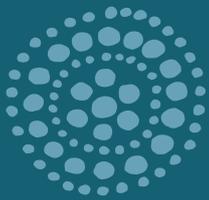


Youth Outdoor Recreation Action Plan 2025 - 2035





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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Message from the Mayor

I would like to thank all the young people whose invaluable contributions have been instrumental in shaping the *Youth Outdoor Recreation Action Plan 2025-2035* (YORAP). Through workshops, surveys and postcards, your thoughts, ideas and feedback have been essential in guiding the vision, principles, priorities and actions of this plan. The plan reflects our commitment to building an inclusive, supportive and empowering community for Tweed's youth and your voices have been at the heart of its development.

We are excited to announce the launch of the YORAP, designed to improve the lives of young people by creating recreational spaces, youth-friendly parks and facilities that are safe, accessible and welcoming. This initiative aims to promote active and healthy lifestyles, including the development of skate, scooter and bike facilities, as well as a variety of events, programs and activities to engage and inspire our youth.

Together, we are working toward a community where young people can thrive, explore and feel a sense of belonging in the beautiful Tweed region, now and in the future.



Chris Cherry
Mayor of Tweed



Our plan

In Tweed, we envision a community where everyone can enjoy diverse and high quality open spaces, sport and recreational facilities. These public spaces are for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds to stay active and healthy while preserving our natural and cultural heritage for future generations.

This YORAP aligns with the vision and guiding principles of Council's *Community Strategic Plan 2022–2032 (CSP)*, *Open Space Strategy 2019–2029 (OSS)*¹ and the *Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2023–2033 (SARS)*².

Council's OSS sets the overall direction for the development and management of Tweed's open spaces ensuring they are welcoming, safe and versatile, with equitable access for all. The YORAP, identified as a high priority action within the OSS, focuses specifically on ensuring our public open spaces are more welcoming and appealing to young people aged 12–24.

The SARS guides the planning, construction and management of active open space and structured sport and active recreation facilities, addressing the needs of all age groups. This action plan is tailored to the unique developmental and social needs of youth, fostering their engagement in physical activity and their active participation in community life.

Tweed's youth population, currently 12,762, is expected to increase to 17,517 by 2041. We have actively involved 7% of Tweed's youth population or more than 900 young voices in shaping this plan, ensuring the plan resonates with their needs, desires and aspirations.

This action plan outlines Council's priorities for the further 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.



The focus on skate, scooter, and bike facilities has been driven by the needs of youth, identified through community engagement, the growing demand for adventurous sports and the numerous benefits these activities offer for both physical and mental well-being.

The plan aligns with the NSW Government's *Adventurous Spaces Best Practice Design Guide*, bringing adventure play into public spaces, specifically facilities and activities for skating, scootering and biking.

Over the next decade, our focus will be on achieving outcomes in four key priority areas, identified through extensive community engagement with youth:

1. Youth-friendly parks and open spaces.
2. Skate and scooter facilities.
3. Bike facilities (mountain bike trails, BMX, pump tracks, skills parks).
4. Outdoor events, programs and activities.

The delivery of this action plan requires coordination across Council units and ongoing input from the community and stakeholders. With targeted investment and commitment, it will help achieve the Council's open space vision by creating quality spaces that support a healthy community and preserve our natural and cultural heritage.



Facts

Only 35% of Australian children play outside everyday compared to **72%** a generation ago.

Adventure play is mainstream

Up to 55% of people aged 12 years and over claimed to have done adventurous activities in the past 3 years, with 74% of people stating they would like to participate more frequently. In Australia there are about 423,000 people who participate in mountain biking and 247,000 people in skating and more than 30% of them are in NSW (AusPlay 2021-2022). Riding and skating are now mainstream.

Adventure play isn't as dangerous as it sounds

Research shows that adventure play is not inherently dangerous when carried out in well-designed spaces. Of all injury related hospitalisations for Australian children under 18.8% are from team sports and only 4% from wheeled non-motor sports such as skating, scooting, BMX and cycling.

Adventurous play is as popular as traditional sports

According to AusPlay data (2021-2022), almost as many people participate in activities such as mountain biking (2%) and skating (1.1%) as compared to cricket (2.7%).

In Australia, there are now over 1,800 purpose-built skate parks of varying sizes and styles (Source: Skate Australia 2019).

Skating and BMX at the Olympics has further launched these sports into the mainstream, signifying an important step in the sports evolution.

Adventurous play can be inclusive

With the growing popularity of adaptive activities, more opportunities are being supported by the design of inclusive facilities.

Wheelchair users can enjoy the thrill of skating or biking thanks to technology and equipment, which is designed to accommodate their mobility needs. In addition to the physical benefits such as improved strength, balance and coordination, wheelchair sports also offer social and emotional benefits such as increased self-confidence and a sense of belonging.



Who's participating?

Some people see skate and BMX as high-risk, extreme, and the domain of male adolescents. In recent years, we've seen female participation increase, thanks to better quality facilities and the desire to get active outdoors and in nature.

Female participation in adventure play is on the rise. According to AusPlay data (2021/2022) 1.3% of all males skate and 1% of all females skate.



Purpose of the plan

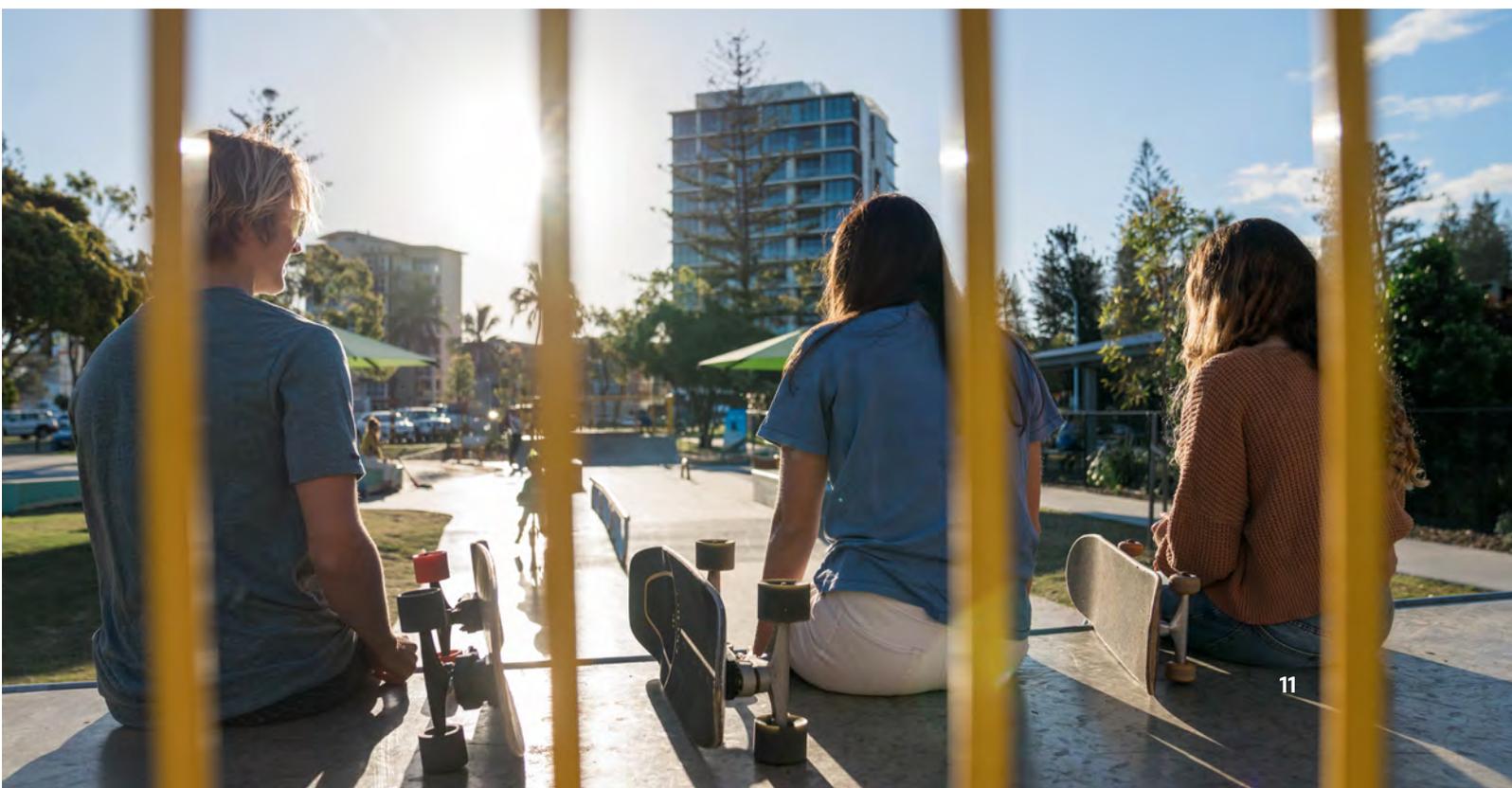
The purpose of this plan is to:

