

Byron Shire Playspace Action Plan

April 2026



PLAYCE



**BYRON
SHIRE
COUNCIL**

Introduction

Background

Byron Shire has 37 playground of varying sizes, ages, and compliance with current standards. Community consultation has consistently highlighted the need for enhanced playspaces (including formal dedicated playground, small incidental play nodes and large playspaces like Waterlily Park) across the Shire. In response, the Byron Shire Playspace Action Plan is developed to guide Council and the community by providing suitable future facilities with greater play values and improved access to everyone in the shire.

Previous assessments indicate an over supply of small, “local” scale playspaces predominantly catering mainly to younger children. Currently, the Shire has only one larger “Neighbourhood” playspace, located at Water Lily Park in Ocean Shores.

The majority of existing play provisions consist of traditional playgrounds with prescribed play equipment, primarily catering to children aged 0–12. However, older children and teenagers also require play opportunities that support their social, emotional, and physical development. They transition to more social and challenge-based play, such as multi-purpose climbing structures, parkour spaces, mini-golf, and other dynamic recreational elements. These features function as both play and social recreation spaces.

This plan recommends increasing the size and distribution of facilities by establishing several “District” and “Neighbourhood” playspaces throughout the townships. This addresses the needs of play and social recreational opportunities for children of all ages, teenagers and young adults.

These larger sites will function as destination facilities, offering diverse play and social recreation opportunities for people of all ages. Rather than one regional facility, multiple District and Neighbourhood spaces will be developed Shire-wide.

Facility scale explanation

Small Local :

- Length of stay 10-20 mins
- 200m Walk-ability radius
- Minor play elements (1-3 equipment), junior play or nature based play opportunities.

Local :

- Length of stay 20 mins
- 400m Walk-ability radius
- Around 6 play elements, primarily for junior play.

Neighbourhood :

- Length of stay 30mins – 1hour
- 800m Walk-ability radius
- More than 10 diverse play elements cater for both young and older children.

District :

- Length of stay longer than 1 hour
- 1.6km Walk-ability radius and beyond
- A larger playspace that offer diverse play experiences, including physical, cognitive, sensory, emotional and social play. As well as other social, active play opportunities for all age play and social recreational experiences.

Overall approach:

Small Local and local facilities located within 400–800 metres of a District or Neighbourhood space may be scaled back to smaller scale or removed once they reach the end of their life cycle.

Funds that otherwise be allocated to renewing these Local facilities would instead be directed towards improving larger District and Neighbourhood spaces. This approach aligns with best practice standards by consolidating resources and expanding play experiences for a wider age range. Additional detail on current standards and rationale for shifting towards larger facilities is available in the best practice report.

Playspace redevelopment and upgrades to be guided by community engagement to ensure designs align with local needs and priorities.

Acknowledgement of Country

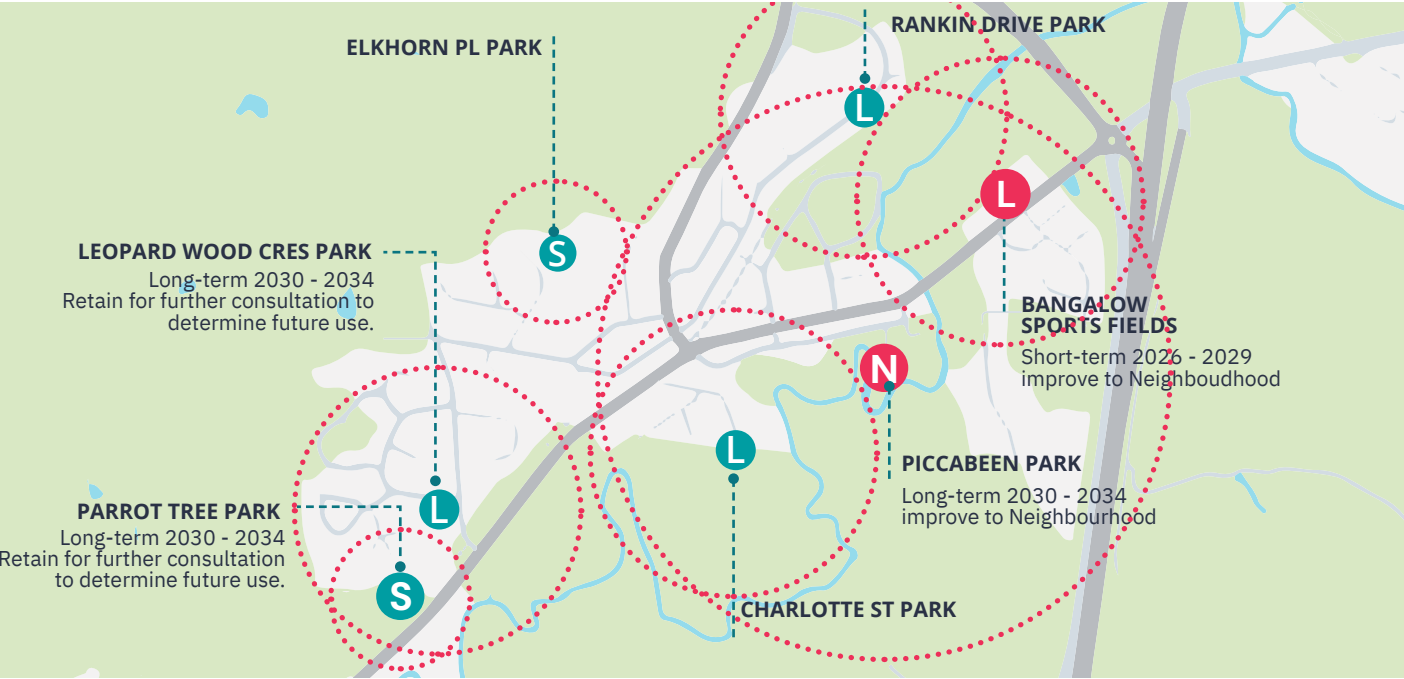
Byron Shire Council acknowledges Traditional Aboriginal Custodians and recognises the continuing connection to lands, waters and country.

