in consultation with the community.</p>
	<p>Greener Places is a design framework for urban green infrastructure. It seeks to capture our collective aspiration and expectations in planning, designing and delivering green infrastructure in urban areas across NSW.</p>
	<p>The Regional City Action Plan (RCAP) provides detailed goals and objectives for the development of Lismore that supports the goals of the NCRP.</p>
	<p>Draft Cycling and Walking Strategy 2022 aims to plan, deliver, and maintain a well-connected network of walking and cycling paths, improve safety, attractiveness of walking and cycling by providing supporting facilities including signage, shade, lighting, and end of trip facilities and encourage and promote the benefits of walking and cycling.</p>

Key plans this strategy aligns with

	<p>North Coast Settlement Planning Guidelines 2019 prepared by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) contains four growth management principles and additional land release criteria that must be applied in the preparation or amendment of any GMS, LSPS or housing strategy</p>		<p>The Community Strategic Plan (CSP) is a requirement under the Local Government Act 1993 and sets out a 10-year plan for the delivery of Council services that reflects the community’s priorities and aspirations</p>		<p>Everyone Can Play guideline is a best practice toolkit for councils, community leaders, landscape architects to use when creating world-class play spaces designed to include everyone in the community. The initiative is supported by a grant program to make play space more inclusive.</p>
	<p>Urban Green Corridors Plan 2017 identifies a network of wildlife corridors through Lismore’s urban area and priority areas for bush regeneration and revegetation programs. Implementation of the Plan will enhance the network of natural areas within Lismore city, providing opportunities for the community to enjoy recreation activities such as walking, riding, and connecting with the environment.</p>		<p>Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management for south-east Lismore Sets out guidance for preparing and assessing development applications which may impact on Koalas and their habitat.</p>		

1.4 Why do we need public open space?

Public open space is the building block for active and healthy communities. It supports a wide range of physical activities and community events, protects the natural environment, biodiversity, strengthens social interaction and play, and facilitates participation and engagement in public life. High quality public open space enhances wellbeing and civic pride, allows for relaxation/contemplation, the celebration of shared memories and cultural heritage, local character, and sense of place.

Public open space supports a range of social, environmental, educational, sporting, and recreational activities that should ensure people of all ages, abilities and cultural backgrounds are able to find satisfying experiences, social connections, and a sense of belonging.

Due to the significant benefits of open space, it is desirable that residents:

- See open space from where they live and work
- Get to and into open space conveniently, and
- Are able to participate in activities with their friends and family within an open space.

As private spaces provided in conjunction with dwellings diminish in urban areas, and transitional spaces in streetscapes also reduce, there is increasing demand for larger, more functional, and higher quality public spaces. In addition, there is a desire to substitute the traditional functions of private open spaces and provide for pets, children's spontaneous outdoor play, growing plants, large family gatherings and celebrations, and space to make and fix things in public spaces.

1.4.1 Benefits of public open space

Open space provides clear benefits for people who live in proximity, visitors, and the community as a whole. Four key types of benefits of open space are universally accepted:

- **Personal benefits** (e.g., social interaction, physical activity, recreation, mental health and well-being, horticultural opportunities, to enhance food security etc.)
- **Environmental benefits**, (protecting fauna and flora, iconic places and connecting with the natural world). Natural places provide children with an opportunity to experience risks and challenges, to explore new things, and to find inspiration and treasures
- **Community benefits** (these being benefits which accrue to the community as a whole). These benefits include civic pride in a place, neighbourhood character, amenity, and spiritual connection, and celebrating culture and events
- **Economic benefits** from attracting visitors to Lismore's rivers, trails, and parks for recreation, and from increasing land values of sites adjacent and in view of public space.

1.4.2 Open space types in the classifications reflect necessary types of benefits

Not all open spaces are the same. Different types of open space provide different benefits and specific activities.

Multiple different types of open spaces are required in each area to provide specific benefits sought by residents.

To ensure that future residents have access to this range of benefits a new classification system has been adopted which reflects each of the key benefits in a function type of open space.

The following table illustrates the open space function type classifications adopted in this plan and the benefits that they seek to provide.

Table 1. Open Space Function Type and Benefits They Protect

Open Space Function Type	Benefits
Social / family recreation (SFR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be with friends and family, off territory, and with other people with similar values Meet new and observe other people Providing a place for social gathering where social / family recreation and child development can occur and increase people’s sense of belonging, social contact, and quality of life
Off-road trail /Accessway (often a secondary function)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing exercise, access to nature, opportunities for social connections and active transport. To encourage independent mobility and spatial knowledge
Sport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical fitness/ challenge

Open Space Function Type	Benefits
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing a place where people can participate in sport and physical activities, challenge and develop skills, enhance health, and sense of well-being and stay socially connected
Memorial park/ Cemetery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunities for reflection, spiritual connection, celebrating culture and events and interpretation of people and events. Helps connect people with friends and community life as well as their social, cultural, and ancestral origins.
Community horticulture / garden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance food security, meet interests in growing and learning about food production, nutrition and sharing interests related to growing, cooking, and eating food, and providing contact with nature.
Conservation/bio diversity/ cultural heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enjoy nature Conserving biodiversity and flora and fauna, providing opportunities for environmental education, research, and the appreciation of nature.
Relaxation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tension release/slow down mentally Escape role overloads and daily routines Introspection/ contemplation Providing a place of escape where people can relax, reflect, and release stress and appreciate the natural environment/ observe natural spectacles.
Visual amenity/look out / ridgeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appreciate views. Relief from urban sights and sounds
Wayside Stop (Roadside rest areas)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road-side rest areas for drivers and their passengers to take a break. May include parking, picnic, play, toilets and viewing areas or tracks.

In addition to these functions, open space may be acquired for non-recreation uses such as drainage/utility/ land slip purposes etc.,

1.5 Trends in open space provision and use

The following provides an overview of broad trends in open space provision and use:



Increasing population, urbanisation and more diverse residents will stimulate demand for a greater diversity and quality of open space opportunities, conveniently located to residents. At the same time there need to increase participation in physical activity and access to nature for health and well-being benefits.



Multiple small, unembellished parks as provided by developers in past decades are no longer acceptable. Due to demand in new residential developments, high levels of embellishment of public parks now seek to drive house sales. However less manicured, equitably distributed, larger spaces may be more fit-for-purpose and more sustainable to manage.



Participation rates in recreation and leisure activities will change over the next ten years. In addition, increasing expectations of users and the demand for a wide range of activities is also likely.



Walking and cycling are anticipated to have the largest increase in participation in open space over the next ten years. However, as housing density and temperatures increase the demand for green open space for sitting out, meeting people, for restorative benefits, and for relief from roles and surrounds will also increase.



There are more social, mixed, short, and small-sided game formats of the traditional sports being played. Single sports are being played in both seasons with non-club-based competitions and programs.



With desire for choice and the need to include a more diverse population for better and more accessible information about open space, opportunities are increasing.



An increasing demand for nature-based activities such as bushwalking, rock climbing, cycle sports, orienteering and river-based aquatic sports can be expected.



Gym and fitness activities will continue to be one of the fastest growing uses of urban open space, both group fitness and individual fitness activities.



User expectations are increasing - the experience of a park user and ultimately whether they return is likely to be determined not just by the main activity sought, but also by what happens in the whole "trip cycle" (the choice making, onsite orientation, the trip there and back, and what was taken away and reflected on).



World-wide, there is a reawakening interest in nature and the outdoors among early childhood professionals and parents, and there is a high demand for nature play, camping and outdoor education such as forest kindergartens. This is likely to see more use of the state parks for local activities and demand for contact with nature close to home, for people of all ages and abilities.



There is an increasing interest in food production in public space and sustainable open space design.



The duration of park use by residents is typically relatively short, hence more convenient access, information and quality of experiences targeting different age groups will be required to increase length of stay.



There is a need to provide for people of all ages, abilities, gender identities and cultural backgrounds and ensure that the whole community can play and relax together.



As back yards shrink, more people live on their own and pet ownership increases, there is a demand for more areas including fenced sites for off leash dog exercise and socialisation.

2. Demand and community preferences

2.1 Demographic profile and population

Based on data at the time, the GMS forecast a population increase for the Lismore LGA from 44,350 (2011) to 50,200 (2031) and that an additional 3,600 dwellings would be required to house the increase in residents. These projections anticipated an annual growth of 0.7% to 2021 and then a slightly lower level of growth to 2031. Since 2011 Lismore's population has experienced a slight decline, with the Estimated Resident Population (ERP) in 2016 being 44,122 and in 2020 it was 43,667.

Population projections undertaken in 2021 by .id (Informed Decisions) found that Lismore's ERP was 44,926 and projected to increase to 47,616 by 2031 and to 51,023 by 2041. This is a net increase of 13.6% over 20 years with an additional 3,105 dwellings anticipated to be required in that time.

However, all these projections were based upon a set of pre-flood assumptions. The impact of the floods on anticipated inward and outward migration of residents is unknown currently.

The demographic and population projections undertaken in 2021 indicate that the largest increases in age cohorts for Lismore will be in the 70-84 age brackets, with an additional 2,573 people forecast in these age groups by 2031.

Lone person households will continue to be the largest type of household and will continue to grow, (from 5,218 in 2016 to 6,022 households by 2031), which would be 30.3% of all households. The average household size will continue to decline over time.

This will require changes to the types of housing that is currently built which is overwhelmingly dominated by 3-4-bedroom stand-alone dwellings. A separate Affordable and Diverse Housing Strategy has been developed to stimulate additional affordable and medium density housing in Lismore's urban area.

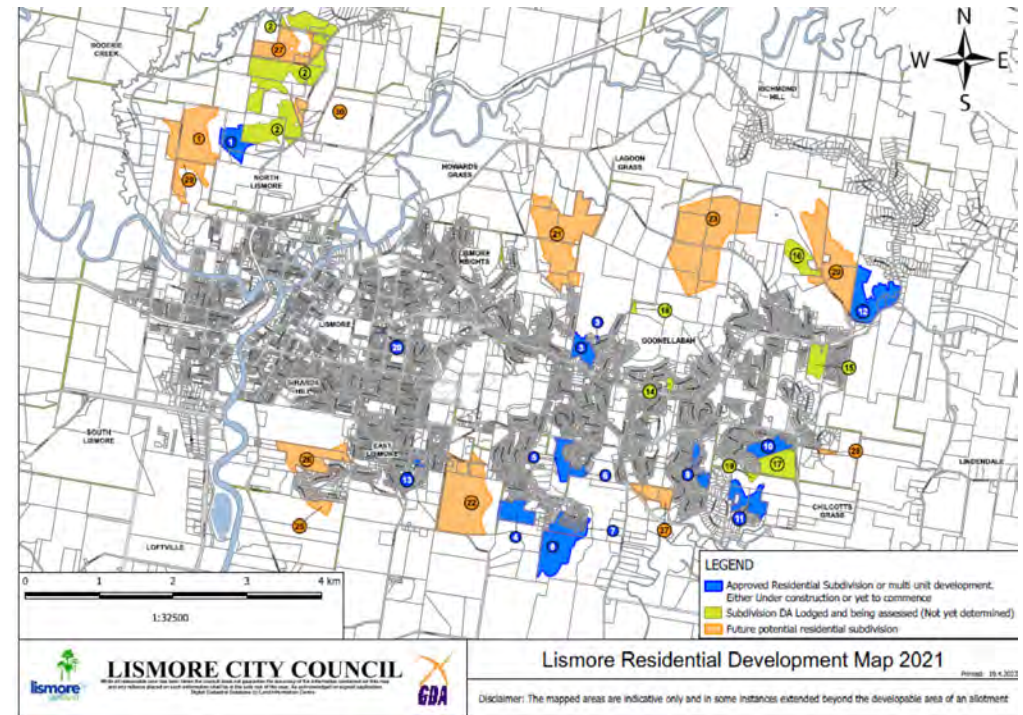
Further consideration needs to be given to the form of private and public open space provided in conjunction with different forms and densities of housing.



Areas of residential development

Areas identified in blue are sites that have DA approval and sites in yellow have had DA's lodged for new subdivisions across Lismore. The estimated yield from these developments is 2444 residential lots which includes 222 Strata Units and 24 units in a multi-dwelling housing development. The areas shown in orange are sites that are either zoned for residential use or identified in the GMS for potential residential rezoning. Lismore City Council is currently updating the GMS and once adopted, additional sites will be identified for future residential rezoning. The estimated lot yield from all these areas is 1616 residential lots. The timelines for infrastructure delivery is the key constraint to accelerating the delivery of new housing in these areas.

Future residential areas have been reviewed and considered when identifying gaps in provision within this strategy.



Recommendations

- ▶ Assist each of the potential areas of residential development and apply the service standards to the provision of open space.
- ▶ Provide an equitable distribution of accessible and inclusive open spaces with a wide range of open space functions and landscape setting types, that meet community needs now and in the future.

2.2 Community preferences

In anticipation of this strategy being prepared, the Lismore community had the opportunity to respond to a survey asking people a variety of questions related to their experience in parks, playgrounds, cycling tracks and opportunities in open spaces across the LGA.

Below is a summary of some of the responses that were considered as part of this project.

- Residents who responded to the survey were generally satisfied with the public open spaces in the Lismore LGA although barriers that were identified that restricted peoples use of parks and open spaces included busy roads, creeks or rivers restricting access, the topography of the local area, the lack of accessibility and the distance to walk to parks and open spaces.
 - Most respondents said that they used parks and open spaces for walking and running while the next highest responses were walking their dog followed by bike riding.
 - The highest number of responders said that they visited playgrounds more than once per week and spent between 1 and 2 hours at the park each time.
 - Lack of shade or shelter was the highest response in terms of the factor that limited peoples stay in a playground with access to toilets, lack of park furniture such as seating and a limited variety of play also featuring amongst responses.
- The highest response within the survey as to how people got to their local playground was to drive. Although the largest response as to what barriers existed to accessing their local playground was none, the second largest response to this question was that it was too far to walk.
 - The types of play opportunities that people desired in playgrounds were in this order 1- swing, slide, spin and climb 2-Challenging-ropes courses/flying fox and 3-Nature based-rocks/peddles/water/plants.
 - The most common response to the question of what barriers, if any reduce your participation in cycling was safety or a lack of off-road bike tracks.
 - When questioned why people choose to walk, the most responses were for fitness. Safety was the highest response regarding barriers to walking participation.

The findings from this survey were referred to and considered when assessing open spaces and preparing actions and recommendations within this strategy.

3. Open Space Framework

3.1 Vision and objectives

Vision

A network of open space in Lismore that is: diverse, equitably distributed, inclusive, enriching, sustainable and fit for purpose.

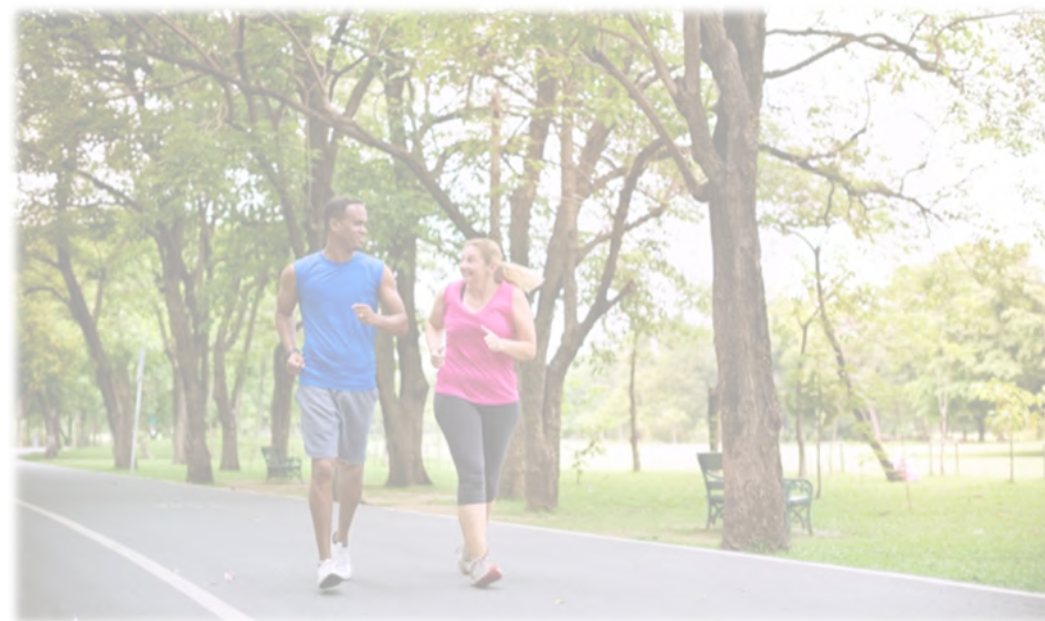
Objectives

To plan design and develop open spaces that are:

1. **Diverse in nature and opportunity** and encourage residents to find satisfying recreation opportunities now and, in the future,
2. **Equitably distributed** within easy walking distance from all residences in urban residential areas and villages
3. **Accessible and inclusive** to people of all ages, abilities, backgrounds, and gender identities
4. **Able to enrich social, environmental,** and recreational experiences and increase physical activity for existing and future residents
5. **Sustainably sited, designed and managed** in partnership with community, stakeholders, and traditional owners
6. Protecting and enhancing biodiversity, cultural heritage and amenity in the City's built landscape, parks, and waterways.
7. **Fit for purpose**, in accordance with its identified primary function and desired landscape setting type.

One of the key issues for the City of Lismore is the provision of a diverse range of accessible open spaces to serve future populations.

Challenges with respect to new residential growth areas, infill and flood management make it imperative that a good solid open space planning framework is applied, especially where there are development proposals.



3.2 Classification of open space

3.2.1 Why should we classify open space?

Public open space isn't all the same.

Different types of open space provide very different kinds of benefits.

As well as serving a wide range of community health and wellbeing needs, open space, also protects the natural environment, and provides for utility and drainage functions.

By defining the primary purpose or function of public open space, it is possible to determine which human benefits can be met in the long term, how it should be managed to protect these and to monitor changes in time and across the City.

3.2.2 Planning new residential areas

If we classify open space by function, we can define how big they need to be, what they should include, where and how many spaces are needed where people live, and how they can be maintained.

Classifying open space by function helps us analyse how accessible open spaces are to every residential community that needs them.

A classification based on landscape setting (i.e., is the site mown grass, heavily treed, paved, or managed sports turf, for example), helps us to understand the diversity of experiences available across a locality and help determine the priority for how to develop new open spaces so they complement other open spaces and create diversity of experience.

If new space in a highly urban area is created, and existing sites are all paved or mown grass, for example. The priority might be to provide dense tree canopy or even cultivated garden to add diversity.

In a more rural setting, a new open space might complement and add variety to available bushland or pasture or cultivated areas, by adding open grassed areas and paving for social activities.

Knowing what type of landscape setting a park has, also helps determine maintenance requirements.

3.2.3 How can an open space classification system be used to improve established areas?

Where multiple open spaces of the same function or setting type exist, changes in classification may create additional opportunities, reduce duplication or overserving, or enhance the sustainability of areas by reducing competition.

New opportunities may be generated if there are multiple similar sites (such as all playgrounds) by changing the landscape setting, or catchment, or even switching one space to a different function (such as community horticulture).

Or, if sites all are open grassed areas, for example. One or more could be developed to create a play setting in a heavily treed area or creating an ornamental garden setting.

3.2.4 The proposed open space classifications

The open space classifications adopted by this strategy are as follows:

- Classification 1. Open space function type
- Classification 2. Open space landscape setting type
- Classification 3. Open space catchment hierarchy

Council's current DCP does not classify open space.

Recommendations

- ▶ Update the Development Control Plan to reference this strategy.
- ▶ Consider the type of Settlement when planning public open space, i.e., is the park in a village or the main urban centre as the provision standards for each type of settlement should be different.

Classification 1. Open space function types

Open space function type reflects the purpose and role of the open space in the network based on key benefits sought by the community from the type of space.

This type of open space (primary function) classification is the most important, it will be key to determine the purpose of the open space to meet community need and set clear provision standards for each parcel.

When planning new open space, the most important question to answer is what is the priority open space function types available within a walkable distance and based on that, what open space functions need to be provided within proximity of new residential dwellings?

In conjunction with open space catchment, function type determines the core service level characteristics, size, distribution etc, for a space to ensure it is fit-for-purpose.

Table 2. Open Space Function Type Classifications and Descriptions

Open Space Function Types	Description
Social /family Recreation	Parks for play (but not single use just for children) but for people of all ages and abilities
Sport	Area dedicates for competition sport – social and club
Visual Amenity/ Look Out	Areas principally providing a look out or visual amenity / relief from urban sights, restorative values, or respite.
Relaxation	Open space with minimal recreational infrastructure (i.e., seats, paths, and bird hides only) providing for relaxation, contemplation / escape.
Wayside Stop (Roadside rest areas)	Road-side rest areas for drivers and their passengers to take a break.
Memorial Garden/Cemetery	Parks or gardens (or avenues of honour) dedicated to the memory of people or events
Community Horticulture / Garden	Areas for community horticultural or agricultural recreation activities or food security
Conservation / Biodiversity Cultural Heritage	Areas managed primarily for the protection of flora and fauna or biodiversity or cultural heritage.
Off-Road Trail/ Access way	A corridor or area dedicated to, or dominated by, an off-road trail or pathway, or an area along a corridor of open space, that facilitates walking and cycling, skating, and wheeling.

Other non-recreation functions such as flood management and utility may also be used.

The SFR function replaces the typical “play” provision

The locality analysis classifies small playgrounds as having a “play” open space function type. However, this function type is not recommended as a function of open space to be provided in future.

It has been commonplace to provide play areas within 400 metres of residential dwellings as the core open space provision. This was a consistent pattern in previous residential subdivisions everywhere. However, this has led to uniformity, a lack of diversity, and poor play value as well as small areas that are difficult to design to provide all residents with physical, social, and environmental experiences necessary for health and well-being. These spaces typically are not able to provide for the needs of a wide range of age groups, gender identities, abilities, and cultural backgrounds.

For these reasons the preferred approach is to provide social /family recreation “parks for play” rather than focusing on playgrounds, and to provide more generous spaces that can cater for a variety of activities, good quality environmental settings, physical activities and places to socialise and gather. These are more flexible, better respond to the changing nature of housing and lifestyles which have limited space for entertaining outdoors, space for gardens, play and dog exercise and socialisation.

In response to this typical provision for play, service levels now include the provision of larger parks for social /family recreation – for all ages and ability with physical, social and environmental elements within 500 metres maximum of all residential dwellings.

Recommendations

- ▶ In future residential developments focus on parks for social /family recreation and play that can provide for a wide range of activities age groups and people of all abilities, rather than the traditional small reserves with playgrounds.

Classification 2. Open space landscape setting type

Open space landscape setting type is a measure of diversity and available experiences, as well as character and access to nature. It reflects existing vegetation on an open space and assists with matching requirements for specific activities, user preferences and biophysical conditions.

Advertising the landscape setting type for each open space can assist potential users to: make a choice between sites for different reasons and explore new places.

A landscape setting type classification will assist with the differentiation of sites based on experiences and environmental quality they offer, for sustainability, planning, management, and marketing purposes.

Table 3. Landscape setting type classifications and descriptions

Landscape Setting Type	Description
Ornamental / community vegetable garden	Planted specimen trees/ garden beds / shrubs etc, including exotic plants cultivated food garden orchard or farm
River / water based	Infrastructure provided in relying on a river corridor
Open grassed area	Open grassed area- may include some trees around the boundary
Treed parkland	Scattered trees in grass land or with a low understorey
Bushland / forest	Two or three stories of vegetation including tree canopy with little open area
Managed sports turf	Cultivated lawn / sports turf
Wetland / Foreshore	Swamp vegetation and ephemeral or small water bodies.
Wetland/ foreshore Non manicured natural area	Swamp vegetation and ephemeral or small water bodies, or native or indigenous vegetation, not protected for conservation purposes.
Plaza/Paved Area	A sealed or paved area such as a plaza, arcade or square.

Classification 3. Open space catchment hierarchy

The catchment (i.e., local, district and regional) classification of an open space determines who it serves, its sphere of influence; the uniqueness or significance and scale of development required by users, and how far they travel, and hence the scale of support facilities.

Catchment, in conjunction with open space function type, determines the core service level for a space to ensure it is fit-for-purpose.

Table 4. Catchment hierarchy classifications and descriptions

Catchment	Definition
Local	Designed to serve the immediate neighbourhood - residents
District	Designed to serve a cluster of neighbourhoods across a town, or the whole of a small locality
Regional	Designed to serve visitors and people outside the municipality

Recommendations

- ▶ Adopt the open space classifications and planning framework in future open space and development planning.
- ▶ Utilise these classifications to encourage accessibility, equity and diversity to serve the needs of the population in the long term.

3.3 Settlement types

Public open space must respond to the context in which people live or work. Therefore, the density of areas and the nature of the land use means the provision model and landscape settings for public open space will differ.

Within the one Council area, there are different types of settlements that require different provision models for public open space. For example, in activity centres and areas of high residential density, parks that offer quiet, contemplative, and nature-based opportunities will complement the typical hard surfaced, noisy, and busy nature of these environments. These may need to be supplemented by communal open space as dwellings are unlikely to have any substantial private space.

Urban residential areas

In urban residential areas public open space for social/ family recreation, sport and trails needs to be **equitably distributed** across the area in addition to significant parks that support natural features.



In activity centres, employment precincts, areas of mixed use and higher density, the provision model would still be equitable distribution of multiple spaces.

However, as these areas are unlikely to have significant green space or private green space, the model of provision may be of areas public

open space at the core or the periphery of the core, supplemented by communal open space throughout.



The landscape setting types such as treed parkland, forest, ornamental or cultivated food garden may complement the harder surfaced noisy areas in higher density environments.

Rural villages

In the outlying areas, there are villages where the provision model is one centrally located social /family recreation area that may also include sport and community facilities. These villages typically benefit from the green hinterland and the focus of the public space is typically social and physical activity.



It is not desirable for subdivision to create new small open spaces, rather development contribution should focus on embellishing, improving and providing access to the one central open space to meet the service standards .

As open space should respond to the immediate residential environment or settlement type, in the more rural outlying areas the focus for public open space should be on centralised community hubs.

The landscape setting types such as paved areas and sports turf may complement other greener landscape setting types surrounding villages.

Recommendations

- ▶ Plan open space with the settlement type in mind to ensure:
 - The model of provision reflects the size and density of housing and access to private open space, and
 - The open space complements the context in which people live and work.

3.4 Distribution and size of spaces

3.4.1 Distribution of open spaces and distance thresholds

Distance thresholds are the walkable distance desirable from all residences to a particular type of open space. These are not provided for all open space function types because not all functions of open space are needed near housing. Distance thresholds have been applied for social /family recreation spaces, off-road trails and sports parks.

Walkable distance means accessible by street or path without having to cross a major road barrier river, canal, railway line or other physical barrier. Walkable distances can be mapped using an isochrone map. Walkable distance around an open space cannot be not represented as a circle based on a radii measurement as the crow flies”.

The type of settlement is an important consideration in the distribution of public open space. In urban areas, an equitable distribution of open space based on walkable distance is important to meet priority community needs.

In villages and rural areas, where there is likely to be more incidental benefits from larger private open spaces, green space surrounding the settlement, and the populations are smaller, it is not cost effective to provide multiple public space for social /family recreation across the residential area.

The preferred provision model in the smaller villages is one central open space that can provide for social /family recreation and sport as well as off-road trails. If new residential subdivisions occur in these small areas, any subdivision should contribute to the development or embellishment of a central space, rather than deliver additional small open spaces. Hence the walkable distance thresholds provided for priority open space types in urban areas would not apply.

These distance thresholds are shown in the table following (table 5.).

Table 5. Recommended distance thresholds from residents to the priority open space function types of different catchment hierarchies

Priority open space function type	Local catchment	District catchment	
		Urban residential areas	Village
Social/family recreation	Maximum distance 500m	800m or one per locality	One central to the residential/township zone in a small town with little or no growth
Sport	1km i.e., in conjunction with a SFR or school	2km	Same as district or one central to the residential zone
Off-road trails	500m	800m	Off-road trail circuit that connects most residents to the main SFR/Sport reserve.

3.4.2 Larger parks are preferred

The size of individual parcels of open space is a significant, if not the most important indicator of likely quality and whether an open space can be made "fit for purpose".

Fewer more, generous-sized parks will provide better experiences for a broader range of people. They will be more resilient, more easily retrofitted and likely to be more attractive, enhance biodiversity and enable social, physical, and environmental activities in the one park that are impossible in pocket parks. Small playground sites are not recommended

Larger sized parks enable canopy trees around the boundary, perimeter paths, the provision of a range of different surfaces that provide

opportunities for people with different gender identities, ages abilities and a variety of activities with fewer conflicts.

Also, larger parks are generally more cost-effective to maintain than multiple smaller sites, are more prominent and tend to be better used than small sites. Larger parks (of 1ha) provide better for play, a range of social and physical activities and can better serve people of all ages and abilities.

A more generous sized social /family recreation space near urban residential developments can provide for a diversity of social, physical and environmental activities that are required in a population for health and well-being.

Parks of generous size should be able to be continually embellished and improved to increase carrying capacity, as the density of housing may increase around it, when less additional open space is likely to be provided.

3.5 Desired standards of service

The preferred standards of service seek to prioritise the type of spaces needed and their characteristics to ensure spaces provide a diversity of opportunities, equitably distributed across residential areas.

The previous standards for open space and neighbourhood parks for subdivisions recommended a minimum size that would be too small to provide for a diversity of opportunities (physical, social and environmental) and include people of all ages, genders, and abilities.

In addition, more than one type of park is needed proximate to all types of residential dwellings to meet the range of open space

The preferred service standards reflect the vision for open space in Lismore and objectives which underpin this plan such as access and inclusion, equity and diversity, sustainability, biodiversity and fit for purpose.

First the standards outline the priority function types of open space

A residential community requires a suite of different types of public open space (functions) to ensure a wide range of benefits sought, such as social/family recreation and play, relaxation, sport, community gardening, conservation of cultural and biological heritage, visual amenity and civic pride can be met. See a list of all benefits and open space function types provided chapter 1.3.1.

A range of types of open space ensure a community is liveable and people of different ages, abilities, gender identities and cultural backgrounds can find satisfying recreation experience now and as they age.

There are some types of open space that need to be close by to residences to meet daily community needs; encourage people to exercise, play and have contact with nature.

These priority open space function types are:

- Off-road trails (for physical activity and exercising pets and active transport)
- Social/family recreation (parks for social recreation and play), and
- Sports areas (for physical activity, sports competition, games, and events).

In addition to these priority spaces, a range of other types of spaces are needed but can be farther away from home or located where significant sites need to be preserved for example.

Any new residential area must provide these three types of open spaces as a priority before any other. Hence the desired standards of service are only provided for the priority open space function types.

Second the standards outline the size, distribution, and character for each type of open spaces by catchment hierarchy

Each standard seeks to ensure the characteristic of the spaces facilitates the benefits they are designed to serve, and the space being fit for purpose and well used.

The desired service standards set out these priority open spaces required and the appropriate standards in relation to size, distribution, and character to be fit for purpose, to ensure these reflect community needs and will be and be well used.

The following table outlines desired standards of service for the three priority-open space function types required in residential areas. These priority open space function types are social /family recreation parks, sports parks, and off-road trails.



Table 6. Standards of Service by Priority Open Space Function Type

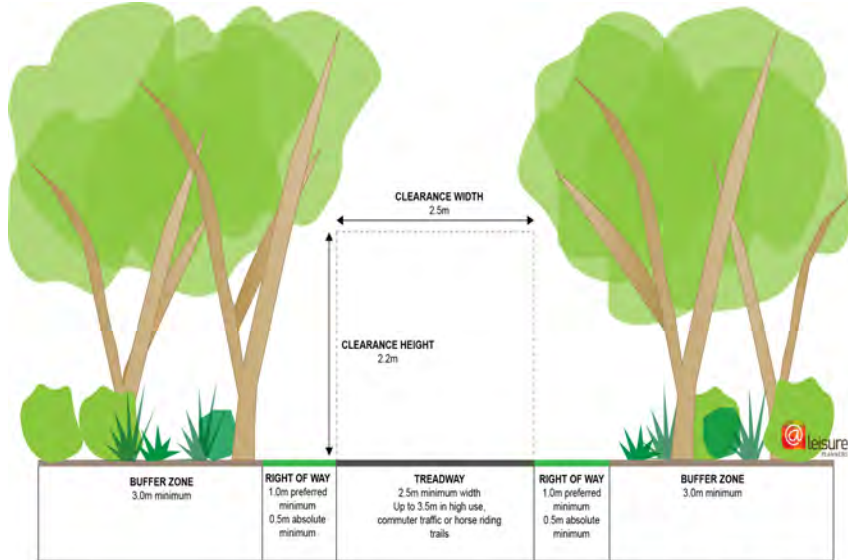
Function	Size, location and distribution	Minimum requirements new developments	Differences by settlement type
Off-road trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One trail circuit around all settlement types A park perimeter trail around all social /family recreation parks of 1ha or greater area, and all sports parks Subdivision plans and master plans shall include off-road trail circuits and connections to all parks and community facilities from residential streets. In an open space corridor not narrower in any direction than 10m to accommodate a path treadway, right of way and buffer (see figure1.diagram following) Along the outer road edge separating an escarpment and housing May be provided in employment precincts and industrial areas to encourage active transport and employee health and fitness. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If sealed for shared cycling and walking and mobility devices, a minimum width of the treadway should be 2.5m See figure1.diagram following) also AusRoads requirement for shared paths. Where new off-road trails are provided, ensure they are treelined, but the edge of the trail is protected from interference by tree roots and obstructions. Where possible consider surfaces that are permeable and unsealed for sustainability, climate change and consistency with the landscape. All internal paths should be accessible paths of travel unless there are extenuating circumstances. Conservation parks and waterways should have a trail at least around the perimeter as a buffer to a conservation or riparian protection zone, an ensure there are at least visual benefits and contact with nature for surrounding residents. Surfaces in conservation areas may need to include boardwalks, elevated panels etc. or a stable unsealed surface such a gravel, mulch or mown vegetation that is wheelable. 	<p>Urban residential areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Path networks Integrated into all parks, providing access from the street into all parks and to key facilities One off-road trail circuit around each neighbourhood or within 500m of all residences Provide one circuit which is designed as an accessible path of travel- avoid very steep areas and creates access to other community facilities etc., (where a wider path network might seek to also provide opportunities for exercise and include steep areas, tracks to scenic areas etc., not accessible to someone using a mobility device) All larger parks over 1 ha e.g., sports reserves should include a perimeter trail for exercise as well as an internal path network for access and wheeled play. <p>Village</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One circuit using public land /river corridors etc. for and servicing families need to get to community facilities in the village or nearest village. <p>Rural locality</p> <p>May include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A rail trail, a connection to the nearest village, and or MTB/bushwalking single track and river corridor trails and those connecting into longer distance trails networks if in the vicinity.