- Establish a vibrant, accessible and inclusive network of diverse open spaces and outdoor recreation facilities and activities that are youth-friendly. The focus is on meeting the needs and interests of young people.
- Inform the future provision of:
 - skate and scooter facilities, including a skate park lighting program.
 - biking facilities such as mountain bike trails, BMX, pump tracks and skills parks.
 - youth recreation facilities more broadly.
- Promote and encourage events, programs and activities that appeal to youth.
- Encourage young people to share their ideas and insights for planning and designing Council's open spaces, sport and recreation facilities.
- Empower young people to actively contribute to their community's development, fostering pride and a sense of belonging.
- Address existing gaps in the provision of open spaces and outdoor recreation facilities to better meet the needs of young people.
- Support social participation in sport and recreation and provide developmental pathways and competitive opportunities in skating, mountain biking and BMX.
- Invest in asset programming and maintaining assets to ensure that both existing and new recreation facilities are safe and operational throughout their lifecycle.

Benefits

Open space, youth recreation facilities and engagement in regular physical activity can offer the following benefits to young people:³

- **Improved physical health:** Building stronger muscles and bones, improving cardiovascular health and maintaining a healthy weight.
- **Mental well-being:** Reducing stress, anxiety and depression, enhancing overall mental health and well-being.
- **Skill development:** Help young people develop a variety of physical skills, from coordination and balance to agility and strength.
- **Social skills development:** Opportunities for young people to interact with their peers, develop social skills and build friendships.
- **Enhanced cognitive function:** Leading to better concentration, improved memory and higher academic performance.
- **Connection with nature and the outdoors:** Fostering a connection with nature, promoting environmental awareness, learning and appreciation.
- **Sense of community:** Help young people feel more connected to their community, fostering a sense of belonging and civic pride.
- **Positive habits:** Encourage the development of lifelong healthy habits.
- **Reduced risk of chronic diseases:** Lowers the risk of developing chronic conditions such as obesity, diabetes and heart disease.
- **Increased self-esteem:** Achieving personal fitness goals and participating in group activities can boost self-confidence and self-esteem.
- **Cultural engagement:** Exposure to diverse forms of cultural activity and public art helps young people appreciate different cultures and artistic styles.
- **Inspires future artists:** Seeing art in public spaces can inspire young people to pursue their own artistic interests and talents.



Youth snapshot

For the purpose of this plan, children are referred to as persons aged 0 to 11 years, while youth encompass those aged between 12 and 24 years.

The Tweed is a growing community, with the current population of 97,389, expected to grow to 131,489 by 2041. According to the 2021 census data, children currently make up 12.8% of the total population amounting to 12,521 individuals. Youth make up 13.1% of the total population, amounting to 12,762 individuals.

The number of youth is expected to grow to 14,099 by 2031 and 17,517 by 2041.

Table 1 illustrates the distribution of youth aged 12 to 24 years across the Tweed's 14 local profile areas based on 2021 census data, with projections to 2041. Figure 1 is a map of the Tweed's 14 local profile areas. The planning areas align with those used for population forecasts and analysis ([profile.id](#)).

