

Youth Outdoor Recreation Action Plan 2025–2035

Summary





Tweed Shire Council wishes to acknowledge the Ngandowal and Minyungbal speaking people of the Bundjalung Country, in particular the Goodjinburra, Tul-gi-gin and Moorung – Moobah clans, as being the traditional owners and custodians of the land and waters within the Tweed Shire boundaries. Council also acknowledges and respects the Tweed Aboriginal community's right to speak for its Country and to care for its traditional Country in accordance with its lores, customs and traditions.

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Introduction

This document is a summary of Council's *Youth Outdoor Recreation Plan 2025–2035* (YORAP) outlining Council's priorities for the future development of outdoor recreation facilities, events, programs and activities to support the activation of our open spaces for young people aged 12–24. It will also guide the creation of adventurous spaces, focusing on skate, scooter and bike facilities.

When we talked to young people about what they wanted, four key priority areas emerged:

Youth Friendly

Outcome 1

Our open spaces are high quality, offering diverse sport and recreation opportunities that are inclusive and appealing to young people.



Skate & Scooters

Outcome 2

Build high quality, multi-purpose skate facilities that promote physical activity and bring people together, that are well located and maintained.



Bike Facilities

Outcome 3

Develop a network of well-maintained, high-quality, multi-purpose bike facilities in appropriate locations that minimise environmental impact and ensure accessibility for all.



Outdoor Events

Outcome 4

Encourage events, programs and activities to activate our open spaces, sport and recreation facilities so everyone can have fun and stay active.



For each priority area and outcome, we've identified what youth want and what we will do identifying the actions that will be implemented. We have also prioritised each action, and determined who will champion or lead the delivery of the actions, and whether funds are set aside. The Action Plan will be reviewed and updated after four years, or as needed.

Priority area 1: Youth-friendly parks and open spaces

Outcome 1: Our open spaces are high quality, offering diverse sport and recreation opportunities that are inclusive and appealing to all, including young people.

What youth want

Open spaces, sport and recreation facilities that:

- **Are welcoming:** Young people feel they belong and are connected to their community.
- **Are well-lit:** Safe and usable at night to avoid the heat of the day.
- **Appealing to youth:** Spaces and facilities appeal to young people and their families and are free or low cost.
- **Are social spaces:** Places to gather, connect and relax.
- **Feature public art:** Creative spaces with public art.
- **Have play areas:** Fun areas that appeal to teens and youth such as flying foxes, climbing walls, skate and bike facilities.
- **Encourage picnics:** Spaces and activities that promote the sharing of food including markets.
- **Are accessible:** Inclusive of everyone, including people with disabilities.
- **Offer learning opportunities:** Like bush tucker gardens, workshops and community gardening.
- **Promote relaxation:** Comfortable spaces with plenty of seating, toilets, access to drinking water and shade.
- **Support active lifestyles:** Areas for sport and physical activities including sports courts.
- **Include nature:** Green spaces that connect people to the environment.
- **Are clean and well-maintained:** Always looking good and cared for.
- **Have WiFi access:** Stay connected even when outdoors.
- **Are easy to get to:** Accessible by public transport, footpaths, bike paths and cycleways.
- **Designed with young people in mind:** Public spaces are designed for and with young people in collaboration with professional designers.
- **Are well located and safe:** Facilities are centrally located and designed with safety in mind, where parents or other users can keep an eye on what's going on.
- **Encourage girls and women in sport:** More opportunities for girls and women to participate in structured sport or modified sport formats.