Function	Size, location and distribution	Minimum requirements new developments	Differences by settlement type
<p>Social/family recreation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Within a maximum of 500m of all residences ▪ Park location central to the residence is served regardless of topography ▪ Prominent site - not a battle-axe block with a narrow entry. ▪ Overlooked across the road from houses/ residential blocks on at least two and preferably three sides. ▪ Min of 70m in any one direction. ▪ 1 ha minimum size. In some circumstances dependant on the suitability of the site the unencumbered component of a park may be reduced to .75 ha where an encumbered area can be incorporated into the site and include additional landscape benefits, and off-road trails for example. ▪ In new sites, collocate with sports ▪ Fence some SFR sites across Lismore. Select a site to fence with accessibility in mind, and that may be partly enclosed by private boundaries, so it is cost effective to fence the whole site rather than a portion of it. ▪ Not to be perched on the edge of an escarpment or gully, for example. No retaining wall higher than 1m. <p>Note: In the analysis of existing localities, where there are play areas that are not large enough for social /family recreation and don't provide for people of all ages and abilities, but they are within 400m of all residents, these have not been shown as a gap. In future large SFR spaces are</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ At least 90% of the site has a gradient of less than 5% ▪ Park design must include areas, landscape features and facilities to promote social, physical, and environmental activities for people of all ages and abilities. ▪ Social, physical, and environmental elements, in an integrated design. ▪ An internal path circuit as well as universal access from the street, car park and footpaths in the site and to social areas ▪ A social and picnic area central to all sports and play items and served by a path with some shelter and multiple tables accessible to people using a mobility device, built and canopy tree shade. ▪ Multiple tables and seats designed to include somebody using a mobility device ▪ Kick-to-kick area, hard court area for games such as basketball, and or bikes etc, ▪ A green, quiet contemplative area for respite ▪ Play elements must designed to include to people of all ages and abilities, sensory plant materials, swinging, sliding, climbing rotating items suitable to include children of all gender identities. ▪ A mix of lawn and planted areas and wheelable pavement ▪ Elements that encourage social cooperative and nature play. ▪ Canopy, and boundary tree planting, areas with three storeys of vegetation for play and visual amenity. 	<p>Urban residential area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ One to serve residents within a walkable 500m (without crossing a major barrier i.e., road, river, drainage canal, train line, gully). ▪ Medium density dwellings/apartments should include communal space in addition to public parks (for social /family recreation and amenity value) to remain in private ownership). Additional small green space may be required in activity centres and higher density areas to compensate for the dense, paved and noisy context. ▪ Infill areas require access to SFR. This may require expansion of an existing space, acquisition of a new space or identification of a space to be funded from multiple developments. ▪ Where one locality has more than one SFR area they should provide different activities, focus on different age groups and provide a diversity of landscape settings. ▪ Serviced by an off-road trail or footpath network connecting to an off-road trail or shared path network. ▪ Toilets not mandatory for local SFRs. ▪ One destination space (i.e., regional catchment hierarchy in central Lismore) servicing visitor's picnic and play needs and may include a dog of leash area and additional skate as cycle facilities such as pump track, skill area, or trails as appropriate and in accordance with demand ▪ Internal accessible path system.

Function	Size, location and distribution	Minimum requirements new developments	Differences by settlement type
	<p>preferred and hence a 500m distance threshold is adopted.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The root zones of existing trees must be protected in accordance with Aust. Standards. It is not encumbered by conditions such as drainage/floodway, contamination, filled site, steep slope underground infrastructure, utility easement/infrastructure or environmental hazard. District and regional spaces to provide BBQ and shelter and toilets. May include dog off-lead, skate and BMX/MTB activities such as pump track/skills park or trails. All public parks including SFRs should have a park name sign and directional signage to them. 	<p>Village</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One in the village centre on a main street, where possible colocated with a public hall, community facility or school, or in conjunction with any sports or aquatic facility. Embellish this main site and enhance access via trails rather than take additional small spaces in subdivision, in and around villages. Access to a public toilet. Desirably co-located with sport. <p>Rural area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serve from nearest Village or suburb May focus on off-road trails to access the nearest service centre or significant open space for conservation etc.,
Sport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The distribution of sports parks would typically be addressed in a development contribution plan, locality, structure or master plan and be planned in conjunction with any new school. Desirably near schools or activity centres The minimum size of a team sports ground should support two fields of play for club cricket/ three football, and side by side, plus space for parking, all gender changerooms and shelter on the north/ northwest. Typically, 8 ha + for competition sports depending on number of fields of play and sports code. Additional space for indoor facilities. Prominent high visibility locations that draw local users. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A local level sports facility will be provided for training/ overflow, in association with schools. Facilities for social sports such as kick-to-kick and hard courts for basketball and tennis may be provided with club competition facilities or in a social/family recreation space. Provision for club competition sports to service district catchments include min of 2 preferably 3 full sized playing fields for each season + floodlights on all fields, shared support facilities with correct sizes, grades and orientation as per code requirements. Some provision for spectator and some social functions in district sports grounds. Some covered area. Facilities must not be subject to flooding, or be filled sites 	<p>Urban residential area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Typically providing for multiple sports at one venue or multiple fields for the one code for sustainability. May be co-located with indoor sports facilities, commercial clubs or with schools. <p>Village</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In central community spaces or in conjunction with schools. May be co-located with indoor sports facilities. <p>Rural Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broad acre sports such as shooting, motor sports, golf, equestrian, MTB, as well as paddle sports.

Function	Size, location and distribution	Minimum requirements new developments	Differences by settlement type
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ May be provided in rural, residential, business/commercial, and industrial zones. May be provided in community hubs - in conjunction with schools, or clubs or private facilities. ▪ Colocate with social/ family recreation space, perimeter exercise trail and canopy trees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ May include smaller footprint sports courts (such as netball/tennis courts, hockey pitches based on demand with a shared change and support facility. ▪ Buffer may be required to separate adjacent housing (ball spill, lights, noise etc.) or other land uses from sports open space. ▪ Emergency and maintenance vehicle access to all fields of play. ▪ Area for collecting / harvesting of water. 	

Figure 1. Anatomy of off-road trail ©



These requirements are in accordance with the AusRoads guidelines for shared paths.

Where off-road trails are provided in existing open space parcels i.e., as perimeter paths, this is considered separate from any requirement to contribute to wider pedestrian and cycling linkages.

Figure 2 off-road trail incorporated into the road verge



3.5.1 Using these standards of service

The first step in determining what a new residential area or subdivision needs in public open space is to assess what open space function types are provided nearby and what gaps exist.

When priority parks for social/ family recreation or sport exist, and they could meet the core requirements in size and components within the nominated walkable distance, these parks could be upgraded, embellished or extended to meet additional residents' needs.

Where priority open space function types are unavailable, and a gap exists (See Vol. 2 for identification of gaps.). The next step is assessing if the development can fund a new open space.

When the priority types of open space are not available to serve the new area, and an open space contribution cannot deliver the required size or standard of park, and there is no plan to provide open space for that site via another means, then the options to deliver an open space may be as follows:

- a) Extend or modify a space that exists within a 500m walkable distance to meet the requirements (i.e., change in size or function)
- b) Utilise the funds equivalent to the requirement to purchase another private property
- c) Agree on a site suitable for a social /family recreation space when there is to be an adjoining future residential development/subdivision that can serve both developments. Require each development to part-fund the purchase of a site that meets desired service standards.
- d) consider options to provide social /family recreation facilities colocated with another type of priority open space, such as a space with a sports function, an off-road trail corridor of a higher catchment order than local, or a site that is large enough in total but has a small area that is encumbered, by an open space with a conservation, utility or a flooding function.

Note: Additional open space for non-recreation purposes such as for drainage, rain gardens, utility corridors, flood management and steep or other encumbered land, or to protect significant trees may also be required in a subdivision.

These non-recreation types of lands have their own requirements not addressed in this plan – such as size to provide a root protection zone in conjunction in accordance with the Australian Standards.

Council will prioritise the dedication and provision of new social /family recreation space in new developments, regardless of development size.

Volume Two Locality Analysis identifies gaps in each locality across Lismore where there are no social /family recreation spaces available.

These gap areas may need to be addressed outside the subdivision process as much of the urban residential development may be infill that won't deliver sufficient open space through open space contributions to create a good distribution of social /family recreation parks and the corridors of off-road trails required by the whole population.

Recommendations

- ▶ Update Part A, Chapter 5A of the Lismore Development Control Plan to reflect the Desired Standards of Service.
 - ▶ Ensure parks are large enough and include opportunities for physical activity for people of all ages and abilities (as well as social and environmental opportunities)
 - ▶ As a minimum any park (of one ha) should include a perimeter off-road trail
 - ▶ Seek to ensure that all localities have a social /family recreation park. This may be in conjunction with a sports park, local hall etc.,
 - ▶ In urban areas seek to provide one social /family recreation park of 1 ha in size, within approximately 500m of all residences and in preference to multiple smaller open spaces
 - ▶ Provide a network of off-road trails across the City, in each locality, and around the perimeter of all large parks and sports facilities
- ▶ Progressively retrofit urban residential areas with footpaths, some of which meet the requirements of an off-road trail and provide access to key open spaces and community facilities in each locality.

4. Acquisition of open space

Acquisition of open spaces should be primarily focused on a) addressing the gaps that exist in established residential areas of Lismore, so that with an increasing population in these areas can be adequately served and b) in the planning of new residential developments.

The service standards set out the size, distribution and nature of desirable open spaces that should be acquired in the gap areas of established areas, and in new residential developments.

The quantity of open space required in new developments

The typical area to population ratio standards (e.g., 4ha per 1000 people) used at the turn of last century are not an appropriate mechanism to provide open space that will provide the range of benefits required by a community, and adequately address the unique context and physical character of a specific locality or municipality, and any existing open space.

The size of land take required in a new development area equals the area of land to provide the priority open space function types.

This is based on the characteristics described in the service standards for each function.

In summary, there are four key steps to determine how much open space needs to be acquired and where it is to be located.

4.1 Four steps in determining open space to be acquired

These steps are as follows.

1. **Determine the context for the development, the Settlement type and nature of the locality, as well as the existing supply of open space**, the relationship with adjacent developments and the closest park and shops etc.,
2. **Determine the open space Function types needed, having assessed the current nature of supply**
3. **Determine what open space Landscape settings are needed to ensure a diversity of experiences, based on existing supply and the potential of the development area**
4. **Determine the best site for an open space having considered** any existing site that Council can add to, the unique opportunity the location may provide, and how should it be designed and developed

to meet the requirements of the service standards.

The master planning and design process following acquisition should use the service standards to ensure the site is fit for purpose for the intended function type.

Council can apply this process to open space planning in non-residential zones and established/infill areas

The amount of open space required for open space purposes to meet community need should not be confused with the amount that may be provided as a contribution from a developer.

Where demand is stimulated by a residential development, the amount of land required for a park is not proportional to the scale of that development. If an open space for a social /family recreation function is triggered by that development, then the park must meet the required size and distribution standards. The core service standards for providing the priority open space types within walkable distance apply. If a subdivision is only three lots that does not suggest a smaller proportion of open space is required.

The implication of the process above is that where there is an increasing population, existing open spaces may need to be modified or extended, new open spaces planned in conjunction with other residential developments or open space provided as a separate structure planning or master planning process, to ensure long-term community needs are met.

4.2 Pocket parks divestment

Previous subdivisions have delivered a lot of small and poor quality open spaces.

The 2011-21 Lismore Sport and Recreation Plan recommended the Development of a “pocket parks” divestment strategy to rationalise small parks with poor functionality, provided another park with suitable assets such as a seat/ shelter, playground and/ or kick about space etc is located within a 500m radius of most residents serviced by the existing park.

The 2011 plan also adopted the following criteria for divesting these parks:

The land is:

- Owned freehold by LCC, and
- Generally, less than 1,000m², and
- Heavily constrained by slope, drainage/ flooding, contaminated land, high voltage power lines or inappropriate adjacent land uses, or
- The level of maintenance exceeds the norm with no corresponding benefit in terms of recreational use, or
- There is a heightened risk of injury that cannot be abated without significant expenditure.

The 2011 Plan noted Lismore Development Control Plan (Part A Chapter 5A) outlined that neighbourhood parks should have a minimum area of 2,500m² and at least 90% of the site to have a gradient of less than 5%. Many pocket parks in Lismore do not meet this standard.

4.2.1 Future divestment

Divestment of existing open space should be the last priority, In the context of:

- Residential areas offering little in the way of canopy trees, private open space or gardens, and street trees
- Many localities not having public open space in a walkable distance
- The limited diversity of open space function and landscape setting types in newer urban areas, to meet community needs
- The limitations that infill development provide on acquiring new parks through development contributions.

With future planning, it is essential that open space is not replaced with residential areas without adequately providing open space for new residents.

This 2022 Plan focuses on delivering a social /family recreation park, off- road trails and a sports park close to all residences, and then providing other open space to meet a diversity of other open space functions and setting types, where possible.

This 2022 Plan requires the main park for play (social/family recreation parks) serving a residential area be large (1 ha) to provide for the whole population (of all ages, abilities, and genders) with social, physical, and environmental activities, and complement backyards which can now provide very limited open space opportunities.

Small pocket parks are not part of the recommended open space planning framework. However strategically located ones may either provide for connections to large open space corridors for conservation or trails or be extended/ redeveloped to provide a different function such as social /family recreation or relaxation. Existing pocket parks may have value for other open space functions such as conservation, visual amenity, or community horticulture, where size may not be as critical.

Similarly, these small open spaces may enable the development of landscape settings not currently available in some areas, such as bushland, or cultivated garden to complement more sustainable sites for social facility recreation.

As an example, a small parcel of land with a single swing set may be better as another open space function, which adds diversity to existing open space opportunities and is less costly to maintain, i.e., planted to reduce cost and provide habitat, offer the opportunity for a community garden, or provide the for an off-road trail instead of

The following page outlines a detailed process for assessing public open space before it is disposed of. A detailed check list form could be developed from that.

4.2.2 Assessment process prior to disposal of open space

- 1. Understand the context: demand and supply**
- 2. Assess the potential values of the space**
 - a. Strategic location
 - b. Potential as another type of space
 - c. Beneficial attributes and values
 - d. Ability to be serviced
 - e. Ability to address reasons for low value
- 3. Determine implications of divestment**
- 4. Evaluate return from sale**
- 5. Assess history / complications**
- 6. Address policies and plans**

1. Understand the context: demand and supply

Identify the context of the site, settlement type, proximity to waterways, major trails, adjacent land uses, current use and community views about the space etc.,

What will change in the locality – potential increases in population, or non-residential developments, roads etc.,

Assess the provision of other open spaces in the locality, and their respective open space functions and landscape setting types, and suitable recreation activities that may take place.

Council may also wish to carry out consultation at this stage – or desirably after step 3., when the nature and potential of the physical conditions of the site have been assessed.

Considering the context above, determine gaps in the provision of open space function types. See Table 1., whether the nominated space can fill a gap (i.e., the need for specific open space functions and landscape setting types) and be in accordance with the requirements of that function or landscape (size, location, distribution, quality and accessibility) for the type of settlement. (See Standards of Service in Table 6.)

2. Assess the potential values of the space

Strategic location

Analyse the strategic location of the site from the perspective of:

- a) future need and /development around it.
- b) land value and location that meets the requirement of a different open space function type

Potential as another type of space

Identify the potential of the nominated open space to meet either priority activity needs of the community or fill any gaps in the provision of open space functions or landscape setting types.

Analyse whether the open space could add qualities or diversify functions, landscape settings or user experiences for the locality.

Assess the opportunity to improve the value and useability of the open space

If the open space is considered low value in its current form but may be in a good location to fill an identified gap or serve a specific open space function:

- Increasing its area (purchasing a parcel of land adjacent, or altering the boundary line)
- Providing significant embellishment/ supporting infrastructure on it, majorly improving access or amenity value, create a major attraction, or removing or relocating encumbrances (such as infrastructure, poor drainage, steep slope etc.,).

Could the space add diversity of functions or experiences, (based on service standards size, location, distribution, quality, design, and accessibility) and can it address any gaps or specific demand identified for that locality?

Can any of the constraints that have led to the site been identified as low value be overcome through addressing access, purchasing an adjoining site, filling, planting, embellishment etc.,

Beneficial attributes and values

Assess the presence of any unique or beneficial attributes, or values of the nominated open space, that could:

- Be utilised to positively contribute to public open space experiences. These could include slope, native vegetation, cultural heritage and infrastructure / utilities, spectacular views or significant trees, or off-road trail to create permeability or access to other spaces, a river corridor etc.,
- Be protected if the open space is divested and the site is to be developed for another purpose.
- Planning constraints; infrastructure development, environmental significance, cultural heritage, easements etc.,

Ability to be serviced

Does the site have:

- Vehicle access
- Appropriate services; drainage, sewer, electricity supply and water?

3. Determine implications of divestment

Assess the implications of disposing the open space on the wider open space /public land network, including:

- Potential loss of off-road access through the neighbourhood or loss of legibility and permeability, such as access through a residential area, or to a school, community facility, activity centre, transport node, etc., or contribution to a recreation off-road trail circuit,
- Potential loss of alternate function or landscape setting types in the locality
- Potential loss of vegetation
- Potential loss of ability to connect with future open space that could be contributed through subdivision of adjoining land.
- Potential loss of a site that may become significantly more valuable in the future when other land develops around it.
- Potential reduction in cost of maintenance if the space is not meeting the required need, could not meet another need identified.

4. Evaluate return from sale

Determine the likelihood of selling the open space and potential sale price, and benefits of selling the space given the current economic climate, against the loss to the open space network or the ramifications of the sale – such as replacing it if acquired through the subdivision process.

Assess the likely costs to prepare the land for sale. Consider costs such as land valuation, rezoning (if required), subdivision (if required), advertising and legal /real estate fees, fencing, or clean-up/ decontamination.

When determining the value and likely sale price of the land, consider the likely future use or development regarding the site attributes, location, planning or other statutory requirements, encumbrances, and constraints.

5. Assess history / complications

Investigate the history of the open space and how it was secured (e.g., bequeathed, transferred from Crown, development contribution etc.).

Consider the level of community involvement in the development and management of the land, and the potential community response to disposal.

Note: there are legislative, statutory, and other Council processes that may also need to be followed to divest a public open space.

These processes may also include for example rezoning or replacement of the space, and / community engagement or advertising the sale.

Recommendations

- ▶ Consider divestment of public open space as the last priority for sites of low value.

5. Public open space in Lismore

Volume 2. Locality Analysis describes in detail the current provision of open space, distribution gaps in supply and specific issues identified in the site inspections. This chapter provides a very high level summary of key points.

Figure 3. Distribution of open spaces by function type



Recommendation

- ▶ Consider the opportunities for open space provision as part of the planned retreat out of parts of Lismore, North, East and South Lismore.
- ▶ Master planning work should be undertaken using the open space planning framework in this Strategy, as well as ensuring the classification and locations of open space provision can complement other uses that may be provided as part of Lismore's recovery.
- ▶ Create a webpage on the Lismore City Council website with interactive mapping highlighting open space parcels and their function.

5.1 Distribution by function type

The previous image shows open space functions classified as:

The orange open space areas are social /family recreation, the red areas are sports park and the yellow are sites for conservation/ biodiversity. Green is drainage/ utility.

Key findings include:

- Areas further from the river tend to be smaller.
- New residential areas have few conservation sites and are small areas mostly dedicated to play, with few paths through residential areas.
- There is a need for more equitably distributed social/ family recreation areas, especially in areas with residential growth.
- Lismore benefits from the rivers and smaller waterway corridors and some major conservation spaces that support recreation, character, amenity and biodiversity benefits.
- Waterway corridors should be protected by a riparian protection zone before any accessway trail or other more urban recreational open space is provided abutting and could have a diversity of opportunities created along their length.
- Protection and connection of these conservation and biodiversity sites and waterway corridors to extend habitat will be important as residential communities expand and are rearranged to address flood management issues, alongside the need to serve residential communities with a diversity of open spaces to meet their immediate community and recreation needs.
- In future, some of the more social functions and manicured open space settings along the rivers could be replaced with more wild environmental spaces and larger social /family recreation spaces could be provided more proximate to where future residential areas will be focused.

5.2 Distribution of open space by landscape setting

The following image shows open space landscape settings classified as:

- Bushland/Forest
- Managed Sports Turf
- Open Grassed Area
- River/water based Recreation
- Treed Parkland
- Wetland/foreshore

Key findings include:

- The predominant setting types are managed sports turf in the Lismore township (bright green) bushland/ forest (brown) and treed parkland (aqua coloured).
- In areas such as has Goonellabah public open space is primarily open grassed areas, throughout. Central Lismore has few bushland areas and more ornamental and managed sport turf areas than other localities.

See Volume 2 for further details by locality.

The following image illustrates the distribution of open spaces by landscape setting type.



Figure 4. Distribution of open spaces by landscape setting type across Lismore

Recommendations

- ▶ Ensure there is a good balance in parks with those large open grass/managed turf, canopy trees for play screening and shade, as well as ground covers and flowering plants that provide sensory opportunities as well as habitat for insects and small birds, and interest for appreciation in the environment.
- ▶ Seek to provide a diversity of parks with different landscape setting types from those which are paved to those that are heavily forested, open with grassy areas, and those with a combination of open grass and canopy trees as well as some cultivated ornaments / food gardens.
- ▶ Consider providing paved areas or hard courts, and ornamental / cultivated garden setting types in parks or in encumbered areas.
- ▶ Consider alternatives to lawn, especially in verges. These can be planted with meadow species that require little maintenance and encourage biodiversity.
- ▶ In any future higher density residential developments, consider more intense nature based or garden settings in to complement the hard nature of the environment and encourage play and contact around dwellings.
- ▶ Seek opportunities to develop additional landscape setting types in each locality to create a better diversity of experiences.



5.3 Areas of under and oversupply

Volume 2. Locality Analysis provides additional details about each locality and its assessment.

5.3.1 Lismore

Gaps in Sport

- The suburb of Lismore has a significant number of sport parcels close to the CBD with Lismore Park and in the northern parts of the suburb.
- Just outside of the suburb of Lismore (in Lismore Heights), there are no parcels with the sport classification
- Some residents in the northeast of Lismore Heights are outside the distance threshold for sport
- Investigate provision in conjunction with the City's ambition of planned retreat from this area.

Gaps in SFR

- Heritage Park provides the suburb of Lismore with its only SFR park leaving a significant gap in quality social /family recreation or play spaces in the east, south and north of the suburb with only Dalziel Park (GIS name) McKenzie Park as per Google Maps) providing minimal experiences.
- Opportunities to develop these experiences in these parts of the suburb should be pursued.

- In future, areas closest to the river may need to focus on provision for conservation and flood pain management and hence social /family recreation spaces may need to be closer to where people live in Lismore.

5.3.2 North Lismore

Gaps in Sport

- North Lismore has several sporting fields classified as sport, but these are all located in the very southern parts of the suburb.
- With future development in the North Lismore Plateau, the significant gap in sport provision in the northern areas of the suburb needs to be considered as part of development planning.
- Upgrading the existing sport provision to support residential growth could form part of the future provision in this suburb. Sports provision in conjunction with schools should be investigated, together with progress towards the City's ambition of planned retreat from this area.

Gaps in SFR

- There are no SFR parks and almost no parks for play in North Lismore. Currently the nearest park in a neighbouring suburb is Heritage Park in Lismore and although not classified as an SFR in this project (classified as Sports Turf), Nesbitt Park in South Lismore offers an SFR experience.
- As North Lismore Plateau develops, there will be a requirement for a variety of open space functions including the SFR, to be provided in the to meet the needs of a growing community.

5.3.3 East Lismore

Gaps in Sport

- The majority of East Lismore is provided with access to the sport function with Albert Park in the west of the suburb, Lismore Golf Course in the central area and Neilson Park in the east of the suburb. The southern areas of the suburb are not as well provided for in terms of sport provision.
- Should development occur in this part of the suburb, the current gap in provision will need to be rectified to service the future population.
- Wade Park has the potential to provide sport within its provision and will need to be considered as part of future planning as to what sport elements could potentially be provided for here.

Gaps in SFR

- There is a significant gap in the provision of the social /family recreation functions with large areas of higher density residential housing, south of Ballina Rd.
- SFR parks are in Riverside Park South in the northwest of the suburb (this is part of the Wilsons River front parklands) and in the southeast of the suburb in Wade Park.
- This leaves significant gaps in SFR provision in the north and central parts of the suburb as there are only very minimal play opportunities in these parts of the suburb.

5.3.4 South Lismore

Gaps in SFR

- There are no parks in South Lismore classified in this project as SFR although Nesbitt Park is SFR as a secondary function.
- There are gaps in the provision of SFR parks in the west of the suburb with opportunities to potentially provide in Riverview Park.

5.3.5 Girards Hill

Gaps in SFR

- There are no SFR parks in Girards Hill. The nearest SFR park to the suburb is Heritage Park/Riverside Park South.
- There are opportunities to provide play and potentially SFR opportunities in Girards Hill by developing Bob Cowley Memorial Peace Park.

5.3.6 Goonellabah

Gaps in Sport

- Access to sport parks and facilities is limited in the areas of the Goonellabah north of Ballina Rd and South of Oliver Ave in the areas that are primarily new housing developments.
- The social/ family recreation park at Kadina Street Reserve has a small rugby field as part of the layout which could support existing sports parks in the suburb, for training or junior development programs.
- With large residential developments approved south of the suburb and proposed developments to the north, sport provision will need to be part of future open space provisions.

Gaps in SFR

- The only park with a SFR classification is Kadina Park in the central area of the suburb leaving large gaps in the provision of social /family recreation parks in the north and south and west of the suburb.
- The nearest SFR to Kadina Park is Wade Park in East Lismore.

5.3.7 Bexhill

Gaps in SFR

- There has not been a SFR identified in Bexhill although the Sam Trimble Oval has the potential to provide this classification in the town.

- The addition of a perimeter trail, a connected trail from the centre of town and a more accessible entry and connection within the playground and reserve in general to support the existing toilets and BBQ area would provide SFR to the town.

5.3.8 Dunoon

Gaps in SFR

- There has not been a SFR identified in Dunoon although the Dunoon sports precinct has the potential to provide this classification in the town.
- The addition of a perimeter path around the oval precinct with connections to neighbouring streets as well as a more accessible and connected playground, a more accessible carpark and entrance into the park and a BBQ area to support the existing sports facilities and toilet would provide a township SFR within the Sports precinct (Balzer Oval)

5.3.9 Clunes

Gaps in SFR

- There is no SFR in Clunes. There is an opportunity to develop a community SFR within the old school site potentially replacing play at Smith St Park which is an underutilised play space. In conjunction with this development, wayside stop improvements should be considered to the Village Green to provide an accessible and comfortable location for locals and visitors when passing through.

- Provision of open space should be considered as part of a master planning project for Clunes.

Gaps in Sport

- There is currently no parcel in Clunes with the Sport classification. The nearest sport function parcel is in Bexhill, more than 8 km away. Continued use of the old school sports field in Clunes by the community would support social and community level sport in the town.
- Provision of sport facilities within Clunes should be considered as part of the master planning project for Clunes.

5.3.10 The Channon

Gaps in SFR

- There are currently no parcels with SFR in The Channon.
- Consideration for providing these functions in the Channon should look at either the Channon Common or at Coronation Park.

Recommendations

- ▶ Seek to address the gaps in distribution in social /family recreation, sport and off-road trails as subdivision and other planning projects are implemented.
- ▶ Address the gaps and opportunities listed in the locality analysis on an ongoing basis.



5.4 Accessibility of existing open space

The high-level accessibility assessment of each park across Lismore has been completed. Parks were assessed considering four general levels of accessibility. The lowest level being level 1.

Level 1 accessibility: Find and Get In

Level 2 accessibility: Get Around

Level 2 accessibility: Get Together, Stay

Level 4 accessibility: Get Active and Playful

Of the 128 parks assessed, less than 20% of these provided an accessible access (level 1.) and only a few of these provided a full accessible experience from entry point to include accessible experiences within the park itself, where people with a disability are encouraged by design to be included in activities with the family or friends.

No parks appear to be specifically designed to include all people in play, social or physical activities although several sites have equipment that can enable inclusive activities, but the connections to those may not be there.

While it would appear that this assessment focuses primarily on people with a physical disability, in fact access by path and positioning of central social and other elements enables wayfinding for people with a vision impairment and structure for people with neurosensory disabilities.

In future park public open spaces can be made more accessible and inclusive in the following ways:

- Ensuring a good diversity social, physical, and environmental opportunities in parks for people of all ages and abilities

- Selectively fencing some parks
- Designing parks to include sunny and shady areas, quiet respite area, a diversity in the sensory qualities of spaces and access to nature, for gender equity and people of all abilities
- A path system connecting everything (road to gate to social and play items as well as lawn and planted areas), and an accessible path of travel to items of equipment and furniture
- A central social space with tables and shelter
- Providing equipment designed to foster access and inclusion, such as:
 - Options for swinging/ rotating, bouncing, or rocking
 - Swing seats with backs and restraints
 - Items for social and cooperative play, and side by side items,
 - Under deck access for cooperative play and
 - Interactive items that can be used front-on from a seated position
- Appropriately designed furniture that is correctly installed; seats with extension spaces and path access, drinking fountains facing the correct way etc.,
- Hard court areas for wheeled activities

The following table describes in more detail the conditions assessed under each one of the levels of accessibility.

Level of accessibility	Broad assessment criteria
Level 1 accessibility Find and Get In	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The site is prominent, not on a steep slope ▪ Is connected to a footpath, ▪ Has an accessible path entry and a curb crossing (with no barriers to get in such as locked gates, narrow spaces or latches people can't access). For a district park – does it have accessible parking?
Level 2 accessibility Get Around	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Is there a path network that gets at least to a social area, and key facilities i.e., to a playing field, toilets, courts etc., ▪ Is there reasonably good wayfinding for people with a disability, vision impairment etc. and an accessible path of travel no more than 14% slope and cross fall ▪ Is there an accessible of travel with a flat hard surface (doesn't need to be sealed may be hard packed mulch, gravel or even mowed grass).
Level 2 accessibility Get Together, Stay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Is there a social space with good shelters social space with tables, central to all activities and accessible for someone using a mobility device. ▪ Is there space to comfortably move around etc., where people feel they can communicate with others doing activities. ▪ Availability of some things that they can do or see together – nice sensory planting etc. views etc., spectating. ▪ Is there a fenced option (on selective sites) for children on the autism spectrum. Support facilities such as all gender accessible toilets i.e., with an adult change table, available and shelter from the weather
Level 4 accessibility Get Active and Playful	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Is there access to courts and playing fields ▪ Is there accessible furniture and play equipment. e.g., roll on carousels, birds nest swings, hammocks, swing seats with backs and straps, under deck cubbies or shop counters with a path to things that you can do in a seated position and reach front on, i.e., interactive noughts and crosses, steering wheels etc., or water play, etc., accessible by path, ramps to elevated things, fitness operable from a chair.

Volume 2. provides photographs of access issues and notes regarding accessibility from the site inspections.

Recommendations

- ▶ Where retrofitting areas with footpaths is possible, consider prioritising access to existing parks, and ensuring the gradient is accessible
- ▶ In new residential areas ensure footpaths are designed in all streets and ensure select streets have shared off-road trails designed in circuits that connect to parks and community facilities
- ▶ Ensure access to main parks from footpaths, and any abutting closed or no-through roads, on all sides. Ensure that slopes on accessways are considered
- ▶ Consider access and inclusion for people of all ages and abilities in the choice of sites for a park at subdivision stage
- ▶ Consider undertaking a major refurbishment of Heritage Park with replacement and leveling of surfaces and supporting infrastructure, entries, and plant material. Utilise a landscape architect with significant experience in play design for children with a disability
- ▶ Review equipment that has opportunities to be used while seated – i.e., shop counters that you can get your knees under, or steering wheels and interactive items that can't be accessed from a chair
- ▶ In future, ensure wheelchair swings are cited alongside other swings so play can develop with others.
- ▶ Sign wheelchair swings to enable them to be used by other people such as older adults, and better site and redesign enclosures so they are welcoming.