Figure 1: Tweed's 14 local profile areas

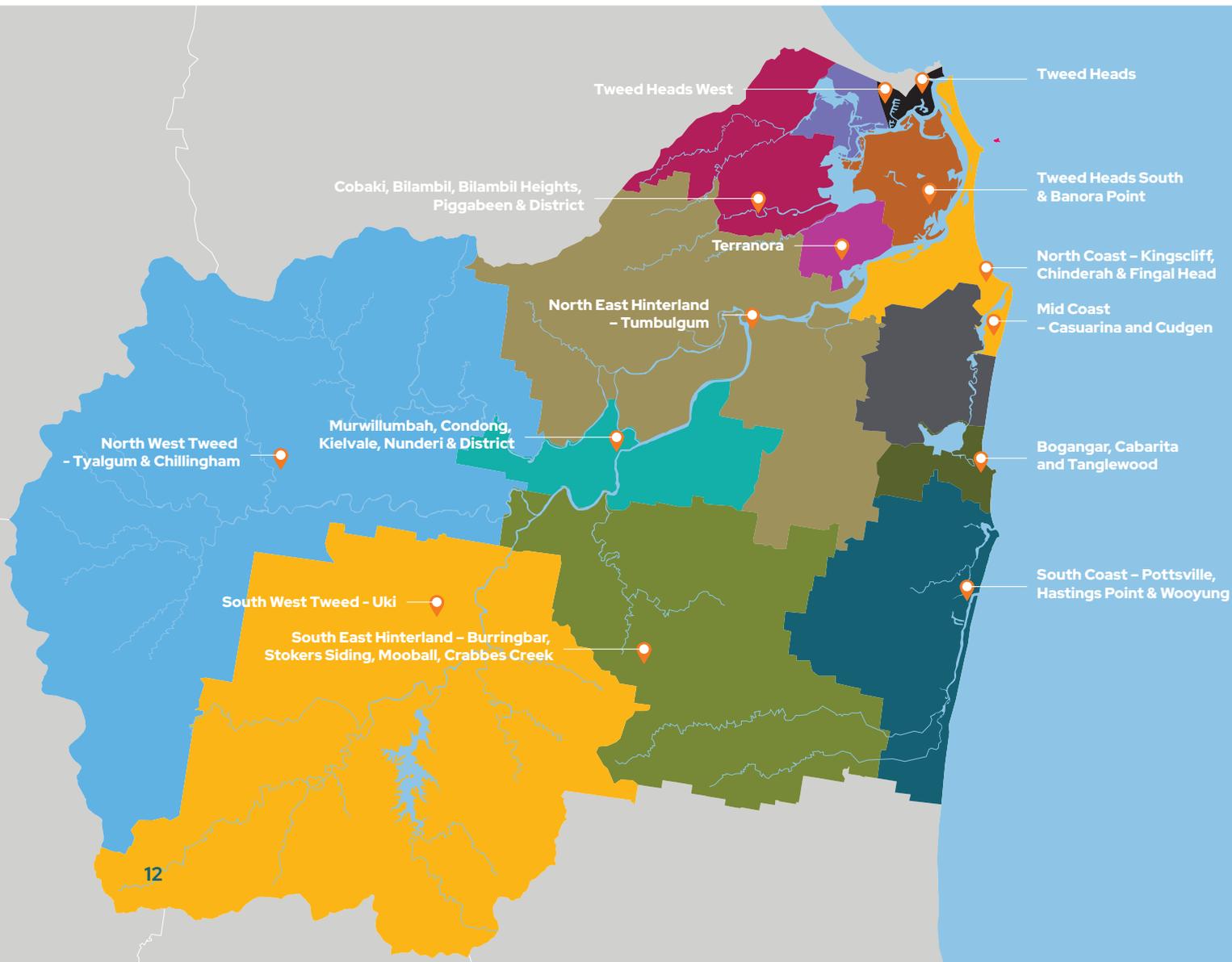
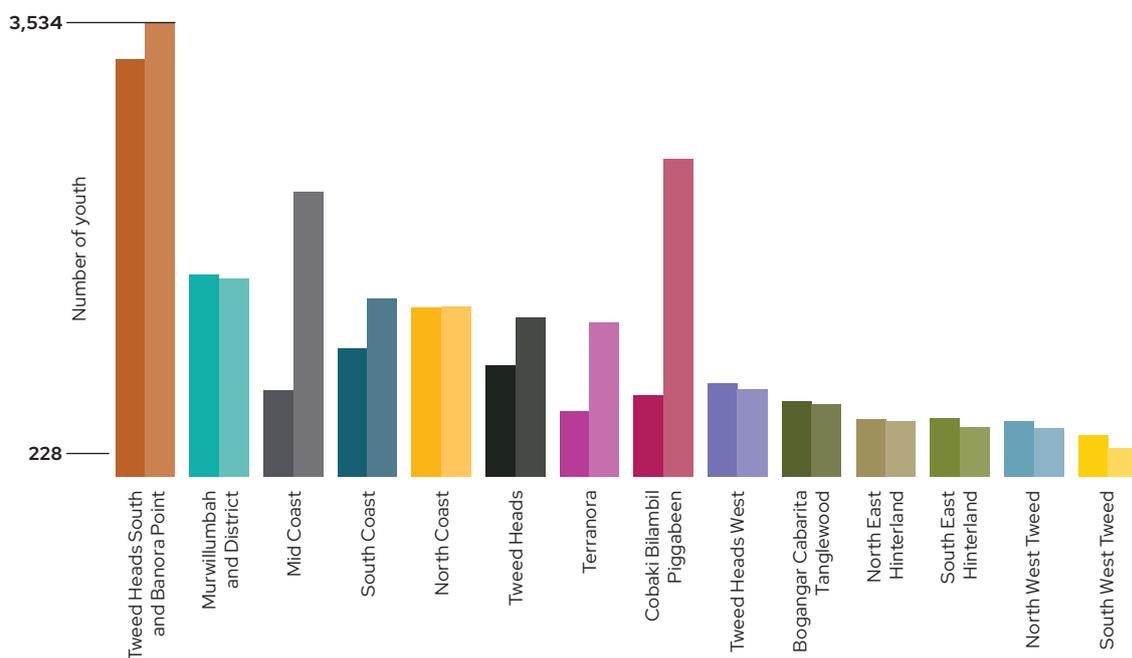


Table 1: Distribution of youth aged 12 to 24 years across the Tweed’s 14 local profile areas based on 2021 census data, with projections to 2041.

Tweed’s 14 local profile areas	2021	2041		
	12–24 Yrs	12–24 Yrs		
Tweed Heads South – Banora Point	3,267	3,534	▲	+267
Murwillumbah and District	1,573	1,551	▼	-22
Mid Coast - Casuarina and Cudgen	671	2,100	▲	+1,429
South Coast – Pottsville, Hastings Point and Wooyung	1,080	1,390	▲	+310
North Coast – Kingscliff, Fingal Head and Chinderah	1,321	1,323	▲	+2
Tweed Heads	888	1,239	▲	+351
Terranora	511	1,302	▲	+791
Cobaki, Bilambil, Bilambil Heights and Piggabeen	621	2,493	▲	+1,872
Tweed Heads West	738	697	▼	-41
Bogangar Cabarita and Tanglewood	497	471	▼	-26
North East Hinterland - Tumbulgum	437	426	▼	-11
South East Hinterland	427	386	▼	-41
North West Tweed – Tyalgum	414	377	▼	-37
South West Tweed - Uki	317	228	▼	-89
Total	12,762	17,517		+4,755





How the plan was created

The development of the plan included extensive community engagement, expert consultations and reviews of national, state, and local policies and data to inform planning. Demographic trends and population forecasts were analysed and existing facilities were audited to ensure future provisions align with community needs and demand.

Key actions taken included:

- A total of 1,018 people, primarily young people, provided feedback in two stages of engagement. The first stage helped shape the draft plan, while the second stage, during the public exhibition of the plan, ensured the plan accurately reflected the priorities of young people.
- Specialist consultants from Skate Parks and Spaces and PLAYCE were engaged to support the development of skate, scooter and bike facilities in the Tweed. Skate Parks and Spaces conducted site inspections and evaluated potential locations for future facilities.
- Reviewed national, state, regional and local plans, policies and priorities regarding youth, sport and active recreation participation and public land management.
- Reviewed Cred Consultant's Adventurous Spaces: Insight Report, which informed the NSW Government's Adventurous Spaces Best Practice Design Guide.
- Reviewed the NSW Government's Everyone Can Play Guidelines.
- Reviewed Council's SARS.
- Consulted relevant Tweed Shire Council units.
- Analysed trends in sport and recreation participation.
- Reviewed the latest demographic profile and future population projections for both young people and the general population of Tweed.
- Benchmarked skate and bike facility provision standards against those of other North Coast Councils.
- Reviewed secondary demand data, including feedback from past community consultations for the OSS, SARS and *Kingscliff Youth and Family Space Engagement Report 2018*.
- Audited and mapped Council owned and/or managed open spaces and outdoor recreation facilities in Tweed, including skate and bike facilities and identified gaps in provision.

How we engaged

Council engaged over 900 young people across two stages of engagement to ensure the action plan addresses their needs, desires and aspirations.