What we will do – Actions

Ref	Action	Priority	Responsibility (L=lead)	Funds
1.1	Develop a master plan for a new district park and playground in Amaroo Park in Banora Point and include youth recreation facilities.	1-4 years	Parks & Active Communities (L) Sustainability & Environment	Part funded
1.1.1	Develop a master plan for Depot Road Sports Precinct including sports fields, sports amenities, multi-purpose court(s), specific sport courts and youth recreation facilities.	1-4 years	Parks & Active Communities (L)	Funded
1.1.2	Develop a master plan for the Murwillumbah Sports Precinct that includes various sports and community activities. Consider adding a ball sports activity park (like Triq Arena).	1-4 years	Parks & Active Communities (L)	Unfunded
1.1.3	Continue to advocate for multi-purpose and intergenerational active and passive open spaces, regional and district level facilities including youth recreation facilities, neighbourhood and local level facilities, cycleways and footpath connections in residential subdivisions including Cobaki, Kings Forest, West Kingscliff, Dunloe Park (Pottsville), Area E urban release area (Terranora) and Walmsley Rd (Bilambil Heights). Encourage developers to implement comprehensive open space master plans across their development sites (precincts), to be endorsed by Council prior to subdivision approval.	Ongoing	Parks & Active Communities (L)	Business as usual
1.1.4	Provide a half court and skate elements as part of the planned Sweetnam Park upgrade in Uki (to be delivered as part of the Community Assets Program - CAP).	1-4 years	Parks & Active Communities (L)	Funded
1.1.5	Develop partnerships with schools to investigate the shared use of school sport and recreation facilities, where school facilities are made available for community use outside of school hours.	1-4 years	Parks & Active Communities (L)	Unfunded
1.1.6	Develop an Access and Inclusion Checklist that informs open space development projects to ensure they are more inclusive and accessible to everyone.	1-4 years	Parks & Active Communities (L) Inclusive & Creative Communities	Business as usual
1.1.7	Conduct community safety audits to improve safety in 'at risk' parks and open spaces in consultation with NSW Police and local community representatives including Jack Evans Boat Harbour and Knox Park in Murwillumbah.	1-4 years	Parks & Active Communities (L) Inclusive & Creative Communities	Business as usual
1.1.8	Provide a canoe/kayak launching site at Bruce Chick Conservation Park in Stotts Creek.	1-4 years	Sustainability & Environment (L)	Funded
1.1.9	Develop a concept plan to upgrade Wilson Park in Banora Point to a district park to include a public toilet, barbeque facilities and investigate a multi-court (tennis/basketball) and rebound wall.	5-7 years	Parks & Active Communities (L)	Unfunded

Ref	Action	Priority	Responsibility (L=lead)	Funds
1.2	Develop an Open Space Maintenance Service Level Manual for open spaces, sport, recreation facilities and park infrastructure (including car parks, public toilets and pathways). Service levels should be developed in accordance with the adopted open space hierarchies.	1-4 years	Parks & Active Communities (L)	Business as usual
1.2.1	Upgrade the social tennis at Bilambil Sports Complex West. Consider the conversion of the tennis court to a multi-court (tennis/basketball).	5-7 years	Parks & Active Communities (L)	Unfunded
1.2.2	Deliver a new district park and playground in Pioneer Park in Tweed Heads West and include youth recreation facilities.	5-7 years	Parks & Active Communities (L)	Unfunded
1.2.3	Redevelop Cudgen Recreation Reserve to include a multi-court (basketball/tennis), cricket nets, new public toilet, retain the large open grassed area for sports and informal games and consider the provision of a car park.	1-4 years	Parks & Active Communities (L)	Part funded
1.2.4	Develop a Tweed Nature-Based Experience Strategy to identify opportunities for nature-based tourism, including mountain biking, walking trails and horse trails.	5-7 years	Parks & Active Communities (L) Sustainability & Environment Destination Communication & Customer Experience Roads & Stormwater	Unfunded
1.2.5	Investigate the installation of calisthenic equipment (such as pull-up and dip bars) when upgrading existing or providing new outdoor fitness areas, focusing on locations frequented by youth.	5-7 years	Parks & Active Communities (L)	Unfunded
1.2.6	Upgrade the multi-court (netball/basketball) at Hardy Park North in Pottsville, as part of the Pottsville Open Space Master Plan.	1-4 years	Parks & Active Communities (L)	Unfunded
1.2.7	Develop a concept plan to upgrade Casuarina Central Park in Casuarina with additional youth recreation facilities.	1-4 years	Parks & Active Communities (L)	Unfunded
1.2.8	Provide additional outdoor youth recreation facilities in Quota Park in Tweed Heads. Consider the provision of a multi-court, handball court or rebound wall.	5-7 years	Parks & Active Communities (L)	Unfunded
1.2.9	Investigate the feasibility of converting the tennis court to a multi-court (tennis/basketball) at Brian Breckenridge Sports Fields in Tumbulgum.	5-7 years	Parks & Active Communities (L)	Unfunded

