

BURDEKIN SPORT AND RECREATION PLAN

2024 - 2030



Burdekin
Shire Council

MAK
PLANNING & DESIGN





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Ninja Course

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01

INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

The Burdekin Shire Sport and Recreation Plan 2030 is a refresh and extension of the existing Plan developed in 2018.

In July 2018 Burdekin Shire Council (Council) developed the 10-year Sport and Recreation Plan. In the six years since then Council has achieved many of the recommendations or, in a few cases, the recommendations are no longer relevant.

This new Plan will have a planning horizon of 2030, some six years from now. Where incomplete, and still relevant, the recommendations for the 2018 Plan have been carried forward into the 2030 Plan. There are also many new recommendations that have been derived from the consultation that has taken place.

The new Plan is based on extensive consultation that was undertaken in early 2024. Sport and recreation organisations, community groups, residents, youths and Council staff gave generously of their time.

The report is structured into two parts. This Volume (Volume 1) is the Burdekin Sport and Recreation Plan 2030. Volume 2 is a record of all the consultation and background research that was undertaken to inform the Plan.



Nature Play Space in Plantation Park

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PROGRESS SO FAR

PROGRESS SO FAR

There have been many achievements from the 2018 Burdekin Shire Sport and Recreation Plan. While many of the recommendations have been implemented, some will carry forward, while others are no longer relevant.

COMPLETED RECOMMENDATIONS

- ANZAC Park Master Plan
- Additional covered outdoor courts completed
- Various improvements to Giru Park
- Bulkhead for Home Hill Pool (the bulkhead proved to be impracticable)
- Aquatic Facilities Strategy
- Regional athletics facility (proved to be not viable)
- Old racecourse for equestrian facility (proved to be not possible)
- Youth Activities Strategy (current project)

NOT COMPLETED AND STILL RELEVANT

- Prepare a master plan for Plantation Park

ONGOING

- Enhance the Active Transport Network
- Increase the use of the Burdekin Multi-purpose Hall
- Develop a club support program
- Communication programs and initiatives between Council and organisations
- Review the Revenue Assistance Policy (Interest Free Loans)

NO LONGER RELEVANT

- Regional strategic sport planning
- Establish an Implementation Committee
- Employ a Sport and Recreation Officer

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03

BACKGROUND RESEARCH

PLANNING CONTEXT

This section documents the planning environment for the new sport and recreation plan; our community, and what plans we have in place. This background research provides a planning context so that the plan is grounded in our community and the broad trends across society are recognised.

SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHICS

Burdekin Shire's socio-demographics show a community that is broadly similar to Regional Queensland. Our population has not changed much for many years; we are slightly older than Regional Queensland, and have a strong Italian heritage in our community.

Health wise we are similar to Regional Queensland, but we earn slightly less. Our workforce has a strong vocational education bias. We like to volunteer more than other regions but overall, the SEIFA index measures that we are slightly worse off than Regional Queensland across a broad range of socio-demographic factors. The following data is extracted from the 2021 Census (except population data).

<p>POPULATION</p>	<p>OUR POPULATION IS STATIC</p> <p>The population in 2022 is estimated at 16,869 people, an increase of 33 people from 2021 (but 334 lower than in 2016). While there has been an increase in the last year the population remains lower than at any other point since 2006, when the population was 17,451 persons. Since 2016 the population is estimated to have fallen by 490 people.</p>
<p>AGE PROFILE</p>	<p>WE ARE OLDER</p> <p>Our median age is 45 years compared to 41 years for Regional Queensland, and 38 years for Queensland and Australia.</p> <p>The age profile is skewed to older persons. Burdekin Shire's age structure shows that for all ages under 55 there are less people (as a percentage) in our community than there are in Regional Queensland.</p>
<p>ANCESTRY</p>	<p>WE ARE AUSTRALIAN AND EUROPEAN</p> <p>The population is predominantly Australian and European with 96.2% claiming Australian, English, Italian, Irish or Scottish heritage. Indigenous people make up 5.1% of the population. The stand out from regional Queensland is our strong Italian Heritage (17.1%).</p> <p>(Note: People can have multiple heritages so the score can be greater than 100)</p>