Stage 1 engagement

Key actions taken included:

- 550 people provided feedback through an online survey to help shape the draft Action Plan, which was open from 18 November 2020 to 28 February 2021. Every high school student in the Tweed received a postcard inviting them to participate in the online survey.
- Three co-design workshops facilitated by Young Change Agents, including a focused session on Recreation Ground and Goorimabah – Place of Stories in Tweed Heads. This participatory approach engaged young people in designing a youth-friendly regional and district park in Tweed Heads. Construction of both spaces has now been completed.
- Short videos (or vox pops) featuring interviews with young people visiting markets and skate parks in Pottsville, Cabarita and Kingscliff. We asked them about the activities they enjoy and the sport and recreation options they would like to see more of in the Tweed.
- We received 36 comments from the broader community via the Your Say Tweed webpage. Additionally, during the development of the OSS and the SARS, both youth and the broader community had the opportunity to provide input on the provision of open spaces, sport and recreation facilities.

Stage 2 engagement

Key actions taken included:

- 518 people provided feedback through a survey on the draft Action Plan, which was publicly exhibited from 3 October to 27 November 2024.
- Council staff visited 4 local high schools and engaged with 120 students to participate in the survey.
- A Splash, Movie and DJ Night was held at the Tweed Regional Aquatic Centre (Murwillumbah Pool) on Friday 22 November 2024, with 80 young people participating.
- Pop-up community engagement events were held at the Murwillumbah Show on Friday 1 November and Saturday 2 November 2024, as well as at the Kingscliff Markets on Saturday 9 November 2024.

The following is a summary of the key information we gathered from talking with young people and the community.⁴

What youth said

Stage 1 Engagement summary

Sport and recreation facilities young people participate in

Top 10 responses



Numbers shown above = the number of respondents per activity from a total of 914 respondents.

Young people were given three wishes to improve the Tweed's sport and recreation facilities and activities - they wished for:

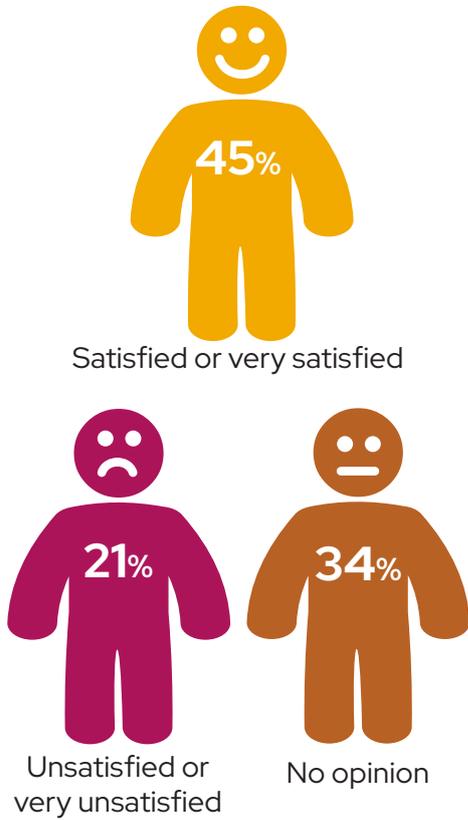
Three wishes

	Number
Skate facilities	130
Sport facilities (general)	124
Park and playground improvements	115
Bike facilities	96
Indoor courts/stadium or gymnasium	60
Basketball courts	55
Walking and running tracks	51
Youth events/activities	26
Wave pool/water park	24
Beach and foreshore facilities	21

Number = number of respondents

Young people were asked how satisfied they are regarding the following:

Sport and recreation facilities



Outdoor events, programs and activities

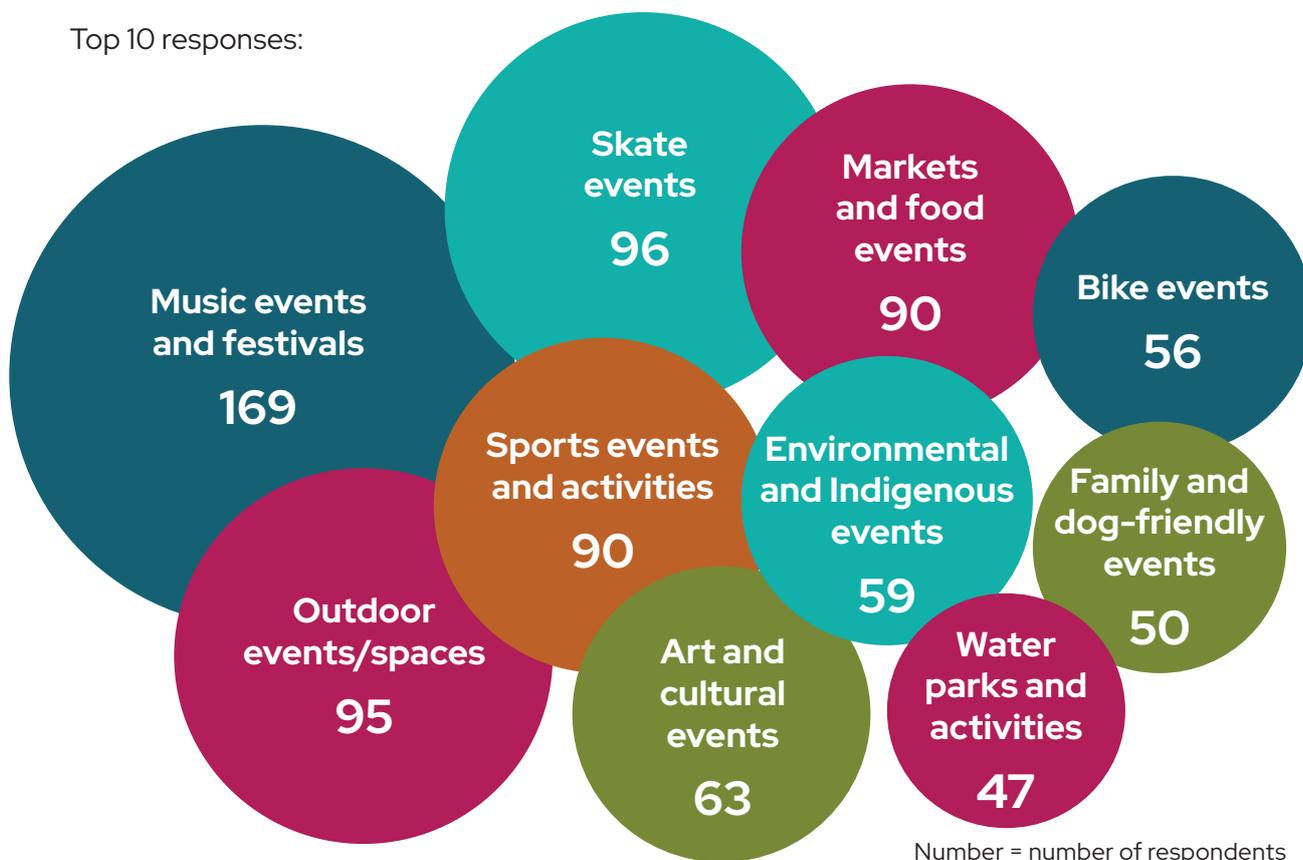


Young people were asked how safe they feel using outdoor public spaces, sport and recreation facilities



What outdoor events, programs or activities would young people like to see more of in the Tweed?

