



Coonamble Shire Council

**Recreational Facilities
Management Plan 2011/2021**

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Executive Summary

This Plan provides an initial review of the parks, gardens and other public space within Coonamble Shire. It identifies the general standard of maintenance that will be achieved by Council, as well as identifying a five year works program aimed at improving facilities for both ratepayers and tourists.

This plan will contribute to the development of Council's 2011/21 Management Plan and will be reviewed annually as part of the management planning process.

Key outcomes from this plan include:

1. Identification of a vision and a standard of management for each of the parks within the Shire
2. Identification of future works including:
 - Medium term plans for upgrade of playground facilities at various parks

1. Introduction

Council have had a Recreational Facilities Management Plan for several years. This Plan aims to meet Councils legal obligation under the Local Government Act to have a plan of management for all community land.

The management of all public space encompassed by this Management Plan can be split into two Categories -:

- Routine Maintenance (mowing, weeding, etc)
- Upgrades (Park development, installation of irrigation, garden development etc)

This plan aims to address both of these areas, with a long term vision identified for each major park, as well as discussion on improved maintenance standards.

In addition, a review of the operations of the local pools has been included, as well as discussion of a number of other “public space projects” that have been proposed.

2. Recreational Facilities Overview

The table below provides a brief summary of the public space available within Coonamble Shire and its current use.

Park	Location	Current Use
Coonamble Showground	South of Coonamble on Castlereagh Hwy	Coonamble Show, Coonamble Rodeo, campdraft and various other active recreational activities
Smith Park	West of Castlereagh Hwy, south of Coonamble CBD	Netball, markets and other active recreation. “Riverwalk” project and “Tourist Information Bay” currently being developed on site
Coonamble Sportsground	East of Castlereagh Hwy, south of Coonamble CBD	Rugby League, Rugby Union, Cricket, Soccer, Touch Football, School Sports Carnivals and other active recreation
McDonald Park	Aberford St adjacent swimming pool	Casual active and passive recreation.
Lions Park, Coonamble	Corner of Aberford St and Dubbo St	Casual passive recreation.
Broome Park	Corner of Macquarie St and Bimble St	Casual active and passive recreation.
Rotary Park	Corner of Macquarie St and Bimble St	Casual passive recreation.
Tully Park	McCullough St adjacent to Coonamble Preschool	Currently leased to adjoining child care

Arboretum	Auburn St, at eastern end of Warrena St	Open space. Rarely used. Preserves the old cemetery
Smith St Park	Smith St, adjacent to Eurimie Ck	Open space. Rarely used.
Warrena Weir	Baradine Rd	Aquatic recreation
Gulargambone Sportsground	Yollundry St, Gulargambone	Rugby League, Rugby Union, Cricket, School Sports Carnivals and other active recreation.
Gulargambone Park, Gulargambone	Castlereagh Highway, Gulargambone	Casual active and passive recreation.
Lions Park, Gulargambone	Bourbah St, Gulargambone	Casual passive recreation.
Bill Delaney Park, Gulargambone	Breelong St, Gulargambone	Active recreation.
Quambone Sportsground	Quambone	School Sports Carnivals and other active recreation.

The only available funding for management of parks is from within Council's General Revenue. Council may choose to draw on reserves for this function, particularly for major redevelopment works, however the long term reliance on reserves is not sustainable.

3. Future Vision

3.1. Coonamble Parks

3.1.1. Coonamble Showground

The Showground is a key part of Coonamble's recreational infrastructure. It provides facilities for rodeo and campdraft, as well as the annual Show. It is felt that the facilities should be of a relatively high standard, however they have suffered from lack of maintenance over many years.

The Coonamble Showground has its own management plan adopted by Council in February 2010.

Buildings in the Showground are showing deterioration and will require major maintenance to ensure that the facilities can be provided at a reasonable standard.

3.1.2. Smith Park

Smith Park is a key park to Coonamble, particularly as it provides a stopping point for tourists. It is felt that the facilities should be maintained at a relatively high standard. The development of a Tourist Information Bay and Riverwalk have improved this park over the last few years. The renovation of the toilet block was completed in mid-2008.