<p>LONG TERM HEALTH CONDITIONS</p>	<p>OUR HEALTH</p> <p>The population in the Burdekin with at least one long term health conditions is 33.2% which is only marginally higher than for Regional Queensland at 32.9%. Arthritis (11.8%), Mental health condition (7.7%) and Asthma (6.9%) were the three most prevalent long term health conditions.</p>
<p>INCOME AND HOUSING</p>	<p>OUR EARNINGS AND ACCOMMODATION</p> <p>Median weekly income (\$1,368) is lower than Regional Qld (\$1,494) and Queensland (\$1,740). Less people rent in the Burdekin Shire (23%) than in Regional Qld (30%). Mortgages (\$279/week) are less expensive than Regional Queensland (\$380).</p>
<p>EDUCATION</p>	<p>OUR QUALIFICATIONS</p> <p>In the Burdekin Shire 24.5% of people had a Vocational qualification in 2021, higher than Regional Qld (24.1%). People with tertiary qualifications were 14.6% which is lower than Regional Qld (26.2%).</p>
<p>VOLUNTEERING</p>	<p>VOLUNTEER WORK</p> <p>In Burdekin Shire 16.3% of the population reported doing some form of voluntary work in 2021. This was a greater proportion than Regional Qld (14.4%). However, volunteering has declined by nearly 3% since 2016.</p>
<p>SEIFA INDEX</p>	<p>HOW WE COMPARE OVERALL</p> <p>In 2021 the SEIFA Index, which is a general socio-economic index that summarises a range of information about the economic and social conditions of people and households in an area (Burdekin Shire), was 966. For regional Queensland it was 983, Queensland (995) and Australia (1001).</p>



Plantation Park

TRENDS IN SPORT AND RECREATION

The sport and recreation market is always changing and we need to consider these changes in how we respond through plans, products and experiences. A summary of key trends are:

- There is a strong move towards individual (rather than team) physical activity that does not require any time commitment (e.g. for a season).
- Walking as a physical activity, and attending fitness gyms, are the stand out physical activities for men and women over 15 years of age.
- The most popular organised activities for men and women over 15 years are:
 - running/athletics
 - swimming
 - cycling
- For boys and girls (0-14 years) living in regional Queensland the most popular physical activity was swimming followed by football/soccer and AFL for boys, and gymnastics and netball for girls.
- Facility trends that are impacting local governments are demands for:
 - pump tracks in preference to dirt jumps in parks
 - outdoor exercise equipment in parks
 - pickle ball as an alternative to tennis
 - indoor and outdoor climbing walls
 - mountain biking on off-road tracks and trails
- Facilities need to cater equally to men and women. Gender transitional people can generate facility challenges but it is not an issue in regional Queensland at this time.
- People have many options to choose from and are less loyal to any one activity.
- Activities must be convenient as people are busy.
- Many people will pay (or pay more) for sport or physical activity if it frees them from having to volunteer.
- There are less people willing to volunteer in club executive positions and more generally.
- Many people play sport for social rather than competitive reasons.
- Competitions and the rules of games are being changed to adapt to the trends that are emerging e.g. shorter games or seasons. Sometimes the changes can make courts/fields etc non-compliant.
- Females are increasingly participating in traditionally male sports like horse racing and boxing as well as numerous field sports. However, female changerooms, toilets, and referees' rooms are often inadequate.
- Urban design is introducing passive exercise into people's lives. As an example, urban design looks at making it easier to walk or bike to your destination rather than use a vehicle.
- Replacing outdoor lighting with LED lights for the energy savings and their superior lighting.

RECENT PLANNING

ANZAC PARK PRECINCT MASTER PLAN (2019)