Top 10 responses:



Number = number of respondents

What key improvements would make outdoor public spaces better?

Top 10 responses

	Number
Safer outdoor spaces	50
More skate parks	36
Better park facilities	35
More facilities that appeal to young people	32
More diverse parks	29
Maintain our parks and open spaces	28
More activities that are free or low cost	22
Consult young people	17
Provide more bike facilities	15
Access to drinking water	12

Number = number of respondents

What youth said

Stage 2 Engagement summary

The community was asked about their support for key actions in the draft action plan.



Key feedback

Our plan

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This action plan outlines Council's priorities for the further 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.

Add lights to youth facilities and include shaded areas, like trees or shade structures, to help with summer heat and allow for night-time use

Create separate areas for skating, biking and basketball to give everyone enough space and avoid conflict

Install public toilets, drinking fountains, barbecues and covered seating areas at youth facilities

Focus on building a regional skate park in the Tweed and medium-sized parks. Improve current skate parks and keep them well maintained

Build an indoor stadium

Partner with youth services to run events, programs and activities

Less support for outdoor fitness; focus more on providing calisthenic equipment

Look for ways to improve the user experience along the Rail Trail, like adding bike and skate facilities and other activities for youth

Engage industry professionals, locals, and experienced skaters and riders in the design of new facilities

Provide more pump tracks, mountain bike trails, skills parks and skate facilities

Make sure spaces and facilities are easy to reach by foot, bike, scooter and public transport and that they are inclusive and accessible to everyone

Install climbing walls, flying foxes and larger swings in parks

Explore opportunities for a water park

Provide larger parks in Casuarina, Kingscliff, Pottsville, Cabarita, Tweed Heads South and hinterland areas

Add more sports courts for volleyball, tennis, netball and focus on full and half-sized basketball courts

Ensure public spaces are safe and graffiti is managed

When designing multi-use courts, reduce conflict between users so different sports can be played without getting in each other's way



Youth-friendly spaces and facilities

Youth-friendly spaces and recreation facilities can vary widely in design and function, but they typically include elements such as skate parks, BMX jumps, pump tracks, climbing walls, outdoor gyms, multi-courts and interactive playspaces.

These facilities are designed to cater to a diverse range of ages, abilities, genders and backgrounds, ensuring that everyone can enjoy and benefit from them. While the focus here is on meeting the needs of younger users, the inclusivity of these spaces means they can also serve a broad spectrum of people, fostering a welcoming environment where all individuals can engage in recreational activities and build community connections.⁵



Skate park

An outdoor area with structures and surfaces allowing enthusiasts to practice and showcase their skills. Skaters, scooters, BMX, inline and quad skaters use skate parks.



Skate elements or plaza

A facility within parks or urban environments, often featuring street-style obstacles, providing a space for beginner skaters, scooter riders and in-line skaters.



Pump track

A facility where users travel through a closed circuit of rollers and berms that allow them to 'pump' through with very little pedalling.



Freestyle BMX jumps and trails

A freestyle BMX jump park features jumps and trails made from a mix of dirt, clay and crushed granite, for tricks and stunts performed on BMX or other bikes.



Mountain bike trails

Usually located in the bush, these trails use the natural landscape's slopes to offer a fun, challenging experience while also being sustainable and respectful of the environment.



Skills park

Usually designed in a loop with different paths for different ability levels, it may have a mix of man-made ramps and natural features to create tailored riding experiences.



Climbing

A climbing feature that is integrated with other facilities and provides for different ability levels.



Outdoor fitness equipment

Usually found in open areas, outdoor exercise equipment can be designed to suit all fitness ability levels and ages.



Grassed areas for sport and informal games

Open space used for sports and/or informal games.



Footpaths, shared paths and cycleways

Encourages active travel, walking, running and cycling.



Multi-purpose courts

Supports various court activities that cater to a diverse range of users.



Rebound wall

Great for building confidence and skills, whether practicing solo or with others, often part of other facilities.



Study spaces

A sheltered spot with seating for studying outdoors, usually near other facilities and might even have WiFi access.



Hang out spaces

Providing new and inviting seating and features to meet friends to enjoy day and night.



Nature appreciation

Providing opportunities to exercise or just relax and enjoy nature based experiences.

Our spaces and facilities

Table 2: Council owned and/or managed open spaces, sport and recreation facilities.

Open space, sport and recreation facilities	Area/ quantity	Location
Park (passive open space)	304 ha	Shire-wide: 3 regional, 13 district, 60 neighbourhood and 2 local
Sports fields/courts (active open space)	111 ha	Shire-wide: 6 regional, 8 district and 22 local
Natural area	1,127 ha	Shire-wide
Total open space	1,542 ha	Shire-wide
Playgrounds	87	Shire-wide: 3 regional, 10 district, 69 neighbourhood
Skate facilities	6 plus incidental skate elements	Tweed Heads South (district), Cabarita (district), Murwillumbah (district), Tyalgum (local), Tweed Heads (local). Skate elements in Kingscliff and Terranora.
Bike facilities	3	Murwillumbah, Uki (dirt pump track and 6.4 km mountain bike trails)
Multi-court /sports/half court	16	Shire-wide
Social tennis courts	11	Shire-wide
Off leash dog areas	16	Shire-wide: 1 regional dog park (fenced), 1 district dog park, 10 local dog parks, 4 beach off-leash areas
Beach (length)	37 km	Various
Shared path	128 km	Shire-wide: including the Northern Rivers Rail Trail – Tweed section (24 km)
On-road cycleway	22 km	Shire-wide
Foothpaths	177 km	Shire-wide
Community garden	1	Uki
Boat ramps	11	Shire-wide
Jetty/pontoon/wharf	15	Shire-wide
Outdoor exercise equipment	6	Kingscliff, Murwillumbah, Tweed Heads (Keith Compton Dve), Tweed Heads (Recreation Ground), Tweed Heads South, Banora Point, Pottsville
Public toilets	67	Shire-wide





What we need

We reviewed the current open spaces, sport and recreation facilities in the Tweed and identified areas needing improvement. The review informed the creation of the OSS, the SARS and this action plan.

We conducted a review of active and passive open spaces, sport and recreation facilities at a regional (shire-wide), district and local level (using Tweed's local profile areas).

In Tweed, an active open space provision standard of 1.7ha per 1,000 people is applied, providing spaces and facilities for sport and active recreation, including those catering to youth. A passive open space provision standard of 1.13ha per 1,000 people is applied for activities such as children's playspaces, adventurous play, sitting, relaxing, nature appreciation, socialising, picnicking and walking. These standards were applied to each local profile area to identify gaps in provision up to 2035.

Consultants, Skatepark and Spaces conducted a review of adventurous spaces in the Tweed, focusing on skate, scooter and bike facilities and identified improvements for the existing facilities.