We recognise and respect the Bundjalung of Byron Bay – Arakwal and the Widjabul Wia-bal pepoles native title rights and interests within the Shire; and to their Elders past and present.

Byron Shire Council also acknowledges the Tweed Byron, Jali and Ngulingah Aboriginal Land Councils under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act NSW 1983.



Bangalow



Implementation Strategy

Bangalow Sports Ground | Renew and improve to Local | Short Term 2026 - 2029

Renew and upgrade the playspace in conjunction with planned clubhouse upgrades. Given its proximity to the sports park, there are opportunities to introduce more adventurous and active play elements suited to pre-teens and teenagers.

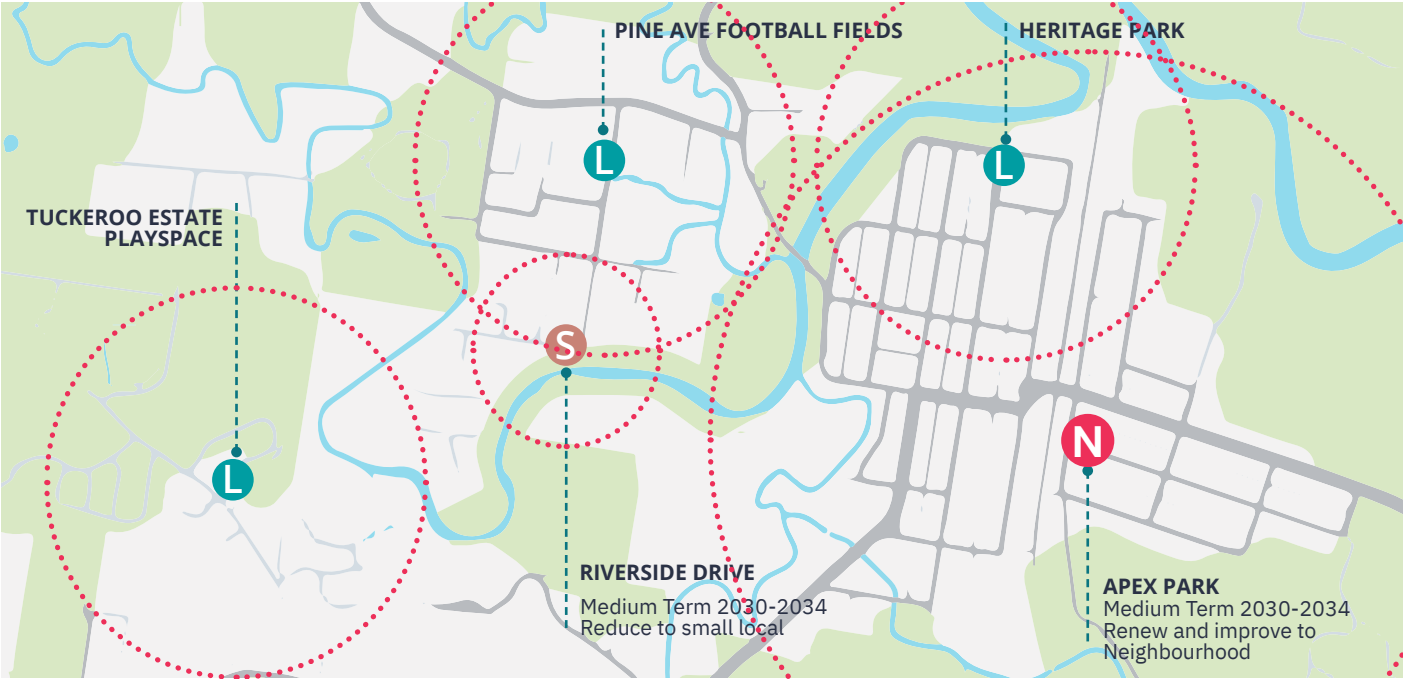
Piccabeen Park | Improve to Neighbourhood | Long Term 2030-2034