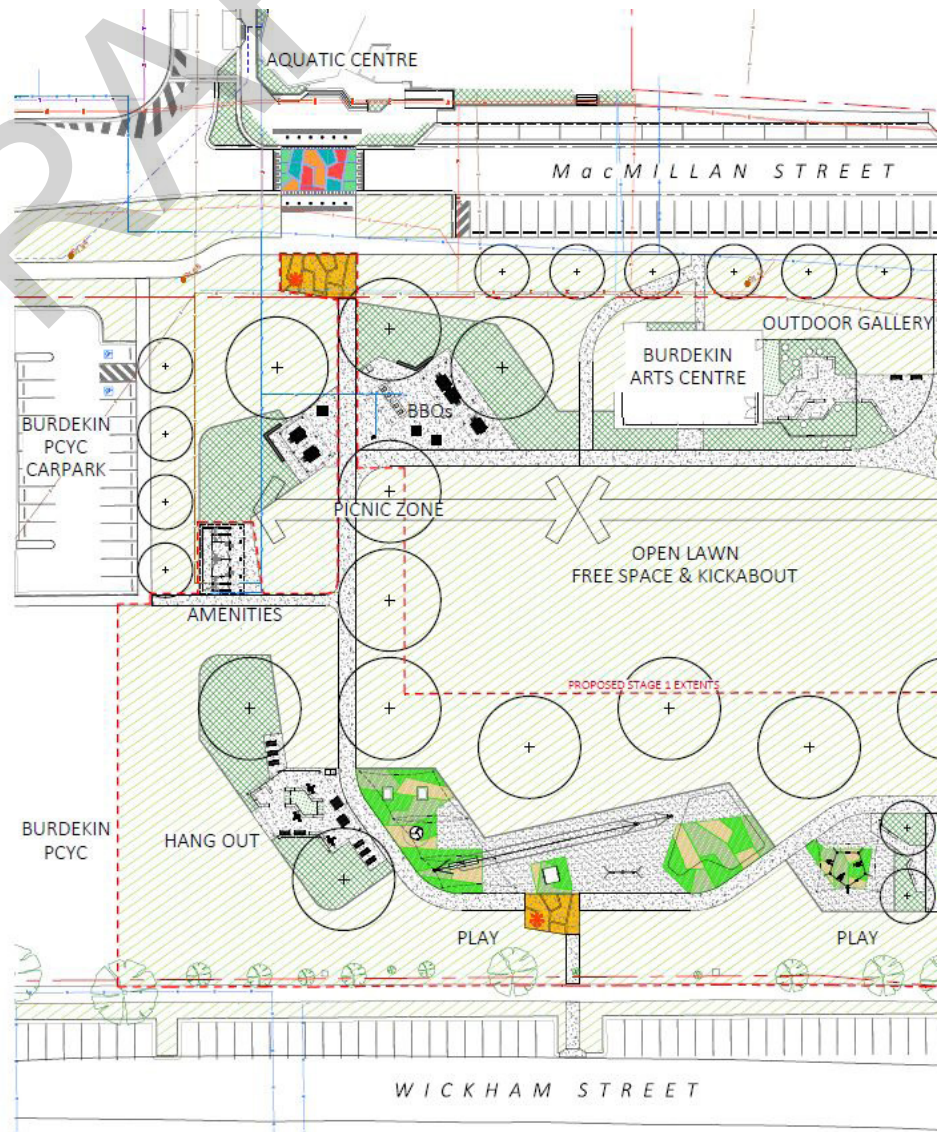
The ANZAC Park Precinct Master Plan was a recommendation of the 2018 Burdekin Sport and Recreation Plan. Some of the Plan has already been implemented (Burdekin Water Park Plan and Aquatic Facility completed in 2023) or moved to detailed design (Youth and Arts Precinct). The Youth and Art Precincts are now awaiting funding so that they can be implemented.

AYR SHOWGROUNDS MASTER PLAN (2018)

The Ayr Showgrounds are underutilised. The Ayr Showgrounds Master Plan made recommendations for maintenance, new facilities, planning and management for the site to build usage of the site through new groups and a revitalised Ayr Show.

No major new facilities were recommended though some minor facilities such as toilet facilities were. The infrastructure focus was on maintenance of existing facilities with minor upgrades to improve functionality. The Ayr Showgrounds needs to attract new usage before any major new facilities are warranted.

ANZAC Park Youth and Arts Precinct Plan



BURDEKIN AQUATIC FACILITIES STRATEGY (2023)

The Burdekin Aquatic Facilities Strategy sets out a long term strategy for aquatics in the Burdekin Shire. The Shire had four pools at the time of the Strategy in Ayr, Home Hill, Clare and Millaroo. With a population of less than 17,000 people the Strategy found that four pools was over-servicing the community and are a considerable cost burden on the Council. It recommended that, over time, Council concentrate on providing differing facilities at the Ayr and Home Hill pools and close the other pools. (Note: At the time of publication Millaroo pool has been closed—see also Action 16).

WALKING NETWORK PLAN (IN DEVELOPMENT)

This Plan is focussed on the Ayr and Home Hill CBD Zones. It will identify key destinations in the CBD's and consider the pathways needed to link people with the destinations to embed walking as an easy option in everyday transport. As the Plan needs to align with the State Government's Walking Local Government Grants the focus will be the CBD and surrounding areas of approximately two kilometres. This Plan is currently being developed for delivery in late 2024.



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CONSULTATION

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CONSULTATION

The consultation component for the Sport and Recreation Plan update was comprehensive. Specific meetings were organised for the community, clubs and youth. Online surveys were available for the same groups. Council officers and senior leaders contributed to the knowledge.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Community meetings were organised in Ayr and Home Hill. Approximately 35 people attended the two meetings. Many of the attendees were representing clubs and organisations but also contributed as community members. There was also an online survey with 34 responses.