Smith Park was identified as the location for a Skate Park that was completed in 2008 and a canteen constructed in mid 2009.

3.1.3. Coonamble Sportsground

Coonamble Sportsground is the major sporting facility within the Coonamble Shire. As such it is maintained to a high standard and this will continue. The synthetic cricket pitch was resurfaced in January 2010. New portable grandstands and new aluminium bench seating for the main grandstand are needed.

The Athol Pine trees on the northern and eastern sides of the Sportsground have reached the end of their life and need to be removed and replaced.

3.1.4. McDonald Park

McDonald Park is a key facility within Coonamble, providing active recreation for children through its playground. It also provides for picnics as well as a convenient stopping point for travellers.

As one of the main parks in Coonamble, McDonald Park's facilities have been improved in recent years with the removal of equipment that had deteriorated, and the installation of a new playground. Existing garden beds have been replanted, and the toilet block has been replaced. Council has also removed the front fence and developed new garden beds at the front of the park and finally renovated the footpaths.

The installation of a shade structure over the play ground in mid 2009 and tree planting scheduled for early 2010/11 will complete the upgrade of this park.

The level of maintenance to the gardens needs lifting, as does that in other areas.

3.1.5. Lions Park

Lions Park continues to be underutilised, largely due to a lack of facilities and the low standard of maintenance. It is envisaged that this park could be improved by providing active recreation facilities for older children. This may include the installation of a playground aimed at late primary/early high school children or the construction of a skate park or other similar recreational equipment.

There has been some recent progress in this vision with the installation of an irrigation system and a renovation of the grass. As Council have identified other higher priorities, it is anticipated that the vision for this park will not be achieved for some time.

Some improvement to the park was carried out during 2008 with the rehabilitation of the drainage channel. This will see the establishment of many plants and trees and will make the area more attractive.

3.1.6. Broome Park

Broome Park is currently underutilised, largely due to a lack of facilities and a low standard of maintenance, along with being located away from the main travel routes. It is envisaged that this park could be improved by lifting the maintenance standard, and providing active recreation facilities for younger children. This may include the improvement of the existing playground along with the construction of an education bike track that replicates a road environment or other similar recreational equipment.

There has been some minor progress in this vision with some tree planting in recent years, however as Council have identified other higher priorities, it is anticipated that the vision for this park will not be achieved for some time.

3.1.7. Rotary Park

Rotary Park is currently underutilised, largely due to a lack of facilities and a low standard of maintenance, along with being located away from the main travel routes. It is envisaged that this park will remain as open space with relatively low standard of maintenance.

3.1.8. Tully Park

Council have resolved to abandon this park and provide it as a parking facility to the adjacent pre-school.

3.1.9. Arboretum

The Old Cemetery Park is not used for active recreation purposes, however does have some value in conserving part of Coonamble's heritage. As such, it is felt that the continued maintenance of this park is of benefit, however there are no plans to further develop the park in the term of this Plan.

There has been some suggestion that the heritage value of the park may provide access to grant funds to enable improvements. This possibility should be examined further.

3.1.10. Smith St Park

Smith St park is underused and poorly located, but is one of the few public spaces on the western side of Coonamble. Investigation should be undertaken into disposing of the park, being cognisant of the accesses that may be serving the rear of properties fronting Smith Street.

Some work has been done in this regard, however other priorities have prevented staff from seeing this vision through. It is felt that this project should be progressed as soon as other major works are completed.

3.2. Gulargambone Parks

3.2.1. *Gulargambone Sportsground*

Gulargambone Sportsground is the major sporting facility within the village of Gulargambone. It is reasonably well maintained and is well used by local sporting clubs and residents. The synthetic cricket pitch was resurfaced in January 2010

3.2.2. *Gulargambone Park, Gulargambone*

This park is used for active recreation for children, with a playground and picnic facility. It provides a stopping point for travellers and is well used by locals. A new fence was erected in mid 2009.