Located near the creek, this playspace should be enhanced to incorporate a wider range of nature-based elements that cater to older children. Given its proximity to the reserve and natural assets, it would be ideal to include additional social play features such as fitness bars or versatile parkour opportunities for older kids and teens. The design should also aim to complement the surrounding environment. Adequate social spaces with seating and picnic amenities should be provided to support community interaction and relaxation.

Leopard Wood Cres + Parrot Tree | Retain | Long Term 2030-2034

Further community consultation when the playspace reaches end of life to determine the best uses for both Parrot Tree and Leopardwood Cres.

Mullumbimby



Implementation Strategy

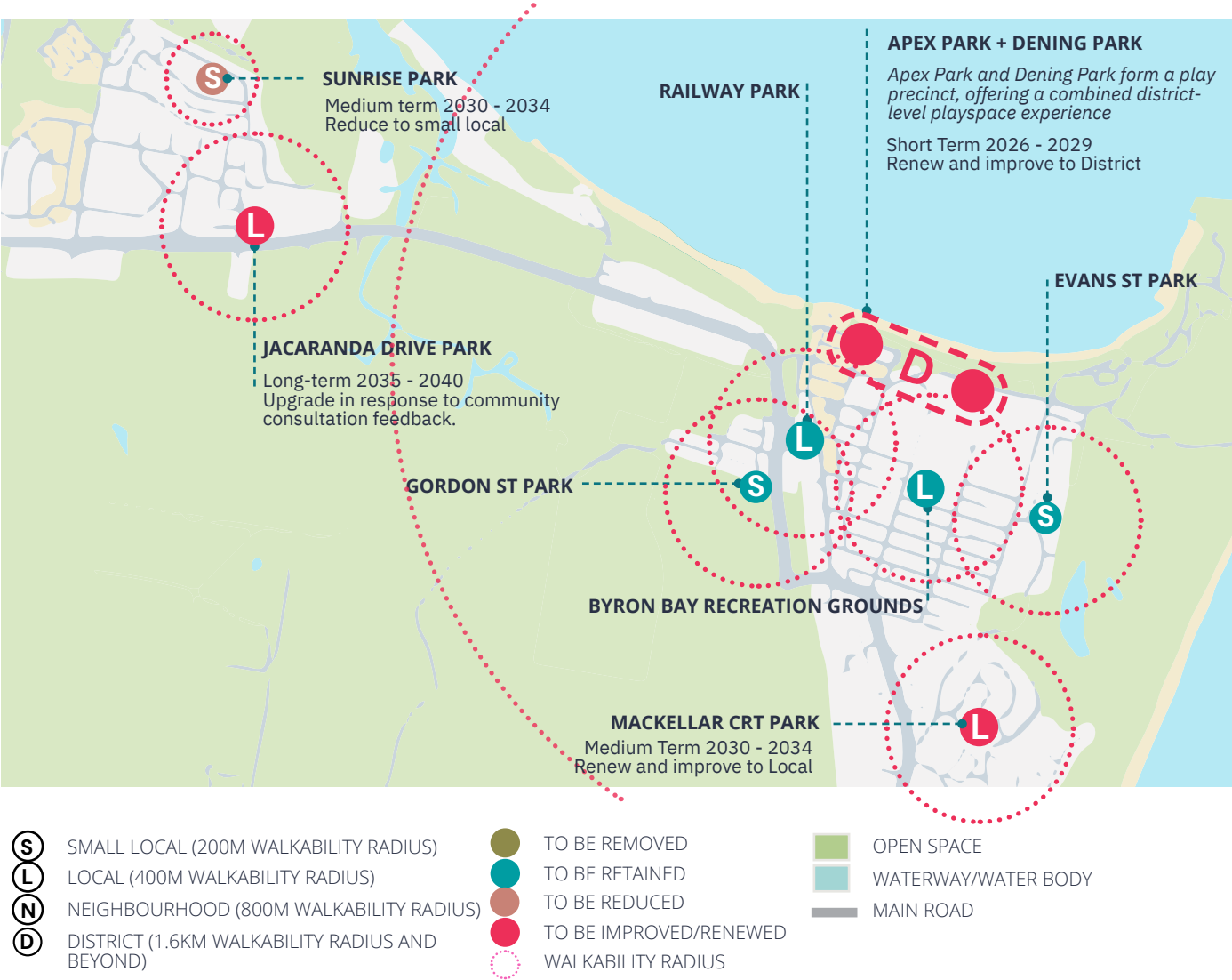
Apex Park | Renew to a new neighbourhood play | Medium Term 2030-2034

Renew Apex Park to a new Neighbourhood playspace. Future improvements to integrate a wide range of play options and inter-generational recreational facilities (e.g more adventure, active and social play opportunities). The space has potential to become a bespoke, urban-style playspace reflecting the context and history of the rail trail.