COMMUNITY MEETING COMMENTS

- There is no venue in the Burdekin for a 400m athletics race.
- There is a need for a toilet and change room strategy across the venues.
- Promote the Interest Free Loans Policy more broadly.
- Organise training in attracting and retaining volunteers, and grant writing.
- Need long distance cycling routes off the main roads as the roads are too dangerous.
- Mt Inkerman is a very good facility.
- Look for bike trails in Brandon.
- Home Hill Aquatic Centre needs barbecues and dry-side facilities.
- Add rubber synthetic softfall to Arch Dunn Park playground.
- A pump track in Home Hill.
- A long linear trail for walking and exercise in Home Hill.

COMMUNITY SURVEY COMMENTS

When asked about their satisfaction with parks and sports fields community members were neutral in their opinions—neither awesome or dreadful, but average.

Respondents were asked questions around park and sport facilities importance, and how Council was performing. These are brought together as an importance–performance matrix set out below.

<p>Concentrate Here (high importance and low satisfaction)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shady trees and vegetation in parks. • A place for physical activity. • A system of connected pathways. • Parks to be attractive. • Facilities for all ages and interests. • Places to play field and court sports. 	<p>Maintain – Doing Well (high importance and high satisfaction)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy to access by vehicle. • A place for community events. • Well maintained and clean facilities. • Facilities for picnics and barbecues. • Gathering space for larger groups/families.
<p>Low Priority (low importance and low satisfaction)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks need to be close to everyone. • Parks need to be accessible in the evenings. 	<p>Possible overkill (low importance and high satisfaction)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks need to be peaceful and quiet. • Parks need good views (for looking outwards).

The top left matrix cell is where the community is telling Council that it needs to concentrate. The things that are mentioned in this cell are important to the respondents and they are where they have judged Council's performance as less satisfactory. Other cells are doing well or are less important. As a summary, respondents are saying that:

The community wants attractive parks that are well maintained with many shade trees, a range of facilities for all ages and equipment for physical activity. Additionally, the community are looking for interconnected pathways and good facilities to play sport.

Respondents were asked about facilities for youths, families and older people and while there were many ideas presented, some that came through often were:

- *Pathways and cycleways allowing for longer interconnected walks.*
- *Indoor facilities for recreation as well as sport.*
- *Home Hill swimming pool improvements.*
- *Review of playgrounds.*
- *Facilities for youths and younger children.*
- *Better access to natural areas.*

SPORT AND RECREATION ORGANISATIONS

Responses from sport and recreation organisations are unique to the particular club or organisation. The facility comments for each organisation, whether given at the community meetings, through the survey, or at an individual meeting are summarised in Appendix 1. Below are the general comments that apply broadly across the organisations.

Over the last three years all respondents reported a steady or increasing membership at the senior level. One organisation reported a decrease in junior participation.

There was moderate level of planning being undertaken but no organisation has a full suite of plans— Risk Management Plan, Club Development Plan, Asset Management Plan, Volunteer Management Plan and Marketing Plan. Only one organisation had a marketing plan. Most organisations reported that they were satisfied or neutral with their facilities. Only the Ayr Rifle Club reported that their facility—Ayr Rifle Range—was unsatisfactory. All organisations have plans to improve their facilities, but most will seek grants to fund these upgrades, as they are beyond their financial capacity. Organisations were asked to rate the impact that a range of issues were having on their organisation. The greatest impacts were:

1. *The lack of volunteers*
2. *Meeting requirements for all ability access*
3. *Insurance costs*
4. *Maintenance costs*

Gender appropriate facilities, access to training and access to technology were having the least impact on organisations.

YOUTH SURVEY

A survey targeted at youth was promoted through the schools and there were 213 responses. Residents of Ayr (138) were by far the largest group of responders, Home Hill had 21 responses and the remainder were spread throughout the Shire.

Youths rated parks slightly better than neutral with an average rating of 3.08 (out of 5). Sport parks were rated more highly with an average rating of 3.34 (out of 5). Youth facilities were rated at 3.16 out of 5. In a positive sign, recreation parks, sport parks and youth facilities were all seen as slightly better than neutral.

When asked "are there are enough sport and recreation activities for youth near to where you live?", by a slim margin, the answer was positive (89 to 87) with 37 people responding that they did not know or were unsure.

Nearly two-thirds of youth accessed outdoor recreation opportunities with parks and walking paths, both used by 46% of respondents. Skate parks were popular, being used by 33% of respondents and sport fields 24% and playgrounds, 16%. The Ninja Park in Home Hill was mentioned expressly by 7% of respondents. Other facilities mentioned, but by 5% or less of respondents, were: dog park, beach, and exercise equipment.