5.5 Other opportunities to increase the use of parks

5.5.1 Perimeter paths

In larger parks, a perimeter path that provides a safe stable surface to ride walk, wheel or run, can provide opportunities to socialising with others, meet daily exercise needs of adjacent residences and allow people to contact nature.

Recommendations

- ▶ In all parks of 1ha or more, provide a perimeter path suitable for jogging and walking. Sports reserves may need an extra buffer around fields of play, to provide these.

5.5.2 Interface/relationship with housing and roads

Many existing parks have a poor relationship with adjacent residences. Many are not prominent, central to the residents they serve, are not overlooked by residences or they have multiple private yards abutting the park because the park is small.

Some parks are placed on roads where there are no footpaths, so access is difficult for people who cannot drive or are not physically fit.

When parks are small, they may not be screened well and therefore the behaviour of people using the park may be influenced by those residents adjacent.

Recommendations

- ▶ Consider providing at least boundary planting on boundaries of small reserves abutting private spaces.
- ▶ In new residential areas ensure reserves are large enough so use is not affected, and adequate buffers for physical, social, and quiet contemplative activities are provided
- ▶ In new residential areas ensure reserves about public space on two or preferably three sides.
- ▶ Ensure future residential areas have a good network of footpaths and shared footways running in circuits that can be used to access parks and for exercising and walking the dog.

5.5.3 Use of slopes

A range of issues are presented by the provision of housing in steep areas and parks on steep slopes. These issues include accessibility for people who use mobility devices, overlooking private yards, difficulty in providing areas for ball games and similar activities, additional development or asset management costs associated with steep slopes.

Steep sites are more complex, costly, and risky for employees to service considering firefighting, emergency, and maintenance vehicles, slashing or mowing, planting/ vegetation management. In addition, steep slopes may be unstable.

Gravity, wind, water, or disturbance from construction can cause movement, erosion, and slippage, especially when existing vegetation is removed, and impervious surfaces constructed in and around them.

Recommendations

- ▶ Council should establish some guidelines for developers around providing parks in steep residential areas
- ▶ Ensure parks in steep areas are serviced by an accessible path of travel into and around the park.
- ▶ Large of areas of sloping lawn can be replaced by planting ribbons of vegetation along paths for example.

6. Biodiversity, nature play and response to a changing climate

6.1 Lismore is fortunate to have high scenic quality due to topography and vegetation

Lismore is fortunate to have high scenic quality due to topography and vegetation, and this often provides a backdrop to many relatively uniform urban parks. The area has a long growing season, relatively good tree canopy and large number of spectacular mature specimen trees in older established parks. The river corridors provide a setting for some of the larger social /family recreation areas in Lismore, sports facilities and regional trails.

Additionally, Lismore is an area rich in biodiversity with natural values that attract locals and visitors. Lismore's Biodiversity Management Strategy (BMS) identifies these assets and sets out the Council's management plan.

The character of and diversity of this vegetation and river corridors can provide special experiences to park users.

The river corridors should have a riparian protection zone reserved along their width. This is a continuous width of land required as a core riparian or conservation zone with dimensions in accordance the significance of the waterway, plus a vegetation buffer, and then trail/maintenance vehicle area outside of this corridor.

Lismore's Urban Corridor Growth Plan (UCGP) identifies a network of 6 wildlife corridors which link bushland reserves and important habitat. It also developed a program of ecological restoration that enhances existing bushland and improves the connectivity of these corridors.

Recommendations

- ▶ Continue to implement the Urban Green Corridors Plan and ensure any works to open space parcels adjacent to or nearby the identified corridors are consistent with the objectives of the UCGP.

6.2 Canopy trees and vegetation in new residential areas

In contrast to the river corridors and established areas, many newer residential areas have few mature trees in parks and limited vegetation throughout residential areas except for waterway corridors and hilltops and isolated pockets.

Trees provide significant value to new development areas and parks for character, biodiversity, cooling, and visual amenity as well as offering props and play materials etc.

Increasingly new residential areas will be in more vulnerable and marginal locations such as steep areas, hilltops and vegetated land.

Single mature trees in residential subdivisions are vulnerable on their own and to changing water tables after the land is developed.

Site inspections identified large trees retained in a new residential area in marginal locations and without tree protection zones. Mature trees are less viable and more vulnerable to damage in new residential developments, anyway, due to changing water tables, fill an increase in impermeable surfaces, and positioning on road edges.

Some new parks had beautifully landscape areas with low level vegetation but few canopy trees and unnecessary turfed nature strips.

To protect mature trees in new residential areas they must be retained in larger areas of open space, greater in area than the canopy and tree protection zones retained around the whole tree. See The Australian Standard, Protection of Trees on Development Sites (AS4970 2009)

There are multiple areas where additional trees can be accommodated in new residential areas and opportunities to increase at diversity of vegetation in parks as well as replant areas of unnecessary exotic grass.

Even sports parks that are primarily managed sport turf can provide large canopy trees for shade or as perimeter plantings and have perimeters planted with native meadows or another understorey.

Meadow planting can be introduced in the rough of golf courses and in corridors along off-road trails.

In some areas there are obvious drainage lines that could be designed as rough creek beds that flow when it is wet.

There is potential to enhance resident's exposure to nature and significant biodiversity values, through lookouts, local interpretation, as well as trail access to parks, around conservation sites and along waterway corridors.

Recommendations

- ▶ Protect additional mature trees in new residential areas, and in larger areas of open space greater in area than the canopy and the tree protection zones.
- ▶ Require residential developments to include trees in all streets and for planting plans to provide trees for buffers, amenity value shade and play opportunities in all open spaces.
- ▶ Continue to retain all hilltops, and waterway corridors for conservation values with riparian protection zones.

- ▶ When funds for new park developments are limited, planting and paths to create character and a framework for future infrastructure should be considered a priority.

Trees and understorey species should be chosen for different benefits including play, shelter, shade, screening, and visual amenity.

6.3 Nature in parks for play

Many parks for play have trees as a backdrop- or in the view line, however there few opportunities to interact with nature in parks.

Trees are typically not a provided as features integrated with play opportunities.

A desire is often expressed for specially designed nature play spaces.

Rather than having areas that are purely dedicated to nature play, as the access to nature in incidental spaces in Lismore are relatively good, a better strategy is to ensure that the quality of parks for play generally is better and a range of natural elements are provided in all play spaces. these elements should include flowering plants, trees with interesting fruits nuts and barks and loose materials that can be used as props for play and promote sensory experiences and exploration.

Tree species should be selected for different purposes in the parks; for buffers and screening, for canopy trees for shade, specimen trees for visual interest and spectacular contrast, and trees to promote play, and for climbing.

For young children nature encourages experimentation and provides a source of inspiration and learning about the natural world.

Recommendations

- ▶ Incorporate nature-based play elements into parks that provide sensory experiences and allow children to manipulate and shape their environment.
- ▶ Vegetation and natural elements should complement the play opportunities children have in their home environment which are becoming increased paved.
- ▶ Access to loose materials, open ended and natural elements is critically important for the healthy development of children, and these should be provided in every play space.
- ▶ Natural elements and loose materials are best placed carefully in conjunction with other infrastructure in parks for play to create a flow between elements and extend play opportunities of both.

6.4 The changing climate

The region is one of the most biologically diverse in NSW, that contribute to very high quality public open space. This may be impacted on by the increased vulnerability of vegetation and fauna to increasing temperatures, changing rainfall patterns and extreme weather events such as fire, and flooding.

Flooding significantly impacted park infrastructure and vegetation and useability and observed to provide support picnic facilities for many displaced persons and relief workers.

Some of the key the implications for public open space are the increasing vulnerability of tree species, the cost of storm and flood damage and increased need for public open space for cooling respite and support facilities.

There are opportunities to reduce the scale of potential vegetation loss, the amount of sealed nonpermeable and low albedo surfaces, to increase tree cover for cooling, carbon sequestration and biodiversity through changes in residential development standards and management actions.

There may be opportunities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through less mowing in some open space areas. A proportion of mown space could be planted with indigenous species, wildflower lawns, etc., that will have other benefits in terms of biodiversity and contact with nature, and greater diversity of opportunities across Lismore.

As the demand for sealed paths and trails and synthetic wheelable softfall and sports surfaces increase, a balance needs to be struck in how much space is sealed, and choices made in favour of permeable, recyclable and high albedo surfaces.

More generous sized parkland will facilitate resilience and a diversity of vegetation, provide for more canopy trees around sport for example, shade and accommodate bioretention basins.

More street tree plantings in areas such as Goonellabah in conjunction with pathways may create a more liveable, cooler environmental and encourage outdoor activity in summer.

Continual monitoring and management of risk associated with the use of public open space in extreme weather events, such as heat, smoke, dust floods and storm events and bushfire will become more important.

Purchasing and procurement processes can require sustainably sourced timber and natural materials and replace traditional materials with high embodied carbon and that uses high fossil fuels in their production, such as concrete and steel.

Recommendations

- ▶ Monitor and manage the use of public open space in times of natural disaster, extreme weather events such as flood, heat, smoke, dust, bushfire and storm events, and risks associated with those.
- ▶ Consider reducing the amount of land that requires mowing for example around the edges of sports grounds, and along nature strips – in favour of wildlife meadows or productive plants etc. to increase biodiversity, bird life, a diversity of open space landscape setting types, access to nature for children, and to reduce water use and carbon footprint of maintenance.
- ▶ Mitigate the urban heat island effect through increased street tree and park planting, trees shading infrastructure and reducing unnecessary paved areas
- ▶ Protect biodiversity and provide links from the river and between large conservation sites that increase resilience of species to move and propagate.
- ▶ Use permeable and recycled path surfaces for paths and softfall.
- ▶ Manage runoff by providing bioretention basins in parks, and areas for WSUD etc. (outside the minimum size required for the function)
- ▶ Consider rewilding much of the river corridors and relocating infrastructure in the longer term to areas that will be more central to the residential areas.
- ▶ Explore “Shared ways of knowing” with registered indigenous partners and work with them on land, fire, and vegetation management.



7. City wide recommendations

The following lists each chapter and the recommendations.

2. Demand and community preferences 10

- ▶ Assist each of the potential areas of residential development and apply the service standards to the provision of open space. 11
- ▶ Provide an equitable distribution of accessible and inclusive open spaces with a wide range of open space functions and landscape setting types, that meet community needs now and in the future. 11

3. Open Space Framework 13

- ▶ Update the Development Control Plan to reference this strategy. 15
- ▶ Consider the type of Settlement when planning public open space, i.e., is the park in a village or the main urban centre as the provision standards for each type of settlement should be different. 15
- ▶ In future residential developments focus on parks for social /family recreation and play that can provide for a wide range of activities age groups and people of all abilities, rather than the traditional small reserves with playgrounds. 17
- ▶ Adopt the open space classifications and planning framework in future open space and development planning. 18
- ▶ Utilise these classifications to encourage accessibility, equity and diversity to serve the needs of the population in the long term. 18

- ▶ Plan open space with the settlement type in mind to ensure:19

- The model of provision reflects the size and density of housing and access to private open space, and
- The open space complements the context in which people live and work
- ▶ Update Part A, Chapter 5A of the Lismore Development Control Plan to reflect the Desired Standards of Service. 30
- ▶ Ensure parks are large enough and include opportunities for physical activity for people of all ages and abilities (as well as social and environmental opportunities) 30
- ▶ As a minimum any park (of one ha) should include a perimeter off-road trail 30
- ▶ Seek to ensure that all localities have a social /family recreation park. This may be in conjunction with a sports park, local hall etc., 30
- ▶ In urban areas seek to provide one social /family recreation park of 1 ha in size, within approximately 500m of all residences and in preference to multiple smaller open spaces 30
- ▶ Provide a network of off-road trails across the City, in each locality, and around the perimeter of all large parks and sports facilities 30
- ▶ Progressively retrofit urban residential areas with footpaths, some of which meet the requirements of an off-road trail and provide access to key open spaces and community facilities in each locality. 30

4. Acquisition of open space31

- ▶ Consider divestment of public open space as the last priority for sites of low value. 36

Recommended Actions (cont'd)

5. Public open space in Lismore37

- ▶ Consider the opportunities for open space provision as part of the planned retreat out of parts of Lismore, North, East and South Lismore. 37
- ▶ Master planning work should be undertaken using the open space planning framework in this Strategy, as well as ensuring the classification and locations of open space provision can complement other uses that may be provided as part of Lismore's recovery. 37
- ▶ Create a webpage on the Lismore City Council website with interactive mapping highlighting open space parcels and their function. 37
- ▶ Ensure there is a good balance in parks with those large open grass/managed turf, canopy trees for play screening and shade, as well as ground covers and flowering plants that provide sensory opportunities as well as habitat for insects and small birds, and interest for appreciation in the environment. 40
- ▶ Seek to provide a diversity of parks with different landscape setting types from those which are paved to those that are heavily forested, open with grassy areas, and those with a combination of open grass and canopy trees as well as some cultivated ornaments / food gardens. 40
- ▶ Consider providing paved areas or hard courts, and ornamental / cultivated garden setting types in parks or in encumbered areas. 40
- ▶ Consider alternatives to lawn, especially in verges. These can be planted with meadow species that require little maintenance and encourage biodiversity. 40

- ▶ In any future higher density residential developments, consider more intense nature based or garden settings in to complement the hard nature of the environment and encourage play and contact around dwellings. 40
- ▶ Seek opportunities to develop additional landscape setting types in each locality to create a better diversity of experiences. 40
- ▶ Seek to address the gaps in distribution in social /family recreation, sport and off-road trails as subdivision and other planning projects are implemented. 44
- ▶ Address the gaps and opportunities listed in the locality analysis on an ongoing basis. 44
- ▶ Where retrofitting areas with footpaths is possible, consider prioritising access to existing parks, and ensuring the gradient is accessible 46
- ▶ In new residential areas ensure footpaths are designed in all streets and ensure select streets have shared off-road trails designed in circuits that connect to parks and community facilities 46
- ▶ Ensure access to main parks from footpaths, and any abutting closed or no-through roads, on all sides. Ensure that slopes on accessways are considered 46
- ▶ Consider access and inclusion for people of all ages and abilities in the choice of sites for a park at subdivision stage 46
- ▶ Consider undertaking a major refurbishment of Heritage Park with replacement and leveling of surfaces and supporting infrastructure, entries, and plant material. Utilise a landscape architect with significant experience in play design for children with a disability 46
- ▶ Review equipment that has opportunities to be used while seated – i.e., shop counters that you can get your knees under, or steering wheels and interactive items that can't be accessed from a chair 46

- ▶ In future, ensure wheelchair swings are cited alongside other swings so play can develop with others. 46
- ▶ Sign wheelchair swings to enable them to be used by other people such as older adults, and better site and redesign enclosures so they are welcoming. 46
- ▶ In all parks of 1ha or more, provide a perimeter path suitable for jogging and walking. Sports reserves may need an extra buffer around fields of play, to provide these. 47
- ▶ Consider providing at least boundary planting on boundaries of small reserves abutting private spaces. 47
- ▶ In new residential areas ensure reserves are large enough so use is not affected, and adequate buffers for physical, social, and quiet contemplative activities are provided 47
- ▶ In new residential areas ensure reserves abut public space on two or preferably three sides. 47
- ▶ Ensure future residential areas have a good network of footpaths and shared footways running in circuits that can be used to access parks and for exercising and walking the dog. 47
- ▶ Council should establish some guidelines for developers around providing parks in steep residential areas 48
- ▶ Ensure parks in steep areas are serviced by an accessible path of travel into and around the park. 48
- ▶ Large of areas of sloping lawn can be replaced by planting ribbons of vegetation along paths for example. 48

6. Biodiversity, nature play and response to a changing climate49

- ▶ Continue to implement the Urban Green Corridors Plan and ensure any works to open space parcels adjacent to or nearby the identified corridors are consistent with the objectives of the UCGP. 49
- ▶ Protect additional mature trees in new residential areas, and in larger areas of open space greater in area than the canopy and the tree protection zones. 50
- ▶ Require residential developments to include trees in all streets and for planting plans to provide trees for buffers, amenity value shade and play opportunities in all open spaces. 50
- ▶ Continue to retain all hilltops, and waterway corridors for conservation values with riparian protection zones. 50
- ▶ When funds for new park developments are limited, planting and paths to create character and a framework for future infrastructure should be considered a priority. 50
- ▶ Incorporate nature-based play elements into parks that provide sensory experiences and allow children to manipulate and shape their environment. 51
- ▶ Vegetation and natural elements should complement the play opportunities children have in their home environment which are becoming increased paved. 51
- ▶ Access to loose materials, open ended and natural elements is critically important for the healthy development of children, and these should be provided in every play space. 51
- ▶ Natural elements and loose materials are best placed carefully in conjunction with other infrastructure in parks for play to create a flow between elements and extend play opportunities of both. 51

- ▶ Monitor and manage the use of public open space in times of natural disaster, extreme weather events such as flood, heat, smoke, dust, bushfire and storm events, and risks associated with those. 52
- ▶ Consider reducing the amount of land that requires mowing for example around the edges of sports grounds, and along nature strips – in favour of wildlife meadows or productive plants etc. to increase biodiversity, bird life, a diversity of open space landscape setting types, access to nature for children, and to reduce water use and carbon footprint of maintenance. 52
- ▶ Mitigate the urban heat island effect through increased street tree and park planting, trees shading infrastructure and reducing unnecessary paved areas 52
- ▶ Protect biodiversity and provide links from the river and between large conservation sites that increase resilience of species to move and propagate. 52
- ▶ Use permeable and recycled path surfaces for paths and softfall. 52
- ▶ Manage runoff by providing bioretention basins in parks, and areas for WSUD etc. (outside the minimum size required for the function) 52
- ▶ Consider rewilding much of the river corridors and relocating infrastructure in the longer term to areas that will be more central to the residential areas. 52
- ▶ Explore “Shared ways of knowing” with registered indigenous partners and work with them on land, fire, and vegetation management. 52

8. Recommendations by locality

8.1 Lismore

Recommendations

- 1 Continue to enhance Lismore Park to become the primary social/ family recreational space for the community and region.
- 2 Improve accessibility, and quality of offerings in Heritage Park.
- 3 Consider upgrading of Kareela Avenue to enhance its visual amenity value
- 4 Identify opportunities to improve social /family recreation opportunities and quality at Dalziel Park or at an alternative location in the east of the suburb and in conjunction with any planning of residential areas outside the flood zone to meet the gaps north and south of this park.
- 5 Consider the benefits of community gardens and work with community groups to develop these further across the community if opportunities arise.

8.2 North Lismore

Recommendations

- 6 Ensure that social/family recreation, off-road trail circuits and sports functions and that a diversity of landscape setting types are provided across those open spaces at North Lismore Plateau. Open space provision should be delivered at subdivision stage in accordance with Part B Chapter 10 of the DCP.

- 7 Explore opportunities to present a social/family recreation space within one of the existing sport field reserves such as McKenzie Park which would provide a central location for the current residential population of the suburb.
- 8 Investigate the need for a central social/ family recreation space in North Lismore. If a central social/ family recreation space is developed, consider removing the swings from Pritchard Park.
- 9 Consideration should be given to the provision of hardcourts as part of a mix of open spaces and facilities in new developments in the North Lismore suburb to provide an alternative recreation and activity option.
- 10 The potential for planned retreat for some of North Lismore should be considered when determining a new location for social family recreation.

8.3 East Lismore

Recommendations

- 11 Continue the preparation of a masterplan for the upgrading of Wade Park and investigate funding streams for its implementation.
- 12 Consider options for play and social/family recreation provision in the northeast of the suburb, taking into consideration the potential for planned retreat in some areas of East Lismore.
- 13 Should Joblin Park continue to be the only provision in the area, consider the undergrounding of the drainage channel in Joblin Park and build a more functional/safe local play space or social /family recreation park here.

Alternatively fence the channel and work around the channel as there does not look to be many other opportunities for developing other land for open space/play purposes in this area.

8.4 South Lismore

Recommendations

- 14 Upgrade elements in Nesbit Part so that it serves as a SFR park, including better trail and path connections from the Meadow Drive area and from Casino Street. Subsequently, consider changing the function type of Meadow Drive Park.
- 15 Provide a larger SFR park at Riverview Park enhancing the already existing sporting precinct. Subsequently consider changing the function type of Rhode St Park.
- 16 Provide a perimeter path with connections within Riverview Park to provide exercise and active transport options for the local community. Should a planned retreat proceed in the area, the expansion and upgrading of Riverview Park should be investigated and master planned.
- 17 Determine if the swimming pool at Lismore Lake Park is to be redeveloped, if not remove the existing pool and include this area in the master plan.
- 18 If compatible with the Plan of Management, Prepare a master plan for Lismore Lake Park that:
 - Revises the entries roadways, upgrades access to the River and signage and access from the adjacent accommodation premises and like, in car parking.
 - Includes a trails plan; around the lake, and connecting from the road footpaths to the river, to the swimming pool if it is to be

retained, to adjacent accommodation, to any bird viewing area/hide etc., to key picnic tables etc.,

- Consider providing some shelters, accessible and all gender toilets, accessible picnic tables, etc, with path access, picnic areas adjacent to the deepest part of the lake/ or island
- Includes a planting plan – to encourage birds, children’s informal play, provide shade and visual amenity and screening of adjacent properties. (Note the need for different species, specific for these different purposes).

8.5 Goonellabah

Recommendations

- 19 Provide social/family recreation parks in areas showing gaps in provision and ensure all residential areas include social /family recreation and sport areas in new developments with a diversity of landscape setting types.
- 20 Identify opportunities to provide a diversity of landscape settings in future subdivisions such as those not available in the north and south of the suburb including treed parkland and sports turf.
- 21 Seek to retrofit footpaths in roadways where possible and provide path access to parks as well as into and around parks.
- 22 Continue to link up the Tuck Tucki Creek off-road trails creating several large circuits through the suburb to connect with community facilities, sports, and other parks.
- 23 Create better access around and into and connecting with Clifford Park.
- 24 Undertake some minor improvements to Kadina Street Reserve to improve access to separate facilities.

8.6 Girards Hill

Recommendations

- 25 Identify any opportunities to connect trails from Robinson Lookout to the connecting streets of John St, Eden St, Cathcart St, Virtue St.
- 26 Investigate the potential of developing a relaxation space within the Bob Cowley Memorial Peace Park.
- 27 Retain Barnard Park as a relaxation park and enhance its potential to be further revegetated once not used as a single piece play park.
- 28 Should planned retreat proceed within the vicinity, provide at least one local play and desirably a social /family recreation in the area east of Cathcart Street, west of Wyrallah Road and north of the golf course.

8.7 Bexhill

Recommendations

- 29 Develop a perimeter trail around the oval and better connect the town with flat walking/running and exercise opportunities.
- 30 Investigate opportunities to upgrade Sam Trimble Oval or Bexhill Park Reserve to help meet the play needs of most of the town's population.
- 31 Ensure the access to the play space at the Sam Trimble oval is accessible as it is currently difficult to access due to a locked gate.

8.8 Dunoon

Recommendations

- 32 Provide a perimeter path around the oval precinct and to connect the main carpark with May Street to provide a town loop taking in the oval precinct and back into the town.
- 33 Upgrade the usability and the accessibility of both the play elements at the sports precinct and the path networks around this park.
- 34 Improve park and play elements, shelter, and toilets in the Fire Station Park.
- 35 Improve the access path to the toilets behind the Fire Station reserve removing the steep slope and steps to access.

8.9 Clunes

Recommendations

- 36 Identify if the town needs a more centralised location for social/family recreation.
- 37 Consider the future of the Smith Street Park. Develop a more formalised trail connection through the park, revegetate, or alternatively consider divesting the parcel if a central social/family recreation park is developed elsewhere.
- 38 Plan the development of a town park and continued use of the sports field at the Clunes Public School sports field.
- 39 Pending community engagement, prepare a plan for the improvement of the Village Green to become an accessible wayside stop for the passing visitors and community park.

Consider providing accessible access, a path network, seating, shade and toilets.

8.10 The Channon

Recommendations

- 40 Consider the need for a social/family recreation space at Coronation Park.
- 41 Investigate the potential of extending the path network (perimeter trail) around Coronation Park and providing an off-road trail from Coronation Park back to Channon Common, utilising existing paths and the road reserve. Ensure the stability of this route is investigated.

8.11 Nimbin

Recommendations

- 42 Where the demand for sports playing fields arises, consider the use of Nimbin Showgrounds and the Council owned land adjacent, for this purpose.
- 43 Consider the primary social /family recreation space in town as Peace Park. Enhanced this park further by a path network, accessible tables and seats, further tree planting and play elements to support a variety of activities and use by people of different age groups and abilities. Ensure that only minimal play equipment is provided in Allsopp Park.

8.12 Other Rural locations

Recommendations

In many of these cases, the open space within the town is the only public land in the surrounding area.

Generally, for these rural parcels (especially if they are the primary open space in the town):

- 44 Ensure that all parks have an accessible entry/exit, not just within the reserve but from the street and carpark also, and access to facilities toilets, courts, paths networks, buildings.
- 45 If space permits, construct a path (gravel) circuit around the park and oval to provide an exercise circuit that connects from the main hub/carpark and or entry.
- 46 If there is an oval (such as Spinaze Park and Adam Gilchrist Oval), continue to maintain the oval, to ensure social field sport and event opportunities are available.
- 47 If the space is the main open space hub of the town, provide a hardstand area with tables/seating/shelter to enhance social/picnic/BBQ opportunities.
- 48 If there is play equipment, develop the space into a social /family recreation space over times, provides social and physical opportunities for a variety of age groups and people of all abilities.
- 49 If there is a hardcourt (such as Spinaze Park), provide basketball or other sport elements such as futsal goals and nets on the tennis court to maximise the value from the court. Also ensure the court surface is in good condition for a variety of sports and activities.

VOLUME 2. LOCALITY ANALYSIS

About this document

This document is Volume 2. Lismore Open Space Strategy: Locality Analysis, prepared by @leisure Planners.

This volume provides a high-level analysis of open space provision, using the open space classifications adopted for this project.

The document is set out by suburb, for the 12 main localities in Lismore.

Also contained in this document is an analysis of issues identified during the site analysis.

The additional documents prepared for this project are:

Volume 1: Strategic Plan provided earlier in this document.

In addition, an Open Space Inventory (spreadsheet) was prepared and mapping of open space functions and setting types was prepared by Council.

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1 Analysis by locality/suburb/village

Below is an analysis of existing open space in the following localities:

- Lismore
- North Lismore
- East Lismore
- South Lismore
- Goonellabah
- Girards Hill
- Bexhill
- Dunoon
- Clunes
- Rural villages

The assessment identifies that the Lismore City Council has several large parks across a variety of suburbs such as Heritage Park, Kadina Street Park, Wade Park, Lismore Parkland, and Nesbitt Parks. The Council has areas of river frontage including flood prone land, conservation parcels and small local parks (some with play elements) across the suburbs.

Although this assessment is not focused on flooding events, there needs to be an awareness that if there was to be a residential retreat from some of the flood prone suburbs, new parcels of open space, suitable for flood prone areas (conservation/biodiversity for example) could be created. However, it is also acknowledged that some of the parks mentioned may not need to service the same residential areas as they currently do and planning for open spaces where future residential areas are to be, will be required.

1.1 Lismore

Demographic influences

ABS Quick Stats 2021 shows the 2021 population of Lismore was 3,656.

- The number of children 0-4 years was 164.
- The number of school age children was 625.
- The number of people 65 years and older was 701.
- The median age of the population for Lismore is 41 compared to the Richmond River region of 46 and regional New South Wales of 43.

A key consideration in this suburb needs to be employees and well as the large number of older adults.

Existing open space

No.	Park name	Function type	Landscape setting type	Catchment Hierarchy
1	Lismore Park (precinct 1)	Sport	Sport	Regional
3	Lismore Parklands (Precinct 3)	Sport	Managed Sports turf	Regional
4	Urban Park-Little Keen St	Drainage-Utility	Treed Parkland	Local
5	Davidson St Recreation Ground	Sport	Managed Sports turf	District
6	Urban Park Orion St	Drainage-utility	Open Grassed area	Local
7	Quadrangle- Urban Park-Orion St	Visual Amenity /Lookout	Treed Parkland	Local
8	Spinks Park	Sport	Managed Sports turf	Regional
9	Croquet Club	Sport	Managed Sports turf	Regional
10	Memorial Baths Reserve	Social/	Treed Parkland	Regional

No.	Park name	Function type	Landscape setting type	Catchment Hierarchy
		Family Recreation		
11	Stocks Park	Visual Amenity/ Lookout	Treed Parkland	Regional
12	Riverside Park North	Social/ Family Recreation	Treed Parkland	Regional
13	Lismore Wharf-	Social Family Recreation	Treed Parkland	Regional
14	Skate Park	Sport	Treed Parkland	District
15	Heritage Park	Social Family Recreation	Treed Parkland	Regional
16	Mclean Park	Visual Amenity/ Lookout	Treed Parkland	Local
17	Dalziel Street Park	Play	Open Grassed area	Local
18	Hewett St Park- (Heritage Park)	Social Family Recreation	Treed Parkland	Regional
19	Dibbs St Park	Play	Open Grassed Area	District
20	Claude Riley Nature Reserve	Conservation/ Biodiversity	Bushland/Forest	Local
21	Rotary Park Remnant	Conservation/ Biodiversity	Bushland/Forest	District
22	High St Park	Conservation/ Biodiversity	Bushland/Forest	District
23	Ross Park	Conservation/ Biodiversity	Bushland/Forest	Local
24	Elizabeth Gardens	Visual Amenity/ Lookout	Treed Parkland	Local
25	Memorial Park	Memorial Garden/ Cemetery	Treed Parkland	Regional
26	Rugby Union Field	Sport	Managed Sports turf	District
27	Riviera Carpark	Conservation/ Biodiversity	River/Water Based	District
28	The Quad	Relaxation	Open Grassed area	District

The suburb of Lismore includes the CBD, on the eastern side of the Wilsons River frontage and residential areas in the Lismore basin. Open spaces across the suburb include many sports grounds, water fronted parks with play and remnant vegetation parcels. The sportsgrounds are very central to the whole suburb.

Lismore Park precinct includes Oakes Oval, Crozier Field, Blair Oval, Heaps Oval, Humbly Oval, Jolly Field. Collectively the Lismore Park is a regional facility but individually each oval has a separate catchment based on the sport and facilities and use at each. Included within Lismore Park is a community garden. Lismore Park has a master plan, “Lismore Parklands Project.” The project proposes transforming the existing Lismore Park into a modern, vibrant community parklands with community recreational facilities, water play, “adventure playground,” events lawns, gardens and market and community gathering spaces and new play and skate facilities in the future.

Much of the suburb of Lismore is flood prone and was significantly affected in 2022.

Just north of the Lismore Park precinct is another large open space that includes a mixture of sport with Mortimer Oval, Barry Davidson Oval and Jim Roder Oval with associated facilities including cricket nets.

Smaller recreation grounds sit north of the Lismore Park on the Wilsons River including rugby fields and cricket grounds.

South of the Lismore parklands are open spaces including netball courts, tennis courts, community gardens and more soccer facilities. East of the suburb, Rotary Park Remnant provides koala habitat, walking trails and connections to other parcels such as Claude Riley nature reserve.

Another parcel providing Koala habitat is Ross Park along the edge of the Bruxnor Hwy.

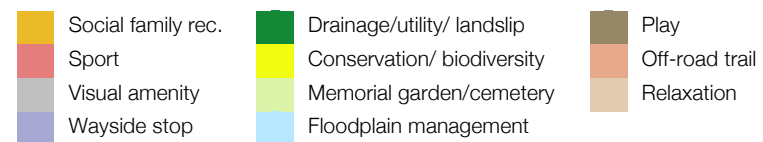
Located on the waterfront of the Wilsons River (close to the Lismore CBD) are Riverside Park North that connects with Heritage Park, the foreshore trails, Spinks Park, Memorial Baths, lawn bowls club and croquet club facilities. Within the CBD, the Quad provides a paved area with large lawns connecting the library and the Lismore Regional Gallery space. Elizabeth Gardens provides a large, treed parkland close to residential areas, but this parcel is steep and lacks paths and trails.

Open space by primary function type

The following image shows open space by primary function type in Lismore.



Map 1 Lismore open space by primary function type



Open space by primary function type (cont'd)

The function of sport is significantly represented within the central and northern areas of the suburb.

Although the open space function of social/family recreation space is provided in Heritage Park, this area is flood prone. There is a significant gap in social/family recreation or play spaces in the east, south and north of the suburb with only the Dalziell Park (GIS name) known as McKenzie Park providing minimal experiences, so opportunities to expand these experiences in the east of the suburb should be pursued. The proposed Lismore Parklands development will provide an opportunity for a quality nature based social/family recreation in central Lismore once developed.

Play opportunities exist at Dalziell Park to the east of the suburb with minimal provision, Oakeshott Park sitting just outside of the suburb but offering provision to those in the north, Heritage Park on the Wilsons River and most central to those visiting the CBD. Heritage is a regional play space however significant improvement in quality, access and provision of infrastructure is needed to continue meeting this classification. Its function is also compromised by RV parking. Apex Park (sitting within Lismore Park) in the centre of the suburb with minimal provision will be superseded by the Lismore Parklands project. McKenzie Park and Apex Park (sitting within Lismore Parkland) although the play elements at these parks are minimal and are also likely to be superseded by the Lismore Parklands Project. McKenzie Park is the only play space that services the residential area of the suburb east of Hunter St., north of Ballina Rd. The nearest play space to the north being Oakeshott Park which sits outside of the suburb.