Riverside Park | Reduce to small local | Medium Term 2030-2034

As the park deteriorates, scale back its elements. Retain swings and a small nature-based play feature. The enhanced Pine Avenue playspace and upgraded Apex Park will adequately serve the Riverside area.

Byron Bay



Implementation Strategy

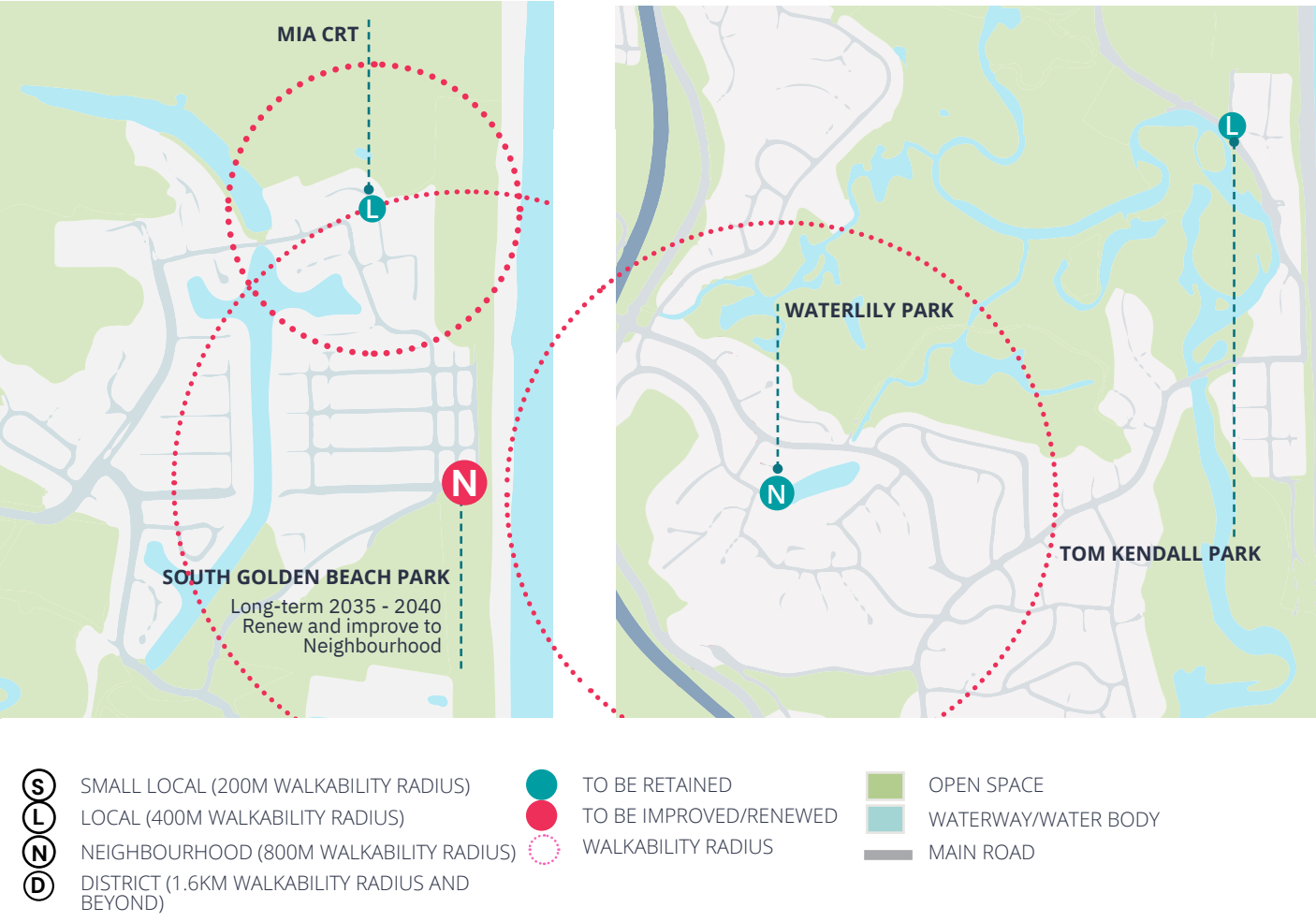
Apex Park + Dening Park | Renew and improve to District | Short Term 2026 - 2029
(Apex Park and Dening Park form a play precinct, offering a combined district level playspace experience)
Apex Park: Develop an iconic playspace within the constraints of the existing site. Future developments should offer bespoke and sculptural play opportunities that reflect the surrounding context and strong local identity, include appropriate social amenities to complement the playspace.
Dening Park: Upgrade existing playspace to include range of play elements that cater for all ages. Could include fitness equipment, multi-purpose climbing elements, parkour elements, and play features that facilitate both play and social interaction. Focus on play offerings that complement the Apex Park Playspace 300m away to create a broader precinct of play opportunities along the foreshore.