A question was asked on new facilities that youths would like to see and the most frequent responses, in priority order, were:

- *Walking and cycling paths, including a small number that mentioned off-road trails (68 points).*
- *A cinema – equal second with Skating (38 points).*
- *Skating – a mix of references to improving the skate parks but also quite a few that mentioned ice skating, typically a domain for commercial enterprises (38 points).*
- *Basketball courts and half courts including new facilities across the shire (36 points)*
- *More shade and seating in public spaces (32 points).*
- *Youth Play elements such as Ninja Courses, multi-goal and "big boy" play equipment (26 points).*
- *BMX or Pump Track that is open to the public (15 points).*

YOUTH

About 40 youths from Home Hill High School and Burdekin Catholic High School provided their thoughts on sport and recreation issues in the Shire.

IDEAS FROM YOUTH

ANZAC PARK

A volleyball court in the youth precinct
Phone Charging Stations
Zipline

BIKING

Pump Tracks
MTB Opportunities
Bikeway & Walkway Extensions

PARKS

Water Bubblers
Seating
More Exercise Equipment

NIGHT ACTIVITIES

Lighting of Parks
Outdoor Movies
Domed Trampolines & Put Put

HOME HILL

Dog off leash park in Home Hill

BASKETBALL

Repaint the lines on the half-court

COMMUNICATION

Increased communication between
Council and community

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Indoor Rock Climbing



Rock Solid Boxing Club

KEY CHALLENGES

The consultation revealed that there are some common issues that affect all organisations:

- The sustainability of clubs hinges on their membership base. Many clubs are facing challenges in merely maintaining their current numbers, let alone growing them.
- Our community is aging and the youth are less interested in organised team sports.
- There are numerous competing choices, including other sports clubs, recreational and cultural activities, as well as a multitude of online options.
- Clubs or organisations are initially established to provide services or engage in sports, yet many members often find themselves stepping into volunteer roles. With a decreasing number of volunteers, these responsibilities are increasingly shouldered by fewer individuals, often leading to some taking on multiple roles within the organisation. Often these roles fall on the shoulders of older individuals within the club.
- Significant enhancements almost always depend on government funding, as clubs seldom have the financial means to support such improvements. Being not-for-profit organisations, clubs lack substantial revenue streams necessary to finance essential upgrades.

COUNCIL'S ROLE

- Burdekin Shire Council is the prime custodian of public recreation spaces. Council provides and maintains the parks, showgrounds, many halls and cultural spaces that are used by the whole community.
- Although Burdekin Shire Council has limited resources to aid individual clubs, the Council does support organisations by leasing them the land they use for their sport and recreational activities. Additionally, through its Community Assistance Program, the Council provides ongoing cash and in-kind support. Eligible organisations can also benefit from interest-free loans provided by the Council. Moreover, the Council is committed to assisting clubs in enhancing their sustainability and capacity through administrative support.



05

THE PLAN

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VISION

Burdekin Shire Council's vision for sport and recreation in our community is:

"A COMMUNITY WHERE RESIDENTS AND VISITORS ARE ABLE TO ENJOY A BROAD RANGE OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES SUPPORTING A FULFILLING AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLE."

The vision will only be realised through collaboration between Council and the community. The community, especially the sport and recreation organisations of the Burdekin, are integral players in providing many of the organised physical activities and Council will assist and support these groups wherever possible.

ACTIONS

A range of actions have been developed that work towards achieving the Vision. Council, the community and other levels of government and agencies will need to deliver the recommendations cooperatively if the Vision is to be achieved. It is beyond any one group or level of government to achieve on their own.

The following actions have been chosen because they are realistic and achievable in the time frame given:

- The resources such as time, money or personnel that are available.
- The ability, or the jurisdiction, the community or Council has to influence or deliver the outcome.
- The “Bang for the Buck”.

Actions have been given a priority of High (achieve within the next two years), Medium (any time during the Plan) or Ongoing for those actions that are to be repeated. The priority does not mean that any action is more important than another. It is no more than a plan to spread the load of achieving the actions across the time frame of the Plan, recognising that people already have busy lives. If any action can be achieved in a faster time frame then that is supported.

FACILITY PLANNING AND PROVISION

#	Recommendation	Action Required	Priority
1	Develop a formal car park and entrance road (Mount Inkerman lower Trackhead).	Investigate a formal car park and entrance to the Mount Inkerman lower Trackhead. The trail is proving very popular with locals and visitors. Lack of signage makes the car park difficult to find and it is unformed.	Medium
2	Progress the Youth and Arts Precinct at ANZAC Park.	Implement the ANZAC Park Youth and Arts Precinct in stages as funding allows. Detailed design has been undertaken. The pumptrack is to be prioritised.	High
3	Undertake an Open Space Facility Audit of key recreation parks.	Audit the facilities in key open space areas with a view to determining the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • adequacy of general shade and seating. • provision of half courts and youth infrastructure. • playground shade and softfall. 	Medium