Currently none of the play spaces cater for people of all ages and abilities. Heritage Park has some accessible elements, but they are not made accessible due to the lack of an accessible path of travel from the street and between both social and play items.

Trails and pathways are primarily provided along the Wilsons River with connections along the waterfront to connect to the CBD. Once this trail is connected further to the north and east to Lismore Park, it will support active recreation and active transport. There will be the need to ensure trails connect the various parks with the sports precincts as well as providing perimeter paths for exercise. Community gardens such as the one in Lismore Park provide both quality open space as well as environmental and social opportunities for the community and these are not very prominent across the municipality.

In the east of the suburb within Rotary Park Remnant, a District level bushland parcel is providing koala habitat, walking trails and a connection to the Lismore Heights lookout and the Claude Riley-Nature Reserve.

Ross Park (Ross Street), further south is a narrow conservation parcel along the edge of the Bruxner Hwy also providing Koala habitat.

Elizabeth Gardens provides a large, treed parkland parcel with a function of Visual Amenity/Lookout. It could provide more opportunities however its access is restricted by the steep slope and lack of paths and trails.

Open space with a sport function is provided for in a significant way within Lismore with the Regional space in Lismore Park and further sportsgrounds and courts for a variety of sports within the suburb.

Sport is also provided for along the Riverside Park with croquet, bowls, and swimming pool facilities in this location.

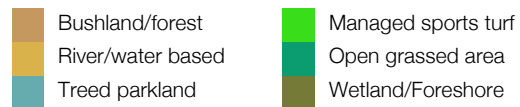
Although there is a community garden in central Lismore, this is the only garden of its type on Council owned land in the municipality showing a significant under representation of this type of garden across the City.

Open space by landscape setting type

The following image shows open space by landscape setting type in Lismore.



Map 2 Lismore open space by landscape setting type



Managed sports turf and open grassed area are the most prominent landscape settings in the suburb of Lismore with the significant sports precinct in central areas as well as northern parts of the suburb.

Heritage Park and Elizabeth Gardens provide treed parkland settings and the Rotary Park Remnant provides a large bushland forest setting.

Bushland/forest landscape settings are in the east of the suburb at Rotary Park Remnant and Claude Riley Nature Reserve.

Recommendations

1. Continue to enhance Lismore Park to become the primary social/family recreational space for the community and region.
2. Improve accessibility, and quality of offerings in Heritage Park.
3. Consider upgrading of Kareela Avenue to enhance its visual amenity value
4. Identify opportunities to improve social /family recreation opportunities and quality at Dalziel Park or at an alternative location in the east of the suburb and in conjunction with any planning of residential areas outside the flood zone to meet the gaps north and south of this park.
5. Consider the benefits of community gardens and work with community groups to develop these further across the community if opportunities arise.

1.2 North Lismore

Demographic influences

ABS Quick Stats 2021 shows the 2021 population of North Lismore was 754.

- The number of children 0-4 years was 30.
- The number of school age children was 143.
- The number of people 65 years and older was 186.
- The median age of the population for North Lismore is 42 compared to the Richmond River region of 46 and regional New South Wales of 43.

Existing open space

No.	Park name	Function type	Landscape setting type	Catchment hierarchy
1	Currie Park Remnant	Conservation/ Biodiversity	River/Water based	District
2	Rhodes St Park	Play	Treed Parkland	Local
3	Italo Stars Field	Sport	Managed Sports turf	District
4	Terania St Park Reserve	Flood Plain Management	Open Grassed area	Local
5	Pritchard Park	Conservation/ Biodiversity	Wetland/ Foreshore	District
6	Arthur Park	Sport	Managed Sports turf	Local
7	McKenzie Park	Sport	Managed Sports turf	Local

North Lismore sits north of the Leicester Creek and Wilsons River and has large open spaces including the Lismore Turf Club and Lismore Showgrounds.

Most open spaces are adjacent to a waterway. In the 2022, large sections of the residential and industrial areas of the suburb were significantly affected including most of the Council owned open spaces. A significant housing development north of the existing developed area of the suburb in planned (North Lismore Plateau) with a focus of the areas west of Dunoon Rd. With more than 1000 lots proposed, open space considerations will be important especially with the development being on or near the plateau.

Council owned public open spaces include sportsgrounds at Arthur Park, Italo Stars Soccer fields and McKenzie Park. All of these sports grounds are located either on or close to the edge of the Leicester Creek or the Wilsons River. Flooding is likely to impact these areas every time the river floods.

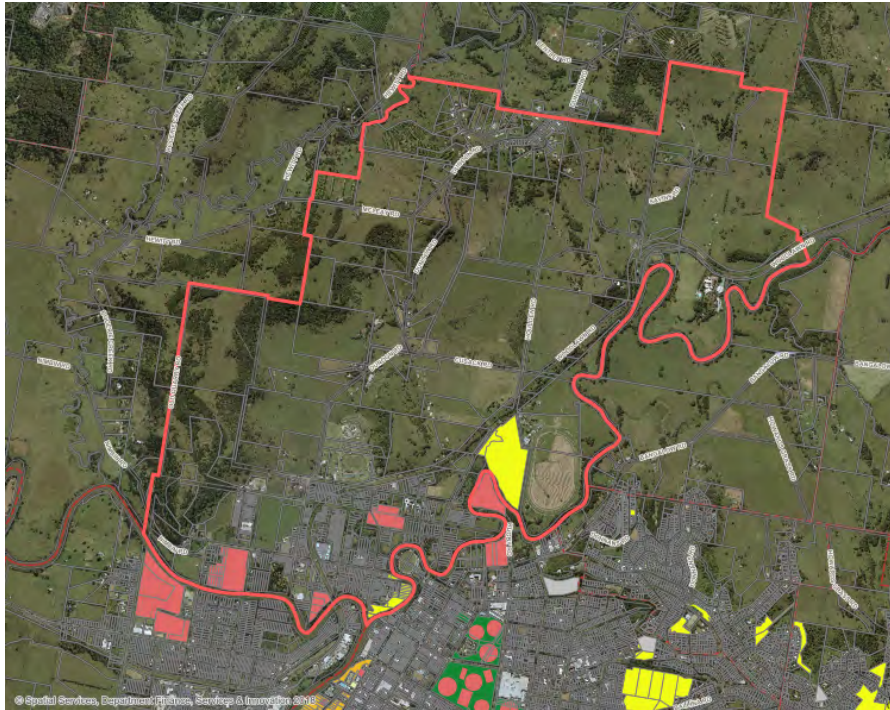
Other open spaces include the conservation classified parcels of Currie Park Remnant adjacent to the Wilsons River and the Turf Club and Pritchard Park in Mill Lane. These parcels are also on the Wilsons River frontage and have some koala habit.

Pritchard Park is another parkland located on the Wilsons River frontage and this parcel has significant vegetation but also has a small play space.

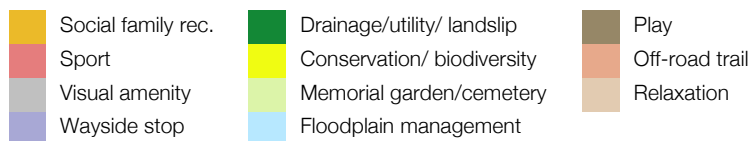
The location of this play equipment does not present much benefit to the North Lismore community as there is only one swing set and the park itself is not prominent or connected to other open spaces by trails.

Open space by primary function type

The following image shows open space by primary function type in North Lismore.



Map 3 North Lismore open space by primary function type



The sport function is present in several locations in the very south of the suburb (although these areas are significantly flood prone) while conservation/biodiversity is represented within Currie Park Remnant in the southeast of the suburb and Pritchard Park in the south of the suburb. There are gaps in the provision of play, social/family recreation and conservation/biodiversity functions in this area.

As the suburb develops there will be a requirement for a variety of open space functions to be provided in the north and west of the suburb including conservation/biodiversity, off road trail and the provision of several social/family recreation parks in new developments with trail linkages and sport functions also required to meet the needs of future northern residential areas.

North Lismore has several sporting fields classified as sport and with a landscape setting of managed sports turf and other facilities such as the Turf Club and the showgrounds that support sport and active recreation for the suburb.

The 1km sport distance threshold for North Lismore comfortably covers the existing residential areas of the suburb and as some of the sports parks are in the south of the suburb, the catchment covers some parts of the suburbs south of the rivers although the barriers include the need for a river crossing.

Expanded sport opportunities will need to be a consideration in the future open space needs of the future developments north of the existing suburb as proposed.

There are no hard-court areas to provide an alternative sport option and recreation opportunities to the residents of North Lismore close to their homes with the nearest public hardcourts being across the Leicester Creek in Nesbitt Park (South Lismore). Consideration should be given to the provision of hardcourts as part of a mix of open space and facilities in new developments in the North Lismore Plateau developments to provide an alternative recreation and activity option.

With the future housing developments north of the suburb (North Lismore Plateau) being proposed around relatively steep land, there may be the need to expand one of the existing sporting facilities at river level or further develop the showgrounds site to provide community sport facilities.

Apart from the small playground (one play element) within Pritchard Park, there are no other play opportunities on Council owned land in North Lismore. Opportunities may exist to present a play space or social/family recreation space within one of the existing sport field reserves such as McKenzie Park which would provide a central location for the current residential population of the suburb. Exploration of opportunities to increase play or social/family recreation in this area should be looked at with the potential of converting Pritchard Park into a riverfront green space (flood zone park) only rather than as a single piece playground.

There are no social/family recreation parks in North Lismore and currently the nearest park in a neighbouring suburb is Heritage Park in Lismore and although not classified as a social/family recreation in this project (classified as Sports Turf), Nesbitt Park in South Lismore offers a social/family recreation experience. As North Lismore develops there will be a requirement for a variety of open space functions including the social/family recreation functions to be provided in the north and west of the suburb.

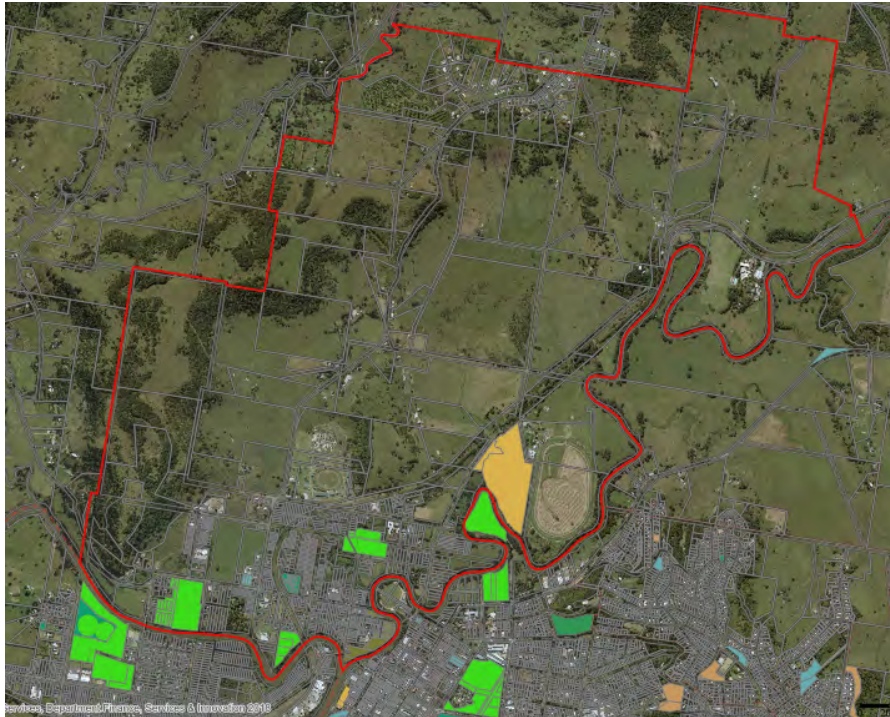
Council owned Conservation/biodiversity land in North Lismore is present along the Wilsons River including Pritchard Park which has koala habitat within it.

Another large conservation parcel is the Currie Park Remnant which sits adjacent to the turf club and provides koala habitat and a long connection to the Wilsons River.

Future developments north of the suburb provide further opportunities to preserve corridors for conservation and biodiversity as shown in Part B, Chapter 10 North Lismore Plateau of the Lismore Development Control Plan.

Open space by landscape setting type

The following image shows open space by landscape setting type in North Lismore.



Map 4 North Lismore open space by landscape setting type



The landscape setting type most prevalent in North Lismore is managed sports turf with sports grounds in the south of the suburb. There are small parcels of both treed parkland and open grassed area settings. None of the parcels are categorised as bushland/forest, however this is a setting that should become part of a northern residential development in line with the adopted structure if added to any existing corridor of treed landscape. Currie Park Remnant provides the suburb with a river/water-based landscape setting although other parks such as Arthur Park and Pritchard Park are also river/water-based parcels, but these have different main landscape settings. North Lismore does not have examples of either open grassed area or treed parkland parcels in Council ownership. Identifying opportunities to add these settings to future acquisitions or within existing parcels will add diversity to the setting types.

Recommendations

6. Ensure that social/family recreation, off-road trail circuits and sports functions and that a diversity of landscape setting types are provided across those open spaces at North Lismore Plateau. Open space provision should be delivered at subdivision stage in accordance with Part B Chapter 10 of the DCP.
7. Explore opportunities to present a social/family recreation space within one of the existing sport field reserves such as McKenzie Park which would provide a central location for the current residential population of the suburb.
8. Investigate the need for a central social/family recreation space in North Lismore. If a central social/family recreation space is developed, consider removing the swings from Pritchard Park.

9. Consideration should be given to the provision of hardcourts as part of a mix of open spaces and facilities in new developments in the North Lismore suburb to provide an alternative recreation and activity option.
10. The potential for planned retreat for some of North Lismore should be considered when determining a new location for social family recreation.

1.3 East Lismore

Demographic influences

ABS Quick Stats 2021 shows the 2021 population of East Lismore was 4980.

- The number of children 0-4 years was 258.
- The number of school age children was 1180.
- The number of people 65 years and older was 1002.
- The median age of the population for East Lismore is 39 compared to the Richmond River region of 46 and regional New South Wales of 43.

Existing open space

No.	Park name	Function type	Landscape setting type	Catchment hierarchy
1	Albert Park	Sport	Managed Sports turf	Regional
2	Riverside Park South	Social/Family Recreation	Treed Parkland	Regional
3	Kings Park	Drainage-Utility-landslip	Treed Parkland	Local

No.	Park name	Function type	Landscape setting type	Catchment hierarchy
4	Atlas St Park	Visual Amenity/ Lookout	Treed Parkland	Local
5	Grass Tree Park	Drainage-Utility-landslip	Open Grassed area	Local
6	Albert Park (Baseball)	Sport	Managed Sports turf	Regional
7	Joblin Park	Drainage-Utility-landslip	Treed Parkland	Local
8	Cottee Park	Drainage-Utility-landslip	Treed Parkland	Local
9	Crawford Rd Nature Reserve	Conservation/ Biodiversity	Open Grassed Area	District
10	Airforce Rd Nature Reserve	Conservation/ Biodiversity	Bushland/Forest	Local
11	Martin Drive Park	Drainage-utility-landslip	Treed parkland	Local
12	University Rugby Ground	Sport	Managed Sports turf	District
13	Murray St Park	Visual Amenity/ Lookout	Treed Parkland	Local
14	Neilson Park	Sport	Managed Sports turf	District
15	Wade Park	Social Family Recreation	Treed Parkland	District
16	Wilson Park Rainforest Reserve	Conservation/ Biodiversity	Bushland/forest	District
17	Wilson Park Reserve 'a'	Conservation/ Biodiversity	Treed Parkland	District
18	Wilson Park Sheltered Workshop	Visual Amenity/ Lookout	Open Grassed Area	Local
19	Beaumont Drive Nature Reserve	Conservation/ Biodiversity	Bushland/forest	Local
20	Wanda Drive Park	Play	Treed Parkland	District
21	Felicity Drive Park	Visual Amenity/ Lookout	Open Grassed Area	Local

East Lismore sits south and east of the Lismore CBD. On the western side of the suburb, open spaces border the Wilsons River and connects into the CBD river frontage open spaces. The eastern side of the suburb covers large sections of residential streets which includes the Hospital and the Southern Cross University Campus. Many of the open spaces in East Lismore provide for some of the open space needs of neighbouring suburbs including Girards Hill.

Larger open spaces in East Lismore include the southern section of the Riverside Park situated south of the Ballina Road bridge. This large parcel (with multiple titles) includes a dog park, trail connections that extend through the park (and into the suburb of Lismore) towards the north and to the skate park which is planned to move into the Lismore Park in the future. The park includes large areas of lawns, trails, shelters, and seating and is important as part of flood mitigation.

The Riverside Park forms part of the regional Wilsons Riverfront Park that continues to include the Memorial Baths and Spinks Park all connected by a path network.

Other large open spaces include the rugby field at the Southern Cross University, Albert Park, Girards Hill Golf Course, and Neilson Park (which includes sportsgrounds, bowls club and tennis courts).

Open space in the south of the suburb includes Wade Park and Wilson Park. Smaller open spaces in East Lismore include Wanda Drive Park and Felicity Park. Felicity Park is primarily a road reserve area of grass and trees while the Felicity Park is a large parcel of land that sits behind houses on Felicity Drive with a narrow entrance from the road. The other open space in this area is the bushland parcel of Beaumont Drive which has a walking trail connection with Wanda Park.

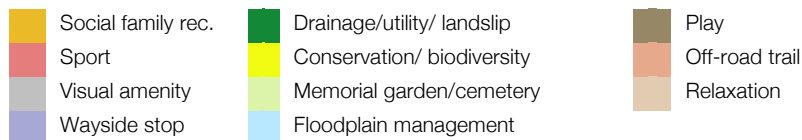
The natural disaster flooding events of 2022 impacted the open spaces along the Wilson's River including Albert Park and Riverside Park. Should relocation of residential areas be considered for the golf course, another site for golf should be considered.

Open space by primary function type

The following image shows open space by primary function type in East Lismore.



Map 5 East Lismore open space by primary function type



The main open space function type in East Lismore is the classification of sport with the Girards Hill golf course and connection to Albert Park in the west of the suburb and Nelson Park and the University rugby field in the east of the suburb.

East Lismore has a large conservation/biodiversity parcel including Crawford Road Nature Reserve, Wilson’s Park Rainforest reserve in the south of the suburb which contains a significant patch of dry rainforest and is a koala habitat area. Adjacent to Wilsons Park is another large parcel (Wilson’s Park- Reserve) which also has a conservation/biodiversity function. Smaller parcels with a conservation/biodiversity function include the Crawford Rd Nature reserve and the Air Force Road Nature Reserve in the east of the suburb. Closer to the Wilsons River is the Robinson Lookout providing conservation/biodiversity close to residential areas as well as providing a connection of vegetation with the existing vegetation on the golf course. Another conservation parcel (Beaumont Reserve) sits central to a residential area south of the suburb with the potential of a walkway connecting with a play space at Wanda Park. Other Play functions are provided in Wanda Park south of the golf course, Wade Park (social/family Recreation) to the east of the suburb and a new play space west of the suburb in Albert Park. There is a significant gap in the provision of the play and social/family recreation functions with large areas of higher density residential housing without suitable provision of play and social/family recreation in the areas south of Ballina Rd.

Social/family recreation parks are in Riverside Park South in the northwest of the suburb (this is part of the Wilsons River front parklands) and in the southeast of the suburb in Wade Park. This leaves significant gaps in social/family recreation provision in the north and central parts of the suburb as there are only very minimal play opportunities in these parts of the suburb.

The residential areas of East Lismore have access to a variety of sport related open spaces including bowls, tennis, rugby, golf, and baseball facilities within 1km including Neilson Park, Girards Hill Golf Course and Albert Park.

Although East Lismore has supply of open spaces in the south and west of the suburb with Wade Park and Albert Park, there is a significant gap in open space in the north of the suburb. In the residential areas between Ballina Rd and the golf course to the south, there are only two small parcels of open space. Both primarily have a drainage function although one of these (Joblin Park) has a play space within it despite this park having a large drainage channel running through it. This play space is minimal and an assessment needs to be made as to the need for play in this park through consultation with the community as the park is not only very small but has the restriction of a drainage channel running through it.

Open space by landscape setting

The following image shows open space by landscape setting type in East Lismore.



Map 6 East Lismore open space by landscape setting type



Managed sports turf is the primary landscape setting in East Lismore with the golf course and the Albert Park providing this setting in the west of the suburb and Neilson Park and the University rugby field providing this setting in the east of the suburb. Other setting types represented include bushland forest and treed parkland in areas including Wilsons Rainforest reserve. As with the functions, there is a gap in all landscape settings in the areas north of Wilsons Rainforest reserve to the Ballina Road apart from several small, treed parkland parcels which also provide the drainage function.

Although not classified as sports turf, Wade Park also has some sports turf presence south of the play space which has previously catered for soccer. Treed parkland is the setting in the south of the suburb at Wilson Reserve, within Wade Park, Felicity Park and Wanda Park Drive. Further North of the suburb, areas such as the Girards Hill golf course and Albert Park both provide a treed setting as well as a sports turf setting although they are primarily sport.

The bushland/forest setting is provided for in Wilsons Park, within Beaumont Drive Nature Reserve, Robinson Lookout, Airforce Road Nature Reserve and Crawford Rd Nature Reserve, all of which provide koala habitat.

Recommendations

11. Continue the preparation of a masterplan for the upgrading of Wade Park and investigate funding streams for its implementation.
12. Consider options for play and social/family recreation provision in the northeast of the suburb, taking into consideration the potential for planned retreat in some areas of East Lismore.
13. Should Joblin Park continue to be the only provision in the area, consider the undergrounding of the drainage channel in Joblin Park and build a more functional/safe local play space or social /family recreation park here.

Alternatively fence the channel and work around the channel as there does not look to be many other opportunities for developing other land for open space/play purposes in this area.

1.4 South Lismore

Demographic influences

ABS Quick Stats 2021 shows the 2021 population of South Lismore was 1775.

- The number of children 0-4 years was 83.
- The number of school age children was 380.
- The number of people 65 years and older was 258.
- The median age of the population for South Lismore is 39 compared to the Richmond River region of 46 and regional New South Wales of 43.

Existing open space

No.	Park name	Function type	Landscape setting type	Catchment hierarchy
1	Nesbitt Park	Sport	Managed Sports turf	District
2	Caniaba St Reserve	Sport	Managed Sports turf	District
3	Meadow Drive Park	Play	Open Grassed Area	Local
4	Kraus Park	Conservation/ Biodiversity	Wetland/ forest	Local
5	Rhodes St Park	Play	Treed parkland	Local
6	Riverview Park	Sport	Managed Sports turf	District
7	Riverside Park Reserve	Conservation/ Biodiversity	Treed Parkland	Local

South Lismore is located west of the Wilsons River and south of the Leicester Creek. Residential areas are in the north of the suburb while the south of the suburb is primarily industrial. The northern section of the airport sits within the suburb in the south.

The suburb was entirely affected by flooding in the 2022 natural disaster flooding events.

Nesbitt Park is one of the largest open spaces in South Lismore. It is part of a larger open space that borders Leicester Creek and includes the South Lismore Bowling Club, local level cricket ovals, soccer facilities for South Lismore Soccer Club, a large playground and BMX/MTB skills park and a trails network throughout the space.

The river frontage to the north of Nesbitt Park is native vegetation. Other spaces include the local conservation parcel at Kraus Park on the Wilsons River and the local play space at Meadow Drive Park.

Meadow Drive Park is a poor example of an open space with a narrow entrance from the road and very little ability to view it from anywhere.

This park is located less than 400m from Nesbitt Park which should be the play space that covers this area of the suburb.

The opportunity to remove play equipment from Meadow Drive Park and continue to develop the provision at Nesbit Park including better trail and path connections to the park should be investigated.

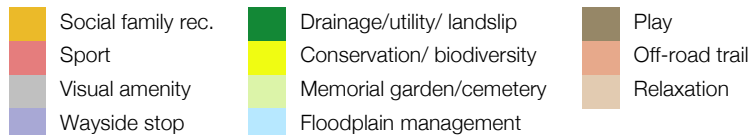
Consider upgrading elements in Nesbit Park to include pathways to link all facilities in the park from Casino Street.

Open space by primary function type

The following image shows open space by primary function type in South Lismore.



Map 7 South Lismore open space by primary function type



Sport is the primary function within South Lismore with sports fields in the north of the suburb (Caniaba Reserve, Nesbitt Park Oval) and Riverview Park in the east of the suburb.

The other functions provided are that of conservation/biodiversity in Kraus Park on the Wilsons River and Riverview Park reserve and play in Rhodes St Park and Meadow Drive Park (although both are not notable examples of play spaces).

There are no parks in South Lismore classified in this project as Social/family recreation although Nesbitt Park is social/family recreation as a secondary function. There are gaps in the provision of social/family recreation parks in the west of the suburb with opportunities to provide in Riverview Park. There is an opportunity to develop a social/family recreation park within the existing Riverview Park to provide the southern part of the suburb with appropriate provision in these functions although locating one away from the flood zone will be important. Off-road trails are provided within Nesbitt Park and there is the need to update these trails to ensure that there are continued loops or a full perimeter path that also provide connections from nearby streets (including from the west) and the river to the north.

Play as a function is represented within Nesbit Park (social/family recreation) which also offers park elements including Mountain bike and BMX facilities and outdoor exercise equipment for a variety of users. Play is underrepresented in South Lismore although Rhodes St Park is classified as Play. Rhodes Park (although this is a poor example of a local play park) and Meadow Drive Park which also provides a poor example of Play.

Rhodes St Park which has a local catchment, is well located in an area surrounded by residential streets and is on a prominent corner but does not have much to offer in terms of play and the park also contains a substation/pumping station. Rhodes St Park is the only play facility in the suburb in the residential areas south of Casino St.

Close to Rhodes St Park is the large waterside Riverside Park which has sport elements with athletics infrastructure but no play elements. There may not be a need for play elements at both Rhodes St Park and Riverview Park and due to the shortage of play in this part of Lismore, there is an opportunity to develop a larger (potentially District level) social/family recreation area in Riverview Park and keep Rhodes St Park as a local level park without play equipment. Further development at Riverview Park may complement the existing athletics facilities at Riverview Park.

Meadow Drive Park is a poorly designed battle-axe open space (west of Nesbitt Park) that contains only one piece of play equipment. This park should convert to just vacant (flood prone) open space and continued investment should be made within Nesbitt Park including better trail and path connections from the Meadow Drive area to Nesbit Park.

Nesbit Park, although classified with a function of sport also provided social/family recreation functions. Although the social/family recreation distance threshold surrounding Heritage Park covers parts of the suburb of South Lismore, this park is on the other side of the Wilsons River and there may be the need for another social/family recreation space to be provided for in Riverview Park to address the shortfall in the southern part of South Lismore.

Sport is provided in Nesbit Park with hardcourt areas, cricket facilities and bike riding facilities. Riverview Park to the south of the suburb provides little athletics facilities and between Riverview and Nesbitt Parks, most of the developed areas of this suburb are covered by the 1km sport distance threshold.

Lismore Lake Park

This site was not mapped in Council open space system. The park is not listed on Council 's web site or promoted. The primary open space function would be relaxation, catchment district and landscape setting type is water based recreation. It is an important public access point to the River and there are few others in this area.

The site appears home of the Lismore Rowing Club and more needs to be made of it and public facilities provided, and the rowing opportunities promoted. The lake itself doesn't have permanent water supply and water quality monitoring and therefore can only offer limited recreation.

The park has a very poor relationship with adjacent land uses and the road. Some delineation of the edges of the public space would be beneficial and screening, for park users. Limbed up trees could be provided along the roadways for example. The site has some great mature trees that could support shaded picnicking, trails and viewing opportunities.

There would need be significant investment to attract uses from outside the district and potentially the region (except those staying in the nearby accommodation premises.) Investment is needed in design, construction of paths and facilities and in more frequent management, additional planting etc., A logical layout of roads and car parks is required.

If retaining water in the pool is not required for stability of the pool shell, it should be drained out of season. If funds are available for upgrading

adding interactive water play and considerable support facilities may be desirable. The entryways need to be designed as major and clear entries and resigned.

What activities the park offers need to be clearer. The logical activities to attract are:

- Secondary contact water based activities (in the lake) if safe access is provided risk signs are installed and regular water quality checks are conducted (not primary contact- due to likely water quality, unknown bottom gradient and conditions). If the rowing club/ canoe is active at the site then the river access needs to be upgraded- landing stage , boat ramp and canoe steps and warning signs. There appears only to be one sign which is about skiing risk management signs related to the river canoeing swimming and rowing should be installed. These could be made accessible from the small car park.
- Picnic/ relaxation
- Trail activities
- Bird watching

The Shed business on the abutting parcel, seems to be incompatible land use. if nothing else the boundary should be screened.

Open space by landscape setting

The following image shows open space by landscape setting type in South Lismore.



Map 8 South Lismore opens space by landscape setting type



Managed sports turf is the primary landscape setting in South Lismore with other spaces being treed parkland and open grassed area. There are not any examples of bushland forest in the suburb although there are opportunities for further plantings along the riverbank north of Nesbitt Park. Once connected with the park trail network, this area could provide a bushland type setting in time.

The managed sports turf setting is provided with sports grounds in the north and east of the suburb (Nesbit Park and Riverview Park).

Small sections of wetland/foreshore setting are available adjacent to the Wilsons River in the east of the suburb.

Treed parkland is available in the small Rhodes St Park.

Open grassed setting is available in the Meadow Drive Park in the west of the suburb.

Recommendations

14. Upgrade elements in Nesbit Part so that it serves as a SFR park, including better trail and path connections from the Meadow Drive area and from Casino Street. Subsequently, consider changing the function type of Meadow Drive Park.
15. Provide a larger SFR park at Riverview Park enhancing the already existing sporting precinct. Subsequently consider changing the function type of Rhode St Park.
16. Provide a perimeter path with connections within Riverview Park to provide exercise and active transport options for the local community. Should a planned retreat proceed in the area, the expansion and upgrading of Riverview Park should be investigated and master planned.
17. Determine if the swimming pool at Lismore Lake Park is to be redeveloped, if not remove the existing pool and include this area in the master plan.
18. If compatible with the Plan of Management, Prepare a master plan for Lismore Lake Park that:
 - Revises the entries roadways, upgrades access to the River and signage and access from the adjacent accommodation premises and like, in car parking.
 - Includes a trails plan; around the lake, and connecting from the road footpaths to the river, to the swimming pool if it is to be retained, to adjacent accommodation , to any bird viewing area/hide etc., to key picnic tables etc.,
 - Consider providing some shelters, accessible and all gender toilets, accessible picnic tables, etc, with path access, picnic areas adjacent to the deepest part of the lake/ or island
 - Includes a planting plan – to encourage birds, children’s informal play, provide shade and visual amenity and screening of adjacent properties. (Note the need for different species, specific for these different purposes).

1.5 Goonellabah

Demographic influences

ABS Quick Stats 2021 shows the 2021 population of Goonellabah was 13,351.

- The number of children 0-4 years was 790.
- The number of school age children was 2441.
- The number of people 65 years and older was 2993.
- The median age of the population for Goonellabah is 41 compared to the Richmond River region of 46 and regional New South Wales of 43.