Ref	Action	Priority	Responsibility (L=lead)	Funds
1.3	Continue to negotiate with developers of the subdivision on Fraser Drive in Tweed Heads South to deliver play equipment for teens, basketball court and a grassed area for informal or modified sport.	Ongoing	Parks & Active Communities (L)	Business as usual
1.3.1	Integrate public art in parks and open spaces to reinforce a sense of place and to support community arts and culture.	Ongoing	Parks & Active Communities (L)	Unfunded
1.3.2	Partner with sports clubs to encourage active participation by youth, girls and women, people with disabilities and people on low incomes.	Ongoing	Parks & Active Communities (L)	Business as usual
1.3.3	Implement the Recreation Use Strategy developed as part of Tweed River Estuary Coastal Management Program (2020-2030) to guide the recreational use of the Tweed estuary and the protection of estuarine values.	Ongoing	Sustainability & Environment (L)	Part funded
1.3.4	Continue to implement Council's Waterways Program, a program of improving access to Tweed's rivers, creeks and other waterways, including signage and other associated amenities such as boat ramps, pontoons, jetties, canoe/kayak launching facilities, boardwalks and viewing platforms.	Ongoing	Sustainability & Environment (L)	Business as usual



Priority area 2: Skate and scooter facilities

Outcome 2: Establish a network of high quality, multi-purpose skate facilities that promote active lifestyles, support social engagement and foster creativity, that are strategically located and well maintained.

What youth want

Skate facilities that:

- **Facility improvement:** Enhance existing facilities and prioritise investment in large and medium-sized skate parks.
- **Engage people in the know:** Involve industry professionals, local and experienced skaters in the design and construction of skate facilities.
- **Provide comfort:** Trees for shade, shade structures, seating options, drinking water, public toilets and bins.
- **Complementary range of facilities across Tweed:** Each skate park should offer a unique experience. Include small or street-oriented parks, skate and BMX combinations and mixed street/transition features.
- **Are multi-purpose:** When combining skate and bike facilities and/or courts, ensure separate areas for each activity.
- **Cater to different interests:** Include diverse features including ramps, bowls, ledges, obstacles, rails, kickers, hubbas, etc.
- **Facilities that keep you engaged:** Unique designs that make you want to stay for hours.
- **Ensure safety:** Design for safety, incorporate security cameras and partner with local services and NSW Police.
- **Use space wisely:** Efficient and thoughtful design.
- **Blend into the environment:** Use colours or themes that are in keeping with the local area and community character.
- **Maintenance:** Regular maintenance, resurfacing and keep tidy.
- **Offer visibility and accessibility:** Centrally located and easy to reach by foot, bike, or public transport, close to shops and visible to the public for passive surveillance.
- **Appeal to the broader community:** Creating a sense of ownership and pride amongst the community.
- **Install lighting:** Extending hours of use and to avoid the heat of the day.
- **Integrate flow:** Prioritise the flow of the park over standout features and build in opportunities to test flow with the skate community and plan entry points, not to impact flow.
- **Manage users:** Design to avoid conflicts between different users e.g skaters/bike riders.
- **Prevent anti-social behaviour:** Including design features to deter vandalism and graffiti.
- **Separate skill levels:** Designing areas for beginners and advanced skaters.
- **Create other attractions for non-skaters:** Ensuring skate elements are not overtaken by non-skaters.
- **Build community spirit:** Fostering social support for young people.
- **Facilities for competition:** Opportunities to compete in skate events.