3.2.3. *Lions Park, Gulargambone*

This park provides open space and picnic facilities. It encourages travellers to stop with well maintained facilities within walking distance of the main street.

3.2.4. *Bill Delaney Park, Gulargambone*

This park provides active recreation for children with the provision of an attractive playground in close proximity to the residential area on the east of town.

3.3. Quambone Parks

3.3.1. *Quambone Sportsground*

The Quambone Sportsground is the only established park in Quambone. It has limited use by the local school.

3.3.2. *New Park - Quambone*

Residents of Quambone have developed a park facility on the western side of the main street. The new park provides a stopping point for travellers and is within easy reach of the main businesses in the village.

3.4. Pools

3.4.1. *Coonamble Pool*

Along with the sportsground, the Coonamble pool is the most significant infrastructure for active recreation within the Shire. As such, its ongoing operation and maintenance is considered to be a high priority for Council.

It is felt that the recent improvements at the pool, including the installation of additional shade structures and replacement of the starting blocks, have lifted the standard of the facility, and that some further improvements are needed to address an aging facility.

- Paint pools, repack expansion joints & fix tiles
- New entry gates
- New hydraulic chair for disable access to pool
- Walkway and ladder around sand filter
- Pipes from 25m to baby pool replace
- Replace concrete concourse sections
- Sand filters need replenishing
- Replace valves on inlet pipes
- Reconfigure chlorine access to make safe
- Fence sump area
- Disabled toilets & change rooms
- Replace garden shed with more secure storage
- Replace & paint timber on building
- Replace roller doors on canteen
- Renew back fence
- Wooden seating needs replacing (10)
- Renew bins

It should be recognised that the facility is ageing, and scheduled replacements will soon become necessary. The funding arrangements for these works still need to be determined.

3.4.2. Gulargambone Pool

The Gulargambone Pool is one of the most significant active recreation facilities in the village. As such, its ongoing operation and maintenance is considered a high priority.

The pool is currently well served with shade structures and other facilities. The filtration system was recently replaced, however maintenance of concrete areas around the pool is becoming critical with several areas having been identified as safety hazards.

- Paint pools, repack expansion joints & fix tiles
- New entry gates
- Pipes from 25m to baby pool repair/replace
- Replace concrete concourse sections
- Window sills, eaves and gutters all need painting
- Windows need reglazing
- Cupboards & sink need replacing
- Office needs airconditioner
- Shade sails need replacing

The planned long term maintenance of the pool will be critical to the ongoing operation. It will be necessary to develop a scheduled replacement program and associated funding arrangements to ensure the existing standard can be maintained.

3.4.3. Quambone Pool

The Quambone Pool is the most significant active recreation facility in the village. As such, its ongoing operation and maintenance is considered a high priority.

- Paint pool, repack expansion joints & fix tiles
- New fence
- Pipe work need repairs
- Replace concrete concourse sections
- New signs

The filtration system was recently replaced, however the long term maintenance of the facility is likely to become an issue for Council. It will be necessary to develop a scheduled replacement program and associated funding arrangements to ensure the existing standard can be maintained.

3.5. Other Public Space

Council has indicated a desire to improve the streetscape with tree planting. A few projects have been identified, however these have had limited success due to inadequate planning and ongoing maintenance. Council will continue its tree planting process with the aim of developing a tree planting program as funds become available in the future.

4. Major Maintenance and Redevelopment

A number of park facilities are in need of major maintenance, or are likely to require major maintenance in coming years. In addition, in order to achieve the vision that has been presented in Section 3, it will be necessary to undertake a number of major projects in coming years.