Key findings

Active open space

- The following profile areas have a current deficit of active space and this is likely to remain the case through to 2035: North Coast (Kingscliff); North East Hinterland (Tumbulgum); North West (Tyalgum and Chillingham); South Coast (Pottsville and Hastings Point); South East Hinterland (Burringbar, Stokers Siding and Crabbes Creek); South West (Uki); Terranora; Tweed Heads; Tweed Heads South (Banora Point) and Tweed Heads West.
- The deficit is significant in Tweed Heads and Tweed Heads South.
- Future residential development and active open space contributions in Cobaki, Bilambil and District; Mid Coast Casuarina (and Cudgen); North Coast (Kingscliff) and South Coast (Pottsville and Hastings Point) will meet the future needs of the populations these developments serve but will not reduce the deficit.
- Efforts to source additional active open space to counter the active open space deficit should be focused on the northern end of the Tweed Shire where the current deficit is worst and where the highest population growth is likely to occur.
- Depot Road Sports Precinct will create new embellished active open space in Kings Forest.
- The *SARS Implementation Plan 2023–2033* identifies key actions to address the future provision of structured sport and active recreation across the Tweed.



Passive open space and youth recreation facilities

- The Tweed is well supplied with passive open space. However, the distribution, quality and diversity of passive open space provided differs between local profile areas. High quality open spaces are provided along the Tweed Coast, with much of the passive open space being foreshore reserve providing for a variety of recreation, social and nature-based experiences.
- Whilst Murwillumbah and District and Tweed Heads South/Banora Point have an oversupply of passive open space, large areas are flood prone with associated constraints relating to drainage, steepness and access.
- There are numerous profile areas that are undersupplied with neighbourhood parks particularly Cobaki, Bilambil and District (Bilambil Heights), parts of Tweed Heads South – Banora Point and parts of Murwillumbah and District.
- Profile areas undersupplied with district parks include Tweed Heads South – Banora Point, Tweed Heads West, Bilambil and District.
- There is significant demand for additional youth recreation facilities in Tweed Heads South and Banora Point, Tweed Heads West, North Coast (Kingscliff), Mid Coast (Casuarina), South Coast (Pottsville), Terranora and South East Hinterland (Burringbar, Stokers Siding and Crabbes Creek).
- Additional passive open space and embellishments being planned as part of residential subdivisions in Area E Urban Release Area (Terranora), West Kingscliff, Kings Forest, Kings Coast (Cudgen) Cobaki and Dunloe Park (Pottsville) have potential to provide youth recreation facilities including skate and/or bike facilities, as part of their open space developer contributions.
- The Tweed does not have a regional skate or bike facility.
- The district skate facility located in Tweed Heads South is in poor condition and is not meeting current standards. There is significant demand for a new regional skate facility or a multi-purpose skate and bike facility with a pump track in the north of the Tweed.
- Significant maintenance is required at all skate facilities to improve their condition and functionality.
- The Uki Mountain Bike Park (local facility) features 6.4 kms of trails and a small dirt pump track. This has helped meet some of the demand for biking facilities in the Tweed. At this site there are further opportunities to increase the number of trails and deliver a bike event program.
- There are no pump tracks in urban areas and BMX Park in Murwillumbah is in very poor condition.
- When upgrading any social tennis courts, consider multi-courts to provide for more than one sport.

Other open space and outdoor recreation facilities

- There is potential for the Tweed to be recognised as a premier nature-based recreation destination by providing further opportunities for bushwalking, mountain biking, kayaking and canoeing.
- At present, there are very few established trails for bushwalking and horse riding. There is potential to explore Clarrie Hall Dam and its surrounding area as a possible site for recreational trails.
- The Tweed section of the Northern Rivers Rail Trail - currently spans 24kms and provides for walking, running and cycling, with a short section for horse riders. This will form part of a longer 132 km trail that will extend opportunities to connect to Richmond Valley, Lismore and Byron Shire.
- The NSW Coastal Cycleway connects the South Coast from Pottsville to Tweed Heads, with links to Banora Point and parts of Tweed Heads West, providing paths for walking, running and cycling. However, there are key missing links in Tweed Heads South, Tweed Heads West, Terranora and parts of Murwillumbah and District.
- Tweed's beaches, headlands, waterways, river foreshores and creeks are key recreational assets with opportunities for further enhancement including path connections, access stairs, picnicking facilities, wharf and jetty upgrades, public amenities and safety improvements.
- There are significant opportunities for water-based activities such as fishing, boating, surfing, SUP, swimming and surfing.



Vision

The Tweed Shire is recognised for its diverse network of quality open spaces that meet the needs of a healthy and active community, whilst protecting our rich natural and cultural heritage for future generations.

Guiding principles

The YORAP aligns with the vision and guiding principles of Council’s OSS.

Quality	Diversity	Health and Wellbeing	Inclusion
<p>Open spaces, sport and recreation facilities are attractive and welcoming for everyone.</p> <p>High quality open spaces and placemaking projects are delivered in new and existing communities.</p> <p>The character of each town or village is reflected in the design of open spaces, sport and recreation facilities.</p> <p>Open spaces are well maintained to encourage use and extend the life of our open space assets.</p>	<p>A range of open spaces, sport and recreation facilities and activities is provided to enrich the diversity of community life.</p> <p>Our open spaces reflect and celebrate cultural diversity.</p> <p>Design open spaces, sport and recreation facilities to be flexible with the capacity to adapt as needs change.</p> <p>Plan multi-purpose spaces that cater to a range of interests and provide a range of benefits.</p>	<p>Encourage everyone to live active and healthy lifestyles.</p> <p>Promote a sense of community, happiness and well-being.</p> <p>Ensure the safety of the community through good design of open spaces, sport and recreation facilities.</p> <p>Integrate ‘Crime Prevention through Environmental Design’ principles.</p> <p>Support opportunities for social interactions and community connections.</p>	<p>People of all ages, abilities, gender, cultures and backgrounds feel welcome and can easily access the open space network and facilities.</p> <p>Open spaces are within walking distance of where people live.</p> <p>Universal design principles are applied when designing, constructing and maintaining open spaces, sport and recreation facilities to improve access for everyone.</p> <p>Community is involved in decisions that influence their life and community.</p>

Equity	Connectivity	Environment Protection and Conservation	Sustainability
<p>Quality open spaces, sport and recreation facilities are equitably distributed and funded across the Tweed.</p>	<p>Our open spaces, sport and recreation facilities are well connected by way of pathways, trails, streetscapes and can be accessed by public transport.</p> <p>Our open spaces, sport and recreation facilities are connected to key community destinations.</p> <p>Opportunities exist for people to connect with the natural environment.</p>	<p>Protect and enhance local biodiversity and ecosystems.</p> <p>Strengthen and celebrate our diverse Indigenous and non-Indigenous heritage.</p> <p>Encourage people to experience natural and cultural heritage without compromising biodiversity, heritage and scenic values.</p>	<p>Adopt a strategic approach to the planning of open spaces, sport and recreation facilities.</p> <p>Invest in quality improvements to ensure environmental, social, cultural and economic values are enhanced for future generations.</p> <p>Incorporate sustainable design and maintenance practices. Mitigate the impacts of climate change.</p> <p>Build partnerships to ensure an integrated approach to open space management for better community and environmental outcomes.</p> <p>Ensure sustainable financial management of the open space network.</p>

Priorities

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

- Priority area 1:** Youth-friendly parks and open spaces
- Priority area 2:** Skate and scooter facilities
- Priority area 3:** Bike facilities (mountain bike trails, BMX, pump tracks, skills parks)
- Priority area 4:** Outdoor events, programs and activities.