What we will do: Actions

Ref	Action	Priority	Responsibility (L=lead)	Funds
2.1	Develop a business case for the proposed Tweed Indoor Sports Facility and as part of this, propose a new outdoor regional youth recreation facility in the north of the Tweed. This is to consider the inclusion of both skate and bike facilities and infrastructure to support the coordination of events and activities.	1-4 years	Parks & Active Communities (L) Inclusive & Creative Communities	Funded
2.1.1	Develop a master plan and construct a district skate park in Kingscliff. The Walter Peate Sports Complex is the preferred location for the skate facility, subject to approvals and tenure.	1-4 years	Parks & Active Communities (L)	Unfunded
2.1.2	Establish a maintenance program and operational guidelines for existing skate facilities across the Tweed.	1-4 years	Parks & Active Communities (L)	Funded
2.1.3	Review the Graffiti Vandalism Management Policy and implement creative strategies to deter vandalism and graffiti in parks and open spaces.	Ongoing	Parks & Active Communities (L)	Funded
2.1.4	Explore and negotiate with developers of Kings Forest the possibility of including a district skate facility as part of their open space provisions located in Kings Forest.	Ongoing	Parks & Active Communities (L)	Unfunded
2.1.5	Build a new local skate facility next to the Pottsville Memorial Oval, featuring a small ramp/bowl and street obstacles (pending approvals). Maintain ongoing engagement with the local skate community and skate park designers to ensure the best possible outcome for the proposed facility.	5-7 years	Parks & Active Communities (L)	Unfunded
2.1.6	Upgrade Cabarita Skate Park by resurfacing the bowl, improving the park's flow, consulting with youth and exploring opportunities to expand the park with additional skate or bike features, as well as installing a public toilet.	1-4 years	Parks & Active Communities (L)	Unfunded
2.1.7	Investigate the installation of lighting at Murwillumbah Skate Park in Knox Park to extend usability into evening hours, enhancing safety and encouraging more active community participation. Investigate the renovation of the original skate park in Knox Park to create further opportunities for beginners and to use for skate and scooter lessons.	1-4 years	Parks & Active Communities (L) Inclusive & Creative Communities	Unfunded

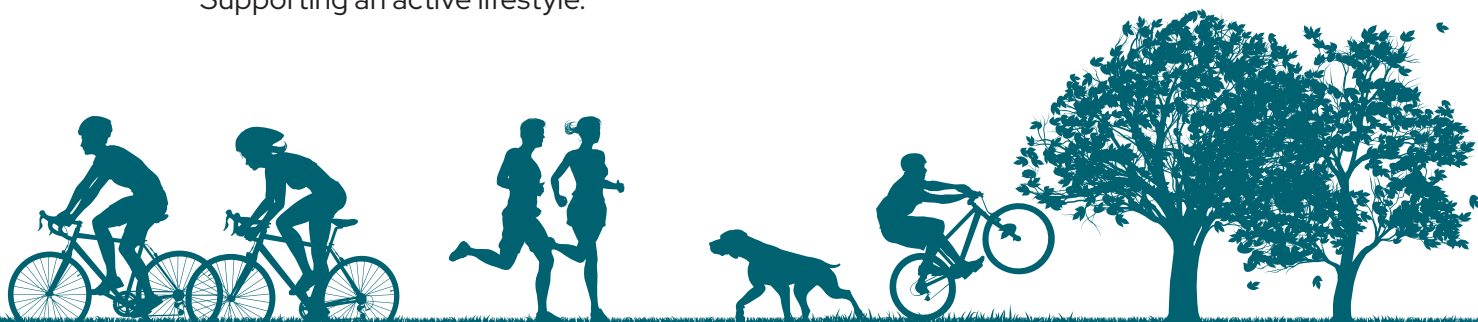
Priority area 3: Bike facilities

Outcome 3: Create a network of well-managed, high quality, multi-purpose biking facilities developed in suitable locations that minimise environmental impact while being easily accessible.