Park	Project	Year	Estimated Cost
Coonamble Sports ground	Portable grandstands	2011/12	\$50,000
Coonamble Sports ground	Aluminium bench seating for main grandstand	2011/12	\$50,000
Lions Park	Upgrade gardens and seating	2012/12	\$20,000
Smith Park	Improve Watering System	2012/13	\$30,000
Broome Park	Upgrade gardens and seating	2012/13	\$20,000
	Install bike track	2014/15	\$60,000

5. Funding

The proposed major maintenance and development works identified in Section 4 have been programmed over 5 years to fit Council's funding constraints. It is hoped that some projects may be eligible for grant funding.

6. Conclusion and Recommendations

6.1. Routine Maintenance

It is recommended that Council:

1. It is recommended that Council conduct routine maintenance of parks to a standard identified in the visions statements of Section 3.

6.2. Major Maintenance and Upgrades

It is recommended that Council:

2. Implement a 5 year program of major maintenance and upgrades in accordance with Section 4

6.3. Other

It is recommended that Council:

3. Continue the improvement program at the Shire Pools
4. Review their tree planting and maintenance process and identify areas for improved streetscape landscaping for inclusion in future plans

7. Risk Ratings

PARKS & RESERVES

Facility	Ratings						General Measures
	Development	Population use	Frequency of use	Natural Hazards	Road Hazards	Facility Risk (FRR)	
McDonald Park	3	2	3	1	5	14	Provide a barrier between playground equipment and major hazard / screen hazard from playground equipment (type variable, may include dense vegetation or mounding) to increase distance between hazard and playground equipment to be greater than 30m; signage warning of the two highest rated hazards and information indicating importance of parental / carer supervision at all times
Gular Lions Park	2	1	1	3	3	12	Signage relevant to site, depicting top rated hazard and information indicating importance of parental / carer supervision at all times
Weir	2	2	2	5	1	11	Signage relevant to site, depicting top rated hazard and information indicating importance of parental / carer supervision at all times
Smith Park	3	1	2	3	1	8	Signage relevant to site, depicting top rated hazard and information indicating importance of parental / carer supervision at all times

PARKS & RESERVES

Facility	Ratings						General Measures
	Development	Population use	Frequency of use	Natural Hazards	Road Hazards	Facility Risk (FRR)	
Gular Highway Park	1	1	2	1	5	8	Signage relevant to site, depicting top rated hazard and information indicating importance of parental / carer supervision at all times
Lions Park	0	1	1	3	2	7	Signage relevant to site, depicting top rated hazard and information indicating importance of parental / carer supervision at all times
Broome Park	1	1	2	1	2	5	Signage relevant to site, indicating importance of parental / carer supervision at all times
Gular Bill Delany Park	1	1	2	1	2	5	Signage relevant to site, indicating importance of parental / carer supervision at all times
Rotary Park	0	1	1	1	2	3	Signage relevant to site, indicating importance of parental / carer supervision at all times
Quambone Park	1	1	1	1	1	3	Signage relevant to site, indicating importance of parental / carer supervision at all times

Pools

Facility	Ratings				Facility Risk (FRR)	General Measures
	Development	Population use	Frequency of use			
Coonamble Pool	5	2	4		14	Signage containing the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The name of the pool • A general warning message • All Council's Ordinances that apply to the pool should appear on the sign as prohibition pictograms • All hazards identified within the pool should appear on the sign as warning symbols • Any information symbols relevant to the pool A sign should appear at all entrances provided by Council to the pool. Consideration should be given to placing signs in other highly visible areas
Gulgambone Pool	4	2	4		12	Signage containing the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The name of the pool • A general warning message • All Council's Ordinances that apply to the pool should appear on the sign as prohibition pictograms • All hazards identified within the pool should appear on the sign as warning symbols • Any information symbols relevant to the pool A sign should appear at all entrances provided by Council to the pool. Consideration should be given to placing signs in other highly visible areas
Quambone Pool	4	1	3		7	Signage containing the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The name of the pool • A general warning message • All Council's Ordinances that apply to the pool should appear on the sign as prohibition pictograms • All hazards identified within the pool should appear on the sign as warning symbols • Any information symbols relevant to the pool A sign should appear at all entrances provided by Council to the pool. Consideration should be given to placing signs in other highly visible areas