Mackellar Crt Park | Renew and improve to Local | Medium Term 2030-2034
Given its residential setting and local community focus, this playspace will be upgraded to feature engaging motion and sensory play opportunities tailored for younger children. The enhancements will provide a fun, interactive experience that aligns with the needs of the surrounding neighborhood.

Sunrise Beach (Belongil Cres) | Reduce to small local | Medium Term 2030-2034
As the park ages, scale back the elements, retaining swings and a small nature-based play feature. The Jacaranda Drive playspace will continue to meet the needs of the Sunrise estate.

Jacaranda Drive Park | Upgrade based on future community feedback | Long Term 2035 - 2040
Further community consultation is required to refine the vision for the park. There is potential to upgrade the space with improved facilities, including amenities such as toilets and shade, in response to community feedback.

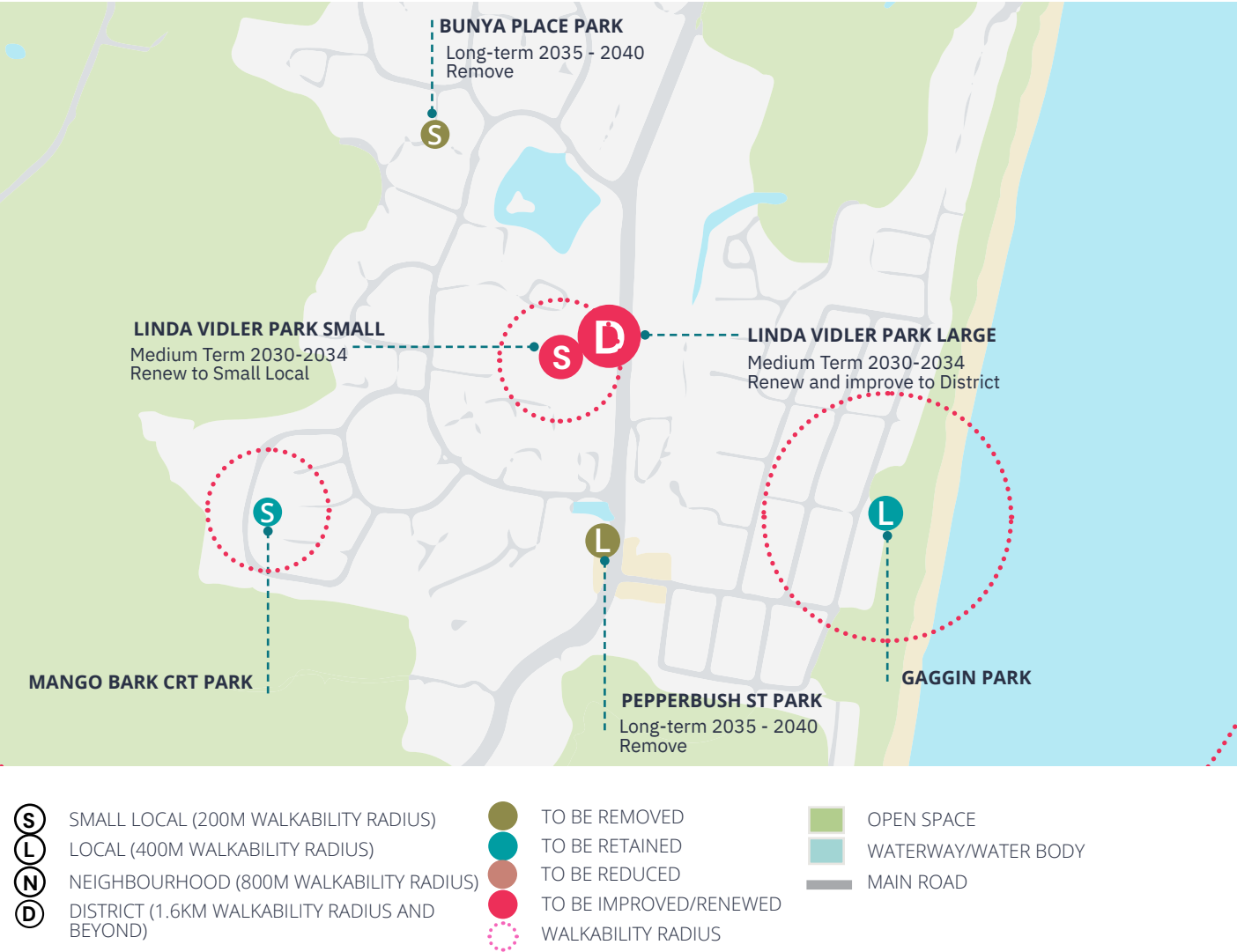
South Golden Beach, New Brighton and Ocean Shores