We partnered with Young Change Agents to conduct a series of co-design workshops with youth, embracing a participatory approach to the planning and design of public open spaces, sport and recreation facilities in the Tweed.

In the co-design process, six young people were trained as facilitators and worked alongside 43 of their peers, five industry professionals and eight Council staff. Together, we generated ideas and built prototypes for outdoor spaces, recreation facilities, events and activities they want to see in the Tweed.

The co-design workshops focused on the four key priority areas, which translated into four outcomes for Council.

For each priority area and outcome, we've identified what youth want, what we will do and the actions that will be implemented. We have also identified the priority allocated to each action, who will champion or lead the delivery of the action and whether funds are set aside.

The YORAP will be reviewed and updated after four years, or as needed.



The four key priority areas, translated into four outcomes for Council:

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.



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 Wi-Fi 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

- Continue to deliver actions in the adopted OSS and the SARS to ensure better public spaces and facilities for residents and visitors.
- Plan, design, deliver and manage Tweed's open space network, sport and recreation facilities in accordance with adopted park, sports fields and courts, playground, skate and bike facility and trail hierarchies, which inform embellishments, function, scale, activity type and maintenance levels.
- Prioritise investment in regional and district open spaces and facilities that are adaptable and are better suited to cater for multiple users and provide a range of active and passive recreation activities including adventurous activities.
- Deliver support facilities like seating, shelters, picnic tables, drinking water, barbecues, public toilets, bins and accessible facilities as essential ingredients for enhancing the use and enjoyment of open spaces and youth recreation facilities.
- Co-locate youth recreation facilities with other recreation facilities, community or education facilities where possible.
- Liaise with developers as early as possible in the residential subdivision process to achieve quality open space outcomes and the full range of community benefits, including the provision of youth recreation facilities that are well connected by footpaths, shared paths and cycleways and to community and education facilities.
- Prioritise improvements in areas of high need, in areas identified as being undersupplied with quality open spaces and youth recreation facilities.
- Design spaces that are safe, welcoming and youth-friendly.
- Support women and girls so they can fully participate in all aspects of community sport and active recreation.
- Design and promote study spaces in public open spaces and civic spaces.
- Engage industry experts or specialist consultants and involve the community, Indigenous stakeholders and people with lived experience throughout the project delivery process.
- Partner with service providers, schools, volunteer groups and community organisations that support the needs of youth and promote community connections.
- Consider the unique qualities of each open space and plan so that natural, cultural, Indigenous and non-Indigenous heritage is incorporated harmoniously.
- Plan and design spaces and facilities to withstand the impacts of climate change, such as sea level rise, erosion, floods, extreme temperatures, drought and bushfires by assessing the potential climate change risk to open space assets in the planning phase.
- Increase tree planting for natural shade along highly utilised footpaths, shared paths, cycleways and in civic spaces, parks, foreshore reserves and adventure spaces.
- Maintain and manage our public spaces and facilities to ensure longevity and uphold quality.
- Provide inclusive information about the opportunities and benefits of Council's open spaces, sport and recreation facilities to residents and visitors.

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

Actions

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

Actions

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

- Build new skate facilities and upgrade existing skate parks to accommodate the growing popularity of skateboarding among people of all ages, genders, abilities and backgrounds.
- Plan for different uses, including skate, scooter, in-line and quad-skating and long-boarding, see Appendix A.
- Deliver a 3-tiered approach to providing skate facilities; regional, district and local. Plan one regional facility (skate-specific, or skate and bike), a series of district and local skate specific facilities, including a series of skateable or rideable elements integrated into regional or district open spaces for beginners.
- The type, size and scale of facilities will be dependent on community needs, site constraints and budgets and should be delivered in accordance with Council's Skate and Bike Facility Hierarchy, see Appendix B.
- Strategically plan a network of skate and scooter facilities to ensure each location offers a unique experience, catering to diverse preferences, styles and skill levels.
- Continue to liaise with developers as early as possible in the subdivision process to identify opportunities for new skate and scooter facilities.
- Collaborate with youth and experienced skaters to co-design skate facilities.
- Engage industry experts or specialist consultants to plan, design and construct skate facilities.
- Provide a new regional skate facility (or multi-purpose skate and bike facility) in the north of the Tweed, delivered as part of the proposed Tweed Indoor Sports Facility. Potential sites being investigated include Tweed Heads South (where the current community centre and aquatic centre is located), Arkinstall Park, Depot Road Sports Precinct or within the Kings Forest Subdivision.
- Establish a district skate facility at Kingscliff Sports Complex (adjacent to Walter Peate Sports Field) in Kingscliff, subject to approvals and tenure. Initially considered for the Kingscliff Foreshore, this site was deemed unsuitable following a thorough evaluation by consultants Skate Parks and Spaces and Council. Concerns included potential noise impacts on residents living within 50 metres of the foreshore reserve, significant risks of coastal erosion and the presence of an underground pipeline located in front of the NSW Ambulance Station (Marine Parade, Kingscliff). By selecting a more suitable location away from the coastal foreshore, we aim to ensure the skate facility is both safe and enjoyable for users while minimising impacts on the community and environment.
- Manage risk by conducting thorough assessments and audits to ensure safety, accessibility and resilience against potential hazards. Ensure clear signage indicating rules and safety guidelines.
- When planning skate and scooter facilities provide supporting amenities, especially for those who do not wish to participate but still want to watch or be part of the social aspect. We will encourage users to stay longer by including seating, picnic tables, toilets, drinking fountains, accessible facilities and shaded areas.
- Encourage the activation of skate facilities with events, programs and activities and just like traditional sports, promote development pathways to encourage participation at an entry level to competition level.
- Maintain and manage skate facilities to ensure longevity and uphold quality.
- Adventurous spaces are for everybody. We will provide inclusive skate and scooter facilities.



When Council is evaluating potential sites for future skate facilities, the following factors will be considered:

- Easily accessible by public transport, walking and cycling, ideally in a central location convenient for most users.
- Locate near existing amenities such as public toilets, drinking fountains, seating and nearby places for food and refreshments, where possible.
- The location is highly visible with good natural surveillance.
- Ensure there is enough space to accommodate various skill levels and different types of activities including hosting events, competitions and community activities, with the potential to attract a diverse group of users and promote inclusivity.
- Select a site that minimises noise and disturbance to nearby residents. Aim to provide a buffer of 50m-100m to neighbours and consider expanding the buffer if the facility is a regional or district level.
- Engage early with the community and local skaters to gather input and address concerns.
- Integrate with other sport or recreational facilities including parks, playgrounds, or sports fields to create multi-purpose recreational areas and to reduce the need to duplicate support facilities.