#	Recommendation	Action Required	Priority
4	Work with Burdekin Race Club to undertake facility improvements.	Improve drainage at Burdekin Race Club and realign lease footprint of the facility to improve safety and functionality of track.	High
5	Finalise Walking Path Network Plan and Priority Program.	After community survey and assessment of current walking path network, Council to develop a Plan and Priority Program which will be used to prioritise paths in Ayr, Home Hill and Brandon. Funding to be sought for identified upgrades.	High
6	Develop master plan for Home Hill Pool Site.	Seek community input for Master Plan inclusions. Consultation process has established there are aspirations for the inclusion of covered seating areas etc.	High
7	Identify opportunities for improved accessibility and adequate facilities throughout the Shire.	Co-ordinate an audit of all Council owned sport and recreation facilities (e.g. pool, showground, parks etc) and all club/organisation facilities that are located on land leased from Council. The population is ageing, and the need for better accessibility was highlighted throughout the consultation. Also with many sports growing their female participation, separate and adequate facilities for females are necessary.	Medium
8	Investigate Mount Inkerman and Mount Kelly for potential cross-country and downhill mountain bike trails.	Liaise with relevant authorities to ascertain if further investigation of Mount Inkerman and Mount Kelly for mountain biking is feasible / necessary.	Medium
9	Prepare a master plan for Plantation Park.	Develop a detailed master plan for Plantation Park, which incorporates existing developments, community and Council aspirations and includes potential development of newly acquired land adjacent to existing Park.	Medium

#	Recommendation	Action Required	Priority
10	Establish a community space at Rita Island.	Council has commenced this recommendation through undertaking to survey the land to determine the lot boundaries. Work with the progress organisation to develop a master plan for the space and assist to identify grants to obtain a building, playground and other elements of the master plan.	High
11	Undertake an inspection to Arch Dunn Memorial Park Playground.	The park is popular, being used by organised children's groups as well as the general public. Consider adding a shade sail to the playground.	Medium
12	Undertake consultation on traffic improvements and parking in ANZAC Park Master Plan.	As a part of ANZAC Park Precinct Master plan engage with sport and recreation stakeholders in the precinct to identify issues and enhance traffic movements for safety of patrons.	Medium
13	Work with PCYC to facilitate upgrade of facility in Ayr.	Work with PCYC to provide advice/support on proposed facility extensions and upgrades.	Medium
14	Work with Giru Progress Association on aspirations for vacant building (Walton Street).	Work with Giru Progress Association to assist/redevelop old Scout building on Walton Street and secure tenure for the site.	Medium
15	Redevelop the old Millaroo Pool Site to create a new community performance space.	Continue to work with Millaroo Social Club and residents to reactivate Millaroo Pool site.	Medium
16	Extend current Lease footprint at Burdekin Netball site to allow for future development.	Work with Burdekin Netball to establish required space and assist with next steps.	Medium
17	Provide support to local sport and recreation groups to develop their facilities through successful funding applications.	Provide support to local sport and recreation groups to develop facilities to ensure they remain fit for purpose. Assist through regular advice on new grant opportunities as they occur. Assistance in structuring grant applications and assembling quotes and documentation. Assist clubs and organisations with letters of support.	Ongoing

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

#	Recommendation	Action Required	Priority
18	Enhance the Active Transport Network.	Continue to implement the Burdekin Be Active Trail, completing gaps in the network and extending the network as funds allow. The focus should be on creating circuits and connecting to points of interest. In Home Hill, establish a long distance trail through parks and natural areas. Consider creating a trail in Brandon.	Ongoing
19	Establish a quarterly forum targeted at Community Organisations to build capacity and promote sustainability.	Co-ordinate quarterly Sport and Recreation Showcases. Organise representatives from community organisations for information sharing and cross promotion, networking and capacity building. Priorities should be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a marketing strategy to encourage new and younger members. • Attracting and retaining volunteers. • Grant writing. 	Ongoing
21	Continue to improve communication with clubs and the community.	Continue to develop Council's Community Directory and Events pages (Council website, Facebook, emails) so that there is better connection between clubs and Council; Council and the community and by extension, clubs and the community.	Ongoing
22	Better utilise parks and outdoor spaces for physical activity.	Investigate an innovative program to activate parks around the Shire as hubs for physical community activities. Investigate other inclusions (e.g. Fitness stations) which would increase usage.	Ongoing
24	Continue to partner with local providers to encourage physical activity and social inclusion.	Work collaboratively with local providers to explore innovative ways to encourage physical activities and social inclusion. Explore ways to implement intergenerational physical activities.	Ongoing
25	Facilitate stakeholder meetings to consider gaps in services and identify community need.	Work collaboratively with local service providers to better co-ordinate physical activity and well-being programs. Collaboration meetings held can be an opportunity for information sharing and creating cross promotion of providers or organisations. This will alleviate any potential duplication of programs and ensure delivery of services to target different demographics.	Ongoing



Plantation Park

APPENDICES

Summarised below are the facility issues of various sport and recreation organisations in the Burdekin. The issues were derived from direct meetings, the community meetings or the organisations response to the online survey.