Implementation Strategy

South Golden Beach Park | Renew and improve to Neighbourhood | Long Term 2035 - 2040
Develop to a neighbourhood playspace within the constraints of the existing site, ensuring it functions effectively for wide age groups. Future developments should focusing on more diverse play opportunities that reflect the surrounding context - to complement with the skate facility next to the play, more active, physical play for older children and teens should be considered.

Suffolk Park



Implementation Strategy

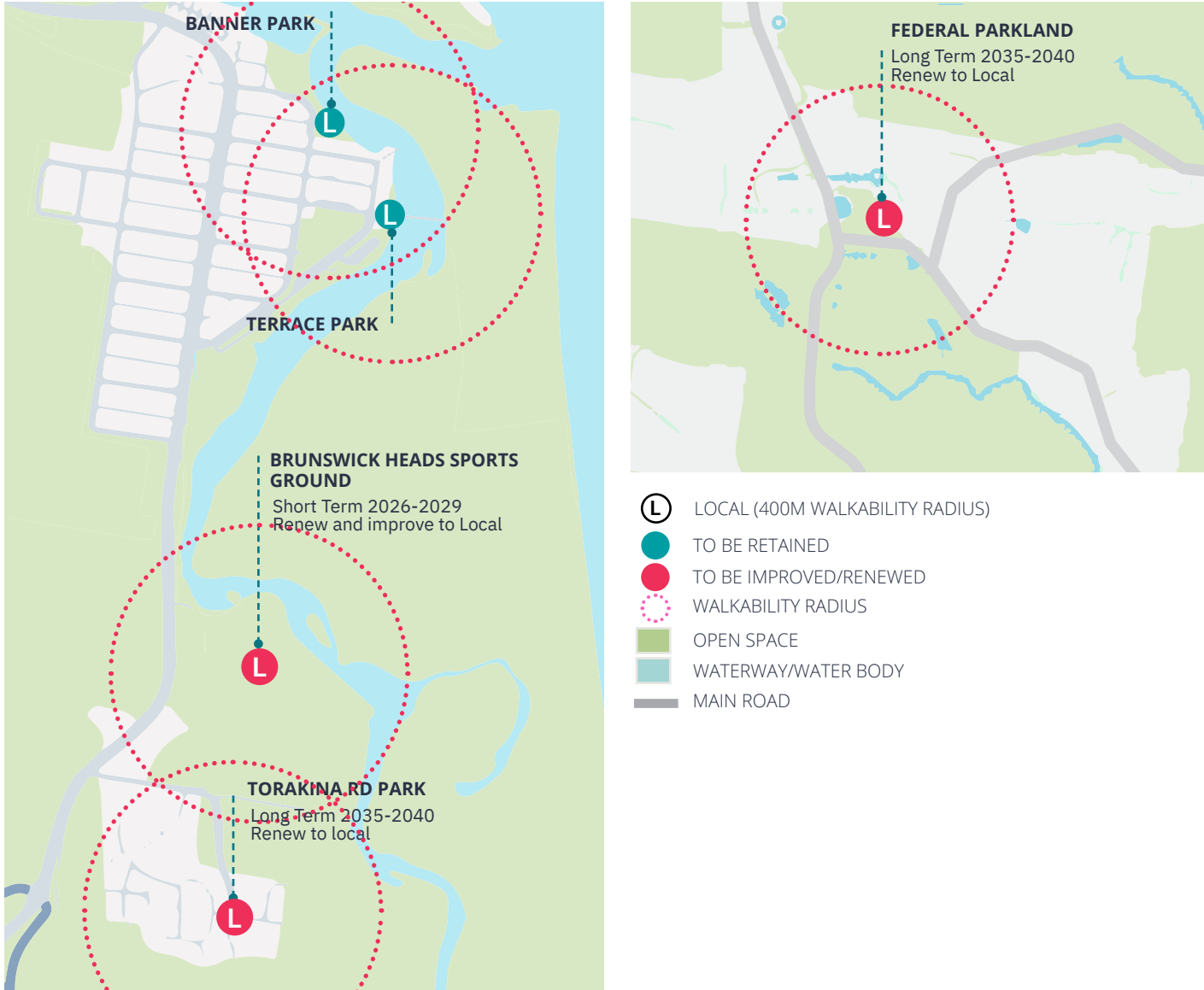
Linda Vidler Park (large) | Renew and improve to District | Medium Term 2030-2034
Develop a new District-level playspace offering diverse physical, cognitive, sensory, emotional, and social play experiences. Consider integrating multi-courts and skate features to enhance the existing court and skate facilities for teenagers and a broad range of users. Provide suitable social and recreational amenities, including shelters, gathering areas, and barbecue facilities for families.