Existing open space

No.	Park name	Function type	Landscape setting type	Catchment hierarchy
East 1	Gainsborough Way Park	Play	Treed Parkland	Local
East 2	Ballina Rd Park- This is called Urban Park- Ballina Rd in the GIS	Visual Amenity/ Lookout	Treed Parkland	Local
East 3	Kadina St Reserve	Social/Family Recreation	Treed Parkland	District
East 4	Butterfly Gully	Conservation/ Biodiversity	Bushland/ forest	District
East 5	Holmes Park	Play	Wetland/ forest	Local
East 6	Pineview Park	Conservation/ Biodiversity	Wetland/ forest	District
East 7	Ravenswood Drive Park	Conservation/ Biodiversity	Wetland/ forest	District
East 8	Allambie Drive Park	Conservation/ Biodiversity	River/water based	District

No.	Park name	Function type	Landscape setting type	Catchment hierarchy
East 9	Ballina Rd Park- Also called Urban Park- Ballina Rd in the GIS	Visual amenity/ Lookout	Treed Parkland	Local
East 10	Holmesleigh Drive Park	Visual amenity/ Lookout	Treed Parkland	Local
East 11	Hillview Drive Park	Visual amenity/ Lookout	Treed Parkland	Local
East 12	Holland St Nature Reserve	Conservation/ Biodiversity	Wetland/ forest	District
East 13	Platypus Park	Conservation/ Biodiversity	Treed Parkland	District
East 14	Hepburn Park	Sport	Managed Sports turf	Regional
East 15	Acacia Ave Reserve	Play	Open Grassed area	Local
East 16	Acacia Ave Reserve- (Tucki Tucki)	Conservation/ Biodiversity	River/Water based	Local
East 17	Rous Rd Nature Reserve	Conservation/ Biodiversity	Bushland/ forest	District
North 1	Redwood Grove Park	Off road Trail	Treed Parkland	Local
North 2	Carramar Drive- Nature Reserve	Conservation/ Biodiversity	Bushland/ forest	Local
North 3	Northcott Drive Park	Visual Amenity	Treed Parkland	Local
North 4	Trinity Drive Park	Conservation/ Biodiversity	Bushland/ forest	Local
North 5	Mountain View Drive Park	Visual Amenity/ Lookout	Treed Parkland	Local
North 6	Millar St Park	Conservation/ Biodiversity	Bushland/ forest	Local
North 7	Gainsborough Way Park	Play	Treed Parkland	Local
North 8	Gainsborough Way Park	Play	Treed Parkland	Local
North 9	Windsor Park	Conservation/	Bushland/	Local

No.	Park name	Function type	Landscape setting type	Catchment hierarchy
		Biodiversity	forest	
North 10	Windsor Park	Conservation/ Biodiversity	Bushland/ forest	Local
North 11	Crandon Court Park	Conservation/ Biodiversity	Bushland/ forest	Local
North 12	Camelot Rd Park	Conservation/ Biodiversity	Bushland/ forest	Local
North 13	Winchester Park	Visual Amenity/ Lookout	Treed Parkland	Local
North 14	Crandon Court Park	Conservation/ Biodiversity	Bushland/ forest	Local
North 15	Ballina Rd Park- (Lee Cres Park)	Visual Amenity/ Lookout	Treed Parkland	Local
North 16	Jade Ave Park	Drainage-utility- landslip	Treed parkland	Local
North 17	Karissa Drive Park	Conservation/ Biodiversity	Bushland/ forest	Local
North 18	Greenhills Drive Park	Play	Treed Parkland	Local
North 19	Joel Place Park	Conservation/ Biodiversity	Bushland/ forest	Local
North 20	Sunrise Park	Play	Treed Parkland	Local
North 21	Spring Valley Drive Park	Visual Amenity/ Lookout	Treed Parkland	Local
North 22	Koala Drive Park	Conservation/ Biodiversity	Bushland/fores t	Local
West 1	Newhaven Park	Conservation/ Biodiversity	Bushland/ forest	Local
West 2	Florence St Park-	Visual Amenity/ Lookout	Treed Parkland	Local
West 3	Brooker Park	Visual Amenity/ Lookout	Treed Parkland	Local
West 4	Toona Court Park	Conservation/ Biodiversity	Bushland/ forest	Local
West 5	Julie Cres Park	Visual Amenity/ Lookout	Treed Parkland	Local
West 6	Florence St Park-	Visual Amenity/ Lookout	Treed Parkland	Local
West 7	Fischer St Park	Play	Treed parkland	Local

No.	Park name	Function type	Landscape setting type	Catchment hierarchy
West 8	Captain Rous Park	Play	Treed parkland	District
West 9	Tucki Tucki Nature Reserve	Conservation/ Biodiversity	River/Water based	Local
West 10	Silky Oak Park	Play	Treed Parkland	Local
West 11	Goonellabah Tennis Courts	Sport	Open Grassed Area	District
West 12	Weston Park	Sport	Managed Sports turf	District
West 13	Sheaman Drive Park	Play	Treed Parkland	Local
West 14	Campbell Cres Park	Conservation/ Biodiversity	Bushland/ forest	Local
West 15	Lee Cres Park	Visual Amenity/ Lookout	Treed Parkland	Local
West 16	Cynthia Wilson Drive Park	Visual Amenity/ Lookout	Treed Parkland	Local
West 17	Florence St Park	Visual Amenity/ Lookout	Treed Parkland	Local
West 18	Andrews Park	Conservation/ Biodiversity	Treed Parkland	Local
West 19	Clifford Park	Play	Open Grassed	Local
West 20	Elders Memorial Park	Play	Treed parkland	District
West 21	Spring Ave Park	Visual Amenity/ Lookout	Treed Parkland	Local
West 22	D'Arcy Drive Park	Visual Amenity/ Lookout	Treed Parkland	Local
West 23	Tucki Tucki Nature Reserve	Conservation/ Biodiversity	River/Water based	Local
West 24	William Blair Park	Visual Amenity/ Lookout	Open Grassed	Local
West 25	Parkwalk Drive Park	Visual Amenity/ Lookout	Open Grassed	Local

The era of subdivision has influenced the access to parks and the configuration of those as well as the ability to walk around the neighbourhood with curvilinear street patterns and many wide road reserves without footpaths.

North of Ballina Rd-

The council owned public open space in Goonellabah is almost entirely parcels classified as Conservation/biodiversity with numerous parcels spread across the north of the residential areas. These parcels include Carramar Drive Nature Reserve, Urban Park Trinity Drive and Urban Park Gainsborough Way. Generally, the conservation parcels across the north of the residential areas do not have trails within them and are providing the conservation function only. Play in the area north of Ballina Rd is present only with Greenhills Drive Park, Sunrise Park and Gainsborough Way Park. Each of these parks have identified issues with accessibility of both the park itself as well as the access within the park and to the equipment. Social/family recreation is not provided north of Ballina Rd.

There are also no parks north of Ballina Rd with a Sport function. Residential areas north of Ballina Rd are generally close to Ballina Rd itself with further development to come online in coming years further to the north.

South of Ballina Rd but west of the Tucki Tucki Reserve-

Open spaces in this area include the large sports parks at Weston Park and Clifford Park, play spaces at Elders Memorial Park, Captain Rous Park, Clifford Park, Shearman Drive and Fischer St. Other spaces in this part of Goonellabah include small conservation parcels dotted in the eastern part of the suburb such as Andrews Park, Toona Ct and Newhaven Park. There are several small playground parcels including Shearman Drive Park. There is a significant gap in open spaces in the areas south of the Tucki Tucki reserve and these will need to be considered as development continues in this area.

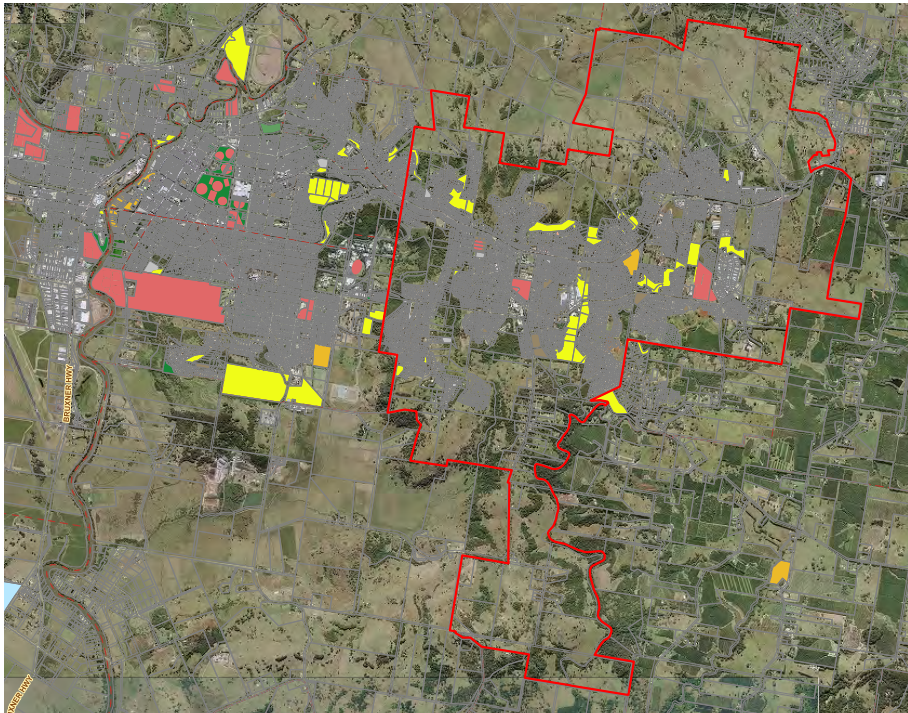
Just outside of the suburb border is the newly constructed Silky Oak Park within a new development. This park, despite having impressive plantings and outlook, does not meet the needs in terms of accessibility and is also difficult to see from the road.

East of the Tucki Tucki Reserve but south of Ballina Rd-

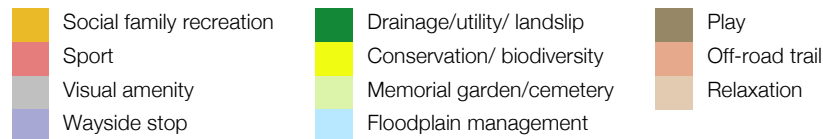
Open space in this area includes the large social/family recreation park at Kadina Street Reserve, the large Hepburn Park playing fields and several connected parcels of conservation land such as Pineview Park and Hepburn Park Platypus Park. Playground spaces in this part of Goonellabah include Holmes Park (which sits very close to Kadina Street Park). There are no social/family recreation or play function parks in the area south of Kadina Street Reserve or west of the Tucki Tucki reserve and with this being an area being currently developed as residential, it will be important to ensure that any social/family recreation gaps are filled in these newly developed areas in the future.

Open space by primary function type

The following image shows open space by primary function type in Goonellabah.



Map 9 Goonellabah open space by primary function type



Conservation/biodiversity parcels are prominent across the suburb including the Tucki Tucki corridor and a significant parcel at Captain Rous Park. Sport is available through the central parts of the suburb although there are gaps in the north and south. These gaps are especially significant in the areas closer to the new developments. There are few if any off-road trail corridors.

The Tucki Tucki Creek corridor provides a significant corridor of the conservation/biodiversity function in the central and eastern sides of the suburb.

Sport facilities and opportunities are available in most parts of Goonellabah apart from north of Ballina Rd and south of the Tucki Tucki Reserve corridor.

Some parcels such as at Captain Rous Park provide conservation/biodiversity function as well as the secondary function of sport with mountain bike trails constructed across a large parcel of treed parkland. Play is available within the 400m distance threshold across the suburb although despite the 400m play threshold showing few gaps in the residential areas, the quality of play opportunities within each park is often limited and accessibility to many parks is poor.

Gaps in play provision are in the southwest of the suburb, south of Cynthia Wilson Drive and west of Invercauld Rd where no play functions are available within 400m of houses. The other significant gap in play provision is the area east of Dudley Drive and south to Rous Rd (This area has recent developments and may have some open spaces coming online in the future as development contributions).

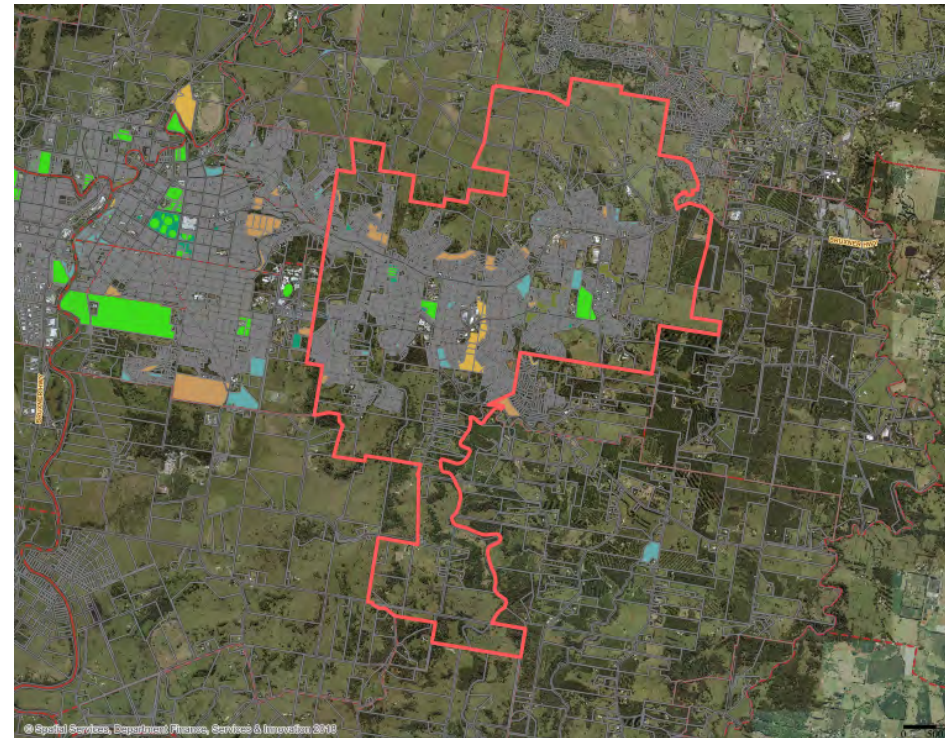
The only park with a social/family classification is Kadina Street Reserve in the central area of the suburb leaving large gaps in the provision of social/family recreation parks in the north, south and west of the suburb. The nearest social/family recreation to Kadina Street Reserve is Wade Park in East Lismore.

The area west of Taylor Rd and east of Kadina Rd has also a gap in social/family recreation, and open space provision. Social/family recreation function is available in the Kadina Street Reserve but the 800m distance threshold for this function does not cover much of the suburb at all.

Access to sport parks and facilities is limited in the areas of the suburb north of Ballina Rd and South of Oliver Ave in the areas that are primarily new housing developments. The social/ family recreation park at Kadina Street Reserve has a small rugby field as part of the layout which could support existing sports parks in the suburb, for training or junior development programs.

Open space by landscape setting

The following image shows open space by landscape setting type in Goonellabah.



Map 10 Goonellabah open space by landscape setting type



There are a variety of landscape settings across Goonellabah with large parcels of bushland/forest, several parcels of managed sports turf as well as the corridors providing the river/water-based setting.

The landscape setting of bushland/forest is provided for in the north of Goonellabah with park including Urban Park Trinity Drive, Urban Park Millar St, Carramar Drive Nature Reserve, Urban Park Gainsborough Way, Windsor Park, Urban Park Crandon Court, and Urban Park Joel Pl. In central parts of the suburb the bushland/forest setting is provided for with Butterfly Gully and no parcels in the south of the suburb although Rous Rd Nature reserve sits just on the edge of Goonellabah providing this setting the community.

Managed sports turf settings are provided in Goonellabah at Clifford Park, Weston Park and Hepburn Park playing field all within the central parts of the suburb. There are not any sports turf settings provided in the north or the south of the suburb where significant development is occurring.

Open grass setting is provided for in the areas surrounding Clifford Park, within the Acacia Ave Public reserve and the areas surrounding the Goonellabah tennis courts.

River/water-based settings are significantly provided for along the Tucki Tucki Nature reserve in the south of the suburb while treed parkland settings are provided for with several small parcels spread across the suburb with the larger parcels being Captain Rous Park, Kadina St Reserve and Hepburn Park. This setting is generally available in central areas of the suburb with little provided in the north and south of the suburb where more development is occurring.

There is one space associated with the Goonellabah Sport and Aquatic Centre which is paved /hard court at the Goonellabah skate park. This is not in Council's open space inventory.

Recommendations

19. Provide social/family recreation parks in areas showing gaps in provision and ensure all residential areas include social/family recreation and sport areas in new developments with a diversity of landscape setting types.
20. Identify opportunities to provide a diversity of landscape settings in future subdivisions such as those not available in the north and south of the suburb including treed parkland and sports turf.
21. Seek to retrofit footpaths in roadways where possible and provide path access to parks as well as into and around parks.
22. Continue to link up the Tucki-Tucki Creek off-road trails creating several large circuits through the suburb to connect with community facilities, sports, and other parks.
23. Create better access around and into and connecting with Clifford Park.
24. Undertake some minor improvements to Kadina Street Reserve to improve access to separate facilities.

1.6 Girards Hill

Demographic influences

ABS Quick Stats 2021 shows the 2021 population of Girards Hill was 1318.

- The number of children 0-4 years was 43.
- The number of school age children was 222.
- The number of people 65 years and older was 270.
- The median age of the population for Girards Hill is 47 compared to the Richmond River region of 46 and regional New South Wales of 43.

Existing open space

No.	Park name	Function type	Landscape setting type	Catchment hierarchy
1	Barnard Park	Play	Treed Parkland	Local
2	Bob Cowley Memorial Peace Park	Relaxation	Treed Parkland	District
3	Robinsons Lookout	Visual Amenity/ Lookout	Bushland/ forest	District
4	Keith St Park	Visual Amenity/ Lookout	Treed Parkland	Local

Girards Hill is a small suburb of mostly developed residential properties located south of the Lismore CBD. Located on the southern border of the suburb is the Girards Hill Public Golf course which has a mix of vegetation that links through to the Robinsons Lookout Nature Reserve.

The Robinsons Lookout Nature Reserve has water storage (tanks), picnic tables and seating but does not look to provide trails or connections between the multiple connecting streets (John St, Eden St, Cathcart St, Virtue St). There is an opportunity to connect these streets with the trails that connect the south of the golf course through to Atlas St in the east of the golf course providing a connection through to the Riverbank track along the Wilsons River. Robinsons Lookout also provides Primary Koala habitat.

The 2022 natural disaster flooding events impacted the northern and parts of the eastern areas of Girards Hill.

Other open spaces within Girards Hill include Urban Park Keith St which is a treed parkland parcel with a local catchment. This parcel is a steep vacant parcel of open grass and trees with no other features or public use and may not be required for play or other park purpose as it is close to the large sport parcel at Albert Park.

Barnard Park is a small park close to Ballina Rd that has a play function although the play elements in this park are very minimal. Barnard Park is a small corner park with large trees and grassed areas and has a footpath running to one side of it.

Directly across from Barnard Park is the Bob Cowley Memorial Peace Park, an open space with potential to create an improved play space. The Bob Cowley Memorial Peace Park has a frontage to the busy Ballina Road that would need to be considered in this concept.












The nearest social/family recreation space to Girards Hill is at Heritage Park on the waterfront in Lismore and therefore there may only need to be a local catchment park in either Barnard or Bob Cowley Memorial Peace Park to meet the needs of this residential area.

Open space by primary function type

The following image shows open space by primary function type in Girards Hill.



Map 11 Girards Hill open space by primary function type

 Social family rec.	 Drainage/utility/ landslip	 Play
 Sport	 Conservation/ biodiversity	 Off-road trail
 Visual amenity	 Memorial garden/cemetery	 Relaxation
 Wayside stop	 Floodplain management	

Functions provided in Girards Hill include visual amenity/lookout in the Robinson lookout (although this parcel has some significant bushland), play in Barnard Park and relaxation in Bob Cowley Memorial Peace Park.

Although there are many roads within Girards Hill with mature street trees, there are not any public spaces provided in the central areas or the east of the suburb.

There are no social/family recreation parks in Girards Hill. The nearest social/family recreation park to the suburb is Heritage Park/Riverside Park. There are opportunities to provide play and potentially social/family recreation opportunities in Girards Hill by developing Bob Cowley Memorial Peace Park and relocating equipment from Barnards Park. This would leave Barnard Park to provide a relaxation/green space for the community or could be revegetated.

Girards Hill is well covered in terms of sport with facilities although there are not sport facilities within the suburb itself. Facilities that sit within 1km of Girards Hill include the Girards Hill Public Golf Course, Albert Park as well as Riverview Park located on the other side of the Wilsons River.

Play is available within Girards Hill at Barnards Park, a local level park and just outside the suburb within Albert Park. There is quite a gap in play and park provision east of Cathcart St and west of Wyrallah Rd and north of the golf course and therefore considerations may be required in providing play elements within an open space in this part of the suburb although there are few opportunities within existing open spaces.

Conservation/biodiversity is not represented in Girards Hill although the Robinsons Lookout (classified as visual amenity/lookout) provides bushland as does parts of the neighbouring golf course.

Play is represented in the suburb in Barnard Park although as previously discussed, this park does not meet the play needs of the suburb and consideration could be given to the potential expansion of play elements into the park opposite to provide a play space that meets the needs of the western parts of the suburb without having to cross the busy Ballina Rd to access Play.

Open space by landscape setting

Landscape settings within Girards Hill include bushland/forest parcels in the south of the suburb (that connect with the golf course) as well as treed parkland parcels in the north of the suburb.

The landscape setting of bushland/forest is represented within the Robinsons Lookout Reserve which connects into similar vegetation within the golf course.

The only other landscape setting type provided in Girards Hill is treed parkland which is present in Bob Cowley Memorial Peace Park and Barnard Park in the north of the suburb and Urban Park Keith St in the south of the suburb.

The following images show open space by landscape setting type in Girards Hill.



Map 12 Girards Hill open space by landscape setting type



Recommendations

25. Identify any opportunities to connect trails from Robinson Lookout to the connecting streets of John St, Eden St, Cathcart St, Virtue St.
26. Investigate the potential of developing a relaxation space within the Bob Cowley Memorial Peace Park.
27. Retain Barnard Park as a relaxation park and enhance its potential to be further revegetated once not used as a single piece play park.
28. Should planned retreat proceed within the vicinity, provide at least one local play and desirably a social /family recreation in the area east of Cathcart Street, west of Wyrallah Road and north of the golf course.

1.7 Bexhill

Demographic influences

ABS Quick Stats 2021 shows the 2021 population of Bexhill was 528.

- The number of children 0-4 years was 32.
- The number of school age children was 98.
- The number of people 65 years and older was 92.
- The median age of the population for Bexhill is 44 compared to the Richmond River region of 46 and regional New South Wales of 43.

Existing open space

No.	Park name	Function type	Landscape setting type	Catchment hierarchy
1	Sam Trimble Park	Sport	Managed Sports turf	Local
2	Bexhill Park Reserve	Visual Amenity/Lookout	Treed Parkland	Local

Bexhill is a small village located northeast of Lismore. Only two parcels of Council owned open space exists in Bexhill. The first parcel is the Bexhill Cricket Ground (Sam Trimble Oval) located just south of the main town centre. This parcel is a small local sports oval with a small pavilion, cricket wicket and small playground at the entrance. The oval entrance (near the playground) is closed off by a locked vehicle barrier leaving no formal pathway from the carpark and road reserve into the oval, park, and playground. The oval itself has a path that extends from near the entrance to the pavilion and beyond through the park connecting with Janice St and therefore the Bexhill Public School.

This path network is positive and helps to connect the community, but with little flat open space, there would be benefit in having this path network run around the perimeter of the oval to provide an exercise track, bike track and connection to other parts of the community. The play space does not have internal paths that connect the picnic table, seating and play equipment.

Bexhill’s second parcel of Council owned public space is a large rectangular parcel directly east of Sam Trimble Oval. This parcel does not appear to have a public use with no obvious access points, trails or infrastructure. Some of this parcel is treed and is classified as containing koala habitat.

These two parcels are not connected by a path network to the main part of Bexhill and the only safe walking access to the oval is via Janice St. through to the school. To get to the school from the central part of Bexhill is more difficult with no formal footpath or cycle path on the main road but with potential access via Coleman St to access the school.

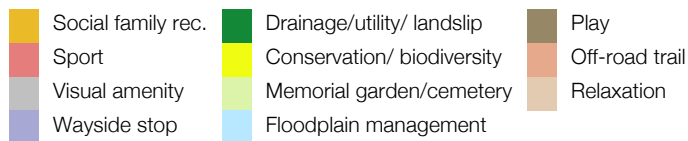
There are two significant parcels in Bexhill that are Crown owned. These are the Open-Air Cathedral which overlooks the Corndale Valley and the Quarry which is very central to the Bexhill township and is a very popular swimming spot for locals and visitors alike and there has been some planning landscape planning undertaken by the community with a view of obtaining funding for further development in this location.

Open Space by primary function type

The following image shows open space by function in Bexhill



Map 13 Bexhill open space by primary function type



The two open space function types within Bexhill are sport at the Sam Trimble Oval and Visual amenity lookout in the Bexhill Park reserve directly adjacent to the oval. There is the need to investigate further opportunities to develop off road trails to provide a full link from the middle of the town to the oval in the south of the town.

The Sam Trimble Oval has a sport function and the distance threshold of 1km covers most of the residential area of Bexhill with the parts of the town that sit outside of this threshold being in the western end of Grace Rd and the area of Julianne Place.

With play provided for at the Sam Trimble Oval, this leaves a large part of the town outside of the 400m play distance threshold. With the school located further north (and closer to the majority of the populated areas of Bexhill) there may be play opportunities that meet more community needs within the school than the playground at the oval does.

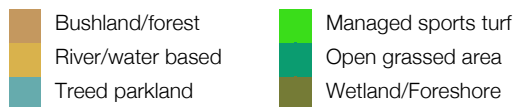
With the only two council owned parcels being in the south of the town, there is a requirement to continually provide facilities in the Same Trimble Oval to provide a hub for play, sport and exercise and social gatherings.

Open space by landscape setting

The following images show open space by landscape setting type in Bexhill.



Map 14 Bexhill open space by landscape setting type



Sports turf setting and treed parkland are the two landscape setting types on Council land in Bexhill.

The Sam Trimble oval has a landscape setting of managed sports turf although this parcel also has significant treed parkland areas.

The setting type, treed parkland is provided in the parcel directly behind the oval.

Recommendations

29. Develop a perimeter trail around the oval and better connect the town with flat walking/running and exercise opportunities.
30. Investigate opportunities to upgrade Sam Trimble Oval or Bexhill Park Reserve to help meet the play needs of most of the town’s population.
31. Ensure the access to the play space at the Sam Trimble oval is accessible as it is currently difficult to access due to a locked gate.

1.8 Dunoon

Demographic influences

ABS Quick Stats 2021 shows the 2021 population of Dunoon was 840.

- The number of children 0-4 years was 55.
- The number of school age children was 174.
- The number of people 65 years and older was 148.
- The median age of the population for Dunoon is 42 compared to the Richmond River region of 46 and regional New South Wales of 43.

Existing open space

No.	Park name	Function type	Landscape setting type	Catchment hierarchy
1	Balzer Park	Sport	Managed Sports turf	District
2	Tamrind Park	Play	Treed Parkland	District

Dunoon is a small village north of Lismore. The village is populated along the main street with a linear population pattern from north to south of the town. Dunoon has two parcels of Council owned open space. The first is a large sport park made up two rectangular soccer fields with lights, a clubroom, a tennis club with two synthetic grass courts and a play space. The second is a more centrally located town park with small play space, shelter and public toilets which is located adjacent to the local fire station. The entrance and carpark to the sports ground precinct is level but there is no accessible path of travel around this park and no formed trails at all.

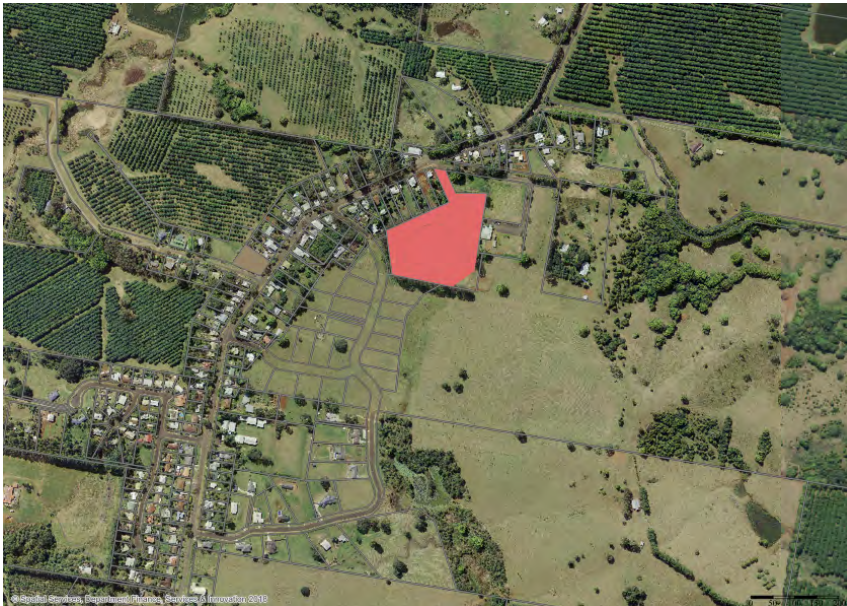
There would be some difficulty getting from either carpark onto the sports surface or into the playground area for less able-bodied users or those with a pushchair or mobility device. Some parts of this parcel have been identified as koala habitat. The play space at the sports precinct is in poor condition with very damaged rubber surfaces, narrow paths around the play space.

An accessibility issue identified near the play space is a bench located in the middle of the path that surrounds the playground equipment with little room in front of the bench and little room behind the bench to get a wheelchair, pram, or bike/scooter around the bench with a steep slope behind the bench. There would be the opportunity for a perimeter path network around this precinct potentially connecting James St. entry to the precinct with May St as well as a perimeter path for exercise and ease of movement around the grounds when wet.

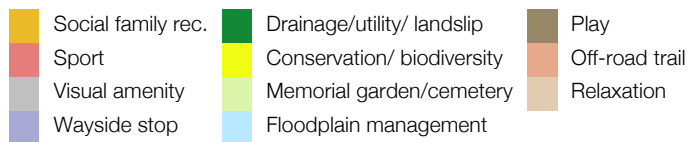
The Fire Station Park in the central part of town provides a small local park and potentially a wayside stop due to the park having access to toilets and shelter with seating. The park has limited play equipment, very damaged rubber surfaces and no path network into or within the park. The toilets, located down Munro St a little way is not easily identified and there is a steep path and steps leading into the toilets making it a difficult journey for those less able. Walkability along James St is relatively good with footpaths available or small service roads where footpaths are not available meaning that residents can generally walk safely from the town centre to the sports park and back again. As well as the council owned parcels of land, Dunoon also has the Dorrobee Grass Reserve which is a Crown parcel of land that is managed by the local Widjabul people, and the popular Rocky Creek Dam managed by the Rous County Council which is used for numerous water based recreational activities as well as being a significant water supply dam.

Open Space by primary function type

The following image shows open space by function type in Dunoon.



Map 15 Dunoon open space by primary function type



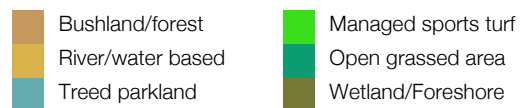
The two functions provided in Dunoon are sport and play. Sport is the primary function at the Dunoon sports precinct, but this space also provides play and other social elements. The 1km sport threshold covers almost all the residential areas of the town. Less than 7 km from the Dunoon Sports precinct is another local sport precinct at The Channon. Play is available at both the sports precinct in Dunoon and the local park at the fire station reserve. The 400m distance threshold from the fire station reserve covers 2/3 of the main residential areas leaving the southern part of the town outside of this threshold. The play within the sports precinct also sits within the 400m distance threshold of the fire station reserve therefore there is not the need to significantly upgrade the fire station reserve to more than a local level provision but there is the need to improve the quality of what is there. The sports precinct provides what is a destination park for the larger district with play and sport for the district.

Open Space by landscape setting

The following image shows open space by landscape setting in Dunoon.



Map 16 Dunoon open space by landscape setting type



Dunoon public open spaces have the following landscape settings, managed sports turf, and treed parkland.

The landscape setting for the sport parcel is managed sports turf while the landscape setting for the local park at the Fire Station Reserve is treed/parkland.

The treed setting at the Fire Station Park includes a variety of large mature trees and some areas of smaller shrubs with some small areas of lawn. Although the primary landscape setting of the sports precinct is managed sports turf, there are many large trees surround the fields and courts.

Recommendations

32. Provide a perimeter path around the oval precinct and to connect the main carpark with May Street to provide a town loop taking in the oval precinct and back into the town.
33. Upgrade the usability and the accessibility of both the play elements at the sports precinct and the path networks around this park.
34. Improve park and play elements, shelter, and toilets in the Fire Station Park.
35. Improve the access path to the toilets behind the Fire Station reserve removing the steep slope and steps to access.

1.9 Clunes

Demographic influences

ABS Quick Stats 2021 shows the 2021 population of Clunes was 907.

- The number of children 0-4 years was 42.
- The number of school age children was 182.
- The number of people 65 years and older was 156.
- The median age of the population for Clunes is 43 compared to the Richmond River region of 46 and regional New South Wales of 43.

Existing open space

No.	Park name	Function type	Landscape setting type	Catchment hierarchy
1	Remnant Drive Park	Conservation/ Biodiversity	Treed Parkland	Local
2	Smith St Park	Play	Treed Parkland	Local
3	Village Green Park	Wayside Stop	Treed Parkland	District

Clunes is a small-town northeast of Lismore. Population is spread across two areas of the town with a northern population (based around the old school precinct) and a southern population (based around the main shopping area of the town).

Council owned open space in Clunes includes two parcels providing drainage and conservation in Remnant Drive and Avalon Drive (both classified as local parks), a small park (classified as a local park) with play equipment in Smith St adjacent to a childcare centre and the Village Green in the centre of the town.

The Village Green (functioning as a wayside stop) has the potential to become a more formal park but due to its location right on a busy road and with minimal parking opportunities, it will better serve the community as an improved wayside stop.

The Village Green which is classified as a District Park includes a shelter, a BBQ, several tables, and seats scattered across the park and a memorial. The park slopes away from the road in places making a large part of the park difficult to access due to the slope and the lack of paths within the park. Maintenance of this park requires a significant amount of mowing in areas that are never going to be used by park users so there may be opportunities to identify areas for vegetation planting to reduce mowing in the future and to improve the facilities required to meet the needs of a popular wayside stop location.

The Lismore East Community Plan 2015 identified that the community should investigate creating Clunes Park (Village Green) as a place for tourists to stop and for locals to meet with BBQs with picnic spaces, playground equipment, exercise equipment and games area that includes items like large chess boards and to investigate the installation of composting toilets and public art. The plan also identified that Clunes was lacking in sports playing fields other than the small school oval. Since this plan was developed, the old school site has become more of a hub for the community and should become the focus for further investment in play and park elements while any improvements to the Village Green should focus on the shorter stopover opportunities with seats, shelter, bins, and toilets to meet the wayside stop function.

The parcels on Remnant Drive and Avalon Drive are both classified as Koala habitat and mostly act as part of a drainage corridor but due to the large number of trees, have been classified as conservation parcels. These are both classified as treed parkland setting type although both parcels have large areas of grass that would require significant mowing for little benefit to the community and could be revegetated to reduce this mowing. The local park in Smith St is a poor-quality play space with limited play opportunities.