AYR GOLF CLUB

Facility upgrades that the Club is looking for are:

- *solar panels.*
- *a toilet on the course.*
- *a veranda area for social events.*

AYR PONY & HACK CLUB INC

The Ayr Pony & Hack Club Inc have their own grounds and also use the Ayr Showgrounds for equestrian training and competitions, and club rally days. The Club notes that they want to remove and replace the horse stalls, replacing secretary's office/club rooms and an electrical upgrade are high on their list. The grounds need levelling to enlarge the activity area.

The club would like to introduce special training days for young and inexperienced riders as well as hosting equine therapy days for the disabled and people suffering depression. Increasing the number of open days will also occur as the Club trains more instructors.

AYR RIFLE CLUB INC

The Ayr Rifle Club Inc have their own range and also use the Burdekin Pistol Club. At their home range they hold long distance competitive shooting in alignment with the Commonwealth Games. The club conducts pistol shooting at the Burdekin Pistol Club.

The Club needs to upgrade their toilet facilities as well as general improvements to the range— increase electronic targets from two to five lanes and new target shades.

The Club conducts an Annual Open Prize Shoot with affiliated clubs.

AYR TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Ayr Tennis Association is seeking to rebuild the Club membership after waning for a number of years. The courts are adequate for now with the focus being on the Clubhouse. The Club is strong in junior players. All courts are hard courts so it would be good to replace some with artificial grass for more senior players in due course. The group would like to obtain a grant to:

- *Expand the kitchen which requires moving a counter and the electrical/plumbing fittings.*
- *Increase security as the facility has been broken into several times (the external doors aren't secure).*
- *Introduce "pop tennis", which is another version of tennis on a smaller court (modified ball and a short handle racquet).*

BURDEKIN ACADEMY

The available area currently being used is inadequate and hinders the ability to cater to all that wish to participate. Burdekin Academy is looking at possible options to expand the building and will be seeking funding to carry out any potential upgrades.

BURDEKIN BASKETBALL

Burdekin Basketball has one indoor court and two covered outdoor courts. The space is mainly used for basketball but there are other uses such as volleyball and youth activities. The facility is reported as “well used”. The Centre recently hosted the Crossfire Cup as an NBL preseason tournament that attracted over 350 spectators.

Facility improvements desired by Burdekin Basketball are:

- *Fencing of outdoor courts (Stage 1 - \$25,000).*
- *More seating in the outdoor court area (8 seats at \$5,000 each - \$40,000).*
- *Outdoor eating area as an extension to the main building (not costed).*
- *Two scoreboards to outside courts (\$25,000 installed).*

Other improvements that would be welcome when finances allow would be air conditioning of the indoor court. The main and immediate priority though is the fencing of the external courts.

BURDEKIN BMX CLUB

The Burdekin BMX Club are satisfied with their facility. The club members voiced their support for a pump track—“the club is strongly supportive of a pump track at ANZAC Park”. The Club stressed the point that the track must be designed and built by a contractor skilled in this type of construction. There are design elements to a successful pump track that are not obvious to an untrained track builder.

BURDEKIN CANINE CLUB

The Club restarted about two years ago and now operates at the Ayr Showgrounds. The Club has a desire to use the Multipurpose Hall for Confirmation Show events. The Club has an agreement of use for a shed located at the showgrounds for storage of equipment used for shows.

BURDEKIN FOOTBALL CLUB INC

The Burdekin Football Club are very satisfied with their facilities at Honeycombes Park and International Park, though they do note that they are ageing. The main priority is for lighting on the junior fields to allow junior activities (training and games) of an evening to avoid the heat. Other projects are a new clubhouse, and improving the showers/toilet facilities. The Club would like to introduce social soccer in the next few years.

BURDEKIN NETBALL ASSOCIATION

The Association has a master plan of what they would like delivered (eight new courts on the same level being a key element). The master plan has been costed at \$2 million. The existing courts are severely cracked and are in a poor condition. New amenities are required.

The Association described their facility as “our facility needs new courts. Our hard courts are cracked and need total removal and redoing. Our four grass courts are not suitable for anyone to play on and need to be replaced with hard courts. Lighting and the poles they are situated on are also an issue”.