What youth want

Bike facilities that:

- **Are well-planned and maintained:** Collaborate with industry professionals to plan, design and build bike trails and facilities. Ensure bike facilities are well maintained for safe and enjoyable use.
- **Appeal to all skill levels:** Include mountain bike trails, pump tracks, bike parks, BMX and a skills park.
- **Are multi-use:** Offer features for both riders and non-riders while considering potential conflict between different users (e.g. bikes and skateboards). Include amenities such as shaded seating, event spaces and playgrounds.
- **Host events and workshops:** Spaces for bike-related events and skill-building workshops.
- **Improve bike skills:** Design to help you get better at riding.
- **Are safe and fun:** Fun areas for bikers that are designed and maintained for safety.
- **Promote socialising:** Great places to meet new people.
- **Encourage health and fitness:** Supporting an active lifestyle.
- **Can be used day and night:** Equipped for use at all hours.
- **Are accessible:** Easy to get to by public transport and promote active travel, with better bike paths and cycleways that provide safe and accessible routes for riders, including e-bikes.
- **Include adaptive features:** Accessible features for people with disabilities.
- **Connect with other recreation facilities:** Co-locate facilities e.g. include a pump track along the Rail Trail.
- **Connect to nature:** Helping young people enjoy and engage with the natural environment.
- **Encourage feedback:** Building in opportunities for experienced riders and the local community to have input into the design, construction and maintenance of bike facilities.
- **Enable competition:** Opportunities to compete in bike events.



What we will do: Actions

Ref	Action	Priority	Responsibility (L=lead)	Funds
3.1	Provide a local mountain bike skills park and habitat restoration project in the proposed location on Tweed Coast Road in Pottsville, as identified during the development of the Pottsville Open Space Master Plan.	1-4 years	Parks & Active Communities (L) Sustainability & Environment	Unfunded
3.1.1	Investigate options to include a pump track when developing a regional multi-purpose skate facility in the north of the Shire (as part of the proposed precinct including the Tweed Indoor Sports Facility).	1-4 years	Parks & Active Communities (L), Inclusive & Creative Communities	Unfunded
3.1.2	Investigate the provision of a youth precinct (bike and/or skate park) with associated amenities within the Terranora area.	1-4 years	Parks & Active Communities (L) Sustainability & Environment	Unfunded
3.1.3	Implement Tweed's Pedestrian and Bike Plan to address gaps in the pedestrian and cycle networks, ensuring safe, accessible and connected pathways and cycle ways for all users, including e-bikes.	Ongoing	Roads & Stormwater (L)	Funded
3.1.4	Develop a framework for assessing the value and functional equivalency of bike facilities, including mountain bike trails, in comparison to traditional sports fields. The aim is to create a conversion ratio that equates the value of sports fields to bike facilities. This framework should focus on active open space contributions in residential developments, considering community demand and need (usage rates), a detailed comparison of construction costs and relevant planning and development standards.	1-4 years	Parks & Active Communities (L)	Funded
3.1.5	Deliver additional trail upgrades to the Uki Mountain Bike Park including an additional skills area, dedicated walking track and adaptive trails for riders of all abilities.	5-7 years	Parks & Active Communities (L) Water & Wastewater Tweed Valley Mountain Bike Riders	Unfunded
3.1.6	Investigate the demand and feasibility of accessing Clarrie Hall Dam (Doon Doon) and surrounds for mountain bike and recreational trails.	1-4 years	Collaboration: Parks & Active Communities Water & Wastewater Sustainability & Environment	Unfunded
3.1.7	Upgrade the dirt track at BMX Park in Murwillumbah and improve drainage.	5-7 years	Parks & Active Communities (L)	Unfunded
3.1.8	Investigate the possibility of adding BMX freestyle jumps or alternatively expanding the Cabarita Skate Park with additional skate features.	1-4 years	Parks & Active Communities (L)	Unfunded
3.1.9	Explore opportunities for recreational facilities, like bike and skate areas, along the Northern Rivers Rail Trail, considering land availability, flood resilience and community needs to improve the user experience. Consider additional activations highlighting themes such as local flora and fauna, arts, Aboriginal culture, railway heritage and history.	5-7 years	Destination, Communication & Customer Experience (L)	Maintenance Funded Capital works Unfunded

Priority area 4: Outdoor events, programs and activities

Outcome 4: Encourage opportunities for events, programs and activities to activate our parks and open spaces, sport and recreation facilities so everyone can have fun and stay active.