Linda Vidler (small) | Renew to Small Local | Medium Term 2030-2034
Renew this smaller play area within the larger district park by incorporating nature-based play elements, focusing on sensory and motion play for younger children.

Pepperbush Crt | to be removed | Long Term 2035-2040
Remove these playspaces when they reach the end of their usable life. The District-level Linda Vidler Park will adequately cover this area.

Bunya Crt | to be removed | Long Term 2035-2040
Removal of the existing playspace, with further community consultation to inform future use, including the potential for a dog off-leash area.

Brunswick Heads + Federal



Implementation Strategy

Brunswick Sports Ground | Renew and improve to local| Short Term 2026-2029
The existing playspace is in poor condition. Renew it with a play unit and nature-based elements, maintaining a similar footprint. Future designs should integrate with the surrounding environment.

Torakina Rd and Excelsior | Renew to Local | Long Term 2035-2040
Renew these facilities with new play elements while maintaining a similar scale. Future developments should address local needs.

Federal parkland | Renew to Local | Long Term 2035-2040
Renew the facility to similar scale local when reaching the end of life. Given its the only playspace in the township, the renewal to consider a wide range of cognitive, sensory, emotional, and social play experiences. Include social and recreational facilities that serve the wider Federal community.



Action Plan

Playspace to be retained

While selected larger playspaces will be upgraded to offer more diverse play experiences, particularly for older children and teens, some local playspaces will be retained in their current scale to continue serving the immediate neighbourhood catchments and meet local needs.

Playspaces to be retained include:

Area	Playspace	Existing Scale
Bangalow	Charlotte St Park	Local
Bangalow	Elkhorn Pl park	Small Local
Bangalow	Rankin Drive Park	Local
Bangalow	Parrot Tree Park	Small Local
Bangalow	Leopard Wood Cres Park	Local
Mullumbimby	Tuckeroo Estate playspace	Local
Mullumbimby	Pine Ave Football Fields	Local
Mullumbimby	Heitage Park	Local
Byron Bay	Byron Bay Recreation Grounds	Local
Byron Bay	Railway Park	Local
Byron Bay	Gordon St	Small Local
Byron Bay	Evans St	Small Local
South Golden Beach	Mia Crt	Local
Ocean Shores	Waterlily Park	Neighbourhood
Ocean Shores	Tom Kendall Park	Local
Suffolk Park	Mango Bark Crt Park	Small Local
Suffolk Park	Gaggin Park	Local
Brunswick Heads	Banner Park	Local
Brunswick Heads	Terrace Park	Local

Playspaces to be removed

Playspaces to be removed include:

Area	Playspace	Existing Scale
Suffolk Park	Pepperbush Crt	Local
Suffolk Park	Bunya Crt	Small Local

The playgrounds listed above will be retired at the end of their asset life. The associated land parcels will be retained as open space. Their future use may be subject to further review to ensure that open space assets continue to meet the evolving needs of the community.

Action Plan - Short Term 2026 -2029

	Area	Playspace	Existing Scale	Action	Future Scale	Development Note
Short Term 2025 - 2029	Brunswick Heads	Brunswick Sports Ground	Small Local	Renew	Local	The existing playspace is in poor condition. Renew it with a play unit and nature-based elements, maintaining a similar footprint. Future designs should integrate with the surrounding environment.
	Byron Bay	Apex Park	Local	Renew	District	Develop an iconic playspace within the constraints of the existing site. Future developments should offer bespoke and sculptural play opportunities that reflect the surrounding context and strong local identity, include appropriate social amenities to complement the playspace. - Apex Park and Dening Park form a play precinct, offering a combined district level playspace experience.
	Byron Bay	Dening Park	Local	Improve	District	Upgrade existing playspace to include range of play elements that cater for all ages. Could include fitness equipment, multi-purpose climbing elements, parkour elements, and play features that facilitate both play and social interaction. Focus on play offerings that complement the Apex Park Playspace 300m away to create a broader precinct of play opportunities along the foreshore. - Apex Park and Dening Park form a play precinct, offering a combined district level playspace experience.
	Bangalow	Bangalow Sports Ground	Local	Renew	Local	Renew and upgrade the playspace in conjunction with planned clubhouse upgrades. Given its proximity to the sports park, there are opportunities to introduce more adventurous and active play elements suited to pre-teens and teenagers.