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

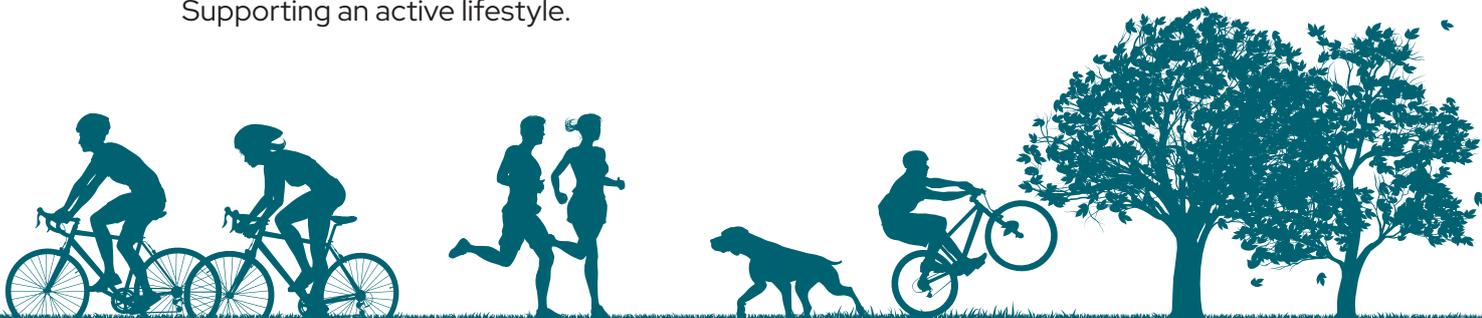
Priority area 3: Bike facilities

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

- Build new bike facilities and upgrade existing facilities to accommodate the growing popularity of biking among all ages, genders, abilities and backgrounds, see Appendix A.
- Plan for mountain biking, BMX, pump tracks and skills parks, see Appendix A, B and C.
- The type, size and scale of facilities will be dependent on community needs, site constraints and budgets and should be delivered in accordance with Council's Skate and Bike Facility Hierarchy, see Appendix B.
- Deliver a 2-tiered approach to providing mountain bike trails/parks – regional and local, see Appendix C.
- Strategically plan a network of bike facilities to ensure each location offers a unique experience, catering to diverse preferences, riding styles and skill levels.
- When planning and designing bike facilities provide supporting amenities including picnic tables, shelters, toilets, drinking fountains, accessible facilities, shaded areas, bike repair and cleaning facilities, signage and car parking.
- Consult with developers early in the subdivision process to identify opportunities for bike trails and facilities, shared-use paths and cycleways that connect recreation facilities to the wider path network and community spaces.
- Include walking and cycling loops around the periphery of regional and district open spaces.
- Partner with youth in co-designing bike facilities. Engage industry professionals or specialist consultants to plan, design and construct bike trails and facilities.
- Develop bike trails with careful consideration for the environment, ensuring sustainability and respect for natural habitats.
- Manage risk by conducting thorough assessments to ensure safety, accessibility and resilience against potential hazards. Ensure clear signage indicating trail information and ratings, rules and safety guidelines for riders and spectators.
- Encourage the activation of bike facilities with events, programs and activities and just like traditional sports, provide development pathways to encourage participation at an entry level to competition level.
- Maintain and manage bike facilities to ensure longevity and uphold quality.
- Adventurous spaces are for everyone and should include accessible biking or cycling facilities, including adaptive trails.





When Council is evaluating potential sites for future bike facilities, the following factors will be considered:

- Review legislation and planning pathways, consider land ownership and management, planning context and approvals/permits required.
- Consider existing land use and character.
- Conduct preliminary site assessments of soil, topography, environmental conditions and site constraints including drainage.
- Land size to allow for expansion.
- Ensure there is enough space to provide associated amenities such as toilets, car parking, drinking water, shelter and shade, spectator seating, picnic areas, bike wash facilities and nearby places for food and refreshments, where possible.
- Ensure there is enough space to accommodate various skill levels and different types of activities including hosting events, competitions and community activities to encourage a diverse group of users and promote inclusivity.
- Select a site that minimises noise and disturbance to nearby residents. Aim to provide a buffer of 50m-100m to neighbours and consider expanding the buffer if the facility is a regional level.
- Engage early with the community and stakeholders to gather input and address concerns.
- Co-locate with other sport or recreational facilities, where possible. Design to minimise conflicts between different users by assigning dedicated spaces for each activity.
- Provide close to active transport and public transport connections.
- Factor in maintenance needs early in the planning process.

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

- Encourage and facilitate stakeholders to plan safe, welcoming events, programs and activities in public spaces that cater to diverse interests, including youth interests.
- In regional and district parks, provide facilities that support events, such as access to power, shaded staging, a variety of seating options and locate near active travel routes and public transport nodes.
- Our draft *Tweed Event Strategy 2024-2028* and *Event Sponsorship Policy*⁶ notes we will support various nature-based events, sport and active recreation events (land and water) such as triathlons, running, trail running, cycling (both road and trail), surfing, surf lifesaving, ocean swims, kayaking and rowing at local, regional and national levels. We will welcome lifestyle events promoting health and wellbeing, including wellness activities, yoga festivals, health and nutrition summits and fitness competitions. We also aim to host creative and cultural events including art trails, small to medium-sized live music events and gigs and events that celebrate our First Nations people, Bundjalung communities, and their connection to Country.
- Celebrate youth achievements annually during NSW Youth Week by promoting access to a variety of arts and cultural events and activities including music.
- Provide opportunities for environmental learning and interpretation in our open spaces including the integration of native planting, signage and storytelling.
- Provide opportunities for local groups, sports clubs and other agencies to access funding or support to deliver youth-friendly health and well-being events, programs and activities. Host pop-up events in popular youth hangout spaces to build interest and awareness.
- Encourage youth participation and co-design in planning Council's outdoor events, programs and activities.
- Increase Council's use of social media platforms or partner with local influencers that are popular with young people to promote events, programs and activities and to reach a wider audience.



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

Endnotes

- 1 Tweed Shire Council's *Open Space Strategy 2019-2029 and Implementation Plan 2019-2029*. Accessed from:
<https://www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/council/policies-plans-reports/policies/open-space-strategy>
- 2 Tweed Shire Council's *Sport & Active Recreation Strategy 2023-2033 and Implementation Plan 2023-2033*. Accessed from:
<https://www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/community/recreation-outdoors/parks-gardens>
- 3 Cecily Maller, Mardie Townsend, Lawrence St Leger, Claire Henderson-Wilson, Anita Pryor, Lauren Prosser and Megan Moore; *Healthy Parks, Healthy People: The Health Benefits of Contact with Nature in a Park Context*. Access from Healthy parks, healthy people: The health benefits of contact with nature in a park context – A review of relevant literature (2nd Edition) – RMIT University.
- 4 The youth engagement reports for this plan can be accessed from:
<https://www.yoursaytweed.com.au/youth-voice>
- 5 The information has been adapted from the NSW Government's Adventurous Spaces Best Practice Design Guide. Accessed from: <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/policy-and-legislation/open-space/open-spaces-program/places-to-play>
- 6 The *Tweed Event Strategy 2024-2028 and Event Sponsorship Policy*. Accessed from:
<https://www.yoursaytweed.com.au/eventsstrategy>



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