What youth want

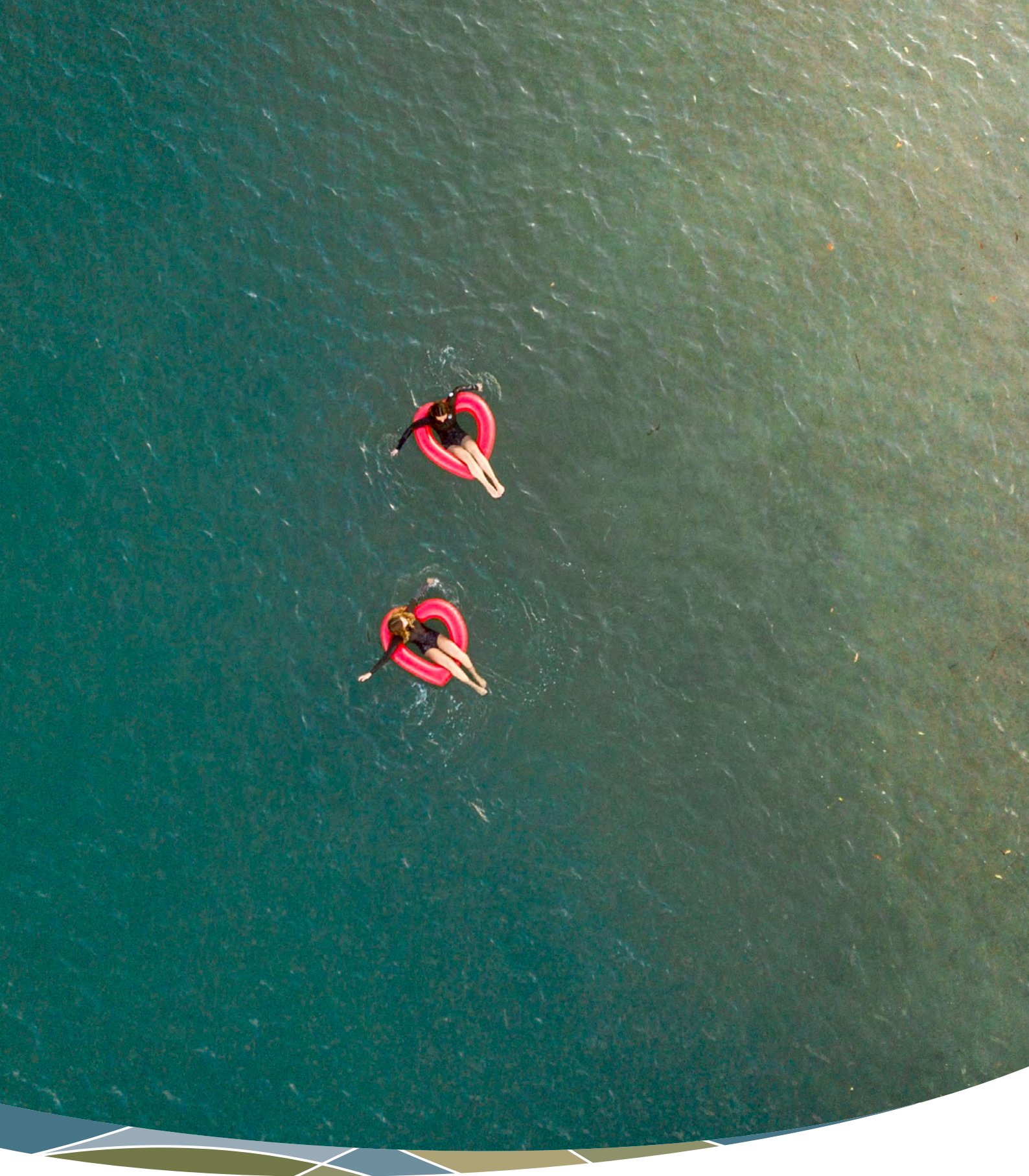
Outdoor events, programs and activities that:

- **Are free or low cost:** Affordable for everyone.
- **Are innovative and fun:** Unique, exciting and multi-purpose.
- **Showcase music:** Featuring different types of music, local musicians and buskers and accessible to individuals under 18 years.
- **Showcase local food:** Offerings of local foods and international cuisines, like food trucks, markets and park cafés.
- **Offer variety:** Providing experiences for different interests e.g. outdoor cinema, walking and running programs, fitness in parks, sport, skate and bike events, boxing classes, meditation, yoga, tai-chi classes and dog friendly events.
- **Are immersive:** Combining food, art and music to promote cultural exchange, environmental education and learning.
- **Encourage family and social connections:** Bringing families and friends together.
- **Promote artistic skills:** Showcasing young people's creativity.
- **Support well-being:** Focusing on spirituality, health and overall wellness.
- **Connect to nature:** Helping people enjoy the natural environment.
- **Integrate technology:** Using technology for sharing information, wayfinding and outdoor study opportunities.
- **Activate public spaces:** Utilising and enhancing places like Knox Park and the Rail Trail in Murwillumbah for events and activities that appeal to young people.
- **Involve young people:** Encouraging youth participation when planning and organising events.
- **Safety:** Ensuring a safe environment.
- **Discourage single-use plastics:** Promoting sustainability.
- **Well set up for events:** Event spaces with staging and power.



What we will do: Actions

Ref	Action	Priority	Responsibility (L=lead)	Funds
4.1	Provide opportunities for young people to participate in Council supported events including the Kingship Festival, Clean Up Australia Day, National Tree Day, Park Week etc.	Ongoing	Collaboration Parks & Active Communities Inclusive & Creative Communities Sustainability & Environment	Funded
4.1.1	Support the delivery of NAIDOC Week annual activities across the Tweed.	Ongoing	Inclusive & Creative Communities (L)	Business as usual
4.1.2	Deliver activities for NSW Youth Week as a signature event celebrating local youth.	Ongoing	Inclusive & Creative Communities (L)	Funded
4.1.3	Partner with community organisations and commercial providers to encourage activities or programming in open spaces that increase youth participation in physical and wellbeing activities e.g. Seas the Day Women's Surf Festival, Grom Fest, yoga classes and fitness classes in parks.	1-4 years	Parks & Active Communities (L)	Business as usual
4.1.4	Encourage youth participation in the bi-annual Tweed Sports Summit.	Ongoing	Parks & Active Communities (L)	Unfunded
4.1.5	Pilot a subsidised 'pop up' place making program, a temporary low-cost program to promote sport, physical activity and healthy lifestyle choices.	5-7 years	Parks & Active Communities (L) Inclusive & Creative Communities (L) Sporting clubs Community groups	Funded
4.1.6	Develop a Surf Management Plan which could consider commercial, school events and competitions.	1-4 years	Parks & Active Communities (L) Community groups	Unfunded
4.1.7	Grow and enhance the What's On Tweed event calendar and social media channels.	Ongoing	Destination, Communication & Customer Experience (L) Parks & Active Communities	Unfunded Business as usual
4.1.8	Enhance community awareness and knowledge of Tweed's urban forest by promoting events and activities like National Tree Day, Living for the Future, World Environment Day, National Speaking 4 the Planet as opportunities to engage young people and build community capacity.	Ongoing	Collaboration Sustainability & Environment Parks & Active Communities	Business as usual
4.1.9	Promote biodiversity and conservation action through public education programs, educational resources and events such as the Environment and Sustainability eNewsletter and World Environment Day as opportunities to engage young people and build community capacity.	Ongoing	Sustainability & Environment (L)	Business as usual



Contact and connect

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