Action Plan - Medium Term 2030 -2034

	Area	Playspace	Existing Scale	Action	Future Scale	Development Note
Medium Term 2030-2034	Byron Bay	Railway Park	Local	Improve	Neighbourhood	Add more play elements to increase park usability and raise it to Neighbourhood status. While the current playspace primarily serves younger children, future improvements should incorporate challenging play opportunities and social play features for older children and teenagers.
	Byron Bay	Sunrise Beach (Belongil Cres)	Small Local	Reduce	Small Local	As the park ages, scale back the elements, retaining swings and a small nature-based play feature. The Jacaranda Drive playspace will continue to meet the needs of the Sunrise estate.
	Byron Bay	Mackellar Crt Park	Small Local	Renew	Local	Given its residential setting and local community focus, this playspace will be upgraded to feature engaging motion and sensory play opportunities tailored for younger children. The enhancements will provide a fun, interactive experience that aligns with the needs of the surrounding neighborhood.
	Mullumbimby	Riverside Park	Local	Reduce	Small local	As the park deteriorates, scale back its elements. Retain swings and a small nature-based play feature. The enhanced Pine Avenue playspace and upgraded Apex Park will adequately serve the Riverside area.
	Mullumbimby	Apex Park	Neighbourhood	Renew	Neighbourhood	Renew Apex Park to a new Neighbourhood playspace. Future improvements to integrate a wide range of play options and inter-generational recreational facilities (e.g more adventure, active and social play opportunities). The space has potential to become a bespoke, urban-style playspace reflecting the context and history of the rail trail.
	Suffolk Park	Linda Vidler Park (large)	Local	Improve	District	Develop a new District-level playspace offering diverse physical, cognitive, sensory, emotional, and social play experiences. Consider integrating multi-courts and skate features to enhance the existing court and skate facilities for teenagers and a broad range of users. Provide suitable social and recreational amenities, including shelters, gathering areas, and barbecue facilities for families.
	Suffolk Park	Linda Vidler (small)	Small Local	Renew	Small Local	Renew this smaller play area within the larger district park by incorporating nature-based play elements, focusing on sensory and motion play for younger children.

Action Plan - Long Term 2035 -2040

	Area	Playspace	Existing Scale	Action	Future Scale	Development Note
Long Term 2035-2040	Bangalow	Piccabeen Park (East/West)	Local	Improve	Neighbourhood	Located near the creek, this playspace should be enhanced to incorporate a wider range of nature-based elements that cater to older children. Given its proximity to the reserve and natural assets, it would be ideal to include additional social play features such as fitness bars or versatile parkour opportunities for older kids and teens. The design should also aim to complement the surrounding environment. Adequate social spaces with seating and picnic amenities should be provided to support community interaction and relaxation.
	Brunswick Heads	Torakina Rd and Excelsior	Local	Renew	Local	Renew these facilities with new play elements while maintaining a similar scale. Future developments should address local needs.
	Bangalow	Parrot Tree Park + Leopard Wood Cres	Small Local + Local	Retain	-	Further community consultation when the playspace reaches end of life to determine the best uses for both Parrot Tree and Leopardwood Cres.
	Federal	Federal parkland	Local	Renew	Local	Renew the facility to similar scale local when reaching the end of life. Given its the only playspace in the township, the renewal to consider a wide range of cognitive, sensory, emotional, and social play experiences. Include social and recreational facilities that serve the wider Federal community.
	Suffolk Park	Pepperbush Crt	Local	Remove	-	Remove these playspaces when they reach the end of their usable life. The District-level Linda Vidler Park will adequately cover this area.
	Suffolk Park	Bunya Crt	Small Local	Remove	-	Removal of the existing playspace, with further community consultation to inform future use, including the potential for a dog off-leash area.
	Byron Bay	Jacaranda Drive Park	Small Local	Improve	Local	Further community consultation is required to refine the vision for the park. There is potential to upgrade the space with improved facilities, including amenities such as toilets and shade. in response to community feedback.
	South Golden Beach	South Golden Beach Park	Local	Renew	Neighbourhood	Develop to a neighbourhood playspace within the constraints of the existing site, ensuring it functions effectively for wide age groups. Future developments should focusing on more diverse play opportunities that reflect the surrounding context - to complement with the skate facility next to the play, more active, physical play for older children and teens should be considered.