There are no formal paths within the park although it does connect two roads. Located adjacent to a childcare centre, it is unlikely that this park gets much if any use by the community due to the quality of experience offered.

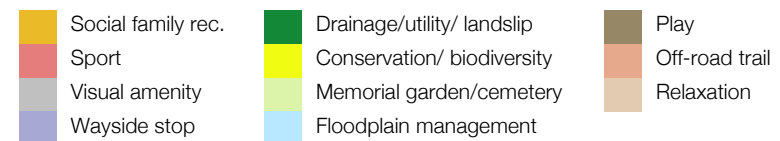
Council should investigate the opportunity to combine a town play space into the old school site as this location has become a community hub over the last few years.

Open space by primary function type

The following images show open space by primary function type in Clunes.



Map 17 Clunes open space by primary function type



Open space function types in Clunes include conservation/biodiversity and wayside stop. The park that has been classified as wayside stop is also a memorial park and has the potential to have social/family recreation elements if required although it is on a busy road and has limited parking opportunities nearby.

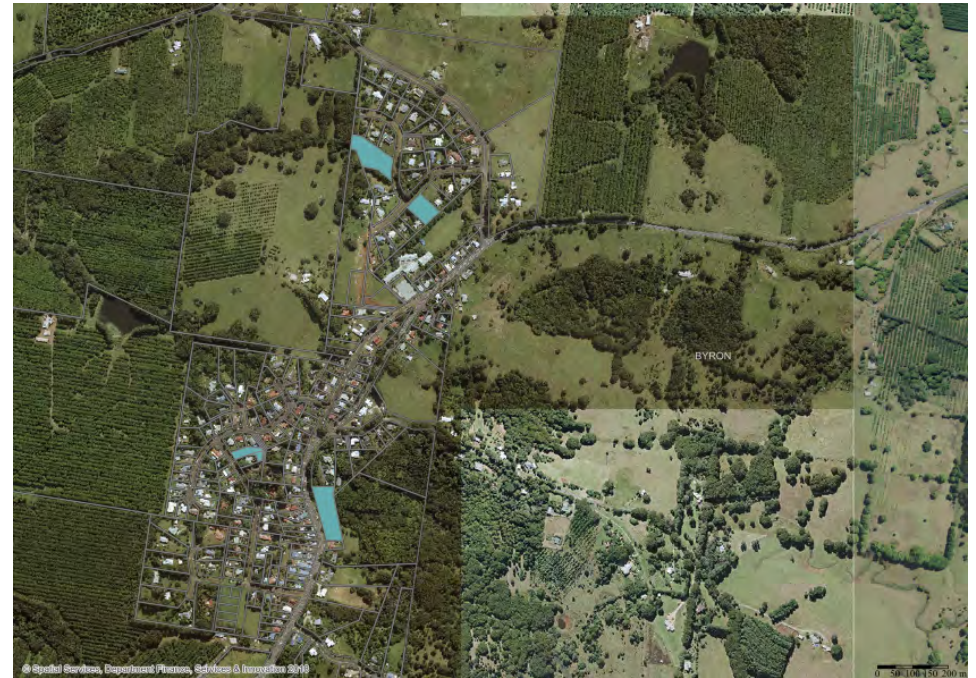
Clunes does not have Council owned land classified with a primary function of sport and as identified in a previous community plan; this has been seen by the community as a gap. There is however a small playing field at the old school that is used for social sport.

Play is only available as a primary function in Smith St which does not provide many play opportunities. The 400m play distance threshold of this park extends across the central parts of the residential areas of the town although the northern part of residences sits outside of this threshold. If the Village Green were to be enhanced as a future town park with a play classification, the threshold would not cover any more of the town than what Smith St already does. If a town park with play elements was incorporated into the old school site on Walker St, more of the residential areas to the north would be within the 400m catchment but less in the south. There is not a social/family recreation park in Clunes. There is an opportunity to incorporate a social/family recreation park into the village green or develop improved community facilities at the old school.

Clunes does have footpaths on the main street that connect both the old school site with the village green and the shopping area.

Open space by landscape setting

The following images show open space by landscape setting type in Clunes.



Map 18 Clunes open space by landscape setting type



Treed parkland is the only landscape setting type provided on Council owned land in Clunes. Although there is not any managed sports turf, investigations should continue as to the provision of support facilities so as the community can continue to use the open fields at the Clunes School. Bexhill is the nearest managed sports turf setting with the cricket ground at Sam Trimble oval.

Recommendations

36. Identify if the town needs a more centralised location for social/family recreation.
37. Consider the future of the Smith Street Park. Develop a more formalised trail connection through the park, revegetate, or alternatively consider divesting the parcel if a central social/family recreation park is developed elsewhere.
38. Plan the development of a town park and continued use of the sports field at the Clunes Public School sports field.
39. Pending community engagement, prepare a plan for the improvement of the Village Green to become an accessible wayside stop for the passing visitors and community park. Consider providing accessible access, a path network, seating, shade and toilets.

1.10 The Channon

Demographic influences

ABS Quick Stats 2021 shows the 2021 population of The Channon was 325.

- The number of children 0-4 years was 14.
- The number of school age children was 55.
- The number of people 65 years and older was 62.
- The median age of the population for The Channon is 48 compared to the Richmond River region of 46 and regional New South Wales of 43.

Existing open space

No.	Park name	Function type	Landscape setting type	Catchment hierarchy
1	Coronation Park	Sport	Managed Sports turf	Local
2	Coronation Park Reserve	Conservation/ Biodiversity	Treed Parkland	Local
3	Terania St Reserve	Floodplain Management	Open Grassed area	Local
4	The Channon Common	Conservation/ Biodiversity	Bushland/ forest	Local

Council owned public open spaces in The Channon include the Coronation Park (function of sport and landscape setting of managed sports turf). This parcel although a sports ground is well used as a market location for the community.

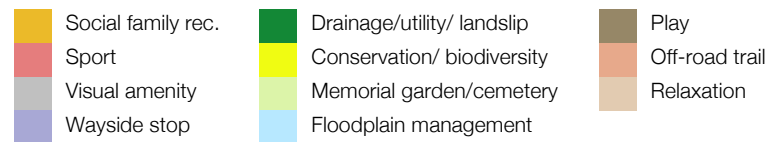
There are bushland parcels that adjoin the Terania Creek and a central park (The Channon Common) adjacent to the centre of town. The Channon Common has seats and large trees and is classified as a local park but with a conservation function.

Open space by primary function type

The following image show open space by primary function type in The Channon



Map 19 The Channon open space by primary function type



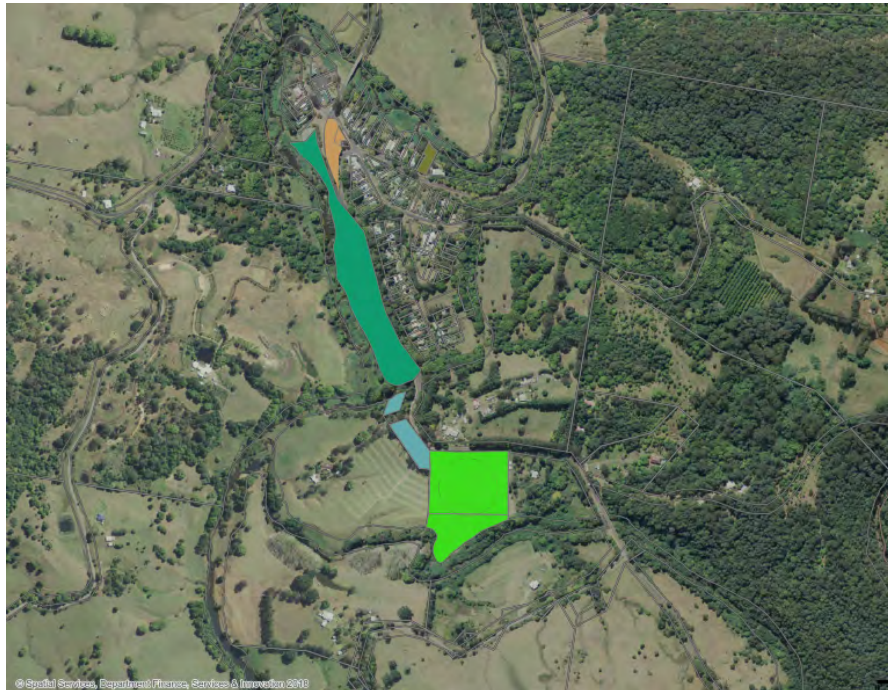
Function types of open spaces in the Channon include sport, conservation/biodiversity and floodplain management. There are some off-road trail sections within the Coronation Park that could be extended to provide a longer perimeter trail and an off-road trail connection from The Channon Common to Coronation Park could be created utilising existing paths as well as road reserves in places.

Coronation Park to the south of The Channon provides the town with a sport function and the 1km distance threshold covers almost the entirety of the residential community of the town. There are also sport opportunities less than 7km away in Dunoon.







There are no open spaces with Play classification in The Channon. If required, opportunities may exist to add play components to The Channon Common or at the Coronation Park.

Open space by landscape setting

The following images show open space by landscape setting type in The Channon.



Map 20 The Channon open space by landscape setting type

	Bushland/forest		Managed sports turf
	River/water based		Open grassed area
	Treed parkland		Wetland/Foreshore

Council owned land parcels stretch along a section of the Terania Creek. The landscape settings include treed parkland, bushland/forest, and open grassed area. Managed sports turf is provided within the Coronation Park oval.

Recommended actions

- 40. Consider the need for a social/family recreation space at Coronation Park.
- 41. Investigate the potential of extending the path network (perimeter trail) around Coronation Park and proving an off-road trail from Coronation Park back to Channon Common, utilising existing paths and the road reserve. Ensure the stability of this route is investigated.

1.11 Nimbin

Demographic influences

ABS Quick Stats 2021 shows the 2021 population of Nimbin was 1,607.

- The number of children 0-4 years was 63.
- The number of school age children was 246.
- The number of people 65 years and older was 367.
- The median age of the population for Nimbin is 50 compared to the Richmond River region of 46 and regional New South Wales of 43.

Existing open space

No.	Park name	Function type	Landscape setting type	Catchment hierarchy
1	Bellevue Park	Visual Amenity	Open Grassed area	District
2	Peace Park	Social/Family Recreation	Treed Parkland	District
3	Allsopp Park	Memorial Garden/ Cemetery	Treed Parkland	District
4	Nimbin Pool	Sport	Treed Parkland	District

Nimbin has a variety of Council owned open spaces including a large parcel of open grassed land adjacent to the showgrounds.

Other spaces include the Nimbin Pool located behind the Nimbin Bowling Club, and the Nimbin Community Centre Park which has a large open grassed area, skate park and play space.

The Nimbin Community Centre Park is classified as serving a social/family recreation function and Allsopp Park is a very central park hosting a memorial, seating and tables and some basic play equipment. Council is developing a community led project, the Rainbow Walking Trail. This trail will include concrete pathways, lighting, interpretive signage, and artwork and will connect Alternative Way with the CBD. Council will maintain this trail once constructed.

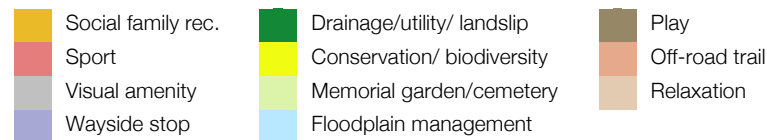
The Nimbin community have acquired a parcel of land called Aquarius Park in Nimbin which is intended to become a park.

Open space by primary function type

The following images show open space by primary function type in Nimbin.



Map 21 Nimbin open space by primary function type



Nimbin is served by sport, memorial garden and social/family recreation open space function types all within proximity to the centre of the town.

Improvements could be made to increase the quality of play and social elements within the Nimbin Community Park to ensure it remains the main social/family recreation hub of the town. The Community Centre Park is classified as a social/family recreation park. It provides important paved and hard-court areas not available elsewhere.

Some sports are provided in Nimbin, at the swimming pool and there is also a skate park in the social/family recreation Community Centre/Peace Park which also provides important paved and hard-court areas not available elsewhere in the town. The skate park sits within a social/family recreation park. There is no formal sportsground or playing fields in Nimbin although the showgrounds and the land adjacent have potential to be utilised for formal sport. If required, these spaces could potentially be used for formal and informal field sports. Adjacent to the pool is the Nimbin Bowling and sport and recreation club providing further sporting opportunities in the town. The 1km sport distance threshold provides for most of the residential areas of the town.

There are also play opportunities (although minimal) within Allsopp Park which is located close to the Community Centre Park. Due to proximity, there is not the need to extend the play opportunities in Allsopp Park to beyond what is already there. This park is located adjacent to both the pool, skate park and the bowling club and has a flat open grassed area and playground. The park could be enhanced by a path network that connects to the basketball court and skate park and a perimeter path as an exercise circuit. Additional tree planting to complement those provided would be beneficial. Further consideration should also be given to features suitable for older adults.

If any further play and park developments such as BBQ's, seating, picnic facilities etc are required in Nimbin, the Community Centre Park would be the best location to expand on the already existing facilities in a central location. The 800 m social/family recreation distance threshold extends to cover most of the town of Nimbin.

Open space by landscape setting

The following images show open space by landscape setting type in Nimbin.



Map 22 Nimbin open space by landscape setting type



Treed parkland is the dominant landscape setting type on Council owned land in Nimbin with this setting in all but one of the parcels. The other parcel (Bellview Park) has an open grassed area landscape setting type.

Recommended actions

42. Where the demand for sports playing fields arises, consider the use of Nimbin Showgrounds and the Council owned land adjacent, for this purpose.
43. Consider the primary social /family recreation space in town as Peace Park. Enhanced this park further by a path network, accessible tables and seats, further tree planting and play elements to support a variety of activities and use by people of different age groups and abilities. Ensure that only minimal play equipment is provided in Allsopp Park.

1.12 Other Rural locations

Lismore City Council have parcels of land in rural townships, hamlets and villages including the following towns:

- Eltham
- Canaiba
- Dungarubba
- Wyrallah
- Tregeagle
- Tullera
- Howards Grass

In many of these cases, the open space within the town is the only public land in the surrounding area.

Recommendations

Generally, the advice for these rural parcels (especially if they are the primary open space in the town) is:

44. Ensure that all parks have an accessible entry/exit, not just within the reserve but from the street and carpark also, and access to facilities toilets, courts, paths networks, buildings.
45. If space permits, construct a path (gravel) circuit around the park and oval to provide an exercise circuit that connects from the main hub/carpark and or entry.
46. If there is an oval (such as Spinaze Park and Adam Gilchrist Oval), continue to maintain the oval, to ensure social field sport and event opportunities are available.

47. If the space is the main open space hub of the town, provide a hardstand area with tables/seating/shelter to enhance social/picnic/BBQ opportunities.
48. If there is play equipment, develop the space into a social/family recreation space over times, provides social and physical opportunities for a variety of age groups and people of all abilities.
49. If there is a hardcourt (such as Spinaze Park), provide basketball or other sport elements such as futsal goals and nets on the tennis court to maximise the value from the court. Also ensure the court surface is in good condition for a variety of sports and activities.

2 Notes from the site inspections

Site visits to many of the parks within Lismore were conducted and issues and opportunities were identified in numerous areas. Areas where opportunities to improve provision in parks include:

- Accessibility of parks
- Access to amenities
- Movement in and around parks
- Good examples of park provision
- Opportunities to increase the use of parks.

The following pages provide images and a description of issues observed.

2.1 Accessibility rating

A high-level accessibility assessment of each park across Lismore has been completed. Parks were assessed considering four general levels of accessibility from whether you can get into the park (level 1.) to whether you can participate equally with companions in physical or play activities (level 4.)

No parks are designed to include all people in play, social or physical activities although several have equipment that can enable inclusive activities, but the connections to those may not be there.

While it would appear that this assessment focuses primarily on people with a physical disability, in fact access by path and positioning of central social and other elements enables wayfinding for people with a vision impairment and structure for people with neurosensory disabilities.

Providing a path network, selectively fencing some parks, and designing parks to include sunny and shady areas, ensuring a good diversity social, physical, and environmental opportunities in park for people of all ages and abilities ensures a greater range of the population will have satisfying park experiences.

Only three parks assessed provided a good accessible entry, access throughout the park on an accessible path of travel and equipment, facilities, seating, and tables that someone can reach from a seated position or someone in a chair can get to and stay, socialise, and play. However, none have seamless access to equipment that, in some instances, is designed to be accessible (i.e., Heritage Park).

A description of the accessibility rating system follows.

Table 1 Description of accessibility rating used

Accessibility rating	Broad assessment criteria
Level 1 accessibility Find and Get In	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The site is prominent, not on a steep slope ▪ Is connected to a footpath ▪ Has an accessible path entry and a curb crossing (with no barriers to get in such as locked gates, narrow spaces or latches people can't access). For a district park – does it have accessible parking?
Level 2 accessibility Get Around	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Is there a path network that gets at least to a social area, and key facilities i.e., to a playing field, toilets, courts, picnic shelter etc., ▪ Is there reasonably good wayfinding for people with a disability/ vision impairment etc. ▪ Is the path an accessible path of travel no more than 14% slope and no cross fall ▪ Does the path have a flat hard surface (doesn't need to be sealed may be hard packed mulch, gravel or even mowed grass).
Level 3 accessibility Get Together, Stay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Is there a social space with good shelters social space with tables, central to all activities and accessible for someone using a mobility device. ▪ Is there space to comfortably move around etc., where people feel they can communicate with others doing activities. ▪ Availability of some things that they can do or see together – nice sensory planting etc. views etc., spectating. ▪ Is there a fenced option (on selective sites) for children with neuro disabilities (i.e. on the autism spectrum). ▪ Are there support facilities such as all gender accessible toilets i.e., ▪ Is there a toilet with adult change table, available and shelter from the weather, where a carer can assist someone.
Level 4 accessibility Get Active and Playful	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Is there access to the field of play; courts and playing fields ▪ Is there accessible furniture and play equipment. e.g., roll on carousels, birds nest swings, hammocks, swing seats with backs and straps, under deck cubbies or shop counters with a path to things that you can do in a seated position and reach front on, i.e., interactive noughts and crosses, steering wheels etc., or water play, etc., accessible by path, ramps to elevated things, fitness operable from a chair.

3. Notes from the site inspections

1. Accessibility of parks

Path access

Paths are an essential element in park design. They mean access and wayfinding for people with a disability, they provide for multiple activities such as ball play and wheeled activities. Paths to and into a park connect communities.

Lack of footpaths and access into parks



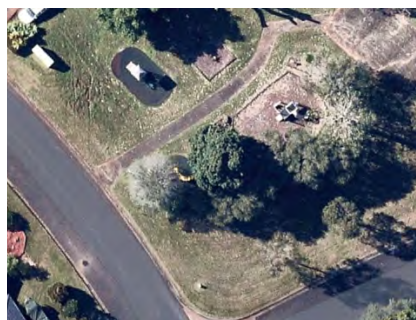
Many suburbs do not have footpaths and the nature strip slopes steeply down to the roadway. Anyone using a mobility device would need to wheel on the road. Some roads and road edges of parks are also very steep.

- ▶ Where retrofitting areas with footpaths is possible, consider prioritising access to existing parks, and ensuring the gradient is accessible.
- ▶ In new residential areas ensure footpaths are designed in all streets and ensure select streets have shared off-road trails designed in circuits that connect to parks and community facilities.



A number of parks were connected to closed roads but had no path access. Some had desire lines down slopes on edges, where people were accessing the reserve. E.g., Clifford Park in images to left.

- ▶ Ensure access to main parks from footpaths, and abutting closed or no-through roads, on all sides. Ensure that slopes on accessways are considered.



- Where there are no footpaths, it may be difficult for residents to get to and into a park safely and then get into the park and to activities.
- Some parks with an internal path, but don't have any entry from a footpath or connections to activities/ spaces or equipment that could be used by people with mobility devices such as this one in Fischer Street Goonellabah.

3. Notes from the site inspections

1. Accessibility of parks

No, poor or locked road access- no sealed pedestrian access into a park



- Some vehicle accessways into parks are without pedestrian access and were locked. One example is at Bexhill cricket ground. Here also the accessway didn't continue throughout the park in any formal way.
- In the case of Greenhills Drive Reserve, there was no formed path network in, out or through the park.

- As hard stand (i.e., courts etc.) may be in short supply, where it exists, it should be connected to a footpath so all people can get to it.
- Fischer Street Park in Goonellabah has no footpaths in the street but has a path from the street into a hard stand area.

- Some open spaces have wide and clearly identifiable paths. They are also important for wayfinding for people with low vision, and for people using a wheeled device -as the ground surface may be rough, damaged, or wet.
- An example of a well identified path is the one at the rear of CWA in central Lismore which is clearly identified by the yellow edges.

- Kadina Park carousel has the start of path network. But it has a steep rubber softfall access. See left image.
- Silky Oak Park (a new park) see right image) has a path access on one end that is too steep. Council should not accept a path as steep as this, that is unlikely to be compliant to the Access to Premises standard in the National Construction Code.
- As many residential areas are steep site selection for parks is critical to their use and functionality.

- ▶ The choice of a site for a park at subdivision stage should consider access and inclusion for people of all ages and abilities.

3. Notes from the site inspections

1. Accessibility of parks

Access to amenities are not all compliant



- The steps in the path access in most instances are unnecessary, and often exclude the very members of the community who need them most.
- Sharp corners on narrow paths are difficult for large mobility devices.
- The Dunoon Fire Station Reserve toilets are an example of difficult access to essential services within parks.



- This pavilion (Clifford Park) is accessible from the car park and along the building surrounds.
- However, there is no access from the pavilion onto the ground or associated paths around the reserve, nor do any paths connect the reserve to the communities on either side.



- Many play spaces have borders surrounding and retaining soft fall.
- But many of the spaces visited had no path to, from or around the equipment or access across the soft fall to reach the equipment that may have been designed to be accessible to someone using a mobility device or wheelchair. See images in the row below.

Potential accessible elements are not all able to be accessed using a mobility device



- Social opportunities such as “shops” or underdeck cubbies are very important for children with a disability, but here (in the image to the left) there is no way of getting to it via wheels. The shop counter doesn’t have a void under the counter or an extended counter. That means someone seated, can’t get close to the counter.
- A very accessible element to children using a wheelchair is positioned in the park without access to it or other items.
- ▶ Consider undertaking a major refurbishment of Heritage Park with replacement and leveling of surfaces and supporting infrastructure, entries, and plant material. Utilise a landscape architect with significant experience in play design for children with a disability.
- ▶ Review facilities that have opportunities to be used while seated – i.e., shop counters that you can get your knees under, or steering wheels and interactive items that can’t be accessed from a chair.



- Accessible car parks do not all appear to be compliant.
- The photos on the right are in the Dunoon Sports area- accessible parking doesn’t link with any paths.



Potential accessible elements are not all able to be accessed using a mobility device



- There are items included in parks such as Heritage Park that can encourage children of all ages and abilities to play.
- Good examples of more inclusive play equipment that will attract all children include swings with back supports, and a stable surface from which to transfer to the swing, an accessible carousel, and social opportunities i.e., under deck are also provided.
- However, there is no path or accessible path of travel between items, and a number of uneven surfaces, steps and trip hazards and barriers to entry would prevent a user of a wheelchair from using the space.

Facilities designed to be accessible such as drinking fountains and accessible carousels, but placed so they can't be used



- Good example: Silky Oak Park, -right photo (although the path down to them is too steep).
- Simple picnic table with room for a wheelchair and directly accessible off a path.
- Kadina Park (to the left) does not have all the social facilities and drinking fountain etc connected to a path.
- Make sure there is space to manoeuvre around shelter uprights and around bollards and adjacent structures.



- The shelter which appears very accessible is connected to a path with a bollard in the middle. Is there adequate space between the bollard and the fence? See left. Heritage Park provides potentially good access to tables and seats directly off a path.

Facilities designed to be accessible such as drinking fountains and accessible carousels, but placed so they can't be used



- Play spaces with features such as this shop counter that could be used by someone in a mobility device, but they do not have access from the path into the play space.
- Almost every picnic table in visited parks was not connected by a path and often there was not a path network. This one in the right image.
- Most drinking fountains appeared to be designed for accessibility but are not accessible off the main path and difficult to access. Right photo is in Clunes main park. Left is Kadina Park.

- Right image is Kadina Park. Left image is Heritage Park

Wheelchair swings are not always inclusive



- This wheelchair swing needs a MYLACK key to operate it.
- It is positioned in a pen away from other swings and activities.
- It has a very non-welcoming sign that says "Restricted Access" which is not welcoming and will dissuade use when it is designed to be used by people in a wheelchair.
- Multiple swings and of different types are desirable as they are typically used more than any other pieces of equipment. But also, it means you can have multiple types of swings seats; that with a back and straps, birds' nest or bucket swing, toddler seats or strap seat for larger people.
- ▶ In future provide wheelchair swings alongside other swings so play can develop with others.
- ▶ Sign so as to enable them to be used by other people such as older adults and redesign them so they are welcoming.

Facilities designed to be accessible such as drinking fountains and accessible carousels, but placed so they can't be used

Accessible toilets



- This accessible toilet requires a MYLACK key. That means this toilet will not be used very much as few people have this key.
- It is not clear whether the toilet has an adult change bench, however these are desirable.
- This toilet is well situated close to the entry but not in the main view of the park.

Hard courts

Such as skate parks and ball courts can be used by people in wheelchairs - but some do not have path access



- Kadina Park ball courts: one of the few full-sized hard courts observed and with a circuit path. But not connected and few connections to the path network.
- The park in Fischer Street Goonellabah has a path to the hard court from the street but no footpath to the park.



- Nesbit Park has a path access onto the ball court and to the picnic areas, but not around the whole park.

Wheelable surfaces and accessible paths of travel

You don't need a sea of rubber to provide access to play experience. Accessible paths of travel can be natural and unsealed surfaces. They need to be wide enough, wheelable, have a visual contrast to the surrounds and have appropriate cross fall and gradients. Use rubber soft fall sparingly, it is expensive, hard to maintain, and is heat absorbing and hence low albedo and often affected by inundation.



- Rubber soft fall is expensive to provide and to repair and is subject to damage from water and wear. It is often heat generating also. It is best not laid just as an island, as the edges are vulnerable to damage, and they can cause trip hazards.
- Use sparingly where you need wheelable access in a fall zone, and where mulch won't stay.
- There is damaged rubber softfall in almost every park. This is likely due to inundation or lack of maintenance.
- These swings are not connected to a path, and yet there is a wheelable surface underneath them.
- Swinging is very important for all children.
- Those more flexible for use by all people include basket swings (as shown above) or even hammocks.

The location of paths; too close to structures and fields of play, or too narrow



- Access here (left image) is physically challenging especially with the slope away to the left and the seat in the middle of the path. Some-one with a vision impairment could collide with the seat.
- The path appears too close to the fall zone of the slide.
- The path could however provide access to play elements for those using a mobility device.

2. Other opportunities to increase the use of parks (see also paths, and accessibility)

**Perimeter paths
(around the edge of large parks)**

Perimeter paths encourage people who may not be sporty to exercise and use sporting reserves. These paths are located on the park edge and are independent of, but may join other paths. The surface should be even and stable but not hard ie granitic sand -where possible. (See image to the left).



- Some large parks have the space and a good location for a perimeter path (see right image) – i.e., between two existing rows of trees.
- However, as perimeter paths are for jogging and walking, so concrete may not be the best surface, except where flooding is an issue.
- No parks were observed with a perimeter trail around the whole site.
- ▶ In all parks larger than 1ha provide a perimeter path suitable for jogging and walking. Sports reserves may need an extra buffer around fields of play to provide these.



- Trails can do two things- provide an exercise loop for locals and sporting visitors around the park as well as provide a link from the fields and facilities to and between streets and suburbs. In this case, it will help link streets with a childcare centre adjacent to the oval- Clifford Park

- In sports facilities perimeter paths can allow for some off-field training should the fields be wet.
- They can allow for parents to exercise while waiting for children to finish training, or for people who live locally to get their daily exercise, fresh air and contact with nature, or to see activity without having to be in it, without having to be near traffic.



- Picnic tables are as important as seats in parks. More could be provided.
- Picnic tables enable places to sit for people who can't be engaged in physical park activities and still feel a sense of belonging.
- Tables enable people to read or do other activities and enjoy the outdoors. They enable people to supervise children and also for parents to help children or people cared for with food and drink.
- After the floods it was observed that many workers were using parks as a place to have breaks and meals.

3. Other Issues observed

Interface /relationship with housing and roads



- Where parks have no clear delineation of the border between private and public space – use may be affected. In some cases, vegetation provides that delineation and some screening.
- ▶ Consider providing at least boundary planting on boundaries of small reserves abutting private spaces.
- ▶ In new residential areas ensure reserves are large enough so use is not affected, and adequate buffers for physical, social, and quiet contemplative activities are provided
- ▶ In new residential areas ensure reserves about public space on two or preferably three sites.

Use of slopes



- Much of Lismore is undulating, so the planning of new residential areas and open spaces needs to consider opportunities for flat land for recreation and particularly ball play. Not all open spaces need to be flat,
- Slopes however can be used effectively in design to create variation, access to the top of play structures, provide for children to roll down and provide challenges for walking and cycling. Sloped areas may also be used for food gardens and be planted for biodiversity.
- Small sites that are very sloping are difficult as per the image on the top left.
- Siting parks in very steep residential areas at the bottom of the slope may compromise waterways and biodiversity corridors and mean the park is a long way from residences and difficult to get to by people using mobility devices (Silky Oak Park)
- ▶ Council should establish some guidelines for developers around providing parks in steep residential areas
- ▶ Ensure parks in steep areas are serviced by an accessible path of travel into the park, and around the park.
- ▶ Large of areas of sloping lawn can be replaced by planting ribbons of vegetation along paths for example.

Social/family recreation spaces

Social family recreation areas parks designed to encourage people of all ages and all abilities people to participate in social ,physical and environmental activities



- There were only several large parks (Nesbit and Kadina Parks) had a good range of recreational facilities including central social space, hardcourts, play opportunities, open fields, picnic areas, sheltered space and vegetation and paths and that have good potential to cater for all ages and abilities. (See 1. Accessibility)
- In many cases there was an absence of things for older people to do in parks and things for people with a disability to do across Lismore, when some suburbs appear to have a large number of older people.
- ▶ Parks should be large enough and include opportunities for physical activity for people of all ages and abilities (as well as social and environmental elements) As a minimum any large park (over1 ha) should include a shared perimeter path.
- ▶ Seek to ensure that all localities have a social family recreation park. This may be in conjunction with a sports park, local hall etc.,
- ▶ In suburban areas seek to provide one social family recreation park of approximately 1 ha in size, within approximately 800m of all residences and in preference to multiple smaller spaces.

Physical activities



- Within each local area a central large park with physical activity should include a range of social and environmental features. These may include opportunities for hard court areas for ball play, bike facilities such as skills areas, pump tracks etc., skateable areas, an area of open lawn for kick to kick or sports as well as fitness facilities (where these can be accommodated on a circuit trail for example).
- Silky Oak Park (left image) doesn't have adequate space for kick to kick or hard-court activities.

Social/family recreation spaces



- Hard courts in parks allow people that are dependent on wheeled devices to play alongside friends and family, but also allow ball games (typically of interest to older children and young adults) and wheeled toys. Therefore, they target a relatively wide range of age groups and abilities.
- Full sized courts can be used by many more activities and people than a single half courts. These are often a destination, so site them at the front and where their use won't create conflict with other activities. practise and hardcourt games can be extended by hit up walls
- Fences across park restrict access and are usually a sign that the park hasn't been well designed/laid out and they are expensive.

Environmental features



- Lismore is fortunate to have high scenic quality due to topography and vegetation, and this often provides a backdrop to many relatively uniform urban parks.
- The area has a long growing season, relatively good tree canopy and large number of mature specimen trees in older established parks. The character of and diversity of vegetation is able to provide significant experiences to park users.

Environmental features



- Most of the older areas of Lismore have great street trees and there is plenty of large, vegetated spaces to explore across the region.
- However, there is a limited diversity of opportunities to interact with nature in parks.
- Trees provide significant value to new development areas and parks for character, biodiversity, cooling, and visual amenity as well as offering props and play materials etc.
- In this park with palm trees to the left, there are no features that would encourage use. The addition of internal paths and hardy garden plants would complement the stately palms and encourage use.
- Even sports parks that are primarily managed sport turf can provide large canopy trees for shade or as perimeter plantings.
- Many parks for play have trees as a backdrop- or in the view line, but not as features integrated with play opportunities.
- In some areas there are obvious drainage lines that could be designed as rough creek beds that flow when it is wet.



- Single mature trees in residential subdivisions are vulnerable on their own and to changing water tables after the land is developed.
- Tree protection zones should be retained around the whole tree – unlike in this example where half is in the roadway.
- The Australian Standard, Protection of Trees on Development Sites (AS4970 2009) defines a Tree Protection Zone as a combination of the root area and crown area requiring protection so that the tree remains viable. As a guide it generally extends outside the drip line of the canopy.

Environmental features



- Retain large trees in larger open spaces and with TPZs in developing areas
- Provide additional plantings around these trees to support habitat and protect the root zone.
- ▶ When funds for new park developments are limited, planting and paths to create character and a framework for future infrastructure should be considered a priority.
- Silky Oak Park in the East Wood estate has really nice planting, at a level that children can interact with. It has a very small, grassed area – too small for kick to kick and therefore not likely to be used.
- ▶ Trees and understorey species should be chosen for different benefits including play, shelter, shade, screening, and visual amenity.