The Association says that the priority is the complete removal of the four existing hard courts, levelling of the entire facility and replaced with eight new hard courts along with replacing the lights and poles.

BURDEKIN JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB

The Burdekin Junior Rugby League Football Club play and train at Rugby Park. The organisation in 2024 will commence a facility upgrade of four change rooms (2 male and 2 female), first aid room, referee room, amenities including disability access. Stage 2, to follow later, will include removal of the current change rooms. The Club also has a grant to upgrade the lights on Field #1. The Club received a grant for these improvements.

The Club would like to prepare a master plan for the facility that will assist with further funding applications. Otherwise, parking on game days can be an issue when there is wet weather so sealed parking along the fence line (external to the premises) would assist. More grandstands would add to spectator comfort.

BURDEKIN WOODCRAFT ASSOCIATION

The Burdekin Woodcraft Association operate from a leased facility on Little Drysdale Street. The Association has about 40 members; mostly male though there are five female woodworkers.

The facility is well used to the point that there is little remaining space. The building has a relatively, overall, low ceiling height. While there are various dust extraction machines in the building, dust does build up in the air and can interfere with breathing for those with respiratory issues. The Association would like to invest in a range of tools that capture dust at the point of creation. The Festool range of tools does this and the group would like to replace their current tools with Festools over time.

The other key need is for timber storage. In that regard the Association would like to place a 20' side-opening container at the rear of their premises and reportedly have enough space within their lease boundary for this.

HOME HILL BOWLS CLUB

The Home Hill Bowls Club had a new artificial green installed in 2024. To protect the surface and increase player comfort, the Club want to place a hard structure over the new green.

The Club has improved numbers in recent years though players are in the older demographics (the Club has one player who is 100 years old). As such the Club needs to improve disability access.

HOME HILL CRICKET ASSOCIATION

The Home Hill Cricket Association operates three turf wickets and three artificial turf wickets in the Home Hill Race Course. The Association is relatively happy with the facility, though security of the venue is a concern. The Association stated that they:

- *have recently added irrigation to the two main fields.*
- *are looking to improve the toilets; currently deciding between a remodel or replacing them.*
- *are seeking to replace the main shade sail on the clubhouse due to age.*

The Association says that they cannot light the practice nets as there is insufficient space. The nets will need replacement in about ten years so lighting will be reconsidered then.

HOME HILL TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Home Hill Tennis is a strong club that plays on a 12-court complex. Tennis is the main game though there is some pickleball played. The Sugar Bowl Cup is the major event on the Association's calendar. Teams come from Mackay to Ingham and west from Charters Towers and all places in between to play. Individuals come from further afield. The Association also hosts the Cane Country Cup, a new event for pickleball players.

The current project is the upgrade of the amenities, including disabled amenities. This will happen in 2024. The next priorities are:

- *LED lights to three courts.*
- *Air conditioning the clubhouse, which will also require storm shutters to the building to seal windows.*
- *Inside the clubhouse, upgrade the bar and cooking facilities as well as establish an outdoor barbecue area.*

Playing surfaces are satisfactory for at least five years.

RITA ISLAND PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

The Rita Island Progress Association (RIPA) is looking for a venue for local meetings and social activities. There are 184 local residents that can be isolated in large storm events. RIPA would like this building to be adjacent to the SES Shed or possibly, as an extension to the shed. The site is small and encroached by roads, so an initial step is to undertake a survey plan and then determine how to proceed. The "wish list" for the building is:

- *Two-bay shed (possible cyclone shelter), as a community meeting and event hub.*
- *Parking area.*
- *Public covered barbecue area.*
- *Swing and exercise equipment.*
- *Front awning of SES shed.*
- *Fencing for safety.*
- *Backfill gully to increase land for development.*
- *Closure of road through block for safety/ close Switch Back Road.*
- *Removal of some trees to improve utility of the block.*

ROCK SOLID BOXING

The facilities of Rock Solid Boxing Club are very basic. The facilities are on the Home Hill Showground, with a lease being discussed with Council. The point was made that the Club is often ineligible to apply for grants as many grants disqualify religious organisations and Rock Solid Boxing Club auspice is through a local Church.

The Club has 30-40 attendees, a high proportion are children at risk. The Club gets them to focus on "being a better person" and boxing competitively is optional. There is high indigenous participation.

The building is in such a poor state it was not obvious from an inspection whether it should be repaired, or a new facility found. Having said that, the Club was not asking for a new facility. Some basic repairs such as a new roof to half of the building (as the other half was replaced some time ago), better lighting and access (steps/ramp) are priorities.



Burdekin Basketball



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