Nature play

- For young children, nature encourages experimentation and provides a source of inspiration and learning about the natural world.
- Play equipment is not required to facilitate play.
- Nature play is not items of play equipment that are made in the theme of natural elements.
- Play can be encouraged through careful selection and positioning of natural elements including logs, dirt and areas of loose material, flowering plants and those with sensory qualities, fruits and nuts that can be used as play props, rocks, other vegetation, and water where suitable.
- Little pockets of nature; accessible natural elements that encourage exploration, can be included in most parks.
- In places where it is not practical to maintain one or two items of play equipment, the provision of interesting gardens or places with natural elements can encourage play.
- Trees can be selected specifically for their unique qualities that encourage play.
- Species selection and positioning should enable all users to interact with vegetation and loose materials including elements accessible from wheelchairs or mobility devices.
- In the context of the City's relatively rural nature and the need to complement the play opportunities children have in their local areas, specific "nature play" (only) spaces as such, are not required.
- Play spaces can enhance and encourage children's contact with nature and can provide loose materials that can be used in play.
- The banksias in Silky Oak Park (above) are an example of a hardy plant that has interesting elements, both sensory leaves and interesting fruit than can be used in play.
- More natural elements in play spaces will promote environmental education, interaction, and an attachment to a resident's surroundings.

Landscape setting types



- ▶ In the case of the park in the left image turf area is too narrow and will be difficult to maintain and should have been planted. In the right image- this a vast area to mow and could attract use by a proportion being planted.
 - ▶ Ensure there is a good balance in parks with those large open grass/managed turf, canopy trees for play screening and shade, as well as ground covers and flowering plants that provide sensory opportunities as well as habitat for insects and small birds, and interest for appreciation in the environment.
 - ▶ Seek to provide a diversity of parks with different landscape setting types from those which are paved to those that are heavily forested, open with grassy areas, and those with a combination of open grass and canopy trees as well as some cultivated ornaments / food gardens.
 - ▶ Very few localities had areas providing paved or hard courts, or ornamental / cultivated garden setting types. These should be considered as components of large parks or in the development of small parks that may have encumbrances.
 - ▶ In many instances other than in area for games or picnics there is little need for lawn, especially in verges. These can be planted with meadow species that require little maintenance and encourage biodiversity.
- ▶ In any future higher density residential developments consider more intense nature based or garden settings in to complement the hard nature of the environment and encourage play and contact around dwellings.

Subdivision design and settlement types

- Subdivisions from different decades show very different provision models and qualities of public open space.
- The more contemporary parks appear to have formal designs, high quality planting, shelters and play equipment than in previous eras, however the distribution and size of new parks appeared to be inadequate.
- Older established areas have large open space and sporting facilities with large established trees and paths.
- Then the variation to the Radburn scheme style development provided no fences wide roads and few footpaths and limited delineation between public and private land, and open space corridors which were not very functional for recreation.
- Much of the newer subdivision layout in Lismore responds potentially to topography, providing curvilinear road patterns which are not very permeable for walking, and which provide challenges for size and the configuration of good sized, quality and centrally located parks and access for people using mobility devices.
- Planning and design of open space should complement the nature and scale of the residential setting and opportunities freely available in that locality. For example, paved and hard-court areas are commonly cherished in more rural areas as these spaces are not readily available.
- In many cases there was an absence of things in parks across Lismore that complements the nature of housing. For example, in the Eastwood estate the yards are very small and also all are sloped. Hence the local park would have been good to have a grassed area large enough for kickabout space and also a hard court where children could play ball games
- Residential design can bring nature and play opportunities to children where they live; enhance independent mobility, social interaction and liveability and motivate more people to exercise.
- If Lismore include more medium and higher density housing different provision models may need to be applied as fewer people have private open space and to ensure desirable distance thresholds and carrying capacities in existing open space can be accommodated.

3 Appendices

Appendix 1. Open Space Classifications

Why should we classify open space?

Public open space isn't all the same.

Different types of open space provide very different kinds of benefits.

As well as serving a wide range of community health and wellbeing needs, open space, also protects the natural environment, and provides for utility and drainage functions.

By defining the primary purpose or function of public open space, it is possible to determine which human benefits can be met in the long term, how it should be managed to protect these and to monitor changes in time and across the City.

Planning new residential areas

If we classify open space by function, we can define how big they need to be and what they should include, a where and how many spaces are needed where people live, and how they can be maintained.

Classifying open space by function helps us analyse how accessible open spaces are to every residential community that needs them.

A classification based on landscape setting (i.e., is the site mown grass, heavily treed, paved or managed sports turf, for example), helps us to understand the diversity of experiences available across a locality and help determine the priority for how to develop new open spaces so they complement other open spaces and create diversity of experience.

If new space in a highly urban area is created, and existing sites are all paved or mown grass, for example. In that case, the priority might be to provide dense tree canopy or even cultivated garden to add diversity.

In a more rural setting, a new open space might complement and add variety to available bushland or pasture or cultivated areas, by adding open grassed areas and paving for social activities.

Knowing what type of landscape setting a park has, also helps determine maintenance requirements.

How can an open space classification system be used to improve established areas?

Where multiple open spaces of the same function or setting type exist, changes in classification may create additional opportunities, reduce duplication or overserving, or enhance the sustainability of areas by reducing competition.

New opportunities may be generated if there are multiple similar sites (such as all playgrounds) by changing the landscape setting, or catchment, or even switching one space to a different function (such as community horticulture).

Or, if sites all are open grassed areas, for example. One or more could be developed to create a play setting in a heavily treed area or creating an ornamental garden setting.

Classifying open spaces according to where users come from (as local, district or regional)

It's common to classify open space by hierarchy. For example, local, district or regional this identifies the primary user of the space, how long they are likely to stay and what support facilities are needed.

For example, if a space is classified as “local” and people come from just the immediate residential area, then toilets for example and car parking are unlikely to be required.

The open space classifications

The open space classifications proposed for Lismore City Council are follows:

- Classification 1. Open space function type
- Classification 2. Open space landscape setting type
- Classification 3. Open space catchment hierarchy

In addition, we suggest that *Settlement type* is also considered.

I.e., is the park in a village or the main urban centre?

Or is there another form of housing area needed to be included, for example areas with more apartment and less private open space or gated communities.

Classification 1. Open space function types

Open space function type reflects the purpose and role of the open space in the network based on key benefits sought by the community from the type of space.



This type of open space classification is the most important as it will be key to determine in growth areas to reflect need and will have clear provision standard for each.



Table 2 Open space function types




Open Space Function Types
Social/Family Recreation Includes Play (but not single use just for children) For all ages and abilities
Sport
Visual Amenity/ Look out
Relaxation (Seats and paths only. No other facilities)
Wayside Stop (Roadside rest areas)
Memorial park/Cemetery
Community Horticulture / Garden
Conservation / Biodiversity Cultural Heritage
Off-Road Trail (Single Use Trail Corridor / MTB Facility)




See more detailed definitions following.



Definitions of open space function types

Open Space Function Type	Definition/ Purpose/explanation	Benefits	Image example
<p>Social/family recreation (SFR)</p>	<p>Places for people of all ages and abilities to gather and socialise with friends and family, and for children to develop skills related to co-operation and sharing, and improving co-ordination and physical agility, through play.</p> <p>Typically catering for play, picnics, casual ball games, social sports activities, picnic, and trail activities as well as environmental elements.</p> <p>These places may also provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ places for civic gathering and celebrations. ▪ dog parks, and play spaces ▪ wayside stops: Areas set aside for people travelling along main roads/highways to stop for rest breaks or picnics. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Be with friends and family off territory ▪ Be with people with similar values ▪ Meet new people ▪ Observe other people ▪ Providing a place for social gathering where social / family recreation and child development can occur and increase people’s sense of belonging, social contact, and quality of life. 	
<p>Off-road trail /Accessway (often a secondary function)</p>	<p>A corridor or area dedicated to, or dominated by, an off-road trail or pathway, or an area along a corridor of open space, that facilitates walking and cycling skating and wheeling.</p> <p>A walkway between streets for example.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Providing exercise, access to nature, opportunities for social connections and active transport. ▪ To encourage independent mobility, spatial knowledge ▪ 	

Open Space Function Type	Definition/ Purpose/explanation	Benefits	Image example
<p>Sport</p>	<p>Areas reserved for sport i.e., turf field, hard court or synthetic surface, cycle sports facilities etc.,</p> <p>To enable competition, club activities, programs and events, and pathways to higher levels of competition provided by others.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Physical fitness/challenge ■ Providing a place where people can participate in sport and physical activities, challenge and develop skills, enhance health, and sense of well-being and stay socially connected 	
<p>Flood Plain Management/ drainage, or stormwater retention</p>	<p>Areas of open space not provided primarily for recreation - but retained as either: a buffer around industry or hazardous areas, areas of land slip or contamination, drainage, floodway or stormwater retention or areas containing utilities for water, sewer, or electricity supply infrastructure etc. These may be used for recreation or access as. Secondary function.</p>	<p>To protect urban development and infrastructure from floods.</p> <p>Providing conduits for electric supply and other services etc.,</p>	

Open Space Function Type	Definition/ Purpose/explanation	Benefits	Image example
Memorial Park/ Cemetery	Parks or gardens (or avenues of honour) dedicated to the memory of people or reserved for the protection, or interpretation of significant trees, gardens or buildings reflecting European settlement or indigenous cultural heritage or events, e.g., Shrine of remembrance, cemeteries, and memorial / peace parks/ Avenue of honour/ remembrance garden/ cultural heritage sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunities for reflection, spiritual connection, celebrating culture and events and interpretation of people and events. Helps connect people with friends and community life as well as their social, cultural, and ancestral origins. 	
Community horticulture / garden	Areas for community horticultural or agricultural recreation activities, or food security. These may be vineyard, garden plots, orchards or combined parks focusing on food production/ security and sustainability like CERES environmental park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance food security, meet interests in growing and learning about food production, nutrition and sharing interests related to growing, cooking, and eating food, and providing contact with nature. 	
Conservation/biodiversity/ cultural heritage	Areas managed primarily for the protection of flora and fauna or biodiversity or cultural heritage. These may include conservation areas, national park, flora reserves, wetland areas, biolinks and carbon sinks. These may accommodate recreational opportunities such as trails, seats, and interpretative signage, paths, bird hides etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enjoy nature Conserving biodiversity and flora and fauna, providing opportunities for environmental education, research, and the appreciation of nature. 	

Open Space Function Type	Definition/ Purpose/explanation	Benefits	Image example
<p>Visual amenity/look out / ridgeline</p>	<p>Areas principally providing visual relief from urban surroundings, enhancing the amenity of streetscapes or for civic pride, restorative values, or respite.</p> <p>Or areas dedicated to viewing scenery, or to protect view sheds, ridgelines, or skylines.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appreciate views. Relief from urban sights and sounds 	
<p>Wayside stop (Road-side rest areas)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road-side rest areas for drivers and their passengers to take a break. May include parking, picnic, play, toilets and viewing areas or tracks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relaxation Risk minimisation 	
<p>Play (Note These single purpose sites may be present but are not recommended in future provision standards, as play should be included in SFR)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small, single-use areas that are primarily play equipment. Note: These single purpose spaces should be phased out in future in favour of larger, multi-purpose social/family recreation areas accommodating play. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child development 	

Open Space Function Type	Definition/ Purpose/explanation	Benefits	Image example
<p>Relaxation / contemplation</p>	<p>Open space with some, but minimal recreational infrastructure such as seats and paths, viewing areas or interpretative signage to support use of areas that are primarily green or natural with high environmental quality, providing for relaxation, contemplation / escape.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural places and parks that provide children with an opportunity to experience risks and challenges, to explore nature and new things, and to find inspiration and treasures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tension release/slow down mentally Escape role overloads and daily routines Introspection/contemplation Providing a place of escape where people can relax, reflect, and release stress and appreciate the natural environment/ observe natural spectacles. 	
<p>Utility/ Land slip /Flood management Non -Recreational Open Space</p>	<p>Areas of open space not provided primarily for recreation - but retained as either: a buffer around industry or hazardous areas, areas of land slip or contamination, or areas containing utilities for water, sewer, or electricity supply infrastructure etc. These may be used for recreation or access as. Secondary function.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect homes from land slip. Providing conduits for electric supply and other services etc., 	

Classification 2. Open space landscape setting type

Open space landscape setting type is a measure of diversity and available experiences, as well as character and access to nature. It reflects existing vegetation on an open space and assists with matching requirements for specific activities, user preferences and biophysical conditions.

Advertising the landscape setting type for each open space can assist potential users to: make a choice between sites for different reasons and explore new places.



A landscape setting type classification will assist with the differentiation of sites based on experiences and environmental quality they offer, for sustainability, and for planning, management, and marketing purposes.




Table 3 Open space landscape setting type classification




Landscape Setting Type	Description
Cultivated/food Ornamental or Formal Garden	Planted specimens trees/garden beds/shrubs etc, including exotic plants
River/water based	Infrastructure provided in relying on the river corridor
Vegetable garden/vineyard/farm	Vegetable garden/vineyard/farm
Open grassed area	Open grassed area - may include some trees around the boundary
Treed parkland	Scattered trees in grass land/low understorey
Bushland/forest	Predominantly trees with little open area
Lawn/Managed sports turf or specialised sports surface	Cultivated lawn/sports turf
Wetland/Foreshore or man manicured natural area	Swamp vegetation and ephemeral or small water bodies An area of vegetation typically including more than one storey, and native or indigenous vegetation, that is not fenced or protected for conservation purposes
Plaza/Paved Area/Arcade	A sealed or paved area such as a plaza, arcade or square.

More detailed definitions follow.

Table 4 Open space form (landscape setting types)

Landscape Setting Type	Definition	Image
Bushland / Forest	Area of trees typically indigenous or native vegetation with two or more storeys, including canopy trees.	
Cultivated / food Ornamental or Formal Garden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A garden area designed with ornamental flowering (typically exotic) plants that generally includes garden beds and specimen trees and may contain other decorative features such as fountains, pools, or artworks. • May include arboretums or native gardens (pic shown of Darley native garden managed by the community) • An area cultivated for food or wine such as pasture, crop, vegetable garden or vineyard. 	

Landscape Setting Type	Definition	Image
<p>Open grassed area</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open areas of exotic or rough grass not specifically cultivated as turf for sports. • May have trees around the boundaries. • May also include native grass lands or wetlands usable for recreation in the same way 	
<p>Lawn or managed Turf/ or Specialised Sports Surfaces</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas of mown turf managed for sports, aesthetic purposes, picnics, or ball games. Or • Areas of synthetic turf or specialised playing surfaces used for sports such as tennis, bowling, athletics, and hockey. 	
<p>Treed Parkland</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parkland with scattered trees throughout and possibly around the boundaries, with grassed open areas in between. 	

Landscape Setting Type	Definition	Image
River/Waterway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A waterway, open water body or lake, where water is the dominant landscape, and the use is predominantly for water-based recreation. • May be just areas designed around boating and fishing launch areas 	
Wetland/foreshore Non manicured natural area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swamp vegetation and ephemeral or small water bodies • An area of vegetation typically including more than one storey, and native or indigenous vegetation, that is not fenced or protected for conservation purposes. 	
Plaza/Paved Area/ Square	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sealed or paved area such as a plaza, arcade or square. 	

Classification 3. Open space catchment hierarchy

The catchment (i.e., local, district and regional) of an open space determines its sphere of influence; the nature and scale of development required by the likely number of users, and how far they travel, and hence the scale of support facilities.

Catchment, in conjunction with open space function type, determines the core service level for a space to ensure it is fit-for-purpose.

Table 5 Open space catchment hierarchy

Catchment hierarchy	Definition
Local	Open space predominantly serving the immediate local residential area and servicing daily and weekly need and is generally accessed by walking or cycling from surrounding areas.
District	Open space serving an area larger than the locality/suburb it is located in – i.e., a township, precinct, or group of suburbs.
Regional	Open space predominantly serving the whole Shire or region. This may have significance to a large population including visitors.

Appendix 2. Accessibility rating by park

Park Name	Street Address	Suburb	Find and Get In	Get Around	Get Together Stay	Get Active or Playful
Bexhill Park Reserve	22 Osborne Road	BEXHILL	This parcel has no obvious entry point, does not have paths of any kind and is difficult to identify where to enter.	No internal path network- potential to connect a trail network with the future perimeter path around oval and through to the town centre.	N/A	Play equipment is available in the neighbouring park - Sam Trimble Oval.
Sam Trimble Oval	25 Coleman Street	BEXHILL	The park and oval is prominent near the road. The entrance has a locked barrier gate across it.	This park does not have an internal path network. The playground is not connected to the entry and the seating.	Sport and play offer experiences to stay in this park. This park does provide potential as a park for socialisation. Mostly a drainage-bushland parcel.	Playground and cricket provide activity for Bexhill. Play equipment includes a fort type.
Remnant Drive Park	7 Remnant Drive.	CLUNES	Road side access, no footpaths and no obvious entry to this park.	No internal paths in this park.	Not a park for socialisation. Mostly a drainage-bushland parcel.	N/A
Smith St Park	36 Smith Street	CLUNES	This park is not very central and does not have signage. Access from the road is difficult with no footpath and no curb crossing and no path to step onto. The park is also relatively steep up from the street to the equipment and shelter.	Although there is evidence of people using this park as a trail connection, there is no internal path within this park making moving through the park challenging due to the slope.	Not a great offering for the community. Doubtful that this playground is used by anyone.	Play equipment is poor, inaccessible and in poor condition. Unlikely that any of equipment is ever used.
Village-Green Park Clunes	26 Main Street	CLUNES	Very central park with good signage- difficult to get in via a path as the path comes straight from the road. Almost impossible for anyone with any lack of ability to get around.	Poor and steep paths through this park with a step to access the BBQ, no paths to the picnic tables and steep slopes. Has potential for an accessible loop path to access parts of this park.	Has potential to become a much more appealing park but needs a masterplan and reconstruction of paths etc. Could be a central town park providing play, social, BBQ, shelter etc. but needs planning.	Currently no play equipment but this park has the potential to become a District level SFR park with a variety of play and park elements. Prominent wayside stop in the centre of the town.
Balzer Park	1 Cowley Rd	DUNOON	Signage is good and the park is easy to find. Parts of this park are steep especially the entry from carpark to the playing surface. There is a sign saying disabled parking but this does not have any accessible pathways leading away from it either to the clubroom or to the play or sportsground.	The entrance and carpark to this ground is relatively level. There is no accessible path of travel around this parcel- no formed trails at all. There are toilets (unlikely to be accessible).	Has a good combination of sport, play and open spaces with trees. Play needs to be more accessible. Path networks near play and into and around park are needed. Would be a difficult park for people with disabilities due to the slopes, narrow paths, inaccessible play equipment.	Almost none of the play equipment would be accessible due to either the access to the space or the ability to enter the space before even considering the play experiences within the play space. No opportunities for anyone with a mobility device to do any activities.
Bushfire Station Dunoon	80 James Street	DUNOON	Prominent corner park with large trees. Footpath around two sides but no obvious access point. Good signage.	No internal pathway to play equipment and shelter. Rubber surfacing is a trip hazard at present. Access to the toilets is poor with steps into the toilets making access near impossible for many. No path within the park and tables are not connected by a hard surface.	Has potential to be a good quality way side stop and local play space with some improvements but not much to offer any socialisation.	Play is basic and could be improved. Play involves climbing so nothing accessible for a chair based person.
Airforce Road Nature Reserve	9C Airforce Road	EAST LISMORE	Large treed parcel- not a prominent parcel. No real entry point or trail head and with no signage.	No identifiable trail network and no connection to paths, footpaths or other trail network.	NA No facilities, play or elements to promote staying or gathering.	No equipment or play elements. Potential for trail network for activity.
Albert Park - (Basketball Stadium, Baseball, Pigeon Club, Golf Course)	338 Keen Street	EAST LISMORE	No footpath to the park. Accessible entry path extends quite a distance from a single marked accessible carpark. This carpark is on quite a slope and would be difficult to use. All other park access points have stairs.	Good quality perimeter trail around entire playing fields with accessible path quite a long way from the centre.	New playground provides alternative activities and reason to stay and play when not playing sport.	Active site for sport with play and trails also.
Urban park-Atlas St Park	145 Wyrallah Road	EAST LISMORE	Easy to find access with no fence or gates at entrance. No accessible entry though with drainage channel around most of the park which restricts access from most sides. No footpath to access this park.	No internal path network, just grass and trees. No signage to in within the park although also doesn't have any elements within the park.	No facilities or park elements to promote staying. Accessible tables and seats would be good in this park.	No equipment within this small park for anyone with a mobility device to do any activities.

Park Name	Street Address	Suburb	Find and Get In	Get Around	Get Together Stay	Get Active or Playful
Beaumont Drive Nature Reserve	28A Beaumont Drive	EAST LISMORE	Bushland parcel sitting primarily behind houses and difficult to find entry points. Potential connection from Wanda Park but needs signage and pathways. There are no entry points to this park.	No path networks within this park- has potential for connections through to Wanda Park connecting suburbs and streets as well as providing experience and exercise opportunities. There is a possibility of future wayfinding that directs people through to Wanda Park but this path is unlikely to be successful.	No park facilities within park and no social spaces. Potential for connection to Wanda Park though.	Potential connection to Wanda Park would provide play opportunities. Beaumont Drive reserve itself is not accessible but the Wanda Park on the other side of the reserve has some potential for accessible play and sport opportunities if it had the inclusion of path connections for the road to the hardcourt and paths that connect the hardcourt to the other park elements. The table and shelter is connected to a path.
Urban Park - Cottee Park	6 Spring Street	EAST LISMORE	Has a gravel pathway into the park and connecting through to Ballina Rd. The width of the bridge would need to be investigated regarding its accessibility. Signage identifying the destination (short cut) would be useful as currently no indication of where the path leads.	Path through the park with a bridge provides a link between the houses along Ballina Rd. The bridge looks to be very narrow so may not meet accessible needs.	No seating or facilities.	No facilities in this park.
Crawford Rd Nature Reserve	30 Crawford Road	EAST LISMORE	Very unlikely to have accessible path of travel and does not have any infrastructure.	No formal trails within this park although there is potential for some off road trails that could link areas such as Fig Tree Rd, Cythia Wilson Dr and Military Rd providing a bushland walking/running experience close to residential areas.	No elements within this parcel to promote social gatherings.	N/A
Urban Park - Felicity Park	8 Felicity Drive	EAST LISMORE	This is a narrow steep non accessible park sloping up from Felicity Drive to tennis courts (although tennis courts are not public). No path in and no footpaths. Steep nature strip and slope up to the water tower. Cars park on nature strip.	Has no trails, paths or facilities such as tables or play.	Not a park with any social space or area to move around in for anyone.	N/A
Urban Park-Grass Tree Park	14 Barham Street	EAST LISMORE	Entry into the internal park is not accessible and is difficult to find. No signs or carparks.	No elements within this park or trails- inaccessible generally.	Nothing in this park for social interaction.	N/A
Vacant Land - Joblin Park	31 Avondale Avenue	EAST LISMORE	Prominent small park on corner. Footpath along side with level access into the park.	No internal paths or trails. The table is located very close to a level footpath but there is no other trail within the park including to the play equipment- play equipment has logs around the edge making it more challenging to access.	Play elements in this park are very basic and do not provide an accessible social interaction space. Park is also quite exposed to the road.	One swing set and a table, neither are accessible.
King Park	22A Floral Avenue	EAST LISMORE	Challenging to find from street- internal park with narrow street frontage. No footpath on street, no signage.	No internal path network.	Nothing in this park for social interaction.	N/A
Martin Drive Park	20 Airforce Rd.	EAST LISMORE	Park is easy to find with long road reserve access but road does not have a footpath. Access along the road for pedestrians is on the grass verge. There is not a clear access point.	Although there is a small wooden bridge crossing the internal creek, there is not a formal path on either side of the bridge. Challenges moving around in this park with no paths and a crossing of a creek also.	One piece of play equipment (swing set) makes for a very small chance of people staying long in this park.	Poor play offering. Would be better to invest in more equipment at a nearby larger park and have no equipment in this park.
Urban Park - Murray St Park	10 Murray Street	EAST LISMORE	Corner parcel with just grass and a few trees. No footpath and no features apart from a few small trees.	No internal paths or features.	No facilities within this park to promote socialisation.	N/A

Park Name	Street Address	Suburb	Find and Get In	Get Around	Get Together Stay	Get Active or Playful
Nelson Park	65 College Street	EAST LISMORE	This is a prominent sports park with a footpath running along Walker St along the edge of this park but there are not footpaths on any other side. A large level carpark services the pavilion. There is a concrete drainage channel along College Rd for the full length making access challenging.	There are no pathways within this park. A circuit trail would be of benefit in this park.	Large sports facilities including bowls, tennis and football to support the gathering of people. Club house is not accessible. Some facilities likely to be accessible.	Large sports park with a variety of active space with good potential to make accessible throughout.
Riverside Park	73 Victoria Street	EAST LISMORE	A number of good access points into this site and the path network looks good, wide and accessible.	Internal pathways are wide and accessible. No paths from the carpark into the park though.	Shelters and dog park and good quality path network to experience the river front.	Dog park and boat ramp provides active spaces in this park- connections through to the northern part of the River Side Park and Spinks Park.
Wade Park	161 Military Road	EAST LISMORE	Note: closed when tried to inspect. Large park with obvious entrance road. No footpath in the area. Entrance road is rough gravel. The park is very level. Good signage.	The park has path networks through out. Need to assess if they connect fully around the site although they are level and wide.	Play space is a long way from the road but has a carpark near it, has shelters, play etc.	Play space providing a variety of active areas plus some sport on site with a small oval.
Wanda Drive Park	22 Wanda Drive	EAST LISMORE	Path goes straight from the road- No footpaths or curb crossing so access still could be challenging.	Play equipment and hardcourt are not connected by paths. Internal path is not steep but does not connect the elements within the park.	Multiple park elements in this park to provide a variety of experiences but not to anyone using a mobility device or wheelchair. Tables, seating and play need to be connected and accessible and then this park could provide a good gathering and social space	Small hardcourt could provide play and informal sport opportunities if it could be connected by a path.
Barnard Park	242 Keen St	GIRARDS HILL	There is no clear accessible entry into this park. Although there is a relatively level grass entry from the road side. There is not a sign identifying the park or accessible parking adjacent to the park.	There is a footpath along Keen St adjacent to the park but no accessible path to the play equip or through the park. There is a significant drain along Parkes St side of the park that restricts accessibility.	Small amount of play equipment in the park plus a seat. Need to consider more in this park or expand across the road. Play equipment is basic and had timber barriers surrounding the swing.	Play equipment is not accessible either to get to or play within or on.
Peace Park	240 Keen Street	GIRARDS HILL	Difficult to identify an obvious entry point. Has drainage channel along Keen St with some concrete covers in places but no footpath on Keen St.	There is a footpath along the Ballina Rd side of this reserve but no path network within the park. No paths within this park.	No facilities within this park.	No equipment in this park.
Girard's Hill- Robinson Lookout	49 John Street	GIRARDS HILL	Steep narrow roadway leading to this park. No footpaths or accessible path to the lookout. No signage to direct people to the park.	No accessible paths when at the top of this park lookout. This is a drive in and drive out park.	This park does not provide a social space or opportunity to gather. Park is steep and difficult to move about in.	N/A
Vacant Land Keith St	19A Keith Street	GIRARDS HILL	Very steep park- no footpaths and no access point.	No internal paths or access at all.	No central space within this park for gathering.	N/A
Allambie Drive Park	56 Pindari Crescent	GOONELLABAH	Part of Tucki Tucki corridor- Not a park that is easy to find but could have some signage to identify.	Doesn't appear to have access paths but would be good to link to Ravenswood Drive with Pindari Cres.	NA No facilities but doesn't need them- needs to be an accessway only.	Could be a useful accessway to promote walking instead of driving- potential to link through to Hepburn Park.
Andrews Park	11 Andrews Cres	GOONELLABAH	Steep park from road with no footpath.	No path through or to park.	No facilities to provide reason to stay. Has nice shade trees though.	N/A
Urban Park John Brooker Park cnr Invercauld Road	60 Kruseana Avenue	GOONELLABAH	Prominent park but no obvious entry point into the park. There is no footpath on the road and a wall along the full length reducing access opportunities.	There is no accessible path of travel into this narrow park. No other features and with the wall along the full length of the park restricting accessible access from one side.	No facilities within this park that would provide opportunities to be social and move around.	No facilities or play elements in this park.

Park Name	Street Address	Suburb	Find and Get In	Get Around	Get Together Stay	Get Active or Playful
Tucki-Tucki Ck - Public Res E- Butterfly Gully	36 Kadina Street	GOONELLABAH	This park is a bushland reserve and does have a trail network within it. Is difficult to find the entry point to the trail at each end. The parcel is not overly steep and the entrance path from Kadina St looks to be relatively accessible. Unsure of the trail slopes within the reserve.	Signage to identify the trail connection is not existent. Trails are hard gravel.	Walking trails are the only element within this bushland. If contours suited, this could potentially be an accessible trail (at least for some of the distance) to provide a bushland experience.	No facilities.
Urban Park - Captain Rous Park	2 Hamley Road	GOONELLABAH	Only one obvious entry point from Hamley Rd. No footpath entry on Hamley Rd, it is less accessible to the broader community. Access into this park is gravel and accessible paths don't extend to the play equipment area or anywhere else in the park. Trails are single track not suited to people using a mobility device.	There are no paths within the park that would be accessible. Mountain bike trails make for difficult walking so a circuit trail would be useful. Play equipment and picnic seating no path access to or into the play area. A barrier to the play equipment is the timber edging and no path to this equipment.	Small playground but has timber border. Provides a good combination for a family (trails, bushland and play equipment) but not for anyone with a mobility device.	Mountain biking and play together provides an active space that also provide a bushland setting not accessible to people using a mobility device. Play equipment doesn't provide an accessible play experience.
Neighbourhood Urban Park- Carramar Drive	13A Carramar Drive	GOONELLABAH	No obvious entry points from the street and no footpaths leading to or away from this park. Steep park makes accessibility difficult.	No internal path network.	No park elements to promote use or get together around for people with a disability.	No play elements within this park.
Clifford Park	4 Cassia Crescent	GOONELLABAH	The only entrance to this park is from Cassia Cres is rough gravel into the carpark. There is a path from the car park to the pavilion, play and to fitness equipment. No footpaths along either side of access roads. Signage is good on Cassia Cres. Several pedestrian points of access at the rear along adjacent roads. No paths into these and quite steep slope to navigate.	There is not a path network (perimeter path) within this park. While the pavilion has an accessible path of travel from the car park, there is no access from the pavilion onto the grass playing field. There is a good opportunity to provide an accessible path that not only connects the entrance/carpark road and carpark with the building but also around the park - connecting two parts of the suburb together to promote active transport and exercise. There is no accessible access from the pavilion to the field or beyond.	Small new playground near the clubrooms provides an additional activity to sport but not designed to include someone using a mobility device. Some seating would provide additional benefit. No equipment that is accessible to someone seated or using a mobility device even though equipment is on an accessible path of travel from the car park. Wheel chair access to toilets.	Small play space and sport elements provide an active space, but only for the able bodied. An accessible path circuit and exercise loop and trail connections to the rear closed roads and adjacent shops would really add something to this park.
Urban Park - D'Arcy Drive Park	31A D'Arcy Drive	GOONELLABAH	Not a prominent park- mostly an internal parcel with only a narrow access for maintenance. Not accessible as a maintenance entry only.	No internal pathways with only a maintenance access. Not accessible.	No facilities or elements to promote social activities or gathering.	N/A
Elders Memorial Park - Urban - Purri Burri Pk	12 McDermott Avenue	GOONELLABAH	This park slopes down from McDermott Ave. No footpaths makes for a more difficult entry. There is an entry path with a curb crossing into the park and a small circuit. Although the path comes directly from the road, it is accessible.	There is an accessible path from the lowest point in the park that follows through the park. Play equipment, picnic shelters and hard courts are not connected to the path. Play equipment have elevated edge to the mulch areas. Shelters are half way up the hill with no connection and hardcourt has no path to it.	Good potential as a gathering space but needs some other elements and connects to the paths circuit to make this park somewhere that the broader community can visit.	Hardcourt could be made accessible and small play offering added to.
Neighborhood Urban Park	10 Gainsborough Way	GOONELLABAH	Prominent park on the corner, no footpaths and steep access points. No footpaths on the roads leading to the park. No curb crossings to enter the park.	No path or trail- just grass to get to seats and play from the road- also a small set of steps going into the park- could easily add a concrete or gravel path to get from the street to the seats and play equipment.	Potential for this park to be a good local gathering place for locals- needs more accessible elements to make it more useful. Some nice plantings along Greenwood Drive but they tend to block the view of the park elements from the road. Play elements need to be connected by a path that is accessible from the road.	Small play elements but difficult to access into and through this park.

Park Name	Street Address	Suburb	Find and Get In	Get Around	Get Together Stay	Get Active or Playful
Club Goonellabah Tennis	5A Reserve Street	GOONELLABAH	Access from the reserve road into the tennis club is good although there is a gap between the carpark and the path to the clubroom. There is a ramp leading into the clubroom that appears accessible. Accessible car park near playing fields and path from the car park.	Access from the clubrooms onto the courts may not be accessible. Gap between the carpark and the clubroom path needs improvement.	Tennis club provides a gathering space. Other sports fields nearby but less than adequate paths connecting these space. Courts do not appear accessible.	Courts do not appear to be accessible.
Hepburn Park	30 Holland Street	GOONELLABAH	Easy to find sports facility. Good accessible paths into and around the facility although there are not any footpaths on nearby roads. Access is along the maintenance road from Holland St to the playing field. No pedestrian path at vehicle entry.	Path networks around most of the park but they do not provide a full perimeter path. Unsure of full accessibility potential.	Large sports precinct providing numerous gathering opportunities. Individual sports facilities may not be accessible.	Sport precinct active opportunities but not accessible fields/ equipment for people with disabilities to become active or play.
Holland St Nature Reserve	15 Holland Street	GOONELLABAH	This park is not accessible to the community. It has a gravel road access, no carparking or signage.	No trails or access into this park.	Nothing in this park for social interaction.	N/A
Holmes Park, (Tucki-Tucki Creek)	119 Oliver Avenue	GOONELLABAH	Access from the road to the play equipment and shelters is not accessible although the road does have a footpath running adjacent to the park. The park slopes away from the road and none of the equipment is connected with a path.	No path to the equipment or shelters. There is a path through the park but does not link with elements within the park. The play equipment has timber edging with no access into the soft fall area.	Some potential as a gathering space but needs more accessibility to provide better opportunities. Some of the equipment is relatively new and may provide disability interactive play opportunities but access to the play equipment is not there.	Play within this park but difficult to access from paths and road.
Holmesleigh Park Drive	8 Holmesleigh Drive	GOONELLABAH	Vacant grassed parcel with no access from road and no footpath running past. Path could be installed to allow access but slope needs to be considered.	No internal pathway and the grass slopes up from the road.	N/A	N/A
Urban Park - Kadina St Reserve	727 Ballina Road	GOONELLABAH	Good accessibility from Kadina St footpath. Good signage and is a prominent park on the corner of Kadina St and Ballina Rd. No footpaths on the access road to the carpark.	Internal path network does provide a connection to some elements in the park although it does not connect to some of the play equipment or picnic area, drinking fountain and hardcourt. Paths look to be at an accessible grade throughout the park.	Large park with multiple gathering elements such as shelters, play, hardcourt and sport. Some good examples of shelters and seating that are connected to the internal path network and provide space to maneuver a chair into and around the table. Some small addition access would make this a great SFR.	Some equipment would provide some interactive play for people with a disability but these are not connected by a path (need to cross softfall to access). Play equipment not be easily accessible across grass and over wood barrier to get into the play space.
Lee Cres. Park	15 Lee Crescent	GOONELLABAH	The park is at the end of a cul de sac with no footpath access and no curb crossing from street. Slight rise up from the street but could be accessible if a path was installed.	No internal path network and gentle grass slope within park.	No facilities within this park apart from a few small trees and grass to mow.	N/A
Tucki-Tucki Ck - Public Res E	168 Oliver Avenue	GOONELLABAH	Access to this park looks good- access from Nature Dr and along the creek.	Bushland parcel- part of Tucki-Tucki creek corridor- Has a path running across part of the parcel that comes from Nature Court to Conifer St and Kadina St and along the creek to Ravenswood Dr and beyond to the hockey fields. No path access from Oliver Ave though.	Would seem to be a park where access to nature could be made accessible relatively easily.	Part of a larger walking track connection.
Urban Park - Newhaven Park	36 Newhaven Drive	GOONELLABAH	Difficult to identify an entrance to this park with the only access being a concrete path from Newhaven Dr with no footpath leading to it and no curb crossing. Also steep path down into the park.	No trails within this park- mostly bushland.	Nothing in this park to provide socialisation and gathering opportunities.	N/A

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Pineview Park	23 Pineview Drive	GOONELLABAH	Although there are connections from the streets around this park, they are difficult to find. No footpaths connecting these entry points.	Trails throughout this park. The topography and width of paths may not be accessible.	Trails through this park but no facilities that provide socialisation and gathering spaces.	N/A
Ravenswood Drive Park	28B Ravenswood Drive	GOONELLABAH	Park not accessible from Ravenswood Drive. This parcel has trails into and out of it but no footpaths or curb crossing. It is part of the Tucki Tucki reserve corridor.	Trail network through this parcel although trails are unlikely to be accessible.	Trails through this park but no facilities that provide socialisation and gathering spaces.	N/A
Shearman Drive Park	11 Shearman Drive	GOONELLABAH	Prominent park with small hardcourt. There is a path from the street but no footpath and no curb crossing to the path. This park is connected by a path from the rear but this access path is steep but does have a handrail to support users getting up the steep path.	Playground equipment is minimal and not connected to the path network. This is a difficult park to move around with a pram, frame or wheelchair.	Small play space and hardcourt would invite people for short periods although accessibility makes it challenging to access the park elements.	Basic play equipment does not provide accessibility by path or interactive play elements that are accessible from a seated position or by ramps.
Sunrise Park	2 Sunrise Crescent	GOONELLABAH	Large corner park- steep from the road. No footpaths or curb crossing.	Difficult to access this park. No internal paths with no path connection to play equipment, bin or seat.	Not much to offer- very basic local playground.	Small playground offering. Equipment difficult to access from the street.
Tucki-Tucki Ck - Public Res W	17 Enma Way	GOONELLABAH	Bushland parcel with some street frontage on Emma Way. No obvious entry, no footpath and no curb crossing.	Some internal trails on the far side of the reserve but nothing connecting Emma Way. Could look at a future connection.	No central space within this park for gathering.	N/A
Tucki-Tucki Ck - Public Res W	78 Phillip Street	GOONELLABAH	Not an accessible entry to this park from Phillip St- just informal track. No footpaths along Phillip St and no signage identifying where the informal trails go.	Informal trail network.	No central space within this park for gathering.	N/A
Tucki-Tucki Ck - Public Res W	9 Kingsley Court	GOONELLABAH	Not an accessible entry to this park from Kingsley Ct. - path into park but no curb crossing and no footpaths along Kingsley Ct and no signage identifying where the informal trails go.	Trail network connection from Kingsley Ct.	No central space within this park for gathering.	N/A
Tucki-Tucki Ck - Public Res W	23 Cambridge Drive	GOONELLABAH	Not an accessible entry to this park from Cambridge Dr - informal tracks into park but no curb crossing and no footpaths along Cambridge Dr and no signage identifying where the informal trails go.	Internal trail connection but need to consider signage from street connections.	No central space within this park for gathering.	N/A
Tucki-Tucki Ck - Public Res W	43 Oliver Avenue	GOONELLABAH	There is an accessible access from the footpath on Oliver Ave into the parcel but no clear identification as to the access to the bushland behind.	Trail connection through this parcel.	No central space within this park for gathering.	N/A
Tucki-Tucki Ck - Public Res W	19 Dudley Drive	GOONELLABAH	Not an accessible entry to this park from Dudley Dr. - path into park but no curb crossing and no footpaths along Dudley Dr and no signage identifying where the informal trails go.	Trail connection through this parcel.	No central space within this park for gathering.	N/A

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Urban Park Fischer St	70 Fischer Street	GOONELLABAH	Prominent residential park- no footpaths to the park. Does have a curb crossing into the path network. No park sign or sign directing to the fact that there is a hardcourt at the rear of the park.	Pathway from the road into the park and towards the hardcourt but the path does not connect to the play equipment on either side.	Small play area plus small hardcourt provides stay and play opportunities.	One piece of equipment provides low level counting activity but the play equipment is not connected to a path.
Urban Park Julie Cres	19 Julie Crescent	GOONELLABAH	No obvious entry to this park. Poor end of cul de sac parcel with a narrow entry that widens towards the rear of the park. No footpath and access relies on the neighbours driveway.	No internal paths and drops away to the rear of the park.	No central space within this park for gathering.	N/A
Urban Park Karissa Dr	11 Karissa Drive	GOONELLABAH	Level parcel with no footpath or access point from road. There is a bus shelter taking up most of the front so that you cant see within the park easily. No path access to the bus shelter either.	With no paths- should consider the accessibility of the bus shelter as there is no footpath on this road so people would need to walk on the road.	No central space within this park for gathering.	N/A
Millar St Nature Reserve	37 Millar Street	GOONELLABAH	There is an entry trail from Millar St but no footpath to get there.	No formal trails within this parcel.	No central space within this park for gathering.	N/A
Urban Park - Northcott Drive	22 Northcott Drive	GOONELLABAH	Large corner park, sloping grass. No footpaths to the site or access points.	No internal path network- This park has potential to become a park with elements within but care is needed with accessible path network.	No central space within this park for gathering.	N/A
Urban Park Parkwalk Drive	7 Parkwalk Drive	GOONELLABAH	No footpath on this street- access could be ok into this park if needed. Is a steep parcel of grass though and does not have a curb crossing.	No internal path system.	No central space within this park for gathering.	N/A
Urban Park Redwood Drive	21A Redwood Grove	GOONELLABAH	No obvious entry into this parcel. Large bushland area, no footpaths along Redwood Grove and steep from the road.	No internal paths /trail network. Would be steep and would require contour trails.	No central space within this park for gathering.	N/A
Urban Park Spring Ave	18 Spring Avenue	GOONELLABAH	Small level parcel with trees and grass. No footpath, signage but has level entry points.	No internal trails/paths.	No central space within this park for gathering.	N/A
Urban Park Spring Valley Drive	30 Spring Valley Drive	GOONELLABAH	Very small sloping park - No footpaths and no curb crossing from road. No signage. Looks like part of someone property, not a park.	No trails/paths.	No central space within this park for gathering.	N/A
Urban Park Toona Court	11 Toona Court	GOONELLABAH	End of cul de sac park. Path from the road but no footpath. The path looks to be quite steep initially but levels out further into the park. No signage as to the connection through the park.	Path through this park that connects with Invercauld Rd. This path is very narrow and there is not a curb crossing at the connection and no footpath either.	The park has a seat/table setting but no other facilities. These are not connected by a path. No central social space but has potential.	N/A
Trinity Drive Nature Reserve	15 Trinity Drive	GOONELLABAH	Nature reserve with park sign but no obvious entry point. No footpath and no trail entry.	No internal trails within this park.	No central space within this park for gathering.	N/A
Urban Park Hillview	2A Hillview Drive	GOONELLABAH	Long narrow road reserve with footpath through the park providing off road access along Ballina Rd.	Wide level path access through this parcel with curb crossing and connections.	No central space within this park for gathering.	N/A

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Weston Park	5 Reserve Street	GOONELLABAH	Reasonably good access from the carpark on Reserve St and from Jubilee Ave. Has prominent accessible carparking and curb crossing to enter reserve.	Some internal paths but not a perimeter trail around the site. There is the potential to provide a sealed or hard gravel track to connect other streets such as from Spring Ave.	Sport with soccer, tennis but no central space with seats or play.	No play but sporting elements providing active areas.
William Blair Park	45 William Blair Avenue	GOONELLABAH	Connection to this large park from William Blair Ave. No footpath or formal trail entry and steep grass in places. No signage.	No formal trails within park but potential to connect some other streets with a loop trail through bushland.	No central location for gathering but has potential as a trail connection park.	N/A
Winchester Park	8 Winchester Drive	GOONELLABAH	This park primarily provides a linkage- concrete path at one side but no formal path from Camelot Rd. No footpaths or signage but useful link. Need to identify the linkage.	Need to continue concrete path from both ends of the park.	No central location for gathering but has potential as a trail connection park.	N/A
Urban Park - Windsor Park	12 Windsor Court	GOONELLABAH	Street front to this larger bushland parcel is grassed but no footpath or obvious entry point.	Potential for trail networks through this parcel providing link between other streets.	No central location for a gathering space.	N/A
Silky Oak Park	21 Elm Rd- Goonellabah	GOONELLABAH	New development park at the bottom of the development. No footpath to the park- just grass verge. The park is below the road level so difficult to see as you go past.	Internal paths connect the seats and equipment but the entry in at one end is way too steep. Poor design and a challenge getting in and out.	Popular local park although with a variety of play and park elements and excellent landscape elements.	Path network connects all play elements within. Some play elements at ground level but not a lot to offer a person in a wheelchair.
Urban Park- Greenhill's Park Apex	18 Gumtree Drive	GOONYELLA	Entry is easy to find and signposted. Pathway is not accessible into the park- there is no footpath and no curb crossing from the road to the park entry. Signage identifying the route through this park is needed.	There is no path through this park despite it being a logical cut through park and is clearly being used as a walking route. Play equipment is not accessible, not connected to a path and has a barrier of timber around the soft fall.	Small play ground with seats and drinking fountain. None of which are accessible to get to or around.	Play space has potential to be a good local space with some minor additions such as trails, and better access in.
Sunset Gardens/Elizabeth Gardens	70 Leycester Street	LISMORE	Large park with prominent entry although it is steep in places and does not have an accessible entry or parking.	Path network through the park are steep and not accessible. Difficult park to move around within.	No facilities to provide a reason to stay.	Good park for dog walking but steep and challenging in places.
Lismore Park - Stage 3-Preschool	62 Brewster Street	LISMORE	Prominent position and clear entry from road. Road entry has a footpath. No marked accessible parking.	Path from footpath into and through the site. Signage identifies the facility. Paths are at accessible grade throughout.	Preschool- so not a park to stay in.	Although part of Lismore parklands stage 3, this parcel is the preschool. Has play but not publicly accessible.
City Pipe Band Hall	64 Brewster Street	LISMORE	Clear access from footpath on Brewster St. Not at all steep but pathway is narrow to the building and along the side of the building. Path directs you to the building entry which is stairs so not very accessible. No paths lead beyond this building to other parts of the park.	This parcel is very flat and provides access in the rear of the tennis/netball courts so could be connected with a new path network and perimeter path connecting community garden, tennis/netball etc. Unfortunately this is not there and wayfinding to other parts of the reserve is missing. At the rear of this parcel is the drainage channel which although does have crossings, these are not connected to any path network.	This parcel is part of the larger reserve with prominent sport park and community garden provide gathering opportunities. Although generally level, there is a shortage of park elements to enable people with a disability functional social opportunities.	Play is not currently available anywhere in the Lismore Park apart from a very small play space called Apex Park.
Kirkland Riviera / Benelong Car Park	2 Magellan Street	LISMORE	The carpark itself is relatively level, bitumen and easily found. There are footpaths into the carpark from Molesworth St.	Level bitumen throughout. Would benefit from an accessible footpath up from the riverside path network and lower carpark right on the river front.	No facilities within this carpark.	N/A

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Lismore Skate Park	27 Victoria St	LISMORE	Accessible entry to the skate park from Victoria St and car park. Path network throughout this park, mostly at a good grade.	Paths within this park connect to the river front pathway system and has footpaths along Victoria Street that connect to the CBD.	Seating, benches and shade trees within the park but not connected or accessible design. Skate park at the end of life.	New skate facility planned could be made accessible so someone in chair can use. Low ramps and features.
Lismore Park - Stage 2	30 Dawson Street	LISMORE	Looks to be an accessible trail within the oval boundary running along Dawson St- unsure of the accessibility of the pavilions.	Path network within but not a perimeter path or connection through the park. This park is very level so could suit an accessible pathway.	This large sporting precinct has the potential to be a gathering space due to the levels and the access to the sporting fields.	The playing fields are accessible from the surrounding footpaths and carparks.
Blair Oval	144 Magellan Street	LISMORE	Looks to be relatively level access from the footpath into the carpark from Magellan St.	This oval needs to be connected with other parts of the Lismore Parklands by a perimeter trail that would provide the ability to walk through the parklands or walk or run a loop. There is a channel running through parts of this park and it does have a single crossing across it but this crossing is not connected with a path.	Large sporting park with numerous ovals and activities. No play but this is planned in the Lismore Parkland project.	Sporting elements but not yet play.
Spinks Park	115 Molesworth Street	LISMORE	This park is accessible from Molesworth St footpaths and the CBD. Significant damage from the floods needs to be restored to allow accessible access through the park and along the river. Prominent access from the CBD near the Transit Centre.	Good path network through and around park. Edges are clearly identified for people with a vision impairment. Need to ensure that accessible access path continues through Spinks Park through to Heritage Park.	A variety of elements to promote gathering and staying in this park with lawns, tables, views to the river, cafe's etc. Play equipment not accessible to any one with a mobility device and individual furniture is not accessible.	Part of the walkway along the river- potential for a longer CBD river loop walk. Potential access to the bowling club near by.
Dawson St Recreation Ground	22 Brunswick St	LISMORE	Gravel entry to this park from Brunswick St, no footpath to and from the park. No signage identifying the park and no accessible parking.	No internal path network although if this was in place, could provide a useful exercise loop and connection across the park to Rugby Rd and residential areas to the north.	Nothing in this park for social interaction or accessible use for those using a mobility device.	N/A
Lismore Park	82 Ballina Road	LISMORE	Prominent entrance, good footpaths but no curb to cross from carparking adjacent to road. Good signage and footpath in front of courts.	No internal paths within the broader park- could be connected to a whole of park trail within this park. Park is very level and has potential as a good quality accessible loop trail to experience the entire parklands, Grandstand etc. and older buildings not likely to be accessible.	Tennis courts have the potential to create a social gathering space as access is good, level and accessible. Channel provide a barrier.	Tennis/ netball courts should be accessible to someone using a wheel chair.
Mortimer Oval	15 Brewster Street	LISMORE	Prominent oval park with footpath along the street and accessible path access into the park from Brewster St.	Some internal paths into and around the oval itself but lack connections to other ovals in the complex.	Sports precinct with cricket nets, pavilion and oval. Apart from some sporting infrastructure, there is nothing in this park that supports social gatherings.	Part of a larger sports precinct with cricket as a primary use.
Richards Oval (Rec 12)	48J Brewster Street	LISMORE	Central soccer field with good signage and obvious entry to the carpark area.	Poor access once beyond the carpark area with no formal paths through or around this park.	Sport field providing soccer, lights and pavilion. No other elements to support gathering or social experiences.	Soccer is the active element but could be a more useful park if a trail ran through and or around it. No Play in this park.

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Heritage Park P6772 Train Tiny Tots Children's Playground Miniature Train	195 Molesworth Street	LISMORE	Prominent park near the waterfront and CBD. Good access through the carpark but difficult to access into the playground with a narrow access. Accessible parking available near entry. Only accessible from one side.	Although there are paths within this park, almost all of the play elements within the park are either not connected by the path or challenging to get to. Many small level changes which would very very dangerous for people with a vision impairment.	Large play space with play elements for a variety of ages. Seating and other park elements promoting longevity of stay. Some seating is not connected by a path making access difficult. Most of the accessible designed play equipment is in areas with a wheelable surface but no access is provided to or between these including water play.	Play space and train are attractive features although this park needs a significant upgrade to become a regional space that meets the needs of larger parts of the community. Many of the play elements have been designed to be accessible but most are not connected to the internal path network or have barriers to gain access to the equipment. There are timber edges around most of the equipment. Vegetation and facilities have been heavily impacted by floods. If this to a regional SFR it needs a major redesign, and move the Freedom Camping at the front and redesign all entries.
Riverside Park	191 Molesworth Street	LISMORE	Prominent large grassed park with good path connections from Molesworth St and connections along the Wilsons River foreshore. Little or no signage to direct people as to where the trails go (connection to the CBD and Spinks Park). Paths all seem to be a good gradient.	Paths within the park are relatively accessible.	Shelters and BBQ's provide a space that would attract people for longer periods of time.	No play but an active walking and riding path through this park.
Lismore Community Garden (within Lismore Park)	50 Brewster Street	LISMORE	The community gardens is on a prominent corner near the CBD with good footpaths one each side of it. Not well signposted.	Has an internal pathway system between the garden areas but doubtful that the whole site is accessible.	Community gardens are a valuable community gathering space. Should be more of these across the Lismore community. Some raised beds enable people using a wheel chair to access plants.	Community Gardens provide an alternative to sport activity. The paths are accessible in and around the gardens.
Lismore Park - Stage 3 - Travelling Show / Circus Reserve	129 Diadem Street	LISMORE	Large corner parcel of open grass with footpaths on each side and split by a drainage channel. Easy to find and easy to access.	No internal pathways in this space but is very flat grassed area.	No facilities within this park to promote socialisation.	N/A
Marie Mackney Courts	110 Ballina Road	LISMORE	Good level access from concrete footpaths into the netball courts. Paths internally are connected to the footpath. Good signage and prominent park to find.	Apart from accessing the courts, there are no other paths leading away to connect to other parts of this reserve. Potential to connect a path through, toward the community garden and the preschool and pipe band hall.	Sport provides the gathering space. This park has no other features such as seats or play to provide alternative opportunities from netball.	Netball provides the main activity in this space with no play equipment in the park.
McLean Park	Conway st (cnr Ballina Hwy)	LISMORE	Very prominent corner park. Footpaths on either side and level access in the grassed areas.	No internal paths but very level grassed areas in amongst the palm trees.	This is a very prominent park with footpaths on either side and very accessible but offers nothing within as an experience. A table and chair with accessible paths to it would be beneficial.	N/A
Ross Park	10 Springwood Drive	LISMORE	No obvious access to this park.	No internal pathways that are obvious.	Nothing to provide a social central space in this park.	N/A
Stocks Park	1 Bounty Street	LISMORE	Footpaths surround this park and is easy to access from the street. This is a very prominent park.	There is an internal path but the path does not connect the seats that sit within the grassed area of the park.	Good shade trees invite people into this park. Would support a gathering space as has significant exotic plantings, fountain and lawns.	N/A

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Lismore Heights Lookout	97 New Ballina Road	LISMORE	Carpark directly from road- no footpath to the carpark area.	Some signs of a trail through this site but in poor condition and unlikely to be used.	Some signage to inform people of what they are looking at required although the trees have grown so cant see anything to provide an kid of experience. Not a space that anyone would gather.	N/A
Rotary Park Extension	106 McKenzie Street	LISMORE	Difficult to find an access to this large bushland parcel. No footpaths or obvious access points.	Some trails on the other side of the remnant parcel but no connection to them from this parcel. This parcel could provide connections from numerous streets but does not.	No central space within this park for gathering.	N/A
High St Nature Reserve	On High St and Donners Rd behind carpark	LISMORE HEIGHTS	Difficult to find the access to this park. No accessible entry into the park.	No internal path networks.	Nothing in this park for social interaction.	N/A
Jubilee Park Lismore Heights	15 Simes Street	LISMORE HEIGHTS	Large grassed park. Relatively steep access from all sides. No footpath or access path into the park. Steep access from the road.	No paths or elements within this parcel- potential of a path through the site towards the bowls club if required.	Nothing in this park for social interaction.	N/A
Urban Park Kareela Ave	2 Kareela Avenue	LISMORE HEIGHTS	Prominent parcel at an intersection. Sloping grass with a single tree. No footpaths or access point.	No internal paths within this park. Sloping parcel across the entire park.	No central space within this park for gathering.	N/A
Oakeshott St Playground	5 Oakeshott Street	LISMORE HEIGHTS	Poor accessibility- no footpath on the street with a grass only access to the equipment- Locked barrier gate at access- curb crossing into park is via neighbors driveway.	No internal pathways and poor access from the road. No footpath access with a locked access gate- not very inviting. Tables, seats and play elements are not connected to any path.	Not much to keep someone in this park although with some additions, could provide a local gathering and social space for the neighboring streets.	Small play offering some playability.
Urban Park Woodland Ave	17 Woodland Avenue	LISMORE HEIGHTS	Internal bushland parcel with access into from Jansan Cl. and potentially other streets but difficult to find. No footpath on Jansan Cl and no curb crossing.	No obvious internal trails but there is potential for numerous connections between other land parcels and other streets.	No central space within this park for gathering.	N/A
War Memorial	67 Cullen Street	NIMBIN	Prominent signage from road, although footpath access ramp across curb is from the road not from a footpath.	Paths look to be wide and relatively level through site.	Has seats that could accommodate a wheelchair alongside, shelter, small amount of play and shade making it an appealing place to stay.	Small play facility in this park that is connected to the internal path network. Play equipment not providing activities for child in a wheelchair.
Bellevue -Park	49 Cecil St	NIMBIN	Difficult parcel to find as it sits behind the showgrounds parcel next to showgrounds. Relatively flat but barriers include fencing and	No accessible path into or around the parcel. No wayfinding from road towards park or near park.	N/A	N/A
Nimbin Pool	29 Sibley Street	NIMBIN	Entry to the Nimbin pool is from a gravel road way and the pool sits behind the bowls club making it difficult to see from the road. There is a footpath along the length of Sibley St connecting the centre of town to the pool.	The site is level but there is not an accessible path from Sibley St to the pool.	Oval shaped pool with shade/shelters and supporting facilities.	The pool and the Peace Park are connected but there are no formal paths that link between the two parcels. Peace park has play equipment nearby but these are not connected to a path network.
Nimbin Community Centre Development Peace Park Ncda Skate Park	9 Sibley Street	NIMBIN	Prominent location in the middle of Nimbin. Has concrete footpath running along Sibeley St but not any internal pathways linking from the footpath to and from play equipment.	No internal pathways to and from play equipment and to the pool through the rear of the site. There is potential to connect all elements within this larger recreational space with accessible paths.	Play, skate and large open grassed area. This park would benefit from other park elements such as BBQ's and shelters.	Play equipment and skate provide the active elements.

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Arthur Park	156 Terania St	NORTH LISMORE	Prominent park adjacent road. Access road is clear with clear signage. No footpath and a gravel only entry to the oval area. No accessible parking.	No internal path network or perimeter path apart from the gravel access roadway. Toilets and tables/seats are not connected by a path within this reserve. Timber barriers separate the vehicle entry area and the oval surface providing challenges. The access to the playing surface is relatively level and once past the timber barriers, access is good.	Has toilets- unlikely to be accessible but no other elements apart from oval to stay for.	Oval has sport but no play elements or hard surfaces for sport.
Currie Park	91 Winterton Parade	NORTH LISMORE	No obvious entry point or carpark although may be accessed best from the Turf club access road.	No access paths within this site. Probably potential for a loop track through the bushland though.	No facilities or elements to promote social activities or gathering.	N/A
Italo Stars Field	1 Barrow Lane	NORTH LISMORE	Carpark is easy to access but no paths through to fields. Some signage and the carpark is level.	No internal path networks. Could be a good perimeter path around these fields for local exercise circuit.	Soccer is the play element here but nothing else to attract people for social interaction.	N/A
McKenzie Park	1 Pitt Street	NORTH LISMORE	Prominent oval park with obvious access point from Pitt St. No footpath access to the park but has got a concrete path through part of the park.	Internal path follows one side of the oval but does not connect around the oval with a connection on Lake Street.	Small pavilion just meeting the needs of local sport. No other facilities. Nothing to promote stay and play or socialisation.	Sport opportunities within this park. No play equipment in the park.
Pritchard Park	18 Mill Lane	NORTH LISMORE	No accessible entry into this park. No footpaths within the street and no paths on the internal side of the access gate. Difficult park to find as down a small lane.	No path networks in this park but there is a gate at the entrance. Just grass within the park.	Has a small playground (one item) but not somewhere that you would stay in for a while.	Small play ground but would be better to focus on other areas instead of this park due to its location.
Bank St Reserve	Bank St	NORTH WOODBURN	Little or no logical accessible entrance to the parcel- Looks to be some significant swales within the parcel which would make accessibility challenging.	There are no pathways or signage/wayfinding to move around within the parcel. The path from the bridge stops short of the park but could be extended to the BBQ area at least.	There is a BBQ but does not have an accessible path from the road to the BBQ area.	No play or active elements within this park. No opportunities for anyone with a mobility device to do any activities.
Caniaba St Reserve	10 Caniaba Street	SOUTH LISMORE	No obvious entry points from neighboring streets. No access to trails within this park. Possible connections to both Nesbitt Park to the south, Caniaba St to the west and Wilson St to the east are not there.	This parcel sits adjacent to Nesbit Reserve and is not obvious from the south. A path network surrounds the park but does not seem to connect to any street or to a path through Nesbitt Park which makes it less accessible. If connected to these streets, this trail and park could become more accessible for people with disabilities.	Connects with Nesbit park so stay and play is an option. There is a MLAC toilet in Nesbit park to the south of this park which is close to a sealed level carpark.	Sport and play are offered close to this parcel and the circuit trail provides an exercise route.
Urban Park - Krauss Park	2 Taylor Street	SOUTH LISMORE	No accessibility access into this park but no real need to as is a bushland parcel under the bridge on the river front.	No internal trail connection.	Nothing in this park for social interaction.	N/A
Vacant Land - Meadow Drive	16 Meadow Drive	SOUTH LISMORE	Challenging to find the access to this park. Set behind houses.	No internal path system or access to or from anywhere else.	No facilities or elements to promote social activities or gathering.	Play equipment in this park but access is poor and would not meet the needs of a person with a disability.
Nesbitt Park	119 Casino Street	SOUTH LISMORE	Easy to find and prominent carpark and signage. Footpaths leading to this park along Casino St.	Internal paths connect from the carpark on Casino St to the playground and hardcourt. Paths then are not very direct going in two different directions to connect different elements in the park. Doesn't seem to be a good connection through to the paths that surround the oval to the north of the BMX track.	Large play space, BMX track and hardcourt area with potential connections through the Wilsons River and South Lismore Bowling Club.	Large active space with a combination of sport, play and nature.
Nesbit Park Oval	109 Casino Street	SOUTH LISMORE	Footpath along Casino Rd with access also from the carpark that services Nesbit Park adjacent.	No internal pathway. Connections would be beneficial from Wilson St wrapping around to Casino St and connecting into the path network in Nesbit Park.	Not many features within this park apart from toilets and cricket nets which were damaged in the flooding.	Cricket is the primary activity at this park. Play is available in the adjacent reserve.

Park Name	Street Address	Suburb	Find and Get In	Get Around	Get Together Stay	Get Active or Playful
Caniaba Street Reserve	2 Caniaba Street	SOUTH LISMORE	Tucked in behind Nesbit Park, this park is best accessed from Caniaba St which does not have footpaths and is low between the road and the oval, likely holding water after rain. Signage is good.	There is an internal loop across this park but does not connect to other parks including Nesbitt Park and Nesbit Park oval.	Nothing in the park to promote socialisation although if the trail had connections to the surrounding streets, it could provide a good environmental experience with views of the river etc.	Sporting active space but very few facilities to support this. Play is provided in nearby Nesbitt Park.
Rhodes St Park	161 Union Street	SOUTH LISMORE	Flat park with footpaths along Union St. Potential to be accessible but no internal pathways or access from Union St.	No internal paths and poor access to the swing set.	Very small playground but unlikely to provide quality social and gathering opportunities.	Small play for activity but not significant. Swing set only with a challenging entry to access the swings. Not ideal for accessible play opportunities.
Riverview Park Reserve	182A Union Street	SOUTH LISMORE	Prominent entry from Union St with good signage. No footpaths leading into or out of the park and no accessible entry or access once inside park.	No internal paths within this park apart from the access roadway. There is a good opportunity to provide a perimeter path for this park	Little athletics use provides the experience within this park. Opportunity to develop a play space to serve this part of the suburb.	Sport activities are provided in this park but there is potential for a play space also perhaps near the front entrance where it could service the community needs as well as the internal user needs. Need to ensure that opportunities are accessible and provide quality experiences.
Lismore Lake Park	Bruxner Highway Loftville	SOUTH LISMORE	The site is relatively flat and accessible by road, however no destination signage, or signage at the park that indicates where you are or where you may find parking. The road is in poor state. The access is relative flat topography. Whilst there is a path it is a long way from a residential area for someone walking or using a mobility aid. There is a footpath along Bruxner Highway and then access from that via shared path to the park edge. The shared path appears to stop at the road entry and there are two barriers across the path (which may not be wide enough apart to allow access by a large mobility device. There is no accessible parking or identifiable parking at all, except for at the rowing club. However, the does not appear to be any impediment to accessible parking in open space.	There is no path network. There is no wayfinding.	There is shelter underneath a bird information signage area, but it is standing space only, with no seating. The sign needs repair and is tilted from its supports. There are no support facilities such as toilets. There is a park bench and bin. Lots of shade trees.	There are no accessible elements at this park that would allow someone with a disability to engage with friends or family in park or river activities.
Coronation Park Reserve	381 The Channon Road	THE CHANNON	Parcel of land behind the Coronation Park Reserve which is unlikely to have an accessible path of travel through this reserve- no other infrastructure within the reserve. No accessible parking and no footpath access.	No internal path of travel for anyone although there is potential to have a hard packed gravel path around this parcel as well as through and around the Coronation Park Reserve. Would be also good to have a path within the road reserve lining back into the centre of the Channon where possible.	This is part of a community gathering space but this parcel does not offer any features to promote social activities for accessibility.	No facilities or play elements in this park.
Coronation Park Reserve	393 The Channon Road	THE CHANNON	Coronation Park Reserve does not have an accessible entry. There are no footpaths and a gravel track as an entry.	No internal paths within this park but there is potential to have a hard packed gravel path around this parcel as well as through and around the Coronation Park Reserve. Would be also good to have a path within the road reserve lining back into the centre of the Channon where possible.	This is part of a community gathering space but this parcel does not offer any features to promote social activities for accessibility.	No facilities or play elements in this park.
Mill Street Reserve R95885 -LCC	16 Mill Street	THE CHANNON	This is not a parcel with access. A wetland parcel.	N/A	N/A	N/A

Park Name	Street Address	Suburb	Find and Get In	Get Around	Get Together Stay	Get Active or Playful
Spinaze Oval	686 Dunoon Road	TULLERA	Prominent corner parcel with small oval, hall and courts. Gravel carpark comes directly from road.	No internal path network and unlikely that the hall, oval and court access is accessible.	Potentially a good small community hub if facilities were accessible and activated.	No opportunities for people with a disability to participate in physical activities.